



Freshman Survey Results

A Graphic Report

December 2019

The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) is the primary source for official campus statistics, complying with federal, state, and university reporting standards and requirements. OIRAP conducts student surveys and special research studies in support of university policy formation, assessment, and accountability. Every year since 2013, OIRAP administers the Freshman Survey with the help of new student orientation staff. The survey is designed to learn more about our freshmen, and to understand their expectations for the coming year.

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More information: umb.edu/oirap.



Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, & Planning
University of Massachusetts Boston

Freshman Survey 2019

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) has been conducting the Freshman Survey since 2013. The survey is designed to learn about our first-year students, their high school experience, and their expectations from UMass Boston for the coming year.

The Survey was created in Qualtrics, an online survey platform. Prospective first-time first-year students were asked to take the survey during their summer orientation sessions. Once the summer orientation sessions were over, we sent the survey to the remaining students who were enrolled as first-time first-year students but did not respond to this survey.

2019 Freshman Survey response rate was 37 percent

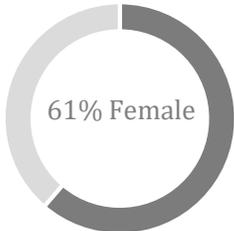
College	Survey Respondents		First-time First year Fall 2019		Response rate	Respondents' Gender
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	%	
Education and Human Dev.	14	2%	39	2%	36%	 <p>61% Female</p>
Liberal Arts	249	32%	723	34%	34%	
Management	117	15%	339	16%	35%	
Nursing and Health Sciences	87	11%	210	10%	41%	
School for the Environment	9	1%	29	1%	31%	
Science and Mathematics	305	39%	783	37%	39%	
Total	781	100%	2123	100.0%	37%	

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First-generation College Students

Three out of five UMass Boston first-time first-year students are first-generation¹ college students.

More than three out of five first-time freshmen are first-generation college students

Freshman Survey 2019 **66%**

National* **40%**

*Source: BCSSE 2018 (most recent) entering class (n= 65,219)

Percentage of first-generation students by gender

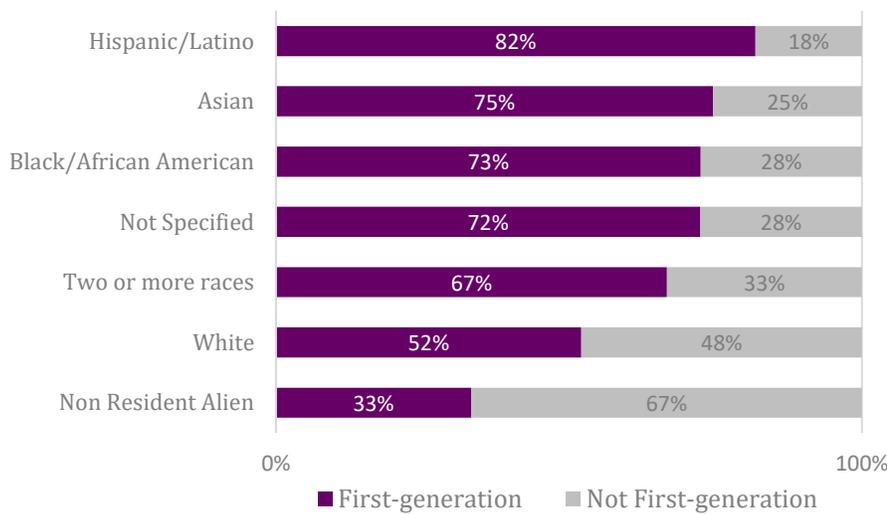


Female **69%**

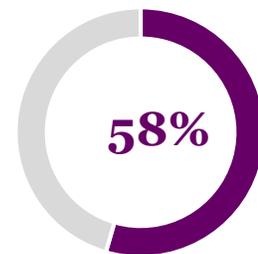


Male **62%**

U.S. Students of color are more likely to be a first-generation student



More than half of the students speak a language other than English at home



Students who participated in the survey reported **over 60** different languages spoken at home

First-generation students by college

College	# of respondents	# of first-gen	% of first-gen
Education & Human Dev.	13	11	85%
Liberal Arts	226	144	64%
Management	107	77	72%
Nursing & Health Sciences	84	51	61%
Environment	9	5	56%
Science & Math	289	194	67%
Total	728	559	66%

Nearly half of the students who speak another language are equally comfortable speaking in that language as well as English



Top majors pursued by the first-generation students in Fall 2019

1. Biology (BS)	19%	4. Undecided - Liberal Arts	6%
2. Management (BS)	15%	5. Criminology & Criminal Justice	5%
3. Psychology (BA)/(BS)	8%	6. Computer Science (BS)	5%

¹ Neither parent or anyone who raised them holds a bachelor's degree

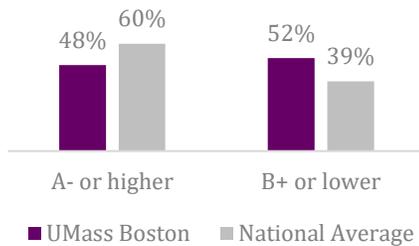
High School Experience: Activities and Involvement

Seventy-four percent of our first-time first-year students were involved in community service or volunteer work during their last year in high school.

Ninety-seven percent* of the Fall 2019 first-time first-year students graduated from high school in 2019

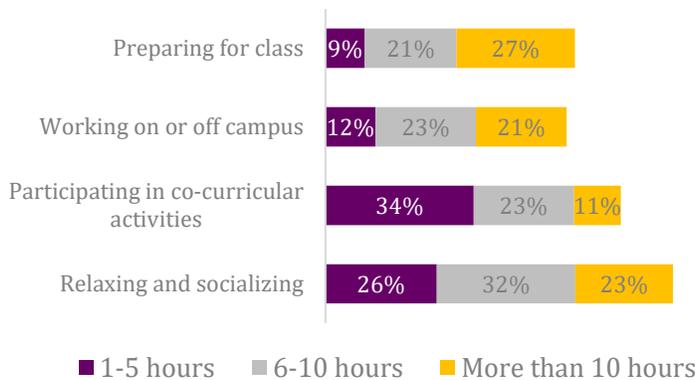
*those who reported (n = 670)

UMass Boston Freshmen are less likely to have received (most often) A- or higher in high school compared to their national peers



Source for national data: BCSSE 2018 (most recent) Institutional Report

Twenty-one percent students plan to work for pay for more than 10 hours a week in their freshman year



Percentage of first-time first-year students involved in an activity during high school years



Community service or volunteer work

77%



Academic clubs or honor societies

49%



Athletic teams (varsity, JV, club sport, etc.)

47%



Performing or visual arts programs

41%



Vocational clubs (business, technology, etc.)

24%



Publications (student newspaper, etc.)

20%



Religious youth groups

18%



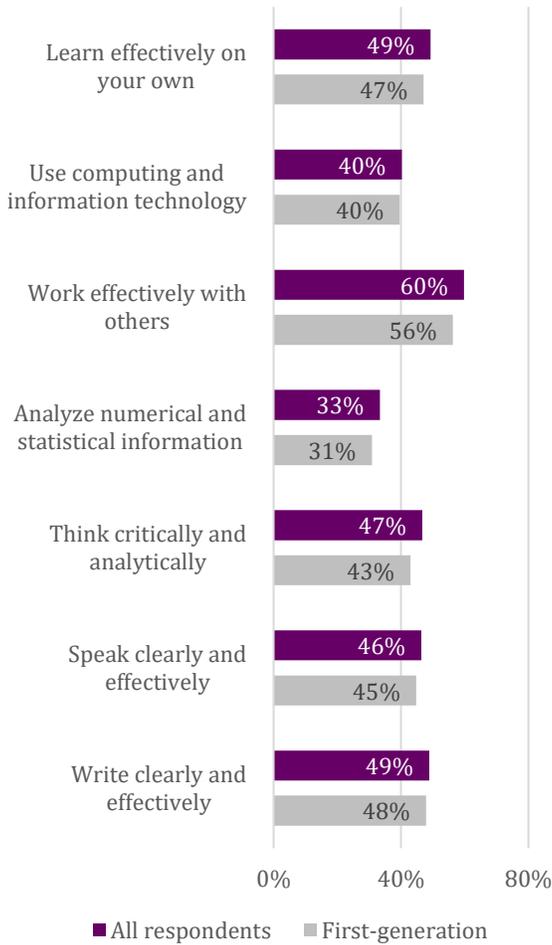
Student government

16%

Self-perceived Academic Preparedness

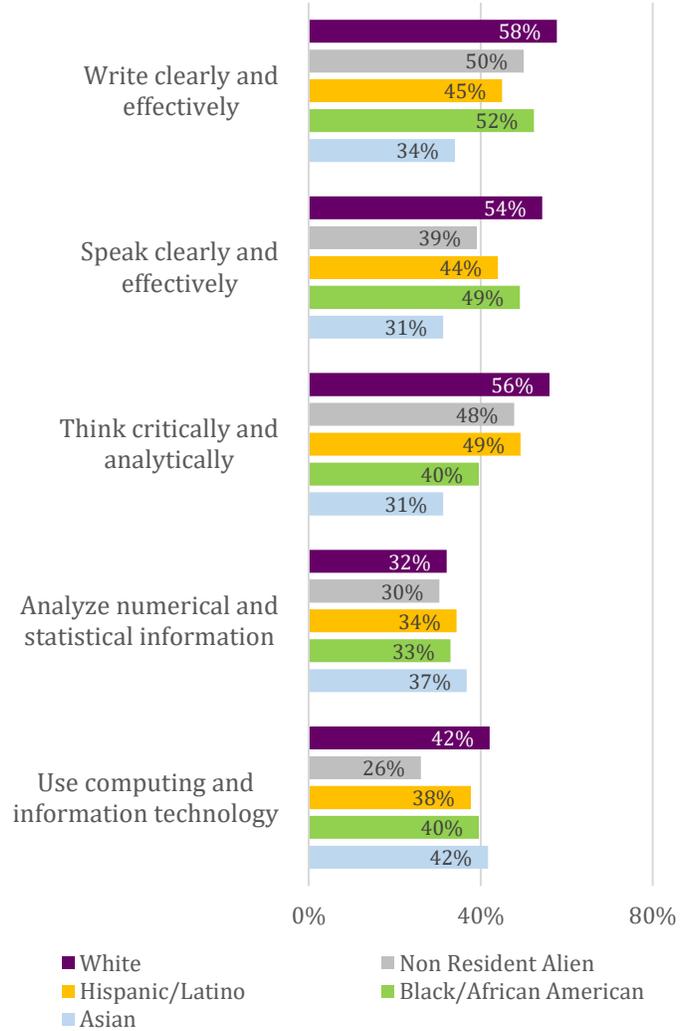
First-generation students are behind their peers in all categories of self-assessed preparedness.

Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following in their academic work



Note: *Very prepared* are the responses of 5 and 6 on the scale of 1 to 6, 1 being not at all prepared and 6 being very prepared.

Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following, by ethnicity



Percentage of freshman who are *very prepared* to do the following in their academic work, by college

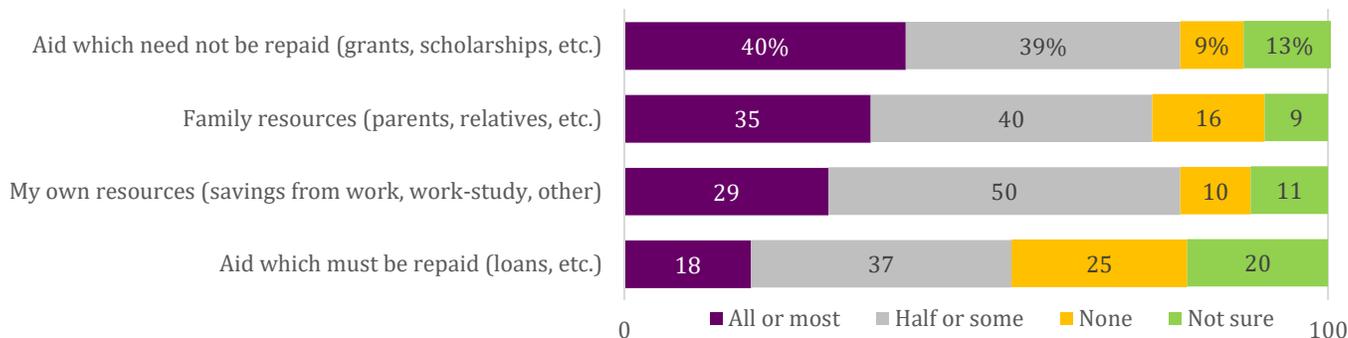
	Liberal Arts	Management	Nursing	Science & Math.
Write clearly and effectively	54%	42%	55%	47%
Speak clearly and effectively	48%	43%	48%	47%
Think critically and analytically	49%	36%	42%	51%
Analyze numerical and statistical info.	27%	32%	31%	41%
Work effectively with others	60%	47%	72%	61%
Use computing and information tec.	37%	31%	38%	48%
Learn effectively on your own	49%	42%	55%	52%

Note: excludes colleges that has less than 15 responses.

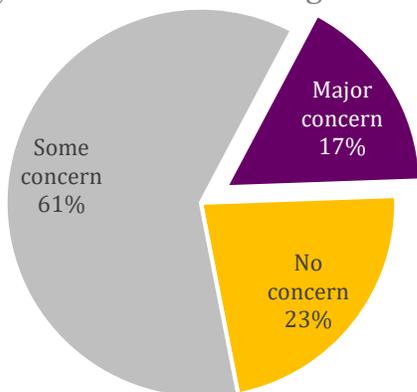
Financing College Education

Sixty-one percent of first-time first-year students reported having “some” concerns and 23 percent having “major” concerns about their ability to finance a college education.

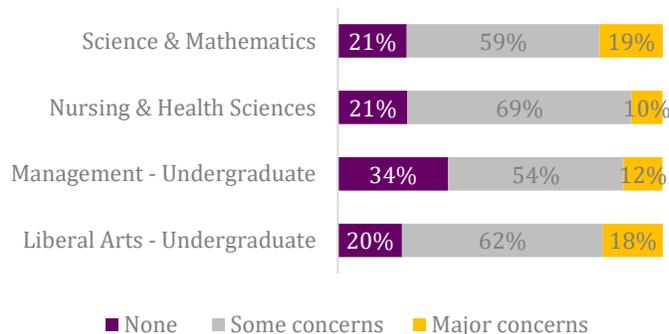
Percentage of first year's educational expenses from expected sources



Percentage of freshman concerned about their ability to finance their college education

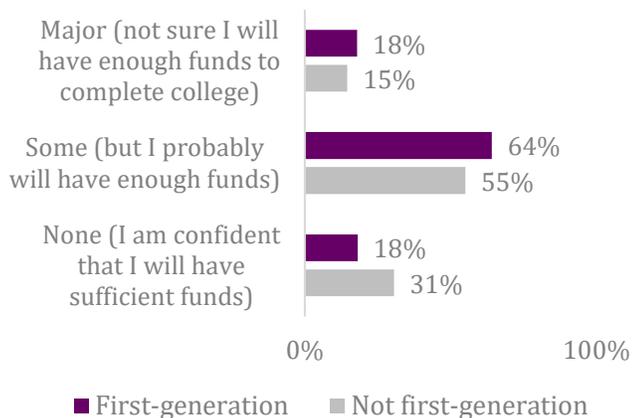


Financial Concern by College

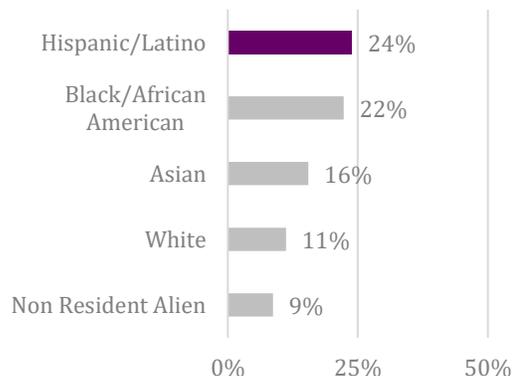


Note: exclude colleges with $n < 15$

First-generation students are more likely to have financial concerns than their peers



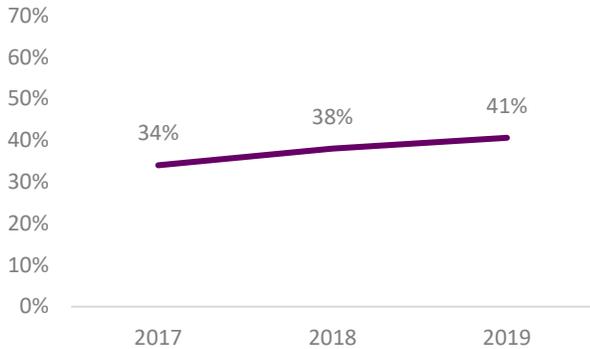
Hispanic/Latino students were more likely to report having major financial concerns



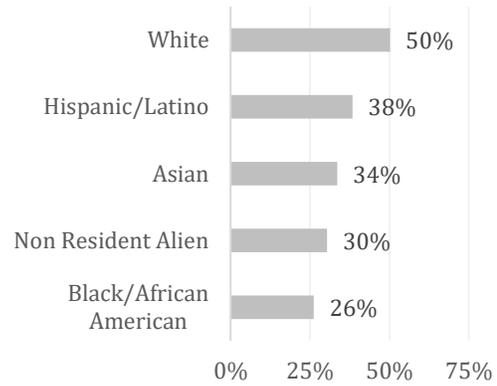
Choosing UMass Boston

Two out of five of the first-time first-year students reported UMass Boston as their first choice.

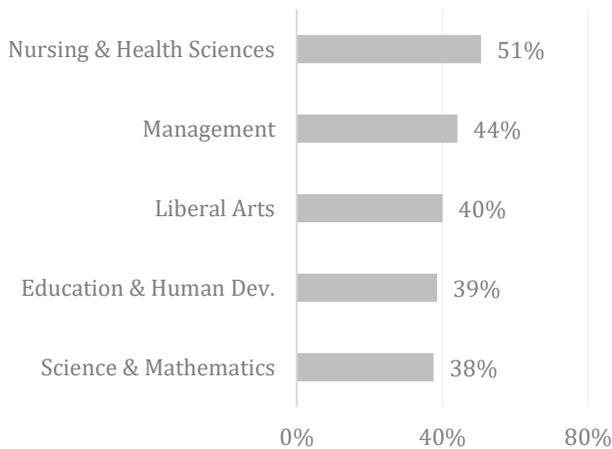
Percentage of students who ranked UMass Boston as their first choice since 2017



Percentage of freshman reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by ethnicity

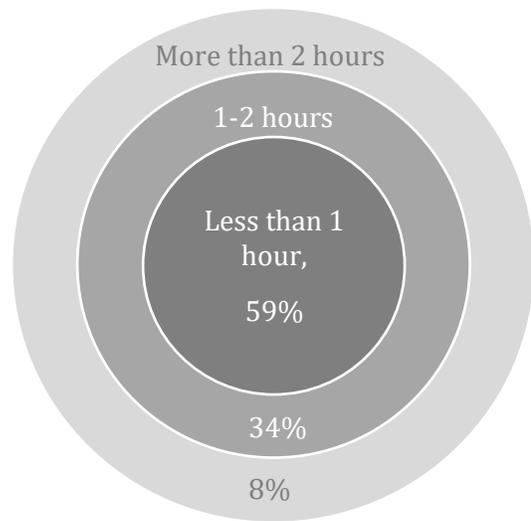


Percentage of freshman reporting UMass Boston as their first choice, by college

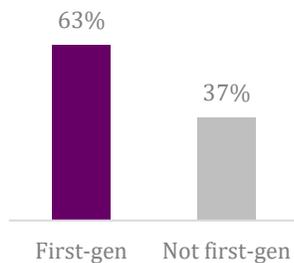


Note: does not include colleges with n<10

Driving time from home to UMass Boston



Of those students who reported UMass Boston as their first choice, the majority were first-generation students



Of those who reported UMass Boston as their first choice-

 58% were female

 42% were male

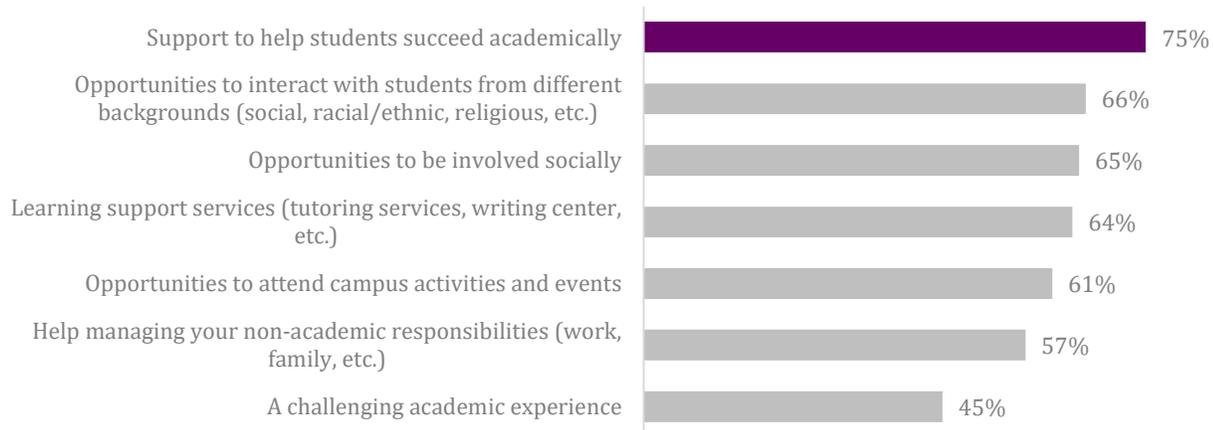


69% of the freshman have at least one close friend who will attend UMass Boston

Expectations for the First Year at UMass Boston

During the coming school year, nearly half (47%) of the first-time first-year students would find paying college expenses *very difficult*.

Percentage of freshman reporting the features that are very important for an institution to provide

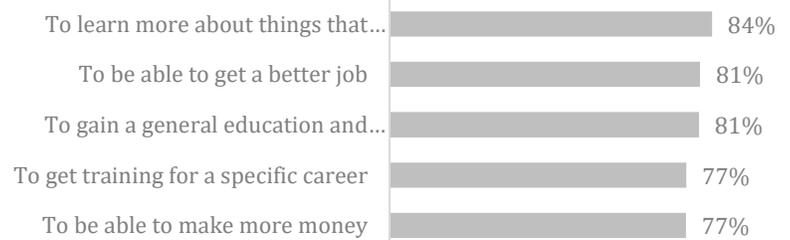


Note: very important are the responses of 5 and 6 on a scale of 1 to 6, 1 being not important and 6 being very important.

Average hours expected to spend in the freshman year

Activities	2019 Freshmen
Preparing for class	14.2
Working on/ off-campus	10.7
Participate in co-curricular activities	5.8
Relaxing and socializing	10.0

Top five reasons for going to college



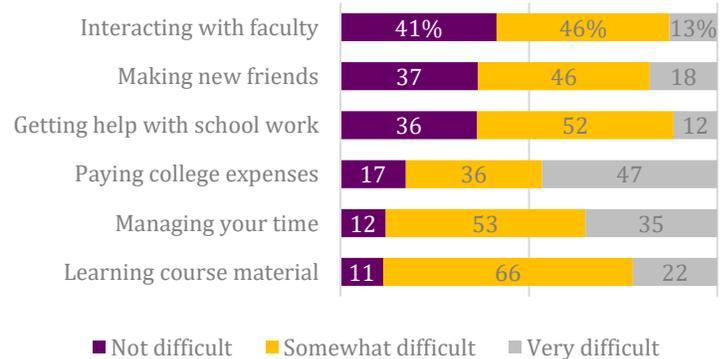
Note: percent indicating *very important* to "In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?"

More than 2 out of 5 will be living with their family members

 UMass Boston residence halls	41%
 Residence within walking distance to campus	4%
 With family members	41%
 Within easy access to public transportation	14%

Note: student had an option to select multiple categories.

Expected *very difficult* activities during coming school year



■ Not difficult ■ Somewhat difficult ■ Very difficult