



Class of 2026 Quick Facts

*May you learn how to quantify facets of humanity without reducing *our* humanity."*

-Harvard Graduate School of Education Professor Andrew Ho

Demographic background of First Years¹

- 50% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 6% applied only to Mudd; 46% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 53% say Mudd was their first choice, but...
 - 13% 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
- 17% report since leaving HS, they took courses at another institution
- 67% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 26% as middle of the road; 7% as conservative or far right
- 59% indicate they have some or major concern about paying for college; 73% 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 (45%); Computer Science (21%); Physics (12%); Undecided (7%); Biology/Biochemistry (5%); Math & CS/Math (6%); Chemistry (3%). However...
 - 65% 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:

- 99% have studied four or more years of math
 - 43% completed a course in probability and statistics; 35% completed AP probability and statistics
 - 89% completed a course in calculus; 83% completed a course in AP calculus
- 57% have studied one year of biology; 29% have studied two years of biology
- 89% have studied one or more years of art or music
- 39% have studied four or more years of foreign language
- 35% have studied four or more years of history
- 58% have studied 3 or more years of physical sciences
 - 56% took a physics class in 11th grade; 60% took a physics class in 12th grade
- 32% have not studied computer science in high school
- 15% report not taking either the SAT or ACT
- 17% scored 3 or higher on 9 or more AP exams

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

- 83% indicate to learn more about things that interest me
- 79% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 77% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 64% indicate to make more money
- 57% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 51% indicate to prepare myself for graduate or professional schools
- 50% indicate to make me a more cultured person
- 24% indicate to please my family

¹ Source: 2022 CIRP Freshman Survey Preliminary Results fall 2022. n = 219.



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First Years are confident about their academic abilities...

- 53% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 43% report their critical thinking skills are a major strength
- 37% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 37% 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:

- 75% frequently supported your opinions with a logical argument
- 72% frequently seek solutions to problems and explain them to others
- 62% frequently accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- 51% frequently explore topics on their own, even though it was not required for a class
- 39% frequently look up scientific research articles and resources

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

- 19% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 20% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)
- 18% place themselves in the top 10% for leadership ability
- 14% place themselves in the top 10% for flexibility in uncertain times and writing ability
- 12% place themselves in the top 10% for creativity
- 10% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (social)
- 9% place themselves in the top 10% for risk taking
- 8% place themselves in the top 10% for public speaking ability

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on First Year students:

- 35% report being academically prepared for college was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19
- 42% report mental health was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19
- 24% report physical health was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19
- 46% 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:

- 64% report there is some or a very good chance they will seek personal counseling
- 36% report they frequently felt anxious (in last year)
- 40% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in last year)
- 13% report they frequently felt depressed (in last year)
- 66% report never drinking wine or liquor; 76% report never drinking beer (in last year)

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

- 78% report they frequently socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group during the past year
- 54% indicate improving their understanding of other countries and cultures is a very imp/essential personal goal
- 49% report that their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people is a major strength
- 15% report there is a very good chance they will study abroad