

## 2004 CIRP Survey Results

### National Norms

- Freshmen are more politically polarized, as a record number stated they were politically “far left” (3.4 percent) and “far right” (2.2 percent).
- Increasing numbers of students have labeled themselves as “liberal” (26.1 percent) or “conservative” (21.9 percent).
- An all-time high of 85.7 percent of respondents said they used a computer on a frequent basis in the past year, while in 1985, only 27.3 percent said they did.
- Over 90 percent of Asian American freshmen noted that they used personal computers “frequently”, whereas only about 75 percent of African Americans had the same response.
- The national results show that nearly 80 percent of the freshmen responding to the survey think that there is a possibility that they will get a job to help pay for educational expenses.
- More than 36 percent of females said they frequently feel overwhelmed, compared to just 16 percent of males.
- A record of 47.5 percent of respondents nationally reported earning “A” averages in high school.
- Freshmen who said they were “bored in class” during their last year of high school amounted to 42.8 percent.
- Of the freshmen responding in 2004, approximately 82 percent stated that they participated in volunteer work during their senior year in high school.
- Community service was a requirement for graduation for one third of the respondents.
- “Helping to promote racial understanding” was noted as an “essential” or “very important” personal goal for only 29.7 percent of freshmen in 2004, compared to 46.4 percent in 1992.

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### Shippensburg Results

- A larger number of 2004 freshmen at Shippensburg agree “strongly” or “somewhat” that “wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now” compared to the 2004 National Average and 2002 freshmen at Shippensburg.
- Compared to the National Average in 2004, a considerably lower percentage of SU freshmen in 2004 reported they had an average high school grade of “A” or “A+”.
- Fewer Shippensburg University freshmen in 2004 said that chances are “very good” that they will “communicate regularly with (their) professors” than did the SU freshmen in 2002.
- A slightly higher percentage of 2004 freshmen at SU (close to 8%) stated that chances are “very good” that they will “transfer to another college before graduating” when compared to the 2004 National Average and 2002 freshmen at Shippensburg.
- In 2004, more students reported that the distance from their home to Shippensburg University is 101 to 500 miles than previously reported in 2002 and the National Average.
- While the results show that fewer SU students are expecting financial assistance from family members in 2004, more students are expecting \$10,000 or more as compared to students in 2002.
- Over 50 percent of respondents at Shippensburg in 2004 stated that they did not expect “any aid which need not be repaid”.
- More than 55 percent of freshmen at SU in 2004 are planning to use their own savings to pay for some educational expenses.
- A higher percentage of Shippensburg freshmen in 2004, over 55 percent, expect to pay for educational expenses with “aid which must be repaid”.
- Objectives considered to be essential or very important by Shippensburg University freshmen in 2004 were “raising a family”, with over 80 percent of respondents, and “being very well off financially”, over 75 percent.
- The objectives considered to be essential or very important receiving the fewest responses were “becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts” and “making a theoretical contribution to science” with just over 10 percent each.

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### Shippensburg Results (cont.)

- Nationwide in 2004, more students estimated their parents' total income last year to be over \$100,000 than was reported by students at Shippensburg.
- About 55 percent of Shippensburg University students in 2004 stated that "this college has a very good academic reputation" was a "very important" reason to attend SU.
- Nearly 80 percent of SU freshmen in 2004 said "to be able to get a better job" was a "very important" reason in deciding to go to college.
- Freshmen at Shippensburg (almost 70%) rated themselves as "above average" or in the "highest 10%" with regard to cooperativeness.
- According to the survey results in 2004, Shippensburg students spent more time in the past year doing household/childcare duties than students nationwide.
- Over 40 percent of SU freshmen in 2004 indicated that they spent no time in prayer or meditation during the last year.
- Results show that a smaller percentage of Shippensburg students read for pleasure than do students across the country, while a higher percentage of SU students watch TV.
- Shippensburg freshmen spent notably more time socializing with friends than the national average.
- Both nationally and at Shippensburg, over 95 percent of freshmen spent some time in exercise or sports during the past year.
- Compared to 2002, freshmen at SU in 2004 spent more time in student clubs and groups.
- Although 2004 results show that respondents at Shippensburg studied more than those in 2002, they continue to spend less time studying than the national average.
- Nearly 90 percent of SU freshmen in 2004 said that they spent some time talking with teachers outside of the class.
- While Shippensburg freshmen in 2004 reported spending more time playing video/computer games than the national average, more of them reported spending no time playing such games than SU freshmen in 2002.

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### **Shippensburg Results (cont.)**

- Results from the 2004 survey show an increase in involvement in volunteer work over 2002, but Shippensburg students remain less involved than students from other institutions.
- Fewer students nationwide reported spending time working for pay than Shippensburg students in 2004, although numbers decreased from 2002.