



Freshman Survey Results

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, & Planning

December 2016

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.

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More information: umb.edu/oirap.



Freshman Survey 2016

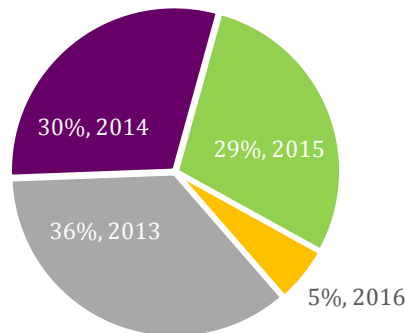
Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) with the assistance of staff from new student orientation have been conducting the Freshman Survey since 2013. The survey is designed to provide crucial information about the entering class some of which are not be covered by other data collection efforts. The survey is conducted in addition to participating in Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) in selected years.

In 2016, the survey included a series of new questions* to allow further insights into the freshmen’s high school experience, interests and involvement in co-curricular activities, self-assessed college preparedness, potential factors influencing college enrollment, financial situations, expectations from UMass Boston, and expected college experience. The data have been weighted by gender and ethnicity so that the proportions of respondents represent the actual demographic of the current and previous entering classes.

The 2016 survey was administered to incoming freshmen during orientation sessions over the summer, with Qualtrics as the survey platform. The 2016 survey did not include all entering freshmen, rather only those who had attended an orientation session where the orientation leader administered the survey during a computer lab session.

*Selected from BCSSE and Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey.

Percentage of respondents, 2013-2016



A total of **3,316** entering freshmen participated in the survey since 2013

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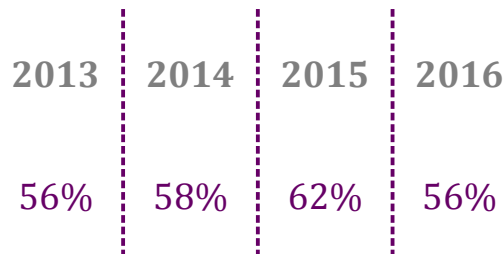


College Experience: Expectations for the coming year

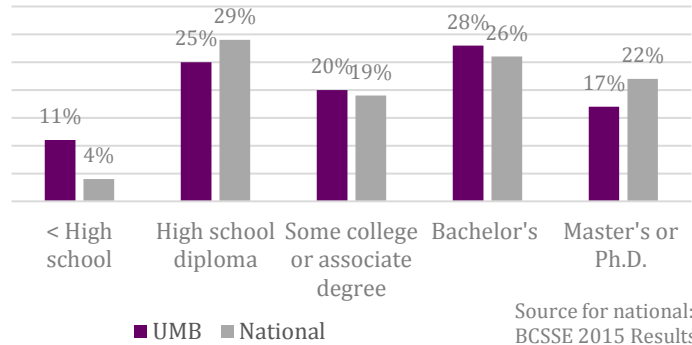
First-generation College Students

More than half of our entering freshmen are first-generation¹ college students.

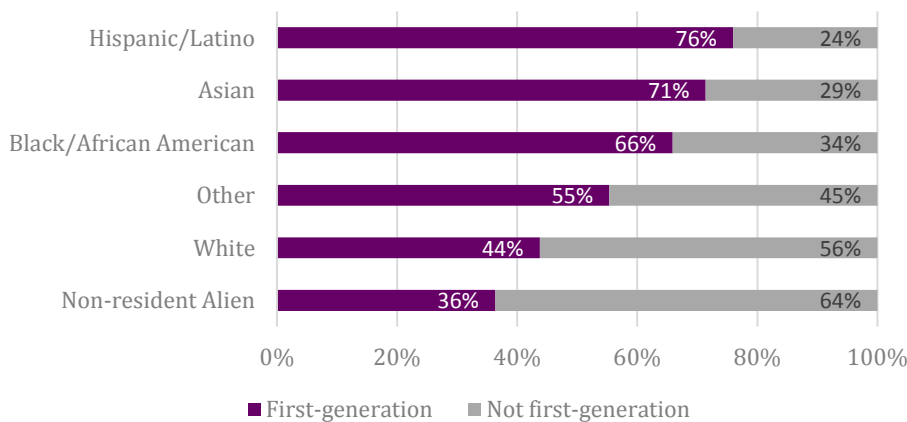
Percentage of first-generation college students at UMass Boston, 2013-2016



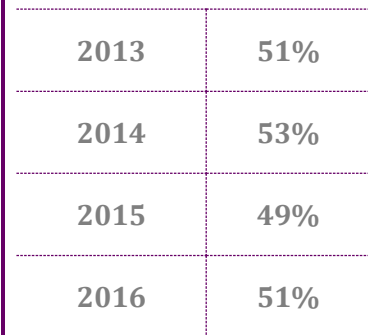
Highest level of education completed by either parents



Percentage of first-generation college students at UMass Boston by race/ethnicity, 2013-2016



Percentage of students speaking a language other than English, 2013-2016

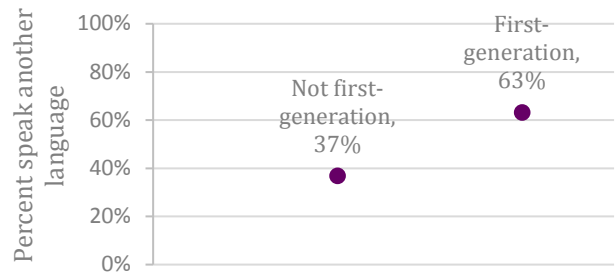


Students who participated in the survey reported over 70 different languages spoken at home

Majority of the students who speak another language are comfortable speaking in English



Students who speak a language other than English are more likely to be first-generation



¹ First-generation students are those whose parents (or those who raised them) did not earn a bachelor's degree.

High School Experience: Activities and Involvement

90% of our freshmen were involved in community service or volunteer work.

45% spent more than 6 hours (per week) working for pay which is lower than the national average (51%).

42% of our freshmen reported most often receiving A- or higher in high school comparing to the national average of 53%

*Source: BCSSE 2015 Results

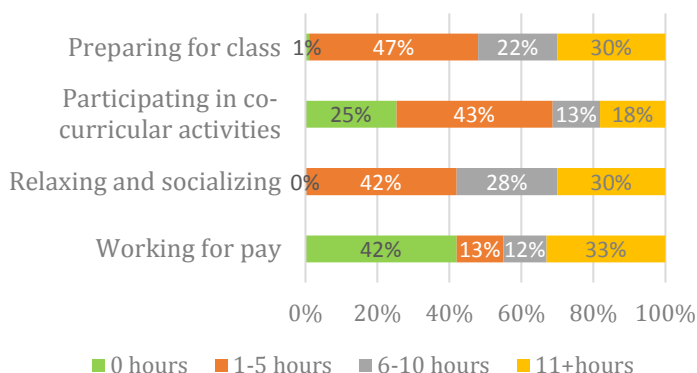
Percent reporting A- or higher grades in high school, 2013-2016

2013	2014	2015	2016
30%	31%	32%	42%

How much the last year of high school courses challenged our freshmen to do their best work

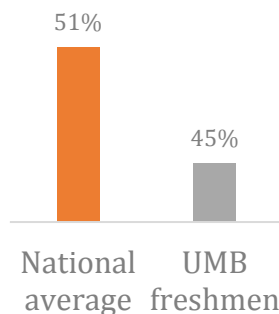


Hours spent on activities during high school (per week)

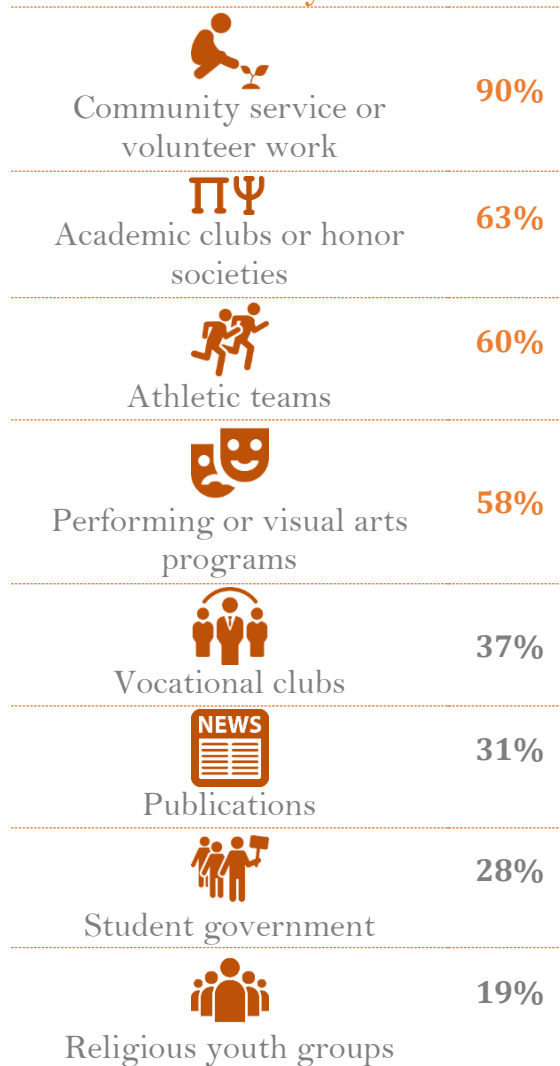


A lower percentage of our freshmen worked more than 6 hours per week, for pay than the national average

*Source: BCSSE 2015 Results










Percentage of our Freshmen involved in an activity during high school years

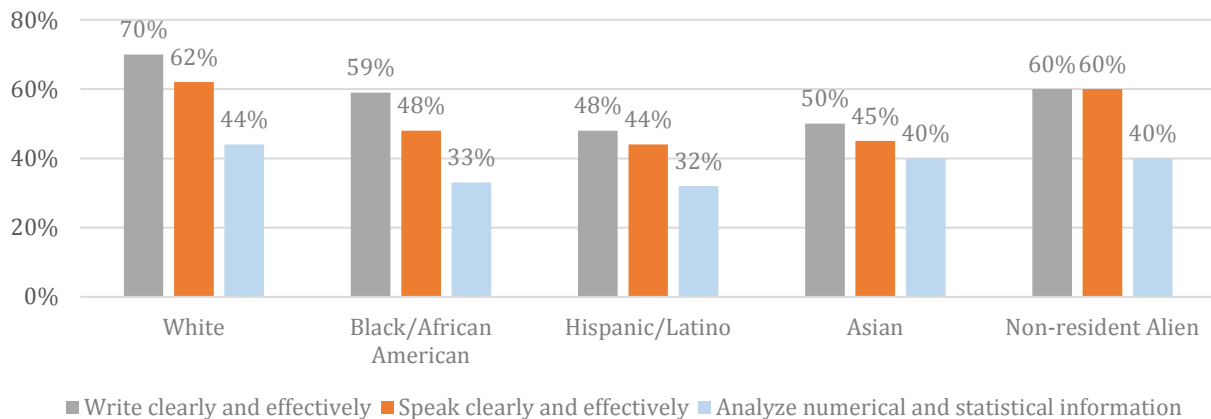


Self-perceived Academic Preparedness

First-generation students reported less self-assessed preparedness on 6 out of 7 aspects than those who are not first-generation students.

Percentage of freshmen who are very prepared to do the following in their academic work		Percentage within the first-generation status	First-generation	Not first-generation	
	Work effectively with others		64%	68%	59%
	Write clearly and effectively		59%	55%	63%
	Think critically and analytically		55%	51%	59%
	Learn effectively on your own		55%	54%	55%
	Use computing and information technology		52%	51%	52%
	Speak clearly and effectively		51%	49%	54%
	Analyze numerical and statistical information		39%	35%	45%

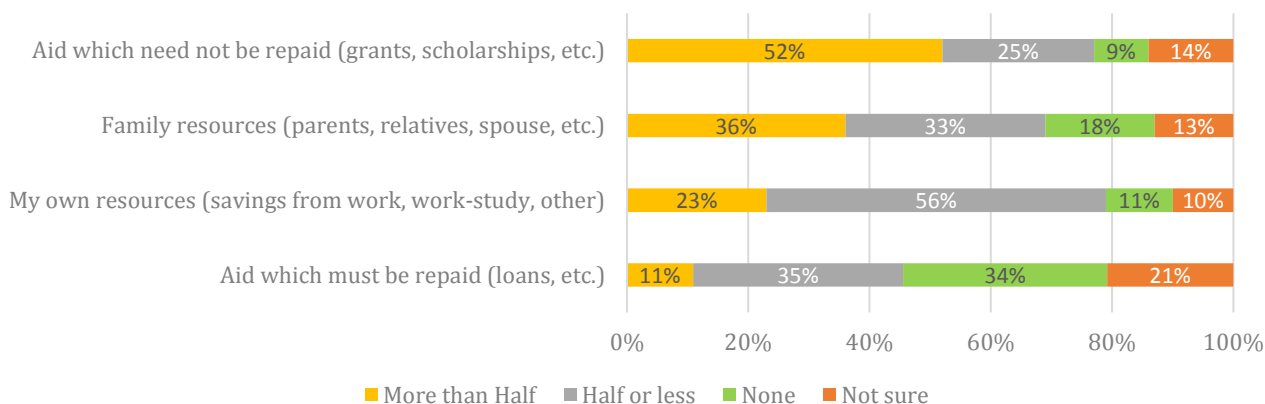
Percent very prepared on writing, speaking and analyzing, by race/ethnicity



Financing College Education

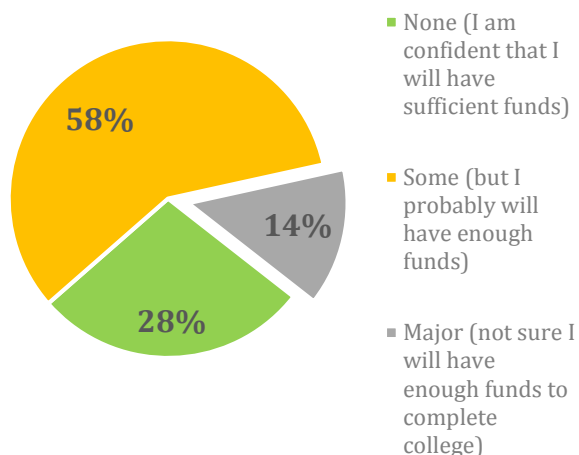
Nearly 60% reported having “some” concerns and 14% having “major” concerns about their ability to finance a college education.

Percentage of first year's educational expenses from expected sources

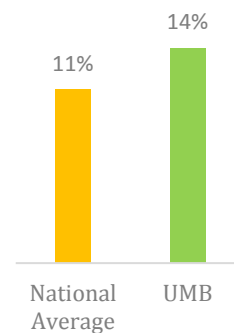


- 52% reported that more than half of their first year’s educational expenses would be covered by aid that does NOT need to be repaid.
- 12% reported that more than half of their first year’s educational expenses would be covered by the aid which MUST be repaid.

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

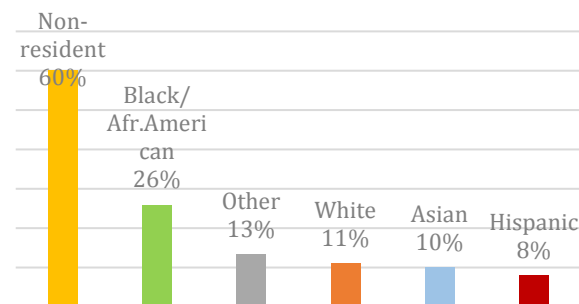


UMass Boston has a slightly higher percentage of students (14%) with major financial concern about covering the education costs than the national average (11%)



Source: 2015 CIRP Freshman Survey

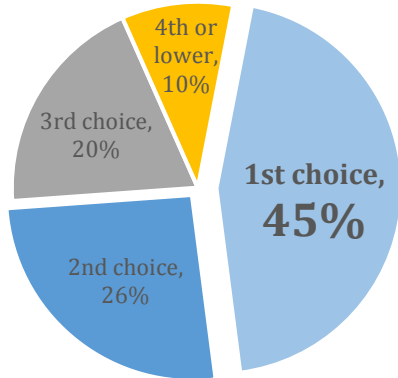
African-American and international students are the most concerned about educational finances



Choosing UMass Boston

45% reported UMass Boston as their first choice.

Ranking UMass Boston according to preference



Of those who reported UMass Boston as their first choice-

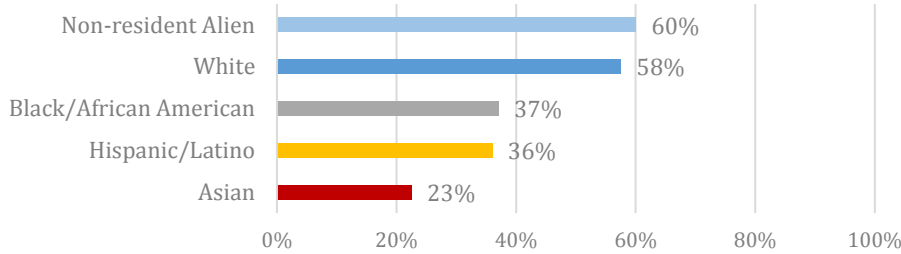


69% were female



31% were male

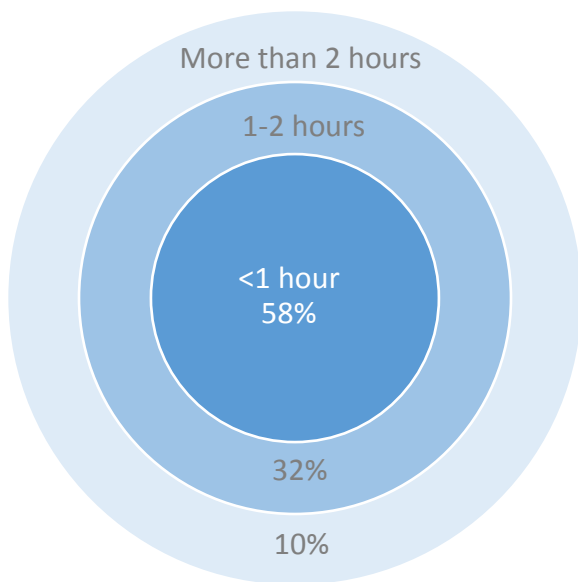
Percentage of freshmen reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by ethnicity



60% of the non-resident* and 58% of white students reported UMass Boston as their first choice

* n=5

Driving time from home to UMass Boston



At least one close friend attending UMass Boston

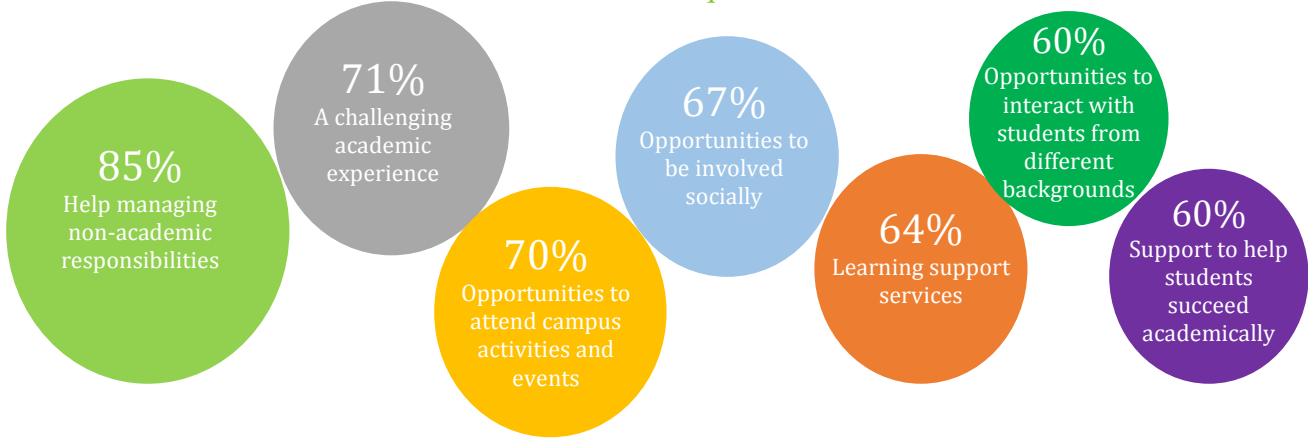
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016
Percentage	52%	59%	59%	63%

UMass Boston is more likely to be the first choice of first-generation students (47% versus 43%).

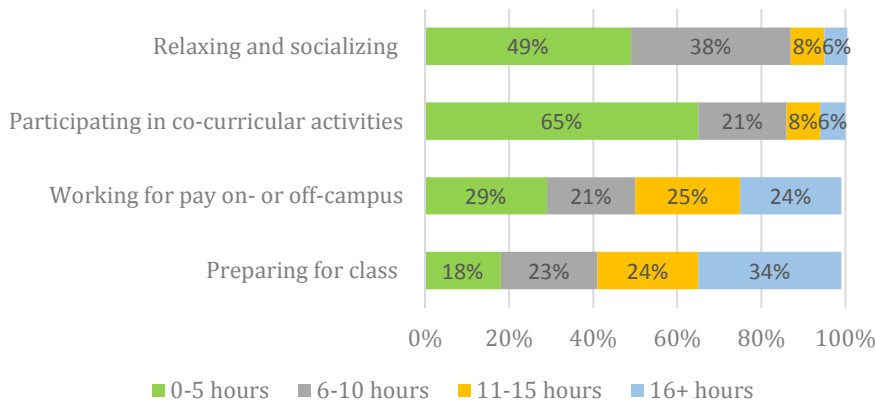
College Experience: Expectations for the Coming Year

During coming school year, 87% of the freshmen would find “paying college expense” difficult.

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



Distribution of hours expected for the following activities in coming school year



More than 60% reported that they will be living with their family members during coming school year

Expected very difficult activities during coming school year

Top 3

Reasons for going to college

Paying college expenses	1	To learn more about things that interest me
Managing time	2	To be able to get a better job
Learning Course material	3	To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas