

**Report on the 2012 Administration of the  
UIC Entering Student Survey**

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**Office of the Vice Provost for  
Academic and Enrollment Services**

**Office of the Vice Chancellor  
for Student Affairs**

## Preface

This report details the results from the 2012 administration of the Entering Student Survey (ESS). The ESS is an instrument to track characteristics and trends of new freshmen at UIC. The results of the ESS are presented here for use by the University community in developing a more detailed understanding of the undergraduate students enrolling at UIC.

The ESS is a collaboration of the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic and Enrollment Services and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. We are indebted to the Office of Student Development Services which graciously allows time for the administration of the survey during the new student orientation program. In addition, the student orientation leaders have been our partners in encouraging students to complete the surveys. Finally, we wish to thank the over 2800 UIC students who took time to complete the survey.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this report. We also welcome future research collaborations on the ESS to build on our current findings and to provide information to promote educational improvement.

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## Highlights from the 2012 ESS

The Entering Student Survey (ESS) is a two page instrument designed to gather information about new students' pre-enrollment attitudes and dispositions; as well as their aspirations and expectations. Most of the questions have remained the same across the four year history of the survey and many of the questions are common to a variety of nationally marketed new student surveys.

A total of 2825 (90%) of the 3123 new freshmen enrolled for Fall 2012 completed the ESS during summer orientation. Of the students who completed the survey, 2630 provided a University Identification Number (UIN) which allows us to present additional information and conduct follow-up analyses.

This year 30% of the students reported that English is not their first language. This is a slight increase over last year (29%). By comparison to institutions across the country, based on a 2008 report from the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) who surveyed over 250,000 freshmen at colleges and universities across the college, only about 8% of the freshmen respondents nationwide indicated that English was not their native language.

The ESS also asks an open-ended follow-up question if a student reports that English is not their first language. The open-ended question allows students to name their first language -- thereby allowing us to capture the breadth of diversity in languages among our new students. Of the 723 students who completed the open-ended question, fifty-three languages were named. From this group, the most frequently reported languages were:

- Spanish – 40%
- Polish – 12%
- Chinese (including Cantonese and Mandarin) – 7%
- Urdu – 6%
- Gujarati – 6%
- Korean – 4%
- Tagalog (Filipino) – 3%
- Vietnamese – 3%
- Arabic - 2%
- Russian – 2%
- Hindi – 2%

This report reflects a summary of the total response group. As in the past, we will make these tables available disaggregated in variety of breakout groups such as by college of enrollment or by racial/ethnic groupings.

## **Introduction**

This report presents summary data in table form on the Entering Student Survey (ESS), which was administered to new freshmen undergraduate students of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) during New Student Orientation in the summer 2012. A total of 14 tables are presented which summarize the results of student responses to different sections of the ESS.

## **Survey Instrument**

The Entering Student Survey was developed by UIC administrators and was first administered at UIC during the Summer of 2008. It is a two-page paper and pencil instrument. It includes 110 items distributed as follow:

- 8 items related to background information about students
- 13 items related to pre-enrollment characteristics and behavior
- 18 items related to student pre-disposition and self-assessment of motivation
- 30 items related to the college choice and decision
- 40 items related to student aspirations and future plans

The survey includes one open-ended question on the native language of students who indicate that English is not their first language. In addition, the survey requests student University Identification Number (UIN). Use of the UIN allows us to report demographic characteristics of the respondents.

## **Administration of the Survey**

The participants were students admitted to UIC as new freshmen who attended one of 14 summer orientation sessions held on the UIC campus during June, July and August 2012. Of the 3168 new freshmen students who participated in summer orientation, 2825 completed the ESS. This represents 90% of the new freshman cohort. Of the students who completed the survey, 2630 provided a UIN (93% of the completers). The table below details the distribution of survey participants by racial/ethnic categories and college of enrollment compared to the entire freshman cohort.

Fall 2012 New Freshman Enrollment and ESS Participation				
	New Freshmen		ESS Participation	
	Number	%	Number	%
CBA	262	7.7%	218	7.7%
Educ	57	1.7%	52	1.8%
Engin	327	10.5%	276	9.8%
A & A	177	6.5%	147	5.2%
LAS	2202	70.3%	1875	66.4%
AHS	98	3.4%	62	2.2%
No Identifier	----		195	6.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	3123		2825	
AIAN	4	0.1%	2	0.1%
Asian	809	25.9%	699	24.7%
Black	253	8.1%	202	7.2%
Hispanic	951	30.5%	792	28.0%
International	60	1.9%	30	1.1%
Multi Race	94	3.0%	78	2.8%
NHPI	17	0.5%	15	0.5%
Unknown	39	1.2%	32	1.1%
White	896	28.7%	780	37.6%
No Identifier	----		195	6.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	3123		2825	

## **Explanation of Tables**

### **Section 1: Student Characteristics (5 tables)**

Tables 1 through 5 present data on the characteristics and background of respondents: parents' level of education, concern about financing college, religion, citizenship and first language, and housing plans for fall term. Parent education is a calculated variable from two separate questions about highest level of schooling for father and mother.

### **Section 2: Student Pre-dispositions and Self-reported Preparation (5 tables)**

Tables 6 through 10 present information on students' pre-disposition based on self-reported high school activities and anticipated need for academic assistance.

Time spent on various activities, ranging from studying and working to time spent texting provides a context for how students managed their time during the last year of high school. Students provide information on enrollment in Advanced Placement courses, as well as use of tutoring in specific disciplines.

One item asked the students to specify the highest degree that they plan to earn at any college or university.

Finally, students are asked to rate themselves compared to the average person their age on 17 traits associated with aspects of college preparation and motivation such as mathematical ability, self-understanding, and self confidence and drive to achieve. The responses range from: 1=*highest 10%*; 2=*above average*; 3=*average*; 4=*below average*; and 5=*lowest 10%*.

### **Section 3: College Choice and Decision to Attend College (2 tables)**

Table 11 and 12 display the results of two questions related to the college choice and decision to attend UIC.

Students were asked to indicate the importance of various factors in the decision to attend college. Reasons listed ranged from: 'to get training for a specific career' to 'to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas'. Regarding the decision to attend UIC, students were asked to rate the importance of various factors in the decision to attend UIC; factors ranged from: 'A relative wanted me to come to UIC' to 'Not offered aid by my first choice'. Response categories for both variables were: 1) Very important; 2) Somewhat important; and 3) Not important.

### **Section 4: Future Plans and Aspirations (2 tables)**

Tables 13 and 14 detail responses to two questions regarding anticipated behaviors and activities during college in the question: "What is your best guess as to the chance you will:" followed by a list of 21 responses ranging from change major fields, to participate in student clubs/groups. A four level response scale is provided: 1) Very good chance; 2) Some chance; 3) Very little chance; and 4) No chance.

Students are also asked to indicate the value placed on a range of 18 'life goals' ranging from 'Be well off financially' to 'Integrating spirituality into my life'. Response categories are: 1=Essential; 2=Very Important; 3=Somewhat Important; and 4=Not Important.

## Section 1: Student Characteristics

<b>Table 1: Language and Citizenship</b>	
English is native language?	69.6%
<b>Citizenship Status:</b>	
U.S. Citizen	90.9%
Perm Resident/Green Card	6.4%
Neither	2.7%

<b>Table 2: Parental Education</b>	
(Composite of Mother/Father highest level of education)	
No exposure to college	32.0%
Some college experience	11.1%
Assoc degree	7.8%
One 4Yr degree	17.8%
Both (or only) 4Yr degree	25.8%
Don't Know	4.6%

<b>Table 3: Do you have any concerns about your ability to finance your college education?</b>	
None (confident sufficient funds)	18.5%
Some (probably enough funds)	60.5%
Major (not sure enough funds)	20.9%

<b>Table 4: Which best describes your religious affiliation?:</b>	
Buddhist	2.4%
Hindu	5.7%
Jewish	0.6%
Muslim	9.6%
Protestant Christian	13.5%
Roman Catholic	36.2%
Other Religion	10.7%
No Affiliation	21.3%

<b>Table 5: Where do you plan to live during Fall Semester?:</b>	
UIC Residence Hall	42.8%
Off campus - walking dist	2.7%
Off campus - commuting	4.5%
With Parents or relatives	49.4%
Other	0.6%

## Section 2: Student Pre-dispositions and Self-reported Preparation

**Table 6: During last year in high school, how many hours during typical week, did you spend:**

	None	Less than 2 hrs	3 to 5 hrs	6 to 10 hrs	more than 10 hrs
Studying/homework	1.8%	26.1%	40.1%	20.1%	12.0%
Socializing with friends	0.6%	15.3%	33.7%	29.6%	20.8%
Talking with teachers (not in class)	17.0%	59.7%	17.5%	4.6%	1.2%
Exercise or sports	7.4%	26.3%	28.6%	18.3%	19.4%
Partying	38.1%	35.0%	18.3%	6.4%	2.2%
Working (for pay)	49.9%	7.3%	9.5%	9.8%	23.4%
Volunteer work	33.3%	33.5%	21.0%	7.3%	4.9%
Student clubs/groups	25.8%	33.4%	24.6%	9.4%	6.8%
Watching TV	15.3%	41.0%	28.8%	9.5%	5.4%
Reading for pleasure	28.7%	42.6%	18.9%	6.6%	3.2%
Online social networking	9.8%	37.1%	29.2%	15.9%	8.0%
Texting	8.1%	28.9%	27.2%	17.5%	18.3%
Prayer/meditation	45.3%	38.9%	10.6%	3.6%	1.7%

**Table 7: How many AP courses or exams did you take in high school?**

	AP courses	AP exams
None	21.3%	30.0%
1 to 2	33.5%	32.1%
3 to 5	33.1%	28.1%
6 or more	12.1%	9.8%

**Table 8: Have had (during high school) or do think will need any special tutoring or help in the following subjects:**

	Had Help	Will Need Help
Math	18.3%	32.1%
Science	12.2%	25.0%
Writing	14.1%	22.4%

**Table 9: What is the highest academic degree plan to earn at any college?:**

Baccalaureate Deg	21.9%
Master's Deg	40.1%
PhD/Ed D	20.2%
MD/DO/DDS/DVM	14.2%
Other (incl Law, Div., etc)	2.3%
None	1.3%



## Section 2: Student Pre-dispositions and Self-reported Preparation (continued)

**Table 10: Rate self on following traits compared with average person your age:**

	Highest 10%	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Lowest 10%
Academic ability	18.2%	51.9%	29.0%	0.8%	0.1%
Artistic ability	8.6%	20.8%	38.8%	22.7%	9.2%
Competitiveness	20.7%	34.3%	35.4%	8.0%	1.7%
Cooperativeness	33.4%	44.6%	20.0%	1.9%	0.1%
Creativity	18.4%	35.2%	37.6%	7.7%	1.1%
Drive to achieve	41.1%	41.3%	15.4%	1.9%	0.2%
Emotional health	26.2%	37.3%	31.8%	4.1%	0.6%
Initiative	19.9%	41.5%	34.9%	3.5%	0.3%
Leadership ability	21.1%	37.3%	32.7%	8.3%	0.6%
Mathematical ability	16.3%	33.8%	37.3%	10.3%	2.4%
Physical health	20.7%	35.3%	38.3%	5.2%	0.5%
Self-confidence (intellectual)	24.3%	41.9%	30.7%	2.8%	0.3%
Self-confidence (social)	20.9%	35.4%	35.9%	7.0%	0.8%
Self-understanding	24.8%	44.0%	28.9%	2.0%	0.3%
Spirituality	14.4%	27.3%	40.5%	12.2%	5.7%
Time management	11.5%	29.2%	43.0%	14.4%	1.9%
Understanding of Others	26.0%	47.0%	24.6%	2.0%	0.4%
Writing ability	12.4%	33.7%	43.4%	9.1%	1.4%

### Section 3: College Choice and Decision to Attend College

**Table 11: How important was each of the following reasons in your decision to attend college?:**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Parents wanted me to go	54.2%	32.1%	13.6%
I couldn't find a job	8.6%	17.7%	73.7%
Opportunity to get away from home	15.6%	38.4%	46.0%
To get a better job	83.3%	12.4%	4.3%
Gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	77.0%	21.2%	1.9%
Improve my reading and study skills	51.6%	39.2%	9.1%
Make me more cultured	46.7%	40.8%	12.4%
To be able to make more money	72.8%	22.8%	4.4%
Learn about things that interest me	82.6%	16.2%	1.2%
Prepare for grad or professional school	74.0%	20.1%	5.9%
Mentor encouraged me	24.4%	39.2%	36.4%
Get training for specific career	78.3%	18.0%	3.6%

**Table 12: How important was each of the following reasons in your decision to attend UIC?:**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Relatives wanted me to come here	15.1%	35.8%	49.1%
Teacher advised me	7.9%	31.4%	60.6%
Good academic reputation	57.7%	37.6%	4.7%
Good social reputation	32.2%	48.9%	18.9%
Racial and ethnic diversity	41.5%	39.9%	18.6%
Offered financial assistance	38.6%	29.4%	32.0%
Low tuition	46.4%	39.4%	14.2%
High school counselor advised me	10.4%	34.3%	55.4%
Wanted to live near home	38.8%	32.9%	28.4%
Not offered aid by 1st choice	9.3%	21.6%	69.1%
UIC grads are admitted to top professional schools	46.5%	41.3%	12.1%
Grads get good jobs	57.6%	34.1%	8.3%
Not accepted elsewhere	3.1%	9.0%	87.9%
Rankings in national magazines	14.3%	42.7%	43.0%
Info from website	20.2%	49.5%	30.3%
Friends attending UIC	15.1%	36.2%	48.7%
Wanted to attend college in city	53.3%	32.6%	14.2%
Admitted to special program	32.2%	32.1%	35.7%

## Section 4: Future Plans and Aspirations

**Table 13: What is your best guess of chances that you will:**

	Very Good chance	Some Chance	Very Little Chance	No Chance
Change major	14.4%	33.0%	37.5%	15.1%
Change career choices	11.1%	34.8%	37.0%	17.1%
Grad with honors	31.6%	55.9%	11.0%	1.5%
Participant in student government	6.1%	24.3%	43.0%	26.7%
Get job to help pay for college	59.1%	29.3%	9.4%	2.2%
Work fulltime	10.6%	32.6%	39.4%	17.5%
Play varsity athletics	7.1%	17.4%	36.0%	39.5%
Play intramural athletics	13.0%	28.7%	29.6%	28.7%
Make at least a "B" average	67.7%	30.5%	1.5%	0.3%
Need extra time to complete deg	5.1%	26.9%	50.8%	17.2%
Get bachelor's degree	82.4%	15.1%	1.8%	0.7%
Drop out of UIC temporarily	0.4%	2.3%	17.5%	79.8%
Drop out of UIC permanently	0.4%	1.3%	11.1%	87.1%
Transfer to another college	3.9%	18.8%	35.2%	42.1%
Be satisfied with college	54.3%	41.9%	3.2%	0.7%
Participate in volunteer or community service	32.5%	43.3%	20.3%	3.9%
Seek personal counseling	12.5%	31.8%	41.0%	14.7%
Dev close friendships with other students	68.0%	28.2%	3.2%	0.6%
Communicate regularly with professors	44.3%	48.1%	7.1%	0.5%
Socialize w/ other racial/ethnic groups	73.1%	23.7%	2.9%	0.3%
Participate in student clubs/groups	45.2%	40.6%	12.1%	2.1%

## Section 4: Future Plans and Aspirations (continued)

**Table 14: Indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following:**

	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Be accomplished in performing arts	7.9%	12.0%	30.4%	49.8%
Become an authority in my field	26.4%	39.7%	27.0%	6.8%
Gain recognition for contributions in my field	24.5%	43.2%	27.0%	5.3%
Influence political structure	6.5%	14.0%	41.5%	38.0%
Influence social values	14.1%	33.9%	39.2%	12.8%
Raising a family	34.4%	32.8%	21.7%	11.0%
Have administrative responsibility for work of others	13.2%	32.6%	41.6%	12.5%
Be well off financially	50.3%	36.6%	11.1%	2.0%
Help others in difficulty	33.4%	43.2%	21.3%	2.0%
Write original works	6.3%	9.3%	30.0%	54.5%
Be successful in my own business	26.6%	29.7%	26.8%	16.9%
Be involved in cleaning up environment	8.0%	19.4%	48.3%	24.3%
Develop a meaningful philosophy of life	21.5%	30.0%	33.9%	14.7%
Participate in community action programs	10.4%	24.9%	46.7%	18.0%
Promote racial understanding	13.6%	28.1%	40.5%	17.8%
Keep up with political affairs	7.5%	20.3%	39.8%	32.4%
Become a community leader	13.4%	26.0%	40.4%	20.3%