Frequently Asked Questions
CIRP Moves To Web-Only Format for the
2014 College Senior Survey and 2014 Your First College Year Survey

What surveys are impacted by this decision?
Only the Your First College Year (YFCY) and College Senior Survey (CSS). The CIRP Freshman Survey will continue to have a paper as well as a web option. The HERI Faculty Survey and the Diverse Learning Environments Survey are already web-only surveys.

What prompted the decision to move away from the paper survey?
There are several reasons why a move to a web-only survey format makes sense. A web survey offers more flexibility, including an expanded set of local questions. Campuses can now include up to **30** additional closed-ended questions and up to **five** *open-ended* questions on both the YFCY and CSS. Furthermore, the services provided by our new vendor allow CIRP Reps to track their response rates in **real time** and download preliminary data files in **real time.**

This move was also made as a way to keep participation and processing fees as low as possible for participating institutions. Had we continued to offer paper surveys with our current vendor, we would have had to substantially increase prices.

Is this decision final?
The decision is final for the 2014 administrations of the YFCY and CSS. As to the future, HERI will evaluate the impact of going web-only and investigate new avenues to re-integrate a paper survey option into our follow-up.

Traditionally our institution has included the paper survey with our graduation packets. How does a web-only survey work?
Although you will not be able to include a physical copy of the CSS or YFCY in graduation packets or sets of other hard copy materials, you still have an option of physically handing students information regarding how they can complete the survey online.

When doing a web survey, it is important that each respondent has a unique code that is used to enter the survey. This has three functions: 1) it ensures that only those respondents that are asked to take the survey can actually access and answer the web-based questionnaire, 2) It allows the respondent to go in

and out of the survey, and thus complete it in more than one sitting if needed, and 3) it allows tracking in order to send reminders only to those who have not completed the questionnaire.

There are two methods to choose from when doing a web survey with us. We can manage the email notification and tracking process, or we can provide you with the unique codes and you can manage the process yourself.

If you use our method, you can customize the email subject and text, as well as pick the dates and times you want your emails to be sent. The codes are automatically included in the emails our system sends. It's an easy and effective method. Our system allows one initial request to take the survey and up to three reminders to non-respondents.

Your other option is to manage the process yourself using the codes we give you.

Regardless of the method used, it is important to have access to email addresses that your students actually use regularly. It's also important to let your IT department know that the survey invitations are coming, and from where, so they do not see the emails as spam and shut down delivery.

We have never administered the survey by web, will it greatly affect our response rates?
It is possible to have a great web survey experience. We have some schools that use web surveys with us that get response rates in the 80% range. Response rates vary tremendously by school. On average, however, response rates do tend to be lower with a web survey.