

❖ Student Services Research Bulletin ❖

Volume 11 Issue 5

Creighton University

February 3, 2003

2002 Freshmen

This issue of the **Bulletin** compares the 2002 freshmen to 1) the 2001 entering Creighton freshmen and 2) a group of 2002 freshmen at other high-select private universities. Although the "college of enrollment" is somewhat fluid for freshmen, comparisons are included.

Six hundred sixty-nine (669) freshmen completed the survey, 83% of the entering class. Of those, 513 (77%) indicated they were in the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences, 117 (17%) indicated College of Business, and 38 (6%) indicated School of Nursing.

The group of high-select private universities includes such institutions as Boston College, Cornell University, New York University, Santa Clara, Tulane, University of San Diego, University of Southern California, Wake Forest and Washington University.

Demographics

The 2002 Creighton freshmen are slightly more diverse, slightly more affluent and slightly more likely to come to Creighton from a distance than the 2001 Creighton freshman. Conversely, our freshmen are less ethnically diverse, less affluent and less likely to live more than 500 miles away than freshmen at the high-select private universities. College of Business freshmen are more likely to live within 50 miles of Creighton than those in Arts or Nursing. College of Business freshmen also report higher parental incomes than Arts or Nursing.

	2001 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>High-select</u>	2002 <u>Arts</u>	2002 <u>COBA</u>	2002 <u>Nursing</u>
Racial Background: Caucasian/White	89%	87%	77%	87%	87%	87%
50 miles or less from home to college	38%	32%	21%	31%	37%	26%
More than 500 miles from home to college	23%	26%	37%	26%	24%	32%
Parental Income \$100,000+	42%	41%	51%	40%	45%	35%
Parental Income: \$200,000+	12%	15%	22%	15%	17%	16%

While the 2002 Creighton freshmen parents are less educated than those of freshmen at the high-select private universities, our freshmen are less likely to have parents who are divorced. A higher percentage of 2002 Creighton freshmen worked for pay during their senior year of high school than at the high-select private universities and a much lower percentage are receiving \$10,000 or more from their parents and/or scholarships and grants toward their first year expenses. Overall, College of Business freshmen are more likely to have parents who both have college degrees. They also are the least likely to come from a divorced home. Nursing freshmen are the most likely to have worked sixteen or more hours per week for pay during their senior year of high school and the least likely to be receiving funding from their families to attend Creighton. Higher percentages of College of Business freshmen report receiving \$10,000 or more in aid that need not be repaid than freshmen in Arts or Nursing.

	2001 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>High-select</u>	2002 <u>Arts</u>	2002 <u>COBA</u>	2002 <u>Nursing</u>
Mother: College degree or higher	62%	61%	69%	61%	65%	55%
Father: College degree or higher	66%	65%	74%	66%	66%	58%
Both parents alive and living together	82%	82%	79%	82%	85%	76%
Worked (for pay) 16+ hrs/week in high school	28%	27%	17%	27%	28%	30%
Receiving \$10,000+ from family toward expenses	38%	40%	58%	39%	45%	37%
Receiving \$10,000 from scholarships/grants	29%	30%	41%	28%	38%	32%



2002 Freshmen - Comparisons

Academic Information

While a higher percentage of 2002 Creighton freshmen than 2001 Creighton freshmen report having an "A" average in high school, the 2002 group spent less time studying or doing homework. Almost 25% took four or more Advanced Placement classes in high school but less than 10% took the exams for advanced credit in those areas, comparable to the 2001 freshmen. Almost one-third aspire to a medical or dental degree, compared to one-fourth in 2001. The 2002 Creighton freshmen are more confident of their ability to achieve a "B" average and graduate with honors than the 2001 Creighton freshmen. The percentage of students reporting that they tutored fellow students in high school increased slightly.

Freshmen at the other high-select universities reported spending more time studying and have achieved higher grades than the 2002 Creighton freshmen. Twice as many took four or more Advanced Placement courses in high school and four times as many took the exams for advanced credit. The top three career choices for students at the other private universities are Business executive (12%), Engineer (10%), and Physician (10%). The top three career choices of the 2002 Creighton freshmen are Physician (21%), Pharmacist (8%), and Lawyer (7%).

The students entering the College of Arts and Sciences appear to be the best prepared for Creighton and the most confident of their ability to succeed here. Arts and Sciences freshmen earned higher grades in high school, studied more and took greater advantage of advanced placement opportunities than the freshmen entering the College of Business or School of Nursing.

	2001 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>High-select</u>	2002 <u>Arts</u>	2002 <u>COBA</u>	2002 <u>Nursing</u>
High school grades:: A+,A, A-	65%	71%	75%	73%	68%	61%
Studied/did homework 16+ hrs/week in high school	11%	9%	14%	10%	4%	8%
Took 4 or more Advanced Placement courses	23%	23%	45%	23%	23%	8%
Took 4 or more Advanced Placement exams	7%	9%	37%	10%	8%	0%
Tutored another student	61%	63%	70%	64%	61%	61%
Chances very good: make "B" average	64%	67%	68%	68%	68%	46%
Chances very good: graduate with honors	22%	27%	NA	29%	25%	9%

Differences in Attitudes/Opinions

On most of the issues below, Creighton freshmen are strikingly more conservative than the individuals beginning their academic careers at the other high-select private universities. It is also interesting to note how students in the different schools react to each item. Freshmen entering the College of Business are more conservative on issues involving capital punishment and homosexuality than their peers in Arts & Sciences and Nursing but are more liberal than their peers on issues related to abortion and the legalization of marijuana.

	2001 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>CU</u>	2002 <u>High-select</u>	2002 <u>Arts</u>	2002 <u>COBA</u>	2002 <u>Nursing</u>
<u>Agree strongly/somewhat</u>						
Abortion should be legal	38%	35%	63%	35%	39%	34%
Death penalty should be abolished	40%	42%	39%	44%	32%	41%
Marijuana should be legalized	30%	35%	45%	35%	40%	24%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	23%	25%	16%	24%	28%	24%
Same sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	54%	54%	68%	57%	44%	49%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in the U.S.	17%	25%	19%	25%	27%	21%
People should not obey laws which violate their personal values	NA	29%	36%	29%	28%	36%

.....
 :**Research Bulletins** are intended for internal use only. Comments or questions should be directed to Stephanie Wernig, Ph.D.,
 :Associate Vice President for Student Services, Brandeis 111, 280-2775, wernig@creighton.edu..
 :
 :.....