



# Class of 2024 Quick Facts

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

- 67% indicate their average grade in high school was an A or A+
- 52% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 3% applied only to Mudd; 42% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 49% say Mudd was their first choice, but...
  - 6% say there is some or very good chance they will transfer to another college before graduating
  - 7% say there is some or a very good chance they will take a leave of absence from Mudd
- 9% report English is not their primary language
- 70% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 25% as middle of the road; 5% as conservative or far right
- 51% indicate they have some or major concern about paying for college; 38% 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 (35%); Computer Science (21%); Physics (10%); Other CS/Math (6%); Undecided (10%); Math (4%); Chemistry (5%); Biology/Biochemistry (7%) however...
  - 70% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their major
  - 77% 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
- 82% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 78% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 57% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 54% indicate to make more money
- 54% indicate to make me a more cultured person

## First Years are confident about their academic abilities:

- 66% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 47% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 32% place themselves in the highest 10% for “drive to achieve”
- 23% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)

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

- 63% have had a year or more of Computer Science in HS; 37% have had no computer science coursework in HS
- 32% indicate they have frequently written computer code
- With respect to mathematics, 99% took Precalculus in HS; 47% took Probability and Statistics; 42% took AP Probability and Statistics; 82% took Calculus; and took 91% AP Calculus

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

- 82% are absolutely or very confident they can understand scientific concepts
- 76% are absolutely or very confident they can see connections between different areas of science and mathematics
- 70% are absolutely or very confident they can ask relevant questions
- 75% are absolutely or very confident they can identify what is known and not known about a problem

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: 2020 CIRP Freshman Survey results fall 2020. n = 162. This survey was conducted during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and responses, including response rates, reflect the impact of stay-at-home orders, remote learning, etc.

**More on specific science skills and habits of mind:**

- 68% are absolutely or very confident they can explain the results of a study
- 65% are absolutely or very confident that they can use technical skills (use tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
- 59% are absolutely or very confident they can integrate results from multiple studies
- 57% are absolutely or very confident they can determine how to collect the appropriate data
- 55% are absolutely or very confident they can generate a research question
- 55% 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:**

- 29% 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
- 11% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 18% place themselves in the top 10% for public speaking
- 14% place themselves in the highest 10% for leadership abilities
- 12% place themselves in the top 10% for writing ability
- 9% place themselves in the top 10% for creativity
- 9% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (social)
- 8% place themselves in the top 10% for risk-taking

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

- 66% indicate there is a very good chance they will work on a professor's research project
- 49% report they frequently studied with other students (in HS)
- 38% report they frequently tutored another student (in HS)
- 22% report they frequently asked a teacher for help after class (in HS)

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

- 66% report there is some or a very good chance they will seek personal counseling
- 34% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in HS)
- 28% report they frequently felt anxious (in HS)
- 13% report they frequently felt depressed (in HS)
- 74% report never drinking wine or liquor; 77% 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
- 70% indicate improving their understanding of other countries and cultures is a very important/essential personal goal
- 47% report that their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people is a major strength
- 30% report there is a very good chance they will study abroad

**...and enjoy a developing sense of belonging to the scientific community.**

- 43% strongly agreed that they feel like they belong in the field of science
- 42% strongly agreed that they derive a great personal satisfaction from working on a team that is doing an important research
- 18% strongly agreed that they think of themselves as a scientist
- 18% strongly agreed that they have a strong sense of belonging to a community of scientists