

Freshmen's Views on Religion and Spirituality

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v51/i33/33a00101.htm#freshmens>

Last fall the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles asked 112,232 college freshmen about their views on religion and spirituality. Here are some of the findings:

Students' religious preferences

Roman Catholic	28%
None	17%
Baptist	13%
Other Christian	11%
Methodist	6%
Lutheran	5%
Presbyterian	4%
Church of Christ	3%
Other religion	3%
Episcopalian	2%
Jewish	2%
Buddhist	1%
Eastern Orthodox	1%
Hindu	1%
Islamic	1%
United Church of Christ	1%
Latter-day Saints (Mormon)	0.4%
Seventh-day Adventist	0.4%
Unitarian	0.4%
Quaker	0.2%

Current views about spiritual/religious matters

Secure	42%
Seeking	23%
Conflicted	15%
Not interested	15%
Doubting	10%

Note: Figures add up to more than 100 percent because students could choose more than one option.

Indicators of students' religiousness

Believe in God	79%
Pray	69%
Attend religious services ¹	81%
Discussed religion/spirituality with friends ¹	80%
Discussed religion/spirituality with family ¹	76%
Religious beliefs provide strength, support, and guidance ²	69%
Follow religious teachings in everyday life ³	40%

Indicators of students' spirituality

Believe in the sacredness of life ¹	83%
Have an interest in spirituality ¹	80%
Search for meaning/purpose in life ¹	76%
Have discussions about the meaning of life with friends ¹	74%
My spirituality is a source of joy ²	64%
Seek out opportunities to help me grow spiritually ³	47%

- 1 Describes students to some or a great extent
- 2 Agree strongly or somewhat
- 3 Consider it essential or very important

SOURCE: Higher Education Research Institute
<http://chronicle.com>
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