

# STARTING COLLEGE

## during the COVID-19 pandemic



HERI results are shown in **RED** |

results are shown in **BLACK**

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.



**87% |**  
To learn more about things that interest them



**82% |**  
To be able to get a better job



**80% |**  
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas



**76% |**  
To get training for a specific career

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



**8% |**  
Considered advice from a high school counselor as very important

**5% |**  
Considered advice from a teacher as very important

**5% |**  
Considered advice from a private college counselor as very important

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

**74% |**  
Considered overall academic reputation very important

**57% |**  
Considered the academic reputation of their intended major very important

**52% |**  
Considered the reputation for social and extracurricular activities very important



Students' emotional well-being remains a concern.

**86% |**  
Felt anxious in the past year



**62% |**  
Felt depressed in the past year

**17% |**  
Identify as having a psychological disorder

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



**90% |**  
Believe that there is at least some chance they will participate in students clubs/groups



**71% |**  
Believe that there is at least some chance they will study abroad



**30% |**  
Believe there is at least some chance they will join a fraternity or sorority

**HERI**

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](http://www.cirpsurveys.org).

Survey Source: CIRP Freshman Survey 2020\*  
[www.heri.ucla.edu/infographic/](http://www.heri.ucla.edu/infographic/)

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\*Due to decreased institutional participation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 CIRP Freshman Survey data are not nationally representative.