

No. 268. College Freshmen—Summary Characteristics: 1970 to 2003

[In percent, except as indicated (12.8 represents \$12,800). As of fall for first-time full-time freshmen in 4-year colleges and universities. Based on sample survey and subject to sampling error; see source]

Characteristic	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sex: Male	52.1	48.8	48.9	46.9	45.6	45.2	44.9	45.0	45.1
Female	47.9	51.2	51.1	53.1	54.4	54.8	55.1	55.0	55.0
Applied to three or more colleges	(NA)	31.5	35.4	42.9	44.4	50.5	51.3	50.8	54.2
Average grade in high school:									
A- to A+	19.6	26.6	28.7	29.4	36.1	42.9	44.1	45.7	46.6
B- to B+	62.5	58.2	57.1	57.0	54.2	50.5	49.5	49.0	48.3
C to C+	17.7	14.9	14.0	13.4	9.6	6.5	6.2	5.2	5.0
D	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Political orientation:									
Liberal	35.7	21.0	22.4	24.6	22.9	24.8	26.9	25.3	24.2
Middle of the road	43.4	57.0	53.1	51.7	51.3	51.9	49.5	50.8	50.3
Conservative	17.3	19.0	21.3	20.6	21.8	18.9	19.1	20.0	21.1
Probable field of study:									
Arts and humanities	(NA)	10.5	10.1	10.5	11.2	12.1	12.6	12.6	12.3
Biological sciences	(NA)	4.5	4.5	4.9	8.3	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.3
Business	(NA)	21.2	24.6	21.1	15.4	16.7	16.6	16.2	15.9
Education	(NA)	8.4	6.9	10.3	10.1	11.0	10.1	10.6	10.1
Engineering	(NA)	11.2	11.0	9.7	8.1	8.7	9.1	9.5	9.3
Physical science	(NA)	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
Social science	(NA)	8.2	9.4	11.0	9.9	10.0	10.3	10.4	10.5
Professional	(NA)	15.5	13.1	13.0	16.5	11.6	12.0	12.3	14.3
Technical	(NA)	3.1	2.4	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.5
Data processing/computer programming	(NA)	1.7	1.7	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.7
Other ¹	(NA)	14.0	15.1	15.8	16.0	17.9	17.5	16.9	16.0
Communications	(NA)	2.4	2.8	2.9	1.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4
Computer science	(NA)	2.6	2.4	1.7	2.2	3.7	3.3	2.2	1.7
Personal objectives—very important or essential:									
Being very well off financially	36.2	62.5	69.2	72.3	72.8	73.4	73.6	73.2	73.8
Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	79.1	62.5	46.9	45.9	45.4	42.4	43.1	40.6	39.3
Keeping up to date with political affairs	57.2	45.2	(NA)	46.6	32.3	28.1	31.4	32.9	33.9
Attitudes—agree or strongly agree:									
Capital punishment should be abolished	59.4	34.8	27.6	23.1	22.0	31.2	32.2	32.1	32.6
Legalize marijuana	40.6	37.1	21.4	18.8	33.4	34.2	36.5	39.7	38.8
There is too much concern for the rights of criminals	50.7	65.0	(NA)	65.1	73.2	66.5	64.4	64.0	61.1
Abortion should be legalized	85.7	53.7	56.4	65.5	59.9	53.9	55.0	53.6	54.5
Median family income (\$1,000)	12.8	24.5	37.3	46.6	54.8	64.4	67.2	69.5	71.3

NA Not available. ¹ Includes other fields, not shown separately.

Source: The Higher Education Research Institute, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, *The American Freshman: National Norms*, annual.

No. 269. Undergraduates Reported Disability Status by Selected Characteristic: 1999-2000

[In percent. Based on the 1999-2000 National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey; see source and Appendix III for details]

Student characteristic	Any disability or difficulty reported ¹	None reported	Consider self with disability	Don't consider self with disability
Total	9.3	90.7	3.6	96.4
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age: ¹				
18 years or younger	5.8	9.9	3.1	9.8
19 to 23 years old	36.3	49.3	24.5	49.1
24 to 29 years old	15.5	16.1	15.3	16.1
30 to 39 years old	19.2	13.5	23.7	13.7
40 years or older	23.3	11.1	33.4	11.5
Sex:				
Male	39.6	42.4	46.2	42.0
Female	60.4	57.6	53.8	58.0
Race:				
White, non-Hispanic	70.8	66.7	70.8	67.1
Black, non-Hispanic	10.9	11.8	13.0	11.7
Hispanic	9.9	11.6	8.0	11.4
Asian	2.1	4.9	1.1	4.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.9	0.7	2.5	0.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.7
Other race	1.4	1.5	0.8	1.6
More than one race	2.3	1.9	2.5	1.9
Parents' highest education level:				
High school or less	40.7	36.4	45.1	36.4
Some postsecondary education	24.1	22.8	21.6	23.0
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	35.2	40.9	33.3	40.7

¹ Those who indicated they had a long lasting condition, such as blindness or deafness; or a condition substantially limiting a basic physical activity, such as walking or lifting; or a physical, emotional, or mental condition lasting six months or more which made it difficult to do any one of the following: get to school, get around campus, learn, dress, or work at a job.

Source: U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, *Profile of Undergraduates in U.S. Postsecondary Education Institutions, 1999-2000*, NCES 2002-168, July 2002.