

# Mt. San Antonio College CIRP Supplemental Questions: A Three year Comparison (2003-2005)

## Executive Summary

Since 1966, Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) has participated 22 times in the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey administered by UCLA. CIRP is the oldest national longitudinal survey that collects a broad range of data of participating Universities and Colleges' first time entering students. The 2005 CIRP survey marked the ninth consecutive year of Mt. SAC participation.

Institutions participating in the CIRP survey have had the opportunity to add supplemental questions to the CIRP survey that meet individual institution's needs. Mt. SAC had used the same set of 16 supplemental questions for the past three years. The main purpose of this report is to present the results of Mt. SAC supplemental questions for the past three years from the perspectives of all Mt. SAC CIRP respondents and of the Bridge Program students. Bridge Program is a special learning community program that provides assistance to students who have academic and financial needs. Some highlights of these two groups' responses to the supplemental questions are listed below.

- Mt. SAC respondents continue to feel excited and motivated to come to Mt. SAC. The 2005 Bridge students tend to be more nervous than the All Respondents group.
- Fewer students from both groups were certain about their majors or goals, compared to previous two years. Majority of students needed assistance to clarify and decide their majors/goals.
- Low level of preparation and study skills continue to be the biggest concern for both groups.
- In 2005, over 70% of students from both groups preferred taking classes in daytime only, a large increase for the All Respondents from previous two years.
- Over one third of All Respondents group and half of 2005 Bridge students identified themselves as first in family to attend college in 2005. The percentage of Bridge students with such status has declined 17% points from 68.4% in 2003 to 51.4% in 2005.
- The percentage of Bridge students working part-time or full-time has increased over three years, but still lag behind the All Respondents group by 9% points.
- The percentage of students from the All Respondents group who used Mt. SAC website to search for admission and class information has increased rapidly from 36.6% in 2003 to 56.5% in 2005. The percentage of 2005 Bridge students who had never used Mt. SAC website is still high (38%) compared to the All Respondent group (28.5%).
- Much more 2005 surveyed students from both groups (Bridge, 61.7% and All Respondents, 60.0%) estimated it would take two to three years to complete study at Mt. SAC, an impressive increase from previous two years and a switch

from an expectation of two years previously (a drop from 52.7% to 24.1% for Bridge and from 42.9% to 24.0% for All Respondents).

- Bridge students are more likely to seek advice from Mt. SAC faculty or staff with problems related to college while All Respondents group students are equal likely to seek advice from their parents or relatives than from Mt. SAC faculty/staff.
- Over half of students from both groups named counseling and educational advisement as the most needed support they need from Mt. SAC, followed by financial aid and tutoring.
- The 2005 surveyed students from both groups are most satisfied with the high school they attended, compared to two previous years.
- Increasingly, more students from the All Respondents group used “well respected college” to describe Mt. SAC from the past three years. Some 30% of 2005 Bridge students used “know very little” as description of their opinion about Mt. SAC.

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## Introduction

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey is a national longitudinal study of entering first time full time freshman of higher education institutions. Established in 1966 at the American Council on Education, and now run by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California –Los Angeles (UCLA), CIRP is the nation’s largest and oldest empirical study of higher education, involving data on some 1,700 institutions and over 10 million students. Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) has participated for 22 years since 1966, and is one of the few public two year colleges that use CIRP survey to collect information of entering first time students. The 2005 survey marked the ninth consecutive Mt. SAC participation in recent years.

Institutions participating in the CIRP survey have had the option to add supplemental questions that serve individual institution’s needs to the CIRP survey. Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) had used a same set of 16 supplemental questions for the past three years. The main purpose of this summary report is to present the results of Mt. SAC supplemental questions of the past three years from the perspectives of all Mt. SAC CIRP respondents and of the Bridge Program. Bridge Program is a special learning community program that provides assistance to students who have academic and financial needs.

## Methods

In recent years, CIRP survey has been administered to Mt. SAC new students who attended orientation sessions on campus. In addition to the CIRP survey questionnaire, Mt. SAC added some supplemental questions. For the past three years, a same set of 16 supplemental questions has been used. Findings of the supplemental questions from the past three years are provided in the next section.

<b>Participant Count of Mt. SAC CIRP Survey Comparison Groups</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Mt. SAC All Respondents	889	800	921
Bridge Program	141	133	158

Some limitations on these findings need to be addressed here.

- Only part of each year’s entering new students were surveyed with CIRP; therefore, survey results do not represent the whole new student population.

- Survey results are based on self reported responses from participants, accuracy of these responses could not be verified.
- The two comparison groups are not mutually excluded, Bridge students are part of the All Respondents group. The comparison is to look at our survey respondents as a whole in general and to look at a particular group of students with special needs.
- Survey questions were only checked for face validity.

## Findings

From 2003 to 2005, most students from both the Bridge and the All Respondents groups were motivated and excited about coming to Mt. SAC. The 2004 students were the least “nervous” and the most “motivated” ones while the 2005 students were the most “excited”, “nervous” ones. The percentage of Bridge students in 2005 who felt “Nervous” almost doubled compared to 2004.

What one word best describes how you feel about coming to Mt. SAC?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Excited	27.4%	30.5%	34.0%	30.8%	26.2%	32.7%
Motivated	44.5%	50.4%	40.3%	44.4%	55.1%	35.4%
Nervous	22.5%	13.4%	19.9%	18.8%	15.9%	27.2%
Overwhelmed	3.5%	4.2%	3.3%	3.0%	0.0%	3.4%
Scared	2.0%	1.5%	2.5%	3.0%	2.8%	1.4%

Survey responses from the three year period show the percentage of students from both groups entering Mt. SAC with certainty about their majors/goals is declining. Over half of the 2005 Bridge Program students felt they needed help with clarifying goals and almost one fourth were unsure of majors.

Describe how you feel about your major and career goal	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Am certain of major & goal	27.3%	19.8%	18.1%	15.8%	22.4%	14.9%
Unsure of major	27.2%	27.0%	28.3%	26.3%	27.1%	23.6%
Need help to clarify goal	33.5%	37.9%	39.9%	44.4%	43.9%	50.7%
Unsure major & goal	11.5%	14.8%	13.4%	12.8%	5.6%	10.8%

Far more students from both groups were concerned about their level of preparation and study skills than concerned about finance or other issues.

Which of the following concerns you the most about starting college at MT. SAC?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Level of preparation & study skills	54.6%	53.5%	56.2%	64.3%	55.1%	62.8%
Social and/or personal skills	8.7%	10.8%	8.2%	2.3%	5.6%	11.0%
Personal finances to pay for classes and books	18.8%	19.1%	19.7%	22.5%	23.4%	14.5%
Transportation and /or child care	5.5%	4.9%	4.6%	3.9%	6.5%	6.2%
My need to work	12.5%	11.7%	11.2%	7.0%	9.3%	5.5%

Over 70% of students from both groups preferred taking courses during daytime only. This is the biggest jump for the All Respondents Group from previous two years and the lowest of all three years for the Bridge students.

To fit my schedule, I need to take courses that are scheduled:	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Daytime Only (Monday-Friday)	53.4%	55.2%	71.2%	76.7%	80.2%	72.2%
Evenings Only (Monday-Thursday)	14.7%	16.1%	9.4%	9.8%	9.4%	9.7%
Evenings And Weekends Only (Monday-Friday Evening, Sat.&Sun.)	9.1%	5.9%	2.7%	2.3%	0.9%	1.4%
Days And Evenings (Monday-Friday)	21.3%	22.2%	16.5%	10.5%	9.4%	16.0%
Weekends Only (Friday Night, Sat. And Sun.)	1.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%	0.0%	0.7%

Although about half of Bridge Program students of 2005 identified themselves as the “first college student” in their families, the percentage reflects a 17% point decline compared to 2003.

Are you the first in your immediate family to attend college?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
YES	42.5%	36.0%	36.3%	68.4%	57.4%	51.4%
NO	55.1%	61.8%	62.8%	31.6%	42.6%	48.6%

Bridge students are less likely to have been born in the US than the All Respondents group and for those who immigrated to the US were likely to have come during the elementary school years.

Which of the following statements best describes your status?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
I was born in the United States.	67.6%	78.2%	81.5%	64.4%	71.2%	70.5%
I came to the US during my elementary school years.	17.6%	11.5%	10.8%	24.2%	14.4%	19.9%
I came to the US during my intermediate school years.	4.5%	3.2%	2.8%	3.8%	6.7%	2.7%
I came to the US during my high school years.	4.6%	5.1%	3.5%	6.1%	7.7%	6.2%
I came to the US as an adult (age 18 or older)	5.6%	2.0%	1.4%	1.5%	0.0%	0.7%

About half of the All Respondents group students and close to 60% of Bridge students had taken regular/general English as the last English course at high school. More students from the All Respondents group had taken advanced English course in High School than the Bridge students.

What was the level of the last English course you had in high school?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Honors English Or AP English	7.0%	9.3%	5.8%	5.3%	6.7%	2.1%
College Preparatory English	32.7%	34.6%	38.0%	35.6%	32.7%	29.0%
Regular Or General English	47.1%	49.7%	49.7%	46.2%	51.9%	58.6%
ESL, ELD, ELL, Bilingual Or Transitional	10.4%	5.6%	3.9%	10.6%	7.7%	6.9%
RSP, SDC, Special Ed, Or 504 Transition Plan	2.9%	0.7%	2.7%	2.3%	1.0%	3.4%

For the past three years, more students from both groups said they worked part-time. The percentage of students from the All Respondents Group who were working full-time at time of survey hit record low. Bridge students tend to be more likely to describe themselves as “unemployed” than the All Respondents group.

Which of the following best describe your employment status at this time?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Employed Full Time	20.9%	19.7%	8.4%	3.0%	2.9%	4.1%
Employed Part Time	27.3%	31.7%	36.3%	22.6%	21.4%	31.5%
Not Employed By Choice	15.7%	14.8%	16.0%	30.1%	24.3%	18.5%
Unemployed	33.2%	30.4%	36.2%	42.9%	47.6%	42.5%
Other	2.8%	3.4%	3.1%	1.5%	3.9%	3.4%

The percentage of students who have never used the Mt. SAC website is declining for the All Respondents group; however, the percentage of students from Bridge Program that never used the website remains high. Most students used the website to search for admission/class schedules/transfer information and the percentage of students doing so is increasing for All Respondents group, but a slight decrease for Bridge students from a year early, after a large increase from 2003 to 2004.

For which function do you mostly use the Mt. SAC website?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
To check the calendar of school events/activities	8.9%	9.3%	4.8%	6.8%	8.9%	4.8%
To look for info. on Admissions/class schedules/transfer	36.6%	44.6%	56.5%	33.8%	48.5%	45.2%
To look for general info about Mt. SAC, directory, or map	9.8%	10.7%	8.6%	9.0%	5.0%	10.3%
To use library/online library databases	4.4%	4.6%	1.6%	3.0%	6.9%	2.1%
I have never used the website	40.4%	30.8%	28.5%	47.4%	30.7%	37.7%

Over 60% of the 2005 participants from both groups estimated two to three years as the length of time needed to complete their study at Mt. SAC, reflecting a different expectation in responses from two earlier years.

Knowing that Mt. SAC is a community college, how long are you planning on studying here before graduating or going onto a four-year university?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
About Two Years	42.9%	41.5%	24.0%	52.7%	28.0%	24.1%
Between Two To Three Years	31.6%	33.5%	61.7%	28.2%	48.0%	60.0%
Between Three To Four Years	6.9%	9.5%	4.2%	4.6%	10.0%	2.8%
As Long As It Takes	15.8%	13.1%	9.5%	14.5%	12.0%	13.1%
Not Applicable (No Plan For Degree, Certif. Transfer)	2.8%	2.4%	0.5%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%

Bridge Program students relied more on faculty or staff for advice about their problems related to college than students of the All Respondents group, who would also seek advice from their parents or other family members.

Who will you mostly go to for advice about your problems related to college?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
My Parent(S) Or Other Family Members And Relatives	32.3%	33.3%	34.5%	26.5%	27.3%	23.3%
Another Significant Adult	9.4%	7.7%	8.1%	5.3%	4.0%	9.6%
Friends And Peers	19.3%	19.5%	15.5%	11.4%	21.2%	15.1%
Mt. Sac Faculty Or Staff Member	36.2%	36.2%	39.5%	53.8%	46.5%	48.6%
I Have No One To Go To	2.8%	3.4%	2.4%	3.0%	1.0%	3.4%

Both groups felt the support they needed most at Mt. SAC was counseling and advisement. More Bridge students said they also needed tutoring and instructional assistance while 23.1% the All Respondents group listed financial support from college is the most needed one.

What type of support will you need the most at Mt. SAC to reach your goal?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Counseling and Educational Advisement	47.9%	53.3%	52.8%	38.6%	37.8%	51.7%
Financial Aid or Job On Campus	27.6%	27.1%	23.1%	31.1%	35.7%	18.9%
Access to Computers on Campus	3.7%	3.8%	3.2%	1.5%	3.1%	2.1%
Tutoring and Instructional Assistance	18.8%	15.0%	19.9%	27.3%	23.5%	25.2%
Child Care	2.0%	0.7%	0.9%	1.5%	0.0%	2.1%

Majority of our surveyed students have full support from their immediate family of their college education. Only less than 5% of our surveyed students received very little or no support.

How supportive is your immediate family of your college education?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Support me 100%, including financial help	57.7%	63.9%	63.5%	59.1%	64.9%	62.5%
Help when they can, but can't always depend on them	21.7%	17.4%	25.1%	27.3%	15.5%	26.4%
Supportive, but I'm basically on my own	15.2%	15.1%	8.9%	9.8%	15.5%	6.9%
Reluctant or doesn't understand how to help	2.1%	2.2%	1.5%	3.0%	4.1%	1.4%
No support whatsoever	3.2%	1.4%	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%	2.8%

Overall, a large majority of students from both groups are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the high school they attended. More than 85% of 2005 students were happy with their attended high school.

What is your attitude about the high school you attended?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Very satisfied with my high school experience	39.3%	42.4%	48.6%	38.9%	42.1%	47.6%
Somewhat satisfied, needed improvements	35.8%	34.6%	40.2%	38.9%	38.9%	37.9%
Disappointed and needed major changes	11.0%	13.0%	5.9%	9.9%	10.5%	8.3%
Totally frustrated with high school experience	6.7%	5.9%	3.1%	4.6%	4.2%	3.4%
None of the above	7.3%	4.2%	2.3%	7.6%	4.2%	2.8%

Increasingly more students from the All Respondents group recognized Mt. SAC as a well respected college. Being close to home, costing less and being convenient were mentioned slightly more by Bridge students when describing Mt. SAC.

In you opinion, which phrase best describe Mt. San Antonio College?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Know Very Little	40.7%	29.1%	27.5%	27.3%	21.1%	29.7%
Convenient, Close, Cost Less	20.4%	22.5%	18.3%	21.2%	31.6%	22.1%
Can't Go To Univ. S Come Here	3.5%	2.1%	3.3%	3.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Know Many People Attended	11.9%	11.8%	11.3%	10.6%	10.5%	9.7%
Mt. Sac -Well Respected College	23.5%	34.5%	39.5%	37.9%	36.8%	35.9%

Although most students from both groups have some medical insurance coverage, almost three out of ten students from Bridge Program group and one out of four students of the All Respondents group were either uninsured or not sure if they have insurance.

Which of the following statements best describe your status on medical insurance?	Mt. SAC All Respondents			Mt. SAC Bridge Program		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Have insurance through my parent(s)/spouse's employer	47.2%	54.7%	59.9%	47.3%	46.8%	44.7%
Have Medi-Cal or other coverage through the county	12.4%	12.1%	12.2%	14.7%	16.0%	24.1%
Have insurance through my own employer	11.1%	7.7%	1.9%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Have no medical insurance	16.4%	12.8%	10.4%	17.1%	19.1%	12.8%
I am not sure	13.0%	12.7%	15.6%	17.8%	18.1%	18.4%

## Conclusion

Results from the supplemental questions collected over the three year period show that Mt. SAC respondents shared these characteristics: were excited and motivated to come to Mt. SAC, were not certain about their majors or goals, had great concern of their level of preparation and study skills, preferred taking classes in daytime, needed counseling and advisement support, had used Mt. SAC website to check out admission or class information, expected two to three years to finish study at Mt. SAC, had family support on their college education, and were satisfied with the high school attended.

Bridge students as a whole shared many same characteristics as the All Respondents group but different in: were slightly more nervous about coming to Mt. SAC, were more likely to be first in family to attend college, were not working at the time of survey, would rely more on Mt. SAC faculty and staff than their parents for advice with problems related to college.

Some noticeable changes over the three years are in areas where our surveyed students become:

- ✓ less certain about goals and majors,
- ✓ less confident in their level of preparedness,
- ✓ less claimed to be first college student in family,
- ✓ expecting longer than two years to finish study,
- ✓ describing Mt. SAC more as “well respected college,”
- ✓ working less full-time but more part-time, and
- ✓ using the Mt. SAC website more for admission/class information.