



# Freshman Survey Results

## A Graphic Report

November 2018

The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) is the primary source for official campus statistics, complying with federal, state, and university reporting standards and requirements. OIRAP conducts student surveys and special research studies in support of university policy formation, assessment, and accountability. Every year since 2013, OIRAP administers the Freshman Survey with the help of new student orientation staff. The survey is designed to learn more about our freshmen, and to understand their expectations for the coming year.

The data analysis for this report was completed by Dr. Douglas Ducharme, Associate Director for Assessment and Institutional Research.

Survey design, administration, and report format is attributed to Fatema Binte Ahad, Research Analyst for Institutional Effectiveness.

More information: [umb.edu/oirap](http://umb.edu/oirap).



Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, & Planning  
University of Massachusetts Boston

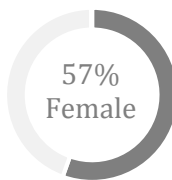
# Freshman Survey 2018

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) has been conducting the Freshman Survey since 2013. The survey is designed to learn about our first-year students, their high school experience, and their expectations from UMass Boston for the coming year.







Since its inception, the survey instrument and methodology has been refined. In 2018, there was a focus on increasing the response rate as part of the ongoing effort to creating a path for a sustainable assessment culture at UMass Boston. We thank the Orientation Steering Committee for partnering with our office in this effort.

The Survey was created in Qualtrics, an online survey platform. The anonymous link was embedded in WISER, the student portal for UMass Boston. Prospective first-time first-year students were asked to take the survey by the orientation leaders during a specifically designated time slot of 15 minutes as part of the WISER training session on the last day of their two-day summer orientation. Majority of the responses were collected during these sessions. Once the summer orientation sessions were over, a survey link was sent to the remaining students who were enrolled as first-time first-year students but did not respond to this survey. In addition to this revised distribution method, minor changes were made to the language for some questions and response scales.

2018 Freshman Survey response rate was **51 percent**

College	Survey Respondents		First-time First-year Fall 2018		Response rate	Respondents' Gender
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	%	
Advancing and Prof. Studies	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0.0%	
Education and Human Dev.	9	0.8%	35	1.5%	25.7%	
Liberal Arts	431	36.2%	756	32.7%	57.0%	
Management	223	18.7%	304	13.1%	73.4%	
Nursing and Health Sciences	33	2.8%	279	12.1%	11.8%	
School for the Environment	30	2.5%	48	2.1%	62.5%	
Science and Mathematics	465	39.0%	892	38.5%	52.1%	
Total	1191	100.0%	2315	100.0%	51.4%	

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# First-generation College Students

Three out of five UMass Boston first-time first-year students are first-generation<sup>1</sup> college students.

## Nearly three out of five first-time freshmen are first-generation college students

Freshman Survey 2018	<b>59%</b>
National Average*	<b>49%</b>

\*Source: BCSSE 2017 entering class (n= 62,391)

## Percentage of first-generation students by gender

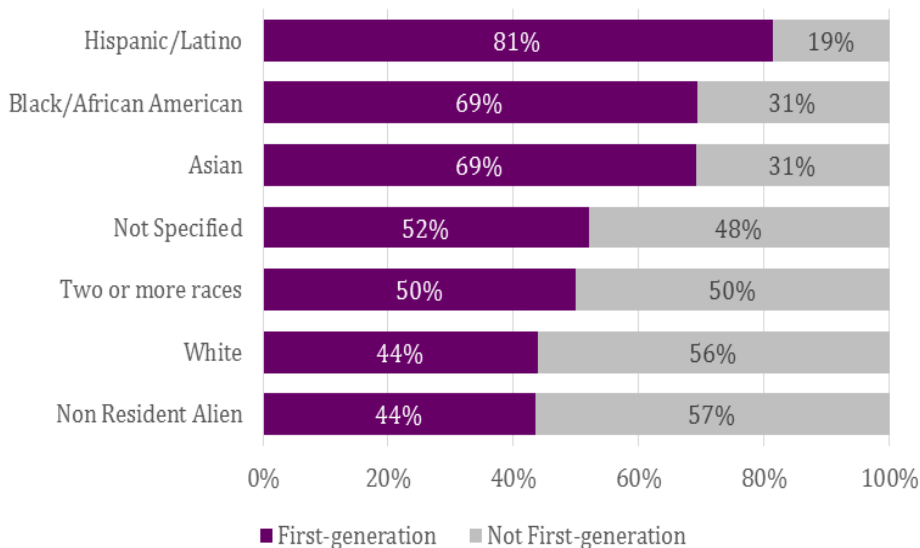


Female **60%**

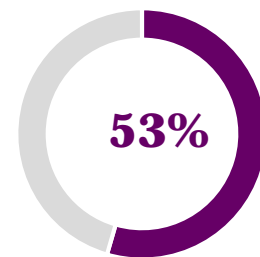


Male **58%**

## Percentage of first-generation students at UMass Boston by ethnicity



More than half of the students speak a language other than English at home

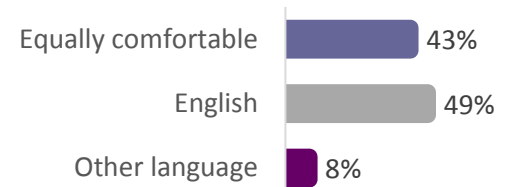


Students who participated in the survey reported **over 71** different languages spoken at home

## First-generation students by college

	# of respondents	# of first-gen	% of first-gen
Education & Human Dev.	9	7	78%
Liberal Arts	431	246	57%
Management	223	120	54%
Nursing & Health Sciences	33	20	61%
Environment	30	16	53%
Science & Math	465	291	63%
Total	1191	700	59%

More than half of the students who speak another language are equally comfortable speaking it as or more comfortable speaking it than English



## Top majors pursued by the first-generation students in Fall 2018

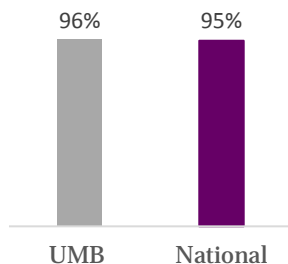
1. Biology & BioChem (BS)	20%	4. Psychology (BA/BS)	8%
2. Management (BS)	18%	5. Undecided - Liberal Arts (BA)	8%
3. Computer Science (BA/BS)	10%	6. Criminal Justice (BA)	5%

<sup>1</sup> Neither parent or anyone who raised them holds a bachelor's degree

# High School Experience: Activities and Involvement

Seventy-six percent of our first-time first-year students were involved in community service or volunteer work during their last year in high school.

Ninety-six percent of the Fall 2018 first-time first-year students graduated from high school within the previous year



Source for national data: BCSSE 2017 Institutional Report

Percentage of first-time first-year students involved in an activity during high school years



Community service or volunteer work

**76%**



Athletic teams (varsity, JV, club sport, etc.)

**53%**



Academic clubs or honor societies

**48%**



Performing or visual arts programs

**40%**



Vocational clubs (business, technology, etc.)

**20%**



Religious youth groups

**20%**



Publications (student newspaper, etc.)

**17%**

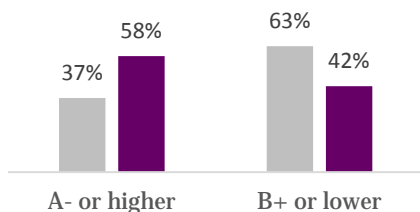


Student government

**17%**

UMass Boston Freshmen are less likely to have received (most often) A- or higher in high school compared to their national peers

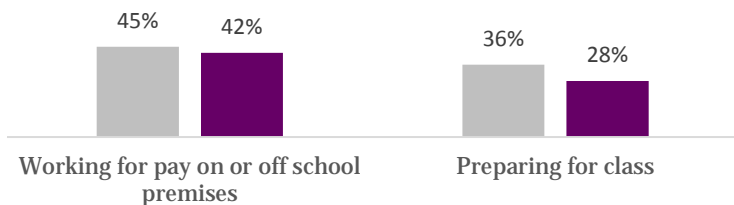
■ UMass Boston ■ National



Source for national data: BCSSE 2017 Institutional Report

When spending 11+ hours (weekly) on working or preparing for school, UMass Boston freshmen are more likely to work and to prepare for classes compared to their national peers

■ UMass Boston ■ National

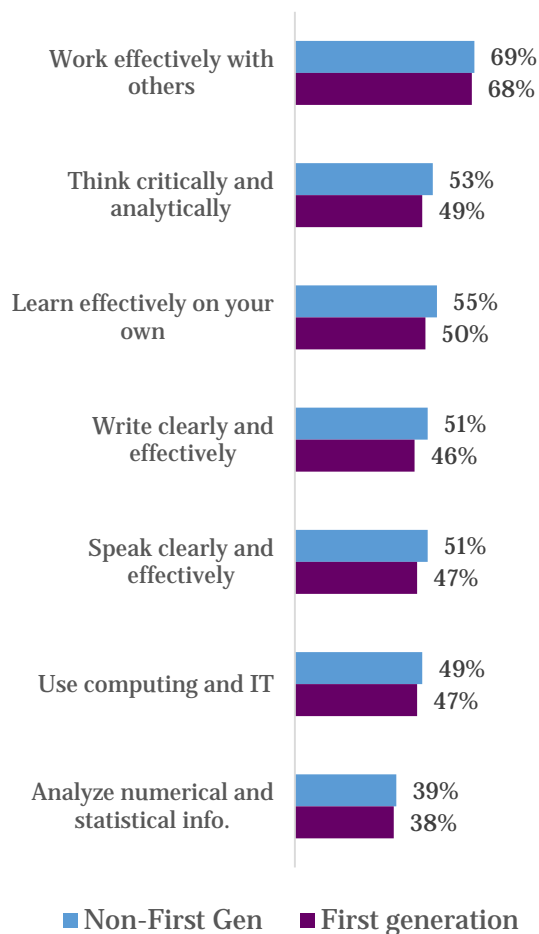


Source for national data: BCSSE 2017 Institutional Report

# Self-perceived Academic Preparedness

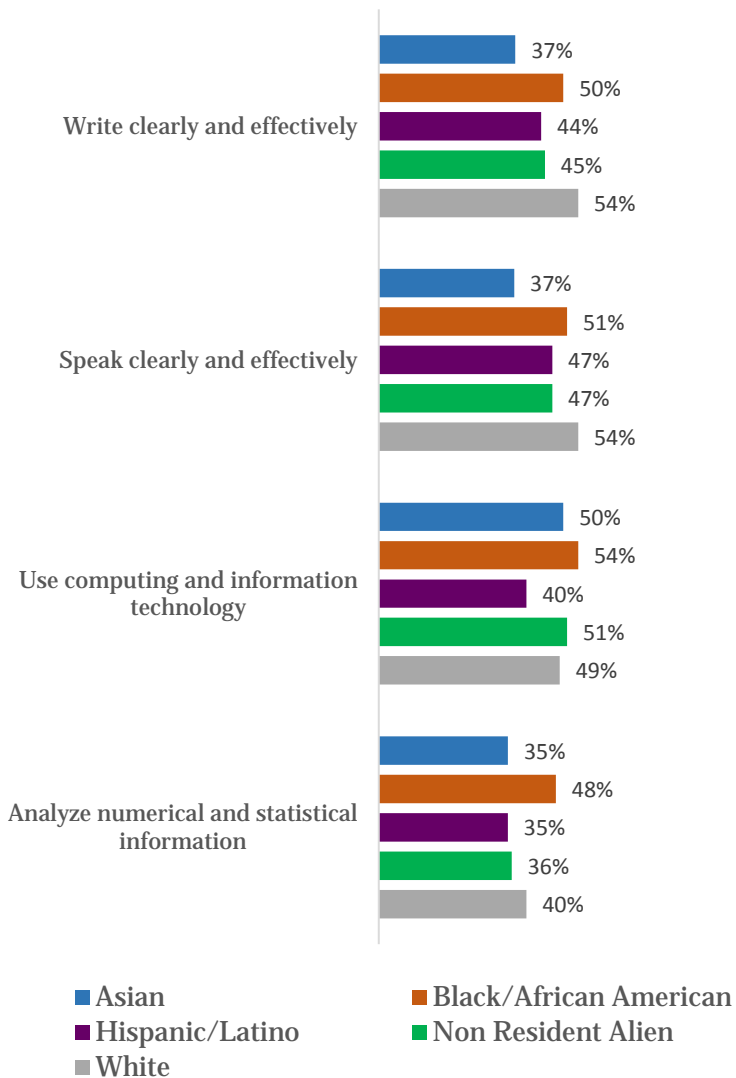
First-generation students are slightly behind their peers in all categories of self-assessed preparedness.

Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following in their academic work



Note: *Very prepared* are the responses of 5 and 6 on the scale of 1 to 6, 1 being not at all prepared and 6 being very prepared.

Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following, by ethnicity



Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following in their academic work, by college

	Liberal Arts	Management	Nursing	Environment	Science & Math
Work effectively with others	70%	70%	64%	80%	65%
Think critically and analytically	51%	55%	52%	52%	51%
Learn effectively on your own	53%	52%	58%	63%	50%
Write clearly and effectively	52%	48%	45%	53%	45%
Speak clearly and effectively	54%	49%	45%	50%	44%
Use computing and information tec.	43%	46%	67%	30%	53%
Analyze numerical and statistical info.	29%	42%	39%	27%	46%

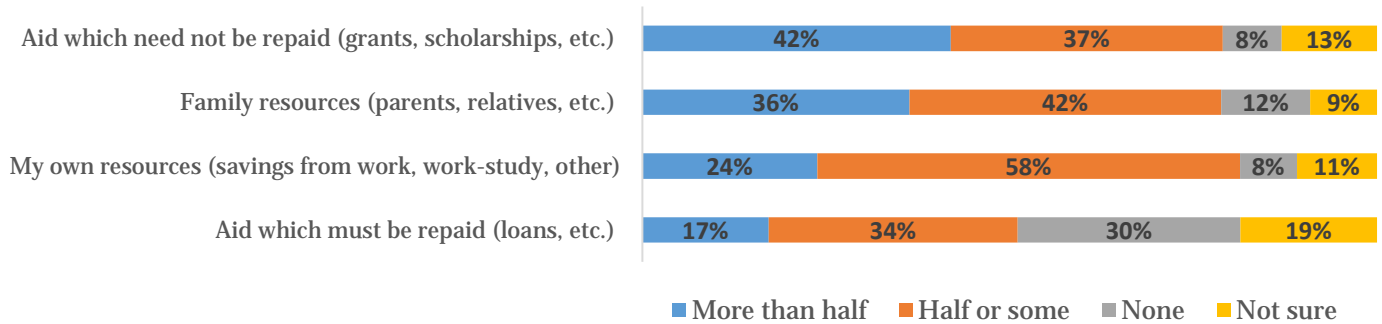
Note: excludes College of Education and Human Development as  $n < 10$ .



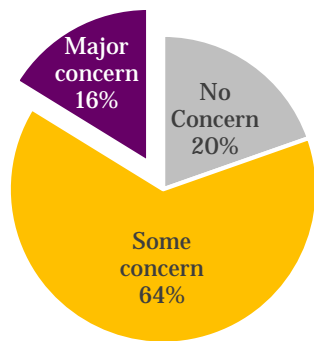
# Financing College Education

Nearly 64 percent of first-time first-year students reported having “some” concerns and 16 percent having “major” concerns about their ability to finance a college education.

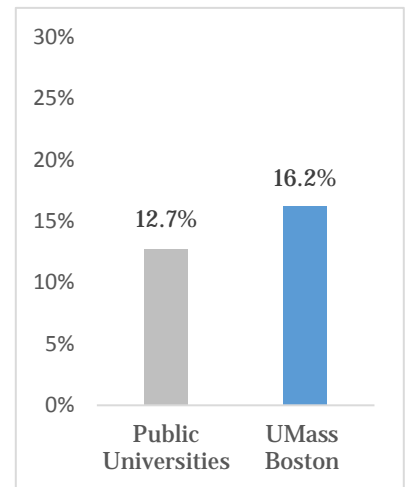
Percentage of first year's educational expenses from expected sources



Percentage of freshman concerned about their ability to finance their college education

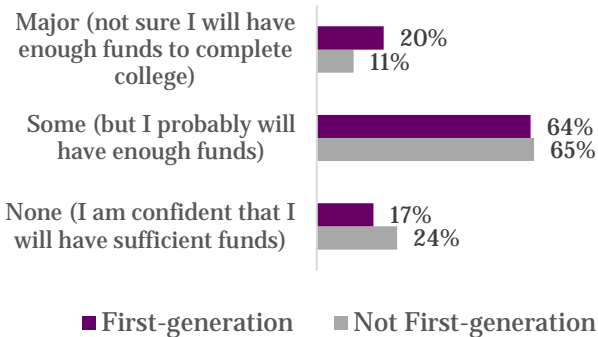


UMass Boston has a higher percentage of students with major financial concern about covering the education costs than the national average

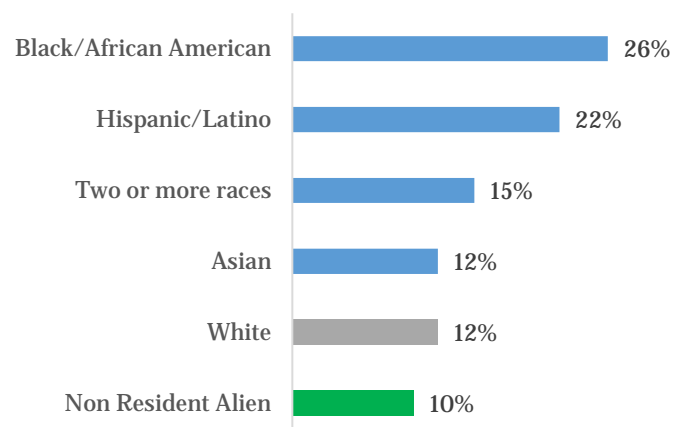


Source: 2016 CIRP Freshman Survey

First-generation students are more likely to have financial concerns than their peers



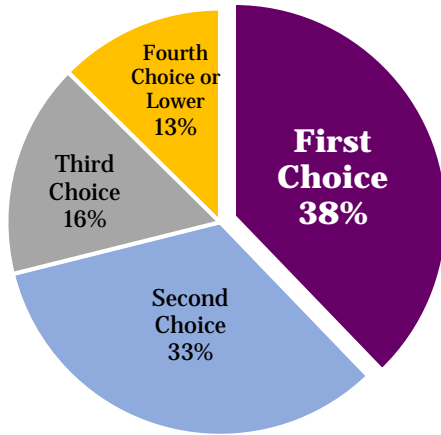
U.S. students of color were more likely to report having **major** financial concerns



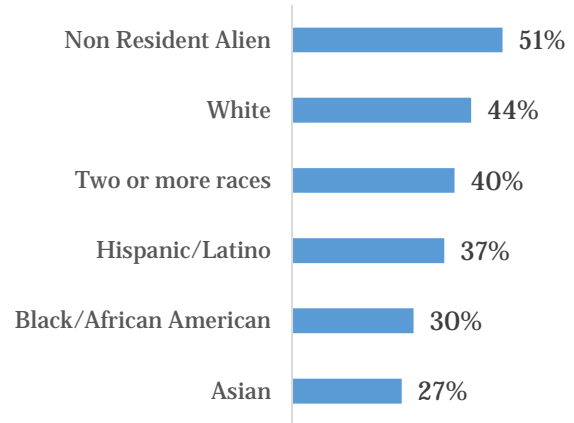
# Choosing UMass Boston

More than one-third of the first-time first-year students reported UMass Boston as their first choice.

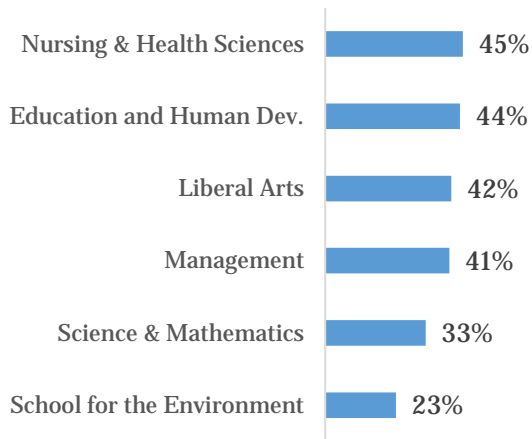
Ranking UMass Boston according to preference



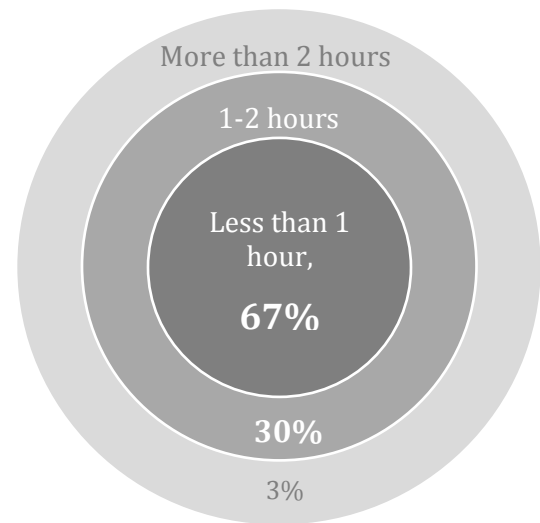
Percentage of freshman reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by ethnicity



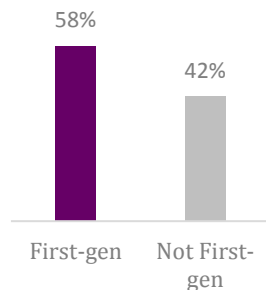
Percentage of freshman reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by college



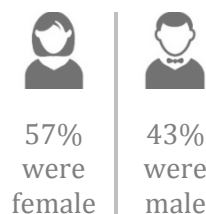
Driving time from home to UMass Boston



Of those students who reported UMass Boston as their first choice, the majority were first-generation students



Of those who reported UMass Boston as their first choice-

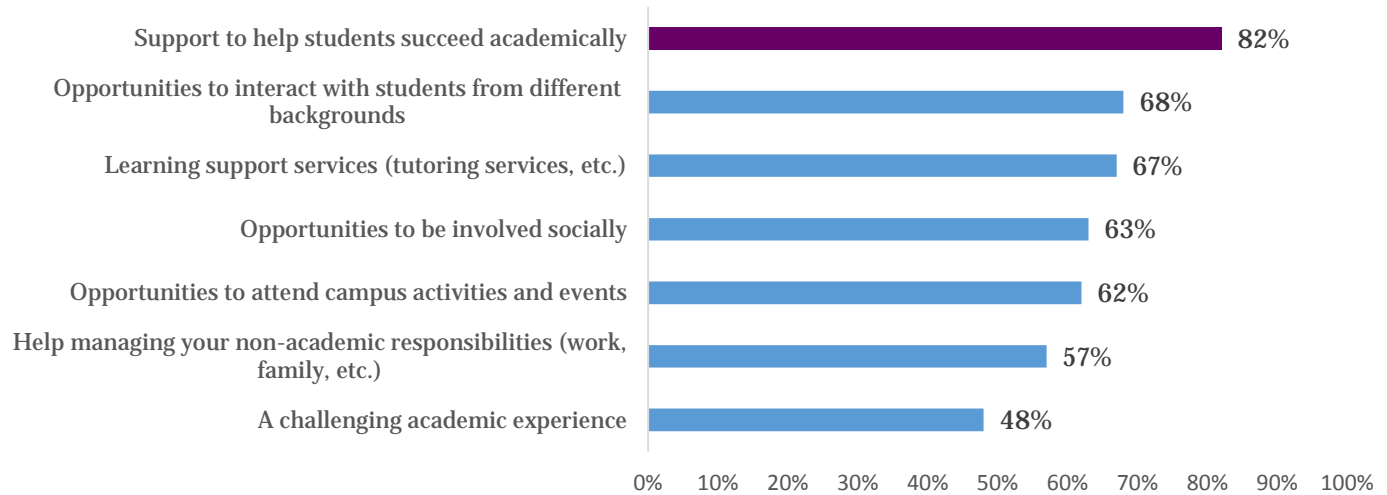


**67%** of the freshman have at least one close friend who will attend UMass Boston, compared to a national average of 59% (BCSSE 2017)

# Expectations for the First Year at UMass Boston

During the coming school year, 47 percent of the first-time first-year students would find paying college expenses very difficult.

Percentage of freshman reporting the features that are very important for an institution to provide

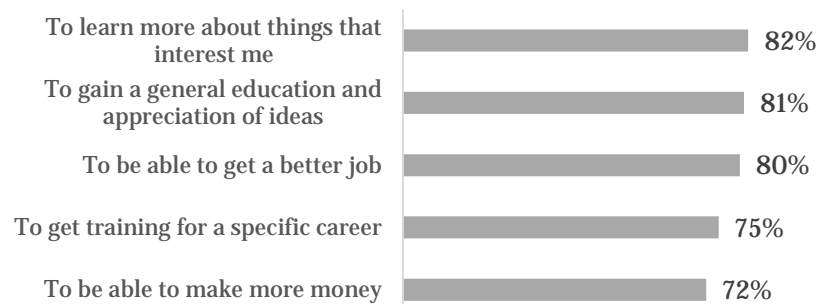


Note: very important are the responses of 5 and 6 on a scale of 1 to 6, 1 being not important and 6 being very important.

## Average hours expected to spend in the freshman year

Activities	2018 Freshmen	BCSSE 2017
Preparing for class	12.9	15.1
Working on/ off-campus	10.3	9.4
Participate in co-curricular activities	6.1	9.6
Relaxing and socializing	9.0	10.3

## Top five reasons for going to college



Note: percent indicating *very important* to "In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?"

## Nearly 3 out of 5 will be living with their family members

	Residence within walking distance to campus	49%
	With family members	38%
	Within easy access to public transportation	17%

Note: student had an option to select multiple categories.

## Expected *very difficult* activities during coming school year

