



Freshman Survey Results

A Graphic Report

December 2017

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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Acknowledgements: Dr. James J. Hughes, Associate Provost for OIRAP and Dr. Douglas Ducharme, Associate Director for Assessment and Institutional Research for OIRAP.

More information: umb.edu/oirap.



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

Freshman Survey 2017

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, we attempted to improve the survey by modifying the survey instrument and methodology. In 2017 we mostly focused 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 us in this process.

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. There were six such sessions for the first-time first-year students between May and August. Majority of the responses were collected during this period. Once the summer orientation sessions were over, we sent the survey 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, we made small changes to the language for a couple of questions and response scales.

2017 Freshman Survey response rate was 49 percent

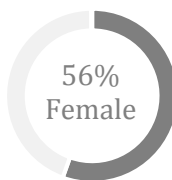






College	Survey Respondents		First-time First-year Fall 2017		Response rate	Respondents' Gender
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	%	
Advancing and Prof. Studies	1	0.1%	2	0.1%	50.0%	
Education and Human Dev.	10	1.1%	23	1.2%	43.5%	
Liberal Arts	379	41.2%	715	38.0%	53.0%	
Management	134	14.6%	222	11.8%	60.4%	
Nursing and Health Sciences	39	4.2%	190	10.1%	20.5%	
School for the Environment	26	2.8%	41	2.2%	63.4%	
Science and Mathematics	330	35.9%	688	36.6%	48.0%	
Total	919	100.0%	1881	100.0%	48.9%	

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First-generation College Students

Three out of five UMass Boston first-time first-year students are first-generation¹ college students.

More than three out of five first-time freshmen are first-generation college students

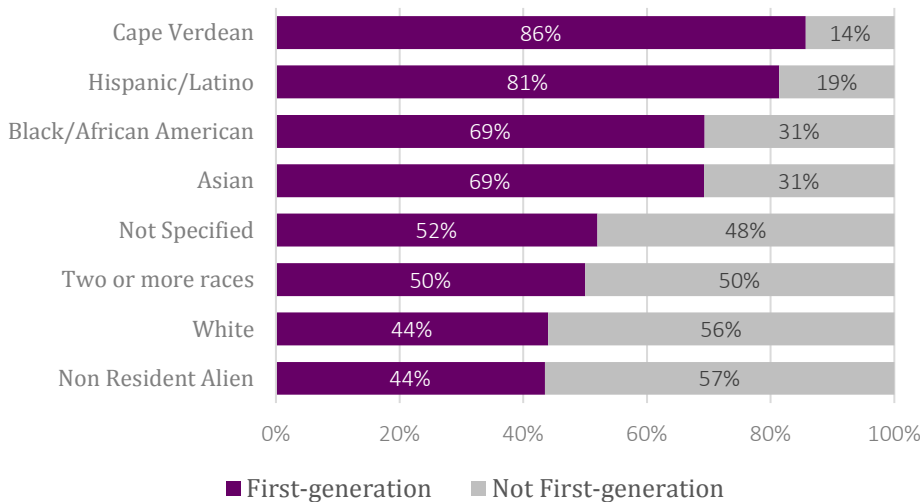
Freshman Survey 2017	61%
National*	49%

*Source: BCSSE 2017 entering class (n= 67,085)

Percentage of first-generation students by gender

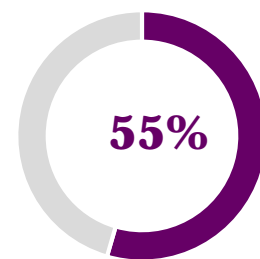


U.S. Students of color are more likely to be a first-generation student



Note: excludes American Indian/Alaska Native group as n=1.

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

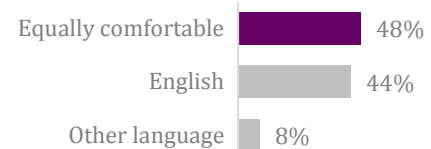


Students who participated in the survey reported **over 65** different languages spoken at home

First-generation students by college

College	# of respondents	# of first-gen	% of first-gen
Advancing & Prof. Studies	1	0	0%
Education & Human Dev.	10	7	70%
Liberal Arts	379	236	62%
Management	134	74	55%
Nursing & Health Sciences	39	17	44%
Environment	26	13	50%
Science & Math	330	212	65%
Total	919	559	61%

Nearly half of the students who speak another language are equally comfortable speaking in that language as well as English



Top majors pursued by the first-generation students in Fall 2017

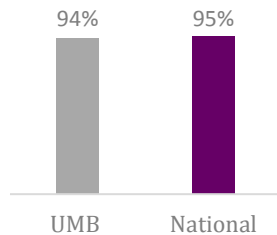
1. Biology (BS)	19%	4. Psychology (BA)/(BS)	8%
2. Management (BS)	13%	5. Computer Science (BS)	7%
3. Undecided - Liberal Arts	11.6%	6. Criminology & Criminal Justice	5%

¹ Neither parent or anyone who raised them holds a bachelor's degree

High School Experience: Activities and Involvement

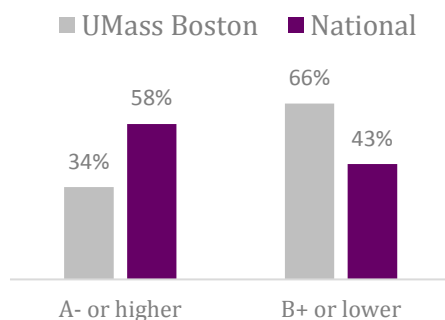
Seventy-four percent of our first-time first-year students were involved in community service or volunteer work during their last year in high school.

Ninety-four percent of the Fall 2017 first-time first-year students graduated from high school in 2017



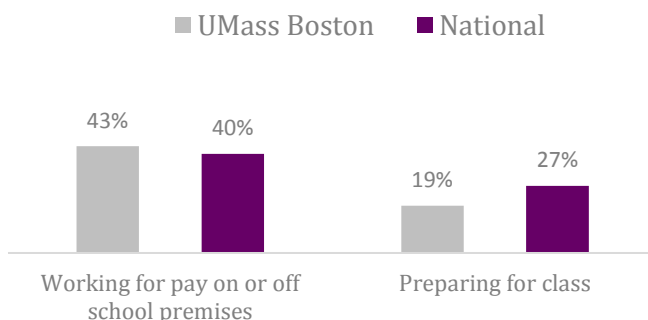
Source for national data: BCSSE 2017 Institutional Report

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



Source for national data: BCSSE 2017 Institutional Report
Note: Numbers were rounded up.

When it comes to spending 10+ hours (weekly) on working or preparing for school, UMass Boston freshmen are more likely to work and less likely to prepare for classes compared to their national peers



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

74%



Academic clubs or honor societies

49%



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

49%



Performing or visual arts programs

40%



Vocational clubs (business, technology, etc.)

21%



Publications (student newspaper, etc.)

18%



Religious youth groups

18%



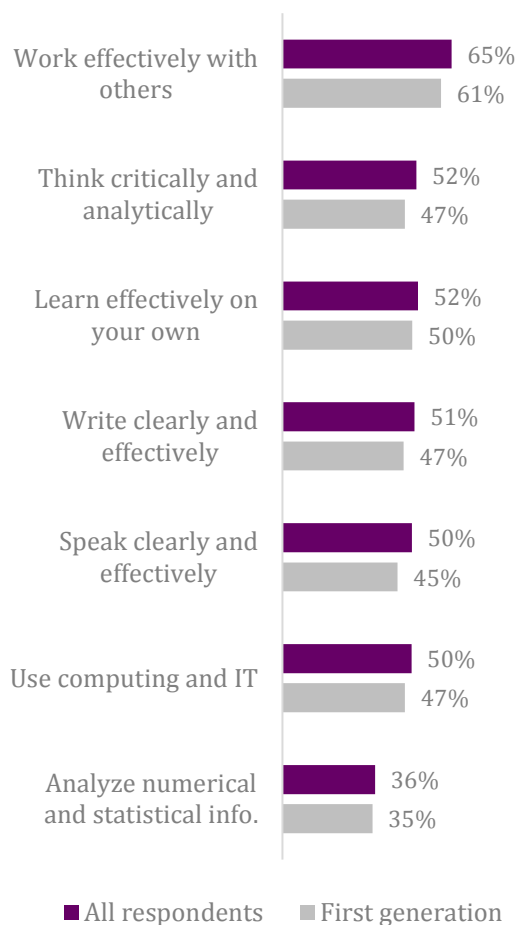
Student government

16%

Self-perceived Academic Preparedness

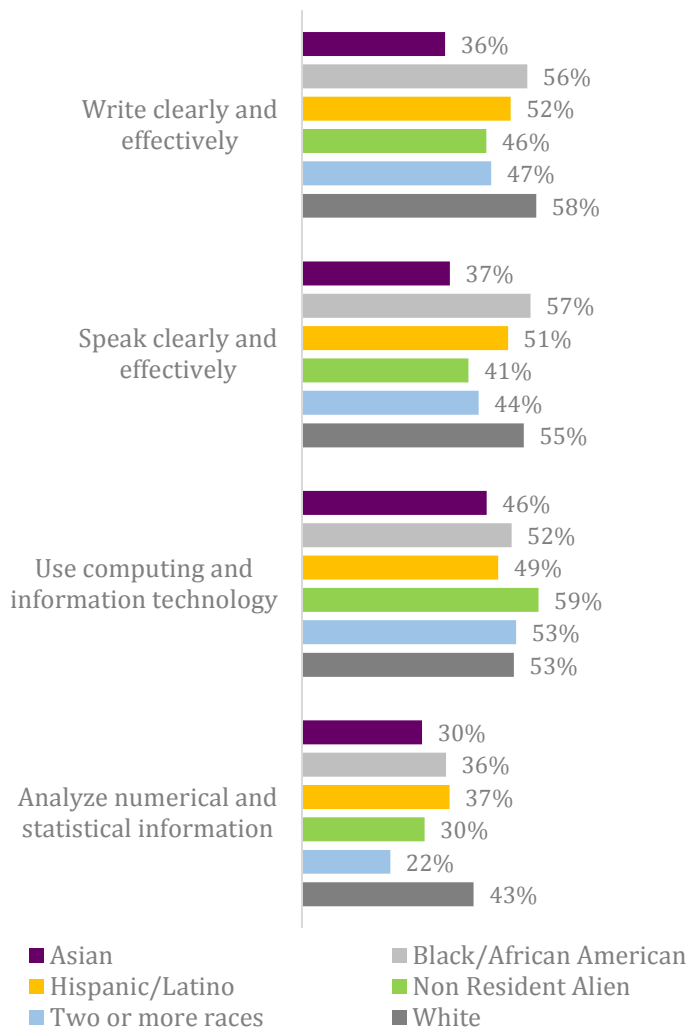
First-generation students are behind their peers in all categories of self-assessed preparedness.

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



Note: excludes American Indian/Alaska Native and Cape Verdean as $n < 15$. Also excludes "Two or more races."

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

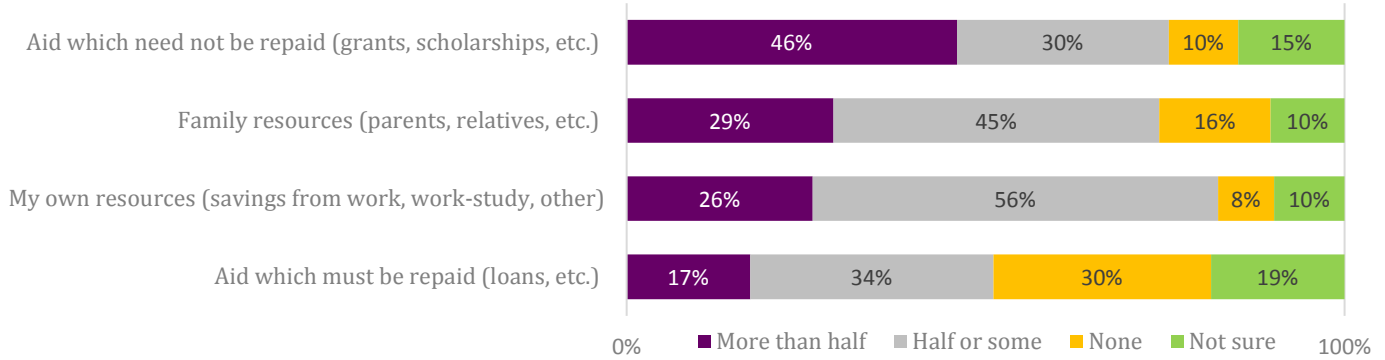
	Liberal Arts	Management	Nursing	Environment	Science & Math.
Work effectively with others	67%	70%	82%	65%	61%
Think critically and analytically	51%	53%	62%	58%	51%
Learn effectively on your own	50%	51%	64%	35%	57%
Write clearly and effectively	51%	53%	72%	46%	49%
Speak clearly and effectively	52%	51%	59%	54%	47%
Use computing and information tec.	47%	49%	62%	35%	55%
Analyze numerical and statistical info.	28%	38%	62%	27%	42%

Note: excludes College of Advancing and Prof. Studies and College of Education and Human Dev. as $n < 15$.

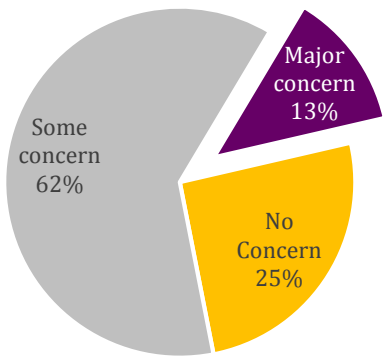
Financing College Education

Nearly 62 percent of first-time first-year students reported having “some” concerns and 13 percent having “major” concerns about their ability to finance a college education.

Percentage of first year's educational expenses from expected sources

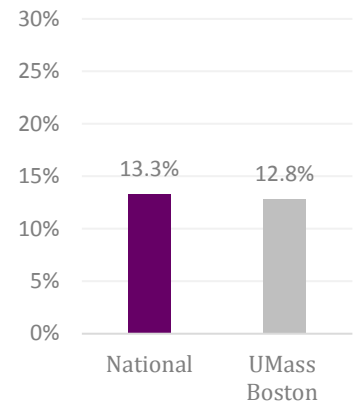


Percentage of freshman concerned about their ability to finance their college education

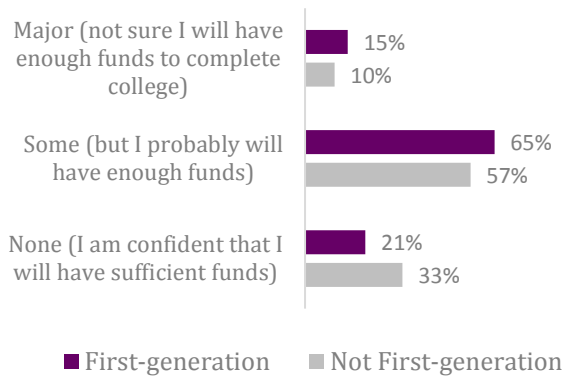


UMass Boston has a slightly lower percentage of students with major financial concern about covering the education costs than the national average

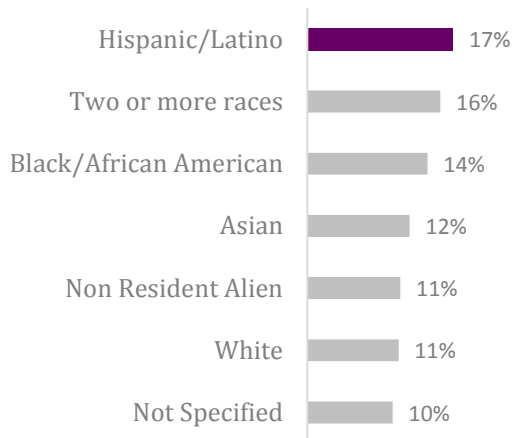
Source: 2016 CIRP Freshman Survey



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



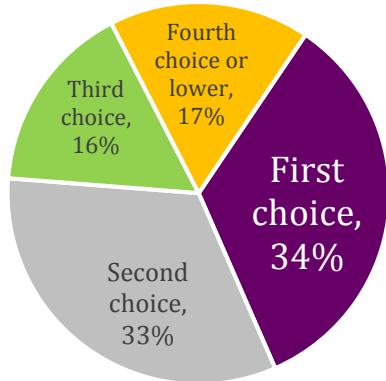
Hispanic/Latino students were more likely to report having major financial concerns



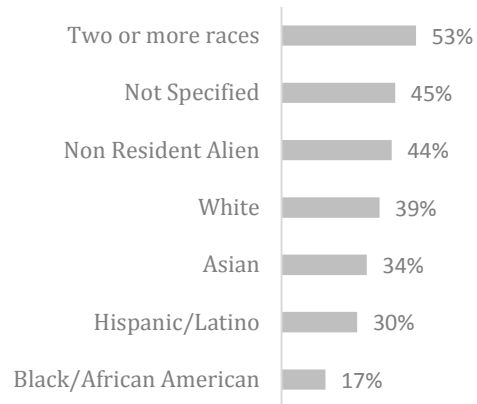
Choosing UMass Boston

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

Ranking UMass Boston according to preference

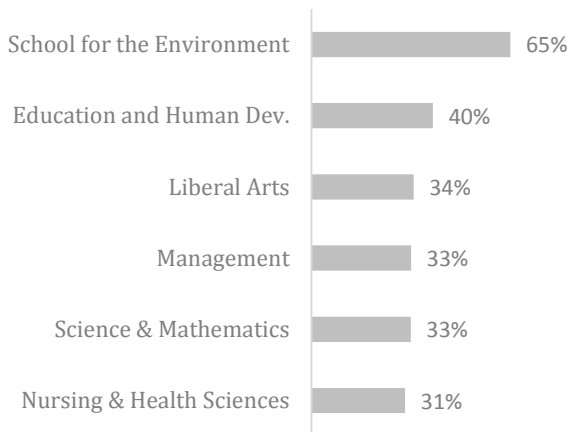


Percentage of freshman reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by ethnicity



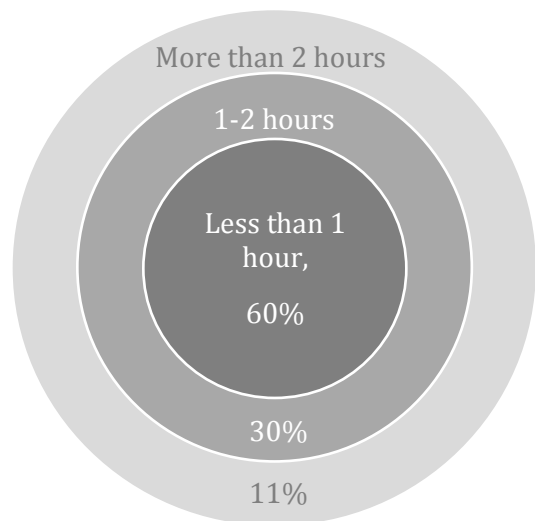
Note: does not include American Indian/Alaska Native and Cape Verdean as $n < 10$.

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

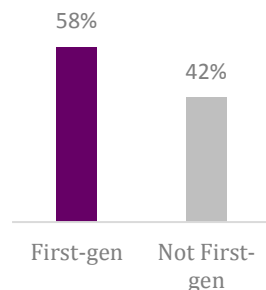


Note: does not include Advancing&Professional Studies as $n = 1$.


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-


53% were female


47% were male

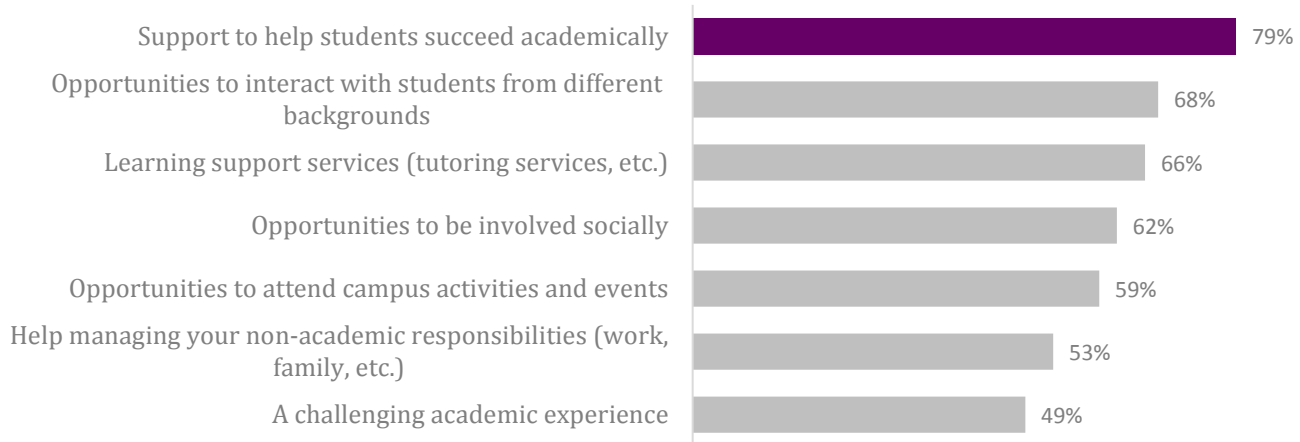


69% of the freshman have at least one close friend who will attend UMass Boston

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	2017 Freshmen	NSSE 2017
Preparing for class	11.9	15.2
Working on/ off-campus	10.5	11.2
Participate in co-curricular activities	4.8	4.3
Relaxing and socializing	7.0	11.6

Note: results are not comparable as different scales were used.

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	26%
	With family members	59%
	Within easy access to public transportation	31%

Note: student had an option to select multiple categories.

Expected *very difficult* activities during coming school year

