



# Class of 2022

## Quick Facts

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

- 77% indicate their average grade in high school was an A or A+
- 56% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 7% applied only to Mudd; 33% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 61% say Mudd was their first choice, but...
  - 8% say there is some or very good chance they will transfer to another college before graduating
  - 5% say there is some or a very good chance they will take a leave of absence from Mudd
- 12% report English is not their primary language
- 67% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 26% as middle of the road; 8% as conservative or far right
- 52% indicate they have some or major concern about paying for college; 34% indicate there is a very good chance they will get a job to help pay for college expenses
- Respondents indicate their probable majors are: Engineering (34%); Computer Science (24%); Physics (9%); Math (7%); Undecided (7%); Biology (7%); Chemistry (6%); and Joint Bio and Chem (2%); PreMed (6%) but...
  - 55% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their major
  - 69% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their career choice

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

- 86% indicate to learn more about things that interest me
- 81% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 81% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 61% indicate to make more money
- 58% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 52% indicate to make me a more cultured person

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

- 59% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 40% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 38% place themselves in the highest 10% for “drive to achieve”
- 27% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)

### ...and with specific science skills:

- 80% are absolutely or very confident they can see connections between different areas of science and mathematics
- 75% are absolutely or very confident they can ask relevant questions
- 72% are absolutely or very confident they can understand scientific concepts
- 67% are absolutely or very confident they can identify what is known and not known about a problem
- 64% are absolutely or very confident they can explain the results of a study
- 62% are absolutely or very confident that they can use technical skills (use tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
- 54% are absolutely or very confident they can integrate results from multiple studies
- 53% are absolutely or very confident they can determine how to collect the appropriate data
- 53% are absolutely or very confident they can generate a research question
- 51% are absolutely or very confident they can use scientific literature to guide research

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Preliminary data from the 2018 CIRP Freshman Survey results fall 2018. n = 234.  
Harvey Mudd College, Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

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

- 30% report the ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues is a major strength
- 26% report openness to having their own views challenged is a major strength
- 21% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 12% place themselves in the highest 10% for leadership abilities
- 16% place themselves in the top 10% for compassion
- 12% place themselves in the top 10% for creativity
- 10% place themselves in the top 10% for risk-taking
- 10% place themselves in the top 10% for writing ability
- 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:**

- 77% indicate there is a some or a very good chance they will get tutoring help in specific courses
- 52% report they frequently studied with other students (in HS)
- 49% indicate there is a very good chance they will work on a professor's research project
- 36% report they frequently tutored another student (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
- 31% report they frequently felt anxious (in HS)
- 30% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in HS)
- 11% report they frequently felt depressed (in HS)
- 58% report never drinking wine or liquor; 68% report never drinking beer (in HS)

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

- 80% report they frequently socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group during the past year
- 33% indicate improving their understanding of other countries and cultures is a very imp/essential personal goal
- 50% 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 enjoy a developing sense of belonging to the scientific community.**

- 40% strongly agreed that they feel like they belong in the field of science
- 40% strongly agreed that they derive a great personal satisfaction from working on a team that is doing an important research
- 25% strongly agreed that they think of themselves as a scientist
- 24% strongly agreed that they have a strong sense of belonging to a community of scientists