

## First Year Survey

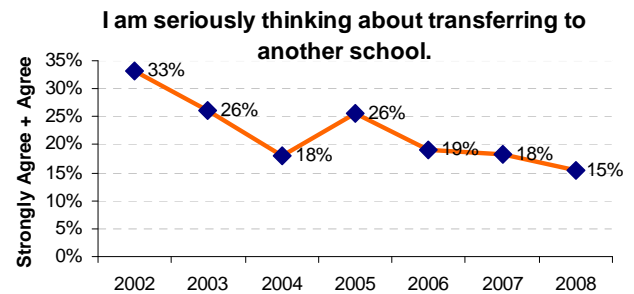
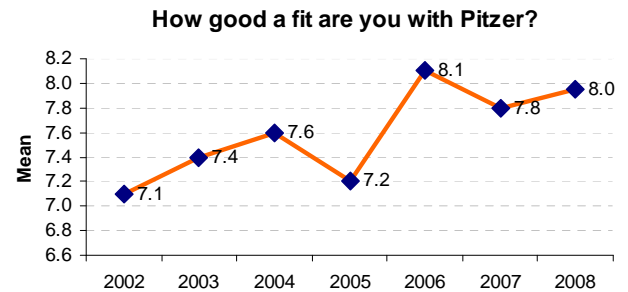
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This survey measures the experiences and opinions of First Year students during their first month at Pitzer and focuses on three areas: social responsibility, intercultural understanding, and participation in activities. Of the 264 new First Year students in Fall 2008, 195 (74%) completed the survey in their First Year Seminar classes.

Sample	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008
First Year Students	243	237	223	242	253	264
Survey Participants	166	158	162	159	208	195
Participation Rate	68%	67%	73%	66%	82%	74%

Demographics	2007	2008
African/African American	3%	6%
Asian Pacific Islander	14%	12%
Latino/Hispanic	7%	13%
Native American	0%	1%
Caucasian	61%	65%
Other	5%	5%
Female	54%	65%
Male	46%	35%
First Generation College Student		8%

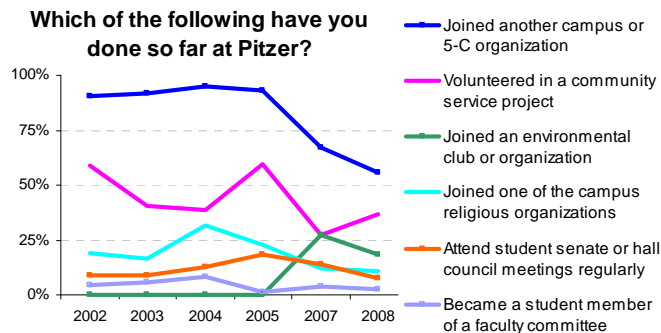
The graphs below show that, over time, new First Year students perceive a stronger fit with Pitzer and are less likely to transfer out.



The highlighted areas in the table below show a significant rise in the percentage of students who are registered to vote and who find it difficult to tolerate a different political viewpoint. The survey is perhaps capturing a historical artifact related to the presidential election. Fall 2008 has been an especially heated presidential primary season, the first U.S. president of African descent has been elected, and an unusual number of young people voted.

Social Responsibility (Strongly Agree + Agree)	2007	2008
Before coming to Pitzer, I volunteered in two or more different community service projects or internships.	90%	91%
I am registered to vote in political elections.	62%	90%
One of my college goals is to take courses that will help me develop a deeper sense of the ethical issues involved in socially responsible actions.	81%	86%

I have become more environmentally aware since coming to Pitzer.	73%	71%
Since coming to Pitzer, I engage more frequently in activities that promote environmental protection or conservation (like recycling, composting, using less water, etc.)	70%	65%
Before coming to Pitzer, I participated in some political action (protest rally, writing to political leaders, etc.) to fight discrimination or to support equal rights.	51%	58%
I find it difficult to speak to other students about their behavior when I see them being destructive to residence hall property.	29%	33%
I find it difficult to tolerate people whose political views are very different from my own.	19%	31%
I find it difficult to speak out in class when I hear someone make statements that I think are discriminatory.	14%	14%
Respecting different viewpoints is difficult here at Pitzer.	11%	9%



Note: This question was not asked in the 2006 survey.

In the open-ended comments, the top three “best things” about the new First Years’ experience at Pitzer were 1) community, people, students, acceptance, belonging, 2) great faculty and classes, and 3) lots of activities, things to do, opportunities. The top three aspects of Pitzer that “need improvement” were 1) food, dining hours, crowd, 2) resources, facilities, and 3) advising, academic rigor, classes, choice of courses.

On the other hand, no unusual changes were observed between 2007 and 2008 new First Year students responses in terms of Intercultural Understanding.

<b>Intercultural Understanding</b> (Strongly Agree + Agree)	2007	2008
It would be OK if my roommate or someone else close to me turned out to be gay or lesbian.	92%	95%
I am able to speak sensitively about a culture other than my own.	92%	92%
I seek out opportunities to interact with people from different cultures.	86%	88%
I find it easy to develop close friendships with people of another culture.	87%	87%
One of my college goals is to take courses that will help me become more knowledgeable about diverse cultures.	78%	81%
When I hear the word “diversity,” my first images are about race.	73%	72%
In general, I prefer being with people from my own cultural background.	22%	26%
Because of my socio-economic class background, I feel that I may not fit in well.	9%	10%
Because of my racial/ethnic background, I feel that I may not fit in well at Pitzer.	3%	4%

Trends in specific activities mentioned appear to be decreasing (see next graph). However, it is possible that students have more choices now and choose to participate in other activities not mentioned here. For instance, the top activity mentioned in the open-comment section was the Pitzer Outdoor Adventure (POA).

This section of the report shows detailed summaries of students' responses from all questions in the First Year Survey.

<b>How good a fit are you with Pitzer?</b>							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
"Not a good fit" 1			1	4			
2	10	2	4	3			2
3	8	3	1	3	1	2	4
4	9	6	6	8	5	6	4
5	14	12	10	13	9	13	3
6	12	15	12	11	8	12	14
7	22	37	28	31	23	31	37
8	31	33	41	37	39	47	40
9	33	25	39	33	41	60	59
"...perfect fit" 10	22	18	16	14	31	19	27
Total	161	151	158	157	157	190	190
Mean	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.2	8.1	7.8	8.0
Range 1-3	11%	3%	4%	6%	1%	1%	3%
Range 4-6	22%	22%	18%	20%	14%	16%	11%
Range 7-10	67%	75%	78%	73%	85%	83%	86%

<b>I am seriously thinking about transferring to another school.</b>							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	17	9	13	14	5	10	9
Agree	32	31	16	25	23	28	21
Disagree	35	66	65	54	54	60	69
Strongly Disagree	63	47	67	60	75	107	95
Total	147	153	161	153	157	205	194
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	33%	26%	18%	25%	18%	19%	15%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	67%	74%	82%	75%	82%	81%	85%

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Before coming to Pitzer, I volunteered in two or more different community service projects or internships.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	118	116
Agree	67	62
Disagree	18	14
Strongly Disagree	4	3
Total	207	195
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	89%	91%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	11%	9%

I am registered to vote in political elections.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	84	137
Agree	45	35
Disagree	55	6
Strongly Disagree	24	14
Total	208	192
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	62%	90%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	38%	10%

One of my college goals is to take courses that will help me develop a deeper sense of the ethical issues involved in socially responsible actions.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	75	77
Agree	89	89
Disagree	32	23
Strongly Disagree	7	4
Total	203	193
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	81%	86%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	19%	14%

I have become more environmentally aware since coming to Pitzer.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	46	39
Agree	104	98
Disagree	50	51
Strongly Disagree	6	5
Total	206	193
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	73%	71%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	27%	29%

Since coming to Pitzer, I engage more frequently in activities that promote environmental protection or conservation.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	39	34
Agree	106	92
Disagree	56	60
Strongly Disagree	7	8
Total	208	194
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	70%	65%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	30%	35%

Before coming to Pitzer, I participated in some political action to fight discrimination or to support equal rights.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	39	46
Agree	67	66
Disagree	74	58
Strongly Disagree	27	24
Total	207	194
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	51%	58%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	49%	42%

I find it difficult to speak to other students about their behavior when I see them being destructive to residence hall property.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	10	7
Agree	48	56
Disagree	118	107
Strongly Disagree	28	22
Total	204	192
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	28%	33%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	72%	67%

I find it difficult to tolerate people whose political views are very different from my own.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	6	8
Agree	32	53
Disagree	140	99
Strongly Disagree	27	35
Total	205	195
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	19%	31%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	81%	69%

I find it difficult to speak out in class when I hear someone make statements that I think are discriminatory.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	4	2
Agree	24	25
Disagree	119	116
Strongly Disagree	60	50
Total	207	193
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	14%	14%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	86%	86%

Respecting different viewpoints is difficult here at Pitzer	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	1	5
Agree	21	13
Disagree	106	110
Strongly Disagree	76	66
Total	204	194
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	11%	9%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	89%	91%

## INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

It would be OK if my roommate or someone else close to me turned out to be gay or lesbian.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	118	139
Agree	74	45
Disagree	13	7
Strongly Disagree	3	2
Total	208	193
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	92%	95%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	8%	5%

I am able to speak sensitively about a culture other than my own.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	77	79
Agree	114	97
Disagree	14	15
Strongly Disagree	2	1
Total	207	192
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	92%	92%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	8%	8%

I seek out opportunities to interact with people from different cultures.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	50	45
Agree	127	127
Disagree	29	21
Strongly Disagree		2
Total	206	195
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	86%	88%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	14%	12%

I find it easy to develop close friendships with people of another culture.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	78	73
Agree	102	97
Disagree	22	22
Strongly Disagree	3	3
Total	205	195
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	88%	87%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	12%	13%

One of my college goals is to take courses that will help me become more knowledgeable about diverse cultures.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	64	67
Agree	97	91
Disagree	40	34
Strongly Disagree	6	2
Total	207	194
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	78%	81%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	22%	19%

When I hear the word "diversity," my first images are about race.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	37	36
Agree	114	103
Disagree	51	46
Strongly Disagree	6	9
Total	208	194
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	73%	72%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	27%	28%

In general, I prefer being with people from my own cultural background	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	1	2
Agree	42	46
Disagree	129	100
Strongly Disagree	31	40
Total	203	188
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	21%	26%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	79%	74%

Because of my socio-economic class background, I feel that I may not fit in well.	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	2	2
Agree	17	17
Disagree	94	98
Strongly Disagree	94	78
Total	207	195
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	9%	10%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	91%	90%

Because of my racial/ethnic background, I feel that I may not fit in well	2007	2008
Strongly Agree	4	1
Agree	3	6
Disagree	87	79
Strongly Disagree	113	108
Total	207	194
% Strongly Agree + % Agree	3%	4%
% Disagree + % Strongly Disagree	97%	96%

## PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

Which of the following have you done so far at Pitzer?	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008
Joined another campus or 5-C organization	151	145	154	148	139	108
Volunteered in a community service project	97	64	62	94	57	72
Joined an environmental club or organization					57	36
Joined one of the campus religious organizations	32	26	51	36	25	21
Attend student senate or hall council meetings regularly	15	14	20	29	29	15
Became a student member of a faculty committee	7	9	13	2	8	5

Note: This question was not asked in 2006.

Other Activities: 2008 First Year Students Responses
art collective; POA trips
Athletic team
Cross-country
Debate Union, working on starting new organization
Direct action groups
Fem Co
formed a band
Gone on outdoor adventure trips
Head of the TV Production Club @ Pitzer College
I'm in the play at Pomona
I'm starting a club
I went to a Dodger's Game
Job!
Jumpstart
Jumpstart program
KSPC radio
Lacrosse
LSU
Meditation, intramural
Model UN, 5C Dance
Music Coalition, Otherside
outdoor trips
POA
POA, music coalition
Protest
Shakedown, vagina monologues
sports
Television Club
The Shakedown
Theater
Theatre play at Pomona

trying to start a club
Ultimate frisbee, POA
various activist activities
volunteer @ training center
went on a POA trip
Without a Boy, 5C Criminal Justice Network
work-study jobs
work
work @ Grove
work on campus
worked at Galleries on campus

**Please tell us what you feel are the best things about your experience here at Pitzer so far?**

Community People Students Environment	143
Faculty Classes Discussions	80
Activities Lots of Things to Do	53
Socially Responsible Environ Sensitive	19
Diversity	17
Residential Life	14
Resources Facility	14
Food	10
Political Knowledge	5

**Briefly tell us what aspects of Pitzer need improvement?**

Food Hours Crowd	40
Advising Rigor Classes Choice of Courses	32
Resources Facility	32
Activities Things to Do	20
Diversity	19
Community People Students Environment	18
Socially Responsible Environ Sensitive	13
Residential Life	10
Job	4

---End---