

Written and Oral Communication

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 describes students' self-perceptions and experiences related to oral and written communication.



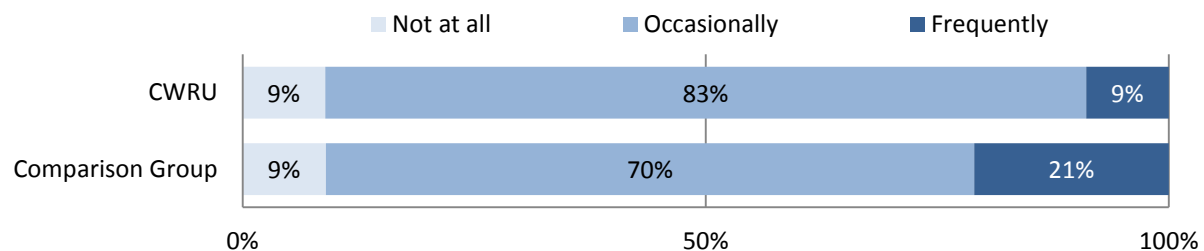
Written Communication

Three survey questions were related to written communication. At the end of the first-year, the majority of first-year students rated their writing ability above average or higher (57%). Their perceptions of their writing abilities did not differ significantly from first-year students in the private university comparison group.² Similarly, CWRU students did not differ significantly from the comparison group in terms of visiting the writing center (visited at least occasionally: 33% vs. 36% of the comparison group). However, CWRU students were significantly more likely to revise their papers to improve their writing (frequently: 69% vs. 52%). In fact, almost all CWRU students said they revised their papers at least occasionally (97%).

Oral Communication

Two survey questions were related to oral communication. At the end of the first year, CWRU students rated their public speaking abilities significantly lower than did students in the comparison group (above average: 40% vs. 45% of the comparison group). During their first year, 91% of CWRU first-year students made a class presentation at least occasionally. However, CWRU students made class presentations less often than did students in the comparison group (frequently: 9% vs. 21%) (figure 1).

Figure 1. Since entering college, how often have you made a class presentation?



Additional Information

For additional information about this report, please contact Amanda Thomas at (216) 368-6119 or ast27@case.edu.

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.