Binghamton University

CIRP (Cooperative Institutional Research Institution) Freshman Survey 2013
An Analysis of Students’ Perceptions of Strengths and Weaknesses

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HIGHLIGHTS:

*Perceptions of knowledge and skills:*

In this section, students were asked to respond to the questions regarding their perceptions of strengths and weaknesses in selected areas of knowledge and skills using a 5 point Likert scale: 5 = a major strength, 4 = somewhat strong, 3 average, 2 = somewhat weak, 1 = a major weakness.

- According to the findings, **female students** are less likely to believe in their strengths than their male counterparts in the following areas: general knowledge, knowledge of a particular field/discipline, understanding of national and global issues, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and leadership skills.
- According to the findings, **students from low income background** are less likely to believe in their strengths than other students in the following areas: general knowledge, understanding of the problems facing their communities, understanding of national and global issues, leadership abilities, abilities to manage time effectively, and interpersonal skills.
- According to the findings, **students providing no data on their parental income** are more likely to believe in their strengths than other students in the following areas: general knowledge, knowledge of a particular field/discipline, knowledge of people from different races/cultures, understanding of the problems facing their communities, understanding of national and global issues, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, leadership skills, ability to manage time effectively, and interpersonal skills.
- According to the findings, **students with average high school grade of B+** are less likely to believe in their strengths than other students in the following areas: general knowledge, understanding of national issues, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, leadership skills, interpersonal skills, and ability to manage time effectively.
- According to the findings, **students with average high school grade of B-** are more likely to believe in their strengths than other students in the following areas: knowledge of people from different races/cultures, understanding of the problems facing their communities, understanding of national and global issues, problem solving skills, ability to get along with people of different races/cultures, and foreign language ability.

*Diversity:*

In this section, students were asked to respond to the questions regarding their perceptions of strengths and weaknesses in selected areas relevant to diversity. Using a 5 point Likert scale: 5 = a major strength, 4 = somewhat strong, 3 average, 2 = somewhat weak, 1 = a major weakness.
According to the findings, **students providing no data on their parental income** are more likely to believe in their strengths than other students in the following areas: ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective; tolerance of others with different beliefs; openness to having my own views challenged; ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues; and ability to work cooperatively with diverse people.

According to the findings, **students with average high school grade of B** are more likely to believe in their strengths than other students in the following areas: ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective; openness to having my own views challenged; and ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues.
**Knowledge and Skills:**

*How strong or weak you believe you are in each of the following areas:* (Female = 612, Male = 664)
By Parental Income: (High = 769, Medium = 239, Low = 105, No Data = 163)

- General knowledge
- Knowledge of people from different races/cultures
- Knowledge of a particular field or discipline
- Understanding of the problems facing your community
Understanding of national issues

Critical thinking skills

Understanding of global issues

Problem-solving skills
Characteristics of the students who did not provide parental income data:

- 73% of these students are enrolled in Harpur College of Arts and Science (overall 68%)
- 54% of these students are male (overall 52%)
- 83% of these students are from New York (overall 88%)
- 71% of these students are White-non Hispanic (overall 66%)
- 76% of these students’ average grade in high school was ‘A-’, ‘A’ or ‘A+’ (overall 84%)
- 50% of these students applied to seven or more schools (overall 52%)
- 59% of these students were accepted by their first choice college (overall 64%)
- 46% of these students’ first choice college was Binghamton University (overall 43%)
- 71% of these students reported that the current economic situation significantly affected their college choice (overall 87%)
By Average High School Grade: (A or A+ = 687, A- = 370, B+ = 145, B = 46, B- = 14)

By General knowledge:

- B-: 3.98
- B: 3.95
- B+: 4.02
- A-: 4.00
- A or A+: 4.11

By Knowledge of people from different races/cultures:

- B-: 3.60
- B: 3.58
- B+: 3.41
- A-: 3.42
- A or A+: 4.00

By Knowledge of a particular field or discipline:

- B-: 3.64
- B: 3.33
- B+: 3.45
- A-: 3.39
- A or A+: 3.99

By Understanding of the problems facing your community:

- B-: 3.71
- B: 3.91
- B+: 3.82
- A-: 3.86
- A or A+: 3.99
Understanding of national issues

3.71 3.40 3.29 3.39 3.38

Understanding of global issues

3.43 3.23 3.25 3.28 3.25

Critical thinking skills

3.93 3.86 3.74 3.87 3.94

Problem-solving skills

4.14 3.91 3.77 3.89 4.02
Leadership abilities

Ability to manage your time effectively

Ability to get along with people of different races/cultures

Foreign language ability
Diversity:

Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age: (Female = 612, Male = 664)
By Parental Income: (High = 769, Medium = 239, Low = 105, No Data = 163)

- **Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective**
  - High: 4.18, Medium: 4.07, Low: 4.03, No Data: 3.95

- **Openness to having my own views challenged**
  - High: 3.97, Medium: 3.79, Low: 3.81, No Data: 3.65

- **Tolerance of others with different beliefs**
  - High: 4.47, Medium: 4.33, Low: 4.43, No Data: 4.20

- **Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues**
  - High: 4.13, Medium: 4.06, Low: 4.09, No Data: 4.02
Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people

- No Data: 4.45
- Parental Income High: 4.40
- Parental Income Medium: 4.40
- Parental Income Low: 4.39
By Average High School Grade: (A or A+ = 687, A- = 370, B+ = 145, B = 46, B- = 14)
Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people