

2019

A Profile of Freshman Inquiry Students Fall 2019

Portland State University. University Studies Program

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Citation Details

Portland State University. University Studies Program and Carpenter, Rowanna L., "A Profile of Freshman Inquiry Students Fall 2019" (2019). *University Studies Assessment Research*. 33.
https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/unst_assessment_research/33

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A Profile of Freshman Inquiry Students Fall 2019

In order to better understand the students who enroll in Freshman Inquiry (FRINQ) courses and identify areas where they may need support, University Studies (UNST) began collecting and compiling data on these students. This report presents a profile of FRINQ students from Fall 2019. It presents an overview of all students enrolled in FRINQ during Fall 2019 and then summarizes information from the Prior Learning Survey. It is organized around three areas that contribute to student success: academic preparation and concern; financial and physical wellbeing; and connectedness to campus.

Data Sources:

PSU Data Warehouse: PSU Office of Institutional Research and Planning 4th week student data file, includes demographic and enrollment data for all 2019 FRINQ students.

Prior Learning Survey: Survey administered during weeks 1 and 2 of Fall term. 1090 students responded to the survey (85.9% response rate).

OVERALL PROFILE (For all FRINQ students, N=1269)

Academic Profile

New students: 92.1% of FRINQ students were new to PSU during Fall 2019. The rest began at PSU prior to Fall 2019.

Full-time status: 96.1% of FRINQ students were enrolled at PSU as full-time students.

Class level: 96.0% of FRINQ students were freshmen. 2.8% were sophomores, 1.2% were juniors and seniors.

Major: 8.4% of students were undecided about their majors. Psychology, Biology, Health Studies, Computer Science, Business Management and Leadership, and Business Marketing were the most popular majors.

Demographic Profile

Gender: 55.8% of FRINQ students were female, 44.2% were male.

Ethnicity: 0.9% were Native American, 11.9% were Asian, 4.5% were Black, 24.2% were Hispanic/Latino, 3.5% were International Students, 7.6% report multiple ethnicities, 0.7% were Pacific Islander, 43.3% were White.

Age: 91.6% of FRINQ students were 19 years or younger, 7.1% were between 20 and 25, and 1.3% were older than 25.

PRIOR LEARNING SURVEY RESPONSES (N=1090)

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Academic Background

First Generation Status: 51.2% of FRINQ students are first-generation college students; neither parent had earned a 4-year degree.

Prior Activity: 86.6% of FRINQ students were attending high school last year.

Academic Assistance

Graduation Requirements: 52.1% of FRINQ students report that they understand PSU graduation requirements fairly or very well. 36.1% understand the requirements a little and 11.7% do not understand the requirements very well or not at all.

Students reported on the kinds of help they think they need as they begin the school year.

Ratings made on a scale of 1 = I don't need any help to 3 = I need a lot of help

Activity	% of Students needing a lot of help
Writing	18.2
Math	30.8
Reading and understanding academic texts	12.2
Tutoring in other areas	9.9
Study skills	15.2
Finances	29.8
Using the library	6.3
Adjusting to college	10.4
Finding a job	15.0
Finding a social group	16.5

Academic Plans

PSU Plans: 87.1% of FRINQ students planned to earn a bachelor's degree from PSU

Degree Plans: For 42.2% a bachelor's degree was the highest degree they intend to earn.

FINANCIAL PROFILE

Work Hours: 60.3% of FRINQ students planned to work between 1 and 20 hours per week. 19.2% do not plan to work, 19.7% will work more than 20 hours per week. 14.7% will work at least some of those hours on campus.

Financial Concern: 37.0% listed financial issues as their top concern as they start the year. 21.9% expressed a major concern about finances; they are worried they may not have enough money to finish school.

Students expressed agreement with the following questions about their finances

Question	% Agree or Strongly agree
I understand how student loans work	55.0
My personal financial situation makes me feel stressed	56.1
I understand how to find a job to help pay for college	66.9
I understand how to use credit cards responsibly	70.0

CONNECTEDNESS

Housing: 42.8% lived on campus. 45.6% lived with their parents or families.

Campus Involvement: Students reported where they would participate on campus.

Activity	% Planning to Participate
Student clubs or organizations	58.6
Volunteering in community	40.0
Student government	3.8
Greek life	4.1
Intramural sports	13.0
Outdoor program	12.2
Residential Life	14.0

STUDENT PROFILE

Home Language: 41.3% reported speaking a language other than English at home.

Care for Dependents: 8.7% had at least part-time responsibility for dependents.