

**National Research Study**

# **Addendum by Race/Ethnicity**

## **2012 National Freshman Attitudes Report**

Included in this addendum are the findings for the Noel-Levitz 2012 National Freshman Attitudes Report by race/ethnicity for **incoming students**. These data show the percentage of students within each group that agreed with each item.

For a demographic breakdown of the respondents, please see pages 7 and 8.

For a brief explanation of the statistical processes used to produce these data, please see the end of this document.

To access the main 2012 National Freshman Attitudes Report, visit [www.noellevitz.com/FreshmanReport](http://www.noellevitz.com/FreshmanReport).

All survey items	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	White/ Caucasian	OVERALL national percentages
<b>Desire to finish college</b>						
I have a very strong desire to continue my education, and I am quite determined to finish a degree.	94.8%	95.9%	94.3%	92.2%	95.5%	95.2%
I am very strongly dedicated to finishing college—no matter what obstacles get in my way.	95.1%	95.6%	94.2%	90.1%	94.9%	94.8%
I am deeply committed to my educational goals, and I'm fully prepared to make the effort and sacrifices that will be needed to attain them.	92.1%	92.4%	88.1%	87.8%	89.9%	90.5%
Of all the things I could do at this point in my life, going to college is definitely the most satisfying.	90.5%	89.9%	84.9%	84.0%	83.4%	85.7%
I often wonder if a college education is really worth all the time, money, and effort that I'm being asked to spend on it.	23.5%	19.9%	26.9%	21.5%	15.1%	18.4%
I can think of many things I would rather do than go to college.	11.0%	10.4%	15.5%	15.3%	10.2%	10.8%
I wish that society did not put so much pressure on people to go to college, as I'd really rather be doing other things at this point in my life.	12.6%	10.9%	18.0%	15.1%	9.2%	10.7%
I dread the thought of going to school for several more years, and there is a part of me that would like to give the whole thing up.	11.3%	11.6%	13.1%	11.5%	7.8%	9.4%
<b>Attitude toward educators</b>						
The teachers I had in school respected me as a person and treated me fairly.	81.4%	84.3%	85.0%	76.1%	82.2%	82.0%
Most of my teachers have been very caring and dedicated.	77.2%	82.6%	79.9%	76.5%	80.9%	79.9%
I liked my teachers, and I feel they did a good job.	72.5%	79.1%	77.7%	73.6%	77.3%	76.1%
Most teachers have a superior attitude that I find very annoying.	19.8%	14.9%	14.8%	17.1%	14.4%	15.9%
Most of the teachers I had in school were too opinionated and inflexible.	18.3%	17.4%	17.1%	19.6%	13.4%	15.3%
In my opinion, many teachers are more concerned about themselves than they are about their students.	17.2%	14.1%	15.1%	13.4%	12.7%	14.2%

### About the racial/ethnic classifications in this addendum

To report their racial/ethnic background, students responded to this item:

I would describe my racial/ethnic origin as:

- Black/African American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- White/Caucasian
- Hispanic or Latino
- Multi-ethnic or other ethnic origin
- Prefer not to respond

A total of 5,770 students from the overall set of 94,202 students preferred not to respond or reported their ethnicity as "multi-ethnic or other." These students have not been included in the percentages of racial/ethnic groups reported in this addendum.

All survey items	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	White/ Caucasian	OVERALL national percentages
<b>Intellectual interests</b>						
Over the years, books have broadened my horizons and stimulated my imagination.	55.9%	53.4%	57.2%	59.2%	54.7%	55.4%
I get a great deal of satisfaction from reading.	49.7%	48.4%	49.0%	50.4%	44.0%	46.5%
I don't enjoy reading serious books and articles, and I only do it when I have to.	45.1%	44.5%	46.9%	38.4%	43.9%	43.9%
Books have never gotten me very excited.	40.0%	41.1%	37.4%	36.0%	40.5%	39.9%
<b>Study habits</b>						
I take very careful notes during class, and I review them thoroughly before a test.	70.6%	67.3%	69.3%	60.3%	59.9%	63.6%
I study very hard for all my courses, even those I don't like.	62.1%	65.9%	67.1%	63.0%	58.2%	60.4%
I have developed a solid system of self-discipline, which helps me keep up with my schoolwork.	63.1%	58.1%	58.9%	55.5%	57.4%	58.5%
My studying is very irregular and unpredictable.	36.9%	34.5%	36.4%	32.7%	29.6%	32.3%
When I try to study, I usually get bored and quit after a few minutes.	32.6%	28.9%	29.6%	31.4%	25.1%	27.4%
I have great difficulty concentrating on schoolwork, and I often get behind.	23.4%	25.6%	25.7%	25.4%	18.5%	21.0%
<b>Math and science confidence</b>						
I have a very good grasp of the scientific ideas I've studied in school.	44.4%	44.9%	51.3%	50.9%	48.9%	47.7%
I have a hard time understanding and solving complex math problems.	49.2%	47.7%	41.4%	46.9%	43.0%	45.0%
Math has always been a challenge for me.	49.0%	47.2%	37.7%	49.2%	41.5%	43.9%
I have always enjoyed the challenge of trying to solve complex math problems.	40.0%	41.5%	46.9%	39.9%	34.4%	37.1%
I have a very good understanding of general biology (e.g., cell structure, metabolism, genetics, and the circulatory system).	37.6%	37.6%	38.9%	45.1%	37.9%	38.2%
My understanding of the physical sciences is very weak.	28.3%	30.2%	25.9%	24.7%	23.8%	25.6%
<b>Verbal confidence</b>						
I am capable of writing a very clear and well-organized paper.	63.9%	56.6%	51.3%	58.5%	63.5%	62.4%
I pick up new vocabulary words quickly, and I find it easy to use them in my speech and writing.	63.1%	55.8%	47.9%	62.4%	53.2%	56.1%
I am very good at figuring out the deeper meaning of a short story or novel.	58.2%	53.0%	48.9%	55.5%	49.2%	52.3%
I have difficulty organizing my ideas in a paper, and I tend to make a lot of punctuation and grammar mistakes.	35.4%	39.2%	41.0%	38.4%	29.3%	32.3%
In English classes, I've had difficulty analyzing an author's style and theme.	25.7%	30.1%	35.3%	32.2%	28.7%	28.2%
Learning new vocabulary words is a slow and difficult process for me.	16.8%	20.8%	29.0%	18.4%	16.4%	17.4%

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<b>Career closure</b>						
I have found a potential career that strongly attracts me.	82.1%	82.0%	74.9%	69.9%	79.9%	80.3%
I have made a firm decision to enter a certain occupation and have begun planning my life around that decision.	71.3%	67.1%	64.2%	60.1%	61.2%	64.2%
I become very confused when I try to choose an occupation.	20.0%	25.0%	32.2%	27.2%	19.4%	21.0%
I am very confused about what occupation to pursue.	18.0%	20.8%	27.5%	25.1%	19.0%	19.5%
<b>Family emotional support</b>						
When I was a child, my parents usually understood me, respected my judgment, and treated me in ways that helped me grow.	73.6%	73.7%	68.1%	68.7%	79.4%	76.2%
My family and I communicated very well when I was young, and we had a good understanding of each other's point of view.	64.2%	64.4%	60.2%	61.1%	69.2%	66.4%
My family had one way of looking at me when I was a child, and they didn't understand my feelings very well.	20.3%	19.2%	23.2%	22.7%	12.1%	15.8%
When I was a child, the other members of my family often said hurtful things that caused unpleasant feelings.	17.0%	15.6%	17.2%	19.2%	10.9%	13.5%
<b>Sense of financial security</b>						
I have the financial resources that I need to finish college.	41.4%	37.5%	46.7%	41.8%	48.4%	45.0%
I don't have any financial problems that will interfere with my schoolwork.	34.8%	27.6%	33.9%	33.2%	40.4%	36.8%
I have financial problems that are very distracting and troublesome.	35.6%	40.5%	37.2%	35.9%	25.6%	30.7%
I am in a bad financial position, and the pressure to earn extra money will probably interfere with my studies.	21.6%	25.4%	24.1%	23.2%	14.7%	18.4%
<b>Sociability</b>						
I greatly enjoy getting together with a crowd of people and having fun.	78.5%	81.7%	77.7%	77.9%	78.9%	79.0%
I am very adventurous and outgoing at social gatherings.	61.2%	58.4%	55.4%	59.2%	53.8%	56.1%
Participating in large social gatherings is of little interest to me.	29.0%	26.9%	28.7%	26.2%	23.6%	25.5%
It is hard for me to relax and just have fun with a group of people.	12.9%	12.7%	14.3%	15.6%	11.8%	12.4%

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<b>Opinion tolerance</b>						
I get along well with people who disagree with my opinion openly.	64.6%	63.6%	57.0%	62.8%	57.2%	59.9%
I can feel comfortable with someone who thinks quite differently than I do on major social issues.	63.3%	64.1%	60.2%	60.8%	61.0%	62.0%
I find it easy to be friends with people whose political ideas differ sharply from my own.	54.6%	58.3%	46.5%	56.9%	55.5%	55.3%
When someone's opinions strongly disagree with my own, I tend to develop unfriendly feelings and to avoid close contact with the person.	12.0%	11.3%	12.9%	15.9%	12.5%	12.3%
I feel uneasy and distrustful toward people whose way of thinking is quite dissimilar to my own.	11.3%	9.3%	12.6%	16.2%	8.2%	9.3%
Because they irritate me, I tend to stay away from people whose ideas are quite different from my own.	12.6%	8.9%	12.4%	16.9%	8.5%	9.7%
<b>Receptivity to academic assistance</b>						
I would like to receive some instruction in the most effective ways to take college exams.	82.9%	80.2%	79.6%	74.5%	70.3%	74.6%
I would like to receive some help in improving my study habits.	74.7%	69.4%	68.5%	60.8%	49.4%	58.4%
I would like to receive some individual help in improving my math skills.	63.8%	58.0%	50.2%	52.1%	38.9%	47.6%
I would like to receive some individual help in improving my writing skills.	59.2%	57.5%	62.6%	50.6%	36.1%	45.1%
I would like to receive tutoring in one or more of my courses.	60.0%	53.1%	53.4%	45.5%	35.2%	43.9%
I would like to receive some training to improve my reading skills.	40.8%	40.8%	48.9%	35.1%	20.6%	28.8%
<b>Receptivity to career counseling</b>						
I would like some help selecting an educational plan that will prepare me to get a good job.	75.3%	75.2%	77.7%	65.6%	61.0%	66.7%
I would like to talk with someone about the qualifications needed for certain occupations.	73.0%	69.9%	75.5%	62.8%	55.7%	62.3%
I would like to talk with someone about the salaries and future outlook for various occupations.	64.6%	62.3%	63.4%	54.4%	47.7%	54.1%
I would like to talk with someone about the advantages and disadvantages of various occupations.	56.6%	54.9%	61.7%	52.1%	41.8%	47.8%
I would like some help selecting an occupation that is well-suited to my interests and abilities.	52.7%	56.0%	61.2%	50.5%	40.7%	46.4%

All survey items	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	White/ Caucasian	OVERALL national percentages
<b>Receptivity to financial guidance</b>						
I would like to talk to someone about getting a scholarship.	78.7%	74.6%	76.2%	63.8%	55.6%	64.2%
I would like to talk to someone about getting a part-time job during the regular school year.	61.8%	58.4%	61.8%	53.6%	46.2%	52.1%
I would like to talk to someone about the opportunities available for summer employment.	66.4%	62.4%	66.1%	56.0%	40.5%	50.5%
I would like to talk with someone about getting a loan to help me through school.	36.5%	33.5%	33.7%	31.9%	25.3%	29.4%
<b>Receptivity to personal counseling</b>						
I would like to talk with a counselor about my general attitude toward school.	29.5%	26.1%	34.8%	27.2%	11.1%	18.4%
I would like to talk with a counselor about some difficulties in my personal relationships or social life.	15.9%	13.9%	18.3%	14.6%	8.3%	11.4%
I would like to talk with a counselor about eliminating an unwanted habit (involving food, drugs, cigarettes, or alcohol, etc.).	15.0%	13.6%	16.7%	14.2%	6.6%	10.0%
I would like to talk with a counselor about some emotional tensions that are bothering me.	12.5%	11.0%	14.8%	13.7%	7.2%	9.4%
I would like to talk with a counselor about some feelings of discouragement or unhappy thoughts that keep bothering me.	13.1%	10.7%	17.2%	16.9%	6.5%	9.2%
I would like to talk with a counselor about some family problems.	9.8%	8.9%	10.6%	11.0%	4.9%	6.9%
<b>Receptivity to social enrichment</b>						
I would like to attend an informal gathering where I can meet some new friends.	62.7%	57.9%	63.3%	54.2%	52.8%	56.1%
I would like to find out more about the clubs and social organizations at my college.	65.5%	62.0%	66.0%	60.2%	56.3%	59.5%
I would like to find out more about student government and the various student activities on campus.	58.9%	50.5%	55.1%	50.9%	40.0%	46.3%
I would like to meet an experienced student who can show me around and give me some advice.	62.3%	54.1%	62.7%	51.0%	41.1%	48.3%
<b>Desire to transfer</b>						
I have no desire to transfer to another school before finishing a degree at this college or university.	55.5%	54.8%	52.4%	60.2%	66.3%	61.5%
I plan to transfer to another school before completing a degree at this college or university.	17.5%	17.3%	20.2%	16.4%	10.0%	13.2%
Total number of students*	19,053	11,518	3,601	1,002	53,258	94,202*
Average age of students	21.5	20.4	19.9	21.1	19.9	20.4

\* 5,770 students from the overall set of 94,202 students did not report their ethnicity or reported their ethnicity as “multi-ethnic or other. These students have not been included in the percentages of racial/ethnic groups reported in this addendum.

## Respondent demographics by race/ethnicity (Fall 2011)

All survey items	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	White/ Caucasian
Number of respondents*	19,053	11,518	3,601	1,002	53,258
Percent of respondents	20.2%	12.2%	3.8%	1.1%	56.5%
Percent male	58.2%	53.9%	48.2%	52.0%	53.1%
Percent female	41.8%	46.1%	51.8%	48.0%	46.9%
<b>Representation by institution type</b>					
Four-year private	17.3%	9.4%	4.4%	0.7%	61.5%
Four-year public	24.2%	12.4%	4.0%	1.5%	52.1%
Two-year (public and private)	20.4%	17.6%	2.5%	1.3%	52.8%
<b>Highest education level of mother</b>					
8 years or less	3.0%	22.2%	11.1%	4.8%	0.8%
Some high school	10.0%	17.2%	12.0%	8.7%	3.7%
High school diploma	31.7%	27.3%	26.3%	28.8%	29.2%
1 to 3 years of college	31.0%	19.3%	17.3%	29.9%	27.4%
Bachelor's degree	14.5%	8.5%	22.5%	17.5%	25.2%
Master's degree	7.4%	3.4%	6.7%	7.4%	10.7%
Professional degree	2.2%	1.8%	3.9%	2.2%	2.9%
<b>Highest education level of father</b>					
8 years or less	4.2%	24.7%	9.2%	4.5%	1.4%
Some high school	14.0%	20.7%	11.8%	11.4%	5.8%
High school diploma	41.8%	27.6%	23.0%	33.7%	32.7%
1 to 3 years of college	21.1%	13.9%	16.7%	22.4%	22.8%
Bachelor's degree	11.4%	7.2%	21.4%	19.2%	22.4%
Master's degree	4.6%	3.0%	9.7%	5.2%	9.9%
Professional degree	2.2%	2.4%	7.9%	3.1%	4.6%
<b>Highest degree planned by respondent</b>					
None	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%
1-year certificate	0.8%	1.8%	0.4%	2.0%	0.9%
2-year associate's degree	6.7%	11.1%	3.7%	10.1%	9.1%
4-year bachelor's degree	31.1%	35.6%	30.9%	35.2%	40.9%
Master's degree	33.7%	30.3%	38.0%	30.9%	32.1%
Professional degree	27.2%	21.0%	26.8%	20.2%	16.8%

\* 5,770 students from the overall set of 94,202 students did not report their ethnicity or reported their ethnicity as "multi-ethnic or other. These students have not been included in the percentages of racial/ethnic groups reported in this addendum.

**Respondent demographics continued**

All survey items	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	White/ Caucasian
<b>Time expecting to spend at work</b>					
0 (I have no plans to work)	22.7%	18.0%	23.5%	31.6%	24.8%
1 to 10 hours per week	19.1%	18.4%	27.5%	20.1%	26.8%
11 to 20 hours per week	26.9%	30.4%	30.4%	25.7%	29.1%
21 to 30 hours per week	15.7%	17.6%	10.2%	12.4%	11.2%
31 to 40 hours per week	11.9%	11.3%	6.0%	7.6%	5.8%
Over 40 hours per week	3.6%	4.2%	2.2%	2.5%	2.3%
<b>Average grades as senior in high school</b>					
A	8.1%	11.0%	18.8%	17.0%	23.8%
A to B	32.5%	34.9%	38.0%	32.8%	35.0%
B	18.2%	19.6%	19.2%	18.2%	18.7%
B to C	30.2%	26.0%	17.4%	21.2%	15.5%
C	7.2%	5.1%	4.1%	6.3%	4.6%
C to D	3.3%	2.7%	2.0%	3.3%	2.0%
D	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	1.1%	0.6%
<b>Respondent's self-assessment of academic knowledge</b>					
Highest 20%	11.8%	11.7%	19.0%	17.7%	19.1%
Next to highest 20%	28.1%	30.0%	32.2%	25.8%	35.0%
Middle 20%	56.1%	54.1%	44.6%	49.3%	43.4%
Next to lowest 20%	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%	5.5%	2.1%
Lowest 20%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	1.4%	0.3%
<b>Respondent's self-assessment of academic ability</b>					
Considerably below average	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	1.3%	0.3%
Slightly below average	5.3%	4.7%	5.0%	5.8%	3.4%
Average	38.0%	40.7%	35.2%	36.4%	29.4%
Slightly above average	31.2%	32.6%	31.9%	32.3%	37.0%
Considerably above average (top 20%)	21.5%	19.5%	23.9%	19.9%	27.4%
Extremely high (top 5%)	3.1%	2.0%	3.2%	4.1%	2.4%
<b>Timing of decision to attend chosen college/university</b>					
Decision made few days before	4.2%	4.4%	4.2%	4.4%	1.8%
Decision made weeks before	18.3%	19.9%	18.8%	17.7%	12.1%
Decision made many months before	77.4%	75.6%	76.6%	76.7%	86.0%

**About the statistical processes**

Due to the large sample sizes, virtually all differences in the means shown in this report proved to be statistically significant based on either a t-test or ANOVA analysis.