



Class of 2027 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

- 53% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 6% applied only to Mudd; 44% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 54% say Mudd was their first choice, but...
 - 14% say there is some or very good chance they will transfer to another college before graduating
 - 10% say there is some or a very good chance they will take a leave of absence from Mudd
- 25% report since leaving HS, they took courses at another institution
- 69% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 23% as middle of the road; 7% as conservative or far right
- 49% indicate they have some or major concern about paying for college; 75% 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 (39%); Computer Science (20%); Math & CS/Math (14%); Physics (8%); Undecided (6%); Biology/Biochemistry (5%); Chemistry (4%). However...
 - 60% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their major
 - 71% indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their career choice

First Years bring varied academic experiences to HMC:

- 98% have studied four or more years of math
 - 46% completed a course in probability and statistics; 30% completed AP probability and statistics
 - 88% completed a course in calculus; 82% completed a course in AP calculus
- 53% have studied one year of biology; 32% have studied two years of biology
- 86% have studied one or more years of art or music
- 43% have studied four or more years of foreign language
- 35% have studied four or more years of history
- 50% have studied 3 or more years of physical sciences
 - 63% took a physics class in 11th grade; 63% took a physics class in 12th grade
- 32% have not studied computer science in high school
- 8% report not taking either the SAT or ACT
- 23% 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
- 84% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 83% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 78% indicate to make more money
- 65% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 48% indicate to prepare myself for graduate or professional schools
- 44% indicate to make me a more cultured person
- 28% indicate to please my family

¹ Source: 2023 CIRP Freshman Survey Preliminary Results fall 2023. n = 194 (83%).



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First Years are confident about their academic abilities...

- 51% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 48% report their critical thinking skills are a major strength
- 38% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 36% place themselves in the highest 10% for “drive to achieve”

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

- 20% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 18% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)
- 17% place themselves in the top 10% for leadership ability
- 16% place themselves in the top 10% for flexibility in uncertain times
- 13% place themselves in the top 10% for writing ability
- 11% place themselves in the top 10% for creativity
- 9% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (social)
- 7% place themselves in the top 10% for risk taking
- 10% place themselves in the top 10% for public speaking ability

First Years hold strong views about current events:

- 77% strongly agree that abortion should be legal.
- 72% strongly agree that addressing global climate change should be a federal priority.
- 67% strongly disagree that undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education.
- 66% strongly agree that the U.S. government should create a clear path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- 61% strongly disagree that racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America.

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

- 39% report mental health was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19.
- 32% report physical health was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19.
- 31% report being academically prepared for college was a large or very large sources of stress since the start of COVID-19.

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

- 68% report there is some or a very good chance they will seek personal counseling
- 37% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in last year)
- 35% report they frequently felt anxious (in last year)
- 16% report they frequently felt depressed (in last year)
- 63% report never drinking wine or liquor; 76% report never drinking beer (in last year)

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
- 59% 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
- 22% report there is a very good chance they will study abroad