

# Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) "The Freshman Survey" Results 2009

Strategic Research & Analysis Valdosta State University

http://www.valdosta.edu/sra

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Questions about the information contained in this report should be directed to Strategic Research & Analysis. Information in this report can be used with appropriate citations to Strategic Research & Analysis for our work.



#### Structure of Report

- Overview
- Respondent Demographics
- Student Background
- Participation and Behavior in the Past Year
- Self-Ratings
- Academic Habits

- Career Plans
- Student Social Perceptions
- Reasons to Attend College
- Reasons to Attend VSU
- Time Usage
- Goals
- Future Plans
- Overall Perceptions



#### Overview

- This survey is administered by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA.
- The CIRP Freshman Survey is designed to:
  - provide comprehensive information on incoming firstyear students.
  - examine readiness for college and how students choose colleges.
  - determine student values and beliefs about diversity and civic engagement.



#### Overview

- The survey is applicable to all freshman students for fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010).
- Students are asked to:
  - rate their academic preparedness.
  - rate their expectations of college.
  - rate their overall interactions with peers and faculty.
  - indicate their values and goals.



#### Overview

- VSU students were able to take the survey from August 3, 2009 to September 25, 2009.
  - A total of 2,148 survey invitations were sent.
  - A total of 347 responses to the survey instrument were received.
  - The overall response rate was 16%.

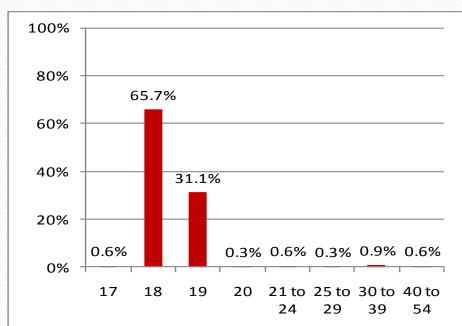




- Exhibit 1 shows that 70.3% of participants are female.
- Exhibit 2 shows that 65.7% of participants will be 18 on December 31, 2009.

**EXHIBIT 1: GENDER** 

EXHIBIT 2: HOW OLD WILL YOU BE ON DECEMBER 31 OF THIS YEAR?





- Exhibit 3 shows that English is the native language of 98.8% of participants.
- Exhibit 4 shows that 98.3% of participants are enrolled or are enrolling as a full-time student.

**EXHIBIT 3: IS ENGLISH YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE?** 

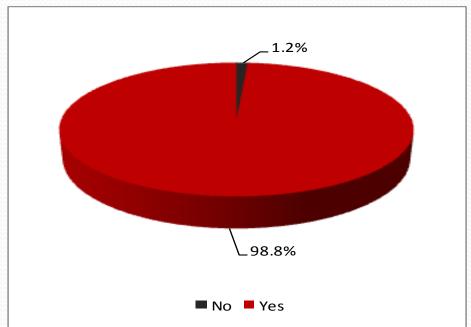
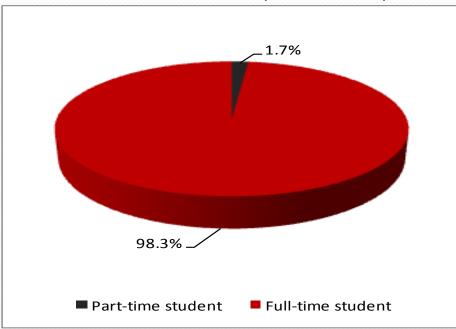


EXHIBIT 4: ARE YOU ENROLLED (OR ENROLLING) AS A:





- Exhibit 5 shows that 80.1% of participants graduated from a public school (not charter or magnet).
- Exhibit 6 shows that 25.1% of participants had a B+ average in high school.

EXHIBIT 5: FROM WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE?

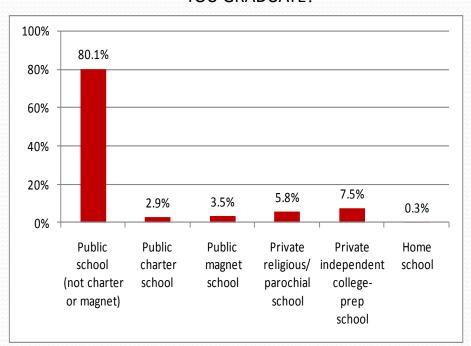
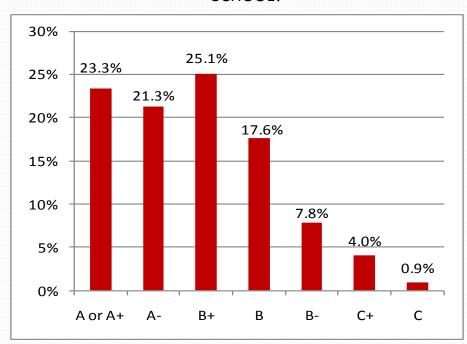


EXHIBIT 6: WHAT WAS YOUR AVERAGE GRADE IN HIGH SCHOOL?





- Exhibit 7 shows that 66.9% of participants reported that VSU is 101 to 500 miles from their permanent home.
- Exhibit 8 shows that 80.4% of participants plan to live in a college residence hall during the fall term.

EXHIBIT 7: HOW MANY MILES IS VSU FROM YOUR PERMANENT HOME?

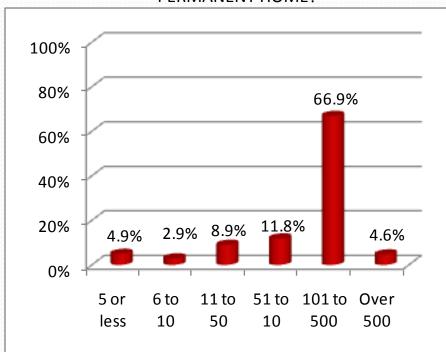
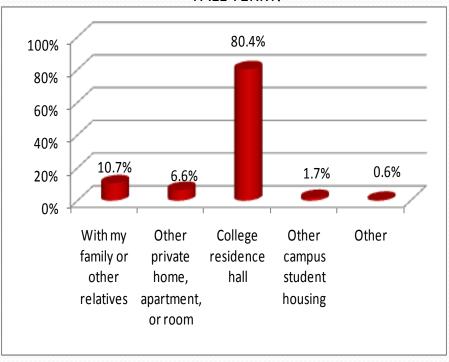
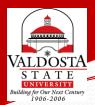


EXHIBIT 8: WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE DURING THE FALL TERM?

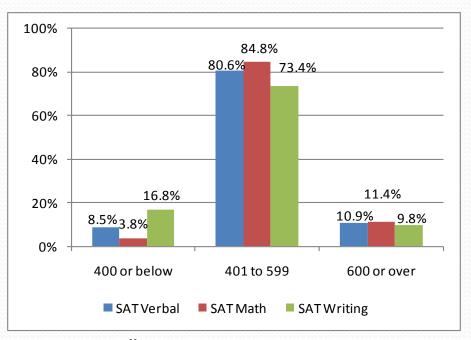




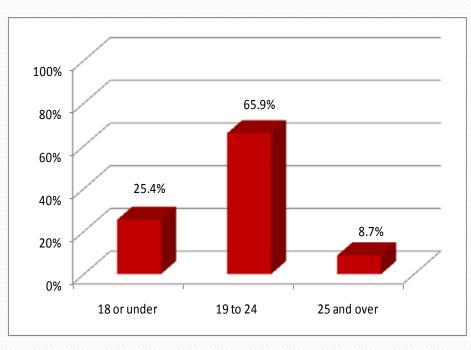


- Exhibit 9 shows that 84.8% of participants earned a SAT Math score ranging from 401 to 599.
- Exhibit 10 shows that 65.9% of participants earned an ACT composite score ranging from 19 to 24.

**EXHIBIT 9: SAT COMPOSITE SCORE** 



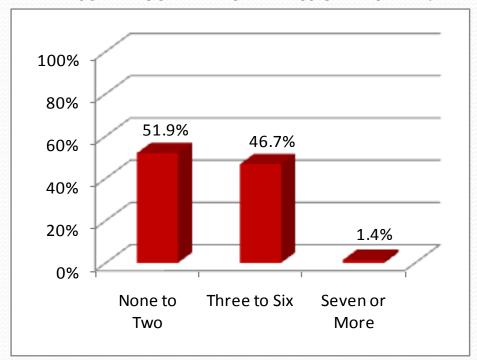
**EXHIBIT 10: ACT COMPOSITE SCORE** 



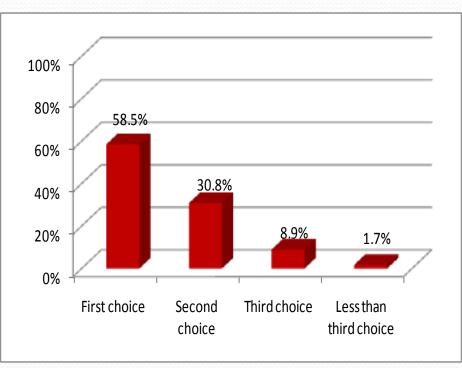


- Exhibit 11 shows that 51.9% of participants applied to either none or up to two colleges other than Valdosta State University for admission this year.
- Exhibit 12 shows that 58.5% of participants chose Valdosta State University as their first choice.

EXHIBIT 11: TO HOW MANY COLLEGES OTHER THAN VSU DID YOU APPLY FOR ADMISSION THIS YEAR?



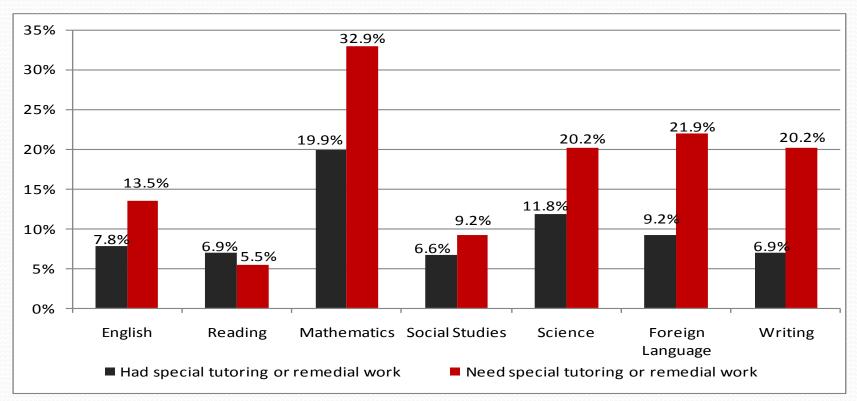
**EXHIBIT 12: VSU IS YOUR:** 





• Exhibit 13 shows that of all the subjects in which students needed special tutoring or remedial work, 32.9% of participants needed special tutoring or remedial work in mathematics; whereas, 19.9% of participants received special tutoring or remedial work in mathematics.

EXHIBIT 13: USAGE AND NEED FOR SPECIAL TUTORING OR REMEDIAL WORK



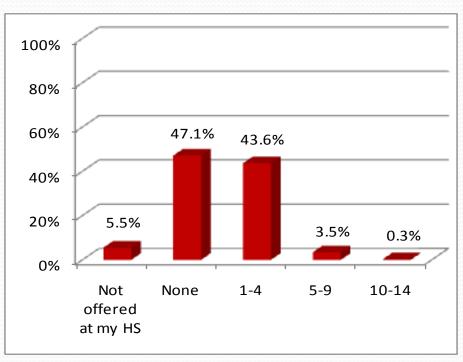


- Exhibit 14 shows that 50.3% of participants enrolled in one to four AP courses during high school.
- Exhibit 15 shows that 47.1% of participants did not take any AP exams during high school.

#### EXHIBIT 14: AP COURSES TAKEN DURING HIGH SCHOOL:

#### 100% 80% 50.3% 60% 39.0% 40% 20% 5.2% 4.9% 0.3% 0.3% 0% Not None 10-14 15+5-9 1-4 offered at my HS

#### **EXHIBIT 15: AP EXAMS TAKEN DURING HIGH SCHOOL:**



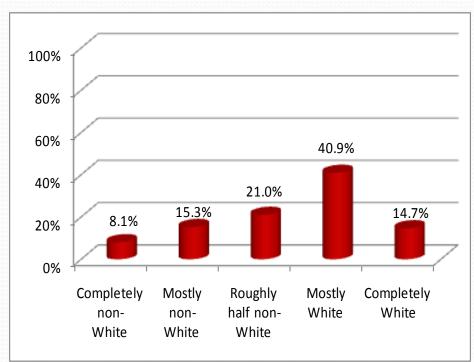


- Exhibit 16 shows that 38.3% of participants attended a high school at which the racial composition was roughly half non-White.
- Exhibit 17 shows that 40.9% of participants grew up in a neighborhood that was mostly White.

EXHIBIT 16: HIGH SCHOOL I LAST ATTENDED:
RACIAL COMPOSITION

100% 80% 60% 38.3% 36.0% 40% 18.2% 20% 4.3% 3.2% 0% Completely Completely Mostly Roughly Mostly half non-White White White nonnon-White White

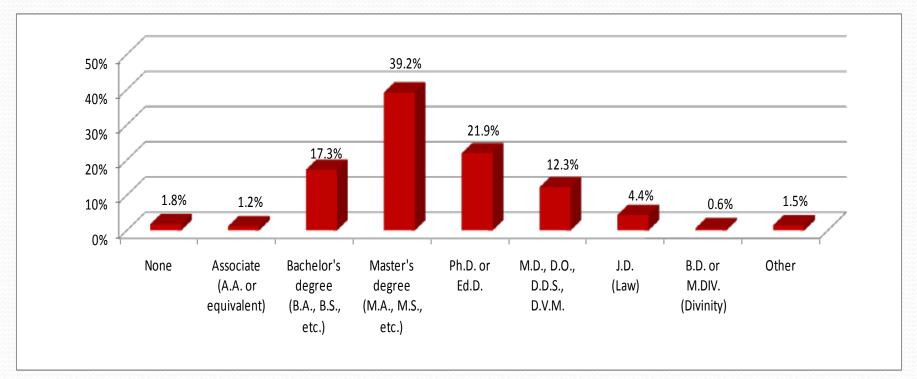
EXHIBIT 17: NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE I GREW UP: RACIAL COMPOSITION





• Exhibit 18 shows that 39.2% of participants planned to attain a Master's degree as their highest academic degree.

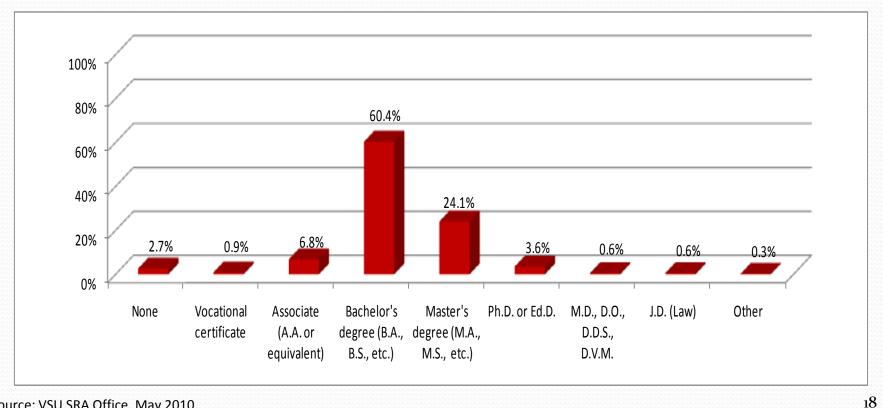
**EXHIBIT 18: HIGHEST ACADEMIC DEGREE PLANNED** 





• Exhibit 19 shows that 60.4% of participants planned to attain a Bachelor's degree as their highest degree at Valdosta State University.

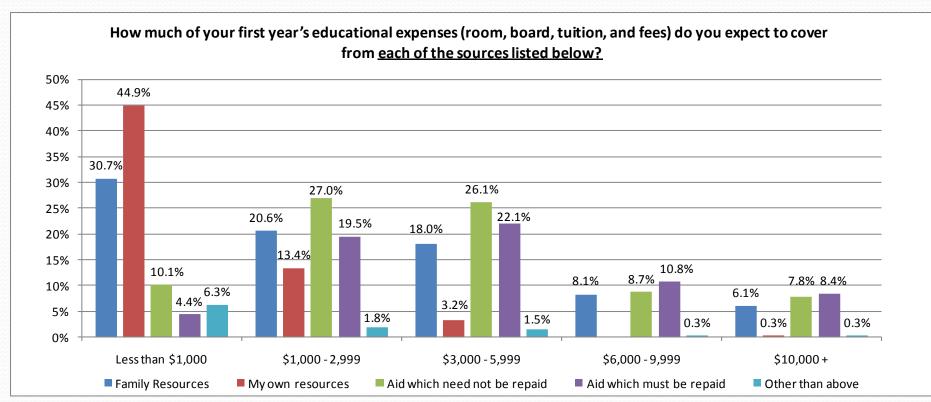
EXHIBIT 19: HIGHEST ACADEMIC DEGREE PLANNED AT VSU:





• Exhibit 20 shows that 58.3% of participants expect to cover \$2,999 or less of their first year's educational expenses (room, board, tuition, and fees) from their own resources.

**EXHIBIT 20: EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES** 





- Exhibit 21 shows that 27.5% of participants estimated that their parent's income ranged between \$60,000 to \$99,000.
- Exhibit 22 shows that 58.5% of participants have some concern about their ability to finance their college.

EXHIBIT 21: WHAT IS THE BEST ESTIMATE OF YOUR PARENTS INCOME?

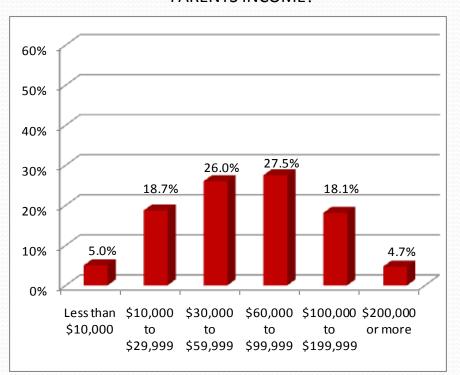
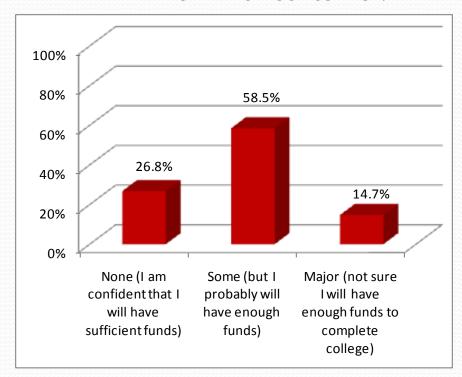


EXHIBIT 22: DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERN ABOUT YOUR ABILITY TO FINANCE YOUR COLLEGE?





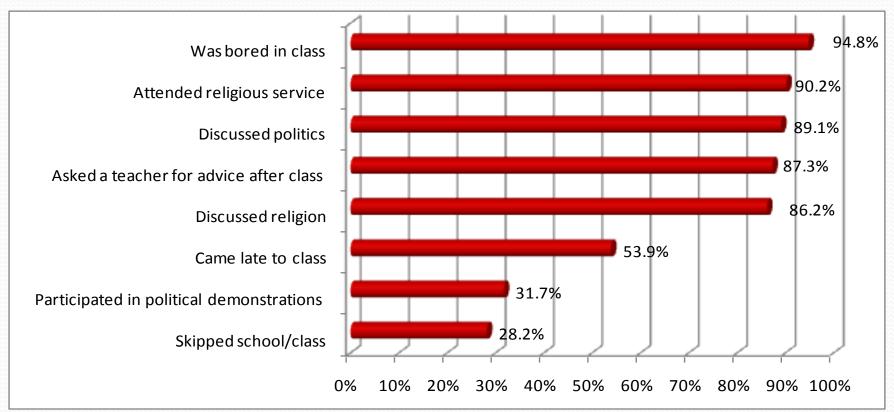
# Participation and Behavior in the Past Year



#### Participation and Behavior In Past Year

Exhibit 23 shows that 94.8% of participants were occasionally or frequently bored in class, and 90.2% of participants occasionally or frequently attended religious service.



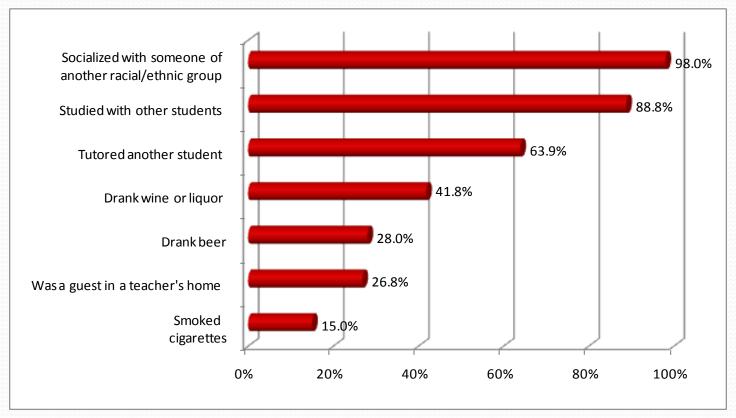




#### Participation and Behavior In Past Year

 Exhibit 24 shows that 98.0% of participants socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group, and 88.8% of participants studied with other students.



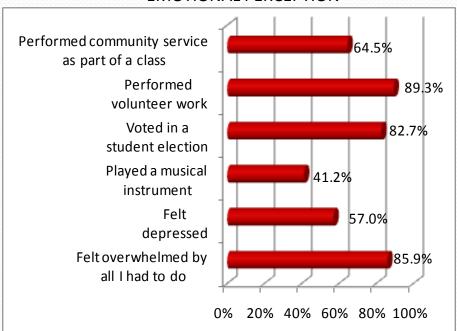




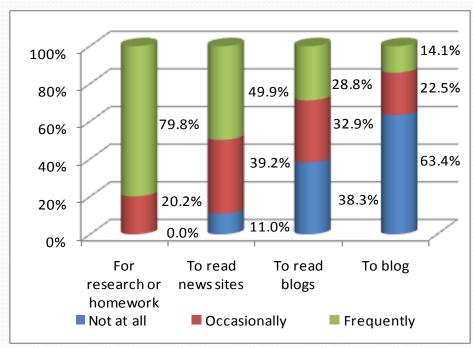
#### Participation and Behavior In Past Year

- Exhibit 25 shows that 89.3% of participants occasionally or frequently performed volunteer work, and 85.9% of participants felt overwhelmed by all they had to do.
- Exhibit 26 shows that all of the participants occasionally or frequently used the internet for research or homework, and 89.1% of participants occasionally or frequently used the internet to read news sites.

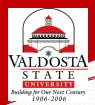
EXHIBIT 25: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND EMOTIONAL PERCEPTION



**EXHIBIT 26: USED THE INTERNET:** 



24





- Exhibit 27 shows that 98.2% of participants rated their academic ability as average or better.
- Exhibit 28 shows that 95.7% of participants rated their computer skills as average or better and 83% of participants rated their mathematical ability as average or better.

**EXHIBIT 27: ACADEMIC ABILITY** 

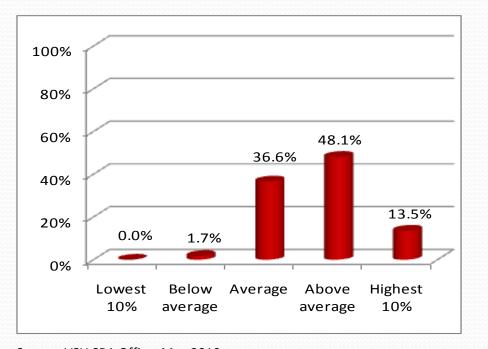
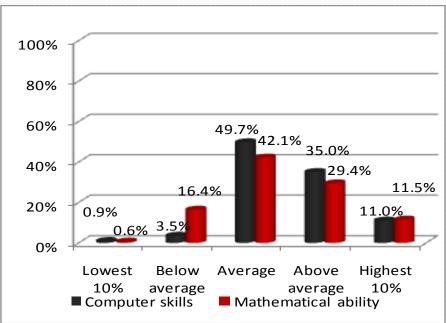


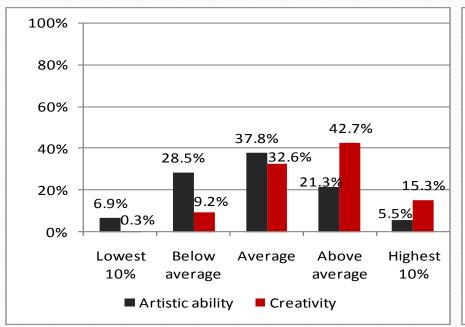
EXHIBIT 28: COMPUTER SKILLS AND MATHEMATICAL ABILITY



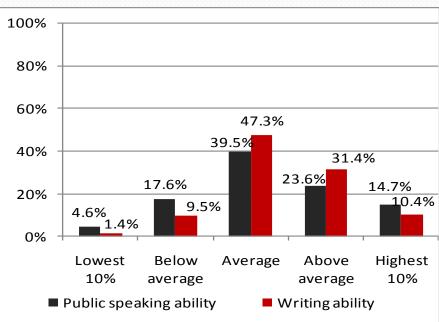


- Exhibit 29 shows that 90.6% of participants rated their creativity as average or better and 64.6% of participants rated their artistic ability as average or better.
- Exhibit 30 shows that 77.8% of participants rated their public speaking ability as average or better and 89.1% of participants rated their writing ability as average or better.





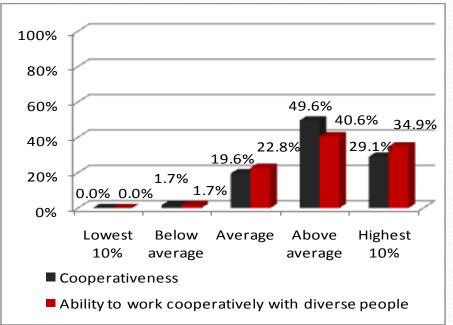
#### **EXHIBIT 30: PUBLIC SPEAKING AND WRITING ABILITY**



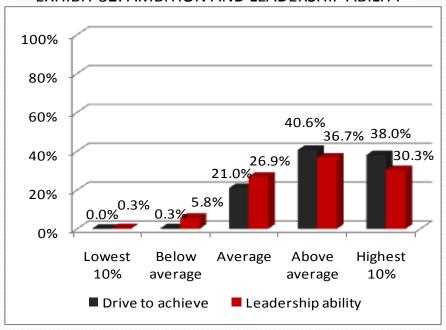


- Exhibit 31 shows that 78.7% of participants rated their cooperativeness as either above average or in the highest 10% and 75.5% of participants rated their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people as either above average or in the highest 10%.
- Exhibit 32 shows that 78.6% of participants rated their drive to achieve as either above average or in the highest 10% and 67.0% of participants rated their leadership ability as either above average or in the highest 10%.





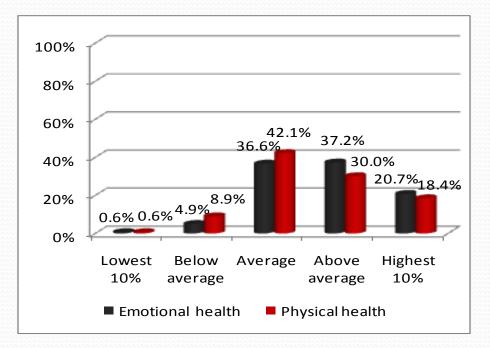
#### **EXHIBIT 32: AMBITION AND LEADERSHIP ABILITY**



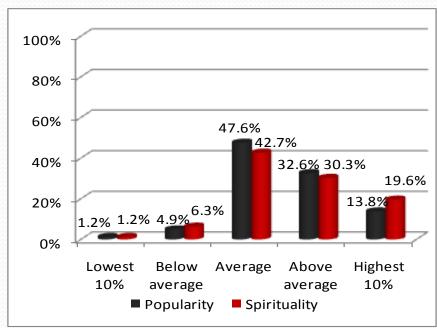


- Exhibit 33 shows that 90.5% of participants rated their physical health as average or better and 94.5% of participants rated their emotional health as average or better.
- Exhibit 34 shows that 94.0% of participants rated their popularity as average or better and 92.6% of participants rated their spirituality as average or better.

**EXHIBIT 33: PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH** 



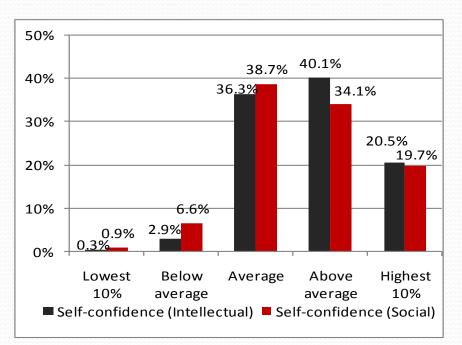
**EXHIBIT 34: POPULARITY AND SPIRITUALITY** 



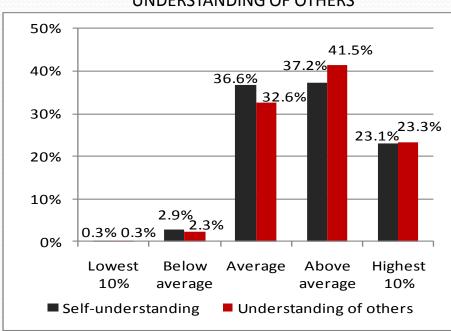


- Exhibit 35 shows that 96.9% of participants rated their intellectual self-confidence as average or better and 92.5% of participants rated their social self-confidence as average or better.
- Exhibit 36 shows that 96.9% of participants rated their self-understanding as average or better and 97.4% of participants rated their understanding of others as average or better.

**EXHIBIT 35: SELF-CONFIDENCE** 



#### EXHIBIT 36: SELF-UNDERSTANDING AND UNDERSTANDING OF OTHERS





- Exhibit 37 shows that 97.1% of participants rated their ability to see the world from someone else's perspective as average or better, while 95.6% or participants rated their tolerance of others who had different beliefs as average or better.
- Exhibit 38 shows that 92.0% of participants rated their openness to having their views challenged as average or better, while 96.6% of participants rated their ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues as average or better.

EXHIBIT 37: TOLERANCE OF OTHERS WITH DIFFERENT BELIEFS

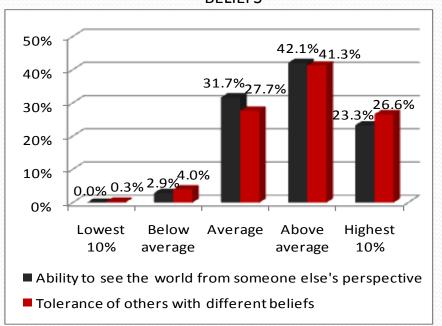
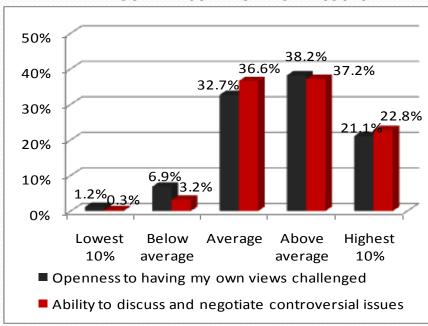
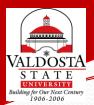


EXHIBIT 38: OPENNESS AND ABILITY TO DISCUSS AND NEGOTIATE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES







- Exhibit 39 shows that 79.8% of participants frequently take notes during class, and 57.3% of participants frequently ask questions in class.
- Exhibit 40 shows that 51.6% of participants occasionally look up scientific research articles and resources, and 53.9% of participants occasionally explore topics on their own, even though it is not required for a class.

EXHIBIT 39: ASKS QUESTIONS AND TAKE NOTES DURING CLASS

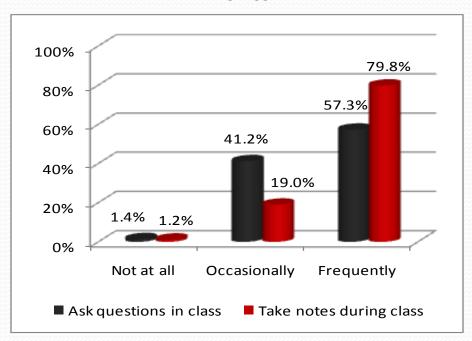
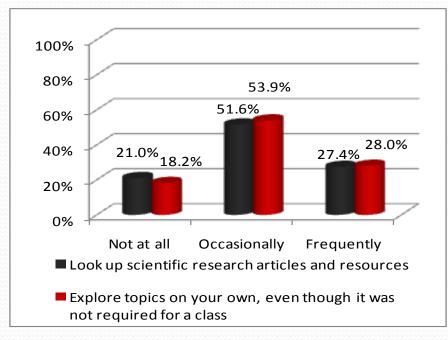


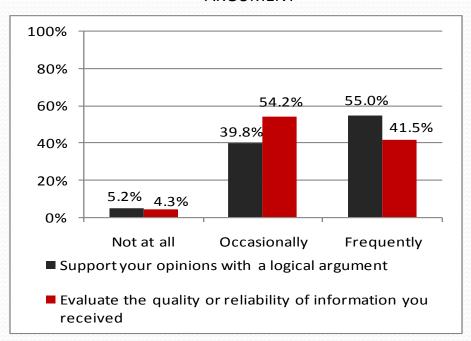
EXHIBIT 40: LOOK UP RESEARCH ARTICLES AND RESOURCES



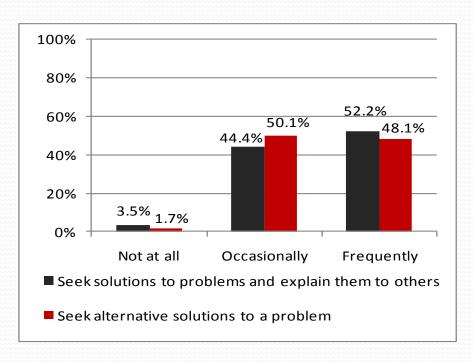


- Exhibit 41 shows that 55.0% of participants frequently support their opinions with a logical argument, while 54.2% of participants occasionally evaluate the quality or reliability of information they receive.
- Exhibit 42 shows that 52.2% of participants frequently seek solutions to problems and explain them to others, while 50.1% of participants occasionally seek alternative solutions to problems.

EXHIBIT 41: SUPPORT OPINIONS WITH A LOGICAL ARGUMENT



**EXHIBIT 42: SEEK SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS** 





- Exhibit 43 shows that 55.0% of participants frequently revise their papers to improve their writing and 50.7% frequently accept mistakes as part of the learning process.
- Exhibit 44 shows that 60.8% of participants frequently work with other students on class assignments, and 52.7% of participants frequently seek feedback on their academic work.

EXHIBIT 43: IMPLEMENTS REVISIONS TO IMPROVE WORK

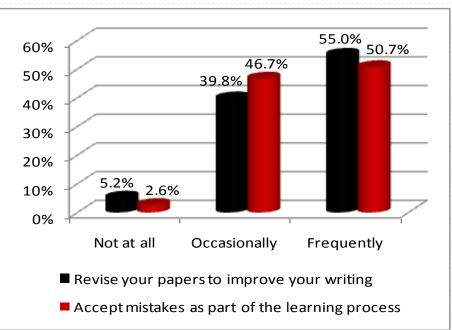
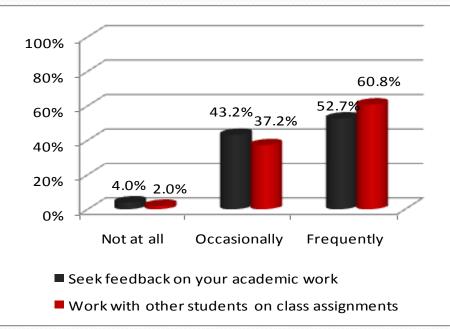
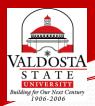


EXHIBIT 44: SEEK FEEDBACK ON ACADEMIC WORK AND WORK WITH OTHER STUDENTS ON CLASS ASSIGNMENTS





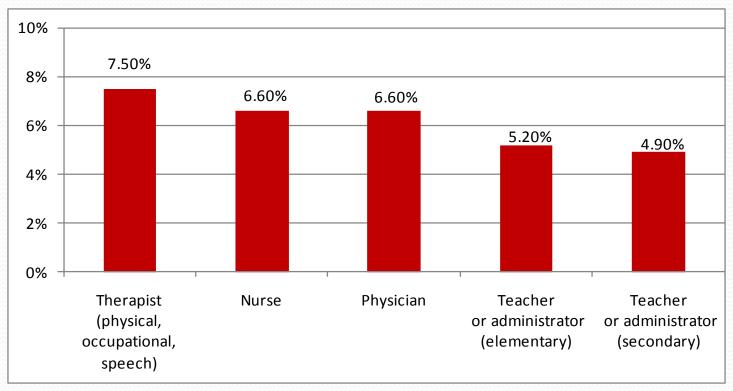
# Probable Career Field and Major



#### Probable Career Field

• Exhibit 45 shows the five most probable careers. 7.50% of participants indicated a probable career as a Therapist (physical, occupational, or speech).

#### **EXHIBIT 45: STUDENT PROBABLE CAREER FIELD**

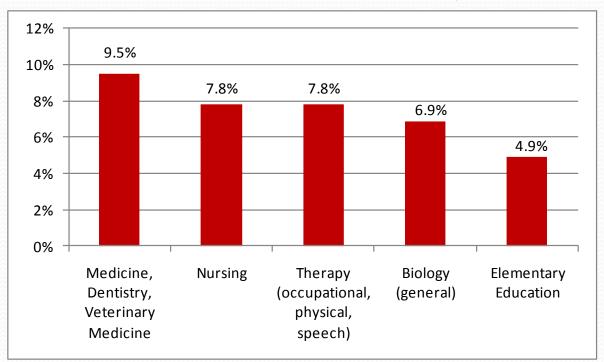




## Probable Major

• Exhibit 46 shows the five most probable majors. 9.5% of participants chose the field of Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine.

EXHIBIT 46: STUDENTS PROBABLE FIELD OF STUDY/MAJOR

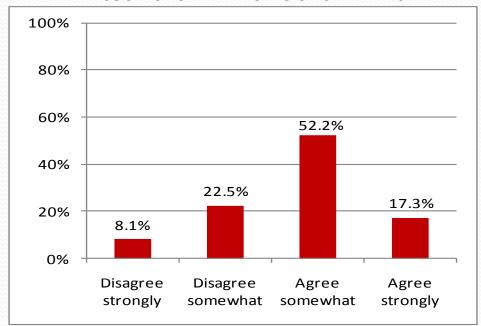




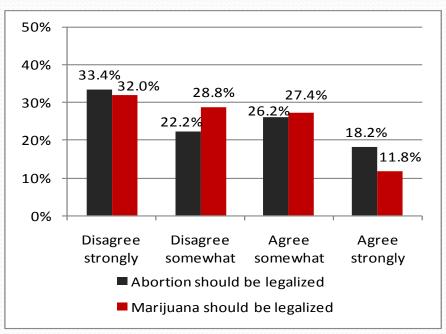


- Exhibit 49 shows that 52.2% of participants somewhat agree that there is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals.
- Exhibit 50 shows that 55.6% of participants either strongly disagree or somewhat disagree that abortion should be legalized; and, 60.8% of participants either strongly disagree or somewhat disagree that marijuana should be legalized.

#### EXHIBIT 49: THERE IS TOO MUCH CONCERN IN THE COURTS FOR THE RIGHTS OF CRIMINALS



#### **EXHIBIT 50: LEGALIZING ABORTION AND MARIJUANA**





- Exhibit 51 shows that 79.6% of participants either strongly disagree or somewhat disagree that racial discrimination is no longer a problem in America.
- Exhibit 52 shows that 67.9% of participants either strongly disagree or somewhat disagree that an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society.

EXHIBIT 51: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM IN AMERICA

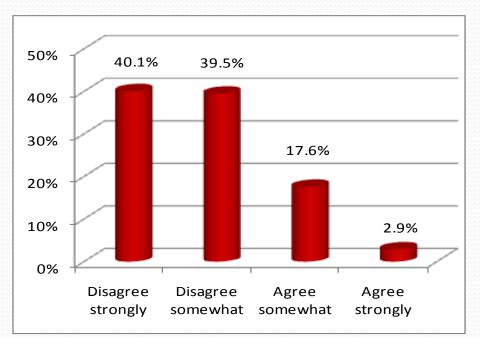
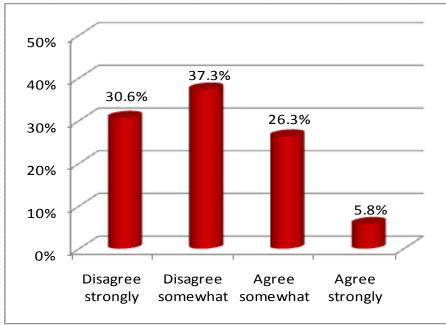


EXHIBIT 52: REALISTICALLY, AN INDIVIDUAL CAN DO LITTLE TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN OUR SOCIETY



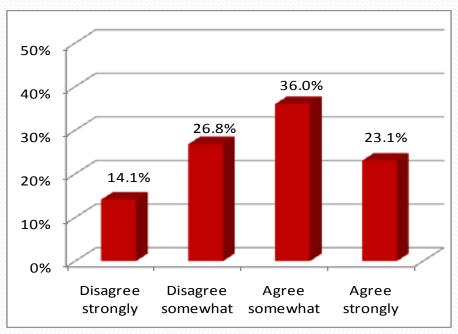


- Exhibit 53 shows that 47.5% of participants either strongly disagree or somewhat disagree that samesex couples should have the right to legal marital status.
- Exhibit 54 shows that 59.1% of participants either strongly agree or somewhat agree that only volunteers should serve in the Armed Forces.

EXHIBIT 53: SAME-SEX COUPLES SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO LEGAL MARITAL STATUS

50% 40% 30.8% 27.4% 25.1% 30% 16.7% 20% 10% 0% Agree Agree Disagree Disagree strongly somewhat somewhat strongly

EXHIBIT 54: ONLY VOLUNTEERS SHOULD SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES





- Exhibit 55 shows that 69.1% of participants either strongly agree or somewhat agree that dissent is a critical component of the political process.
- Exhibit 56 shows that 51.3% of participants either strongly agree or somewhat agree that colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus.

EXHIBIT 55: DISSENT IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS

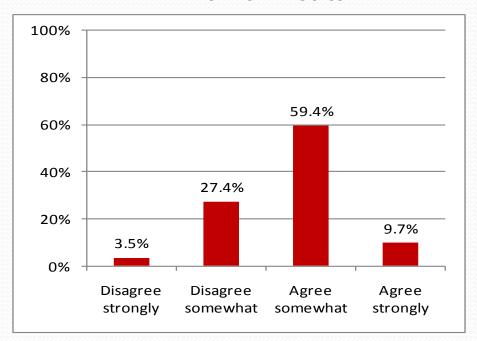
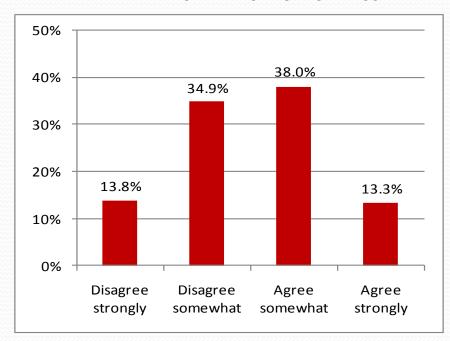


EXHIBIT 56: COLLEGES HAVE THE RIGHT TO BAN EXTREME SPEAKERS FROM CAMPUS





- Exhibit 57 shows that 55.9% of participants either disagree strongly or disagree somewhat that students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions.
- Exhibit 58 shows that 72.1% of participants either agree strongly or agree somewhat that colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speeches on campus.

# EXHIBIT 57: STUDENTS FROM DISADVANTAGED SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS SHOULD BE GIVEN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

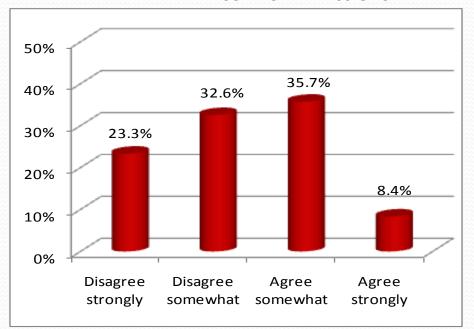
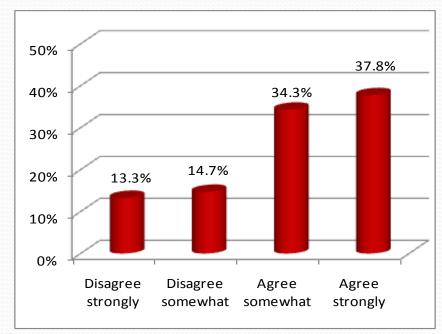


EXHIBIT 58: COLLEGES SHOULD PROHIBIT RACIST/SEXIST SPEECHES ON CAMPUS

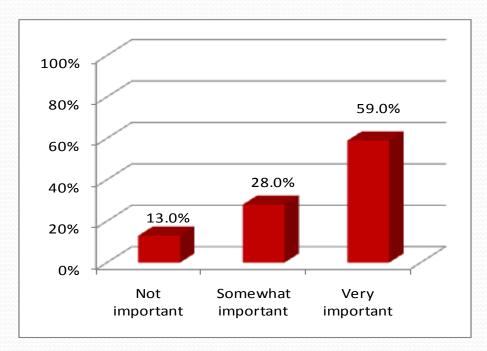




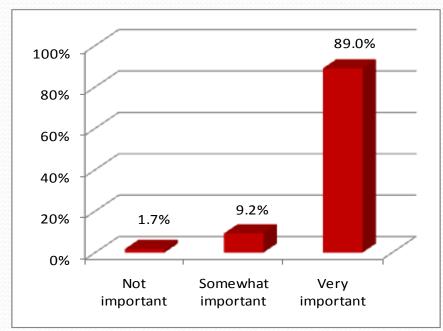


- Exhibit 59 shows that 87.0% of participants indicated that it is either somewhat important or very important that their parents wanted them to attend college.
- Exhibit 60 shows that 89.0% of participants rated that it is very important that they would be able to get a better job if they attended college.

EXHIBIT 59: MY PARENTS WANTED ME TO GO



#### **EXHIBIT 60: TO BE ABLE TO GET A BETTER JOB**





- Exhibit 61 shows that 80.9% of participants rated that it is very important to gain a general education and an appreciation of ideas.
- Exhibit 62 shows that 92.5% of participants rated that it is either somewhat or very important to make themselves a more cultured person.

EXHIBIT 61: TO GAIN GENERAL EDUCATION AND APPRECIATION OF IDEAS

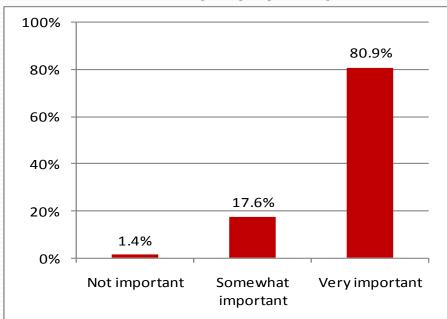
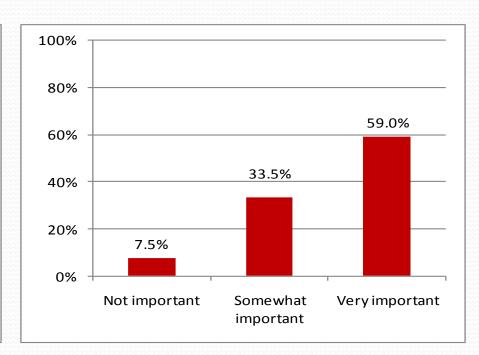


EXHIBIT 62: TO MAKE ME A MORE CULTURED PERSON





- Exhibit 63 shows that 80.3% of participants rated that it is very important to be able to make more money.
- Exhibit 64 shows that 85.0% of participants rated that it is very important to learn more about things of interest to themselves.

**EXHIBIT 63: TO BE ABLE TO MAKE MORE MONEY** 

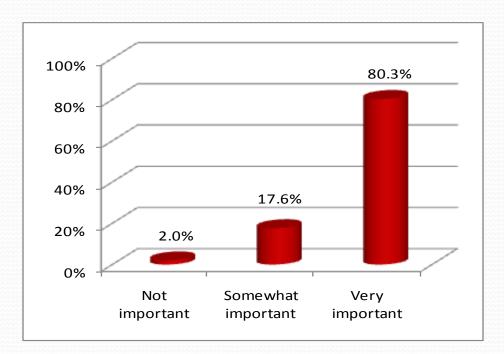
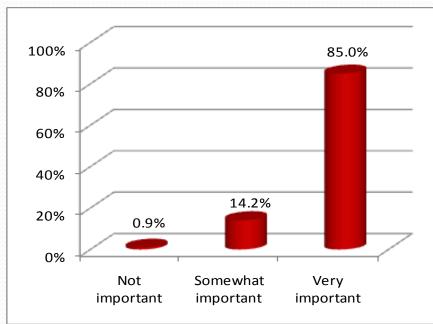
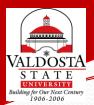


EXHIBIT 64: TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THINGS THAT INTEREST ME





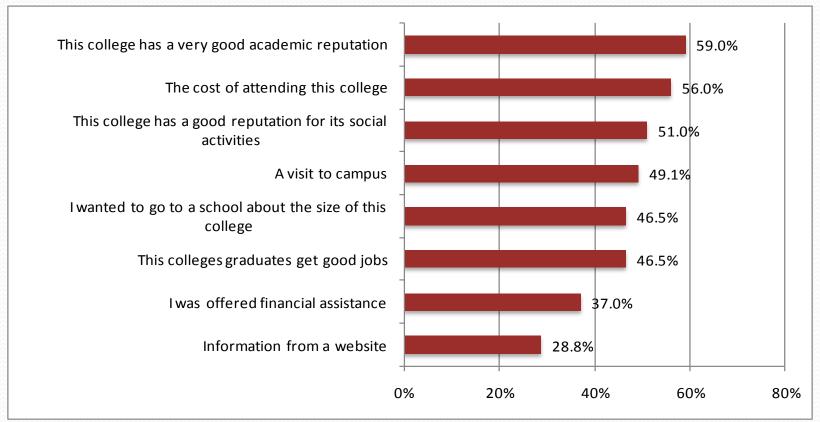
#### Reasons to Attend VSU



#### Reasons to Attend VSU

• Exhibit 65 shows that 59.0% of participants indicated that the academic reputation of VSU was a very important factor in deciding to attend VSU, while 56.0% of participants indicated the cost of attendance was a very important factor in their decision to attend VSU.

EXHIBIT 65: SELECTED FACTORS RATED AS VERY IMPORTANT IN DECIDING TO ATTEND VSU





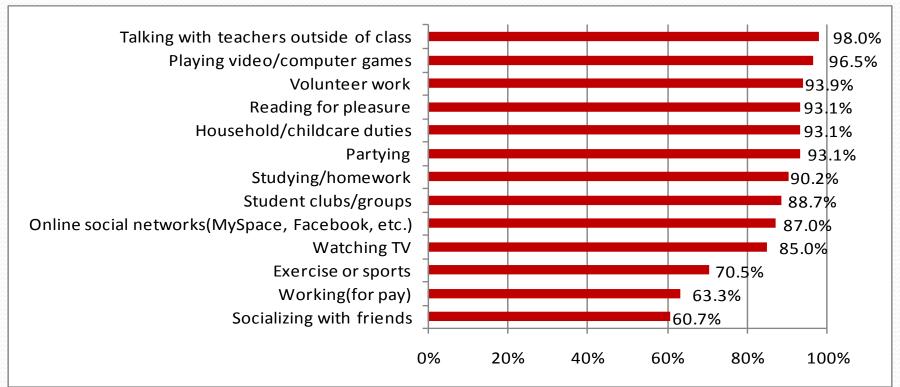
# Time Usage



#### Time Usage

• Exhibit 66 shows that 98.0% of participants spend 0 to 10 hours per week talking with teachers outside of class, and 96.5% of participants spend 0-10 hours per week playing video/computer games.

#### EXHIBIT 66: PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS ENGAGING 0-10 HOURS IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:



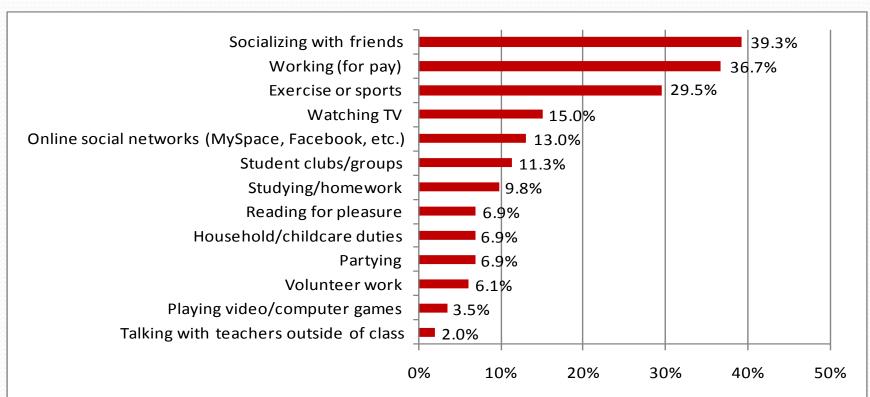
52



#### Time Usage

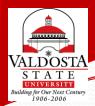
• Exhibit 67 shows that 39.3% of participants spend 11 to 20 hours per week socializing with friends, and 36.7% of participants spend 11 to 20 hours per week working (for pay).

EXHIBIT 67: PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS ENGAGING 11-20 HOURS IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:



Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

53



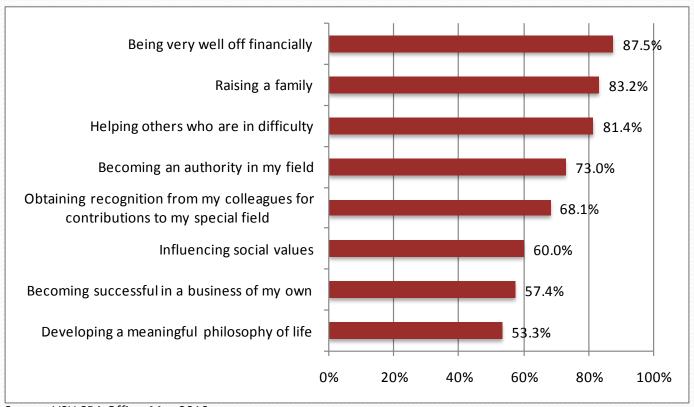
## Goals



#### Goals

• Exhibit 68 shows that 87.5% of participants indicated that being very well off financially as an essential or very important goal. 83.2% of respondents rated raising a family as an essential or very important goal.

EXHIBIT 68: SELECTED GOALS RATED AS ESSENTIAL OR VERY IMPORTANT





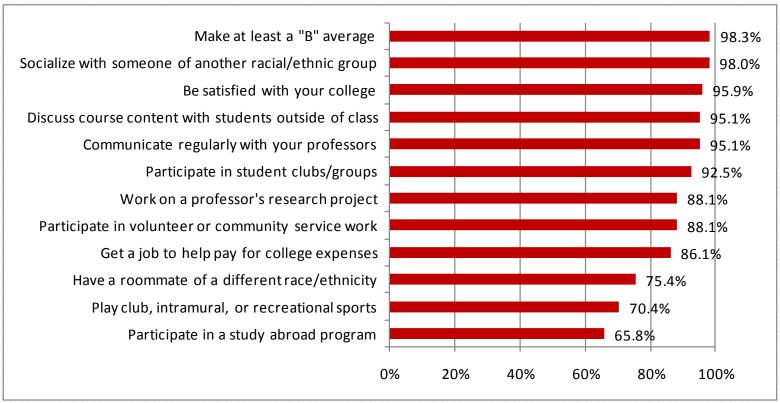
#### **Future Plans**

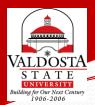


#### **Future Plans**

• Exhibit 69 shows that 98.3% of participants indicated that there is some chance or very good chance of making at least a "B" average. 98.0% of respondents indicated that there is some chance or very good chance of socializing with someone of another racial/ethnic group.

EXHIBIT 69: SELECTED FUTURE PLANS RATED AS SOME CHANCE OR VERY GOOD CHANCE

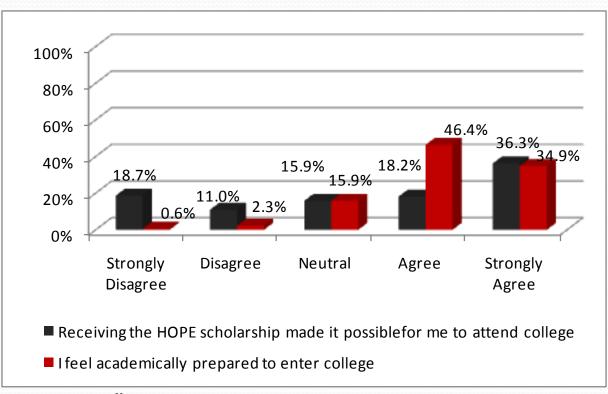






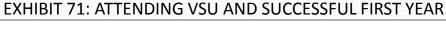
• Exhibit 70 shows that 54.5% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that receiving the HOPE scholarship made it possible for them to attend college; and, 81.3% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they felt academically prepared to enter college.

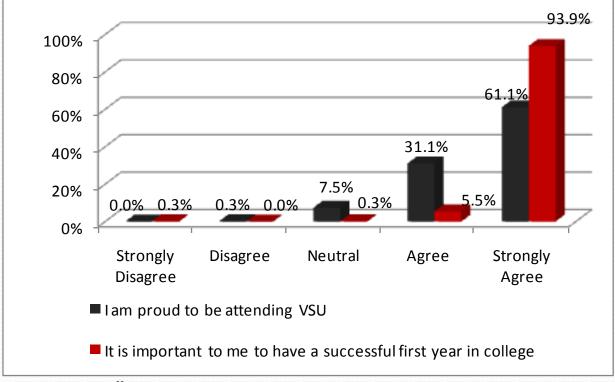
**EXHIBIT 70: ACADEMICALLY PREPARED TO ENTER COLLEGE** 





• Exhibit 71 shows that 92.2% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they are proud to be attending Valdosta State University; and, 93.9% of participants strongly agreed that it is important to them to have a successful first year in college.







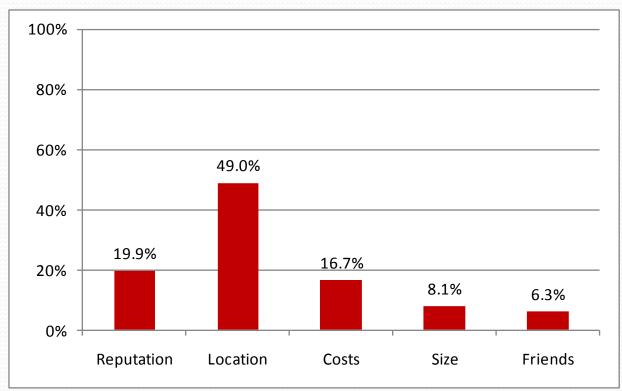
• Exhibit 72 shows that 56.2% of participants disagree or strongly disagree that college will be very similar to high school; and, 62.0% of participants agree or strongly agree that they know where to go on campus if they need academic or personal guidance and help.

EXHIBIT 72: ACADEMIC OR PERSONAL GUIDANCE AND HELP 100% 80% 60% 39.4% 36.6% 40% 29.6% 25.4% 24.5% 16.8% 20% 11.8% 12.2% 1.7% 2.0% 0% Strongly Strongly Disagree Neutral Agree Disagree Agree ■ I believe college will be very similar to high school ■ I know where to go on campus if I need academic or personal guidance and help



• Exhibit 73 shows that 49.0% of participants chose to attend Valdosta State University because of location.

EXHIBIT 73: WHY DID YOU PRIMARILY CHOOSE TO COME TO VSU?





- Exhibit 74 shows that 66.3% of participants plan to graduate from Valdosta State University.
- Exhibit 75 shows that 47.5% of participants plan to work during their first semester either on-campus or off-campus.

**EXHIBIT 74: I PLAN TO GRADUATE FROM VSU** 

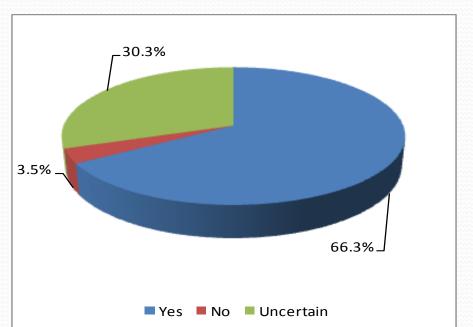
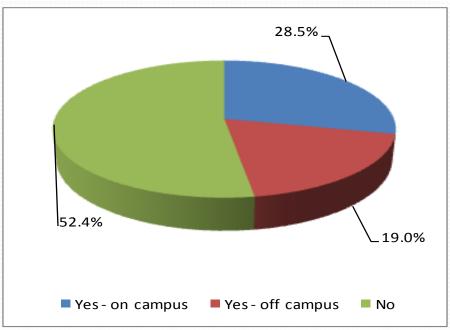


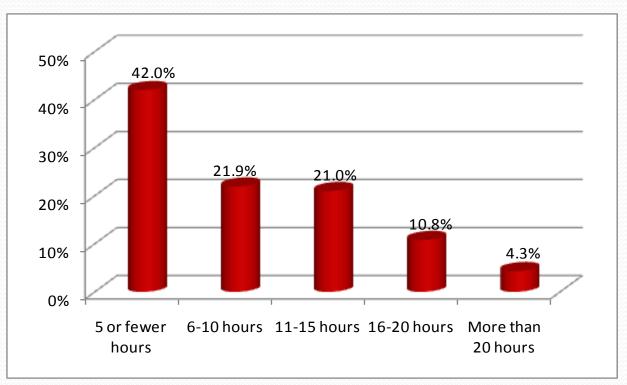
EXHIBIT 75: DO YOU PLAN ON WORKING DURING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER?





• Exhibit 76 shows that 42.0% of participants expect to work 5 or fewer hours if they plan to work during their first semester at Valdosta State University.

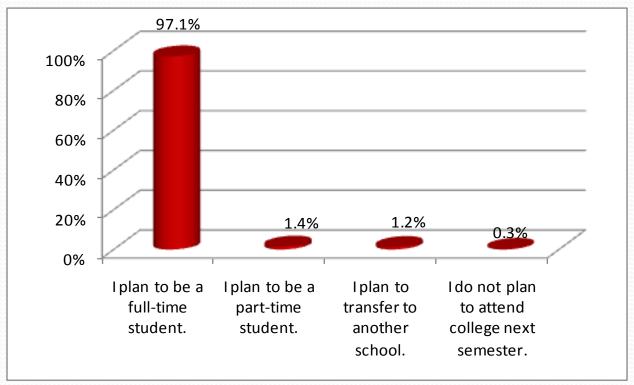
EXHIBIT 76: IF YOU PLAN TO WORK DURING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER AT VSU, HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK DO YOU EXPECT TO WORK?





• Exhibit 77 shows that 97.1% of participants plan to be a full-time student next semester.

EXHIBIT 77: WHICH STATEMENT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR INTENTIONS FOR NEXT SEMESTER?





- Exhibit 78 shows that 65.1% of participants agree or strongly agree to understanding the basic research methodology used within their major.
- Exhibit 79 shows that 81.3% of participants agree or strongly agree to having the necessary skills to do research in their major.

EXHIBIT 78: I UNDERSTAND THE BASIC RESEARCH METHODOLOGY USED WITHIN MY MAJOR

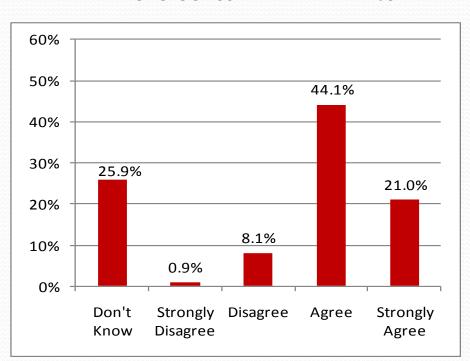
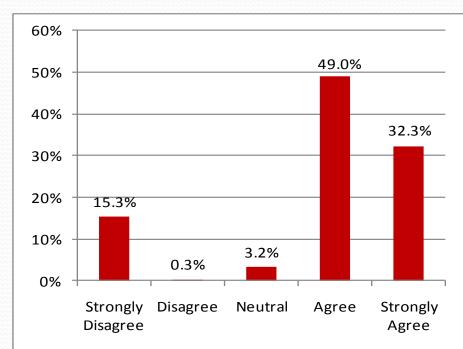


EXHIBIT 79: I HAVE THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO DO RESEARCH IN MY MAJOR

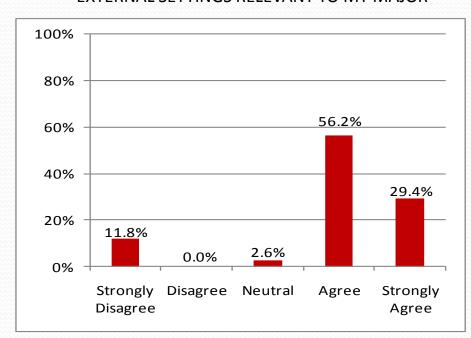


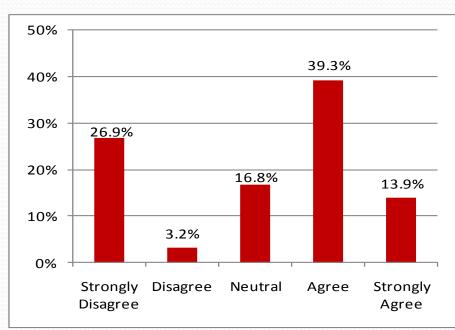


- Exhibit 80 shows that 85.6% of participants agree or strongly agree that they are able to apply knowledge learned in the classroom to resolve issues in external setting relevant to their major.
- Exhibit 81 shows that 53.2% of participants agree or strongly agree that they have formulated and resolved a research question using knowledge related to their major in external settings.

EXHIBIT 80: I AM ABLE TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE LEARNED
IN THE CLASSROOM TO RESOLVE ISSUES IN
EXTERNAL SETTINGS RELEVANT TO MY MAJOR

EXHIBIT 81: I HAVE FORMULATED AND RESOLVED A
RESEARCH QUESTION USING KNOWLEDGE RELATED
TO MY MAJOR IN EXTERNAL SETTINGS

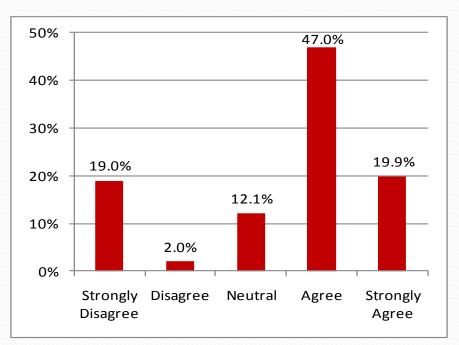






- Exhibit 82 shows that 66.9% of participants agree or strongly agree that they feel confident presenting written projects based upon research within their major.
- Exhibit 83 shows that 60.8% of participants agree or strongly agree that they feel confident orally presenting projects based upon research within their major.

PROJECTS BASED UPON RESEARCH WITHIN MY MAJOR.



PROJECTS BASED UPON RESEARCH WITHIN MY MAJOR.

