



Class of 2028 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

- 54% are more than 500 miles away from their permanent home
- 43% attended a public high school; 12% a public magnet or charter school; 37% an independent private school, and 9% a private religious or parochial school
- 46% describe their hometown as suburban; 20% as urban; and 5% rural
- 6% applied only to HMC; 50% applied to 11 or more colleges
- 57% say HMC was their first choice, but...
 - 10% say there is some or a very good chance they will transfer to another college before graduating
 - 4% say there is some or a very good chance they will take a leave of absence from HMC
- 24% report since graduating from high school, they took courses at another institution
- 68% describe their political views as far left or liberal; 26% as middle of the road; 5% as conservative or far right
- 50% indicate they have some or major concern about paying for college; 41% indicate there is a very good chance they will get a job to help pay for college expenses

First Years have some idea of their probable major:

- Engineering (54%)
- Math and/or CS/Math (19%)
- Computer Science (14%)
- Chemistry (7%)
- Physics (6%)
- Biology/Biochemistry (6%)
- Undecided (2%)
- However:
 - 61% of first years indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their major
 - 75% of first years indicate there is some or a very good chance they will change their career choice
 - 9% of first years indicate they are pre-med

First Year students bring varied academic experiences to HMC:

- 97% have studied four or more years of math
 - 43% completed a course in probability and statistics; 31% completed AP probability and statistics
 - 75% completed a course in calculus; 76% completed in AP calculus
- 54% have studied one year of biology; 42% have studied two or more years of biology
- 85% have studied one or more years of art or music
- 36% have studied four or more years of foreign language
- 38% have studied four or more years of history and/or American government
- 82% have studied 3 or more years of physical sciences
 - 60% took a physics class in 11th grade; 63% took a physics class in 12th grade
- 34% have not studied computer science in high school
- 9% report not taking either the SAT or ACT
- 24% scored 3 or higher on 9 or more AP exams

¹ Source: 2024 CIRP Freshman Survey Preliminary Results fall 2024. n = 214 (91%).



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

- 84% indicate to learn more about things that interest me
- 79% indicate the ability to get a better job
- 71% indicate to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 66% indicate to make more money
- 55% indicate to get training for a specific career
- 46% indicate to prepare myself for graduate or professional schools
- 32% indicate to make me a more cultured person
- 17% indicate to please my family

But 19% indicated that a college degree is “not at all” worthwhile.

First Years are confident about their academic abilities...

- 59% frequently accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- 56% report their critical thinking skills are a major strength
- 49% place themselves in the highest 10% for academic ability
- 43% frequently studies with other students
- 37% place themselves in the highest 10% for mathematical ability
- 31% 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:

- 28% frequently tutored other students
- 23% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (intellectual)
- 20% place themselves in the top 10% for flexibility in uncertain times
- 18% report ability to manage time effectively is a major strength
- 18% place themselves in the top 10% for leadership ability
- 15% place themselves in the top 10% for writing ability
- 11% place themselves in the highest 10% for self-confidence (social)
- 11% place themselves in the top 10% for risk taking
- 11% place themselves in the top 10% for public speaking ability
- 6% place themselves in the top 10% for creativity

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

- 2% indicated they had a physical disability (e.g., speech sight, mobility, hearing); 5% indicated they had a learning disability (e.g., dyslexia); 2% a chronic illness (e.g., cancer, diabetes, autoimmune disorder), 4% autism spectrum disorder; 10% ADHD; and 12% a psychological disorder (e.g., depression, PTSD)
- 64% report there is some or a very good chance they will seek personal counseling
- 36% report they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (in last year)
- 31% report they frequently felt anxious (in last year)
- 11% report they frequently felt depressed (in last year)
- 66% report never drinking wine or liquor; 77% 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