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

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*

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