



Class of 2023 Quick Facts

Demographic background of First Years¹

- 75% indicate their average grade in high school was an A or A+
- 64% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 7% applied only to Mudd; 47% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 57% say Mudd was their first choice, but...
 - 9% 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
- 11% report English is not their primary language
- 70% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 23% as middle of the road; 7% as conservative or far right
- 45% indicate they have some or major concern about paying for college; 28% 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 (29%); Computer Science (20%); Physics (11%); Other CS/Math (11%); Undecided (11%); Math (7%); Chemistry (7%); Biology (5%); and Premed (5%) but...
 - 60% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their major
 - 74% 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?

- 90% indicate to learn more about things that interest me
- 84% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 73% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 56% indicate to make more money
- 49% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 42% indicate to make me a more cultured person

First Years are confident about their academic abilities:

- 54% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 42% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 35% place themselves in the highest 10% for “drive to achieve”
- 24% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)

...and have a varied HS background in math and science:

- 62% have had a year or more of Computer Science in HS; 32% have had no computer science coursework in HS
- 36% indicate they have frequently written computer code
- With respect to mathematics, 98% took Precalculus in HS; 60% took Probability and Statistics; 46% took AP Probability and Statistics; 99% took Calculus; and took 94% AP Calculus

They are also confident of specific science skills and habits of mind:

- 77% are absolutely or very confident they can see connections between different areas of science and mathematics
- 66% are absolutely or very confident they can ask relevant questions
- 74% are absolutely or very confident they can understand scientific concepts
- 64% are absolutely or very confident they can identify what is known and not known about a problem

¹ Source: Preliminary data from the 2019 CIRP Freshman Survey results fall 2019. n = 228.
Harvey Mudd College, Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

- 62% are absolutely or very confident they can explain the results of a study
- 58% are absolutely or very confident that they can use technical skills (use tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
- 55% 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
- 47% are absolutely or very confident they can generate a research question
- 48% are absolutely or very confident they can use scientific literature to guide research

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

- 24% 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
- 16% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 14% place themselves in the highest 10% for leadership abilities
- 18% place themselves in the top 10% for compassion
- 14% place themselves in the top 10% for creativity
- 9% place themselves in the top 10% for risk-taking
- 10% place themselves in the top 10% for writing ability
- 11% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (social)

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

- 47% report they frequently studied with other students (in HS)
- 41% indicate there is a very good chance they will work on a professor's research project
- 30% report they frequently asked a teacher for help after class (in HS)
- 28% report they frequently tutored another student (in HS)

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

- 48% report there is some or a very good chance they will seek personal counseling
- 35% report they frequently felt anxious (in HS)
- 28% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in HS)
- 15% report they frequently felt depressed (in HS)
- 58% report never drinking wine or liquor; 63% report never drinking beer (in HS)

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

- 83% report they frequently socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group during the past year
- 52% indicate improving their understanding of other countries and cultures is a very important/essential personal goal
- 41% report that their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people is a major strength
- 51% 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
- 34% 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
- 21% strongly agreed that they have a strong sense of belonging to a community of scientists