From creative endeavors to technology, incoming first-year students are interested in building on their skills. In fact, post-college jobs and making a difference in the world are motivating factors for the freshman class of 2017.

For freshmen, choosing a college is based on a variety of decisions:

- 18% Are attending a school over 500 miles away from home
- 11% Only applied to the college they’re attending
- 76% Were accepted to their first-choice college
- 47% Believed a campus visit was very important in selecting their college
- 85% Consider being able to get a better job a very important reason to attend college

Some students are artistic...

- 29% Believe their artistic ability is above average
- 16% Think it’s important to be successful in the performing arts
- 17% Consider creating art very important
- 8% Plan on majoring in an art-related field
- 6% Of students have future career plans to be an artist

...And some are tech-savvy.

- 21% Strongly agree that a basic understanding of programming is important for most careers today
- 20% Have written code in the past year
- 12% Consider their computer programming skills above average
- 7% Took AP Computer Science A
- 3% Took AP Computer Science Principles

Students’ experiences with AP courses varies:

- 7% Of incoming students attended high schools that did not offer AP courses

Of those who attended high schools that offered AP courses, they took the following:

- 19% Did not take any
- 23% AP Probability and Statistics
- 40% AP Calculus
- 28% AP Biology
- 20% AP Chemistry
- 23% AP Physics
- 16% AP Environmental Science

Information about students entering college helps enrollment planning, retention efforts, and provides a baseline for understanding college effectiveness. Register for the CIRP Freshman Survey at www.cirpsurveys.org. The 2017 CIRP Freshman Survey findings are available at www.heri.ucla.edu/publications-fts.