### Survey Instrument
The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey

### Owner(s)
Associate Provost for Education; Vice President for Institutional Affairs

### Sponsor(s)
Council of Undergraduate Deans

### Study Population
All enrolled first-year students

### Invited Participants
All matriculated undergraduate Freshman students

### Invitation Signatories
President and Provost

### Administration
Invitations for this web instrument are sent to all students who plan to matriculate at Penn. These invitations are delivered via email approximately one month before regularly scheduled classes begin. The Survey is closed after the conclusion of First-year Orientation.

### Brief Description
For nearly four decades, the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) has engaged in a longitudinal study of the American Higher Education System. Established in 1966 at the American Council on Education, the CIRP is now administered by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. The survey covers a wide range of student characteristics: parental income and education, ethnicity, and other demographic items; financial aid; secondary school achievement and activities; educational and career plans; values, attitudes, beliefs, and self-concept. Nearly 700 two-year and four-year colleges and universities administer the survey each year. Data collected through this project form the basis for the annual publication "The American Freshman," which provides “a comprehensive portrait of the changing character of entering college students and American society at large.”

Penn has participated in selected years since the inception of this project.

Source: [http://www.heri.ucla.edu/cirpoverview.php](http://www.heri.ucla.edu/cirpoverview.php)

### Relationship to Other Instruments
Institutional questions about Penn’s perceived climate and culture are appended to the CIRP Survey. These same questions also appear on the Enrolled Student Survey (PULSE) and the Senior Survey. This repetition of inquiry allows for a comparison between anticipated and actual behavior.

Institutional questions about culture and climate appended to the CIRP are included in surveys of other populations of the Penn community. This allows for comparisons between undergraduate and graduate response as well as between faculty and students.

Data gathered by the CIRP may also be linked to additional information contained in the data warehouse allowing for further analysis.

### Survey Results
Participation in the CIRP allows us to compare the Penn entering student population to the incoming populations of our peer COFHE institutions.

### Distribution Plan
A top level institutional summary, which provides basic frequency counts for each survey item, is available by the spring semester following the CIRP administration. This summary is accessible to the Penn community via the IR&A website.

Detailed reports are shared with the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost. Results are also shared with the Council of Undergraduate Deans and its workgroup. As appropriate, results are shared with Faculty committees dedicated to issues related to undergraduate education.