

HERI The Freshman Survey 2020 Infographic Codebook

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has created a new reality for college students, especially when deciding where to go to college. Students likely have additional stresses as a result of the pandemic, and their mental health may be impacted as a result.

Infographic Item	Survey Question/Variable Name	Response Option(s) Selected
[Students considered their own learning and future career opportunities as very important reasons to go to college.]		
87% To learn more about things that interest them	REASON10: Reason Attend: To learn more about things that interest me	Very Important: 86.6%
82% To be able to get a better job	REASON05: Reason Attend: To be able to get a better job	Very Important: 82.0%
80% To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	REASON08: Reason Attend: To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	Very Important: 79.6%
76% To get training for a specific career	REASON07: Reason Attend: To get training for a specific career	Very Important: 76.0%
[While some students considered advice from others in their college selection process...]		
8% considered advice from a high school counselor as very important.	CHOOSE06: Choose to Attend: High school counselor advised me	Very Important: 8.3%
5% considered advice from a teacher as very important.	CHOOSE17: Choose to Attend: My teacher advised me	Very Important: 5.4%

5% considered advice from a private college counselor as very important.	CHOOSE20: Choose to Attend: Private college counselor advised me	Very Important: 5.1%
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[...aspects of the college's reputation were more influential.]

74% considered overall academic reputation very important when choosing their particular college.	CHOOSE25: Choose to Attend: This college has a very good academic reputation	Very Important: 73.4%
57% considered the academic reputation of their intended major very important	CHOOSE35: Choose to Attend: The academic reputation of my intended major	Very Important: 57.2%
52% considered the college's reputation for its social and extracurricular activities very important	CHOOSE24: Choose to Attend: This college has a good reputation for its social and extracurricular activities	Very Important: 52.3%

[While the COVID-19 pandemic might impact which academic and extracurricular activities colleges can offer, students still plan to be engaged.]

90% of students believe there is at least some chance they will participate in student clubs/groups.	FUACT22: Future Act: Participate in student clubs/groups	Some Chance: 31.3% Very Good Chance: 59.0%
71% of students believe that there is at least some chance they will study abroad.	FUACT21: Future Act: Participate in a study abroad program	Some Chance: 32.0% Very Good Chance: 39.0%
30% of students believe there is at least some chance they will join a fraternity or sorority.	FUACT17: Future Act: Join a fraternity or sorority	Some Chance: 19.9% Very Good Chance: 10.5%

[Students' emotional well-being remains a concern.]

86% of students felt anxious in the past year.	ACT37: Act in Past Year: Felt anxious	Occasionally: 47.5% Frequently: 38.1%
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62% of students felt depressed in the last year.	ACT14: Act in Past Year: Felt Depressed	Occasionally: 44.8% Frequently: 16.8%
17% of students identify as having a psychological disorder.	DISAB06: Psychological disorder (depression, PTSD, etc.)	Yes: 16.6%

For over 50 years, the CIRP Freshman Survey (TFS) has provided data on incoming college students' background characteristics, high school experiences, attitudes, behaviors, and expectations for college.

Survey Source: The Freshman Survey 2020

www.heri.ucla.edu/infographic/

***Add note about not weighting data this year**