

## CIRP Results for Web

FGCU administered the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey again in 2004, after doing so in the Fall of 1997, 1998, and 1999. The CIRP is designed to gather information about the attitudes, beliefs, and activities of each entering class. Each year, over 400 institutions and 200,000 students nationwide participate in the program. Reported here are some highlights of the results.

### How Close to FGCU are Freshmen’s Permanent Homes?

In 1999, over 50% of FGCU’s (148) incoming freshmen reported living within 50 miles of the University. Conversely, 36% reported living 51 or *more* miles from college. Identifying the University’s relative distance from students’ homes is one way to establish the communities which are served by FGCU. Thus, although the percentage of students living within 50 miles of FGCU is higher than is found at other public universities, this very fact confirms that FGCU continues to fulfill its mandate of service to the five-county community.

Table 1: FGCU’s Distance From the Permanent Homes of 1999 Freshmen

No of miles from home	1997 (N=139 )	1998 (N=182 )	1999 (N=145 )	2004 (N=667)
5 or less	7.2	7.7	2.8	4.6
6 to 10	9.4	7.1	5.5	7.3
11 to 50	69.8	64.3	55.9	37.2
51 to 100	7.2	8.8	9.0	15.9
101 to 500	4.3	8.2	20.7	27.0
over 500	2.2	3.8	6.2	7.9

Still, as Table 1 shows, the number of students living within 50 miles of FGCU has declined steadily since the University opened in 1997, while the number of students living more than 51 miles away – a lower percentage than is found at other public universities – has increased just as steadily. Perhaps most striking is the increase in the percentage of students living 101 to 500 miles away: 4.3% in 1997; 8.2% in 1998, 20.7% in 1999, and 27% in 2004.

### Was FGCU The Freshmen's First choice?

Increasingly, students who attend FGCU come because they really want to. Seventy three percent of the 1999 freshman class selected FGCU above all other colleges; for 20% of freshmen, FGCU was their second choice. By contrast, in 1997 and 1998, the University was the first choice for 67% of students and the second choice for twenty five percent of them. (See Table 2). Now, in 2004 – almost eighty percent of students report that FGCU was their first choice.

Table 2: Is this college your first choice?

	1997	1998	1999	2004
# of respondents	139 (of 139)	188 (of 188)	147 (of 148)	674 (of 679)
first choice	66.9 (67.3)	66.5 (68.9)	72.8 (69.1)	79.7 (68.0)
second choice	25.2 (23.5)	25.0 (23.0)	20.4 (22.7)	14.4 (23.6)

### Do FGCU Students Work Longer Hours to Finance Their Education?

Compared to students in other 4-year public colleges (hereafter, referred to as, "students elsewhere") more FGCU students rely on earnings from jobs to fund their education. In 1999, more than half the FGCU freshman class estimated that there was a good chance that they would get a job to help pay for college expenses. Percentages for FGCU students were considerably higher than for students elsewhere, 55% vs 39%, respectively (See Table 3).

FGCU students are still more likely to be working to help pay their way through college. In 2004 nearly fifty percent of FGCU students said they would likely get a job to help pay for college expenses, but the percentage of students at other type public colleges responding similarly had risen too, to 47.7% almost matching levels at FGCU.

In 1999, 13% of FGCU freshmen expected to work full-time while in college, vs 6% elsewhere, and in 2004 14.1% of FGCU students expected to work full-time vs 8.3% elsewhere.

Table 3: Students' Estimates regarding likelihood of working.

	1997	1998	1999	2004
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Chances are very good that s/he will:	FGCU	other 4-yr public colleges	FGCU	other 4-yr public colleges	FGCU	other 4-yr public colleges	FGCU	other 4-yr public colleges
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	54.0	40.3	43.7	37.7	55.2	39.3	49.3	47.7
Work full-time while attending college	15.3	5.9	12.6	5.3	13.3	6.0	14.1	8.3