

Career Planning

2013 Your First College Year Survey

In spring 2013, we asked first-year students at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) to participate in the *Your First College Year* survey. The survey was administered by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA in conjunction with the Office of Planning and Institutional Research. Due to low response rates, the results should be interpreted with caution.¹ This report provides information about students' career and major choices, use of career services and goals for the future.



Approximately one-fourth of first-year CWRU students changed their career choice during their first year of college (27%). In terms of their major, 36% of students decided to pursue a different major, while 30% remained undecided. During their first year at CWRU, 42% of students used career services and 3% frequently did so. Compared to first-year students in the private university comparison group, CWRU students were no different in how often they used career services.²

In terms of personal goals related to career choice, the majority of students said it was very important/essential to:

- ❖ Become an authority in their field
- ❖ Be very well off financially
- ❖ Obtain recognition from colleagues for contributions to their special field

Table 1. How important are the following to you personally?	Somewhat Important	Very Important/ Essential
Become an authority in my field	25%	67%
Be very well off financially	27%	66%
Obtain recognition from colleagues for contributions to my special field	32%	62%
Make a theoretical contribution to science	35%	39%
Become successful in a business of my own	35%	24%
Become accomplished in one of the performing arts	28%	24%
Write original works	26%	19%
Create artistic works	23%	14%

¹ Of the 1,336 students who received the survey, 27% (n=361) answered at least 50% of the questions. Compared to their peers, women, Asian/White, U.S. citizens, and students in non-management majors responded to the survey at significantly higher rates.

² The private university comparison group included Azusa Pacific University, Fordham University, Pepperdine University, University of the Pacific, Wake Forest University, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Compared to students in the private university comparison group, CWRU students were *more likely* to say it was very important or essential to make a theoretical contribution to science and *less likely* to say it was important or essential to be very well off financially, become successful in a business of their own, create artistic works (painting, sculpture, etc.) and write original works (poems, novels, etc.).

Additional Information

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