

STARTING COLLEGE

during the COVID-19 pandemic



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

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



82%
To be able to get a better job



80%
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas



76%
To get training for a specific career

While some students considered advice from others in their college selection process...



8%
Considered advice from a high school counselor as very important

5%
Considered advice from a teacher as very important

5%
Considered advice from a private college counselor as very important

...aspects of the college's reputation were more influential.

74%
Considered overall academic reputation very important

57%
Considered the academic reputation of their intended major very important

52%
Considered the reputation for social and extracurricular activities very important



Students' emotional well-being remains a concern.

86%
Felt anxious in the past year



62%
Felt depressed in the past year

17%
Identify as having a psychological disorder

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



90%
Believe that there is at least some chance they will participate in students clubs/groups



71%
Believe that there is at least some chance they will study abroad



30%
Believe there is at least some chance they will join a fraternity or sorority

HERI

Information about students entering college helps enrollment planning, retention efforts, and provides a baseline for understanding college effectiveness. Register for the CIRP Freshman Survey at www.cirpsurveys.org.

Survey Source: CIRP Freshman Survey 2020*
www.heri.ucla.edu/infographic/

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*Due to decreased institutional participation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 CIRP Freshman Survey data are not nationally representative.