



# Your First College Year



## Broadening Horizons and Skillset

Throughout the first year of college, students encounter diverse beliefs and perspectives through peer interactions and course content. Through this exposure, they are able to broaden their world-view and further develop practical skills.

First-year students positively rated their ability to engage with differing ideas and viewpoints.

Those considering the following to be at least **somewhat strong**

62%



openness to having their own views challenged

63%



ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues

72%



ability to see the world from someone else's perspective

76%



tolerance of others with different beliefs

83%



ability to work cooperatively with diverse people

They noted how the institution contributed to their skill development...

Those that **agree** that the institution contributed to the following

85%

their ability to work as part of a team

92%

their ability to solve problems

95%

their knowledge of a particular field or discipline

95%

their intellectual and practical skills



Peer interaction provided first-year students exposure to varying beliefs.

Those considering the following to be at least **somewhat strong**

42%

often shared their personal feelings and problems

42%

often had intellectual discussions outside of class

57%

often dined or shared a meal with students of a different racial/ethnic background

37%

often had meaningful and honest discussions about race/ethnic relations outside of class



and their exposure to diverse perspectives

Those that **agree** that the institution contributed to the following

92%

feeling inspired to think in new ways at least occasionally

82%

their knowledge of people from different races/cultures



72%

their understanding of national issues

72%

their understanding of global issues

HERI

For over 55 years, the CIRP Freshman Survey (TFS) has provided data on incoming college students' background characteristics, high school experiences, attitudes, behaviors, and expectations for college.

Survey Source: The Freshman Survey 2023  
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