

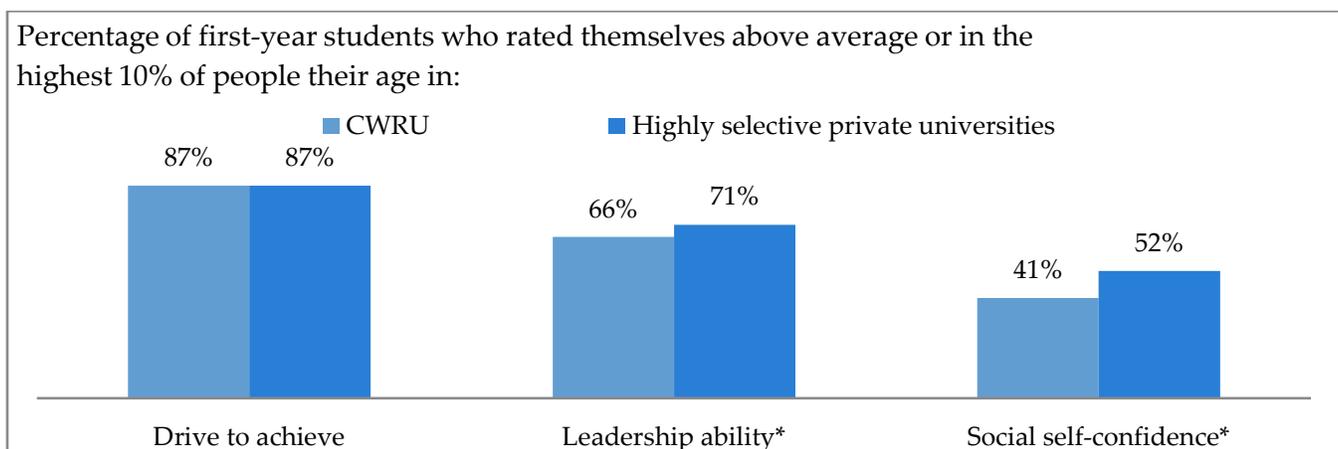
Leadership:

Results of the 2012 CIRP Freshman Survey

In the late summer and early fall of 2012, incoming first-year students were asked to complete the Cooperative Institutional Research Program's *Freshman Survey (FS)*. The *FS* includes a range of items pertaining to students' behaviors, goals, and views. Only first-time first-year students 18 years and older were eligible to participate in the study. Twenty-nine percent (29%, n=319) of all eligible students completed the *FS*. This report highlights *FS* results pertaining to students' leadership qualities and ambitions.



The *FS* asks students to compare themselves to the average person their age on a variety of personal characteristics, three of which relate to leadership. Overall, the majority of students rated themselves above average or higher in their drive to achieve. This was no different than first-year students at other highly selective private schools. CWRU students rated their leadership ability more modestly, with 66% saying their leadership ability was above the average person their age or higher. Yet, 66% was significantly lower than the 71% of their peers at other private schools who said the same. Of the personal characteristics related to leadership, social self-confidence was rated the lowest for both CWRU students and their peers. Less than half of CWRU students said their social self-confidence was above average or higher (41%) while more than half of their peers said the same (52%), a difference which is statistically significant.



The survey also asked participants about their values and plans related to leadership. About two-thirds of students said it was very important or essential that they become an authority in their field (67%). CWRU students were no different in this aspect when compared to their peers at other private schools. One-third of students said becoming a community leader was very important or essential to them personally (32%), whereas significantly more of their peers said the same (43%). Finally, students were asked about their plans for the future. Significantly fewer CWRU students planned to participate in student government compared to their peers (33% vs. 41%).