



Class of 2025 Quick Facts

Demographic background of First Years¹

- 50% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 8% applied only to Mudd; 35% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 67% say Mudd was their first choice, but...
 - 15% say there is some or very good chance they will transfer to another college before graduating
 - 11% say there is some or a very good chance they will take a leave of absence from Mudd
- 26% report since leaving HS, they took courses at another institution
- 71% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 26% as middle of the road; 3% as conservative or far right
- 51% indicate they have some or major concern about paying for college; 72% 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 (36%); Computer Science (27%); Biology/Biochemistry (8%); Physics (8%); Undecided (8%); Math (7%); Chemistry (4%); Other CS/Math (3%) however...
 - 60% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their major
 - 76% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their career choice

First Years bring varied academic experiences to HMC:

- 97% have studied four or more years of math
 - 40% completed a course in probability and statistics; 30% completed AP probability and statistics
 - 81% completed a course in calculus; 82% completed a course in AP calculus
- 62% have studied one year of biology
- 56% have studied 2 or more years of art or music
- 43% have studied four or more years of foreign language
- 39% have studied four years of history
- 32% have studied 3 years of physical sciences
 - 54% took a physics class in 11th grade; 63% took a physics class in 12th grade
- 35% have not studied computer science in high school
- 17% report not taking either the SAT or ACT
- 15% scored 3 or higher on 9 or more AP exams

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

- 86% indicate to learn more about things that interest me
- 83% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 79% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 58% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 67% indicate to make more money
- 49% indicate to prepare myself for graduate or professional schools
- 47% indicate to make me a more cultured person
- 22% indicate to please my family

¹ Source: 2021 CIRP Freshman Survey results fall 2021. n = 180. 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.

First Years are confident about their academic abilities...

- 42% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 41% report their critical thinking skills are a major strength
- 31% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 26% place themselves in the highest 10% for “drive to achieve”

...and have had experience in the last year developing habits of mind that will serve them well:

- 78% frequently supported your opinions with a logical argument
- 77% frequently seek solutions to problems and explain them to others
- 55% frequently accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- 49% frequently explore topics on their own, even though it was not required for a class
- 37% frequently look up scientific research articles and resources

...but they are less confident in other areas associated with success in college and beyond:

- 17% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 16% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)
- 11% place themselves in the top 10% for risk-taking, public speaking, leadership, and writing abilities
- 7% place themselves in the top 10% for creativity
- 8% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (social)

COVID-19 has had a major impact on First Year Students:

- 62% report being academically prepared for college was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19
- 59% report mental health was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19
- 27% report physical health was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19
- 40% strongly agree orientation for new students has made me feel more connected to the institution

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

- 71% report there is some or a very good chance they will seek personal counseling
- 47% report they frequently felt anxious (in last year)
- 41% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in last year)
- 21% report they frequently felt depressed (in last year)
- 62% report never drinking wine or liquor; 69% report never drinking beer (in last year)

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

- 77% report they frequently socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group during the past year
- 61% indicate improving their understanding of other countries and cultures is a very impmt/essential personal goal
- 42% report that their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people is a major strength
- 18% report there is a very good chance they will study abroad