DATA SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS AND COMPARISON

2008 MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN BY GENDER, BY OTHER RELIGIOUS, 4-YEAR, PRIVATE COLLEGES, AND BY 2007 MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN

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THE FRESHMEN SURVEY 2008 (TFS, FORMERLY CALLED CIRP ENTERING FRESHMEN SURVEY)

PURPOSE: BETTER UNDERSTAND THE 2008 CLASS OF MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN
DATA SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS AND COMPARISON

2008 MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN BY GENDER, BY OTHER RELIGIOUS, 4-YEAR, PRIVATE COLLEGES, AND BY 2007 MVNU ENTERING FRESHMEN

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INTRODUCTION

The Freshmen Survey (TFS) is sponsored by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) of the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. (Previously, the survey was called the CIRP.) The TFS survey was administered to all MVNU entering freshmen (first-time freshmen or “F-Fs”) that participated in freshmen training day on September 1, 2008. The data summary compares similarities and differences of MVNU entering freshmen (362) in 2008, by gender, by other religious college freshmen attending 4-year private colleges (3,733 men and 4,898 women), by the national comparison group of all first-year students (240,580 freshmen of 340 baccalaureate colleges and universities in 2008), and by MVNU entering freshmen (344) in 2007.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF ENTERING FRESHMEN

GENDER

- There were 128 men and 234 women MVNU first-time freshmen in 2008 that responded to the survey (35% men vs. 65% women).
- There was greater gender imbalance in the MVNU 2008 than in the 2007 freshmen respondents (141 men vs. 203 women; 41% men vs. 59% women).
- The gender balance for other religious, 4-year private colleges (3,733 men and 4,898 women) in 2008 was similar to MVNU’s in 2007 (43% men vs. 57% women).

AGE

- A larger percentage of MVNU freshman men (55%) than women (34%) in 2008 were 19 or older (by 21% in 2008; by 13% in 2007).
Also, more MVNU freshman men than men and women at other religious colleges in 2008 were 19 or older (by 13% and 25%, respectively).

RACE/ETHNICITY

MVNU freshmen were less diverse in race/ethnicity.

- MVNU, in comparison with men and women at other religious colleges, had fewer ethnically-diverse freshmen (by almost 30% in 2008 and by 10% in 2007).

MVNU freshmen were less diverse in home and high school background.

- A higher percentage of MVNU than other religious college entering freshmen attended “mostly white” high schools (71% vs. 46%) and grew up in “mostly white” neighborhoods in 2008 (54% vs. 43%).
This “mostly white” background for MVNU vs. other religious college freshmen was also true in 2007 for high schools (73% vs. 60%) and for home neighborhoods (61% vs. 53%).

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTANCE FROM HOME**

MVNU freshmen were less diverse geographically.

- In comparison with freshmen from other religious colleges, MVNU freshmen were less diverse geographically.
- More MVNU women than men had home residences over 50 miles from campus (71% vs. 57%).

**RESIDENTIAL STATUS WHILE ATTENDING COLLEGE**

MVNU has a high percentage of first-time freshmen that live in on-campus housing.

- Nine out of every ten MVNU 2008 freshmen lived in MVNU campus housing.
- More MVNU than other religious college F-Fs lived in on-campus housing (93% vs. 85%).
- More MVNU than national sample of freshmen (78%) lived in on-campus housing.
CURRENT RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

A higher percentage of other religious college than MVNU freshmen were Baptist, non-protestant, or non-committed (“None”) in their religious preferences.

- A higher percentage of MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen preferred the religious preference, Other Christian (presumably, Nazarene).

- Higher percentages of other religious college than MVNU 2008 entering freshmen preferred Baptist, Roman Catholic, and None.
POLITICAL ORIENTATION

Higher percentages of MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen characterized themselves as Conservative (over half vs. over one-fourth, respectively).

- Only one third of MVNU 2008 freshmen characterized themselves as Middle-of-the-road vs. almost half of other religious college 2008 freshmen.
- Similar percentages of MVNU 2008 men and women characterized themselves on the various political-view categories.
- An even higher percentage of MVNU freshmen in 2007 vs. 2008 characterized themselves as Conservative (56%) and a lower percentage as Liberal (5%).

| How MVNU and Other Religious College 2008 Freshmen Characterized Their Political Views |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| MVNU                                    | Other Religious Colleges |
| Far left                                 | 0                | 2               |
| Liberal                                 | 10               | 19              |
| Middle-of-the-road                      | 33               | 48              |
| Conservative                            | 52               | 28              |
| Far right                               | 5                | 3               |

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Fewer MVNU freshman males attended public high schools in 2008 than in 2007 (74% vs. 82%), than MVNU freshman females in 2008 (74% vs. 83%), and than other religious college freshmen in 2008 (74% vs. 82%).

- A higher percentage of MVNU freshman males than females and than other religious college freshmen (16% vs. 7% vs. 9%, respectively) had attended private, religious schools in 2008.
• In 2007, 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).

• A smaller percentage (by almost 10%) of MVNU than other religious college freshmen had taken from one to four AP exams.

More MVNU freshmen reported higher high school average grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Average High School Grade</th>
<th>MVNU</th>
<th>Other Religious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A or A+</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparable percentages of MVNU as other religious college freshmen studied the same number of years of high school subjects with the exception of two high school subject areas.

• More MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen took at least one year in the Arts and/or Music (by 12%).

• Fewer MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen completed at least a half year of Computer Science (by 12%).
Similar percentages of MVNU as other religious college freshmen reported taking courses at their current institutions prior to enrolling as freshmen.

REPORTED DISABILITIES

Similar Percentages of MVNU as Other Religious College Freshmen Reported Disabilities in the Various Categories.

- 1% more MVNU than other religious college freshmen reported hearing disabilities.
- 1% fewer MVNU than other religious college freshmen reported other disabilities.
PARENTS—FORMAL EDUCATION, MARITAL STATUS, AND INCOME

Parents’ Formal Education—Fathers

- More MVNU 2008 male than female freshmen had fathers with college degrees (by 11%).
- A higher percentage of 2008 vs. 2007 MVNU males’ fathers had at least some college (72% vs. 61%) and had college degrees (55% vs. 44%).
- A higher percentage of 2008 MVNU males vs. females had fathers with at least some college (72% vs. 61%, respectively).
- The reverse was true in 2007; a lower percentage of male than female students’ fathers held college degrees (44% vs. 51%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008 ENTERING FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN</th>
<th>MVNU</th>
<th>OTHER RELIGIOUS COLLEGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FATHERS’ FORMAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar school or less</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some high school</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary school other than college</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College degree</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some graduate school</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOTHERS’ FORMAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar school or less</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some high school</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary school other than college</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College degree</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some graduate school</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Parents Formal Education—Mothers

- A higher percentage of 2008 MVNU freshman men than women had mothers with at least some college (69% vs. 60%), although the percentages of mothers with college degrees was similar for both MVNU gender groups (44% vs. 40%).
- A higher percentage of 2008 MVNU than other religious college freshman males had mothers with at least some college (69% vs. 53%) and with college degrees (44% vs. 33%). This was not true for MVNU females, however, since their percentages were comparable to those of other religious college females on both factors.

Parents’ Marital Status

- A higher percentage of MVNU than other religious college freshmen reported both parents alive and living with each other (78% vs. 62%).
- Correspondingly, a lower percentage of MVNU than other religious college freshmen reported that both parents were alive and divorced or living apart (19% vs. 33%).
- Similar percentages of parents were deceased (3% MVNU vs. 5% other religious colleges).

Parents’ Total Financial Income Last Year as Best Estimated by Freshmen

- Similar percentages (within 3%) of MVNU and other religious college freshmen selected all of the various income ranges (e.g., < $10,000, $10,000-$14,999, . . . $200,000-$249,999, and ≥$250,000), with the exception of two.
- There was a higher percentage of MVNU than other religious college freshmen (16% vs. 11%) that estimated family incomes of $50,000-$59,999.
- There was a lower percentage of MVNU than other religious college freshmen (2% vs. 6%) that estimated family incomes to be less than $10,000.
• Over half (54%) of the MVNU 2008 freshmen estimated parental total income to be within or between $50,000 and $149,999.

![2008 Entering College Freshmen](image)

**ACADEMIC ENTRANCE TO COLLEGE AND COLLEGE CHOICE**

**Special Tutoring or Remedial Work**

• Fewer MVNU than other religious college men and women estimated that chances were “very good” that they would get tutoring help in specific courses (25% vs. 35%).

**College Choice**

• A higher percentage of MVNU than other religious college freshmen claimed that their current college was their first college choice (86% vs. 56%). In fact, one out of every ten freshmen at other religious colleges claimed their current institution was their third college choice (11% vs. 2% MVNU).
Number of Colleges to which Freshmen Applied

- Fewer MVNU than other religious college freshmen applied to more than two other colleges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To how many colleges other than this one did you apply for admission this year?</th>
<th>Resp 362</th>
<th>MVNU Men</th>
<th>MVNU Women</th>
<th>MVNU Total</th>
<th>Other Religious Col. Men</th>
<th>Other Religious Col. Women</th>
<th>Other Religious Col. Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven to ten</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleven or more</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acceptance Rate

- More MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen were accepted by their “First Choice” College.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR

Similar percentages of MVNU (within 5%) as other religious college freshmen and as MVNU freshmen in 2007 (unless otherwise indicated) reported these activities/feelings.

- Felt depressed (7%)
- Worked on local, state, or national political campaign (8%)
- Voted in student election (18%)
• Discussed politics (29%)
• Were guests in a teacher’s home (29%)
• Felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (31%)
• Were bored in class (26% vs. 37% MVNU in 2007 and 38% other religious colleges in 2008)
• Tutored other students (47%)
• Performed community service as part of a class (59%)
• Studied with other students (85%)
• Performed volunteer work (91% vs. 83% Other Religious Colleges in 2008)

**Higher Percentages of MVNU than Other Religious College Entering Freshmen**

• Played a musical instrument (54% vs. 46%)
• Discussed religion (54% vs. 40%)
• Attended a religious service (98% vs. 86%)

**Lower Percentages of MVNU than Other Religious College Freshmen**

• Drank beer (6% vs. 29%, respectively; male percentages were 7% vs. 38%, respectively)
• Drank wine or liquor (10% vs. 36%, respectively)

**MVNU GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PERCENTAGES**

**Higher percentages of MVNU men than women**

• Came late to class (54% vs. 44%; difference much smaller than in 2007)

**Lower percentages of MVNU men than women**

• Asked a teacher for advice after class (16% vs. 26%, which was the opposite in 2007, at which time more men than women asked for advice: 28% vs. 19%)
• Used the Internet for homework or research (59% vs. 69)
STUDY & HOMEWORK

MVNU Men versus Women

- A higher percentage of MVNU women than men reported spending more hours studying and completing homework during their senior year of high school.
- Almost one-fourth of the men (23% vs. 3% of the women) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages of MVNU 2008 Freshmen's Typical High School Senior Weekly Hours Spent on Study/Homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MVNU versus Other Religious College Students

- In comparison with entering freshmen at other religious colleges, fewer MVNU freshmen reported spending at least 11 hours, more between 3 and 5 hours, and fewer less than one hour studying or completing homework weekly during their senior year of high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages of MVNU VS. Other Religious College 2008 Freshmen's Weekly Hours Spent on Study/Homework During Senior Year of High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Religious College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVNU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES: READING AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES (SOCIAL NETWORKING AND COMPUTER/VIDEO GAMES)

Reading for Pleasure

- Higher percentages of MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen reported reading for pleasure between 1 and 5 hours weekly during their high school senior year.
- Fewer MVNU (by 12%) than other religious college 2008 freshmen reported “none” or over 20 hours.

Social Networks

- Similar percentages (within 3%) of MVNU 2008 freshmen as entering freshmen at other religious colleges reported spending the various amounts of time weekly in online social networks during their senior year of high school.
- Higher percentages of freshman MVNU women than men (by 20%) had spent between 3 and 10 hours weekly in online social networking.
Video/Computer Games

- Higher percentages of MVNU 2008 freshman men than women reported spending 3 hours or more weekly playing video/computer games. The same gender difference was observed for freshmen at other religious colleges with the men spending more time than the women.

- The percentages of MVNU men’s hours spent playing video/computer games were similar to those of men at other religious colleges.

- The percentages of MVNU women were comparable to those of women at other religious colleges, although a higher percentage of MVNU 2008 freshmen women reported spending less than one hour weekly (30% vs. 23%).

![Percentage of MVNU 2008 Freshman Men and Women and the Number of Hours Spent Weekly During their Senior Year of High School Playing Video/Computer Games](image)

**SELF-REPORTED ENTERING FRESHMEN’S SKILL/ABILITY RATINGS—“ABOVE AVERAGE” OR “IN THE HIGHEST 10%” IN COMPARISON WITH THE “AVERAGE PERSON THEIR AGE”**

**MVNU 2008 Freshman Men vs. Women**

- In the graph below, it was observed that higher percentages (by at least 15%) of MVNU 2008 freshman men than women compared themselves more favorably with others their age in **Social** and **Intellectual Self-Confidence, Popularity, Physical Health, Mathematical Ability, Emotional Health**, and **Computer Skills**.
• The only skill on which significantly more MVNU freshman **women** than men compared
themselves more favorably with others their age was **Spirituality** (by 13%).

**MVNU vs. Other Religious College 2008 Freshmen**

• Very similar percentages of MVNU 2008 freshmen as other religious 4-year college
freshmen rated themselves highly on each of the skills and abilities below with the
exception of two factors— **Spirituality** and **Intellectual Self-Confidence**.

• More MVNU than other religious college freshmen (by 10%) evaluated their **Spirituality** as **above average or in the highest 10%**.

• Fewer MVNU vs. other religious college 2008 freshmen (by 10%) evaluated their
**Intellectual Self-Confidence** as **above average or in the highest 10%**.
REPORTED FREQUENT ACTIVITIES OF ENTERING COLLEGE FRESHMEN DURING THEIR SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

In the graph below, it was observed that higher percentages (by at least 10%) of MVNU 2008 freshman men than women reported that *frequently* during the past year they had

- Taken a risk because they felt they had more to gain
- Sought alternative solutions to a problem.
In contrast, higher percentages (by at least 10%) of MVNU 2008 freshman women than men reported that they had frequently during the past year
- Revised their papers to improve their writing.
- Accepted mistakes as part of the learning process.
- Sought feedback on their academic work.
- Taken notes during class.

![Bar chart showing percentages of women and men who reported frequent behaviors during the past year.](image-url)

**MVNU 2008 Freshmen Rated Themselves "Above Average" or "Highest 10%" as Compared with the Average Person of His/Her Age in Various Skills/Abilities**

- Women
- Men
MVNU and Other Religious College 2008 Freshmen

- The percentages of MVNU and other religious college freshmen were similar (differences of less than 10%) for all of the listed activities during the past year, which was their senior year of high school.
REASONS STRONGLY INFLUENCED ENTERING FRESHMEN’S DECISIONS TO ATTEND THIS PARTICULAR COLLEGE

Over half of 2008 entering freshmen claimed these major reasons for selecting MVNU

- Size of college
- Religious affiliation/orientation
- Very good academic reputation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>% Women</th>
<th>% Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A visit to campus</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The athletic department recruited me</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information from a website</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankings in national magazines</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of the college</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attracted by religious affiliation/orientation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates get good jobs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could not afford first choice</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not offered aid by first choice</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to live near home</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private college counselor advised me</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school counselor advised me</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of attending the college</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was offered financial assistance</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college has a good reputation for its social activities</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college has a very good academic reputation</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My teacher advised me</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My relatives wanted me to come here</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My parents wanted me to come here</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Over half of MVNU 2008 freshman women vs. less than half of the men reported major reasons

- Visit to campus
- Graduates get good jobs.
- Offered financial assistance

Approximately half (46% or more) of MVNU 2008 freshmen (similar to percentages of other religious college freshmen) claimed that major reasons for selecting their current college were

- A visit to campus
- Size of college
- Offered financial assistance
- College has a very good academic reputation.
- Graduates get good jobs.

Higher percentages (by at least 10%) of MVNU than other religious college freshmen reported reasons for choosing their colleges

- Size of this college
- Attracted by the religious affiliation/orientation of the college (72% vs. 25%)

Higher percentages (by at least 10%) of other religious college than MVNU freshmen reported being influenced by

- Athletic departments recruiting them
- Cost of attending their current college
- Offered financial assistance
MVNU Versus Other Religious College 2008 Freshmen’s Reasons Noted as Very Important or Important in Influencing Their Decision to Attend This Particular College

- A visit to campus
- The athletic department recruited me
- Information from a website
- Rankings in national magazines
- Site of this college
- Attracted by religious affiliation/orientation
- My teacher advised me
- My relatives wanted me to come here
- My parents wanted me to come here
- This college’s graduates get good jobs
- This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools
- Could not afford first choice
- Not offered aid by first choice
- I wanted to live near home
- Private college counselor advised me
- High school counselor advised me
- The cost of attending this college
- Nice offer/financial assistance
- This college has a very good academic reputation
- This college has a good reputation for its social activities
- I was offered financial assistance
- The college has a good reputation for its social activities
- This college has a very good academic reputation
- My teacher advised me
- My relatives wanted me to come here
- My parents wanted me to come here

Other Religious Colleges

- MVNU
HIGHEST ACADEMIC DEGREE PLANS AT CURRENT COLLEGE

MVNU vs. Other Religious Colleges

- Higher percentages of MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen planned to earn bachelor’s degrees “at this college.”
- Similar percentages of MVNU and other religious college 2008 freshmen planned to earn master’s degrees “at this college” (15% vs. 16%, respectively).
- Similar percentages of MVNU 2008 men as women entering freshmen reported plans to earn bachelor’s (82% vs. 80%) and master’s degrees (13% vs. 16%) at MVNU.
- In contrast, in 2007, 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 the institutions they were currently attending.
HIGHEST ACADEMIC DEGREE PLANS AT ANY INSTITUTION

MVNU 2008 Freshmen Men vs. Women

- Similar percentages of men as women planned to earn master’s degrees (43% vs. 45%).
- Higher percentages of men than women planned to earn Ph.D. or Ed.D. degrees (by 8%).
- Similar percentages of men as women planned to earn medical degrees (5%).

MVNU and Other Religious College 2008 Freshmen

- Higher percentages (by 14%) of other religious college than MVNU 2008 freshman women planned to earn various graduate or advanced degrees (73% vs. 59%)
- A higher percentage of other religious college than MVNU freshman women in 2008 planned to earn doctoral degrees (13% higher).
- Similar percentages of MVNU as other religious college freshman men planned to earn graduate degrees.
FRESHMEN PROJECTIONS ABOUT FUTURE ACTIVITIES

(NOTE: Check marks indicate similar percentages MVNU freshmen responded in 2007.)

MVNU entering freshmen estimated they will be involved in the following future activities.

- **10% estimated that they will**
  - Participate in student government
  - Have a roommate of a different race/ethnicity

- **20% estimated that they will**
  - Participate in a study abroad program
  - Play a varsity/intercollegiate athletics
  - Get tutoring help in specific courses

- **30% estimated that they will**
  - Work on a professor’s research project

- **40% estimated that they will**
  - Participate in volunteer or community service work
  - Participate in student clubs/groups
  - Communicate regularly with their professors
  - Discuss course content with students outside of class

- **60% estimated that they will**
  - Make at least a “B” average
  - Get a job to help pay for college expenses (However, less than 2% anticipated having to work full-time while attending college.)
  - Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group
• 70% estimated that they will
  o Be satisfied with their college (vs. 62% in 2007)

OBJECTIVES CONSIDERED TO BE ESSENTIAL OR VERY IMPORTANT

Differences between MVNU Men and Women Regarding Importance of Life Objectives

• At least one third of all MVNU 2008 freshmen identified all of the objectives as essential or very important to them.

• At least eight out of every ten MVNU freshmen believed that it was important for them to
  o Raise a family.
  o Help others in difficulty

• More MVNU women than men indicated that it was important for them to
  o Influence social values (by 11%)
  o Improve their understanding of other countries/cultures (by 15%)

• Slightly more (by 6%) MVNU men than women indicated it was important for them to
  o Be well off financially
  o Become a community leader

Percentages of MVNU 2008 Freshman Men and Women Evaluating Life Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives Considered to be Essential or Very Important</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raising a family</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping others who are in difficulty</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being very well off financially</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influencing social values</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming an authority in my field</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing a meaningful philosophy of life</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving my understanding of other countries/cultures</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining recognition for contributions to my field</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming a community leader</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Differences between MVNU and Other Religious College 2008 Freshman Women

Regarding Evaluating Life Objectives

- More women at other religious colleges than those at MVNU believed that it was very important or essential that they
  - Be well off financially (by 26%)
  - Obtain recognition for contributions to their field (by 19%)
  - Become an authority in their field (by 12%)

- In contrast, more MVNU women believed it was essential or very important that they
  - Raise a family (by 9%)
  - Help others in difficulty (by 6%)

![2008 Freshmen Women's Objectives Considered to be Essential or Very Important](image-url)
Differences between MVNU and Other Religious College 2008 Freshman Men Regarding Evaluating Life Objectives

- More men at other religious colleges (by 10% or more) than men at MVNU believed that it was *essential or very important* that they
  - Be well off financially
  - Become an authority in their field
  - Obtain recognition for contributions to their field

- In contrast, more MVNU than other religious college men (by 10% or more) believed that it was *essential or very important* that they
  - Raise a family
  - Help others in difficulty

![2008 Freshman Men's Objectives Considered to be Essential or Very Important](chart)

- Raising a family
- Helping others who are in difficulty
- Being very well off financially
- Influencing social values
- Becoming an authority in my field
- Developing a meaningful philosophy of life
- Improving understanding of countries/cultures
- Obtaining recognition for contributions to field
- Becoming a community leader
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL OPINIONS OF ENTERING FRESHMEN

MVNU Gender Differences in the Importance of Social, Political, and Professional Objectives

- At least one fourth of all MVNU 2008 freshmen (men and women) considered the following objectives to be *essential or very important*
  - Participating in a community action program
  - Helping to promote racial understanding
  - Keeping up to date with political affairs
  - Adopting “green” practices to protect the environment

- Percentages of MVNU 2008 freshman men and women were within 10% on all of the objectives listed with the exception of the following two
  - Becoming successful in business of my own (21% more MVNU men than women)
  - Participating in community action program (16% more MVNU women than men)

### Percentages of MVNU 2008 Freshman Men and Women Evaluating Social, Political, and Professional Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives Considered to be Essential or Very Important</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Becoming accomplished performing arts</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making a theoretical contribution to science</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing original works</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating artistic works</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming successful in a business of my own</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming involved in cleaning up the environment</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influencing the political structure</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating in a community action program</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping to promote racial understanding</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping up to date with political affairs</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopting &quot;green&quot; practices to protect environment</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Differences in the Importance of Social, Political, and Professional Objectives

- Lower percentages of MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen identified each of the objectives in the graph below, with the exception of one, for which a similar percentage of MVNU as other religious college freshman women selected it.
  - Participating in a community action program (36% vs. 35%, respectively)

- Objectives that were essential or very important for higher percentages of other religious college than MVNU 2008 freshmen
  - Becoming successful in a business of my own (by 28%)
  - Making a theoretical contribution to science (by 12%)
  - Becoming involved in cleaning up the environment (by 12%)
  - Helping to promote racial understanding (by 11%)
  - Influencing the political structure (by 10%)
Half (or More) of All MVNU Entering Freshman Men and Women Agreed with the Twelve Social/Political Opinions in the Survey

- Approximately eight out of every ten MVNU freshman men and women agreed that
  
  *Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society*

- A higher percentage of MVNU freshman women than men (by at least 10%) agreed
  
  - Federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns
  - Federal government in not doing enough to control environmental pollution
  - Addressing global warming should be a federal policy

- A higher percentage of MVNU men than women (by at least 10%) agreed that
  
  *Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MVNU First-time Freshmen agree &quot;strongly&quot; or &quot;somewhat:&quot;</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns | 52  | 71    | 65    | (+W)
| The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution | 56  | 69    | 64    | (+W)
| Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now | 59  | 66    | 64    |
| Dissent is a critical component of the political process | 66  | 61    | 63    |
| Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus | 63  | 62    | 62    |
| It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships | 65  | 60    | 62    |
| Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces | 54  | 62    | 60    |
| A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs | 54  | 61    | 59    | (+M)
| Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education | 68  | 49    | 56    | (+M)
| Addressing global warming should be a federal priority | 48  | 58    | 54    | (+W)

Similar Percentages of MVNU as Other Religious College Freshmen Were in Agreement with the Twelve Social Political Opinions in the Survey.

- Although at least four of every ten entering freshmen agreed with each statement, more MVNU (by at least 10%) than other religious college freshmen agreed that
  
  - Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus (by 15%).
  - It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships (by 22%).
• Although at least half of all MVNU entering freshmen agreed with each statement, more other religious college (by at least 10%) than MVNU freshmen agreed
  
  o A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody’s medical costs.
  
  o Addressing global warming should be a federal priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student agrees &quot;strongly&quot; or &quot;somewhat:&quot;</th>
<th>MVNU</th>
<th>Other Religious College</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissent is a critical component of the political process</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>(+MVNU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>(+MVNU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>(+ORC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressing global warming should be a federal priority</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>(+ORC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less than Half of All MVNU Entering Freshman Men and Women Agreed with the Ten Social/Political Opinions Listed in the Following Table.

• A higher percentage of MVNU men than women (by at least 10%) agreed that the
  
  o Federal military spending should be increased.
  
  o Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America.

• A higher percentage of MVNU freshman women than men (by at least 10%) agreed that
  
  o The death penalty should be abolished.

• Less than 18% of both MVNU freshman men and women agreed
  
  o Abortion should be legal.
  
  o Marijuana should be legalized.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student agrees &quot;strongly&quot; or &quot;somewhat:&quot;</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal military spending should be increased</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36 (+M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29 (+W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The death penalty should be abolished</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28 (+W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22 (+M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22 (+M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion should be legal</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana should be legalized</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less than Half of All MVNU and Other Religious College Entering Freshman Agreed with the Ten Social/POLITICAL Opinions

- Higher percentages (by at least 10%) of other religious college than MVNU first-time freshmen agreed with the five statements noted in the table below (See +ORC.)
- For example, almost half of the freshmen from other religious colleges, in comparison with less than one-third of MVNU freshmen, agreed that Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions.
FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

Available Family Resources to Cover First-year Educational Expenses

- A higher percentage of MVNU 2008 freshman men than women had access to $10,000 or more (21% vs. 15%).
- Comparable percentages (within 2%) of MVNU and other religious college freshmen selected each of the various financial categories of available dollars.

Available Personal “Own” Resources from Work, Work Study, Other Income

- Over half of both MVNU and other religious college 2008 men and women and had less than $1,000 in personal resources for educational expenses.
- Only approximately 5% of MVNU and other religious college 2008 freshmen had at least $6,000 in personal resources.

Aid which Does Not Need to be Repaid (Grants, Scholarships, Military Funding, etc.)

- Comparable percentages of MVNU as other religious college 2008 freshmen selected “None” for this response (11% vs. 16%).
- A lower percentage of MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen had $10,000 or more of this kind of aid (25% vs. 41%).

Aid which Must be Repaid (Loans, etc.)

- A lower percentages of MVNU as other religious college 2008 freshmen selected “None” for this response (22% vs. 34%).
- A higher percentage of MVNU than other religious college 2008 freshmen had $10,000 or more in loans and in this kind of aid (27% vs. 14%).
COMPARISON OF MVNU WITH NATIONAL FRESHMEN

In conclusion, the reader is encouraged to reflect upon one final comparison between MVNU and the national sample of fall 2008 entering freshmen. The most-recent issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education (January 30, 2009, pp. A18-19), included a discussion of Freshmen’s Views: Politics, Admissions, and Marijuana and This Year’s Freshmen at 4-Year Colleges: A Statistical Profile. The current MVNU report, which contrasted MVNU 2008 entering freshmen with entering freshmen at other religious colleges, noted many similarities and differences. Focusing upon the areas thought to be of greatest interest to the reader, additional differences between the national sample and the two groups of freshmen already considered have been highlighted below.

When MVNU 2008 entering freshmen’s age, race/ethnicity, distance from home, religious preference, and political views were compared to those of the national sample of 2008 entering freshmen, fewer MVNU freshmen were diverse racially, geographically, religiously and fewer were liberal in their political views. Interestingly, more MVNU than national sample freshman men were older than the traditional age of 18.

- Only 29% of the national sample of men and women were 19 or older in 2008 vs. 42% MVNU and 35% other religious colleges.
- Only 72% of the national sample of 2008 entering freshmen were White (96% MVNU), 11% African-American/Black (3% MVNU), 9% Asian (1% MVNU), 6% Mexican American (1% MVNU), 4% Other Latino (1% MVNU), and 3% American Indian (3% MVNU).
- Only 17% of the national sample of entering fall freshmen’s home residences were 51-100 miles; 33% lived 101-500 miles and 14% lived over 500 miles from campus
The largest percentage of freshmen in the national sample selected **Roman Catholic** (25%) and None (21%), followed by Other Christian (13%), Baptist (11%), Church of Christ (4%+), Lutheran (4%-), Presbyterian (3%) and Other Religion (3%).

The 2008 national freshman response group was more **liberal** (31% Liberal, 43% Middle-of-the-road, 21% Conservative) than both the 2008 MVNU and other religious college freshmen groups and was identified as being at its highest level (liberalism) since 1973.

With regard to **parents’ education**, a similar percentage (within 3%) of MVNU as the national sample of freshmen’s fathers had some college, although fewer MVNU fathers held college degrees (by 6%). Fewer MVNU than the national sample of freshmen mothers had some college (by 10%), and 14% fewer held college degrees.

Possibly as a consequence of fewer parents having the advantage of formal education, a higher percentage of MVNU than national sample freshmen’s estimated **total family incomes** ranged between $30,000 and $59,999 (35% MVNU vs. 22% national), and fewer MVNU freshmen estimated total family incomes of $100,000 or more (21% MVNU vs. 37% national).

A higher percentage of MVNU (78%) than the national freshmen’s families were “traditional,” in the sense of having **both parents alive and living with each other**, although the difference was not as large as may have been expected (only 8%).

With regard to the **top reasons noted as very important in selecting college attended**, similar percentages (within 10%) of MVNU as the national freshmen identified this college’s graduates get good jobs, cost of attending, good reputation for social activities, and visit to campus. A higher percentage (10% or more) of MVNU than national freshmen noted financial
aid offered, size of college, and a lower percentage (by 10%) indicated very good academic reputation.

A much higher percent (by 25%) of MVNU than national freshmen reported that their current college was their first choice, and as many as one third of MVNU versus 15% of the national freshmen applied to only the college attended. Only one fourth of MVNU versus over half (60%) of the national freshmen applied to at least three other colleges than the one currently attended.

When freshmen were questioned about their concern about their ability to finance college, a higher percentage of MVNU than the national sample of women (by 10%) indicated some concern (but probably will have enough funds). Similar percentages of men as women in both groups responded none or major concern.

There were some significant percentage differences (10% or more) between MVNU and the national freshmen regarding frequent academic-related activities during the past year. For example, fewer MVNU than national freshmen women reported that they seek solutions to problems and explain them to others, seek alternative solutions to a problem, explore topics on your own, and take a risk because you feel you have more to gain. Fewer MVNU than national men indicated they accept mistakes as part of the learning process and explore topics on your own.

There were similar percentage differences between men and women for MVNU and the national freshmen regarding frequent academic-related activities during the past year. For example, more national and MVNU freshmen women than men rated themselves highly on the academic skill/ability, taking notes during class, (National: 78% vs. 51%, respectively; MVNU: 76% vs. 47%, respectively).
When MVNU and national freshmen’s percentages of self-ratings in comparison with the highest 10% of peers their age were reviewed, it was observed that the national percentages were very similar to the percentages (within 10%) of MVNU freshmen on many of the skill/ability factors, including Academic ability, Artistic ability, Cooperativeness, Creativity, Drive to achieve, Emotional health, Leadership ability, Mathematical ability, Physical health, Public speaking ability, and Understanding of others. On the other hand, lower percentages (by 10% or more) of MVNU than national freshmen rated themselves highly on two factors, Intellectual Self-confidence and Writing.

Same gender comparisons of MVNU and national freshmen revealed that fewer MVNU than national men (by 10%) rated themselves highly on one factor, Self-understanding, and fewer MVNU than national women rated themselves highly on three factors, Computer skills, Popularity, and Social self-confidence. However, more MVNU (57%) than either other religious college (47%) or national (40%) freshmen rated themselves in the highest 10% on spirituality.

The fact that fewer MVNU than national freshmen identified themselves as liberal was demonstrated in their agreement or lack of agreement with certain political/social action viewpoints. For example,

- Fewer (by more than 10%) MVNU than national freshmen believed the federal government was not doing enough to control environmental pollution
- Fewer (by 10% or more) MVNU than national freshmen agreed a national healthcare plan is needed to cover everybody’s medical costs and students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions.
• Many fewer (by 30% or more) MVNU than national freshmen agreed that marijuana, same-sex marriage and abortion should be legalized.

• Fewer (by 12%-14%) MVNU than national freshman men agreed that only volunteers should serve in the armed forces and the federal government should do more to control the sale of hand guns.

• More (by at least 10%) MVNU than national freshmen agreed that there was too much concern for the rights of criminals and undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education.

**FINAL NOTE TO THE READER**

It is the hope of the author that the above data have provided new insights, regarding the 2008 entering freshmen class—how MVNU freshmen men and women differ from each other, how they compare with entering freshmen at other religious colleges and with the national sample of entering freshmen at all 4-year colleges, and how they compare with MVNU entering freshmen of the previous year (2007). The stated purpose of this data analysis was to better understand the 2008 class of MVNU entering freshmen. It is believed that if faculty, staff, and administrators are more accurately informed about the 2008 group of new students after reading the data summary, they will be better equipped to communicate with, administer decisions, instruct, lead, provide spiritual guidance, and effectively meet the needs of the “whole student.” Understanding the demographic and academic backgrounds, personal goals, social and political attitudes, and life objectives of MVNU freshmen and how similar or different they are from all freshmen or from freshmen at similar colleges should also enable one to more accurately
understand, interpret, and utilize educational perspectives and national/regional trend data. The beginning of the spring term is not too late to reflect on some of the data highlights, what, if anything, uniquely characterizes this group of incoming freshmen, and how they may be helped to successfully complete their freshman year.