



2011 ENTERING FRESHMEN SURVEY PROFILE

*UNDERSTANDING THE 2011 CLASS OF
MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN*

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January 23, 2012

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2011 THE FRESMEN SURVEY (TFS)

Introduction

The Freshman Survey (TFS) is sponsored by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) of the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. Mount Vernon Nazarene University administered the self-reported survey to all MVNU entering freshmen who participated in Cougar Institute on August 29, 2011. The following data summary highlights similarities and differences in MVNU freshmen’s responses (129 men and 228 women) by gender and by the national comparison group of other religious, 4-year private colleges (1,956 men and 2,764 women).

Demographics

MVNU freshmen indicated similar answers as the 2009 entering freshmen.

- The *average age* for MVNU men and women were age 18 and 19 (96%), as with the comparison group (COMP). The *gender imbalance* trend continues at MVNU with 64% women and 36% men in attendance. In 2009, there were 65% women and 35% men.
- Of the freshman class, 97% of students *just graduated* from high school.
- MVNU, in comparison with men and women at other religious colleges, had a much less *diverse freshman class* (96% were white/caucasian compared to 59%).

Race/Ethnicity - mark all that apply (total may add to more than 100%)	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
American Indian/Alaska Native	3.2%	4.5%	3.2%	4.7%	3.1%	4.4%
Asian American/Asian	1.1%	3.6%	0.8%	3.6%	1.3%	3.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	1.0%
African American/Black	4.0%	34.7%	3.2%	31.7%	4.5%	37.0%
Mexican American/Chicano	0.6%	2.7%	1.6%	3.0%	0.0%	2.5%
Puerto Rican	0.6%	1.9%	0.8%	1.6%	0.4%	2.1%
Other Latino	0.9%	4.0%	0.0%	4.1%	1.3%	3.9%
White/Caucasian	96.3%	59.2%	96.0%	61.1%	96.4%	57.7%
Other	2.0%	3.6%	0.8%	3.0%	3.0%	4.0%

Race/Ethnicity Group (with multiple race category)	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
American Indian	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%
Asian	0.6%	2.7%	0.0%	2.9%	0.9%	2.5%
Black	2.6%	28.6%	2.4%	26.2%	2.7%	30.4%
Hispanic	0.6%	4.6%	1.6%	4.8%	0.0%	4.4%
White	89.4%	51.6%	90.5%	54.4%	88.8%	49.4%
Other	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	1.1%
Two or more races/ethnicities	6.9%	11.0%	5.6%	10.0%	7.6%	11.8%

- A higher percentage of MVNU freshmen attended a “mostly white” high school (71% compared to 41%) and lived in a “mostly white” neighborhood (61% compared to 41%) than other religious college entering freshmen.
- Over 10% of MVNU freshmen live 10 miles or less from campus.

How many miles is this college from your home?

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
5 or less	4.8%	5.8%	4.7%	6.0%	4.9%	5.6%
6 to 10	5.6%	6.6%	4.7%	5.6%	6.2%	7.4%
11 to 50	26.3%	21.1%	30.5%	22.4%	23.9%	20.1%
51 to 100	26.3%	16.7%	25.0%	18.0%	27.0%	15.7%
101 to 500	33.3%	27.3%	32.0%	28.5%	34.1%	26.4%
Over 500	3.7%	22.5%	3.1%	19.6%	4.0%	24.7%
Total (n)	354	4,684	128	1,960	226	2,724

- Over 90% of freshmen live on campus, while 83% of the comparison group’s freshmen live on campus.
- MVNU freshmen reported a slightly different *religious preference* than the 2009 freshmen. In 2009, 66% reported “Other Christian” as the highest preference, “Baptist” followed with 9%, then “Church of Christ” with 7%. Prior to attending MVNU, fewer attended religious service frequently (87%) than the 2009 cohort (92%).

Current Religious Preference

	MVNU	COMP
Baptist	12.8%	28.5%
Church of Christ	5.0%	5.8%
Methodist	6.4%	6.3%
Presbyterian	2.6%	3.0%
Other Christian	61.2%	17.1%
Other Religion	5.5%	2.5%
None	2.9%	10.0%

Church Attendance the Past Year

	Total		MVNU Men	MVNU Women
	MVNU	COMP		
Frequently	87.2%	55.1%	85.8%	87.9%
Occasionally	11.1%	33.1%	12.6%	10.3%
Not at all	1.7%	11.8%	1.6%	1.8%

High School Academic Background and Aspirations

MVNU freshmen reported similar experiences as past freshmen cohorts.

- A higher percentage of MVNU freshmen attended a *public school* than other religious college freshmen (76% vs. 71%). Almost 16% of MVNU college freshmen attended a *private religious school*, while 7% were *homeschooled* compared to other religious college freshmen (16% and 2%).
- Almost 50% of freshmen had an *average grade* of A to A- in high school (2009 freshmen 44%), while 38% maintained a B average.
- Of the 47% of high schoolers who took *AP courses*, five percent had taken a course for credit at MVNU, while 14% had taken a college course for credit elsewhere since leaving high school.
- The *average ACT* composite score reported by freshmen was 24 (it was actually 23.1).

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
SAT Critical Reading Mean	521	507	450	507	575	508
SAT Mathematics Mean	548	515	535	526	555	506
SAT Writing Mean	536	496	483	486	575	504
ACT Composite Mean	24	22	24	22	24	22

- More than 16% of MVNU freshmen are *first generation college students*.
- While 34% of freshmen reported they plan to graduate with only a bachelor's degree, only 82% of them *plan to finish at MVNU*.

Highest Academic Degree Planned

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
None	2.3%	1.7%	0.9%	2.2%	3.1%	1.3%
Vocational certificate	0.7%	0.3%	1.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Associate (A.A. or equivalent)	1.0%	0.9%	0.0%	1.1%	1.6%	0.8%
Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)	34.1%	22.4%	31.5%	24.1%	35.6%	21.1%
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)	43.4%	37.8%	47.7%	39.0%	40.8%	36.9%
Ph.D. or Ed.D.	9.9%	22.5%	6.3%	19.1%	12.0%	25.0%
M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.	4.3%	7.9%	3.6%	7.1%	4.7%	8.4%
J.D. (Law)	1.0%	3.3%	2.7%	3.1%	0.0%	3.4%
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	1.3%	1.0%	2.7%	1.7%	0.5%	0.6%
Other	2.0%	2.3%	2.7%	2.2%	1.6%	2.4%
Total (n)	302	4,126	111	1,686	191	2,440

Highest Academic Degree Planned at MVNU

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
None	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	2.0%
Vocational certificate	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%
Associate (A.A. or equivalent)	2.1%	3.5%	2.3%	4.1%	2.1%	3.1%
Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)	82.4%	70.5%	76.1%	67.2%	86.2%	72.8%
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)	14.2%	17.1%	20.5%	20.0%	10.3%	15.0%
Ph.D. or Ed.D.	0.9%	3.4%	0.0%	2.6%	1.4%	3.9%
M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%
J.D. (Law)	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	0.4%	0.4%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Other	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	1.5%
Total (n)	233	3,163	88	1,303	145	1,860

- HERI reports that 13% of students thought they might switch majors, when 35% actually did. The *top majors* of MVNU freshmen are:

Reported Major	MVNU	COMP
Education	19.8%	10.7%
Health Professional	15.9%	19.0%
Business	12.3%	15.0%
Social Science	11.4%	10.5%
Humanities	10.8%	3.5%

- Almost 25% of freshmen reported there is a very good chance they will participate in a *study abroad program*, 19% in 2009.

Activities During the Last Year

- Students reported they spent about the same amount of time in a typical week during the last year of high school on *activities* as other 4-year religious colleges. For example,

95% of MVNU freshmen spent up to 10 hours doing volunteer work, compared to 93% of the comparison group.

Activity	<1 Hour	1-5 Hours	6-10 Hours	>10 Hours
Studying/Homework	13	56	18	13
Socializing w/Friends	3	27	30	40
Exercise/Sports	17	31	17	35
Partying	84	14	1	1
Work	41	13	12	34
Volunteer	39	50	6	5
Student Clubs	47	40	7	6
Watching TV	20	51	20	9
Household/Childcare	34	54	8	4
Pleasure Reading	51	36	7	6
Video/Computer Games	68	23	5	4
Online Social Networks	19	56	13	12

- MVNU women spent more time than men *socializing with friends*. Sixty-three percent of women spent 6-10 hours a week socializing while 55% of MVNU men spent that same amount of time. A greater percentage of men (91%) spent more time *studying* than women (83%). Women also spent more time on *exercise* or sports than men (68% vs. 64% up to 10 hours a week). A greater percentage (68%) of women spent 6-10 hours a week *working* compared to MVNU men (61%). Women also spent more time *volunteering* and *participating in student clubs*, but less time watching *television* and doing *household/childcare duties*.
- Forty-three percent of MVNU men spent no time in a typical week *reading for pleasure*, compared to 23% of women. In contrast, 86% of MVNU women spent less than one hour *playing video/computer games* compared to MVNU men (35%).

Importance of Decision to come to MVNU

Over 78% of MVNU freshmen reported *MVNU was their first choice*. Over half of the 2011 freshmen reported the major reasons for choosing MVNU as very important were:

- Get a better job (78%)

- Gain general education (62%)
- Ability to make more money (55%)
- Learn about things of interest (76%)
- Training for a specific career (87%)
- College has good academic reputation (55%)
- Financial assistance offered (60%)
- Religious affiliation of college (76%)
- Size of college (63%)
- Visit to campus (52%)

The least likely reason freshmen reported coming to MVNU:

- Parents, relatives, and teachers influence (17%, 6%, and 2% respectively)
- Advised by high school or college counselor (4% and 5%)
- Could not afford first choice (6%)
- Ranking in national magazines and website information (3% and 13%)
- Ability to take online courses (2%)

Prior College Credit

- Prior to enrolling at MVNU, sixteen freshmen took an MVNU *course for credit* (5%). This is an increase of almost one percent from the 2009 entering freshmen.
- Over 14% of MVNU freshmen have taken a *course for credit at other universities* prior to enrolling at MVNU. This has increased from eight percent in 2009. Over 46% took AP courses during high school, and 39% took AP exams during high school.

- Thirty percent of the students reported applying at MVNU only, 98% were accepted by first choice.

Financial Resources

MVNU freshmen reported a similar percentage of financial resources will come from personal resources compared to other religious institutions. It was reported that the *first year's educational expenses* (room, board, tuition, and fees) will be covered by:

Family and Personal Resources

Family Resources (parents, family, spouse)	Total	
	MVNU	COMP
None	27.5%	24.9%
Less than \$1,000	9.8%	13.1%
\$1,000 - \$2,999	16.2%	16.5%
\$3,000 - \$5,999	14.8%	13.1%
\$6,000 - \$9,999	13.4%	11.3%
\$10,000 +	18.2%	21.1%

Financial Aid

Aid which need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.)	Total	
	MVNU	COMP
None	17.1%	18.0%
Less than \$1,000	3.6%	4.0%
\$1,000 - \$2,999	10.4%	8.8%
\$3,000 - \$5,999	12.6%	14.3%
\$6,000 - \$9,999	17.4%	14.3%
\$10,000 +	38.9%	40.6%

Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)	Total	
	MVNU	COMP
None	28.0%	35.7%
Less than \$1,000	4.2%	4.8%
\$1,000 - \$2,999	9.2%	11.7%
\$3,000 - \$5,999	23.5%	18.2%
\$6,000 - \$9,999	20.7%	13.5%
\$10,000 +	14.3%	16.1%

Almost 25% of the freshman cohort indicated there may be “some chance” they may need extra time to *complete degree requirements*.

Academic Habits and Self-Concept

MVNU and other religious college freshmen exhibit similar academic success traits. Women rated themselves lower than MVNU men and the comparison group for the average

person their age. More than 24% of entering freshmen (19% men and 28% women) indicated they feel they will need *special tutoring* in mathematics, 33% of the comparison groups feels tutoring will be necessary. The second area that students believed tutoring might be necessary is science; 12% indicated necessary tutoring while 20% of students at other 4-year religious colleges believed it necessary.

Academic Self-Concept

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
Academic Ability						
Highest 10%	12.9%	12.3%	16.8%	12.5%	10.8%	12.2%
Above average	47.1%	46.5%	44.0%	47.5%	48.9%	45.8%
Average	37.6%	39.5%	38.4%	38.3%	37.2%	40.4%
Artistic Ability						
Highest 10%	5.7%	6.6%	4.8%	7.4%	6.3%	6.1%
Above average	21.5%	19.9%	26.2%	18.6%	18.8%	20.9%
Average	26.9%	34.9%	23.8%	33.8%	28.7%	35.7%
Competitiveness						
Highest 10%	20.7%	26.2%	29.4%	40.4%	15.8%	15.6%
Above average	29.6%	31.9%	38.1%	34.0%	24.8%	30.4%
Average	32.5%	31.1%	25.4%	19.7%	36.5%	39.7%
Computer Skills						
Highest 10%	5.7%	8.2%	11.1%	10.4%	2.7%	6.6%
Above average	24.1%	30.3%	29.4%	33.6%	21.2%	27.7%
Average	55.7%	50.2%	42.9%	45.1%	63.1%	54.0%
Creativity						
Highest 10%	16.7%	17.7%	23.8%	18.0%	12.6%	17.5%
Above average	36.8%	35.1%	36.5%	36.1%	36.9%	34.4%
Average	37.1%	36.5%	31.0%	36.0%	40.5%	36.9%
Drive to Achieve						
Highest 10%	28.4%	35.6%	27.8%	35.5%	28.7%	35.6%
Above average	47.3%	39.4%	43.7%	39.6%	49.3%	39.2%
Average	21.8%	22.7%	24.6%	21.9%	20.2%	23.3%
Mathematical Ability						
Highest 10%	8.3%	10.0%	8.7%	12.8%	8.1%	8.0%
Above average	22.3%	24.8%	29.4%	28.5%	18.4%	22.0%
Average	40.7%	38.4%	41.3%	36.5%	40.4%	39.8%
Writing Ability						
Highest 10%	9.2%	11.9%	10.4%	11.2%	8.5%	12.4%
Above average	35.9%	28.4%	34.4%	26.0%	36.8%	30.2%
Average	40.8%	43.9%	34.4%	44.2%	44.4%	43.6%

Habits of Mind

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
Support your opinions with a logical argument						
Frequently	46.7%	47.5%	55.6%	48.3%	41.7%	46.8%
Occasionally	48.4%	46.4%	42.9%	46.3%	51.6%	46.4%
Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others						
Frequently	49.1%	43.3%	52.4%	39.3%	47.3%	46.4%
Occasionally	46.6%	51.6%	46.0%	55.0%	46.9%	49.0%

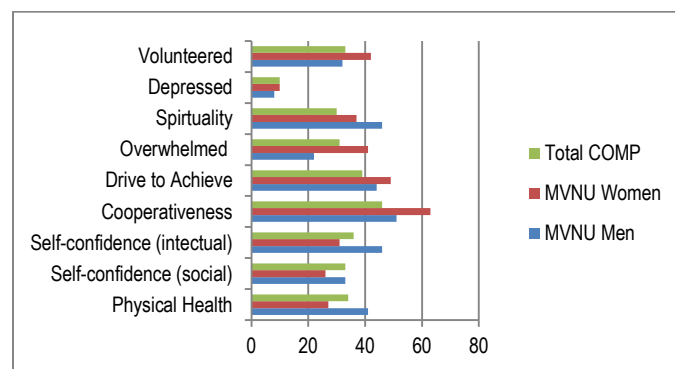
Revise your papers to improve your writing						
Frequently	53.3%	46.2%	38.9%	34.7%	61.4%	54.9%
Occasionally	40.7%	46.5%	52.4%	55.9%	34.1%	39.5%
Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received						
Frequently	35.1%	34.9%	40.0%	32.0%	32.3%	37.1%
Occasionally	59.2%	59.4%	54.4%	61.9%	61.9%	57.5%
Take a risk because you feel you have more to gain						
Frequently	34.9%	38.5%	45.2%	41.1%	29.0%	36.5%
Occasionally	58.6%	53.9%	50.0%	52.0%	63.4%	55.3%
Seek alternative solutions to a problem						
Frequently	40.8%	42.4%	49.2%	41.8%	36.0%	42.8%
Occasionally	57.2%	54.1%	48.4%	54.5%	62.2%	53.7%
Look up scientific research articles and resources						
Frequently	17.8%	19.8%	20.6%	19.4%	16.1%	20.2%
Occasionally	49.9%	53.7%	56.3%	55.0%	46.2%	52.7%
Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class						
Frequently	24.6%	26.9%	27.8%	27.5%	22.9%	26.5%
Occasionally	53.0%	51.7%	54.0%	50.6%	52.5%	52.5%
Accept mistakes as part of the learning process						
Frequently	50.1%	51.5%	50.0%	47.2%	50.2%	54.8%
Occasionally	46.7%	45.3%	46.8%	49.3%	46.6%	42.3%
Seek feedback on your academic work						
Frequently	44.8%	48.0%	37.6%	39.7%	48.9%	54.2%
Occasionally	48.6%	46.9%	54.4%	53.6%	45.3%	41.9%
Take notes during class						
Frequently	68.2%	71.7%	52.0%	58.2%	77.4%	81.8%
Occasionally	28.3%	25.7%	41.6%	36.9%	20.8%	17.3%
Work with other students on group projects						
Frequently	50.0%	49.5%	47.6%	43.5%	51.4%	54.0%
Occasionally	46.3%	46.9%	52.4%	52.2%	42.8%	43.0%
Integrate skills and knowledge from different sources and experiences						
Frequently	45.2%	46.8%	52.0%	42.7%	41.4%	49.8%
Occasionally	51.9%	50.6%	46.4%	53.8%	55.0%	48.2%

During the past year, MVNU freshmen reported frequently/occasionally participating in the following academic activities similar to other religious colleges.

Activity	MVNU	COMP
Tutored another student	52%	50%
Studied with other students	83%	87%
Used Internet for homework	99%	99%
Failed to complete homework on time	52%	55%
Participated in group projects	96%	96%

Self-Reported Skills and Abilities Compared with the Average Person Their Age

MVNU women continue to rate themselves lower than men and other religious colleges in *personal skills and abilities*. During the past year, the students rated themselves as “frequently” or “above average”:



Campus Involvement

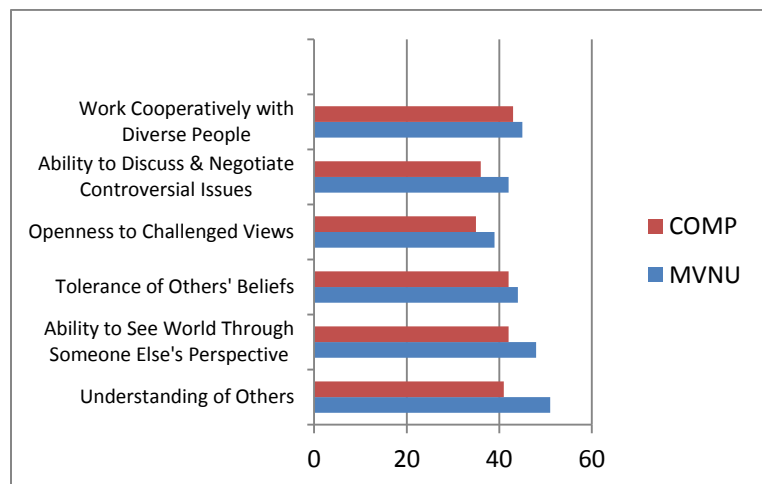
In comparison to other religious colleges, MVNU freshmen indicated that there is a very good chance they would get involved in *college activities*.

- Twelve percent of first-time freshmen indicated a very good chance of student government involvement compared to nine percent of the comparison group.
- Although there is a very good chance students will participate in intramural sports, MVNU women are much lower than men (31% vs. 52%).
- A less positive reflection is the number of MVNU students who will participate in intercollegiate athletics compared to other institutions (19% vs. 29%).

- More women plan to participate in volunteer work than men (56% vs. 33%) and more than the total comparison group (48% vs. 39%).
- Women plan to participate in student clubs more than MVNU men (56% vs. 29%).

Pluralistic View

Students were asked to rate themselves on *personal traits of skills and dispositions* appropriate to live and work in a diverse society. Overall, first-time freshmen rated themselves lower than other institutions in the “highest 10%” category, but higher in the “above average” category. MVNU women consistently rated themselves lower than men. The chart below identifies “above average” percentages of MVNU and the comparison group for personal traits.



Political and Social Involvement

Students self-reported the importance of political and social involvement in society is essential or very important.

- Women did not feel it was as essential as men to influence the *political structure* (3% vs. 7%).

- Almost 16% of MVNU women believed it is essential to influence *social values* compared to 13% of men. Sixteen percent of other religious college students thought it essential.
- Almost 50% of women thought it essential to *help others in difficulty* compared to 33% of men. Overall, 44% of MVNU freshmen believed it essential to help others compared to 36% of students from other colleges.
- Few MVNU students indicated it is essential to participate in *community action programs* and become a community leader. Notably, only 9% of women thought it essential to become a community leader compared to 18% of men.
- More MVNU men than women thought it essential to *promote racial understanding*, but still lagged behind other institutions.
- All students reported similar guesses that they may *socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group*.

Conclusion

The Freshman Survey provided a great deal of self-reported data about the 2011 cohort. Individual survey questions were grouped into construct themes. When compared with other religious, 4-year institutions, MVNU’s freshmen rated themselves about the same globally. Overall, 64% of the 2011 entering freshman cohort self-reported there is a very good chance they will be satisfied with MVNU.

- **Habits of Mind**—*unified measure of behaviors and traits associated with academic success*. Sixty-three percent reported having high to average habits when asked:

How often in the past year did you:	
*Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others	*Ask questions in class
*Support your opinions with a logical argument	*Look up scientific research articles and resources

*Seek alternative solutions to a problem	*Revise your papers to improve your writing
*Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received	*Take a risk because you feel you have more to gain
*Explore topics on your own, even though it is not required for class	*Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
*Seek feedback on your academic work	

- **Academic Self-Concept**—*unified measure of students’ beliefs about their abilities and confidence in academic environments.* Fifty-eight percent of students’ rated themselves average to high, as did the comparison group.

Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age:
*Academic ability
*Mathematical ability
*Self-confidence - intellectual
*Drive to achieve

- **Social Self-Concept**—*unified measure of students’ beliefs about their abilities and confidence in social situations.* MVNU freshmen rated themselves lower than other religious institutions (64% to 68% average to high). Men were much higher (81% vs. 76% COMP), but women were much lower (56% vs. 63%). Survey items were:

Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age:
*Self-confidence – social
*Leadership ability
*Popularity
*Public speaking ability

- **Pluralistic Orientation**—*measures skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.* While MVNU men rated much higher than women (76% vs. 54%), MVNU freshmen rated themselves similar to the comparison group as average/high (62% vs. 64%).
- **Social Agency**—*measures the extent to which students’ value political and social involvement as a personal goal.* MVNU and students at other religious institutions rated themselves similar as being average/high in this construct (73% vs. 72%).
- **College Reputation Orientation**—*measures the degree to which students’ value academic reputation and future career potential as a reason for choosing MVNU.*

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
High College Reputation Orientation	13.0%	23.6%	8.1%	17.5%	15.8%	28.3%
Average College Reputation Orientation	44.2%	39.4%	41.1%	38.1%	45.9%	40.4%
Low College Reputation Orientation	42.8%	36.9%	50.8%	44.4%	38.3%	31.3%

- **Likelihood of College Involvement**—*is a unified measure of students’ expectations about their involvement in college life generally.* MVNU freshmen rated themselves higher than the comparison group in most categories.

	Total		Men		Women	
	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP	MVNU	COMP
High Likelihood of College Involvement	32.7%	23.8%	20.0%	14.6%	39.6%	30.6%
Average Likelihood of College Involvement	41.2%	40.9%	38.3%	39.1%	42.8%	42.3%
Low Likelihood of College Involvement	26.0%	35.3%	41.7%	46.4%	17.6%	27.1%

Final Comments

HERI (http://heri.ucla.edu/PDFs/Infographics/YFCY_infographic.pdf) provided some interesting facts about first-year students at *all* institutions.

- About 25% of first-year students leave college before their sophomore year.
- 13% of students thought they might switch majors; 35% actually did.
- 65% of students thought they would probably socialize with someone from another racial/ethnic group; 95% actually did.
- 27% of students felt the admissions or recruitment materials did not accurately portray campus.
- Only 57% were satisfied with the relevance of coursework to everyday life.
- 40% more students, upon entering college, sought personal counseling than they anticipated.

- 36% of students had difficulty adjusting to the demands of coursework.
- 39% of students had a hard time developing effective study skills.
- 48% of students struggled with time management.
- 80% felt a sense of belonging to campus.
- 61% felt lonely or homesick.
- 51% of students felt overwhelmed with all they had to do.
- 45% of students worried about their health.
- 42% of students discussed course content with other students outside of class.

This summary is a personal reflection of how first-time freshmen view themselves. Some notable highlights of the MVNU freshman class are:

- Students continue to come from “mostly white” high schools and “mostly white” neighborhoods.
- Although five percent of high school students took courses at MVNU for credit, 14% of students took courses for credit at other universities.
- Eighty-two percent of freshmen plan to finish a bachelor’s degree at MVNU.
- Overall, women continue to rate themselves lower than men on academic self-concept and habits of mind.
- Women rated themselves higher in their drive to achieve, note taking, revising papers more often, and plan to seek feedback from professors.
- Men plan to participate in intramural sports more than women; women plan to be more involved in student clubs and volunteer work.

In Dr. Martin’s University Plan (Martin, 2010), he charges us to establish a robust and dynamic living and learning environment so the MVNU’s vision “to change the world with the

love of Christ” will be fulfilled. Hopefully, this tool will help MVNU faculty, staff and administrators better understand our 2011 freshmen’s needs and abilities and how we can help them succeed. This same group of students will be surveyed when they are seniors to identify whether their MVNU experience was what they hoped it to be.