

**A Profile of the Messiah College Class of 2004  
from the 2000 CIRP Freshman Survey  
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**Highlighted Facts**

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) survey is a survey project through the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. The CIRP gives a baseline measure of who our students are prior to attending college.

*(Abbreviations: 4RHS – 4-year Other Religious highly-selective; 4PR – 4-year Private Other Religious)*

- 91% (672 of 741 students) of the new, first-year class participated in this survey
- Nearly two-thirds of Messiah college freshmen live more than 100 miles from campus
  - Only 13.6% live within 50 miles of campus
  - Compares to 23.5%/60.0% for 4RHS and 27.8%/56.1% for 4PR institutions
- 97.5% of Messiah freshmen graduated from high school within the last year
- 90.4% of Messiah parents are married (up 4.7% from 1999); only 7.8% are divorced or separated
- Messiah parents continue to be very well educated
  - 61.3% of Messiah fathers and 58.6% (54.1% in 1999) of mothers have at least a college degree
  - 25.0% of Messiah fathers and 13.4% of mothers have a graduate degree
- 80.3% of Messiah parents earn more than \$40,000/year, with 35.8% earning more than \$75,000
  - Compares to 80.9%/46.5% for 4RHS and 70.5%/33.7% for 4PR institutions
  - One-year changes: 7.7% drop in “Less than \$40,000”; 7.6% rise in “More than \$100,000”
- 23.5% of Messiah mothers are full-time homemakers, compared to between 12-14% for comparison institutions
- 70.0% of Messiah students indicate at least some concern with financing their education
  - 11.2% indicate that financing is a major concern (down from 15.6% in 1999)
    - Decrease likely due, in part, to higher reported parental income
  - Compares to 63.9%/11.3% for 4RHS and 67.0%/14.2% for 4PR institutions.
- Messiah students indicated a reliance for at least \$1,500 from two main sources:
  - 57.9% from college grants/scholarships (51.5% in 1999)
  - 35.1% from Stafford loans (32.0% in 1999)
  - Stafford percentage increased again by 3.1%; 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
  - 90.4% of Messiah freshmen indicated Messiah was their first choice (85.5% in 1999)
    - 80.6% for 4RHS; 74.6% for 4PR institutions
  - 32.5% of Messiah freshmen did not apply to any other institution, with an additional 20.4% applying to only one other institution
    - Compared to 18.6%/13.2% for 4RHS; 20.4%/13.7% for 4PR institutions

- Students have 3 very important reasons for attending Messiah
  - Religious orientation/affiliation – 70.4% (23.9% - 4RHS; 28.0% - 4PR)
  - Very good academic reputation – 62.8% (69.5% - 4RHS; 57.2% - 4PR)
  - Size of the college – 52.5% (56.8% - 4RHS; 51.7% - 4PR)
- Messiah men are much less likely than women to consider the 3 top reasons important
  - Religious orientation/affiliation – Men - 59.8%; Women - 77.2%
  - Very good academic reputation – Men - 55.0%; Women - 67.7%
  - Size of the college – Men - 42.9%; Women - 58.8%
- 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 – 40.4% (56.4% - 4RHS; 49.1% - 4PR)
  - College's graduates gain admission to top graduate schools – 17.7% (37.8% - 4RHS; 29.8% - 4PR)
- 95.3% (94.5% in 1999) of Messiah freshmen indicate receiving a “B” or better average in high school, but only 69.3% (62.1% in 1999) indicate a “very good chance” that they will do the same in college
  - Similar pattern to our comparison groups
- 83.6% (88.0% in 1999) of Messiah freshmen believe they have a “very good chance” of graduating with a bachelor's degree, higher than either comparison group (80.3% - 4RHS; 77.2% - 4PR)
- Only 57.0% of Messiah students indicate a “very good chance” that they will be satisfied with Messiah (down from 67.0% in 1999)
- Messiah freshmen rated themselves lower than comparison groups in the areas of: (1) computer skills; (2) competitiveness; (3) creativity; (4) drive to achieve; (5) leadership ability; (6) popularity; (7) intellectual self-confidence; (8) social self-confidence; and (9) self-understanding
- Messiah freshmen rated themselves much higher than the comparison groups in spirituality
- Messiah men rated themselves much better than women in: (1) computer skills (46.4% to 10.6%); (2) physical health (67.3% to 39.1%); (3) leadership ability (63.6% to 50.9%); (4) mathematical ability (57.9% to 33.0%); and (6) intellectual self-confidence (66.4% to 48.3%)
- 90.5% of Messiah freshmen indicated performing volunteer work in the last year, slightly higher than either comparison group
- 62.0% (67.6% in 1999) of Messiah students discussed religion — 42.7% - 4RHS; 43.0% - 4PR
- A significantly lower percentage of Messiah students indicated smoking cigarettes (1.2%), drinking beer (11.5%), or drinking wine/liquor (18.4%) — drinking by Messiah students dropped from 1999
- New Messiah students are fairly politically conservative with 63.3% indicating such, as opposed to only 7.5% indicating being liberal (56.4% and 7.8% respectively in 1999)
- Messiah students are much more interested in: (1) integrating spirituality in their lives (92.4%); (2) raising a family (86.0%); and (3) helping others who are in difficulty (70.8%), than being well off financially (38.4%)
- 17.8% of Messiah students indicate a desire to be an elementary or secondary teacher/administrator after graduation; 6.5% – engineer; 6.4% – nurse