

**MOUNT  VERNON**  
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**2007 CIRP ENTERING FRESHMEN SURVEY PROFILE**

***UNDERSTANDING THE 2007 CLASS OF  
MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN***

**DATA SUMMARY  
MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN BY GENDER AND  
IN COMPARISON WITH ENTERING FRESHMEN AT  
OTHER RELIGIOUS, 4-YEAR, PRIVATE COLLEGES**

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### ***UNDERSTANDING THE 2007 CLASS OF MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN***

#### **DATA SUMMARY OF MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN BY GENDER AND IN COMPARISON WITH ENTERING FRESHMEN AT OTHER RELIGIOUS, 4-YEAR, PRIVATE COLLEGES**

##### **Introduction**

The *CIRP Entering Freshmen Survey* is sponsored by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) of the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. The survey was administered to all MVNU entering freshmen that participated in freshmen training day on September 4, 2007. The following data summary highlights similarities and differences in MVNU freshmen's responses (141 men and 203 women) by gender and by the national comparison group of other religious, 4-year private colleges (2,363 men and 3,209 women).

##### **Demographics of Entering Freshmen**

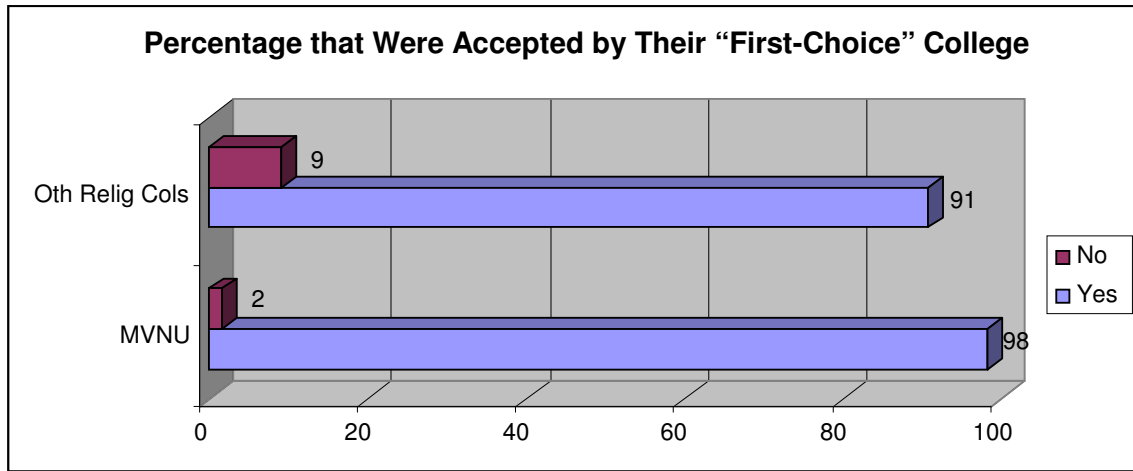
- Older MVNU males  
A larger percentage of MVNU males than MVNU females (by 13%) were 19-20 years of age. This older age difference between MVNU men and other religious college men and women held true as well (by 12% and 19%, respectively).
- Less diverse race/ethnicity  
MVNU had 10% more white/Caucasian men and women than other religious colleges.
- More "Born-Again Christians"  
In comparison with other religious colleges, MVNU had 1/3 more men and 1/4 more women who claimed to be born-again Christians (i.e., approximately 90% of all MVNU freshmen vs. 60% of other religious college freshmen, respectively).
- More Evangelicals  
Approximately half of MVNU men and women identified themselves as evangelicals, while less than 1/3 of freshmen at other religious colleges did so.
- Parents Formal Education
  - While approximately 60% of the fathers of MVNU students had at least some college, a higher percentage of female than male students' fathers had a college degree (51% vs. 44%).
  - Slightly higher percentages of MVNU females than males had mothers with some college (66% vs. 60%, respectively) and with a college degree (46% vs. 38%, respectively).
- High School Educational Background

- Similar percentages of MVNU as other religious college students attended public high schools (80%), private religious schools (12%), and home school (5% and 3%, respectively).
- Smaller percentage of MVNU than other religious college freshmen had taken 1 to 4 AP exams (by almost 10%).
- Diversity of Background
 

In comparison with other religious college students, a higher percentage of MVNU entering freshmen attended “mostly white” high schools and grew up in “mostly white” neighborhoods (61% vs. 53%).
- Special Tutoring or Remedial Work
  - Similar percentages of MVNU men and women as other religious college men and women reported having had special tutoring or remedial work in various subjects
  - Similar percentages of MVNU men and women as other religious college men and women identified the following subjects as ones they might need special tutoring or remedial work: Reading (4%), English (5%), and Mathematics (20%).
  - A higher percentage of MVNU women (11%) than men (4%) named Science as one in which they might need special tutoring or remedial work.
  - A lower percentage of MVNU students (5%) than other religious college students (10%) named Writing as one in which they might need special tutoring or remedial work.
- College Choice
  - 86% of MVNU women and 80% of its men claimed MVNU was their first college choice.
  - In contrast, only 73% of the women and 65% of the men at other religious colleges reported their college to be their *first choice*.
  - Fewer MVNU than other religious college men (3% vs 11%, respectively) reported their college was their third or lower choice.
- Number of Colleges to which Applied

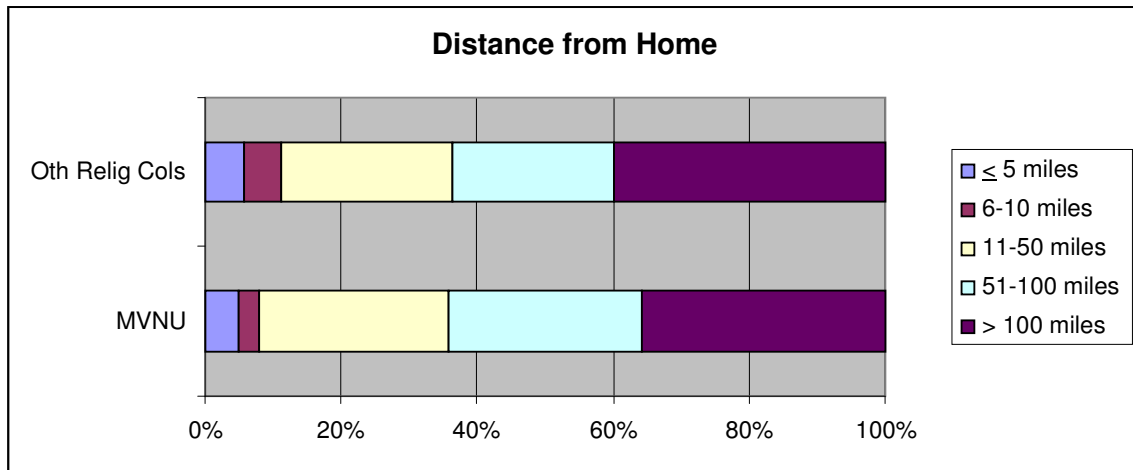
To how many colleges other than this one did you apply for admission this year?	# Resp 344	MVNU			Oth Rel 4yr Coll-Med		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
None		40	35	37	20	22	21
One		14	24	20	12	17	15
Two		16	13	14	16	17	17
Three		17	13	15	19	17	18
Four		6	9	8	15	12	13
Five		2	4	4	8	6	7
Six		1	2	1	4	3	3
Seven to ten		4	0	2	6	4	5
Eleven or more		0	0	0	1	1	1

- Percentage Accepted by Their “First-Choice” College



### Distance from Home

In comparison with entering freshmen from other religious colleges, more MVNU freshmen were from homes between 11 and 100 miles distance from campus.



### Activities during the Past Year

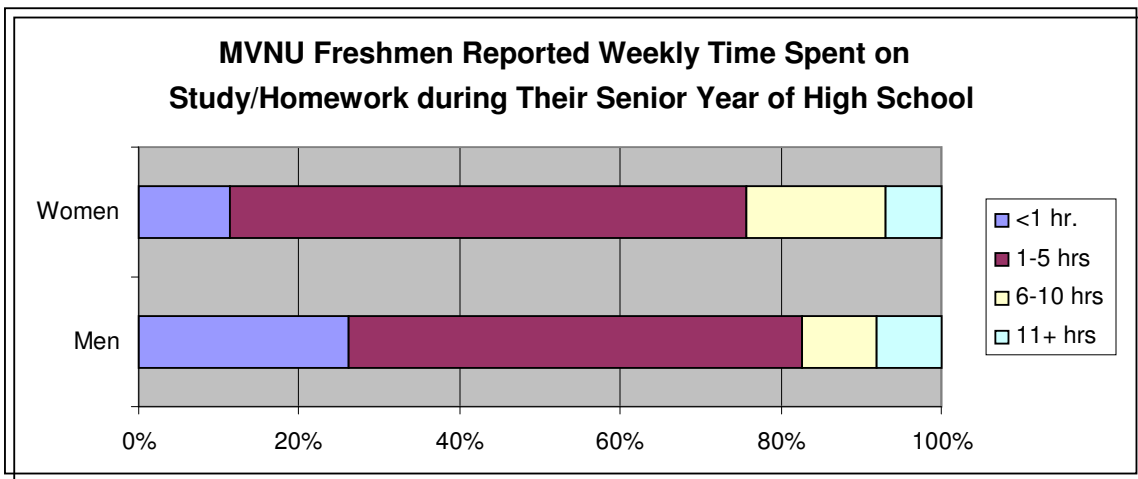
- Similar percentages of MVNU as other religious college respondents
  - Felt depressed (4%)
  - Worked on local, state, or national political campaign (7%)
  - Voted in student election (22%)
  - Discussed politics (25%)
  - Felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (26%)
  - Were guests in a teacher’s home (27%)
  - Were bored in class (37%)
  - Tutored other students (48%)

- Performed community service as part of a class (63%)
- Studied with other students (85%)
- Performed volunteer work (92%)
- Higher percentages of MVNU than other religious college entering freshmen
  - Played a musical instrument (54% vs. 46%)
  - Discussed religion (49% vs. 39%)
  - Attended a religious service (98% vs. 90%)
- Lower percentages of MVNU than other religious college freshmen reported
  - Drank beer (8% vs. 28%; male percentages were 9% vs. 36%)
  - Drank wine or liquor (10% vs. 33%)
- Higher percentages of MVNU men than women
  - Asked a teacher for advice after class (28% vs. 19%)
  - Came late to class (65% vs. 47%)
- Lower percentages of MVNU men than women
  - Used the Internet for homework or research (61% vs. 72%)

**Study & Homework**

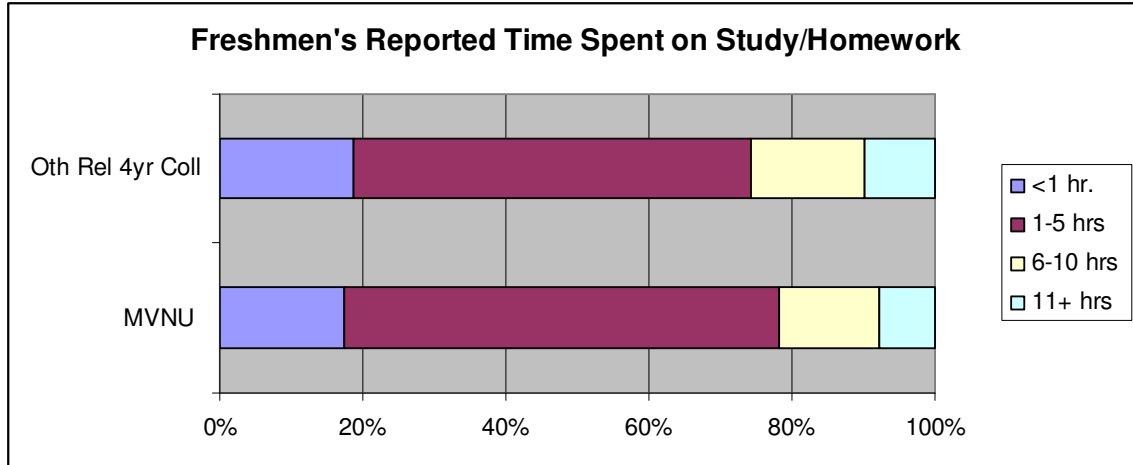
**MVNU Men versus Women**

A higher percentage of MVNU women than men reported spending more time studying and completing homework during their senior year of high school. Over one-fourth of the men had spent less than one hour weekly, which would account for any problems they might have knowing how to study and manage their time in college.



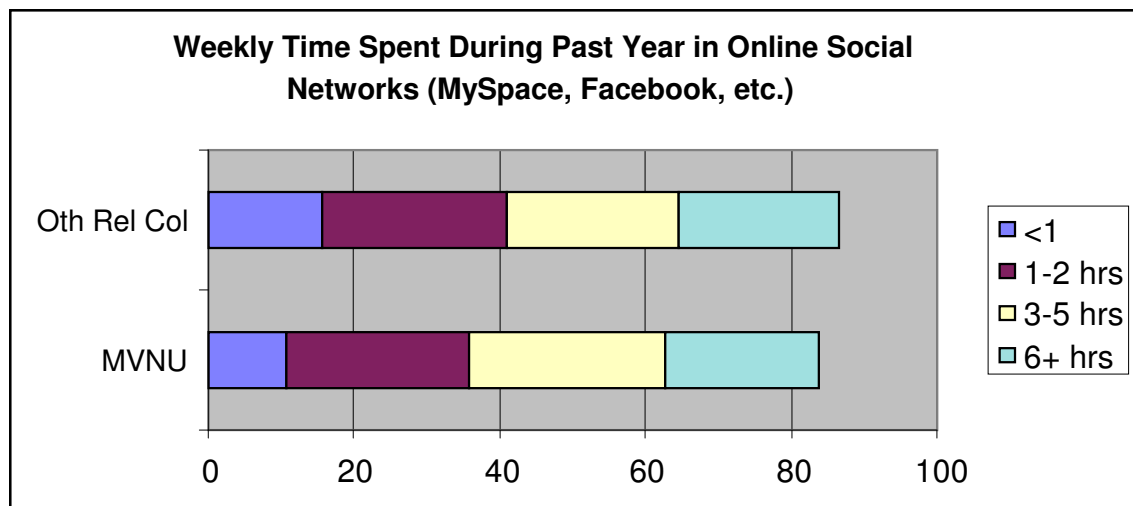
### MVNU versus Other Religious College Students

In comparison with entering freshmen at other religious colleges, slightly fewer MVNU freshmen reported spending between 6-10 hours or at least 11 hours studying or completing homework their senior year of high school.



### Online Activities: Social Networking and Computer/Video Games

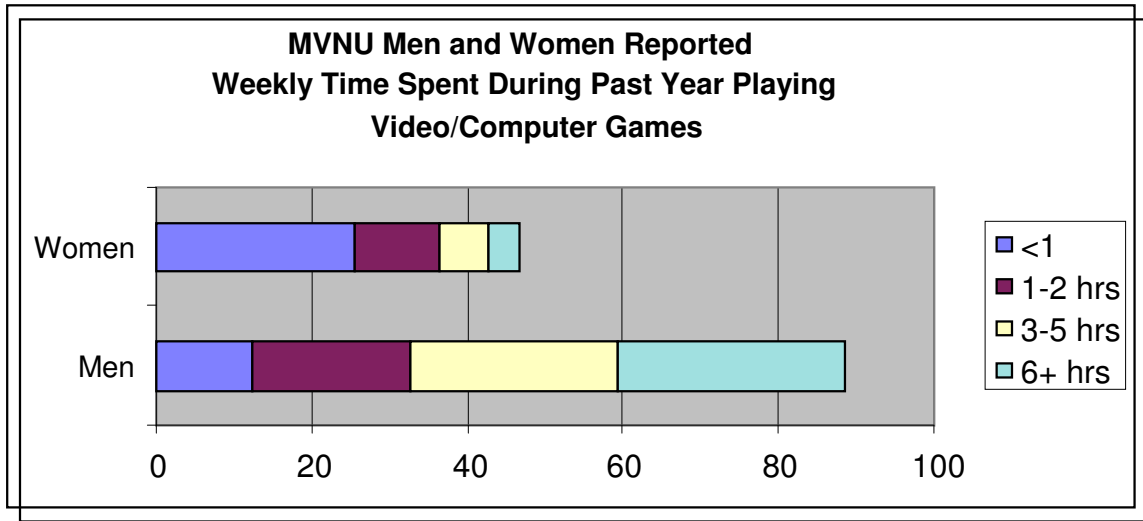
MVNU freshmen and entering freshmen at other religious colleges reported spending similar amounts of time weekly during their senior of high school year in online social networks. A slightly higher percentage of all freshmen from other religious colleges had spent at least some time during their senior year in online social networking.



### Men versus Women

Although the percentages of MVNU men were similar to those of men at other religious colleges and the percentages of MVNU women were comparable to those of women at other religious colleges, the percentages of men and women at both types of institutions

were not similar. Men reported that they spent more time than women weekly playing video and computer games.



**How Entering Freshmen Rated Themselves as Above Average or as Being in the Highest 10% in Comparison with the “Average Person Their Age”**

In comparison with men from other religious 4-year colleges of medium size, a higher percentage of MNUV men (by at least 9-10%) rated themselves highly on *Computer Skills* and *Understanding Others* and a lower percentage on *Physical Health*.

In comparison with MVNU women, a higher percentage of MVNU men (by at least 9-10%) rated themselves highly on *Competitiveness* (by 29%), *Computer Skills* (by 25%), *Creativity*, *Physical Health* (by 19%), and *Social Self-Confidence* and a lower percentage on *Spirituality* (by 11%).

Very similar percentages of MVNU as other religious 4-year college women rated themselves highly on each of the skills and abilities below, with the exception of one factor. A higher percentage of MVNU women than women from other religious colleges (by 13%) evaluated their *Spirituality* as *above average* or *in the highest 10%*.

Skills/Abilities Rated	# Resp.	MVNU			Oth Rel 4yr Coll-Med		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Academic ability	344	61	59	60	62	59	61
Artistic ability	344	30	28	29	26	28	27
Competitiveness	344	69	40	52	74	44	57
Computer skills	344	52	27	37	42	29	34
Cooperativeness	343	75	77	76	70	73	72
Creativity	341	58	49	53	52	54	53
Drive to achieve	342	62	73	69	69	73	71
Emotional health	343	59	53	56	59	45	51
Leadership ability	344	60	59	60	66	55	60
Mathematical ability	342	42	35	38	45	32	37

Skills/Abilities Rated <i>Continued</i>	# Resp.	MVNU			Oth Rel 4yr Coll-Med		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Physical health	342	63	44	52	72	43	55
Public speaking ability	343	36	30	32	39	31	34
Self-confidence (intellectual)	343	62	45	52	66	47	55
Self-confidence (social)	342	51	42	46	57	45	50
Self-understanding	342	54	55	54	58	47	52
Spirituality	343	53	64	59	48	51	50
Understanding of others	342	71	70	70	62	65	64
Writing ability	343	42	42	42	37	43	40

**Percentages of Entering Freshmen that Reported Their Frequent Activities during the Prior Year (Their Senior Year of High School)**

With regard to entering freshmen’s reports about what they *frequently* did in the past year, MVNU and other religious college men responded in similar percentages to all of the factors listed (e.g., *Support your opinions with a logical argument, Seek solutions to problems and explain them to other, and Revise your papers to improve your writing*) with the exception of one. A smaller percentage of MVNU men, in comparison with other religious college men (by almost 10%), had *asked questions in class*.

The percentages of women reporting were very similar for MVNU and other religious college women on each of the factors.

When the percentages of MVNU men and women were compared on the activity factors, there were three on which the percentages varied between the genders by more than 10%. The summary table below helps to show that fewer MVNU men than women had *Revised their papers to improve their writing* (by 21%) and *Sought feedback on their academic work* (by 11%) in the past year. In contrast, more MVNU men than women had *Sought alternative solutions to a problem* (by 11%).

Students reported they "frequently" did The following in the past year:	# Resp.	MVNU		Total
		Men	Women	
Revise your papers to improve your writing	343	38	59	50
Seek feedback on your academic work	342	33	44	39
Seek alternative solutions to a problem	343	44	33	37

**Reasons that Strongly Influenced Entering Freshmen Decision to Attend This Particular College**

Almost eight of every ten MVNU women and six out of every ten MVNU men were influenced to attend MVNU because of its religious affiliation/orientation. Almost two out of every three women were also influenced by MVNU’s very good academic reputation and size (compared to four of every ten MVNU men), and half of the MVNU women were impressed with the financial

assistance offered and that graduates had obtained good jobs. Four out of every ten MVNU men and women were influenced by MVNU’s good reputation for social activities and their visit to campus.

In comparison with what influenced entering freshmen at other religious colleges of medium size, more MVNU respondents were influenced by religious affiliation (by 34%), and fewer by the financial assistance offered. A higher percentage of other religious than MVNU women were influenced to attend due to their campus visit (by 10%).

Influencing student's decision to attend this particular college	# Resp	MVNU			Oth Rel 4yr Coll-medium size		
		M	W	Total	M	W	Total
Attracted by religious affiliation/orientation of college	342	63	78	72	29	44	38
This college has a very good academic reputation	343	43	64	56	46	64	56
I wanted to go to a college about this size	341	43	64	55	40	60	52
I was offered financial assistance	341	49	54	52	59	68	64
This college's graduates get good jobs	336	36	50	44	37	52	46
This college has good reputation for social activities	342	39	45	42	33	42	38
A visit to campus	343	40	42	41	41	52	47

More than one-fourth of the respondents were influenced by the cost of the college, and one fourth of the women by the college’s nearness to their home.

Influencing student's decision to Attend this particular college	# Resp	MVNU			Oth Rel 4yr Colls.		
		M	W	Total	M	W	Total
The cost of attending this college	341	27	30	28	26	33	30
I wanted to live near home	339	19	27	24	15	24	20

A higher percentage of men at other religious colleges than those at MVNU reported being influenced by the athletic department’s recruiting them.

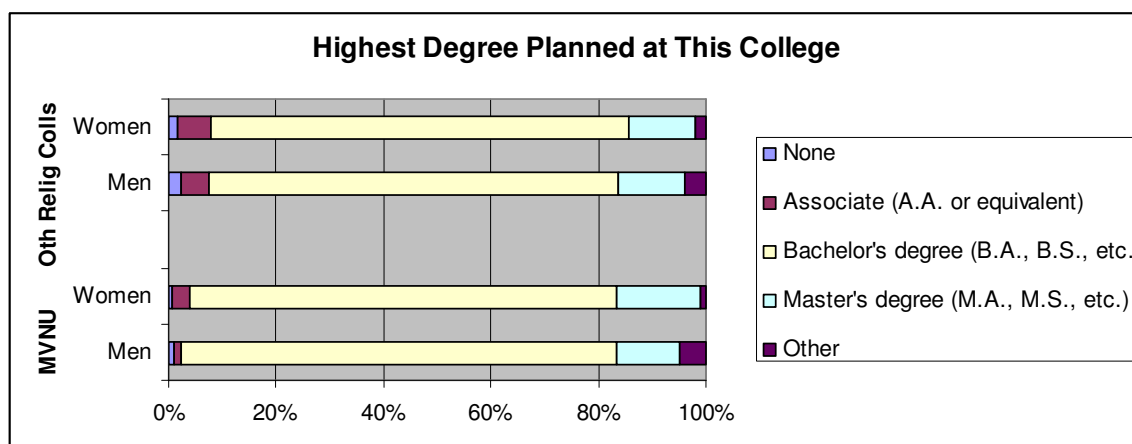
Influencing student's decision to Attend this particular college	# Resp	MVNU			Oth Rel 4yr Colls.		
		M	W	Total	M	W	Total
The athletic department recruited me	338	19	8	12	36	15	24

Less than 10% of the entering freshmen reported being influenced to attend their college by the factors listed below. There was also very little difference in the percentages of men versus women reporting the influence of the following factors. It was interesting to note that 4% of the MVNU respondents were influenced by an *Early Action or Early Decision program*, which does not exist at MVNU.

Influencing student's decision to Attend this particular college	# Resp	MVNU			Oth Rel 4yr Colls.		
		M	W	Total	M	W	Total
Information from a website	338	8	8	8	9	15	13
My relatives wanted me to come here	340	6	7	7	6	6	6
Rankings in national magazines	339	7	5	6	7	8	8
Could not afford first choice	334	8	5	6	7	7	7
Private college counselor advised me	338	4	4	4	4	5	5
I was admitted through an Early Action or Early Decision program	338	3	4	4	6	8	7
My teacher advised me	339	4	3	3	5	6	5
Not offered aid by first choice	337	7	3	5	7	7	7
High school counselor advised me	338	7	2	4	6	7	6

### Highest Academic Degree Plans

Similar percentages of men and women at both types of colleges planned to earn bachelor's (approximately 80%) and master's degrees (12%-16%) from their current institutions.



Degree Plans at This College	MVNU		Oth Relig Colls	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
None	1	1	2	2
Associate (A.A. or equivalent)	1	3	5	6
Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)	81	80	76	77
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)	12	16	12	12
Other	5	1	4	2

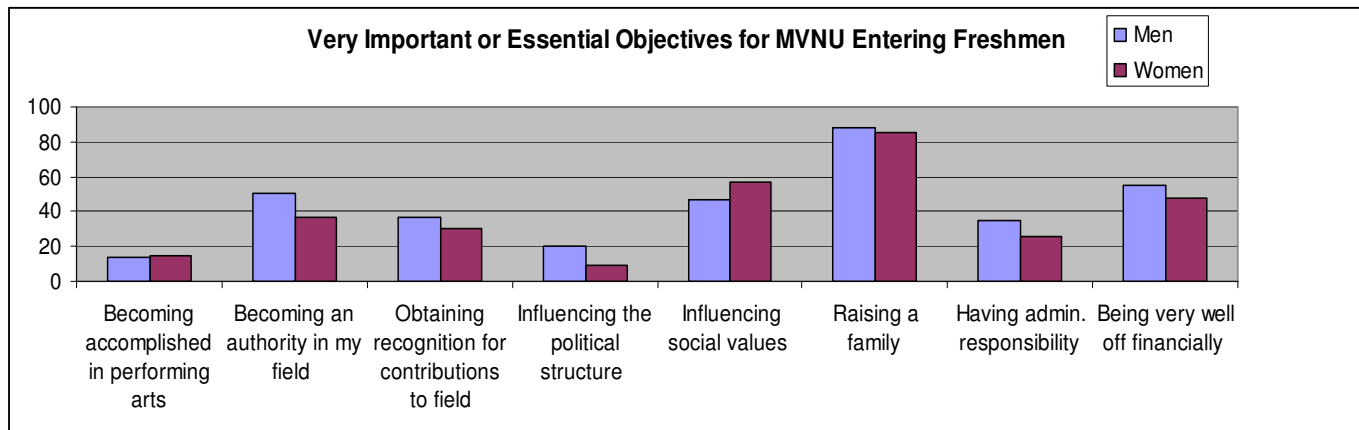
**Entering Freshmen Projections (“Chances are very good that . . .”)**

- 10% estimate that they will
  - Change their major field and career choice
  - Participate in student government
  - Have a roommate of a different race/ethnicity
- 20% estimate that they will
  - Participate in a study abroad program
  - Play a varsity/intercollegiate athletics
- 40% estimate that they will
  - Participate in volunteer or community service work
  - Participate in student clubs/groups
  - Communicate regularly with their professors
- 60% estimate that they will
  - Be satisfied with their college
  - Make at least a “B” average
  - Get a job to help pay for college expenses (less than 2% anticipate having to work full-time while attending college)

**What is Important to Entering Freshmen (Objectives considered to be essential or very important)**

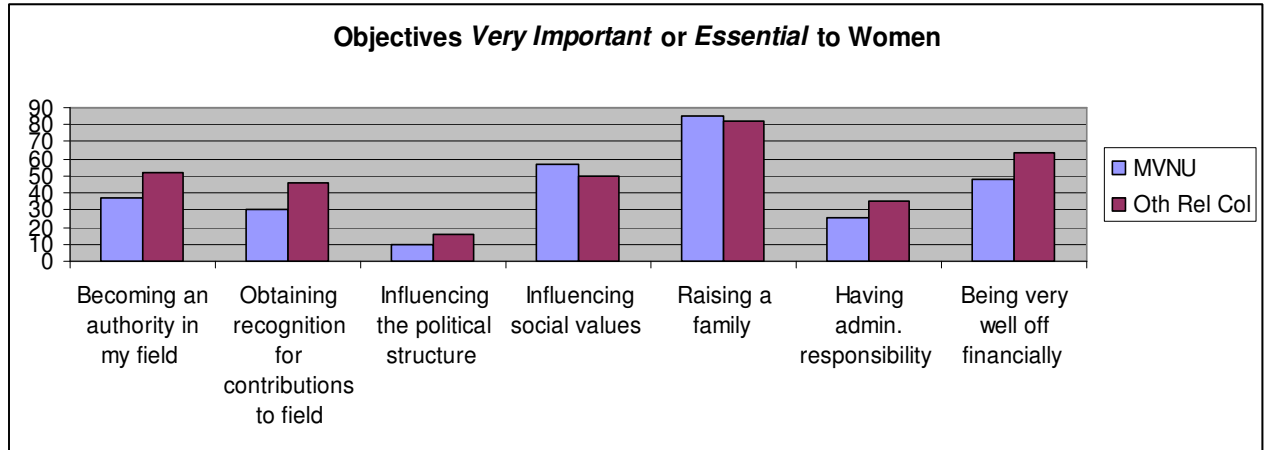
**Difference between MVNU Men and Women**

More MVNU men than women indicated that it was important for them to succeed and become influential academically and politically (i.e., *be well off financially, become an authority in their field, obtain recognition from colleagues for contributions in their special field, have administrative responsibility for the work of others, and influence the political structure*). Over 85% of both men and women believed it was *very important or essential to raise a family*. A higher percentage of MVNU women than men indicated that *influencing social values* was important to them (57% women vs. 47% men).



### Differences between MVNU Women and Women at Other Religious Colleges

More women at other religious colleges than those at MVNU believed that it was *very important* or *essential* that they succeed financially, academically, and administratively. In contrast, more MVNU women were interested in *influencing social values*.



### Gender and College Differences in the Importance of the Following Additional Objectives

At least seven out of every ten entering freshmen indicated that it was *essential* or *very important* to them to *help others in difficulty*. It was also important to four out of ten freshmen to *improve their understanding of other countries and cultures* and to *develop a meaningful philosophy of life*. Similar percentages of MVNU men as women and MVNU as other religious college freshmen valued all of the objectives, with the exception of one. Higher percentages of other religious college men and women, in comparison with MVNU men and women, believed it *essential* or *very important* to *become successful in their own business* (by 11% and 13%, respectively). Also, regardless of college attended, more men than women felt that it was important to *become successful in their own business* (by at least 14%). MVNU may wish to focus more attention upon attempting to positively influence entering freshmen and helping them to develop higher expectations for their success and influence in their work and in the world.

Objectives Considered <i>Essential</i> or <i>Very Important</i>	MVNU			Other Religious Colleges		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Help others in difficulty	72	81	77	66	77	73
Understand other countries/cultures	38	45	42	40	47	44
Develop meaningful philosophy of life	41	39	40	45	44	44
Help promote racial understanding	32	28	30	31	32	32
Become community leader	32	24	27	38	31	34
Participate in a community action	21	28	25	25	30	28
Become successful in own business	34	18	24	45	31	37
Keep up to date politically	27	19	22	33	25	28
Clean up the environment	15	15	15	21	21	21
Write original works	14	12	12	17	15	16
Create artistic work	12	12	12	15	17	16
Make theoretical contribution to science	15	8	11	18	14	16

## **Political and Social Opinions of Entering Freshmen**

### **Similar Percentages of Entering Freshmen Agreed with the Following Eight Objectives**

Similar percentages of MVNU as other religious college freshmen and similar percentages of men as women were in agreement with the following statements. At least half of the respondents agreed with each statement.

The highest percentage of respondents supported the “American Dream,” and three of every four recognized the need for a national health care plan. Two-thirds of the entering freshmen believed the courts should be less supportive of criminal rights and were more concerned about the government’s need to better control pollution and the environment. Over half of the freshmen supported volunteer armed forces and believed wealthy people should pay more taxes.

<b>Student Agrees Strongly or Somewhat</b>	<b>MVNU</b>
Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society	85
A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs	74
There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals	69
The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution	66
Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus	63
The chief benefit of a college education is that it increases one's earning power	60
Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces	55
Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	55

### **Similar Percentages of MVNU Men and Women Agree, but the Percentages of MVNU and Other Religious College Freshmen Differ on Some of the Following Seven Objectives**

At least one out of every five freshmen agreed with the first three statements, regarding the death penalty, changes in our society, and racial discrimination. However, higher percentages of other religious college than MVNU freshmen agreed with the statements about abortion, same-sex couples, and marijuana.

<b>Student Agrees Strongly or Somewhat</b>	<b>MVNU</b>	<b>Oth Relig Cols</b>
The death penalty should be abolished	26	28
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	20	28
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	20	24
The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit	15	21
Abortion should be legal	14	32
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	11	37
Marijuana should be legalized	10	25

**Dissimilar Percentages of Men and Women (by 10%-20%) Agree with the Following Five Statements**

Regardless of college, men appeared to be more conservative in their opinions than women, although fewer men than women actually identified themselves on the survey as “conservative” or “far right” (55% of the MVNU men vs. 64% of the MVNU women). Fewer men than women, regardless of college, agreed that the government should control the sale of handguns. In contrast, more freshmen men than women agreed with three of the remaining four statements about homosexual relationships, undocumented immigrants, and affirmative action. Although more MVNU men than women agreed with the remaining statement concerning political dissent (by 10%), this gender difference was not true for men and women at other religious colleges.

Student Agrees <i>Strongly or Somewhat</i>	MVNU			Oth Relig Cols		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	57	74	67	60	78	71
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	74	57	64	54	42	47
Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education	69	50	58	61	48	54
Dissent is a critical component of the political process	59	49	53	59	56	57
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	43	23	31	48	38	42

**Note to readers:**

*I hope that the above data have provided some new insights into our 2007 freshmen class, how MVNU freshmen men and women differ, and how they compare with entering freshmen at other religious colleges. My purpose in sharing these data is to inform faculty, staff, and administrators about the findings of our institutional student data, so that we, as a team, are better equipped to understand the fall 2007 entering freshmen men and women and to help them successfully complete their freshman year.*

*If you have comments, questions, or have found the data to be especially helpful in any way, please let me hear from you.*

*Thanks,  
Margie*