

Fall 2022

# A Profile of Freshman Inquiry Students Fall 2022

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# A Profile of Freshman Inquiry Students Fall 2022

Assessment & Research Report  
University Studies Program, Portland State University  
Rowanna Carpenter\*

In order to better understand the students enrolled in Freshman Inquiry (FRINQ) courses and identify areas where they may need support, University Studies (UNST) began collecting and compiling data on these students. This report presents a profile of FRINQ students from Fall 2022. It presents an overview of all students enrolled in FRINQ during Fall 2022 and then summarizes information from the Prior Learning Survey.

## Differences 2017 – 2022

Some areas showed notable differences when comparing FRINQ students from 2022 with students from 2017 (overall N=1539, survey N=1247):

- *Race/Ethnicity:* Hispanic/Latine students increased from 20% to 32%. White students decreased from 45% to 37%.
- *Degree Plans:* 80% of FRINQ students in 2022 plan to earn a bachelor's degree from PSU compared to 87% in 2017.
- *Financial Concerns:* 40% of students in 2022 expressed finances as their top concern compared to 33% of students in 2017.
- *Home Language:* In 2022, 45% of students reported speaking a language other than English at home, up from 35% in 2017.

## Data Sources:

*PSU Data Warehouse:* PSU Office of Institutional Research and Planning 4<sup>th</sup> week student data file, includes demographic and enrollment data for all 2022 FRINQ students.

*Prior Learning Survey:* Survey administered during weeks 1 and 2 of Fall term. 951 students responded to the survey (73.8% response rate).

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## OVERALL PROFILE (For all FRINQ students, N=1288)

### Academic Profile

*New students:* 91.5% of FRINQ students were new to PSU during Summer and Fall 2022. The rest began at PSU prior to Fall 2021.

*Class level:* 97.6% of FRINQ students were freshmen. 2.1% were sophomores, 0.3% were juniors and seniors.

*Major:* Psychology, Computer Science, Biology, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Graphic Design, Public Health Studies, Business Marketing, and Business Technology were the most popular majors. 11% of students were undecided about their majors or were enrolled as exploratory students.

### Demographic Profile

*Gender:* 55.0% of FRINQ students were female, 43.3% were male, 1.9% were non-binary.

*Ethnicity:* 0.6% were Native American, 11.0% were Asian, 6.2% were Black, 31.6% were Hispanic/Latino, 2.2% were International Students, 1.1% were Pacific Islander, 8.2% reported two or more races/ethnicities, 37.0% were White.

*Age:* 88.6% of FRINQ students were 19 years or younger, 10.0% were between 20 and 25, and 1.4% were older than 25.

*First Generation Status:* 53.8% of FRINQ students are first-generation college students; neither parent had earned a 4-year degree.

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\* For more information about University Studies Assessment and Research, please contact Rowanna Carpenter, the Director of Assessment at 503-725-3445, or [carpenterr@pdx.edu](mailto:carpenterr@pdx.edu).

## PRIOR LEARNING SURVEY RESPONSES (N=951)

### ACADEMIC PROFILE

#### Academic Assistance

*Graduation Requirements:* 49.6% of FRINQ students report that they understand PSU graduation requirements fairly or very well. 36.7% understand the requirements a little and 13.6% do not understand the requirements very well or not at all.

Students reported on the kinds of help they think they need as they begin the school year. Ratings made on a scale of 1 = I don't need any help to 3 = I need a lot of help.

Activity	% of Students needing a lot of help
Writing	9.8
Math	30.8
Reading and understanding academic texts	10.0
Tutoring in other areas	9.4
Study skills	12.7
Finances	24.1
Using the library	3.4
Adjusting to college	8.1
Finding a job	13.1
Finding a social group	11.3

#### Academic Plans

*PSU Plans:* 80.3% of FRINQ students planned to earn a bachelor's degree from PSU. 11.5% of the students were not sure about their immediate education plans.

*Degree Plans:* For 48.6% a bachelor's degree was the highest degree they intend to earn.

*Major:* 82.6% had declared a major. 65.9% are sure or very sure about their declared major.

### FINANCIAL PROFILE

*Financial Concern:* 40.0% listed financial issues as their top concern as they start the year. 20.3% expressed a major concern about finances; they are worried they may not have enough money to finish school.

*Work Hours:* 58.8% of FRINQ students planned to work between 1 and 20 hours per week. 19.3% do not plan to work, 22.1% will work more than 20 hours per week. 21.4% of those working will work on campus for PSU.

*Financial Aid:* 87.0% will receive some form of financial aid to support their education. 48.6% report that they are eligible to receive a Pell Grant.

Students expressed agreement with the following questions about their finances

Question	% Agree or Strongly Agree
My personal financial situation makes me feel stressed	56.3
I feel prepared financially to meet an emergency (car repairs, medical bills, etc.)	31.5
I understand how to make a plan for addressing my financial needs	48.0

Students were asked about their housing and food insecurity over the last 12 months

Question	% Yes
In the past 12 months, have you worried about whether you would run out of food before you had money to buy more?	12.3
In the past 12 months, have you worried about whether you would be able to pay your rent or mortgage, or have a place to stay?	16.3

## CONNECTEDNESS

*Housing:* 42.1% lived on campus. 45.2% lived with their parents or families.

*Campus Involvement:* Students reported where they would participate on campus.

Activity	% Planning to Participate
Student clubs or organizations	64.7
Volunteering in community	31.9
Student government	4.3
Greek life	5.5
Intramural sports	14.8
Outdoor program	16.9
Residential Life	13.1

## STUDENT PROFILE

*Home Language:* 44.2% reported speaking a language other than English at home.

*Care for Dependents:* 11.0% had at least part-time responsibility for dependents.

*Responsibility to Family and Friends:* 10.1% reported a lot of responsibility for helping family and friends, which makes it hard to keep up with school work. 58% reported some responsibility, which makes it sometimes hard to balance with school.