

UND 1999 CIRP (Cooperative Institutional Research Program)

New Freshmen Survey

Prepared By: The Office of the Registrar

January 30, 2000

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The number of new freshman enrolling at the University of North Dakota in the Fall Semester of 1999 totaled 1754. Of this total 55% completed the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) survey (see APPENDIX A) during their participation at "Getting Started" during the summer of 1999.

CIRP is a national study of the American higher education system sponsored by the American Council on Education and administered by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. The findings of the study are given in APPENDIX B, with comparative nationally normed data for public universities.

Below is a discussion of some of the 1999 findings comparing UND's new freshmen with their national counterparts.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of the respondents to the 1999 CIRP New Freshmen survey were white (97.6%), eighteen years of age (57.7%) and graduated from high school the previous spring (97.8%). Of the 963 respondents, men (49.8%) and women (50.2%) were fairly equally represented in the survey. Twenty-three percent of the new students were less than 51 miles from home, while 16% were 51 to 100 miles from home, and 61% were more than 100 miles from home. Nearly half (44.4%) of the respondents reported that their average high school grades were A-, A, or A+. Eighty-one percent of

the new freshmen reported that their parents are living together, 16% are divorced or separated, and 3% have at least one deceased parent. Nearly all respondents were U.S. citizens (98.8%) or a permanent resident (0.2%) less than 1% were neither. More than ninety-nine percent claimed English as their native language. The 1999 new freshmen come from homes with a wide variety of incomes ranging from less than \$6000 (1.8%) to more than \$200,000 (2.2%) with average family income between \$60,000 and \$74,999 (16%).

Probable Fields of Study

The 1999 UND new freshmen were asked what probable major field of study they intended to pursue.

In general, the UND group (4.7%) were almost half as likely as their national group counterparts (9.9%) to consider *Arts & Humanities* as a probable field of study. UND men and women were three times less likely to choose either the field of art, fine art, or applied art or English. This narrowed the gap compared to 1998 where UND men and women were at least four times less likely to choose art, fine art, applied art or English as a probable major. UND women (.7%) were more than three times less likely to choose journalism than their national counterparts (2.5%) as a probable field of study.

Overall, UND new freshmen (3%) were at least half as likely to pursue *Biological Science* as a probable field of study than their national counterparts (8.3%). Both the UND men and women were nearly two times less likely to choose general biology than the national group. This overall difference remained very close to the 1998 statistics, but