

Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) 2002 Freshman Survey Report

The Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) has participated in the Higher Education Research Institute's (HERI) Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) since 1966. Each year incoming freshmen at participating institutions complete the Student Information Form, and the results are used by HERI as part of a longitudinal study. Incoming 2002 Georgia Tech freshmen were asked to complete the CIRP student survey during their summer or fall FASET orientation program. Of the 2278 students in the incoming 2002 class, 2,138 attended an orientation session but only 612 (26.9% of the incoming class) completed the survey. *Therefore, the results are NOT representative of the 2002 Freshman class and should be interpreted with caution.* However, a few items and trends are noted below. The full table of responses is attached.

Georgia Tech is classified as a public high-selectivity (SAT scores of 1,140 or more) institution, and this report compares Tech's responses to norms for public high-selectivity schools and private high-selectivity schools. In general, Georgia Tech (GT) survey respondents usually resemble their public university peers demographically and their private university peers academically.

- Students were asked about their reasons for choosing to attend their particular university. 'Academic reputation' is usually the top choice each year for most students. 'Rankings in national magazines' (GT: 49.7%, up from 39.0% in 2001) and 'information from a website' (GT: 21.3%, up from 13.0%) have increased in importance, for Tech students and for their peers. Tech students also usually rate 'graduates get good jobs' and 'graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools' as very important, but these options were not listed on the 2002 survey.
- Nationally, a record low percentage of students reported studying or doing homework six or more hours per week during their senior year in high school. Tech respondents reported studying much less in high school than their private peers. GT students were asked how many hours they anticipated studying their first year at Tech: only 7% anticipated studying less than 6 hours week, while nearly half anticipated studying 6-15 hours a week.
- This year's GT respondents (particularly males) were again more likely than their peers to have felt bored in high school classes. However, interaction with teachers outside class showed a slight increase for all groups.
- Self-reported high school grade point averages in general continue to rise. Nearly 90% of Tech respondents and their private peers report earning an 'A' average (more females than males). More students than ever expect to earn at least a 'B' average in college, and a slightly smaller percentage of 2002 GT respondents (60.8%) than their peers have this expectation. Tech students were asked an additional question about expected grades: just over half anticipated making an overall GPA between 3.0 and 3.4 their first year.
- Responding GT students were less likely than their peers to have felt overwhelmed by all they had to do in the past year (females in all groups were more than twice as likely as males to have felt overwhelmed). Reported use of cigarettes and alcohol among high school seniors continues to decline nationally, and GT students again reported less indulgence than their peers. Tech students continue to be more conservative politically than their peers.