

**A Profile of the Messiah College Class of 2003
from the 1999 CIRP Freshman Survey
October 2000
Donald J. Lerew, Jr. – Institutional Researcher**

Highlighted Facts

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) is a survey project through the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. The goal of this project is to allow for the collection of comparable data on entering freshmen to aid the institution in the assessment, planning and decision-making processes.

(Abbreviations: 4PHS – 4-year Protestant highly-selective; 4PP – 4-year Private Protestant)

- ! Two-thirds of Messiah college freshmen live more than 100 miles from campus
 - " Only 15.6% live within 50 miles of campus
 - " Compares to 20.7%/59.9% for 4PHS and 26.6%/56.3% for 4PP institutions

- ! 97.1% of Messiah freshmen graduated from high school within the last year

- ! 85.7% of Messiah parents are married; only 10.6% are divorced or separated

- ! Messiah parents continue to be very well educated
 - " 62.4% of Messiah fathers and 54.1% of mothers have at least a college degree
 - " 26.1% of Messiah fathers and 13.2% of mothers have a graduate degree

- ! 72.7% of Messiah parents earn more than \$40,000/year, with 30.0% earning more than \$75,000
 - " Compares to 80%/44% for 4PHS and 71%/33% for 4PP institutions

- ! 21.5% of Messiah mothers are full-time homemakers, compared to between 12-13% for comparison institutions

- ! 76.4% of Messiah students indicate at least some concern with financing their education
 - " 15.6% indicate that financing is a major concern
 - " Compares to 61.6%/11.6% for 4PHS and 67.2%/13.8% for 4PP institutions.

- ! Messiah students indicated a reliance for at least \$1,500 from two main sources:
 - " 51.5% from college grants/scholarships
 - " 32.0% from Stafford loans
 - " Both increased for Messiah from last year; Stafford percentage is more than 7% higher than either comparison group

- ! Students at Messiah are very likely to indicate Messiah as their first choice and over half apply to one-or-less institutions
 - " 85.5% of Messiah freshmen indicated Messiah was their first choice
 - 78.8% for 4PHS; 75.0% for 4PP institutions
 - " 30.8% of Messiah freshmen did not apply to any other institution, with an additional 24.2% applying to only one other institution
 - Compared to 14.4%/12.5% for 4PHS; 20.9%/14.4% for 4PP institutions

- ! Students have 3 very important reasons for attending Messiah
 - " Religious orientation/affiliation – 76.6% (14.1% - 4PHS; 28.6% - 4PP)
 - " Very good academic reputation – 66.2% (71.7% - 4PHS; 56.7% - 4PP)
 - " Size of the college – 54.6% (55.9% - 4PHS; 53.5% - 4PP)

- ! Messiah men are much less likely than women to consider the 3 top reasons important
 - " Religious orientation/affiliation – Men - 66.8%; Women - 82.8%
 - " Very good academic reputation – Men - 54.8%; Women - 73.5%
 - " Size of the college – Men - 48.3%; Women - 58.6%

- ! Reputation of Messiah in obtaining good jobs and top graduate schools is seen as less important than at comparison institutions
 - " College's graduates get good jobs – 40.6% (59.7% - 4PHS; 50.9% - 4PP)
 - " College's graduates gain admission to top graduate schools – 19.5% (42.1% - 4PHS; 29.6% - 4PP)

- ! 94.5% of Messiah freshmen indicate receiving a “B” or better average in high school, but only 62.1% indicate a “very good chance” that they will do the same in college
 - " This drop is similar to our comparison groups

- ! 88.0% of Messiah freshmen believe they have a “very good chance” of graduating with a bachelor’s degree, higher than either comparison group (81.2% - 4PHS; 77.0% - 4PP)

- ! 67.0% of Messiah students indicate a “very good chance” that they will be satisfied with Messiah, higher than either comparison group (59.2% - 4PHS; 54.3% - 4PP)

- ! Messiah freshmen rated themselves lower than comparison groups in the areas of: (1) computer skills; (2) creativity; (3) drive to achieve; (4) initiative; (5) intellectual self-confidence; and (6) social self-confidence

- ! Messiah freshmen rated themselves much higher than the comparison groups in spirituality

- ! Messiah men rated themselves much better than women in: (1) computer skills (40.5% to 14.4%); (2) physical health (67.8% to 41.3%); (3) popularity (42.4% to 22.0%); (4) intellectual self-confidence (64.0% to 48.8%); and (5) social self-confidence (47.9% to 36.3%)

- ! 92.0% of Messiah freshmen indicated performing volunteer work in the last year, slightly higher than either comparison group

- ! 67.6% of Messiah students discussed religion, compared to 36.6% - 4PHS; 43.5% - 4PP

- ! A significantly lower percentage of Messiah students indicated smoking cigarettes (1.0%), drinking beer (13.8%), or drinking wine/liquor (19.8%) than students at other institutions

- ! New Messiah students are fairly politically conservative with 54.1% indicating such, as opposed to only 7.8% indicating being liberal

- ! Messiah students are much more interested in: (1) integrating spirituality in their lives (93.9%); (2) raising a family (83.3%); and (3) helping others who are in difficulty (73.3%) than being well off financially (35.9%)

- ! 18.0% of Messiah students indicate a desire to be an elementary or secondary teacher/administrator after graduation, followed by 7.2% who want to be an engineer