

The 2009 Freshman Survey Results

If you have questions or comments about these data, please contact:

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* All numbers are percents, unless otherwise indicated.
 * All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.

The following bullet points are some highlights of the study. The numbers in parentheses are the percents for the comparison group.

- 72% (63%) of students chose this college as their first choice.
- 85% (79%) came from public high schools
- 69% (64%) have some or major concern about their ability to finance college

Students rated themselves above average or in top 10% in:

- 35% (30%) Artistic ability
- 61% (56%) Creativity
- 45% (38%) Spirituality

"Very Important" reasons for choosing this college include:

- 86% (79%) Good reputation
- 75% (66%) College grads get good jobs
- 79% (70%) To gain a general education & appreciation of ideas
- 75% (70%) To make more money

Chances are "very good" that students will:

- 48% (39%) Communicate with their professors
- 79% (74%) Socialize with someone from another racial/ethnic group
- 62% (57%) Participate in student clubs or groups

1. Demographic information

Gender	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Male	42	47
Female	58	53
Race/Ethnicity	UT Austin	Hi Publics
White	50	60
American Indian	0	0
African American	3	3
Asian American	18	19
Hispanic	18	7
Other	10	10

Citizenship status

UT Austin	Hi Publics
US Citizen	95
Permanent Resident	4
Neither	2

English is native language

UT Austin	Hi Publics
83	86

High School GPA

UT Austin	Hi Publics
A or A+	54
A-	35
B+	8
B or below	3

Parents' total income

UT Austin	Hi Publics
Less than \$25,000	12
\$25,000 - \$49,999	15
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12
\$100,000 - \$149,999	20
\$150,000 - \$199,999	10
\$200,000 - \$249,999	6
\$250,000 or more	13

Are your parents:

UT Austin	Hi Publics
Both alive and living with each other	77
Both alive, divorced or living apart	20
One or both deceased	3

How many miles is this college from your home?

UT Austin	Hi Publics
50 or fewer	14
11 to 50	10
51 to 100	11
101 to 500	64
Over 500	11

Where do you plan to live during the fall term?

UT Austin	Hi Publics
With family	4
Apartment/room	18
Residence hall	67
Other	12

Number of colleges applied to for admission, other than this one:

UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	17
1 - 3	47
4 - 6	25
7 - 10	9
11+	3

Is this college your:

UT Austin	Hi Publics
First choice	72
Second choice	19
Third choice	5
Less than third	4

Accepted by first choice

UT Austin	Hi Publics
82	75

First generation in college

UT Austin	Hi Publics
16	14

2. Religious affiliation

	Student		Father		Mother	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Baptist	11	7	12	7	12	7
Jewish	3	5	3	6	3	6
Methodist	8	6	9	6	10	7
Presbyterian	3	5	3	5	4	5
Roman Catholic	26	25	29	28	31	30
Other Christian	11	10	10	10	10	10
Other	19	16	22	21	22	22
None	19	26	12	18	8	12

3. Career or occupation

	Student's probable		Father		Mother	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Artist	7	5	1	1	2	2
Business (including clerical)	15	12	30	31	20	21
Teacher (elementary, secondary, or college)	4	4	4	3	15	13
Doctor (MD or DDS)	14	14	4	5	2	2
Engineer	16	16	13	12	2	2
Health professional (including nurse)	9	9	2	2	9	11
Homemaker (full-time)	0	0	0	0	11	11
Lawyer	5	5	4	4	1	2
Skilled worker	0	0	4	5	2	1
Unemployed	2	1	4	4	8	8
Undecided	11	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	17	19	35	33	29	28

8. How much of your first year's educational expenses do you expect to cover from:

	Family resources		Own resources		Aid which need not be repaid		Aid which MUST be repaid		Other	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	16	16	39	39	33	35	55	56	94	94
Less than \$1,000	11	8	29	25	8	7	4	3	2	2
\$1,000 - \$2,999	11	10	22	23	18	15	10	8	1	1
\$3,000 - \$5,999	11	11	6	8	13	13	11	15	1	1
\$6,000 - \$9,999	11	11	2	2	9	11	9	9	1	0
\$10,000 +	41	43	2	2	2	19	20	12	10	1

9. Highest academic degree planned:

	Ever		At this institution	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)	16	13	59	62
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)	41	40	29	25
Doctoral degree (Ph.D., Ed.D.)	20	23	6	6
Medical (M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.)	17	17	2	5
Law (J.D.)	6	5	3	1

10. Special tutoring or remedial work in:

	Had in past		Feel I need	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
English	6	6	8	7
Reading	5	5	4	4
Mathematics	10	11	21	17
Social Studies	4	3	4	3
Science	6	5	16	11
Foreign Language	5	4	11	9
Writing	5	5	11	9

11. How would you describe the racial composition of the:

	High school you last attended		Neighborhood where you grew up	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Completely non-White	5	3	8	5
Mostly non-White	23	16	15	12
Roughly half non-White	33	26	17	15
Mostly White	36	49	51	53
Completely White	3	6	10	15

The Freshman Survey (TFS), created by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA, is the longest running higher education study in the United States; 2009 was its 44th year of administration. It is a comprehensive study that examines characteristics and expectations of students as they enter college. At UT Austin, TFS was administered at orientations during the summer of 2009, prior to the start of classes. We received a total of 4,482 respondents representing 59% of the entering Freshman class.

Most of the results presented here are compared with "Highly Selective Public" Universities, a category created by HERI to represent universities with average SAT scores greater than 1160. Thirty-nine school were in this category in 2009 and include the following institutions: University of California-Berkeley, UCLA, University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Florida, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, University of Washington.

4. Highest level of education obtained:	Father		Mother	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Less than high school	10	7	9	6
High school or some college	24	24	27	26
College degree	32	31	38	38
Graduate degree	30	33	20	23

5. College Exams (Mean)

	UT Austin	Hi Publics
SAT Verbal	618	620
SAT Math	648	653
SAT Writing	612	622
ACT Composite	27	28

6. Political views

	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Far left	2	3
Liberal	30	25
Middle-of-the-road	43	40
Conservative	23	21
Far right	2	2

7. Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?

	UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	31	35
Some	56	55
Major	13	9

12. High school AP information:

	AP courses taken		AP exams taken	
	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Not offered	2	3	2	3
None	2	6	5	9
1 to 4	33	46	41	48
5 to 9	49	39	42	36
10 to 14	13	6	9	4
15+	1	0	1	0

13. From what type of high school did you graduate?

	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Public school (not charter or magnet)	85	79
Public charter or magnet school	7	7
Private religious/parochial school	4	9
Private independent college-prep school	3	6

14. Probable major:

	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Arts and Humanities	12	13
Biological or Physical Sciences	13	18
Business Education	17	12
Engineering	3	3
Engineering Professional	20	19
Social Sciences	11	11
Other	7	8
Undecided	13	8
	4	7

15. How often did you do each of the following during the past year: (Percent of respondents that said "Frequently" or "Occasionally")	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Attended a religious service	80	73	96	96
Was bored in class	28	27	28	27
Participated in political demonstrations	74	70	74	70
Tutored another student	91	91	91	91
Studied with other students	22	20	22	20
Was a guest in a teacher's house	13	11	13	11
Smoked cigarettes	35	38	35	38
Drank beer	41	43	41	43
Drank wine or liquor	89	86	89	86
Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do	50	44	50	44
Felt depressed	93	92	93	92
Performed volunteer work	51	50	51	50
Played a musical instrument	90	87	90	87
Asked a teacher for advice after class	80	79	80	79
Socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group	98	98	98	98
Came late to class	56	59	56	59
Used the Internet for research or homework	99	99	99	99
Used the Internet to read news sites	91	91	91	91
Used the Internet to read blogs	61	60	61	60
Used the Internet to blog	34	32	34	32
Performed community service as part of a class	64	61	64	61
Discussed religion	88	84	88	84
Discussed politics	90	89	90	89
Skipped school/class	31	32	31	32
Asked question in class	98	97	98	97
Support your opinions with logical arguments	98	98	98	98
Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others	98	99	98	99
Revise your papers to improve your writing	94	94	94	94
Evaluate the quality or reliability of the information you received	96	96	96	96
Take a risk because you feel you have more to gain	96	96	96	96
Seek alternative solutions to a problem	98	98	98	98
Look up scientific research articles and resources	79	81	79	81
Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class	87	88	87	88
Accept mistakes as part of the learning process	98	98	98	98
Seek feedback on your own academic work	95	95	95	95
Take notes during class	96	96	96	96
Work with other students on class assignments	98	98	98	98
16. In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons: (Percent of respondents that said "Very Important")	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
My parents wanted me to go	47	38	47	38
To be able to get a better job	47	38	47	38
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	79	70	79	70
To make me a more cultured person	61	56	61	56
To be able to make more money	75	70	75	70
To learn more about things that interest me	85	85	85	85
17. How important was each of the following reasons in your decision to come to this particular college: (Percent of respondents that said "Very Important")	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
My relatives wanted me to come here	20	17	20	17
My teacher advised me	9	6	9	6
This college has a very good academic reputation	86	79	86	79
I was offered financial assistance	56	47	56	47
The cost of attending this college	31	31	31	31
High school counselor advised me	36	35	36	35
Private college advised me	9	8	9	8
I wanted to live near home	15	12	15	12
Not offered aid by first choice	9	8	9	8
Could not afford first choice	12	11	12	11
This college's graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools	57	49	57	49
This college's graduates get good jobs	75	66	75	66
I was attracted by the religious affiliation/organization of the college	5	3	5	3
I wanted to go a school about the size of the college	24	29	24	29
Rankings in national magazines	46	36	46	36
Information from a website	26	22	26	22
I was admitted through an Early Action or Early Decision program	9	14	9	14
The athletic department recruited me	2	3	2	3
A visit to the campus	31	37	31	37
Ability to take online courses	3	2	3	2
18. Please indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following: (Percent of respondents that said "Essential" or "Very Important")	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts (acting, dancing, etc.)	16	14	16	14
Becoming an authority in my field	65	60	65	60
Obtaining recognition from my colleagues for contributions to my special field	66	59	66	59
Influencing the political structure	24	21	24	21
Influencing social values	44	40	44	40
Raising a family	75	73	75	73
Being very well off financially	81	78	81	78
Helping others who are in difficulty	64	70	64	70
Making a theoretical contribution to science	30	29	30	29
Writing original works (poems, novels, short stories, etc.)	16	14	16	14
Creating artistic works (painting, sculpture, decorating, etc.)	16	14	16	14
Becoming successful in a business of my own	44	41	44	41
Becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment	33	30	33	30
Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	55	53	55	53
Participating in a community action program	36	33	36	33
Helping to promote racial understanding	38	35	38	35
Keeping up to date with political affairs	45	43	45	43
Becoming a community leader	43	39	43	39
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	60	57	60	57
Adopting "green" practices to protect the environment	49	48	49	48
19. Percent of respondents who agree "Strongly" or "Somewhat" that	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals	56	53	56	53
Abortion should be legal	58	65	58	65
Marijuana should be legalized	43	48	43	48
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	25	23	25	23
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	26	24	26	24
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	66	70	66	70
Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces	66	65	66	65
Dissent is a critical component of the political process	71	71	71	71
Colleges should have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus	43	39	43	39
Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions	33	33	33	33
Colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus	66	68	66	68

20. Compared to the average person your age, how do you see yourself on each of the following traits: (Percent of respondents that said "Highest 10%" or "Above Average")	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Academic ability	90	88	90	88
Artistic ability	35	30	35	30
Computer skills	46	43	46	43
Cooperativeness	78	77	78	77
Creativity	61	56	61	56
Drive to achieve	87	83	87	83
Emotional health	61	62	61	62
Leadership ability	70	66	70	66
Mathematical ability	65	62	65	62
Physical health	59	61	59	61
Popularity	43	41	43	41
Public speaking ability	46	42	46	42
Self-confidence (Intellectual)	70	68	70	68
Self-confidence (social)	54	54	54	54
Self-understanding	65	63	65	63
Spirituality	45	38	45	38
Understanding of others	75	70	75	70
Writing ability	54	52	54	52
Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective	75	73	75	73
Tolerance of others with different beliefs	82	81	82	81
Openness to having my own views challenged	63	63	63	63
Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues	70	69	70	69
Ability to work cooperatively with diverse issues	86	84	86	84
21. What is your best guess as to the chances that you will: (Percent of respondents that said "Very Good Chance" or "Some Chance")	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
Change major field	51	56	51	56
Change career choice	54	59	54	59
Participate in student government	46	38	46	38
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	80	81	80	81
Work full-time while attending college	24	24	24	24
Join a social fraternity or sorority	33	39	33	39
Play club, intramural, or recreational sports	64	70	64	70
Play intercollegiate athletics	11	15	11	15
Make at least a "B" average	96	97	96	97
Need extra time to complete your degree requirements	45	36	45	36
Participate in student protests or demonstrations	37	35	37	35
Transfer to another college before graduating	19	16	19	16
Be satisfied with your college	97	97	97	97
Participate in volunteer or community service work	84	81	84	81
Seek personal counseling	41	40	41	40
Communicate regularly with your professors	93	90	93	90
Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group	97	96	97	96
Participate in students clubs/groups	73	71	73	71
Participate in a study abroad program	76	80	76	80
Have a roommate of a different race/ethnicity	95	93	95	93
Discuss course content with students outside of class	81	81	81	81
Work on a professor's research project	81	81	81	81
22(a).	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week:	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	2	0	2	0
Less than 1 hour	8	1	8	1
1 to 2 hours	17	8	18	7
3 to 5 hours	27	22	29	22
6 to 10 hours	24	30	23	30
11 to 15 hours	12	17	10	18
16 to 20 hours	6	10	6	10
Over 20 hours	5	12	5	12
22(b).	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week:	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	50	46	15	18
Less than 1 hour	3	4	23	22
1 to 2 hours	5	6	31	29
3 to 5 hours	7	9	19	19
6 to 10 hours	10	12	7	7
11 to 15 hours	9	10	3	2
16 to 20 hours	9	8	1	1
Over 20 hours	8	6	5	2
22(c).	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week:	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	21	21	16	42
Less than 1 hour	27	26	19	19
1 to 2 hours	26	26	14	15
3 to 5 hours	16	16	11	12
6 to 10 hours	6	7	6	6
11 to 15 hours	2	2	2	3
16 to 20 hours	1	1	1	1
Over 20 hours	1	1	2	2

22(c).	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week:	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	21	21	16	42	7	7	7	7
Less than 1 hour	27	26	19	19	18	18	18	19
1 to 2 hours	26	26	14	15	29	29	29	29
3 to 5 hours	16	16	11	12	25	25	26	26
6 to 10 hours	6	7	6	6	12	12	11	11
11 to 15 hours	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4
16 to 20 hours	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Over 20 hours	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

22(c).	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week:	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics	UT Austin	Hi Publics
None	21	21	16	42	7	7	7	7
Less than 1 hour	27	26	19	19	18	18	18	19
1 to 2 hours	26	26	14	15	29	29	29	29
3 to 5 hours	16	16	11	12	25	25	26	26
6 to 10 hours	6	7	6	6	12	12	11	11
11 to 15 hours	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4
16 to 20 hours	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Over 20 hours	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2