## Cooperative Institutional

 Research Program (CIRP) "The Freshman Survey" Results 2009
## Strategic Research \& Analysis Valdosta State University http://www.valdosta.edu/sra May 2010

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.

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## 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 $16 \%$.


## Demographics

## Demographics

- 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?


Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

## Demographics

- 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:


## Demographics

- 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?


## Demographics

- 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?


Student Background

## Student Background

- 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


[^0]
## Student Background

- 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:


## Student Background

- 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


## Student Background

- 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:


EXHIBIT 15: AP EXAMS TAKEN DURING HIGH SCHOOL:


[^1]
## Student Background

- 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 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


## Student Background

- 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:


## Student Background

- 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


[^2]
## Student Background

- 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.

EXHIBIT 23: STUDENTS' BEHAVIORS


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## 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.

EXHIBIT 24: SOCIAL ENDEAVORS


## 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:


## Self-Ratings

## Self-Ratings

- 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 28: COMPUTER SKILLS AND MATHEMATICAL ABILITY


## Self-Ratings

- 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 29: CREATIVITY


EXHIBIT 30: PUBLIC SPEAKING AND WRITING ABILITY


## Self-Ratings

- 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 $10 \%$.



## Self-Ratings

- 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


## Self-Ratings

- 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


## Self-Ratines

- 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


Academic Habits

## Academic Habits

- 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


## Academic Habits

- 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


## Academic Habits

- 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


- 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


Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

Student Social Perceptions

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- 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


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- 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


## Student Social Perceptions

- 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


EXHIBIT 54: ONLY VOLUNTEERS SHOULD SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES


## Student Social Perceptions

- 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


## Student Social Perceptions

- 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


## Reason to Attend College

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- 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


## Reason to Attend College

- 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


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- 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:


## 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:


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


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## 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


## Overall Perceptions

## Overall Perceptions

- 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


## Overall Perceptions

- 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 71: ATTENDING VSU AND SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR


## Overall Perceptions

- 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


## Overall Perceptions

- 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?


Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

## Overall Perceptions

- 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?


## Overall Perceptions

- 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?


Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

## Overall Perceptions

- 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


## Overall Perceptions

- 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


## Overall Perceptions

- 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.

EXHIBIT 82: I FEEL CONFIDENT PRESENTING WRITTEN PROJECTS BASED UPON RESEARCH WITHIN MY MAJOR.


EXHIBIT 83: I FEEL CONFIDENT ORALLY PRESENTING PROJECTS BASED UPON RESEARCH WITHIN MY MAJOR.



[^0]:    Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

[^1]:    Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

[^2]:    Source: VSU SRA Office, May 2010.

