

DETERMINING FIRST-TIME FULL-TIME STATUS

HERI uses the following algorithm to determine whether or not a CIRP Freshman Survey respondent should be considered a first-time full-time freshman. Please note that the question numbers referred to below are based on the 2002 Freshman Survey.

RULE #1

IF a respondent indicates that he/she did not graduate from high school in the current year (Question #4) **AND**,

IF the respondent reports having taken courses for credit at his/her freshman institution (Question #11) **OR** the respondent reports having taken any courses (for credit or not for credit) at any other postsecondary institution (Question #12) *,

THEN the respondent is considered “not first-time” (shown on the institutional profiles as a “transfer”).

RULE #2

IF a respondent fails the tests in Rule #1 (i.e., is considered a first-time respondent) **AND** indicates he/she is enrolling as a part-time respondent (Question #5),

THEN the respondent is considered “not full-time” (shown on the institutional profiles as “part-time”).

RULE #3

IF a respondent fails the tests in Rule #1 **AND** Rule #2,

THEN the respondent is considered a “first-time full-time freshman.”

RULE #4

IF the tests in Rule #1 or Rule #2 can not be performed because the respondent did not respond to any or all of Question #s 4,5, 11 and 12,

THEN the respondent is considered to have failed the test. That is, the algorithm assumes that the respondent is a first-time full-time freshman unless he/she passes the tests in Rule #1 or Rule #2. **

* The structure of Rule #1 is designed to account for respondents who took college courses during their high school career by requiring that they took at least one year off between high school graduation and college entry in order to pass the test. It is possible that a student who took college courses in high school **and** took a year or more off before entering college would incorrectly be considered a “not first-time” student, but HERI deems that to be a very low-probability occurrence.

** Please note that this Rule might cause a person to be considered a first-time full-time freshman when he/she in fact isn't.