

Chapter VI: COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT (CIRP) - FIRST YEAR STUDENT SURVEY

General Information

Incoming Student--Cooperative Institutional Research Project (CIRP)

Who takes it?

Fall first-time students.

When is it administered?

During Freshman Week (in August).

How long does it take for the student to complete the instrument?

30 minutes.

What office administers it?

Assessment and Testing sends the forms to the Freshman Week Committee. They are then distributed to Freshman College Coordinators. The class instructors are given the survey to give to the class; after they are filled out by the students, the surveys eventually go back to Assessment and Testing. The responses are tabulated at UCLA, the originator of the test.

Who originates the survey?

Higher Education Research Institute
UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information
3005 Moore Hall/Mailbox 95121, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1521
(310) 825-1925

When are results typically available?

The following December or January.

What type of information is sought?

The major information tracked is the probable field of study, highest degree planned, college choice, reason for college choice, high school record, political orientation, parental income, and parental education and occupation. Other information is available as well: racial background, activities during the previous year, self-rating in regards to various abilities and skills, time spent the previous year in other activities, probable career, source of finances, and religious preference of the student.

From whom are the results available?

Assessment and Testing.

Distribution regularly made available to whom?

President, VPAA, Division Head, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators.

Are the results available by division or discipline?

No.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

The data is comparable to averages of other schools in a class that we select (such as highly-selective public schools).

Comments:

The following is data taken from the CIRP instrument (from UCLA) that provides data on our first-year students and some comparisons with other groups of schools.

Most of the following comments relate to five-year tables relating to key questions. A few comparisons are made with the 1987 CIRP report.

1. Over the last five years there has been a significant increase in those planning to major in the arts and humanities.
2. A significant increase has occurred in the last five years in regard to students who plan to get a Ph.D. or professional degree. In 1997, the percentage was 42.6%; ten years ago, in 1987, it was 25.5%.
3. The percentage of students who pick Truman as their first choice is increasing.
4. Political orientation has been moving more to the "middle of the road" in the last five years.
5. Over the last five years, the percentage of parents with income above \$75,000 and \$100,000 (as reported by the students) has continued to increase. In 1987, the parental income was significantly lower.
6. Over the last five years, more of the students' parents have completed a college degree though the percent of those with some college has varied somewhat.
7. Academic reputation has continued to grow (up to 86%) in the last five years as a reason to come to Truman. The second reason in 1997 is that graduates get good jobs. The third is low tuition; the fourth is financial assistance, and the fifth is getting into good graduate schools.

8. Here are the average number of hours of homework done in high school over a week:

Hours a week	1995	1996	1997
None	1.9	1.8	1.3
<1	7.8	8.2	8.8
1-2	16.1	15.3	14.8
3-5	26.9	28.8	27.6
6-10	26.3	25.5	26.2
11-15	12.6	12.3	11.6
16-20	5.3	5.6	6.7
>20	3.1	2.6	3.0

Notice: Earlier CIRP documents report hours on high school homework but the hour categories are not the same.

Volume III contains the full data; it has a complete set of data from our own students along with comparisons with four-year public, medium-selective colleges and another comparison with all 4 year public colleges. Also included in volume III is the data used to compare Truman to nationwide highly-selective public schools.

The following is a report summarizing the fall 1997 CIRP data.

Cooperative Institutional Research Program

Fall 1997

Summary of Truman Responses

Each year Alexander Astin conducts a survey of entering freshmen as part of a project that is jointly funded by the American Council on Education and the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute. The data are utilized to produce a report known as “The American Freshman” and is widely quoted in the media. The questionnaire covers demographic and attitudinal issues along with degree aspirations, major, and career plans of freshmen. The purpose of this summary is to compare responses of Truman freshmen to the CIRP Survey for the last five years.

The survey instrument was completed by 1,517 entering Truman freshmen. This represents 91 percent of the fall 1997 class. The demographic information provided by these students indicates that they reflect the profile of the entire class. They are full-time students who graduated from high school in 1997 and are 18-19 years old. The new Truman students are “traditional” in many ways.

The following charts provide information on recent Truman freshman classes compared with student responses at four-year public colleges nationwide. Historically, Truman is included in a group of colleges classified as “4-year public medium selective,” but this year we have chosen to compare Truman to 4-year highly selective public schools. All information is self-reported by the student and is for first-time, full-time freshmen. The tables indicate the percentage in each category.

PROBABLE MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY

The 1997 Truman freshmen continue to show interest in business majors with almost 15 percent planning to major in business. There is also strong interest in professional fields, arts & humanities, social sciences, and biological sciences.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Major Field of Study	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Arts & Humanities	12.4	11.7	12.1	14.1	13.9	6.9	7.0	9.7	7.1	6.8
Biological Sciences	9.3	11.1	10.2	9.9	10.6	8.0	9.5	9.9	8.5	8.8
Business	16.2	16.2	16.0	15.9	14.8	7.9	7.3	8.8	6.6	9.0
Education	9.4	10.1	9.4	7.9	8.2	8.4	4.7	7.0	8.3	9.2
Engineering	2.5	1.7	2.0	1.2	1.3	30.8	31.5	23.4	30.3	24.9
Physical Sciences	4.6	3.8	4.8	5.3	5.6	5.0	5.9	5.1	6.1	5.0
Professional	17.5	15.7	16.4	17.0	14.4	10.4	10.5	9.8	7.5	8.8
Social Science	10.3	12.4	11.1	11.5	13.0	8.3	10.3	9.8	10.5	9.5
Technical	0.5	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.6	1.1	0.7	1.6
Other Fields	6.2	5.0	6.6	6.8	6.4	5.6	5.0	6.6	6.2	7.8

HIGHEST DEGREE PLANNED

In 1997, 84.6 percent of Truman freshmen plan to attain a graduate or professional degree, exceeding the nationwide figure of 83.1 percent.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Highest Degree	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
None	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3		0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Vocational Cert.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Associate	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1		0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Bachelor's	14.5	16.2	15.4	15.1	14.2		17.2	12.3	14.6	11.9	15.1
Master's	44.5	43.1	44.1	41.7	42.0		46.7	43.4	45.1	45.9	47.8
PhD or Professional	38.8	39.6	38.4	41.7	42.6		34.6	42.8	38.3	40.7	35.3
BD or M.Div	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1		0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2
Other	1.4	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.8		0.8	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.1

COLLEGE CHOICE

Truman was the first choice for 79.1 percent of the students completing this survey in 1997. This is higher than the nationwide sample with 74.7 percent attending their first choice.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

This college is student's	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
1 st choice	70.6	77.5	76.9	77.1	79.1		79.8	80.1	76.3	76.8	74.7
2 nd choice	21.1	17.0	17.2	18.3	16.1		15.6	15.1	17.5	17.0	18.4
3 rd choice	5.4	3.4	3.8	2.7	3.4		3.1	3.1	3.7	4.0	4.3
>3 rd choice	3.0	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.3		1.5	1.8	2.5	2.2	2.6

HIGH SCHOOL RECORD

Truman students report much higher grades than the nationwide average. In 1997, 97.2 percent of the Truman students reported an average of "B" or higher and 67.6 percent reported an average of "A-" or higher. This is compared to 91.1 percent and 56.3 percent respectively nationwide.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Average HS Grade	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
A or A+	27.1	25.8	26.1	29.7	34.1		30.5	37.8	31.0	40.9	29.7
A-	28.3	29.8	30.1	30.8	33.5		28.2	26.3	26.9	30.4	26.6
B+	25.1	24.6	24.2	23.3	17.5		22.4	18.0	19.2	17.0	20.0
B	15.3	15.3	15.7	13.8	12.1		13.1	11.7	14.7	8.4	14.8
B-	3.4	3.7	3.1	1.7	2.3		3.7	3.8	4.8	2.2	5.7
C+	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4		1.7	1.8	2.6	0.7	2.2

C	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1		0.4	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9
D	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0

POLITICAL ORIENTATION

Truman students tend to be “middle of the road” on this question. Very few report that they are at the political extremes.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Political Orientation	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Far left	2.5	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8		1.6	1.5	1.9	1.1	1.7
Liberal	27.5	24.5	24.6	23.1	23.8		25.2	22.1	22.0	19.4	21.7
Middle/road	46.7	50.8	50.2	51.7	51.4		45.4	43.5	45.6	48.8	50.7
Conservative	21.1	22.0	21.9	21.9	22.0		25.9	30.7	27.9	28.2	24.0
Far right	2.3	0.9	1.6	1.6	1.0		2.0	2.2	2.5	2.5	1.9

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Truman was the only choice for 20.5 percent of the students in 1997. The distribution on this question is very similar to the nationwide sample.

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Other colleges applied to	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
None	22.3	23.3	22.3	20.7	20.5		17.1	16.6	15.8	13.9	15.6
1	16.3	17.1	17.6	17.5	17.6		16.6	12.7	12.5	11.6	13.8
2-3	37.3	38.1	38.2	37.4	40.7		36.6	33.5	34.3	33.7	33.9
4+	24.1	21.6	21.8	24.5	21.3		29.6	37.1	37.3	40.8	36.7

PARENTAL INCOME

Truman students have been reporting higher family income levels. In 1997, 50.6 percent reported family income in the \$50,000-\$99,999 range. The 1997 class also included 16.5 percent reporting family incomes of \$100,000 or more. In comparison to the nationwide sample Truman’s parental income distribution is very similar.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Parental Income	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<\$10,000	1.5	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.3		2.7	2.3	2.7	2.1	1.9
\$10,000-14,999	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.6		2.3	2.1	2.0	2.2	1.9
\$15,000-19,999	2.7	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.6		2.3	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.9
\$20,000-24,999	4.6	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.4		3.8	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.6
\$25,000-29,999	5.4	5.1	3.2	4.0	3.9		4.8	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.5
\$30,000-39,999	12.2	10.2	9.4	10.5	9.6		9.9	8.1	8.5	7.7	8.7
\$40,000-49,999	13.3	13.7	13.8	10.8	11.5		12.2	9.9	10.3	10.3	9.9
\$50,000-99,999	47.9	49.2	50.1	49.6	50.6		31.9	46.9	49.4	48.3	46.3

>\$99,999	10.7	11.6	14.1	26.2	16.5		15.6	20.9	18.0	20.7	22.2
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The 1993-1997 distribution of the responses for \$50,000 - \$99,999 is as follows:

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Estimated Income	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
\$50,000-59,999	14.0	15.4	16.0	15.3	15.4		14.5	11.8	13.3	12.7	11.9
\$60,000-74,999	19.6	19.7	19.0	18.8	18.2		17.4	17.7	18.2	17.6	17.0
\$75,000-99,999	14.3	14.1	15.1	15.5	17.0		14.5	17.4	17.9	18.0	17.4

FATHER'S EDUCATION

The percentage of students reporting that their father has a college degree or higher has increased from 54.8 percent in 1993 to 57 percent in 1997. Including those who report "some college", almost 79 percent of the fathers of 1997 freshmen have postsecondary or college experience.

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**NATIONWIDE PUBLIC
HIGHLY SELECTIVE**

Education	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
High School or less	23.1	19.9	19.9	21.2	20.4		18.1	16.5	19.9	18.1	21.8
Postsecondary/college	50.2	53.8	52.0	51.5	53.6		51.6	47.7	50.0	49.8	50.2
Graduate School	26.6	26.4	28.3	27.3	26.1		30.4	35.9	30.1	32.1	28.0

FATHER'S OCCUPATION

Popular occupations include businessman (30.0%), engineer (8.0%), skilled worker (8.0%), and education (4.5%). The group listing their father as unemployed has declined from around two percent down closer to one percent and below the percentages reported by the nationwide sample over the years.

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**NATIONWIDE PUBLIC
HIGHLY SELECTIVE**

Occupation	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Artist (incl. Performer)	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.5		0.7	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.7
Businessman	29.3	34.5	31.4	30.7	30.0		29.4	31.2	28.2	27.0	28.2
Clergy/religious	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.4		0.7	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.6
College Teacher/admin	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.0	0.8		1.0	1.3	0.8	1.1	0.6
Doctor or dentist	1.2	1.0	2.1	2.4	2.4		2.2	3.0	2.4	2.5	2.4
Education (secondary)	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.0	4.0		5.6	4.9	5.3	5.6	4.9
Education (elementary)	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.5		1.4	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.5
Engineer	8.6	7.9	7.5	6.9	8.0		11.3	10.4	9.8	10.5	10.0
Farmer or forester	4.1	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.3		1.6	1.2	1.3	1.6	0.8
Health prof. (non MD)	1.2	1.2	2.0	1.1	1.2		1.2	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5
Lawyer	1.4	1.8	1.4	2.6	2.6		2.1	3.3	1.9	2.7	2.2
Military (career)	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2		3.6	5.0	4.2	4.3	3.5
Research scientist	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0		0.7	0.9	.7	1.1	0.8
Skilled worker	9.0	9.2	9.1	8.6	8.0		8.2	6.7	7.9	7.6	8.8
Semi-skilled worker	3.1	2.7	3.2	3.6	2.9		2.7	1.8	3.0	2.6	2.6

Laborer (unskilled)	2.7	2.3	2.2	1.4	2.2		1.6	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.8
Unemployed	1.8	1.6	1.5	2.2	1.1		2.2	1.8	2.2	1.9	1.8
Other occupation	25.4	21.7	25.6	25.5	29.0		23.7	22.9	26.6	25.5	27.3

MOTHER'S EDUCATION

43.2 percent of the students reported that their mother had a college degree in 1993. This has increased to almost 53 percent in 1997. Including those with "some college", almost 78 percent of the mothers of 1997 freshmen have postsecondary or college experience.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Education	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
High School or less	28.7	24.6	24.3	24.0	22.2		25.3	21.9	24.8	23.0	25.6
Postsecondary/College	53.7	57.0	55.1	56.6	58.2		54.3	54.6	54.3	54.6	53.8
Graduate School	17.7	28.5	20.5	19.3	19.6		20.3	23.5	20.7	22.5	20.6

MOTHER'S OCCUPATION

Education-elementary (13.3%), business-woman (12.4%) homemaker (10.7%), nurse (9.6%), and business-clerical (7.1%) continue to be the most frequent responses in 1997.

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NATIONWIDE PUBLIC HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Occupation	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Artist (incl. Performer)	1.5	0.8	1.3	2.1	1.4		1.7	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.3
Businesswoman	13.6	13.7	12.6	12.9	12.4		13.6	14.5	12.5	11.5	13.0
Business (clerical)	9.6	10.0	10.0	9.0	7.1		8.7	7.9	7.6	7.9	7.4
Clergy/religious	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2		0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
College teacher/admin	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.7		0.7	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.6
Doctor or dentist	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5		0.4	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.6
Education (secondary)	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	7.3		6.4	8.6	7.2	7.8	6.9
Education (elementary)	11.5	13.4	14.2	14.5	13.3		11.9	11.8	12.9	12.6	12.7
Engineer	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1		0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5
Farmer or forester	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5		0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1
Health prof. (non MD)	2.1	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.7		2.3	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.9
Homemaker (full-time)	12.7	11.1	11.0	9.7	10.7		14.0	14.2	12.8	12.1	11.7
Lawyer	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2		0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5
Nurse	8.1	8.2	8.5	8.4	9.6		7.8	7.9	9.7	9.5	9.1
Research scientist	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Social/Welfare Worker	1.9	1.6	2.0	1.3	1.8		1.8	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.3
Skilled worker	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.1	1.0		1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5
Semi-skilled worker	2.4	1.9	1.4	2.3	2.1		2.1	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.1
Laborer (unskilled)	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.0		1.2	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.2
Unemployed	2.1	3.4	3.0	3.7	3.3		4.0	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.1
Other occupation	22.5	20.9	21.8	21.5	24.0		20.5	18.3	20.6	20.3	22.1

REASONS FOR SELECTION

Academic reputation continues as the primary reason for selecting Truman. Other major factors of selection are placement of our graduates in good jobs and our low tuition. A large percentage indicated financial assistance (56.9%), Truman graduates go to top graduate schools (50.2%), and the size of Truman (48%) as important items in the selection process. A new question on the survey starting in 1995 references rankings in national magazines and indicates that rankings are an increasingly significant consideration in the selection process (41.3%) for Truman students.

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Reasons for selection	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Relative's advice	6.2	6.6	6.7	7.7	5.9	8.1	8.8	9.4	10.5	8.8
Teacher's advice	3.3	2.2	3.0	3.1	2.8	3.3	3.5	4.3	4.6	3.5
Good academic rep	81.0	81.2	81.9	87.0	85.7	76.4	81.8	73.9	85.0	76.0
Good social rep	13.6	10.6	13.8	21.5	18.2	21.4	16.1	19.0	20.4	23.2
Financial assistance	49.7	41.2	43.4	48.7	56.9	27.0	29.8	34.7	39.7	35.3
Special programs	21.0	19.9	16.7	18.6	19.2	26.7	26.7	27.1	31.3	26.4
Low tuition	65.9	57.2	63.5	65.9	62.4	38.7	37.8	46.2	47.1	46.6
Counselor's advice	9.6	7.3	7.8	8.7	6.9	6.7	5.7	7.2	8.1	7.8
Near home	7.0	7.1	9.1	7.6	9.0	11.6	10.9	12.9	13.2	13.5
Friend's advice	8.4	8.0	8.1	7.2	7.6	6.7	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.5
College rep recruited	3.4	2.6	3.3	2.5	1.9	2.9	2.9	3.9	4.4	3.4
Athletic dept recruited	5.1	3.5	3.9	4.9	3.9	6.2	7.0	8.8	10.8	8.1
Grads get good jobs	58.1	50.8	58.0	64.7	64.8	60.6	68.1	62.5	76.6	70.2
Grads go to top grad schools	38.6	36.3	45.2	47.2	50.2	34.6	45.0	39.6	50.3	42.7
Size	55.3	50.8	47.7	51.0	48.0	39.8	32.3	34.5	33.2	36.6
Rankings in national magazines	n/a	n/a	36.5	40.9	41.3	n/a	n/a	21.4	28.3	21.9

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

The most frequent religious preference listed by entering students continues to be Catholic. However, the "Other Religion" category has increased from 18.6 to almost 24 percent during the five year period. Truman students' religious preference closely follows the nationwide distribution.

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**NATIONWIDE PUBLIC
HIGHLY SELECTIVE**

Current religious pref	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Baptist	9.8	9.6	9.5	9.9	9.5	11.5	12.7	10.1	7.9	8.5
Un. Church of Christ	4.0	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.5	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
Lutheran	9.5	8.9	7.0	8.5	6.9	6.6	4.8	4.9	5.6	5.8
Methodist	10.7	8.9	9.7	8.1	9.0	8.5	9.8	8.6	6.9	7.4
Catholic	33.1	32.8	34.9	32.7	34.5	31.1	31.3	34.8	40.2	37.8
Other	18.6	23.0	22.9	22.6	23.9	24.3	27.5	26.6	26.1	26.2
None	14.2	14.6	13.3	15.6	13.7	16.9	12.9	14.2	12.2	13.5

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the traditionally displayed information, the 1997 Truman freshmen have the following characteristics compared with the 1997 freshmen from four-year public highly selective institutions. Where appropriate, 1993 information has also been provided to give comparative and historical value to some of the questions. "n/a" indicates that the question was not asked during that particular year.

Compared to the nationwide trend, Truman students tend to travel farther away from home to attend college.

>100 miles from home	1997	1993
Truman	87.6	89.4
4-yr public - highly selective	58.5	61.7

In 1997 and 1993, Truman freshmen indicated that they engaged in playing a musical instrument and voted in a student election more during the past year than the public students:

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Engaged in	1997	1993		1997	1993
Tutored another student	61.1	59.0		66.5	68.6
Performed volunteer work	82.2	77.1		83.3	77.4
Played a musical instrument	45.9	44.6		41.8	41.7
Discussed politics	19.5	27.5		19.9	27.9
Voted in student election	29.8	n/a		26.2	n/a
Used a personal computer	68.9	79.1		69.1	49.2

Truman freshmen also rated themselves more as "Above Average" or "in the Highest 10%" in 1997 and/or 1993 in some of the following abilities/areas:

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UNIVERSITY**

**NATIONWIDE PUBLIC
HIGHLY SELECTIVE**

Ability/area	1997	1993		1997	1993
Academic ability	85.3	81.8		80.9	83.4
Drive to achieve	76.2	74.1		75.9	78.2
Mathematical ability	49.9	46.7		59.1	61.3
Intellectual self-confidence	65.3	64.7		65.1	67.4
Writing ability	53.4	55.1		51.7	51.4

Truman freshmen in both 1993 and 1997 felt that developing a philosophy of life was essential or very important as compared to the nationwide sample.

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UNIVERSITY**

**NATIONWIDE PUBLIC
HIGHLY SELECTIVE**

Objectives	1997	1993		1997	1993
Develop philosophy of life	50.8	48.9		45.7	48.4
Keep up to date with politics	32.3	43.5		34.4	45.5

Be a community leader	36.0	n/a		38.7	n/a
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A couple of findings that may be of interest and an indication of why Truman was chosen lie in the reasons noted as very important in deciding to attend college. In 1997 and 1993, Truman's freshmen compared to the 4-year public students indicated that gaining a general education and becoming a more cultured person were important. In 1993, Truman freshmen also listed wanted to get away from home, learn more about things, and prepare for graduate/professional school as important compared to the public students.

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Reasons	1997	1993		1997	1993
Gain general education	65.3	67.9		62.0	66.2
Become a more cultured person	41.9	44.9		38.8	43.2
Get away from home	n/a	24.5		n/a	18.2
Learn more about things	75.1	76.5		75.9	76.2
Prepare for grad/prof school	n/a	64.9		n/a	59.2

When looking at sources for educational expenses, it's interesting to note that Truman freshmen receive considerably less aid from working during college or from loans (Perkins, college, other loans) than those nationwide. However, Truman freshmen did receive more aid in 1997 in the form of state scholarships/grants, other college/private grants, and Stafford/Guaranteed Student Loans than those from public medium selective schools. In 1993, similar trends in working and aid seem apparent especially as Truman students received more aid in the form of state scholarships/grants, other college/private grants, and Stafford/Guaranteed Student Loans than the public students.

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Sources	1997	1993		1997	1993
Working	25.4	24.6		28.5	29.5
Perkins, college, other loans	16.5	14.3		19.7	11.1
State scholarships/grants	27.9	22.1		15.0	16.7
Other college/private grants	79.7	77.2		30.7	31.2
Stafford/Guaranteed Student Loans	28.3	27.0		18.2	21.9