

Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP)
2007 FINDINGS

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SURVEY DETAILS [\[Back to Top\]](#)

- Target Population: 1,478 Fall 2007 degree-seeking first-time, full-time freshmen at Bronx Community College
- Sample: 324 first-time, full-time freshmen. Each enrolled in a college orientation course (OCD) at Bronx Community College in Fall 2007
- Comparison Group: 1,987 first-time, full-time freshmen enrolled in public community colleges nationwide (weighted to adjust for nonparticipation within institutions identified as being part of a “Norms” sample and to compensate for nonparticipating institutions within particular stratification cells)

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

- **High School [\[Back to Top\]](#)**
 - Graduation: Nearly two-thirds (60.2%) of first-time full-time BCC students graduated high school the summer immediately preceding their Fall semester enrollment, about one-quarter less than the nationwide first-time public community college rate of 83.8%. Also, 8.8% of BCC students did not graduate but passed the General Education Development or G.E.D exam (3.3% nationwide). Many First-time BCC students graduated high school in 2006 (14.1%), 2005 (5.3%) and 2004 or earlier (11.3%). More than 80% graduated from public schools (81.9% BCC versus 89.8% nationwide)
 - Grades: Most BCC students report average high school grades of B+ to B- (58.0%) compared to 55.2% nationwide. Nearly the same amount of A grades are reported (8.3% compared to 11.2% nationwide). This is in sharp contrast to 2003 CIRP results whereby four times more “A” grades are reported nationwide: 3.9% of first-time BCC students compared to 14.9% nationwide and most BCC students reported grades of C (42.3%)
 - Composition: One-third of BCC students (33.1%) characterized their high school as “completely non-white” compared to 9.9% nationwide and “mostly non-white” (44.8% versus 28.1% nationwide).
 - Advanced Placement: More than one-quarter of BCC students (27.3%) report taking no Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered at their high school compared to 15% nationwide. 20.9% BCC students took at least one course compared to 24.4% nationwide.
 - Studying: 59.5% of BCC student spent less than one hour to two hours studying and doing homework per week compared with 50% nationwide
 - Working: 51.8% of BCC reported working during a typical week in high school compared with 65.2% nationwide.
 - Childcare: 73.6% of BCC students performed household and childcare duties compared with 78.4% nationwide
 - Reading for pleasure: 74.3% of BCC students reported reading for pleasure compared with 68.2% nationwide

- **Demographic Profile [\[Back to Top\]](#)**
 - Age: First-time BCC students are older compared to first-time students at public community colleges nationwide with less 18 year olds (31.8% BCC versus 57.3% nationwide) and more 21 to 24 year olds (13.0% BCC versus 5.5% nationwide).
 - Race/Ethnicity: Compared to public community colleges nationwide, much higher proportions of BCC students report being African American/Black (24.8% BCC versus 10.2% nationwide), Puerto Rican (19.5% versus 3.9% nationwide) and Other Latino at (52.3% versus 13.9% nationwide). By contrast, much lower proportions of BCC students report White/Caucasian (5.0% BCC versus 48.1% nationwide) and Mexican American/Chicano (.4% BCC versus 21.2% nationwide). Relatively low percentages of Asian American/Asian are reported both at BCC and nationwide (2.7% BCC versus 6.7% nationwide).
 - Neighborhood Composition: Nearly half of BCC students (46.2%) characterized the neighborhood where they grew up as “completely non-white” and 36% “mostly non-white” compared to 16.3% and 23.6% respectively nationwide
 - Citizenship: Three-quarters (74.2%) of BCC students report being U.S. citizens versus 90.3% nationwide. Under one-quarter (21.1%) report having permanent residency versus 6.3% nationwide and 4.7% of BCC students report neither citizenship nor permanent residency as opposed to 3.4% nationwide.
 - Native Language: Half of BCC students report English as their native language (49.1%) compared to 78.1% nationwide.
 - Religious Preference: Most BCC students report Roman Catholic (28.1%) followed by “Other Christian” (17.7%). One out of five BCC students (20.1%) report no religious preference. One quarter of BCC students identify with being Born-Again Christians (27.5%) and 10.7% Evangelical. Nationwide statistics are relatively similar across religions.

- **Economic Resources and Residency [\[Back to Top\]](#)**
 - Household Income: BCC students report much lower levels of parents’ total household income compared to nationwide figures:
 - \$14,999 or less (54.4% BCC versus 22.5% nationwide)
 - \$15,000 to \$24,999 (17.8% BCC versus 12.2% nationwide)
 - \$25,000 to \$49,999 (18.1% versus 24.2% nationwide)
 - \$50,000 or more (9.6% BCC versus 41.2% nationwide)
 - Unchanged for BCC but a 7.8% increase nationwide since 2003 CIRP results
 - Residency: The vast majority of BCC students (86.9%) plan to live with family or other relatives during the fall semester (79% nationwide)

- **Parents [Back to Top]**
 - Father's Education: Half of BCC students (50.0%) report their father's highest level of education at some high school or less compared to 27.4% nationwide. Much different proportions report high school graduate (21.3% BCC versus 32.6% nationwide) and substantially less BCC students report some college or more (26.7% versus 37.2%).
 - Mother's Education: BCC students report mother's education at much lower levels than nationwide statistics (40.1% BCC versus 23.8% nationwide for some high school or less; 22.2% BCC versus 30.7% nationwide for high school graduate and 35.6% BCC versus 43.3% nationwide for some college or more).
 - Marital Status: About one-quarter of parents (23.2%) of first-time BCC students are both alive and living with each other compared to 53.6% nationwide, a 30.4% difference. About two-thirds of BCC students (62.4%) report parents as divorced or living apart compared to 39.2% nationwide and 14.3% report one or both deceased compared to 7.2% nationwide.

- **Commute [Back to Top]**
 - Nearly one-half (42.8%) of BCC students live five miles or less from their home, double the 21.6% reported nationwide. By contrast, most students nationwide (40.9%) live between 11 and 50 miles from their home.

- **Activities [Back to Top]**
 - During the past year, BCC students are less likely to attend religious service (50.7% BCC versus 66.3% nationwide), study with other students (70.1% BCC versus 79.9% nationwide), perform volunteer work (46% BCC versus 64.3% nationwide), play a musical instrument (23.7% BCC versus 34.4% nationwide), perform community service as part of a class (26.5% BCC versus 40.5% nationwide) and discussed politics (9.4% BCC versus 15.6% nationwide)
 - BCC students report socializing slightly more with members of another racial/ethnic group (63.4% BCC versus 61.2% nationwide)

SELF-ASSESSMENT

- **Self-Ratings [Back to Top]**
 - More than half of BCC students rate themselves "above average" or in the "highest 10%" compared to average people their age on items particularly related to personal ambition and self-esteem:
 - "Drive to achieve" (63.7% BCC versus 59.6% nationwide)
 - "Cooperativeness" (60.1% versus 60.5% nationwide)
 - "Self-understanding" (58.7% versus 48.6% nationwide)
 - "Understanding of others" (57.3% versus 58.6% nationwide)
 - "Self-confidence (social)" (55.1% BCC versus 50.2% nationwide)
 - "Self-confidence (intellectual)" (53.4% BCC versus 47.2% nationwide)
 - "Creativity" (52.5% BCC versus 52.4% nationwide)
 - By contrast, less than a third of first-time BCC students rate themselves "above average" or in the "highest 10%" compared to average people their age on items related to skills and abilities:
 - Mathematical ability (24.6% versus 22.7% nationwide)

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

- Artistic ability (28.3% versus 27.5% nationwide)
- Public speaking ability (21.6% versus 24.8% nationwide)
- **Student Estimates** [\[Back to Top\]](#)
 - From a list of nineteen items on a four-point scale (no chance, very little chance, some chance and very good chance), BCC students report chances are “very good” that he/she will
 - Make at least a “B” average (52% BCC versus 48.5% nationwide)
 - Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group (52.7% BCC versus 52.9% nationwide)
 - Get a job to help pay for college expenses (37.8% BCC versus 47.5% nationwide)
 - Transfer to another college before graduating (29.6% BCC versus 26.6% nationwide)
 - Both BCC students and public college students have limited enthusiasm of their college choice, with just over one-third reporting chances are “very good” that he/she will “be satisfied with [their] college” (39.8% BCC versus 42.4% nationwide)
- **Life Objectives** [\[Back to Top\]](#)
 - BCC students are similar to their national counterparts regarding life objectives they consider “essential” or “very important” (from a list of twenty objectives)
 - 1-Being well off financially (83.7% BCC versus 80.8% nationwide)
 - 2-Raising a family (78.4% BCC versus 73.5% nationwide)
 - 3-Helping others who are in difficulty (73.2% BCC versus 67.3% nationwide)
 - 4-Becoming an authority in my field (61.4% BCC versus 56.2% nationwide)
 - 5-Becoming successful in a business of my own (67.4% BCC versus 49.8% nationwide)
 - BCC students prioritize more the role of improving their understanding of other countries and cultures (59.6% BCC versus 42.2% nationwide) and helping to promote racial understanding (52.8% BCC versus 33.6% nationwide)
- **Political Views** [\[Back to Top\]](#)
 - BCC students are mostly left or middle-of-the-road
 - Far left (6.2% BCC versus 3.5% nationwide)
 - Liberal (35.4% BCC versus 21.4% nationwide)
 - Middle-of-the-road (40.7% BCC versus 53.3% nationwide)
 - Conservative (14.2% BCC versus 19.7% nationwide)
 - Far right (3.5% BCC versus 2.1% nationwide)
 - BCC students agree “strongly” or “somewhat”
 - 16.7% BCC students compared with 37.9% students nationwide that undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education
 - Eight of ten BCC and nationwide that “through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society”
 - Nearly 90% of BCC students that “a national health care plan is needed to cover everybody’s medical costs (80.9% nationwide)

- Like nationwide, 39.2% BCC students that “the chief benefit of a college education is that it increases one’s earning power”

COLLEGE PLANNING

- **College Choice [\[Back to Top\]](#)**
 - Influences when deciding to attend BCC: Top reasons (noted as “very important”) include college cost (54.8%), financial assistance (51.0%), nearness to home (38.8%), graduates get good jobs (38.6%) and college has very good academic reputation (33.3%)
 - BCC as College Choice: Less than half (43.7%) of all BCC students reported attending their first choice college (compared to 66.0% nationwide and 52.7% BCC in 2003), followed by 20.3% attending their second choice college, 14.6% third choice college and 21.5% less than third choice college
 - Parents or Legal Guardians Attending Same College: 9.9% of BCC students had parents/legal guardians attending same college compared with 17.5% nationwide.
 - Parental/legal Guardian Involvement in Decision to Attend College
 - BCC students report “too much” parental/legal guardian involvement with their college planning more often than nationwide counterparts:
 - Decision to go to college (42.1% BCC versus 19.4% nationwide)
 - Application to college (28.7% BCC versus 13.1% nationwide)
 - However, BCC students report “too little” parental/legal guardian involvement once accepted and admitted as well as decision to attend “this” college
 - Dealings with officials at college (45.3% BCC versus 33.9% nationwide)
 - Choosing college courses (47.5% BCC versus 37.9% nationwide)
 - Choosing college activities (55.2% BCC versus 40.9% nationwide)
 - Decision to attend this college (37.7% BCC versus 19.8% nationwide)
 - Other College Choices: BCC students apply to many more colleges than their nationwide counterparts:
 - None (32.8% BCC versus 54.9% nationwide)
 - One to three (29.4% BCC versus 31.3% nationwide)
 - Four or more (33.3% BCC versus 13.8% nationwide)
 - College Visit: Well less than half of BCC students (43.7%) visited BCC before they applied, compared to 60.8% nationwide. Many BCC students visit after they applied (17.7%), accepted (15.3%) or decided to attend (23.3%).

○ **College Plans** [[Back to Top](#)]

- Degree Plans at Any College: Only 5.6% first-time BCC students intend to stop at an Associate degree level degree at any college while 91% intend to obtain a Bachelor's degree or higher at any college (29.2% Bachelor's, 44.9% Master's and 9.4% Ph.D. or other).
- Degree Plans at BCC: About three quarters of all first-time students (7672.4%) plan to receive an Associate's degree at BCC.
- Probable Major:
 - High proportions of students pick Nursing as a probable major (21.9% BCC versus 14.8% nationwide)
 - Following Nursing, the next most chosen majors at BCC are Business Administration (general) (3.7%), Elementary Education (4.6%), Secondary Education (3.2%), Psychology (2.7%) and Accounting (5.0%) and Health Technology (4.1%)

○ **Financing College** [[Back to Top](#)]

- Six out of ten BCC students (63%) do not expect to receive financial assistance from family resources to help pay colleges expenses in their first year (compared to 40.4% nationwide)
- More than two-thirds (62.3%) do not have their own resources to help cover college expenses in their first year (compared to 42.8% nationwide). 23.8% plan to use less than \$1000.
- 36.4% expect to receive aid that need not be repaid such as grants, scholarships, etc.
- Nine out of ten BCC students (91.4%) do not expect to receive aid which must be repaid such as loans, compared to 79.2% nationwide
- More than three-quarters (68.8%) of BCC students are concerned about their ability to finance their college education compared to 65.3% nationwide. Of the financially concerned, one-quarter (25%) of BCC students report a major concern or not sure they will have enough funds to complete college compared to 15.6% nationwide.