

Chapter XXI: CIRP DATA

This chapter includes the CIRP form that freshmen fill out. What follows is the 1998 data for Truman freshmen. Included are comparative data for 4 year public, highly-selective colleges, all 4 year public colleges, highly-selective 4 year private universities, 4 year nonsectarian highly-selective colleges, highly-selective 4 year public universities, and 4 year very highly-selective nonsectarian colleges.

Cooperative Institutional Research Program

Fall 1998

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 provide a historical comparison of responses of Truman freshmen to the CIRP Survey for the last five years.

1,379 entering Truman freshmen completed the survey instrument. This represents 93 percent of the fall 1998 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 1998, are 18-19 years old, and are "traditional" in many ways.

The following charts provide comparative information on recent Truman freshman classes over the past five years. Charts comparing Truman's fall 1998 freshman class with freshman responses at four-year public highly selective institutions nationwide are also provided. All information is self-reported by the student and is for first-time, full-time freshmen. The tables indicate the percentage in each category.

It should be noted that the "Public Highly Selective" category included 26 participating campuses in 1998. This group is a mixture of public liberal arts colleges (Truman, Mary Washington, New College of South Florida, St. Mary's of Maryland), engineering campuses (University of Missouri-Rolla, Georgia Tech, NJ Institute of Technology), the service academies (Army, Navy, Air Force), and some multi-purpose campuses (SUNY College at Buffalo, George Mason University, University of Northern Iowa). Thus, one should be cautious in drawing conclusions regarding Truman's responses versus the public highly selective group.

PROBABLE MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY

The 1998 Truman freshmen continue to show interest in studying business and professional fields with 15.2 percent planning to major in business and 16.2 percent planning to major in professional fields. There is also strong yet decreased interest in arts & humanities, social sciences, and biological sciences. Compared to the highly selective institutions, Truman students show more interest in all the major fields of study listed with the exceptions of the education, engineering, technical, and other fields categories.

TRUMAN

Major Field of Study	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Arts & Humanities	11.7	12.1	14.1	13.9	12.8
Biological Sciences	11.1	10.2	9.9	10.6	10.1
Business	16.2	16.0	15.9	14.8	15.2
Education	10.1	9.4	7.9	8.2	9.1
Engineering	1.7	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.7
Physical Sciences	3.8	4.8	5.3	5.6	3.9
Professional	15.7	16.4	17.0	14.4	16.2
Social Science	12.4	11.1	11.5	13.0	10.6
Technical	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.9
Other Fields	5.0	6.6	6.8	6.4	8.3

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Major Field of Study	Highly Selective	Truman
Arts & Humanities	8.1	12.8
Biological Sciences	6.3	10.1
Business	11.0	15.2
Education	14.0	9.1
Engineering	20.8	1.7
Physical Science	3.9	3.9
Professional	8.2	16.2
Social Science	8.5	10.6
Technical	1.9	0.9
Other Fields	10.9	8.3

HIGHEST DEGREE PLANNED

In 1998, 83.5 percent of Truman freshmen plan to attain a graduate or professional degree, exceeding the highly selective nationwide figure of 74.9 percent.

TRUMAN

Highest Degree	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
None	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
Vocational Cert.	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Associate	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Bachelor's	16.2	15.4	15.1	14.2	15.5
Master's	43.1	44.1	41.7	42.0	44.7
PhD or Professional	39.6	38.4	41.7	42.6	38.8
BD or M.Div	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Other	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.6

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Highest Degree	Highly Selective	Truman
None	0.5	0.3
Vocational Cert.	0.1	0.0
Associate	0.4	0.0
Bachelor's	22.9	15.5
Master's	46.9	44.7
PhD or Professional	28.0	38.8
BD or M.Div	0.3	0.2
Other	1.0	0.6

HIGH SCHOOL RECORD

Truman students report much higher grades than the nationwide average. In 1998, 97.6 percent of the Truman freshmen reported an average of "B" or higher and 67.9 percent reported an average of "A-" or higher. This is compared to 88.3 percent and 52.6 percent respectively nationwide.

TRUMAN

Average HS Grade	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
A or A+	25.8	26.1	29.7	34.1	38.4
A-	29.8	30.1	30.8	33.5	29.5
B+	24.6	24.2	23.3	17.5	19.5
B	15.3	15.7	13.8	12.1	10.2
B-	3.7	3.1	1.7	2.3	1.8
C+	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6
C	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
D	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Average HS Grade	Highly Selective	Truman
A or A+	28.7	38.4
A-	23.9	29.5
B+	18.5	19.5
B	17.2	10.2
B-	6.2	1.8
C+	3.6	0.6
C	1.8	0.0
D	0.1	0.0

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Truman was the only choice for 23.0 percent of the freshmen in 1998. The students at highly selective institutions had a higher percentage applying to 4 or more colleges (31.1% vs. 23.7%).

TRUMAN

Other colleges applied to	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
None	23.3	22.3	20.7	20.5	23.0
1	17.1	17.6	17.5	17.6	16.6
2 - 3	38.1	38.2	37.4	40.7	36.9
4+	21.6	21.8	24.5	21.3	23.7

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Other Colleges applied to	Highly Selective	Truman
None	18.5	23.0
1	14.6	16.6
2 - 3	35.7	36.9
4+	31.1	23.7

COLLEGE CHOICE

Truman was the first choice for 78.4 percent of the students completing this survey in 1998. This is higher than the nationwide sample where 75.3 percent are attending their first choice.

TRUMAN

This college is student's	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1st choice	77.5	76.9	77.1	79.1	78.4
2nd choice	17.0	17.2	18.3	16.1	16.4
3rd choice	3.4	3.8	2.7	3.4	3.3
>3rd choice	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.8

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

This college is student's	Highly Selective	Truman
1st choice	75.3	78.4
2nd choice	18.3	16.4
3rd choice	4.3	3.3
>3rd choice	2.1	1.8

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 although each dropped significantly from last year in importance. A large percentage indicated financial assistance (51.9%), Truman graduates go to top graduate schools (44.0%), and the size of Truman (46.8%) as important items in the selection process. Since the question's inclusion in 1995, rankings in national magazines was an increasingly significant selection consideration but has fallen off in 1998 to only 33.6

percent from 41.3 percent in 1997. Academic reputation and graduates get good jobs are the most significant considerations in college selection by freshmen in the highly selective comparison group. Questions not asked on this year's survey are indicated by n/a.

TRUMAN

Reasons for selection	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Relative's advice	6.6	6.7	7.7	5.9	6.1
Teacher's advice	2.2	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.3
Good academic rep	81.2	81.9	87.0	85.7	82.0
Good social rep	10.6	13.8	21.5	18.2	17.5
Financial assistance	41.2	43.4	48.7	56.9	51.9
Special programs	19.9	16.7	18.6	19.2	15.3
Low tuition	57.2	63.5	65.9	62.4	53.0
Counselor's advice	7.3	7.8	8.7	6.9	5.6
Near home	7.1	9.1	7.6	9.0	8.6
Friend's advice	8.0	8.1	7.2	7.6	n/a
College rep recruited	2.6	3.3	2.5	1.9	n/a
Athletic dept recruited	3.5	3.9	4.9	3.9	n/a
Grads get good jobs	50.8	58.0	64.7	64.8	57.6
Grads go to top grad schools	36.3	45.2	47.2	50.2	44.0
Size	50.8	47.7	51.0	48.0	46.8
Rankings in national magazines	n/a	36.5	40.9	41.3	33.6

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Reasons for selection	Highly Selective	Truman
Relative's advice	7.6	6.1
Teacher's advice	3.9	2.3
Good academic rep	69.9	82.0
Good social rep	21.7	17.5
Financial assistance	26.6	51.9
Special programs	21.9	15.3
Low tuition	37.8	53.0
Counselor's advice	8.0	5.6
Near home	13.1	8.6
Info. in multicollge guidebook	9.2	9.1
Not offered aid by first choice	5.8	8.6
Grads get good jobs	62.6	57.6
Grads go to top grad schools	36.2	44.0
Size	32.7	46.8
Rankings in national magazines	18.9	33.6

PARENTAL INCOME

Truman students have been reporting higher family income levels. In 1998, 51.2 percent reported family income in the \$50,000-\$99,999 range. The 1998 class also included 19.0 percent reporting family incomes of \$100,000 or more. In comparison with the public highly selective group, Truman has students from slightly higher income levels until the highly selective group reaches the \$100,000 income level.

TRUMAN

Estimated Income	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<\$10,000	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.3	0.8
\$10,000-14,999	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.6	1.4
\$15,000-19,999	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.4
\$20,000-24,999	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.4	2.2
\$25,000-29,999	5.1	3.2	4.0	3.9	2.8
\$30,000-39,999	10.2	9.4	10.5	9.6	9.4
\$40,000-49,999	13.7	13.8	10.8	11.5	12.0
\$50,000-99,999	49.2	50.1	49.6	50.6	51.2
>\$99,999	11.6	14.1	26.2	16.5	19.0

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Estimated Income	Highly Selective	Truman
<\$10,000	2.8	0.8
\$10,000-14,999	2.1	1.4
\$15,000-19,999	2.5	1.4
\$20,000-24,999	3.4	2.2
\$25,000-29,999	4.0	2.8
\$30,000-39,999	8.9	9.4
\$40,000-49,999	10.2	12.0
\$50,000-99,999	44.9	51.2
>\$99,999	21.1	19.0

The 1994-1998 distribution of the responses for \$50,000 - \$99,999 is as follows:

TRUMAN

Estimated Income	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
\$50,000-59,999	15.4	16.0	15.3	15.4	13.2
\$60,000-74,999	19.7	19.0	18.8	18.2	19.2
\$75,000-99,999	14.1	15.1	15.5	17.0	18.8

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Estimated Income	Highly Selective	Truman
\$50,000-59,999	12.3	13.2
\$60,000-74,999	16.2	19.2
\$75,000-99,999	16.4	18.8

FATHER'S EDUCATION

The percentage of students reporting that their father has a college degree or higher has increased from 57 percent in 1997 to almost 61 percent in 1998. Including those who report "some college", more than 82 percent of the fathers of 1998 freshmen have postsecondary or college experience. Compared to the nationwide sample, around 7% more Truman students report their fathers have at least a college degree and 8% more Truman fathers have some postsecondary or college experience.

TRUMAN

Education	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
High School or less	19.9	19.9	21.2	20.4	17.7
Postsecondary/college	53.8	52.0	51.5	53.6	55.6
Graduate School	26.4	28.3	27.3	26.1	26.6

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Education	Highly Selective	Truman
High School or less	25.9	17.7
Postsecondary/College	49.7	55.6
Graduate School	24.5	26.6

FATHER'S OCCUPATION

Popular occupations include businessman (32.1%), skilled worker (8.1%), engineer (7.9%), and education (5.5%). The group listing their father as unemployed has remained around two percent or less and below the percentages reported by the nationwide sample over the years. Similarly, the popular occupations for Truman fathers are also the most popular for the fathers of the freshmen attending public highly selective institutions.

TRUMAN

Occupation	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Artist (incl. performer)	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.9
Businessman	34.5	31.4	30.7	30.0	32.1
Clergy/religious	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.4
College Teacher/admin	1.2	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.3
Doctor or dentist	1.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.5
Education (secondary)	5.6	5.6	4.0	4.0	4.2
Education (elementary)	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.5	1.3
Engineer	7.9	7.5	6.9	8.0	7.9
Farmer or forester	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.1
Health prof. (non MD)	1.2	2.0	1.1	1.2	1.9
Lawyer	1.8	1.4	2.6	2.6	1.6
Military (career)	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.5
Research scientist	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.6
Skilled worker	9.2	9.1	8.6	8.0	8.1
Semi-skilled worker	2.7	3.2	3.6	2.9	3.0
Laborer (unskilled)	2.3	2.2	1.4	2.2	1.6
Unemployed	1.6	1.5	2.2	1.1	1.3
Other occupation	21.7	25.6	25.5	29.0	25.7

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Occupation	Highly Selective	Truman
Artist (incl. performer)	0.7	0.9
Businessman	27.4	32.1
Clergy/religious	0.9	1.4
College teacher/admin	0.6	1.3
Doctor or dentist	1.9	2.5
Education (secondary)	4.3	4.2
Education (elementary)	1.4	1.3
Engineer	9.5	7.9
Farmer or forester	1.6	3.1
Health prof. (non MD)	1.6	1.9
Lawyer	1.6	1.6
Military (career)	2.1	1.5
Research scientist	0.6	0.6
Skilled worker	9.3	8.1
Semi-skilled worker	3.4	3.0
Laborer (unskilled)	2.7	1.6
Unemployed	2.1	1.3
Other occupation	28.4	25.7

MOTHER'S EDUCATION

51.8 percent of the students reported that their mother had a college degree in 1994. Including those with "some college", almost 79 percent of the mothers of 1998 Truman freshmen have postsecondary or college experience and 53 percent have college degrees or higher. The students from the comparison group reported that almost 65 percent of the mothers had had postsecondary or college experience and that only 48 percent had college degrees or higher.

TRUMAN

Education	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
High School or less	24.6	24.3	24.0	22.2	21.1
Postsecondary/College	57.0	55.1	56.6	58.2	58.2
Graduate School	28.5	20.5	19.3	19.6	20.6

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Education	Highly Selective	Truman
High School or less	28.9	21.1
Postsecondary/College	52.7	58.2
Graduate School	18.5	20.6

MOTHER'S OCCUPATION

Businesswoman (14.9%) homemaker (12.2%), education-elementary (11.7%), nurse (10.7%), and business-clerical (8.3%) continue to be the most frequent responses in 1998. The response trend for these popular occupations for mother is similar for the national comparison group also.

TRUMAN

Occupation	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Artist (incl. performer)	0.8	1.3	2.1	1.4	1.6
Businesswoman	13.7	12.6	12.9	12.4	14.9
Business (clerical)	10.0	10.0	9.0	7.1	8.3
Clergy/religious	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4
College teacher/admin	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.6
Doctor or dentist	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Education (secondary)	6.4	6.5	6.4	7.3	7.7
Education (elementary)	13.4	14.2	14.5	13.3	11.7
Engineer	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Farmer or forester	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3
Health prof. (non MD)	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.9
Homemaker (full-time)	11.1	11.0	9.7	10.7	12.2
Lawyer	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Nurse	8.2	8.5	8.4	9.6	10.7
Research scientist	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Social/Welfare Worker	1.6	2.0	1.3	1.8	1.1
Skilled worker	2.2	2.0	1.1	1.0	1.6
Semi-skilled worker	1.9	1.4	2.3	2.1	1.9
Laborer (unskilled)	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.0	0.4
Unemployed	3.4	3.0	3.7	3.3	3.0
Other occupation	20.9	21.8	21.5	24.0	19.7

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Occupation	Highly Selective	Truman
Artist (incl. performer)	1.2	1.6
Businesswoman	13.3	14.9
Business (clerical)	7.7	8.3
Clergy/religious	0.2	0.4
College teacher/admin	0.5	0.6
Doctor or dentist	0.8	0.4
Education (secondary)	6.2	7.7
Education (elementary)	11.6	11.7
Engineer	0.4	0.3
Farmer or forester	0.3	0.3
Health prof. (non MD)	2.9	2.9
Homemaker (full-time)	11.2	12.2
Lawyer	0.4	0.1
Nurse	9.6	10.7
Research Scientist	0.2	0.2
Social/Welfare Worker	1.7	1.1
Skilled worker	1.6	1.6
Semi-skilled worker	2.1	1.9
Laborer (unskilled)	1.4	0.4
Unemployed	4.0	3.0
Other occupation	22.6	19.7

POLITICAL ORIENTATION

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

TRUMAN

Political Orientation	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Far left	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.6
Liberal	24.5	24.6	23.1	23.8	23.4
Middle/road	50.8	50.2	51.7	51.4	50.9
Conservative	22.0	21.9	21.9	22.0	22.4
Far right	0.9	1.6	1.6	1.0	0.7

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Political Orientation	Highly Selective	Truman
Far left	2.2	2.6
Liberal	21.5	23.4
Middle/road	52.9	50.9
Conservative	21.5	22.4
Far right	1.8	0.7

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

The most frequent religious preference listed by entering students continues to be Catholic. Over the past five years, the distribution of the religion preferences has remained relatively stable. Truman students' religious preference closely follows the nationwide distribution.

TRUMAN

Current religious preference	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Baptist	9.6	9.5	9.9	9.5	11.7
United Church of Christ	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.7
Lutheran	8.9	7.0	8.5	6.9	7.4
Methodist	8.9	9.7	8.1	9.0	8.2
Catholic	32.8	34.9	32.7	34.5	33.1
Other	23.0	22.9	22.6	23.9	22.1
None	14.6	13.3	15.6	13.7	14.8

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Current religious preference	Highly Selective	Truman
Baptist	7.9	11.7
United Church of Christ	1.4	2.7
Lutheran	5.6	7.4
Methodist	8.0	8.2
Catholic	34.8	33.1
Other	25.7	22.1
None	16.5	14.8

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the traditionally reported information, the 1998 Truman freshmen have the following characteristics compared with the 1998 freshmen from four-year public highly selective institutions nationwide.

ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN DURING THE PAST YEAR

In 1998, Truman freshmen and freshmen from the highly selective institutions reported that they frequently or occasionally engaged in the following activities. The items marked with an asterisk (*) are items where the percentage displayed refers to "frequently" only responses.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Activities Engaged in	Highly Selective	Truman
Was bored in class*	45.3	36.0
Participated in demonstrations	43.9	37.4
Was a guest in a teacher's home	28.7	34.5
Drank beer	53.9	46.1
Felt overwhelmed*	28.4	33.6
Played musical instrument	40.8	46.4
Asked teacher for advice*	24.0	29.2
Voted in student election*	24.1	29.5
Socialized w/different ethnic group*	64.7	55.3
Attended public recital/concert	80.1	86.4
Visited art gallery or museum	59.6	66.7
Discussed religion*	26.9	35.6
Checked out book from school library*	20.8	27.0

The following are the new 1998 questions referencing the usage of personal computers by students. In 1997, Truman freshmen indicated that 59.4 percent of them frequently or occasionally used a personal computer. With this new question approach, it's more clearly defined how students use a personal computer and it's noteworthy to point out that 91.5 percent of Truman freshmen reported using the internet for research or homework.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Activities Engaged In Using a PC	Highly Selective	Truman
Communicated via e-mail	73.4	75.5
Used internet for research/homework	88.3	91.5
Took part in internet chat room	57.2	52.9
Played computer games	79.5	78.6
Other internet use	78.3	77.9

HOURS PER WEEK IN THE LAST YEAR SPENT ON . . .

This table displays the number of reported hours Truman freshman spend on various activities compared to the freshmen from highly selective institutions.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Highly Selective					
Hours/week spent on:	none	<1-5	6-10	11-15	>=16
Studying/homework	2.7	58.2	21.2	10.4	7.5
Socializing w/friends	0.3	19.4	23.9	20.0	36.4
Talking w/teacher	9.7	86.0	3.0	0.7	0.5
Exercise/sports	3.1	41.7	19.7	16.5	19.1
Partying	17.6	54.4	14.8	6.6	6.6
Working	27.9	12.1	10.8	14.2	35.0
Volunteer work	30.5	61.1	4.7	1.7	1.9
Student clubs/groups	22.9	62.2	8.2	3.3	3.3
Watching TV	5.9	65.1	16.7	6.3	6.2
Housework/childcare	18.4	72.8	5.4	1.8	1.7
Reading for pleasure	23.1	67.5	5.6	2.1	1.7
Playing Video Games	50.9	43.1	3.5	1.2	1.3
Prayer/meditation	34.5	62.3	1.9	0.6	0.9
Truman					
Hours/week spent on:	none	<1-5	6-10	11-15	>=16
Studying/homework	1.0	49.9	24.6	14.0	10.5
Socializing w/friends	0.2	19.7	26.1	23.5	30.5
Talking w/teacher	5.9	89.7	3.5	0.6	0.3
Exercise/sports	3.9	49.1	19.2	13.7	14.1
Partying	22.6	53.1	14.4	6.0	4.0
Working	24.3	11.0	11.0	15.8	37.9
Volunteer work	25.7	68.1	3.5	1.1	1.6
Student clubs/groups	13.2	67.7	10.2	4.5	4.4
Watching TV	5.2	69.2	14.4	5.8	5.3
Housework/childcare	15.4	77.3	4.6	1.7	1.0
Reading for pleasure	17.4	71.9	6.8	2.6	1.5
Playing Video Games	57.1	38.7	2.5	0.7	0.9
Prayer/meditation	25.3	70.7	2.3	0.7	1.0

RECOMMENDED YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDY

Based on the curriculum recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, Truman freshmen have met or exceeded the recommended years of high school study in Biological Science and Arts and/or Music compared to the freshmen from highly selective institutions. Most Truman freshmen have met or exceeded the recommended years of high school study for English, Mathematics, Foreign Language, History, and Arts and/or Music. Compared to the nationwide comparison group, more Truman freshmen have met or exceeded the years of study recommendation in Biological Science and Arts and/or Music but have room for improvement in these areas as well as in the Physical Sciences.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Met/exceeded Recommended years	Highly Selective	Truman
English (4 years)	98.6	98.5
Mathematics (3 years)	98.8	99.4
Foreign Language (2 years)	94.6	97.3
Physical Science (2 years)	59.0	56.4
Biological Science (2 years)	40.4	53.6
History/Am. Government (1 year)	98.8	99.1
Computer Science (1/2 year)	59.4	61.1
Arts and/or music (1 year)	73.1	88.3

SELF-RATING OF TRAITS

Compared to the average 18-19 year old, Truman freshmen and the comparison group freshmen rated themselves as "Above Average" or "in the Highest 10%" in several ability categories. Listed below are the abilities/areas where significant differences occurred between the responses of Truman freshmen and the freshmen from public highly selective institutions.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Ability/area	Highly Selective	Truman
Academic ability	73.7	87.4
Athletic ability	45.8	37.0
Competitiveness	58.9	52.1
Drive to achieve	71.9	76.5
Physical health	61.9	54.0
Popularity	41.0	32.1
Social self-confidence	49.7	41.1
Writing ability	48.8	55.0

REASONS FOR DECIDING TO ATTEND COLLEGE

A couple of findings which may indicate why students choose Truman lie in the reasons noted as very important in deciding to attend college. In 1997 Truman freshmen indicated that gaining a general education (58.5%) and becoming a more cultured person (33.9%) were important. Whereas in 1998 Truman freshmen reported a greater importance in gaining a general education (67.7%) and becoming a more cultured person (49.5%). Truman freshmen also listed prepare for graduate/professional school and make more money as important.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Reasons for Attending College	Highly Selective	Truman
Gain general education	62.8	67.7
Make more money	72.0	62.4
Prove to others I could succeed	33.7	25.3
Prepare for grad/prof school	46.7	57.1

MILES FROM COLLEGE TO HOME

Compared to the students from highly selective institutions, Truman students tend to travel farther away from home to attend college.

Miles traveled from home	0-10	11-100	> 100
4-yr public - highly selective	5.9	39.2	54.8
Truman	1.8	10.4	87.8

CHANCES ARE VERY GOOD THAT S/HE WILL . . .

It is also interesting to note that chances are very good that 87.2 percent of Truman freshmen will get a bachelor's degree and 65.9 percent will maintain at least a "B" average.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Chances are very good	Highly Selective	Truman
Change major field	13.3	21.9
Change career choice	12.1	20.7
Graduate with honors	19.2	27.8
Join social fraternity/sorority	17.9	24.8
Play varsity/intercollegiate athletics	19.5	12.2
Make at least "B" Average	50.5	65.9
Get bachelor's degree	81.5	87.2
Participate in volunteer/cmtty service	22.9	29.1

FINANCIAL SOURCES FOR EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

When looking at sources for first-year educational expenses, other college grants and scholarships serve as substantial financial sources for Truman freshmen. Truman students also appear to receive more financial assistance from parents/family, scholarships, and grants than the comparison group. While freshmen from highly selective institutions cover their educational expenses more with money earned from part-time jobs, loans, and other government aid resources.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Sources	Highly Selective	Truman
Parents or family	79.2	86.3
Part-time job on campus	19.5	14.4
Part-time job off campus	15.9	8.6
State scholarships or grants	22.2	28.4
College Work-study Grant	6.6	11.1
Other college grant/scholarship	21.4	67.9
Other private grant	11.9	16.2
Other gov't aid (ROTC, BIA, GI, etc.)	8.0	0.4
Other loan or college loan	14.9	7.3

OBJECTIVES CONSIDERED TO BE IMPORTANT

Notable differences also occurred between Truman freshmen and students at 4-year public institutions regarding what objectives were considered to be essential or very important to the student.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Objectives	Highly Selective	Truman
Have administrative responsibility	39.5	29.3
Be very well off financially	72.3	59.1
Help others in difficulty	60.6	65.4
Be successful in own business	32.4	26.9
Develop philosophy of life	44.2	51.2

AGREES STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT . . .

Students were asked to what degree they agreed or disagreed (either somewhat or strongly) with several statements. Listed below are several items that indicate significant differences in thought between Truman freshmen and the freshmen from highly selective institutions.

Public Highly Selective vs. Truman

Agrees Strongly or Somewhat	Highly Selective	Truman
Abortion should be legal	55.2	45.2
Abolish death penalty	21.5	29.2
Sex OK if people like each other	39.8	26.4
Marijuana should be legalized	33.1	25.8
Employers can require drug tests	79.2	84.4
Man not entitled to sex on date	89.7	94.4
Racial discrimination no longer problem	21.7	16.3
Individual can do little to change society	28.6	22.5