| CONTENTS |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Overview                    | 3   |
| Respondent Characteristics  | 6   |
| College Choice              | 7   |
| Reasons to Attend           | 8   |
| Financial Issues            | 9   |
| Self-Ratings                | 13  |
| High School Behavior        | 14  |
| Highest Degree Planned      | 17  |
| Career Plans                | 18  |
| Life Goals                  | 19  |
| College Expectations        | 20  |
| Reflections                 | 21  |
• The CIRP Freshman Survey is a national longitudinal study administered by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

• It is regarded as one of the most comprehensive sources of information on incoming college students in America.
In the fall of 2010, 77% (n=879/1,143) of the incoming first-year class at Dartmouth participated in the CIRP Freshman Survey during First-Year Orientation.

A paper-and-pencil survey, the instrument covers a wide range of topics including demographics, pre-college experiences, reasons for attending college, academic plans, personal opinions and beliefs, financial aid status, and parental background.
**PURPOSE**

- This presentation provides some characteristics of Dartmouth first-year students including their reasons for choosing Dartmouth, financial concerns, self-ratings, life goals, and expectations of their college career.

- This information can be used to better understand our students so we can further develop an educational environment that fosters their academic and personal success.
• 49% of the Dartmouth respondents identified as male and 51% as female.

• Racial/ethnic composition of respondents \((n=838)\) was:
  
  • White: 57%
  • Asian-American: 17%
  • Hispanic: 6%
  • African-American: 5%
  • International: 7%
  • Native American/Hawaiian: 4%
  • Multiracial: 4%

• 14% of Dartmouth respondents reported that English is not their native language
COLLEGE CHOICE

Q: Is this college your...?

Dartmouth was:

- The first college choice for 68% of the respondents.
- The second college choice for 16% of the respondents.
**Top Ranked Reasons**

Q: How important was each reason in your decision to come here?

Top ranked reasons for attending Dartmouth:

- Academic reputation of the College (100%)
- Graduates getting good jobs (94%)
- Wanted to attend school this size (92%)

![Bar chart showing reasons for attending Dartmouth]

- **Academic reputation**
- **Graduates get good jobs**
- **Wanted to attend school this size**
- **Campus visit**
- **Graduates admitted to top graduate schools**
- **Reputation for social activities**
- **Rankings in national magazines**
- **Offered financial assistance**
- **Admitted Early Action/Decision program**

Legend:
- Very important
- Somewhat important
Parental Income

Q: What is your best estimate of your parents' total income last year?

Reported household income:

- 32% above $250,000
- 50% above $150,000
- 15% below $50,000
FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Q: How much of your first year’s educational expense from the sources listed below?

For first-year students, the majority of resources ($10,000 or above) come from:

- Family (74%)
- Non-repayable grants/scholarships (38%)
- Repayable loans (5%)
The ability to finance their college education was:

- A **major** concern for 5% of the respondents
- **NOT** a concern for 51% of the respondents
Financial assistance was a **very important** consideration in enrollment decisions for:

- **31%** of respondents whose first choice was Dartmouth
- **43%** of respondents whose second choice was Dartmouth
Top self-rated traits:
- Academic ability (95%)
- Drive to achieve (90%)
- Work with diverse people (83%)

Lowest self-rated traits:
- Spirituality (32%)
- Artistic ability (33%)
- Computer skills (33%)

Q: Rate yourself on the following traits as compared to an average person your age.
USE OF TIME

Q: During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week on the following activities?

During their last year in high school:

- **43%** spent 11 hours or more per week in socializing with friends
- **44%** spend 11 hours or more per week in exercise or sports
- **33%** spent 16 hours or more per week studying
**Participation in Various Activities**

Q: Indicate the frequency of participating in each of the activities below during the last year?

The most frequent activities were:

- Socializing with someone from another racial/ethnic group (98%)
- Asking a teacher for advice after class (94%)
- Performing volunteer work (93%)
- Discussing politics (93%)
During their high school senior year, Dartmouth respondents frequently:

- Supported opinions with a logical argument (83%)
- Sought solutions to problems and explained them to others (77%)
- Integrated skills and knowledge from different resources and experiences (76%)
90% of the Dartmouth respondents planned on getting an advanced degree.

88% reported that the highest degree they would obtain at Dartmouth would be a bachelor’s.
**INTENDED CAREERS**

Around **22%** of the Dartmouth respondents had not decided on a career.

One in six (**17%**) planned on being a physician and one in nine (**11%**) anticipated becoming a business executive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Intended Careers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Executive</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientist</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top ranked life goals:

- Raise a family (74%)
- Help others (74%)
- Understand other cultures (69%)

Lowest ranked life goals

- Create artistic work (13%)
- Be accomplished in performing arts (19%)
- Write original work (20%)
Top ranked expectations for college education:

- Learn more about things that interest me (100%)
- Gain a general education and appreciation of ideas (100%)
- Get a better job (97%)
- Become a more cultured person (97%)
  
Q: In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following?

- Learn more about things that interest me
- Gain a general education & appreciation of ideas
- Get a better job
- Become a more cultured person
- Prepare for graduate/professional school
- Make more money
- Get training for a specific career

Very important
Somewhat important
**RANKED COLLEGE LIFE EXPECTATIONS**

Q: What is your best guess at the chances you will:

Respondents are very **likely** to:

- Socialize with students from another race/ethnicity (85%)
- Be satisfied with Dartmouth (81%)
- Discuss courses with students outside of class (76%)

Respondents are very **unlikely** to:

- Need extra time for degree (4%)
- Work full-time in college (2%)
- Transfer to another college (1%)

% Very Good Chance
• Most first-year students (68%) indicated that Dartmouth College was their first choice.

• The top three reasons for attending Dartmouth are academic reputation, graduates getting good jobs, and wanting to attend a school of this size.

• More than 80% of Dartmouth incoming students rated themselves, compared to an average person of their age, as above average or in the highest 10% in academic ability, drive to achieve, ability to work with diverse people, tolerance of others, and seeing others’ perspectives.
• 50% of Dartmouth incoming students reported that their parents’ total income was $150,000 or more.

• 51% of Dartmouth incoming students reported no concern regarding their ability to finance college education.

• During their last year in high school, over 40% of Dartmouth students spent more than 11 hours a week socializing with friends, while over 30% studied more than 16 hours in a typical week.
• 90% of Dartmouth incoming students planned on getting an advanced degree.

• More than 70% of Dartmouth incoming students think there is a very good chance they will discuss courses outside of class, participate in student groups, be satisfied with Dartmouth, and socialize with students from another race/ethnicity.

• The top reasons to attend college for Dartmouth first-year students were learning things that interests them, gaining a general education and appreciation of ideas, getting a good job, and becoming a more cultured person.