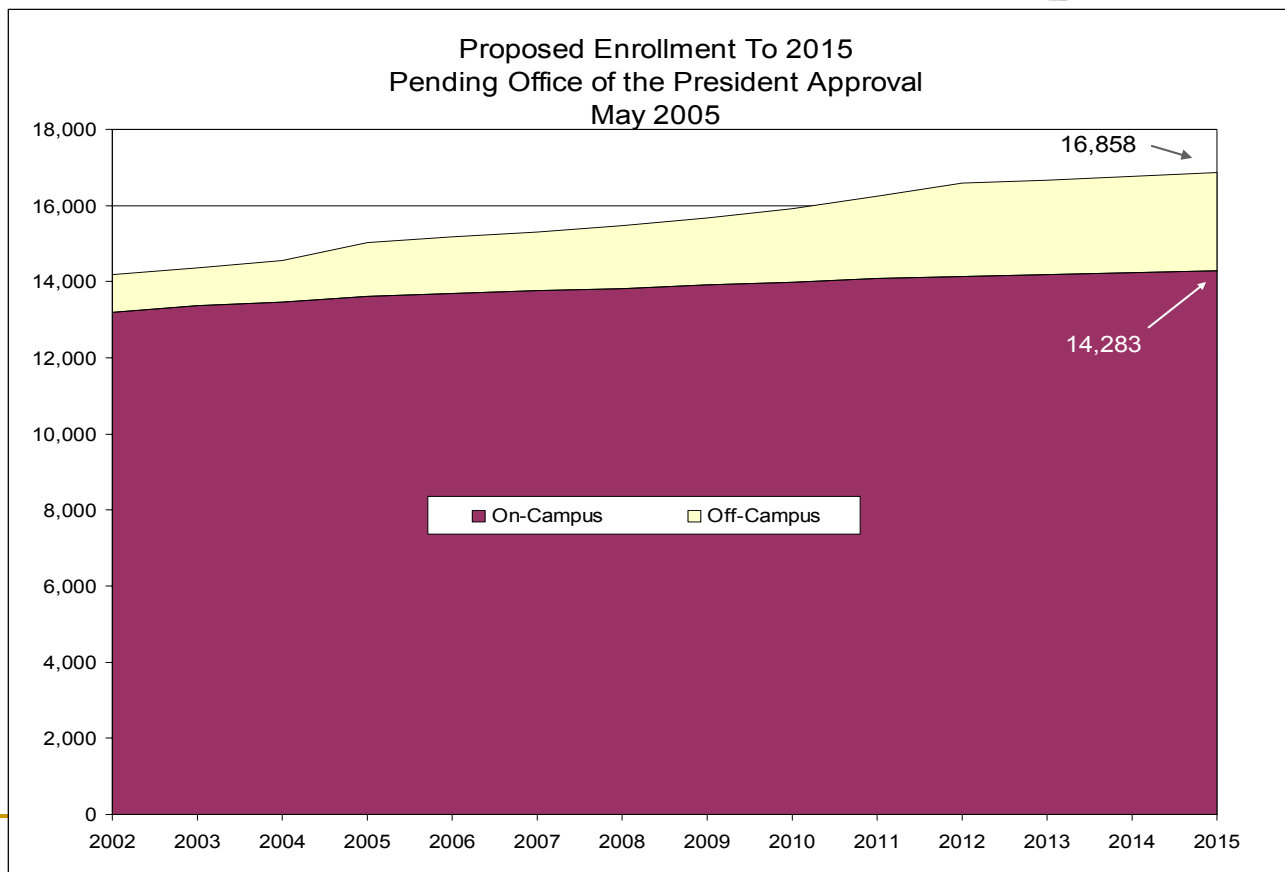

Understanding Today's Students

New Faculty and Professional Student
Development Staff Orientation
August 16, 2005

How many students do we enroll?

- On-Campus
 - 13,185, Fall 2002;
 - 13,362, Fall 2003;
 - 13,463, Fall 2004
 - 13,600 expected Fall 2005.**
 - Distance Education
 - 1,051, Fall 2002;
 - 1,037, Fall 2003;
 - 1,279, Fall 2004
 - 1,450 expected Fall 2005.
 - Sixth largest in UNC (NCSU, UNCCH, ECU, UNCC, UNCG)
-

How many students do we anticipate?



Who are our students?

For each 10 students you see...

- 9 are undergraduate
 - 9 are full-time
 - 9 are North Carolinians
 - 3 undergraduates entered as transfers
 - 5 live on campus, most others nearby
 - 5 are female
-

They are young...

- Average age, undergraduates: 21
 - 8 of 10 are 22 and younger
 - 5 of 10 were born after 1980
-
- Average age, graduate students: 29
 - 7 of 10 graduate students are under 32
-

They are from suburban NC...

- Top 5 feeder counties:
 1. Mecklenburg (Charlotte)
 2. Wake (Raleigh)
 3. Watauga (home county)
 4. Guilford (Greensboro)
 5. Forsyth (Winston-Salem)
 - 5 of 10 are from cities of moderate size or larger
-

They are almost all white...

- 91.0% white
 - 3.8% black (550 - 560)
 - 1.1% Asian (160 - 170)
 - 1.3% Hispanic (180 - 190)
 - <1% Native American (40 - 50)
 - <1% Non-Resident Alien (50 - 60)
 - 2.3% Unspecified (330-340)
-

They have relatively high socioeconomic levels...

- 8 of 10 entering freshmen have at least one parent who has attended college
 - Almost 5 of 10 freshmen report family incomes greater than \$75,000
 - Among the smallest percent in UNC qualifying for need-based financial aid
-

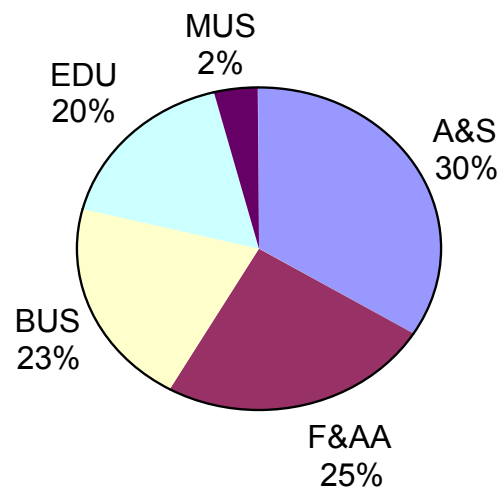
They have relatively high quality indicators for freshmen...

- Near 1130 SAT for 2005 entering freshmen
 - 4th rank SAT in UNC
 - 1020 - 1210, 25th-75th SAT percentile
 - Over one-half are in the top 25% of high school class
 - One of the higher selectivity ranks for public southern universities (US News)
-

They stay and graduate at relatively high rates...

- 84.2% freshmen-sophomore retention rate, 4th highest in the UNC
 - 59.8% five-year graduation rate, 4th highest in the UNC
 - Ranked 4th in graduation rates among 123 public Masters I southern universities (US News)
-

They earn degrees in the colleges/school like this...



What do they think of
Appalachian?

Regarding the quality of instruction...

- 91% graduating seniors rated faculty overall as “excellent” or “good”
 - 90% sophomores rated faculty overall as “excellent” or “good”
 - Consistently high evaluations on all 8 indicators of good educational practices (e.g., encourage actively involved learning; encourage student-faculty interaction)
-

What generally can we say to describe Appalachian students?

- Traditional college age undergraduates and younger graduate students
 - Full-time, residential
 - White, suburban North Carolinians
 - Higher socioeconomic status
 - Higher academic credentials
 - Very satisfied with their educational experiences
-

Generational Context

“Every college student is a product of its age.”

-Levine & Cureton, *When Hope and Fear Collide*

The life and times of the Class of 2009

- **Born (1987):**
 - Stock Market crash
 - Oliver North (Iran-Contra hearings)
 - **One year old (1988):**
 - George Bush elected
 - Pan Am 747 explodes over Lockerbie Scotland
 - **Two years old (1989):**
 - Berlin Wall came down
 - Tianamen Square killings
 - Exxon Valdez accident
 - World Wide Web started
 - *Simpsons* Debut
-

The life and times of the Class of 2009

- **Three years old (1990):**

- ❑ Persian Gulf War
- ❑ Nelson Mandela released
- ❑ Unification of Germany

- **Four years old (1991)**

- ❑ Soviet Union broke apart
- ❑ Apartheid repealed in South Africa
- ❑ Clarence Thomas hearings

- **Five years old (1992)**

- ❑ Bill Clinton elected
- ❑ U. S. troops in Somalia
- ❑ Los Angeles riots followed the Rodney King verdict

- **Six years old (1993)**

- ❑ Israeli-Palestinian peace accord
 - ❑ Branch Davidian stand off in Waco, Texas
 - ❑ Monica Seles stabbed
-

The life and times of the Class of 2009

- **Seven years old (1994)**

- World Series was canceled
- Kurt Cobain committed suicide
- Nancy Kerrigan attacked

- **Eight years old (1995)**

- O. J. Simpson was acquitted
- Oklahoma City federal building bombed

- **Nine years old (1996)**

- Unabomber arrested
- Bill Clinton reelected
- Olympic Park bombing

- **Ten years old (1997)**

- Simpson guilty in civil trial
 - Dow Jones topped 8,000
 - Princess Diana killed
-

The life and times of the Class of 2009

■ **Eleven Years Old (1998)**

- ❑ Clinton/Lewinsky Affair
- ❑ Jesse Ventura elected

■ **Twelve Years Old (1999)**

- ❑ Columbine High School Tragedy (and local threats)
- ❑ Dow Jones sets record highs (Tops 12,000)
- ❑ Instant Messaging (IM) technology
- ❑ US Women's Soccer Team wins World Cup

■ **Thirteen Years Old (2000)**

- ❑ Presidential election controversy
- ❑ Tech stocks start to fall
- ❑ Elian Gonzales

■ **Fourteen Years Old (2001)**

- ❑ George W. Bush elected
 - ❑ Terrorist attack on U.S. territory (World Trade Center and Pentagon)
 - ❑ Anthrax scare
-

The life and times of the Class of 2009

■ Fifteen Years Old (2002)

- War on terror
- Sniper shootings
- Enron collapse

□ Sixteen Years Old (2003)

- War in Iraq
- Space Shuttle Columbia disaster
- SARS outbreak
- Sammy Sosa's corked bat
- Woman plays in PGA tour event
- Governor Schwarzenegger

■ Seventeen Years Old (2004)

- War in Iraq continues
- Bush re-elected
- Tsunami

■ Eighteen Years Old (2005)

- Pope John Paul II dies
 - Terri Schiavo
 - Steroid Controversy
-

Today's Students (summary)

- Computers, CD's, VCR's have been present their entire lives
 - Never known a day without AIDS
 - Too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up
 - Grew up in a period of rapid change
 - Era of personal violence and terrorism
-

Technology is a way of life

- Approach academic research differently
 - Engage in cyber relationships
 - Expectation of cyber service
 - Students are plugged-in
 - Trial & error as learning strategy
 - Video game generation
-

Technology

- 53.3% of students spent more than 5 hours per week online
- Nearly every freshman last year brought a computer to campus (35%-Desktop; 67.7% laptop) — totals more than 100%
- 93.8% brought a cell phone to campus
- 73.1% very often or often used e-mail to communicate with an instructor.

Freshmen Self Ratings

Rated self above average or highest 10%

With rank (out of 21 choices)

Cooperativeness (1)	72.9%
Drive to Achieve (2)	71.6%
Academic Ability (3)	69.7%
Physical Health (9)	56.6%
Emotional Health (11)	54.5%
Writing Ability (13)	46.6%
Computing Skills (16)	38.8%

Millennial

Co-Curricular Involvement

- 89.6% plan to join a club/organization
- 38% plan to become a leader in a student organization (down from 48.5% in 1994)
- 21% plan to join a fraternity or sorority ↓

Cultural Experiences & Expectations

Activity	Year Prior To Enrolling at ASU	Predict will participate during 1 st year
Traveled in a foreign country	35.3% ↑	40.2% ↑
Visited an art gallery	64.8% ↑	57.8% ↑
Attended a classical music concert, opera, or symphony	45.3% ↑	52.9% ↑
Attended a play	77.4%	74.4%
Attended a dance performance	51.6% ↑	51.3% ↑

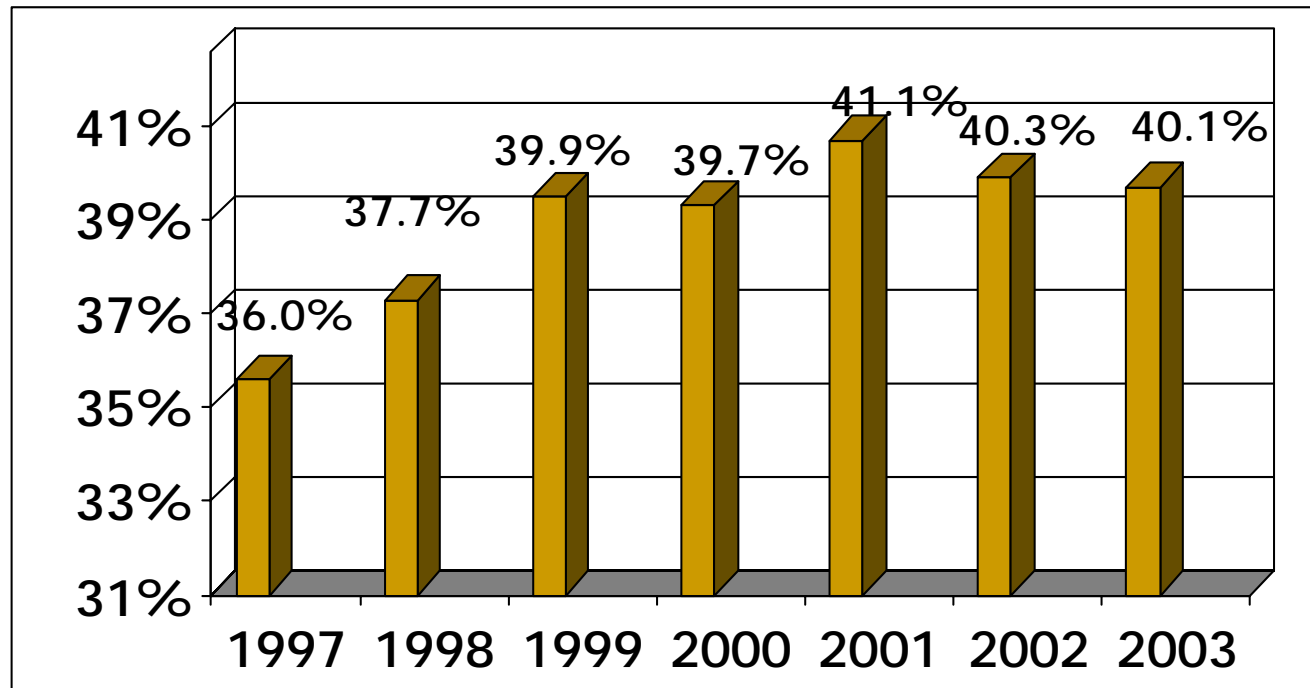
Freshman Survey (2004)

Academics

Attitudes and Behaviors

Academic Disengagement

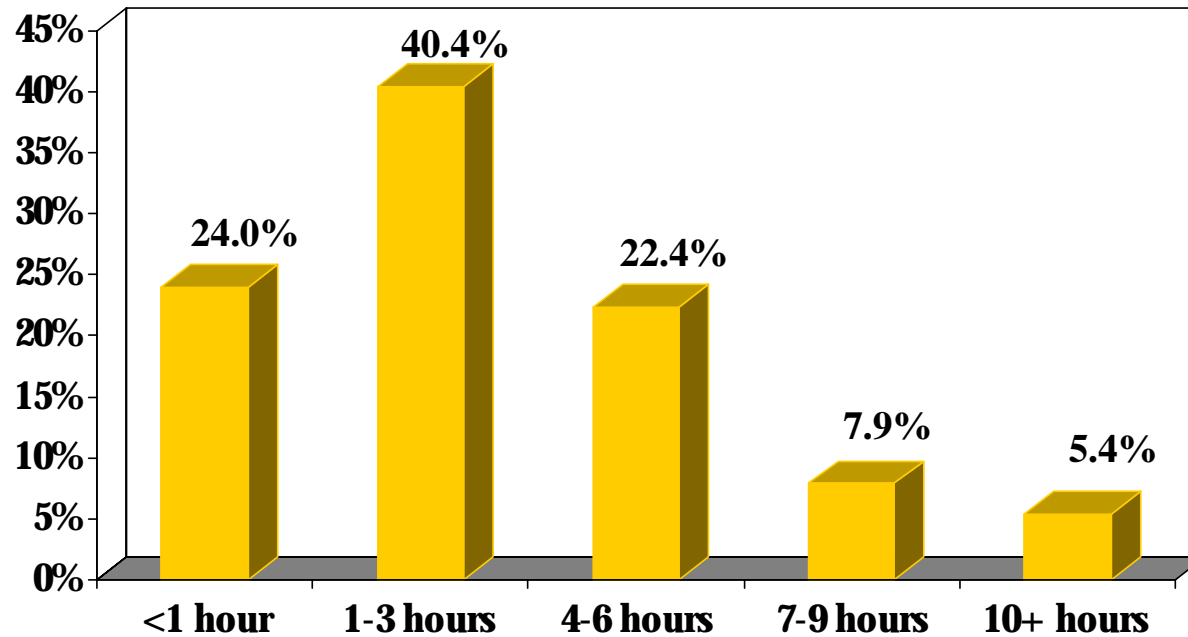
Frequently Bored in Class – High School



Higher Education Research Institute

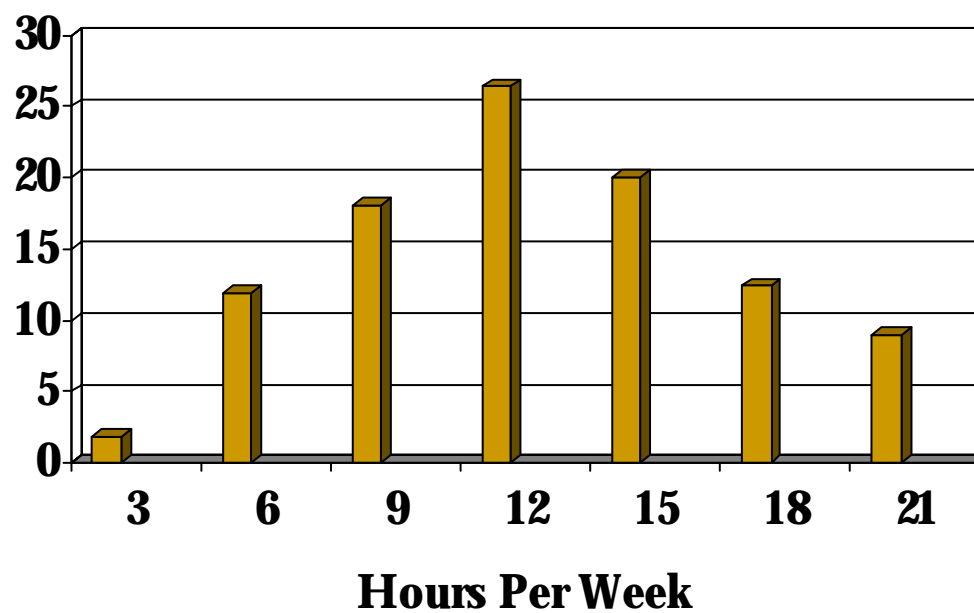
Academic Disengagement

Hours spent studying per week in last year of high school



ASU Freshman Survey (2004)

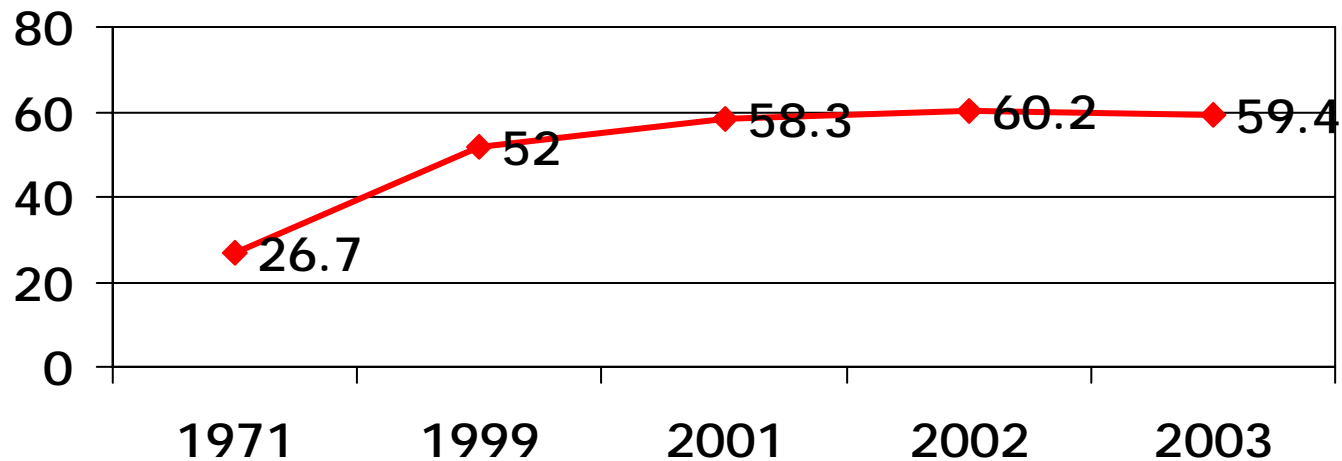
Hours Planned to Study



College Student Inventory (2003)

Academic Expectations

% of those who expect to earn at least
a "B" average



Higher Education Research Institute

Disengagement Continues – Bad Habits in College

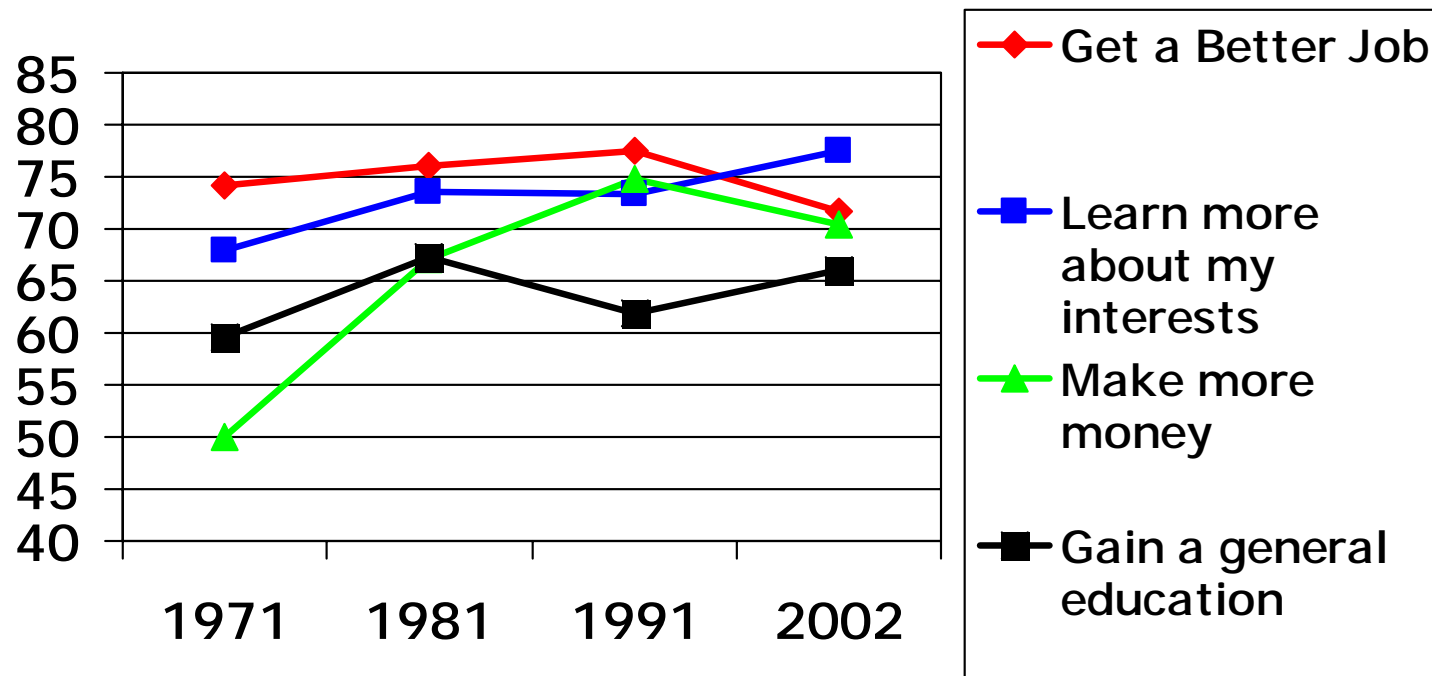
- 35.6% studied less than 6 hours per week during freshmen year
- 47.9% frequently or occasionally turned in assignments that did not reflect their best work
- 33.3% frequently or occasionally skipped class
- 32.6% frequently or occasionally came to class late

Why Are They Here?

Top Reasons for Attending College:

- To learn about things that interest me (76.9%)
- To be able to get a better job (70.1%)
- Training for a specific career (70%)
- To be able to make more money (69.4%)
- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas (65.4%)
- Prepare for graduate school (57.8%)

Reasons for Attending College (longitudinal)



Traits that Describe “A Great Student”

- Being honest in my relationships with others (71.2%)
- Searching for meaning/purpose in life (34.6%)
- Engaging in self-reflection (26.3%)
- Appreciating the interconnectedness of everything (24.1%)

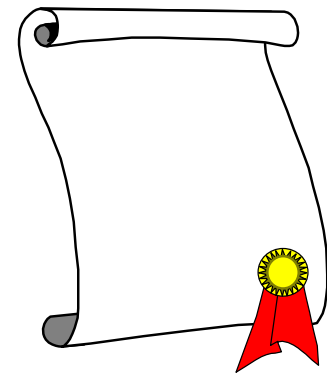
Aspirations

How important is it to you that you graduate from college?

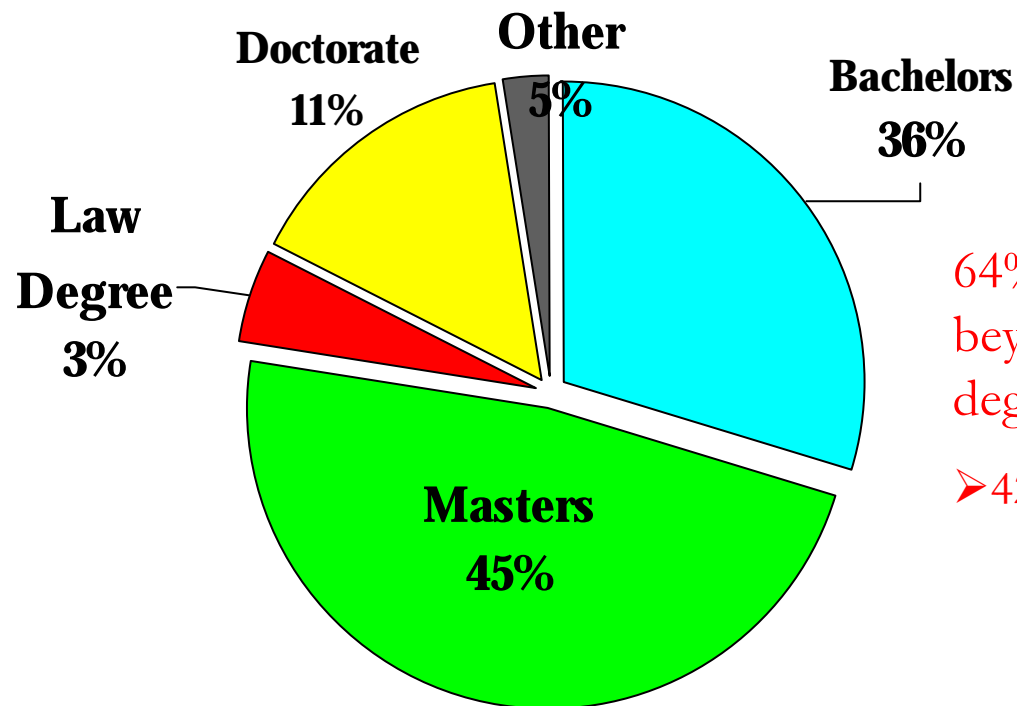
Not at all important	0.0%
Somewhat important	2.0%
Very important	20.6%
Extremely important	77.3%

~60% will graduate (5 years)

ASU Freshmen Survey (2003)



Degree Expectations

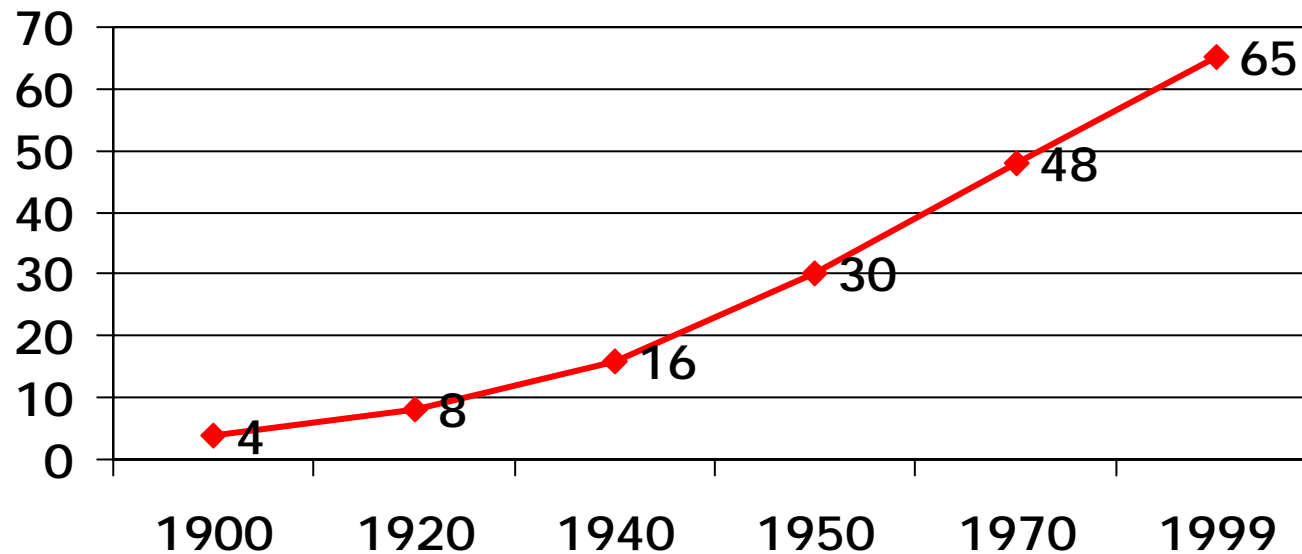


64% plan to go beyond a bachelor's degree!

➤ 42.8% in 1971

ASU Freshmen Survey (2002)

Elite to Mass Education: Percentage of 18-21 year olds that attend college



Levine and Cureton (1998); H.L Horowitz (1987)

Academic Integrity

- 54.4% reported that they cheated on an exam, paper, or test the year prior to enrolling in college.
- 16% plan to cheat during their first year in college!

Getting it Done?

- 45.8% of freshmen frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do
- Only 29.1% felt very successful in managing their time effectively

Change Over the First Year

As compared with when they entered college, first-year students:

- Spend more time studying, partying, and socializing
- Spend less time exercising and reading for pleasure
- Drink alcohol more frequently
- Attend religious services and perform volunteer work less frequently
- Feel more overwhelmed and depressed
- Feel more worried about the costs of college

A Worthwhile Endeavor!

Self-Perceived Changes Among First-Year Students	% reporting “much stronger” or “stronger”
General knowledge	90.1%
Knowledge of a particular field	81%
Critical thinking skills	70.9%
Analytical/problem solving skills	69.4%
Ability to get along with others	59.3%
Knowledge of people from different races/cultures	57.3%

Your First College Year, 2003

Putting it all Together

- Academics are not students' only priority
 - Many engage in risky behaviors
 - Psychological issues
 - Tech savvy, yet still apprehensive
 - Need to understand value and purpose of a college education
 - Need help managing time
 - Need to be academically engaged & challenged
-

CHICKERING'S (1993) SEVEN VECTORS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

