

CSUSM: Starting College during the COVID-19 pandemic

HERI

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has created a new reality for college students, especially when deciding where to enroll. Students likely have additional stresses as a result of the pandemic, and their mental health may be impacted as well.

Students considered their own learning and future career opportunities as very important reasons to go to college.

- **HERI: 87%** **CSUSM: 87%**
To learn more about things that interest them
- **HERI: 82%** **CSUSM: 88%**
To be able to get a better job
- **HERI: 80%** **CSUSM: 78%**
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- **HERI: 76%** **CSUSM: 85%**
To get training for a specific career

While some college students considered advice from others in their college selection process...

- **HERI: 8%** **CSUSM: 12%**
Considered advice from a high school counselor as very important
- **HERI: 5%** **CSUSM: 8%**
Considered advice from a teacher as very important
- **HERI: 5%** **CSUSM: 3%**
Considered advice from a private college counselor as very important

... aspects of the college's reputation were more influential.

- **HERI: 74%** **CSUSM: 51%**
Considered overall academic reputation very important
- **HERI: 57%** **CSUSM: 41%**
Considered the academic reputation of their intended major very important
- **HERI: 52%** **CSUSM: 41%**
Considered the reputation for social and extracurricular activities very important

While the COVID-19 pandemic might impact which academic and extracurricular activities colleges can offer, students still plan to be engaged.

- **HERI:** 90% **CSUSM:** 83%
Believe that there is at least some chance they will participate in students clubs/groups
- **HERI:** 71% **CSUSM:** 54%
Believe that there is at least some chance they will study abroad
- **HERI:** 30% **CSUSM:** 38%
Believe there is at least some chance they will join a fraternity or sorority

Students' emotional well-being remains a concern.

- **HERI:** 86% **CSUSM:** 88%
Felt anxious in the past year
- **HERI:** 62% **CSUSM:** 66%
Felt depressed in the past year
- **HERI:** 17% **CSUSM:** 17%
Identify as having a psychological disorder

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.

Survey Source: CIRP Freshman Survey 2020*
www.heri.ucla.edu/infographic/