



College Student Survey Spring 1999

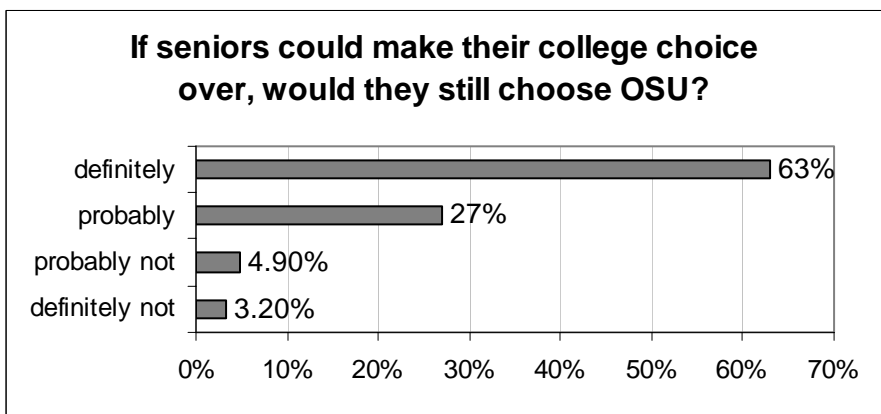
OSU's participation in the College Student Survey (CSS) is a collaborative effort of the Division of Student Affairs and Office of University Assessment. In April 1999, 295 seniors completed the CSS; 185 of these students had participated in the CIRP Freshman Survey in either 1994 or 1995. Data from these two surveys indicates how the experiences of seniors were different from their expectations as freshmen, and how students changed during their years at OSU.

How did college expectations of Freshmen compare to college experiences of Seniors?

OSU students were apparently more involved in student organizations during their undergraduate years than they expected; twice as many seniors were elected to student office than the number who reported this expectation as freshmen. Freshman expectations were exceeded regarding satisfaction with OSU and more students than expected, in this group, reported earning a "B" average.

More than three times as many students changed their majors and chosen career fields than the number that expected to do so. Freshman expectations also varied from actual college experiences in regards to employment while in college, with many more students than expected getting jobs. However, expectations about getting married while in college were apparently met.

	Expected by freshmen:	Experienced by seniors:
Election to student office	12%	24%
Satisfaction with this college	61%	91%
Change career choice	17%	58%
Change major field	17%	52%
Get married while in college	14%	14%
Make at least a "B" average	67%	84%
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	40%	
Part-time on-campus		56%
Part-time off-campus		62%
Work full-time while attending college	1.1%	15%

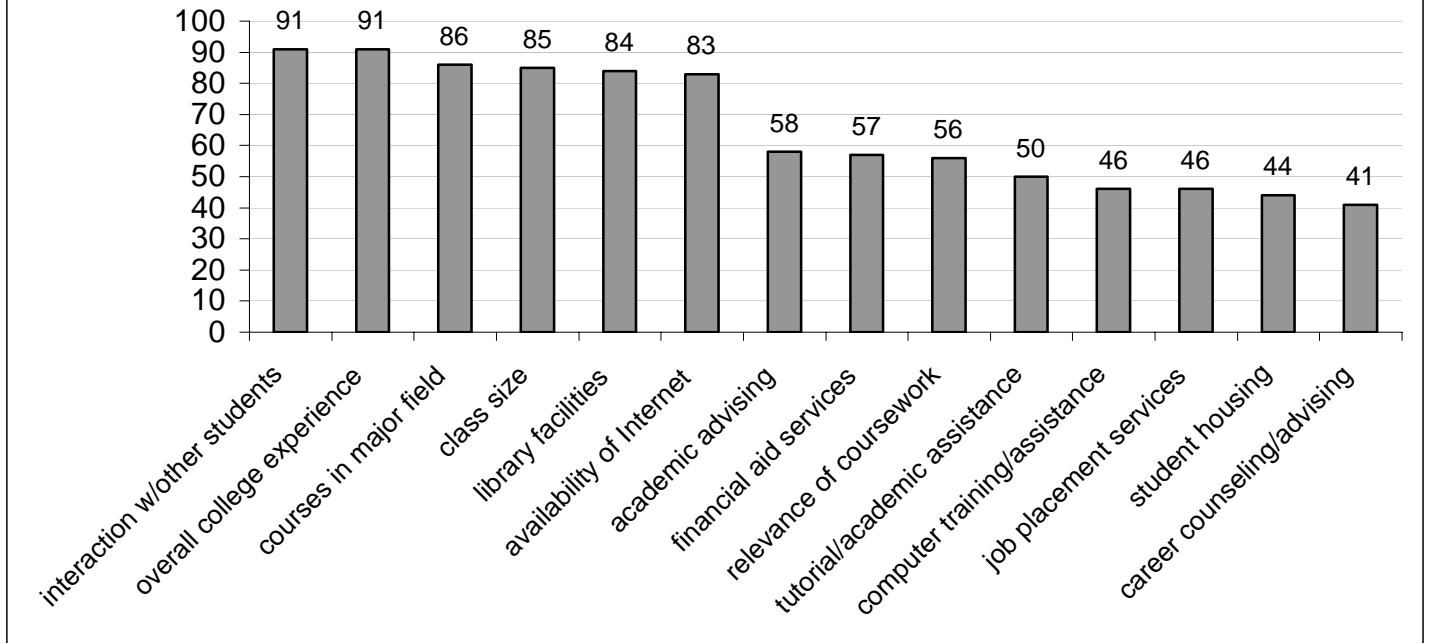


Other activities reported by seniors:

Participated in:

Internship program	41%
Leadership training	23%
Student government	15%
Took a remedial course	11%
Tutored another student	35%

Percent of Seniors Satisfied with these Aspects of College Life



How were activities *in the previous year* different as Freshmen than as Seniors?

Fewer students had these experiences (during the previous year) as Seniors than as Freshmen:

Attended a religious service	87%	94%
Failed to complete homework on time	46%	56%
Frequently discussed politics	11%	17%
Worked in local, state, or national political campaign	6.5%	15%
Frequently felt depressed	3.8%	9.7%

More students had these experiences (during the previous year) as Seniors than as Freshmen:

Frequently felt overwhelmed by all I have to do	47%	40%
Overslept and missed class or appointment	57%	22%
Drank beer	72%	52%
Drank wine or liquor	75%	50%

Seniors report having these class-related experiences since entering college:

- 77% have received a course assignment through the Internet
- 58% have turned in assignments electronically
- 77% have frequently discussed course content with students outside of class
- 69% have felt that their comments were not taken seriously by faculty
- 32% have felt discriminated against by faculty
- 18% have felt discriminated against by students

How are changes from Freshman to Senior year different by gender?

Students showed change from freshman to senior years in self-ratings on the following characteristics. In the percentages indicated, students gave self-ratings of “above average” or in the “upper 10%” among people their age.

	as Freshmen		as Seniors	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<i>Women showed no change on competitiveness; men increased by 11%.</i>	75%	54%	86%	54%
<i>Men increased slightly, women decreased on drive to achieve.</i>	84%	84%	87%	73%
<i>Men and women showed declines on ratings of physical health.</i>	77%	50%	53%	40%
<i>Men decreased more than women on ratings of emotional health:</i>	71%	61%	64%	60%
<i>Both men and women decreased on ratings of mathematical ability.</i>	57%	46%	55%	34%
<i>Self-ratings on public speaking, writing increase more for men.</i>	38%	39%	62%	40%
	39%	51%	67%	61%
<i>Women showed increase, men showed decrease on understanding of others.</i>	64%	74%	48%	82%

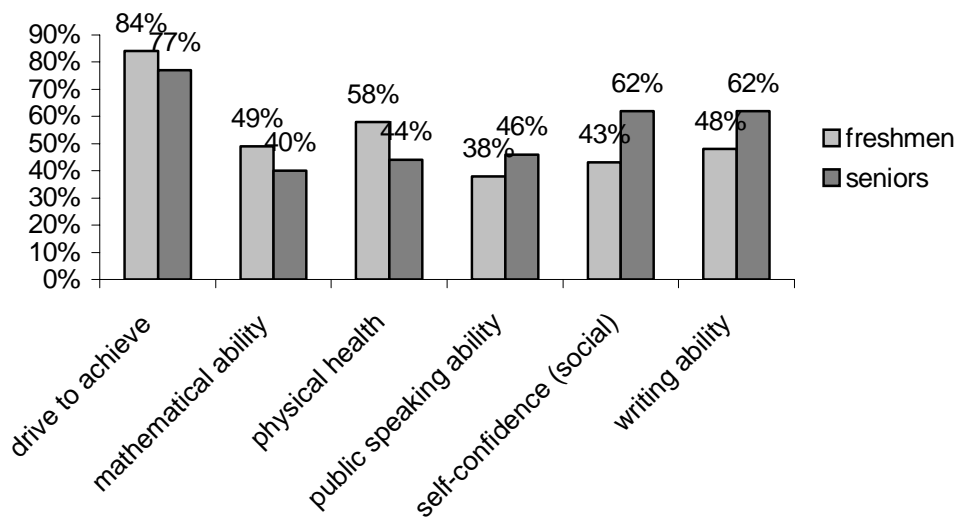
These percentages of students reported “much stronger” abilities and skills as seniors than as freshmen in:

Knowledge of particular field	70%
Computer skills	63%
General knowledge	50%
Interpersonal skills	38%
Public speaking	35%
Critical thinking	32%
Writing skills	31%
Analytical skills/ problem solving	28%
Ability to work cooperatively	28%
Leadership skills	25%

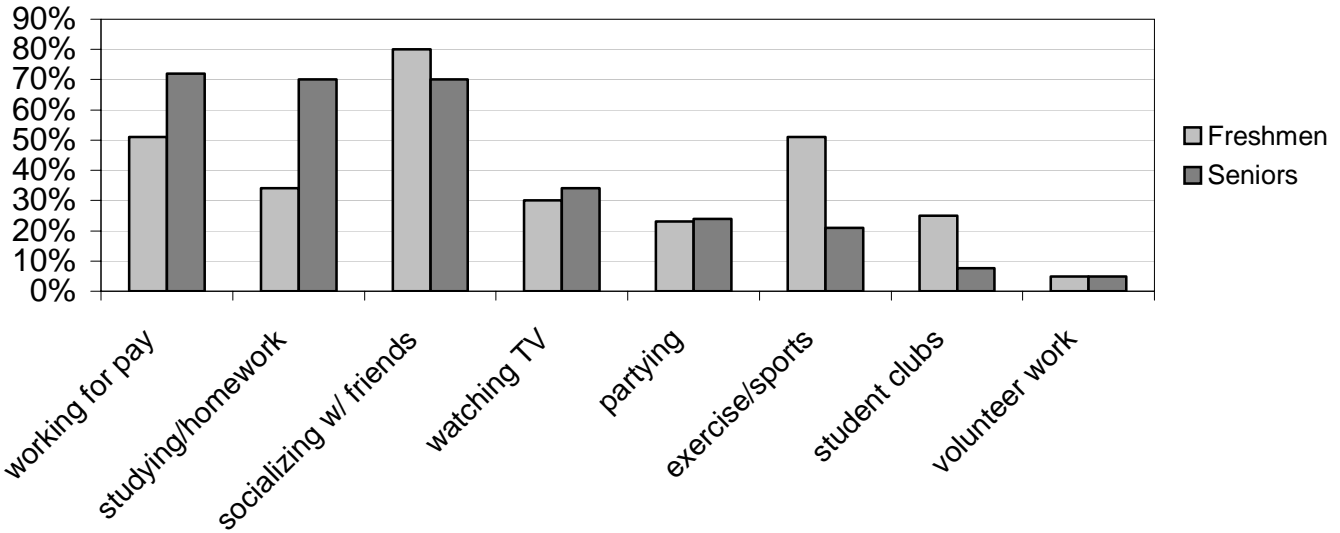
Changes in political views, from freshman to senior year

	FR	SR
Far left	0	.5%
Liberal	11%	17%
Middle of the road	53%	42%
Conservative	34%	37%
Far Right	1.7%	3.3%

Changes in Self-Ratings of "Above Average" or "in Highest 10%" from Freshman to Senior



Percentage of Students who Spent 6 or More Hours Weekly in the Previous Year on these Activities



How did students change on the importance they attach to various life goals?

The following life objectives were rated as “essential” or “very important” by students in the percentages indicated.

	as Freshmen		as Seniors	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Being very well off financially	84%	68%	69%	49%
Being successful in a business of my own	55%	46%	46%	29%
Helping others who are in difficulty	45%	72%	56%	76%
Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	34%	43%	46%	47%
Helping to promote racial understanding	18%	33%	9.1%	33%
Influencing the political structure	23%	9.5%	11%	9.3%
Creating artistic work (painting, sculpture, etc.)	1.8%	12%	11%	16%

How did students’ views on social issues change from their Freshman to Senior years?

Students “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the following positions on social issues in the percentages indicated.

	as Freshmen		as Seniors	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
A national health care plan is needed	41%	56%	38%	69%
It’s important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	61%	36%	49%	33%
Marijuana should be legalized	16%	17%	22%	28%
Racial discrimination is no longer a problem in America	28%	8.8%	21%	10%
An individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	39%	28%	38%	24%
The activities of women are best confined to home and family	41%	21%	21%	12%
The death penalty should be abolished	7.3%	14%	15%	15%
Wealthy people should pay larger share of taxes than they do now	50%	64%	36%	57%
If two people really like each other, it’s all right for them to have sex even if they’ve known each other for only a very short time	35%	18%	41%	27%
Abortion should be legal	39%	50%	40%	49%