

## Survey of 2008 Freshmen at CSU Executive Summary

In September 2008, the Office of Undergraduate Studies at Cleveland State University conducted a survey of students enrolled in the *Introduction to University Life* course. Administration of the survey yielded a 69% (679 out of 979) response rate after students' drop/add status was considered. The primary purpose of the survey was to collect information for a grant proposal in support of the TRiO/SSS program on campus.

### The majority of parents do not have a 4 year degree

Percentage of students reporting parents with less than a 4 year degree

- 68% of male parents
- 71% of female parents
- 58% of both parents

### Low participation in summer academic enrichment programs

- 75% of students did not participate in any program
- Fewer first generation students were involved in summer enrichment programs, especially in math-related programming (3% for first generation compared to 8%)

### Students report increased time spent studying in college compared to high school

- The number of hours students report studying outside of class increases from high school to college. Fewer students study five hours or less a week and more study six or more hours a week. First generation students spent slightly more hours studying than non-first generation students.

<i>Hours</i>	<i>% of students in High School</i>	<i>% of student in College – Fall '08</i>
None	10%	2%
1-5	63%	42%
6-10	21%	37%
11+	6%	10%

### The majority of students expect to need academic assistance – especially in math

- Only 18% of students do not expect to need any academic help
- 45% of students believe they will need help in mathematics
- 23% of students believe they will need help in writing
- First generation students are more likely to expect the need for help

### The majority of students had not met with a tutor or participated in a study group

- 81% had not met with tutor
- 64% not participated in a study group

### More than one-half of students had missed class at least once

- 46% of students reported missing class 1-2 times
- 13% reporting missing class 3 or more times
- More first generation students (63%) had missed at least one class than non-first generation students (54%)

**The majority of students had contacted their professor**

- 60% of students said they had called or emailed their professors with a question

**Very high ownership of personal computers**

- Fewer than 10% of CSU freshman students did not have a personal computer (laptop or desktop). Approximately one-half of these students used the laptops available from mobile campus. First generation students were slightly more likely not to have a computer but were more likely to use the mobile campus.

**The majority of students work**

- 56% of all students surveyed are employed
- Of these students 55% work more than twenty hours or more per week

**First generation students are more likely to work off campus and for more than 20 hours per week**

<i>Work Status</i>	<i>% of First Generation Students</i>	<i>% of Non-first Generation Students</i>
Work	60	50
Work off campus	45	53
More than 20 hours	36	24

**Students expect to experience some or quite a bit of difficulty with finances, academics, and balancing responsibilities**

- 73% of students expect financial difficulties
- 65% of students expect academic difficulties
- 63% of students expect difficulties in balancing responsibilities

**Getting a job and gaining skills are the most common reasons for seeking a degree**

- 62% of students said they need a degree for a good job
- 37% of students said they wanted a degree in order to gain skills and knowledge

**Fewer than one-half of students say they will restrict after-graduation job search to Ohio**

- 44% of students were planning to live and look for employment within the state of Ohio but 30% were unsure
- First generation students would more likely focus their attention within the state of Ohio (48%) than non-first generation students (39%)

**Students believe improving the city of Cleveland and the Northeast Ohio region is important**

- 64% of all students said improving Cleveland and NE Ohio was very or somewhat important