

News from Institutional Research

This issue of **Research Notes** examines differences and similarities between the 2006 Creighton freshmen and almost 9,500 freshmen at other Jesuit colleges and universities throughout the country.

The other Jesuit freshmen have been divided by the region of the country in which their college is located. Freshmen from Fairfield, Fordham, Loyola Maryland, Saint Joseph's and Saint Peter's are in the "East" category. Freshmen from John Carroll, Loyola Chicago, Loyola New Orleans and Wheeling Jesuit are in the "Midwest" category and freshmen from Gonzaga, Regis and Santa Clara are in the "West" category.

2006 Jesuit Freshman Comparisons

Demographic Background:

Creighton freshmen, as the other Midwest Jesuit institutions, reflect a slightly higher female percentage than East Coast or Western Jesuit schools. However, Creighton appears to be different from the other Midwest institutions in having attracted a higher percentage of students who are Roman Catholic and have parents who live together, are financially-able and college educated.

	<u>Creighton</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>West</u>
Number of freshmen	816	4,257	2,688	2,526
Men	38%	43%	36%	42%
Women	62%	57%	64%	58%
Parents living together	82%	77%	75%	81%
Student religious preference: Roman Catholic	61%	66%	56%	51%
Parents estimated combined income \$150,000+	29%	33%	20%	38%
Father: College degree or higher	71%	64%	58%	73%
Mother: College degree or higher	71%	63%	55%	69%
Neither parent attended college	16%	25%	31%	18%

Academic Background:

Statistical tests¹ performed on the data concluded that Creighton freshmen spent significantly more time studying and doing homework than freshmen attending East or other Midwest Jesuit institutions. Creighton freshmen received significantly higher grades in high school than any of the regional groupings and were significantly more likely to be attending their first choice institution than the other freshmen.

	<u>Creighton</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>West</u>
Studied/did homework 11+ hrs in H.S.	27%	20%	21%	32%
This was my first choice school	78%	53%	67%	70%
This was my second choice school	<u>18%</u>	<u>32%</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL attending 1st or 2nd choice	96%	85%	92%	90%
If this was not your 1st choice, were you accepted by your 1st choice—YES	70%	37%	56%	44%
A+ or A high school GPA	41%	22%	27%	26%
A- high school GPA	<u>29%</u>	<u>32%</u>	<u>29%</u>	<u>33%</u>
TOTAL "A" high school GPA	70%	54%	56%	59%
B+ high school GPA	<u>14%</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>24%</u>
TOTAL B+ or better high school GPA	84%	79%	80%	83%

¹ One-way analysis of variance was used to determine if the means were equal. Post-hoc tests revealed statistically significant differences ($p > .001$) between Creighton freshmen and those at the other Jesuit institutions where noted.

Reasons for Selecting Creighton

Listed below are the top five reasons the 2006 freshmen selected as “very important” in their decision to come to Creighton.

Interestingly, the same statistical test described on the first page showed that the Creighton freshmen were significantly more likely to report that academic reputation and the prospect of admission to graduate/professional school or a good job were “very important” in choosing Creighton than these reasons were for freshmen in all the other regions of the country.

Creighton students and those at the other Midwest institutions were significantly more likely to indicate that financial aid was a “very important” reason for choosing their schools than freshmen attending colleges on the East Coast or in the West. Size of institution was significantly more important to Creighton freshmen than to the East Coast or other Midwest college freshmen.

<u>“Very Important”</u>	<u>Creighton</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>West</u>
This college has a good academic reputation	86%	66%	72%	75%
Graduates get good jobs	72%	58%	60%	57%
Graduates are admitted to top graduate/ professional schools	59%	39%	46%	37%
I was offered financial assistance	53%	44%	52%	47%
I wanted to go to a school about this size	53%	49%	46%	60%

Political Views/Attitudes and Values

As can be seen from the self-described political views, Creighton freshmen are significantly more conservative than their peers across the country.

<u>Political Views</u>	<u>Creighton</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>West</u>
Far right/conservative	34%	25%	22%	24%
Middle-of-the-road	43%	44%	41%	42%
Far left/liberal	23%	31%	37%	33%

Analysis of variance confirmed statistically significant differences in attitudes toward homosexuality and same-sex marriages, a volunteer army, abortion and marijuana use between Creighton freshmen and those attending all other Jesuit institutions.

<u>“Agree Strongly/Agree Somewhat”</u>	<u>Creighton</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>West</u>
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	24%	18%	19%	19%
Same sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	56%	68%	67%	67%
Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces	58%	64%	66%	64%
Abortion should be legal	41%	58%	52%	61%
Marijuana should be legalized	28%	39%	34%	35%

Likewise, there were statistically significant differences between the 2006 Creighton freshmen and those from the other Jesuit Midwest and Western institutions concerning openness to people different from themselves and developing a personal philosophy. These attitudes could be a challenge to faculty who are trying to develop “men and women for others”.

<u>“Essential/Very Important”</u>	<u>Creighton</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>West</u>
Helping to promote racial understanding	35%	36%	44%	40%
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	56%	55%	62%	65%
Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	50%	50%	55%	56%