



## Class of 2020 Quick Facts

### Demographic background of First Years<sup>1</sup>

- 72% indicate their average grade in high school was an A or A+
- 57% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 28% took 10 or more AP courses; but 11% say AP courses were not offered at their HS
- 4% applied only to Mudd; 28% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 63% say Mudd was their first choice, but:
  - 6% say there is some or very good chance they will transfer to another college before graduating
  - 9% say there is some or a very good chance they will take a leave of absence from Mudd
- 8% report that they are non-native English speakers
- 66% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 24% as middle of the road; 10% as conservative or far right
- 41% indicate there is a very good chance they will get a job to help pay for college expenses
- 57% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their major
- 66% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their career choice
- 48% indicate they took 1 or more years of CS in high school

### What do First Years think are the “very important” reasons to go to college?

- 91% indicate to learn more about things that interest me
- 83% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 76% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 57% indicate to make more money
- 51% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 51% indicate to make me a more cultured person
- 40% indicate to prepare for graduate or professional school
- 19% indicate to please my family

### First Years are confident about their academic abilities:

- 61% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 50% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 39% place themselves in the highest 10% for “drive to achieve”
- 29% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Preliminary data from the 2016 CIRP Freshman Survey results fall 2016. n = 209.

**...but less comfortable with specific science skills....**

- 20% are absolutely or very confident they can understand scientific concepts
- 20% are absolutely or very confident they can generate a research question
- 16% are absolutely or very confident they can use scientific literature to guide research
- 15% are absolutely or very confident they can determine how to collect the appropriate data
- 11% are absolutely or very confident that they can use technical skills (use tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
- 8% are absolutely or very confident they can explain the results of a study
- 8% are absolutely or very confident they can ask relevant questions
- 7% are absolutely or very confident they can identify what is known and not known about a problem
- 5% are absolutely or very confident they can see connections between different areas of science and mathematics

**...and other areas associated with success in college and beyond:**

- 29% report that openness to having my own views challenged is a major strength
- 27% report that the ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues is a major strength
- 21% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 15% place themselves in the highest 10% for leadership abilities
- 15% place themselves in the top 10% for understanding of others
- 8% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (social)

**First years have varied levels of comfort and experience as active and collaborative learners:**

- 63% indicate there is a very good chance they will communicate regularly with their professors
- 46% indicate there is a very good chance they will work on a professor's research project
- 52% report they frequently studied with other students (in HS)
- 34% report they frequently tutored another student (in HS)
- 28% report they frequently asked a teacher for advice after class (in HS)

**First Year students are forthcoming about their mental and physical health considerations:**

- 43% report there is some or a very good chance they will seek personal counseling
- 32% report they frequently felt anxious (in HS)
- 30% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in HS)
  - (17% of men and 43% of women)
- 12% report they frequently felt depressed (in HS)
- 4% report frequently drinking wine or liquor; 4% report frequently drinking beer (in HS)
- 12% indicate they have a psychological disorder; 6% indicate they have a physical disability;
- 4% indicate they have a learning disability; 4% indicate they have ADHD; 3% indicate they have a chronic illness; and 2% indicate they are autistic.

**First Years have expectations for a diverse college environment...**

- 81% report they frequently socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group during the past year
- 65% indicate there is a very good chance they will have a roommate of a different ethnicity
- 53% indicate improving their understanding of other countries and cultures is an important or essential personal goal
- 42% report that their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people is a major strength
- 21% report there is a very good chance they will study abroad

**...and possess a growth mindset.**

- 94% strongly disagreed or disagreed that there is little that a person can do to be better at math- you are either good or bad at math
- 93% agreed or strongly agreed that intelligence is something that can be improved by studying or working harder