

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT DOCUMENT

An analysis of  
the Undergraduate Student Government's  
COMBO survey

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## Summary

During May 2007, the Undergraduate Student Government invited undergraduates to complete a five page web-based questionnaire dealing with campus life issues within the context of students' social and economic background. Approximately 30% of undergraduate students completed the survey. This report summarizes the data of the survey as a function of students' self-reported family social class during their senior year in high school.

Most students (51%) described their family's social class as being *Upper-middle social class*, while another 27% of students reported their family social class as being *middle social class*, while 4% of students placed their family in the *Lower social class*. Nine percent of students placed their family in *Lower-middle social class*, and 11% of students placed their family in the *Upper social class*.

Students' views of family social class are likely influenced by factors beyond family income as demonstrated in the range of family incomes reported by students within each social class group. This was most evident in the *Middle social class* group where family income ranged from less than \$25,000 to \$250,000, suggesting that students who self-identify within a given social class may come from disparate economic backgrounds. Nevertheless, family income, on average, did increase across the five social class groups as did parental educational attainment, family familiarity with college, and private high school attendance. Inversely, racial/ethnic diversity decreases across the five social class groups, with the lower social class groups being the most diverse.

Students in the lower social class groups indicated that economic factors such as *financial aid*, *career prospects* and *entrance to graduate school* were of greater importance in their decision to attend Princeton than did students in the upper social class groups. Conversely, students in the upper social class groups placed a greater premium on *Location*, *extracurricular opportunities*, *social opportunities*, *athletic* and *dorm / living conditions* than did students in the lower social class groups. Nearly all students, regardless of social class, cited academics as a significant reason for choosing to attend Princeton.

Among sophomores, juniors, and seniors, students in the lower social class groups were significantly less likely to have joined an eating club than were students in the upper social class groups. Approximately one-half of the students in the lower social class groups indicated that cost had been a considerable factor in their selection of a dining option as compared to the roughly 10% of students in the upper social class groups.

Interestingly, the data suggests that cost was less of a factor in selecting a dining option for fall 2007 than it had been in spring 2007, as demonstrated by a modest decrease in the fraction of students who cited that cost had been a significant factor in their dining option decision for spring 2007. This change was co-incident with the implementation of several changes in the University's policy that were developed to reduce financial barriers to eating club membership.

Roughly three-quarters of the students in the lower social class groups indicated that they had, at least once, not purchased required course materials as compared to roughly 40% of the students in the upper social class groups. Among students who had not purchased required course materials, two-thirds of the students in the lower social class groups, as well as a quarter of the students in the upper social class groups, indicated cost as being the most important reason for not purchasing required course materials.

Most students indicated that they were *always* happy (13%) or *usually* happy (61%) since coming to Princeton, while 23% indicated they were *sometimes* happy and 3% said they were *never* happy. Students in the upper social class groups were slightly more likely to indicate that they were *always* or *usually* happy than were students in the lower social class groups.

Approximately 80% of the students in each social class group indicated that they would be excited if their children wanted to attend Princeton. Interestingly, 30% of the students who indicated that they had *never* been happy since coming to Princeton and 60% of the students who had been happy *sometimes*, nevertheless would be excited if their children wanted to attend Princeton. Over 90% of the students who had been *always* or *usually* happy would be excited if their children wanted to attend Princeton.

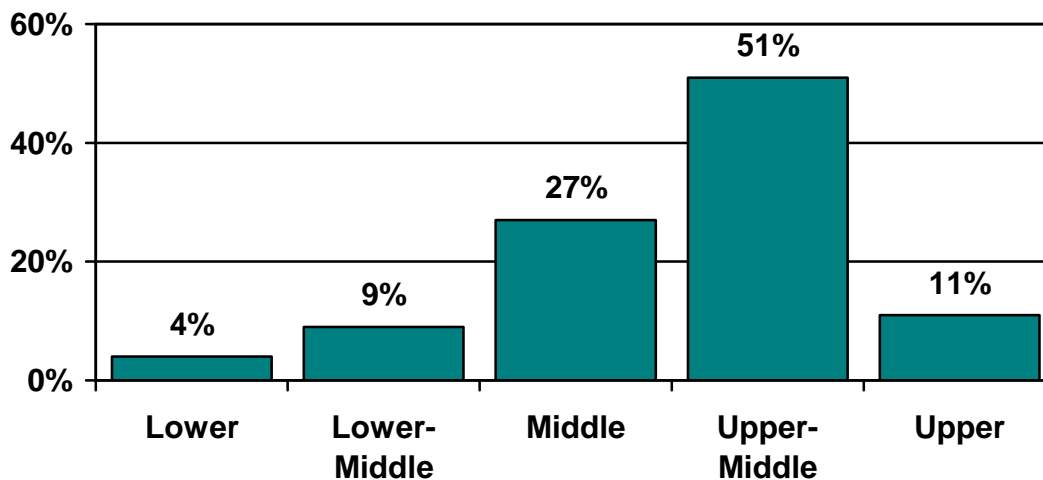
## **Introduction**

During May 2007, the Undergraduate Student Government invited undergraduates to complete a five page web-based questionnaire dealing with issues related to campus life and experience within the context of students' social and economic background (Appendix I). The respondent pool, which was comprised of approximately 30% of undergraduates, was fairly representative of the larger student body with respect to academic class year and family income, while women were slightly overrepresented in the respondent pool (Appendix II). While the overall respondent pool was representative of the student body with respect to race/ethnicity, the distribution of Hispanic respondents was quite asymmetric such that 47% of the Hispanic respondents were freshmen. As such, interpreting results by race / ethnicity should be interpreted cautiously, especially in cases where student responses were likely to be influenced by year of study—i.e. choice of major. The results described in this report reflect the views and perception of undergraduate students in May 2007, with respect to their family's social class as self-reported by the students.

## Self-identified family social class

When students were asked to indicate which of five categories best described their family social class during their senior year of high school, most students (51%) described their family's social class as being *Upper-middle social class*, while another 27% of students reported their family social class as being *Middle social class* (Figure 1). The remaining students described their family social class as being *Lower social class* (4%), *Lower-middle social class* (9%) or *Upper social class* (11%). Since these categories provide a somewhat subjective measure of students' perception of family social standing, it was of interest to explore other demographic factors that would be descriptive of these student groupings, and to explore relative experiences of the students in these social class groups.

**Figure 1**  
**Categories that best described family's social class during senior year in high school**



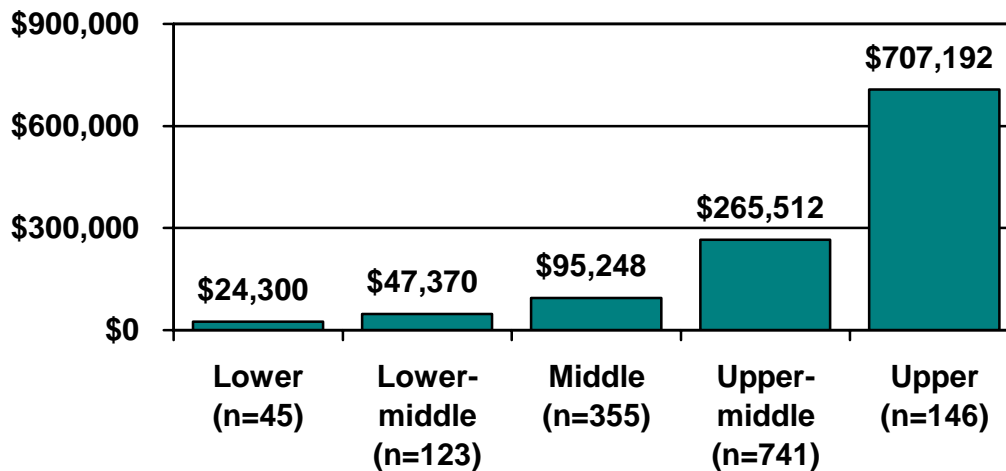
## Family income

Students were asked to estimate their family income from a list of nine defined income ranges (Table 1). These income brackets were used to impute an average family income from the mid-point of each salary range for each social class group. The average family income estimated by students varied by social class and increased progressively from \$24,300 reported by students in the *Lower social class* group to \$707,192 reported by students the *Upper social class* group. Students in the *Upper-middle social class* group reported an average family income of \$265,512 (Figure 2). It is worth noting that students in different social class groups quite often reported the same family income. For example, 10% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class* group reported a family income in the range of \$75,000-\$100,000 as did 33% of the students in the *Middle social class* group and 9% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
**Estimated family income by self-identified family social class**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?									
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
Under \$25,000	26	58%	21	17%	13	4%	6	1%	0	0%
\$25,000-\$50,000	17	38%	51	41%	31	9%	6	1%	0	0%
\$50,001-\$75,000	2	4%	38	31%	84	23%	19	3%	0	0%
\$75,001-\$100,000	0	0%	12	10%	117	33%	59	9%	1	1%
\$100,001-\$150,000	0	0%	1	1%	76	21%	170	25%	5	3%
\$150,001-\$250,000	0	0%	0	0%	34	9%	196	29%	18	12%
\$250,001-500,000	0	0%	0	0%	5	1%	167	24%	28	19%
\$500,001-1,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	46	7%	46	32%
\$1,000,000+	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	18	3%	48	33%

**Figure 2**  
**Estimated average family income/family's social class during your senior year in high school**

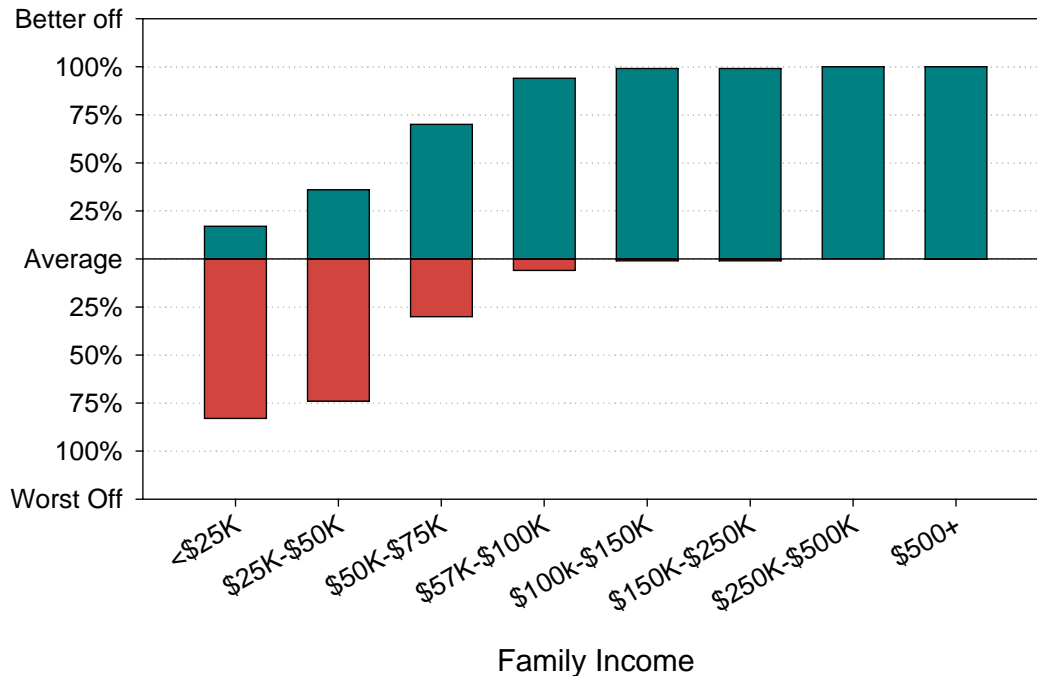


**Family Financial Status**

Students were asked if their family was *better off financially* or *worse off financially* than the average American family. Overall, 87% of the students who participated in this survey indicated that their family was *better off financially* than the average American family, while the remaining 13% (n=190) of students reported that their family was *worse off financially* than the average American family. Eighty-three percent of the students reporting a family income of *Under \$25,000* indicated that their family was *worse off financially* than the average American family, as compared to 74% of the students in the

\$25,000 to \$50,000 income bracket, 30% of the students in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 income bracket and less than 10% of students in the higher income brackets. (Figure 3). Comparison of the students perceived financial status with their reported social class revealed that 100% of the students in the *Lower social class* group felt that their families

**Figure 3**  
**Estimated family income by family financial status**



were *worse off financially* than the average American family. Conversely, 100% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group and the *Upper social class* group felt that their families were *better off financially* than the average American family (Table 2). As might be expected, students in the *Lower-middle social class* group and *middle social class* group were of differing opinion regarding their families' financial status. The majority of students in the *Lower-middle social class* group (73%) reported that their family was *worse off financially* than the average American family, while the remaining 27% of students in the *Lower-middle social class* reported that their family was *better off financially* than the average American family. Conversely, the majority of students in the *Middle social class* (87%) reported that their family was *better off financially* than the average American family, while 13% reported that their family was *worse off financially* than the average American family. Interestingly, the average family income reported by students in the *Lower-middle-social class* (\$64,000) who were better off than the average American family was nearly the same as the average income reported by students in the *Middle social class* (\$61,000) who were *worse off financially* than the average American family. This suggests that the students may perceive that “average American family income” to be in the range of \$60K (Table 2).

**Table 2****Average imputed family income by estimated family financial status and family social class**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?														
	Lower			Lower-middle			Middle			Upper-middle			Upper		
	Avg. Income dollars in thousands	#	%	Avg. Income dollars in thousands	#	%	Avg. Income dollars in thousands	#	%	Avg. Income dollars in thousands	#	%	Avg. Income dollars in thousands	#	%
Better off Financially	.	0	0%	\$64	33	27%	\$101	329	87%	\$268	727	99%	\$707	151	100%
Worse off Financially	\$24	45	100%	\$42	89	73%	\$61	51	13%	\$49	7	1%	.	0	0%
Total	\$24	45	100%	\$48	122	100%	\$95	380	100%	\$265	734	100%	\$707	151	100%

## ***Demographic profile of self-identified family social class groups***

### **Academic class year**

As mentioned, the respondent pool was comprised of 23% seniors (Class of 2007), 20% juniors (Class of 2008), 26% sophomores (Class of 2009) and 31% freshmen (Class of 2010). This distribution was approximated in four of the five social class groups including *Upper, Upper-middle, Middle, and Lower-middle social class groups*. The *Lower social class* group, however, had fewer respondents (4%) who were juniors (Class of 2008) and more respondents (40%) who were sophomores (Class of 2009)..

### **Gender**

Sixty-two percent of the students in the *Lower-middle social class* group were women as compared to 45% of the *Upper social class* group. Women accounted for slightly more than one-half of the students (51%-53%) in the *Upper-middle, Middle and Lower social class* groups.

### **Race /Ethnicity**

The racial / ethnic diversity of the five social class groups varied considerably. The *Lower social class* group and the *Lower-Middle social class* groups reported the most diversity, while the *Upper social class* group was the least diverse with 77% of group members indicating that they were White (Table 3).

**Table 3**  
**Race/ethnicity by self-identified family social class**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
White	11	24%	39	31%	211	55%	520	71%	116	77%	897	62%
Black	12	27%	17	14%	40	10%	25	3%	2	1%	96	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	27%	31	25%	75	19%	107	15%	7	5%	232	16%
Hispanic	4	9%	18	15%	25	6%	24	3%	7	5%	78	5%
American Indian	2	4%	0	0%	3	1%	4	1%	0	0%	9	1%
Multiracial	1	2%	12	10%	22	6%	31	4%	12	8%	78	5%
Other	3	7%	7	6%	10	3%	24	3%	7	5%	51	4%
Total	45	100%	124	100%	386	100%	735	100%	151	100%	1441	100%

### **Parental educational attainment**

The majority of students (55%) in the *Lower social class* group reported that that one of their parents had not completed a Bachelor's degree, as compared to 32% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class* group, 14% of the *Middle social class* group, 2% of

students in the *Upper-middle social class* group, and 2% of students in the *Upper social class* group (Table 4). Students in the *Middle social class* group were most likely to report that one of their parents had completed a Master's Degree (24%) or a Bachelor's degree (23%). Students in the *Upper-middle social class* group were most likely to report that one of their parents had completed a Professional degree (29%) or a Doctoral degree (26%). While students in the *Upper social class* group were most likely to report that one of their parents had completed a Professional degree (46%).

### **Family familiarity with college**

Twenty-seven percent of the students in the *Lower social class* group reported that they were the first member of their immediate family to attend college, as compared to 20% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class* group and less than 10% of the students in the *Middle*, *Upper-middle*, and *Upper social class* groups (Table 5). Inversely, 33% of the students in the *Upper social class* group had "others" in their family who had attended Princeton, as compared to 25% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group, 14% of the students in the *Middle social class* group, 5% of the *Lower-middle social class* group, and 0% of the *Lower social class* group. Interestingly, about one-third (31 of the 98) students who were the first in their immediate family to attend college indicated that their family was in the *Upper-middle social class*, while 28% were in the *Middle social class*, 26% were in the *Lower-middle social class*, and only 12% of these first generation college students reported that their family was in the *Lower social class*.

### **Type of high school attended**

The type of high school attended by students varied among the social class groups. Students in the *Upper social class* group (28%) were less likely than students in the other social class groups (44%-56%) to have attended a public, non-magnet high school during their senior year in high school (Table 6). Rather, students in the *Upper social class* group (47%) were more likely to have attended a private-day school than were students in the *Upper-middle social class* group (28%), the *Middle social class* group (16%), the *Lower-middle social class* group, or the *Lower social class* group (9%).

### **High school accessibility to Princeton and/or other Ivy League schools**

When students were asked how many people from their high school attended Princeton or other Ivy League schools, approximately 25% indicated that every year a sizable number attend, 33% indicated that a small number attend each year, 22% replied that over several years a small number attend, while 21% indicated that only rarely does anyone attend (Table 7). Students in the *Upper social class* group (47%) were more likely to report that *every year a sizable number of students from their high school attend* Princeton or another Ivy League school than were students in the *Upper-middle social class* (29%), *Middle social class* (14%), *Lower-middle social class* (16%), or *Lower social class* (18%) groups. An inverse relationship was observed with respect to the fraction of students who reported that *only rarely does anyone attend* Princeton or other Ivy League schools, with 42% of students in the *Lower social class* group making this selection, as compared to 11% of the students in the *Upper social class* group.

**Table 4**  
**Highest level of education obtained by one of your parents**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
No College	14	31%	16	13%	22	6%	7	1%	1	1%	60	15
Some College	11	24%	14	11%	20	5%	5	5	1	1%	51	4%
Bachelor's Degree	9	20%	37	29%	88	23%	91	12%	8	5%	233	16%
Master's Degree (not including MBA/MPA)	5	11%	21	17%	94	24%	110	15%	14	9%	244	17%
Professional Degree (JD, MBA, MPA, other)	1	2%	7	6%	60	16%	210	29%	69	46%	347	24%
Medical Degree (MD, PsyD, DDS, etc.)	0	0%	8	6%	22	6%	115	16%	33	22%	178	12%
PhD or other Doctorates	4	9%	11	9%	70	18%	189	26%	23	15%	297	21%
Other	1	2%	2	2%	0	0%	2	0%	1	1%	6	0%
Total	45	100%	126	100%	386	100%	734	100%	150	100%	1441	100%

**Table 5**  
**How experienced was your family with college and Princeton?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
I am the first in my immediate family to attend college	12	27%	25	20%	27	7%	31	4%	3	2%	98	7%
Other family members have attended college, but I am the first among my immediate family to attend Princeton.	33	73%	94	75%	304	79%	523	71%	97	65%	1051	73%
Others in my family have attended Princeton.	0	0%	6	5%	54	14%	182	25%	49	33%	291	20%
Total	45	100%	125	100%	385	100%	736	100%	149	100%	1440	100%

**Table 6**  
**What type of school did you attend in your senior year of high school?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Public non-magnet school	24	53%	69	55%	218	56%	323	44%	42	28%	676	47%
Public magnet school	7	16%	22	17%	51	13%	96	13%	8	5%	184	13%
Parochial private	1	2%	5	4%	20	5%	56	8%	13	9%	95	7%
Private school—boarding	6	13%	9	7%	28	7%	47	6%	15	10%	105	7%
Private—day student	4	9%	17	13%	63	16%	206	28%	71	47%	361	25%
Home school	0	0%	1	1%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%
Other	3	7%	3	2%	5	1%	10	1%	1	1%	22	2%
Total	45	100%	126	100%	386	100%	738	100%	150	100%	1445	100%

**Table 7****Do many people from your high school attend Princeton or other Ivy League schools?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Every year, a sizable number attend.	8	18%	20	16%	55	14%	212	29%	71	47%	366	25%
A small number attend every year.	8	18%	29	23%	120	31%	269	37%	43	29%	469	33%
Over several years, a small number attend.	10	22%	31	25%	107	28%	144	20%	20	13%	312	22%
Only very rarely does anyone attend.	19	42%	46	37%	104	27%	111	15%	16	11%	296	21%
Total	45	100%	126	100%	386	100%	736	100%	150	100%	1443	100%

## Importance of factors in decision to come to Princeton

Students were presented with a randomly ordered list of 12 factors and were then asked to indicate how important each factor was in making their decision to attend Princeton (Figure 4). Regardless of social class group, the vast majority (>87%) of students indicated that *academics* had been a *significant factor* or the *only factor* in their decision to attend Princeton. *Prestige* was also identified as the *only factor* or a *significant factor* in the decision to attend Princeton by approximately 70% of the students in the *Upper social class*, *Upper-middle social class*, *Middle social class*, *Lower-middle social class* and 80% of the students in the *Lower social class* group.

In the decision to attend Princeton, *financial aid* was identified as the *only factor* or a *significant factor* by 98% of the students in the *Lower social class* group, 96% of the *Lower-middle social class* group, 86% of the *Middle social class* group, 28% of the *Upper-middle social class* group, and just 4% of the students in the *Upper social class* group. A similar profile was observed in students ranking the importance of *career prospects*, and *entrance to graduate school*, which were more important to students in the *Lower social class* group than to students in the *Upper social class* group. Conversely, students in the *Upper social class* group placed a greater premium on *location*, *extracurricular opportunities*, *social opportunities*, *athletic* and *dorm / living conditions* than did students in the *Lower social class* group.

## Social scene, dining and the eating clubs—Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors

### Familiarity with Princeton’s social scene

Given that 33% of the students in the *Upper social class* group indicated that a family member had attended Princeton as compared to 0% of the students in the *Lower social class* group (Table 5), it is not surprising that students in the *Upper social class* group would have been more familiar with Princeton’s social scene than were students in the *Lower social class* group (Table 8).

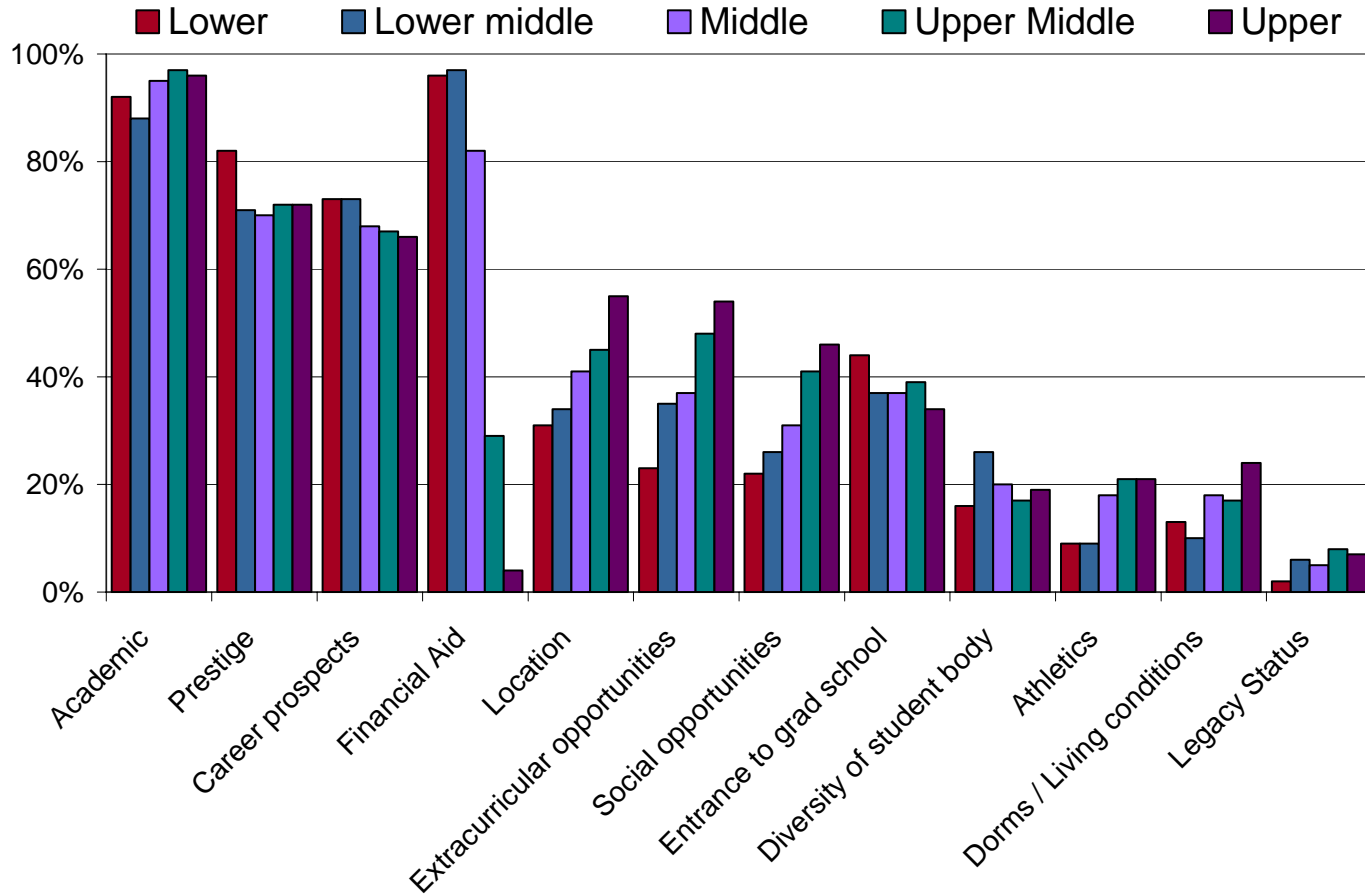
**Table 8**

### When you first came to Princeton how much did you know about the social scene?—Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
A lot	0	0%	2	3%	4	2%	26	5%	16	15%	48	5%
Some	3	10%	13	16%	79	31%	204	40%	41	39%	340	35%
Very Little	9	30%	39	49%	121	48%	215	42%	35	34%	419	43%
Nothing at all	18	60%	26	33%	50	20%	63	12%	12	12%	169	17%
Total	30	100%	80	100%	254	100%	508	100%	104	100%	976	100%

**Figure 4**

**How important were the following factors in your decision to come to Princeton?  
(Percentage indicating that factor was the “only factor” or “a significant factor”)**



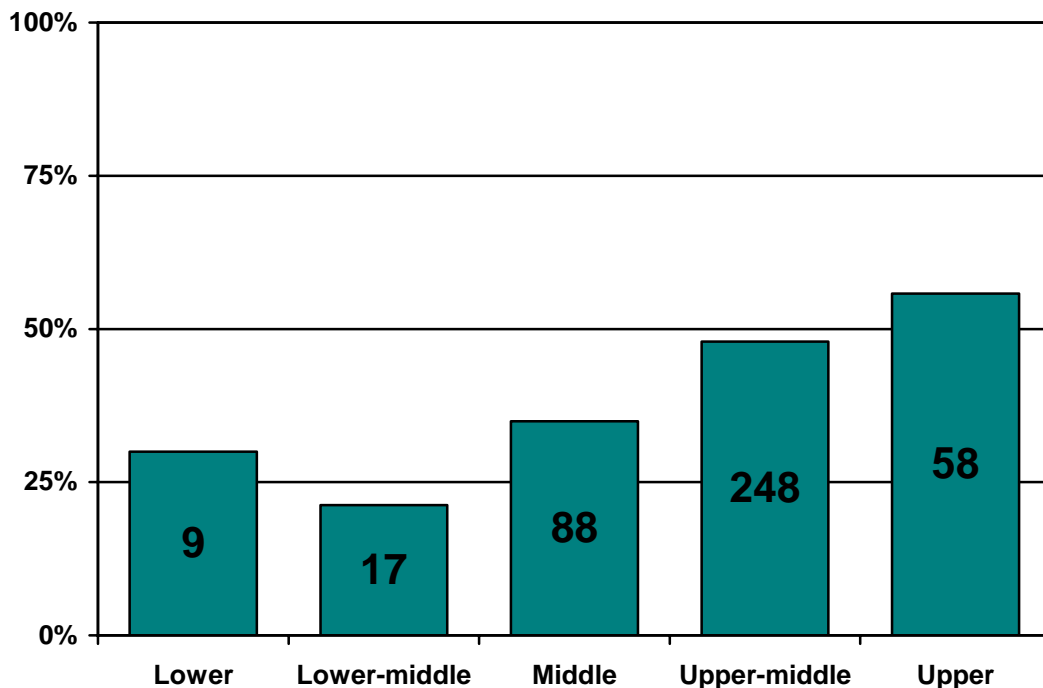
## Initial feelings about the club joining process

Students were asked to reflect back to when they first arrived at Princeton and to report on their feelings at that time about the club joining process. Students in the *Upper social class* group (28%) and the *Upper-middle social class* group (22%) were more likely than students in the *Middle social class* group (13%), the *Lower-middle social class* group (7%), or the *Lower social class* group (5%) to indicate that they had wanted to join a bicker club when they first arrived on campus (Table 9). While students in the *Lower social class* group (37%) and the *Lower-middle class social* group (39%) were more likely than students in the *Middle social class* group (22%), the *Upper-middle social class* group (14%), and the *Upper social class* group (15%) to have indicated that they had not wanted to join a club when they had first arrived on campus.

## Bicker process

When asked to indicate if they had chosen to bicker, 56% of the students in the *Upper social class* group indicated that they had participated in the bicker process, as compared to 49% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group, 35% in the *Middle social class* group, 21% in the *Lower-middle social class* group, and 30% of the *Lower social class* group (Figure 5).

**Figure 5**  
**Percent of Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors who chose to bicker**



**Table 9**

**When you first arrived at Princeton, what were your feelings about the club joining process?  
(Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors)**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
I wanted to join a bicker club.	1	3%	8	10%	38	15%	106	21%	29	28%	182	19%
I wanted to join a sign-in club.	1	3%	2	3%	30	12%	48	9%	8	8%	89	9%
I wanted to join, but did not yet know which type of club.	8	27%	12	15%	64	25%	152	30%	30	29%	266	27%
I did not want to join a club at all.	11	37%	31	39%	55	22%	78	15%	15	14%	190	19%
I was unsure.	9	30%	27	34%	67	26%	124	24%	22	21%	249	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Dining option selected

The majority of students in the *Lower social class* group (55%) and *Lower-middle social class* group (65%) took their meals outside of the club system, as compared to 38 % of the students in the *Middle social class* group, 23% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group and 23% of the students in the *Upper social class* group (Table 10). Students in the *Upper social class* group (40%) were most likely to take their meals at a bicker club, while students in the *Upper-middle social class* group (47%) and *Middle social class* group (43%) were most likely to take their meals at a sign-in club.

**Table 10**

**What is your current dining option as of spring 2007 (Juniors & Seniors) / What will be your dining option as of fall 2007 (Sophomores)?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Not a Club	16	55%	52	65%	96	38%	116	23%	23	23%	303	31%
Bicker Club	4	14%	7	9%	47	19%	149	30%	41	40%	248	26%
Sign-in Club	9	31%	21	26%	107	43%	236	47%	38	37%	411	43%
Total	29	100%	80	100%	250	100%	501	100%	102	100%	962	100%

Students in the *Lower social class* group (47%) and *Lower-middle social class* group (53%) were more likely to report that cost had been a considerable factor in their selection of a dining option than were students in the *Middle social class* group (25%), *Upper-middle social class* group (13%) and the *Upper social class* group (6%) (Table 11). Two-thirds of the students who had selected a bicker club as their dining option said cost had not been a factor in their decision, as compared to 40% of sign-in club members and just 17% of non-club members (Table 12).

Interestingly, the data suggests that cost was less of a factor in selecting a dining option for fall 2007 than it had been in spring 2007 (Table 14). Thirty-five percent of the students in the *Lower, Lower-middle and Middle social class* groups reported that cost had been a significant factor in their dining option decision for spring 2007, while among a similar group of students, 28% indicated that cost was a considerable factor in their fall 2007 dining option decision. This modest 7% decrease was co-incident with the implementation of the several changes in the university's policy that were developed to reduce financial barriers to club membership.

Overall, little difference was observed between the five social class groups with respect to the dining choices made by their friends. Collectively, 43% of students reported that most of their friends had made the same choice they had made, 38% indicated some of their friends had made the same choice, 19% indicated that few or none had made the same choice (Table 14).

**Table 11**  
**Extent that cost factored into your decision regarding next year's dining options (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors<sup>1</sup>)**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
A considerable amount	14	47%	42	53%	62	25%	67	13%	6	6%	191	20%
Somewhat	7	23%	20	25%	84	33%	112	22%	9	9%	232	24%
A little	5	17%	14	18%	41	16%	97	19%	9	9%	166	17%
Not at all	4	13%	4	5%	65	26%	228	45%	78	76%	379	39%
Total	30	100%	80	100%	252	100%	504	100%	102	100%	968	100%

**Table 12**  
**Extent that cost factored into your choice of dining option by dining option (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors<sup>1</sup>)**

	Not a Club		Sign-in Club		Bicker Club		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
A considerable amount	124	41%	52	13%	11	5%	187	20%
Somewhat	84	28%	105	26%	39	16%	228	24%
A little	43	14%	86	21%	34	14%	163	17%
Not at all	52	17%	165	40%	160	66%	377	39%
Total	303	100%	408	100%	244	100%	955	100%

**Table 13**  
**Extent that cost factored into your choice of dining option (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors<sup>1</sup> in the Lower, Lower-middle, and Middle social class groups)**

	Class							
	2007 Spring 2007		2008 Spring 2007		2009 Fall 2007		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
A considerable amount	40	36%	37	35%	41	28%	118	33%
Somewhat	35	31%	39	37%	37	26%	111	31%
A little	20	18%	14	13%	26	18%	60	17%
Not at all	17	15%	16	15%	40	28%	73	20%
I'm a freshman	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	112	100%	106	100%	144	100%	362	100%

<sup>1</sup> This question, while not relevant to seniors, was answered by nearly all seniors

**Table 14****How many of your friends made the same dining option choice as you did? (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors)**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
Most	11	37%	26	33%	109	44%	226	45%	45	43%	417	43%
Some	11	37%	26	33%	96	38%	198	39%	40	38%	371	38%
Few	8	27%	19	24%	39	16%	72	14%	19	18%	157	16%
None	0	0%	8	10%	6	2%	11	2%	0	0%	25	3%
Total	30	100%	79	100%	250	100%	507	100%	104	100%	970	100%

**Social interactions****Going to the Street**

Students in the *Upper and Upper-middle social class* groups were more likely to indicate that they went to the Street more than *twice a week or most Thursdays and Saturdays*, than were students in the *Middle, Lower-middle, or Lower social class* groups (Table 15).

**Socioeconomic status of friends**

Overall, 6% of students reported that the majority of their friends were in the *Upper social class* (Table 16). Fifty-three percent of students reported that the majority of their friends were in the *Upper-middle social class*. Thirty-eight percent of students reported that the majority of their friends were in the *Middle social class*, while 3% of the students reported that the majority of their friends were in the *Lower-middle class*. This distribution is in fairly good agreement with the distribution reported in Figure 1, suggesting that, for the most part, student friendships occur across social classes.

**Exclusive dating relationships**

Roughly 40% to 55% of the students in each of the social class groups reported that they had never been in an exclusive dating relationship at Princeton (Table 17). Among students who had an exclusive dating relationship, students in the *Lower social class* group (40%) were more likely to have a partner who was more financially secure than students in the *Upper social class* group (1%). Inversely, students in the *Upper social class* (29%) were more likely to have had a partner who was less financially secure than students in *Lower social class* group (0%). Students in the *Upper-middle social class* (30%) and the *Upper social class* (29%) were more likely to have had a partner whose background was roughly the same as their own than were students in the *Middle social class* (21%), *Lower-middle social class* (12%), or *Lower social class* (7%).

**Table 15**  
**How often do you go out to the Street?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
More than twice a week	1	2%	3	2%	32	8%	98	14%	36	24%	170	12%
Most Thursdays and Saturdays	9	21%	21	17%	77	20%	210	29%	44	29%	361	25%
Every few weekends	18	42%	37	30%	121	32%	218	30%	42	28%	436	31%
Rarely	10	23%	45	37%	103	27%	155	21%	16	11%	329	23%
Never	5	12%	17	14%	46	12%	44	6%	12	8%	124	9%
Total	43	100%	123	100%	379	100%	725	100%	150	100%	1420	100%

**Table 16**  
**How would you describe the socioeconomic status of the majority of your friends?**

Friends' social class	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Lower	2	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	3	0%
Lower-middle	7	16%	15	12%	10	3%	10	1%	1	1%	43	3%
Middle	15	35%	53	44%	169	46%	254	36%	31	21%	522	38%
Upper-middle	16	37%	49	40%	172	46%	415	59%	82	56%	734	53%
Upper	3	7%	4	3%	20	5%	30	4%	31	21%	88	6%
Total	43	100%	121	100%	371	100%	709	100%	146	100%	1390	100%

**Table 17****In your most recent exclusive dating relationship at Princeton, how does/did your partner's background compare to yours?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Partner was from a more financially secure background	17	40%	37	31%	85	23%	67	9%	2	1%	208	15%
Roughly the same	3	7%	14	12%	77	21%	210	30%	42	29%	346	25%
Partner was from a less financially secure background	0	0%	2	2%	34	9%	103	15%	31	21%	170	12%
I am unsure	0	0%	1	1%	9	2%	30	4%	5	3%	45	3%
I have never been in an exclusive dating relationship at Princeton	23	53%	67	55%	165	45%	299	42%	66	45%	620	45%
Total	43	100%	121	100%	370	100%	709	100%	146	100%	1389	100%

## Feeling out of place because of background

Students in the *Lower* and *Lower-middle social class* groups were more likely to report that they felt out of place in each of the five listed situations/organizations than were students in the *Middle*, *Upper-middle*, and *Upper social class* groups (Table 18).

Students in the *Lower* and *Lower-middle social class*, in particular, felt out of place with Fraternities / Sororities, the eating clubs, and weekend parties at the clubs.

**Table 18**

**In which of the following situations/organizations do you feel out of place because of your background?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower n=45		Lower- middle n=126		Middle n=227		Upper- middle n=739		Upper n=152		Total n=1,451	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
Fraternity / Sorority	18	40%	55	44%	141	36%	195	26%	25	16%	434	30%
Eating club	18	40%	49	39%	84	22%	91	12%	15	10%	257	18%
Athletic team	5	11%	24	19%	68	17%	112	15%	11	7%	220	15%
Other Extracurricular Activities	6	13%	21	17%	36	9%	37	5%	7	5%	107	7%
Weekend parties at eating clubs	19	42%	41	33%	82	21%	103	14%	14	9%	259	18%
Weekend parties in rooms	7	16%	26	21%	54	14%	59	8%	8	5%	154	11%
Other	3	7%	7	6%	16	4%	45	6%	8	5%	79	5%

## Intersession break

Overall, 29% of the students spent their most recent intersession at home, 23% of the students were on vacation, 16% of the students were on campus doing academic work, and 13% of the students were on campus for other reasons (Table 19). Compared to students in the other social class groups (<25%), students in the *Upper social class* group (36%) were more likely to have spent their most recent intersession on vacation.

## Extracurricular Activities

### Fraternities / Sororities

Twenty-one percent of the students in the *Upper social class* group indicated that they were members of a Greek organization as compared to 12% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class*, 7% of the students in the *Middle social class*, 5% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class*, and 5% of the students in the *Lower social class* (Table 20).

**Table 19**  
**How did you spend your most recent intersession break?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
At Home	9	21%	44	36%	109	29%	212	30%	37	25%	411	29%
On vacation	7	16%	18	15%	71	19%	170	24%	53	36%	319	23%
On an academics-related, University-sponsored trip	3	7%	4	3%	12	3%	21	3%	2	1%	42	3%
On a community service trip	2	5%	4	3%	4	1%	12	2%	1	1%	23	2%
On campus primarily doing academic work	8	19%	19	16%	62	17%	118	17%	20	14%	227	16%
On campus primarily working for pay	6	14%	8	7%	9	2%	9	1%	0	0%	32	2%
On campus for other reasons	4	9%	16	13%	58	16%	91	13%	16	11%	185	13%
Other	4	9%	9	7%	45	12%	80	11%	17	12%	155	11%
Total	43	100%	122	100%	370	100%	713	100%	146	100%	1394	100%

**Table 20**  
**Did you choose to join a fraternity of sorority?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
I am a member of a Greek organization	2	5%	6	5%	24	7%	87	12%	30	21%	149	11%
I rushed, but am not currently a member	1	2%	2	2%	6	2%	31	4%	5	3%	45	3%
I chose not to join	40	93%	113	93%	331	90%	587	82%	106	73%	1177	85%
Other	0	0%	1	1%	5	1%	7	1%	4	3%	17	1%
Total	43	100%	122	100%	366	100%	712	100%	145	100%	1388	100%

## **Dues and participation**

Nearly all students in the *Upper social class* group (87%) indicated that dues had not been a factor in their decision to participate in extracurricular activities as compared to 73% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group, 61% of the students in the *Middle social class* group, 47% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class* group, and 52% of the students in the *Lower social class* group (Table 21). In contrast, 24% of students in the *Lower social class* group, and 26% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class* group reported that dues had been a relatively important or significant factor in their decision to participate in extracurricular activities as compared to 11% of the students in the *Middle social class* group, 5% of the *Upper-middle social class* group, and 0% of the *Upper social class* group.

## **Jobs**

Nearly two-thirds of the students in the *Upper social class* group (61%) reported that they did not hold a job during the academic year, as compared to 45% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group, 29% of the students in the *Middle social class* group, 20% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class* group, and 20% of the students in the *Lower social class* group (Table 22). Students in the *Lower social class* group (63%) and the *Lower-middle social class* group (69%) were more likely to have an on-campus job during the academic year than were students in the *Middle social class* (54%), *Upper-middle social class* (34%), or the *Upper social class* groups (16%).

## **Academic Concentration**

Students were presented with a randomized list of nine factors and asked to indicate which factors were important in their selection of a major (Table 23). *Academic passion* (83%) and *interesting classes* (81%) were the most commonly-cited reasons for selecting a major. About a third of the students cited the *availability of professors* (36%), *preparation for graduate school* (37%), and *the size of the department* as being important factors (35%). Students in the *Upper social class* group were less likely to cite *finding a job* or *expected financial prospects* than were students in the other social class groups.

## **Post-graduation plans**

Approximately one-quarter of the students (23%) indicated that they planned to pursue a career in business when they graduated, 20% indicated that they planned to attend graduate school, 22% planned to attend a professional school, while 16% indicated that they were unsure (Table 24). One-third of the students in the *Lower social class* group indicated that they planned to attend graduate school as compared to 29% of students in the *Lower-middle social class* group, 23% of the students in the *Middle social class* group, 20% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group, and 19% in the *Upper social class* group. Students in the *Middle social class* group (19%) were more likely to report that they were unsure about their plans than were students in the *Lower social class* group (7%) or the *Upper social class* group (8%).

**Table 21****To what extent have dues been a factor in your choice to join extracurricular activities?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Not a factor	22	52%	56	47%	222	61%	518	73%	124	87%	942	69%
A minor factor	10	24%	30	25%	96	26%	145	21%	19	13%	300	22%
A relatively important factor	7	17%	21	18%	31	8%	29	4%	0	0%	88	6%
A significant factor	3	7%	10	8%	12	3%	10	1%	0	0%	35	3%
One of the most important factors	0	0%	3	3%	4	1%	3	0%	0	0%	10	1%
Total	42	100%	120	100%	365	100%	705	100%	143	100%	1375	100%

**Table 22****What type of jobs do you hold during the academic year?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower n=45		Lower-middle n=126		Middle n=227		Upper-middle 739		Upper n=152		Total n=1,451	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
No Job	9	20%	25	20%	112	29%	332	45%	92	61%	570	39%
Off campus job	6	13%	8	6%	45	12%	53	7%	9	6%	121	8%
On-campus job (not tutoring)	29	64%	87	69%	209	54%	251	34%	25	16%	601	41%
Tutoring / Serving as a TA/RCC	3	7%	8	6%	28	7%	61	8%	13	9%	113	8%
Managing or working for a Student Agency	2	4%	13	10%	22	6%	39	5%	5	3%	81	6%
Other	0	0%	3	2%	5	1%	17	2%	9	6%	34	2%

**Table 23**  
**Important factors in selecting major (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors)**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower n=30		Lower-middle n=78		Middle n=317		Upper-middle n=497		Upper n=98		Total n=950	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Finding a job	9	30%	25	32%	76	31%	171	34%	22	22%	303	32%
Expected financial prospects	9	30%	20	26%	54	22%	106	21%	12	12%	201	21%
Academic passion	23	77%	64	82%	190	77%	429	86%	83	85%	789	83%
Availability of professors	6	20%	28	36%	90	36%	180	36%	39	40%	343	36%
Interesting classes	18	60%	60	77%	193	78%	413	83%	84	86%	768	81%
Size of department	10	33%	31	40%	80	32%	174	35%	34	35%	329	35%
Similarity with what friends were choosing	3	10%	6	8%	14	6%	34	7%	8	8%	65	7%
Preparation for graduate/professional school	11	37%	32	41%	76	31%	197	40%	36	37%	352	37%
Other	0	0%	2	3%	11	5%	22	4%	6	6%	41	4%

**Table 24**

**Which of the following best represents your post-graduation plans?  
(Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors)**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Graduate School or Academic Fellowship	10	33%	23	29%	57	23%	100	20%	19	19%	209	22%
Professional School (Law school, Medical school, etc.)	6	20%	12	15%	42	17%	108	22%	22	22%	190	20%
Travel	0	0%	1	1%	3	1%	14	3%	4	4%	22	2%
Business	10	33%	12	15%	49	20%	119	24%	28	29%	218	23%
Non-profit	1	3%	15	19%	22	9%	26	5%	8	8%	72	8%
Non-business private sector employment	0	0%	4	5%	10	4%	15	3%	0	0%	29	3%
Military	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	4	1%	1	1%	6	1%
Public sector employment	1	3%	0	0%	9	4%	14	3%	6	6%	30	3%
Unsure	2	7%	8	10%	47	19%	84	17%	8	8%	149	16%
Other	0	0%	3	4%	7	3%	14	3%	2	2%	26	3%
Total	30	100%	78	100%	247	100%	498	100%	98	100%	951	100%

Students in the *Lower social class group* were more likely than those in the *Upper social class group* to indicate that *financial prospects* and/or *working environment / ability to maintain work-life balance* had the greatest impact on their decision of post-graduation plans (Table 25).

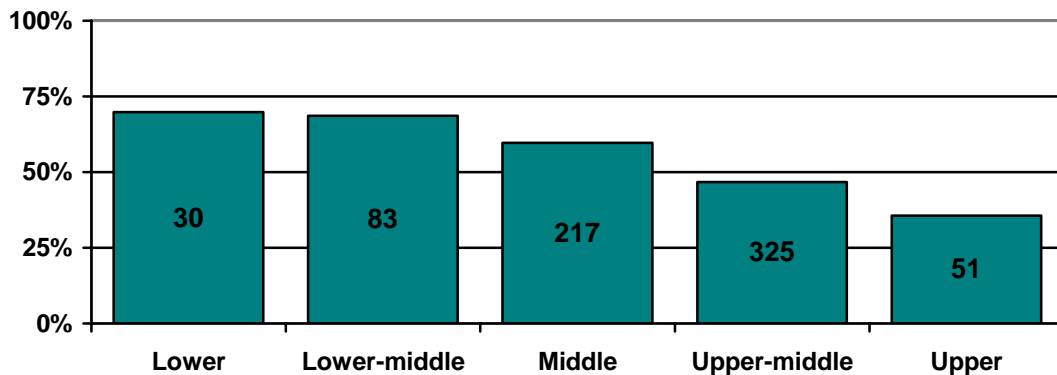
### **Summer plans**

Fifty-six percent of the students in the *Lower social class group* indicated that they planned to spend the Summer of 2007 in paid employment as compared to 42% of the students in the *Lower-middle social class group*, 46% of the students in the *Middle social class group*, 41% of the *Upper-middle social class group*, and 32% of the students in the *Upper social class group* (Table 26). Not unexpectedly, students in the *Upper social class group* (8%) were significantly less likely to indicate that their summer plans were influenced, to a considerable degree by financial concerns than were students in the *Upper-middle* (22%), *Middle* (41%), *Lower-Middle* (60%) or the *Lower* (48%) *social class groups* (Table 27).

### **Purchase of required course materials**

Roughly three-quarters of the students in the *Lower social class group* and *Lower-middle social class group* indicated that they had at least once not purchased required course material as compared to 60% of the students in the *Middle social class group*, 47% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class group*, and 36% of the students in the *Upper social class group* (Figure 6). Among those students who did not purchase required course materials, about two-thirds of the students in the *Lower* (63%) and *Lower-middle* (67%) *social class groups* cited cost as being the most important reason for not purchasing required course materials (Table 28). Interestingly, 24% of the students in the *Upper social class group*, 27% in the *Upper-middle social group*, and 39% in the *middle social class group*, also cited cost as being the most important reason for not purchasing required course materials.

**Figure 6**  
**Percent of students who chose not to buy course books or packets that were required for a class**



**Table 25**

**Which of the following factors would you say had the greatest impact on your decision with regard to your post-graduation plans?  
(Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors)**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Desired career prospects and chances for promotion	4	13%	7	9%	29	12%	78	16%	17	18%	135	15%
Financial prospects	7	23%	12	16%	27	11%	38	8%	8	8%	92	10%
Academic Passion	9	30%	19	25%	77	32%	145	30%	29	30%	279	30%
Working environment/ability to maintain work-life balance	5	17%	11	14%	30	12%	55	11%	7	7%	108	12%
Desire to help others	1	3%	22	29%	41	17%	97	20%	19	20%	180	19%
Desire to use acquired skills	2	7%	3	4%	27	11%	48	10%	12	13%	92	10%
Other	2	7%	3	4%	12	5%	22	5%	4	4%	43	5%
Total	30	100%	77	100%	243	100%	483	100%	96	100%	929	100%

**Table 26 How do you plan to spend next summer?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Paid employment (finance)	24	56%	51	42%	167	46%	284	41%	46	32%	572	42%
Unpaid employment	7	16%	15	12%	44	12%	78	11%	18	13%	162	12%
Study abroad	2	5%	12	10%	31	9%	84	12%	17	12%	146	11%
Summer classes in the U.S.	3	7%	17	14%	41	11%	78	11%	26	18%	165	12%
Paid employment (non-finance)	3	7%	8	7%	19	5%	27	4%	10	7%	67	5%
Leisure and travel	2	5%	8	7%	34	9%	87	13%	17	12%	148	11%
Other	2	5%	10	8%	25	7%	54	8%	9	6%	100	7%
Total	43	100%	121	100%	361	100%	692	100%	143	100%	1360	100%

**Table 27 To what extent do financial concerns influence your summer plans?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
A considerable amount	18	43%	73	60%	149	41%	154	22%	12	8%	406	30%
Somewhat	17	40%	37	31%	133	37%	251	36%	25	17%	463	34%
A little	6	14%	6	5%	53	15%	172	25%	31	22%	268	20%
Not at all	1	2%	5	4%	29	8%	120	17%	75	52%	230	17%
Total	42	100%	121	100%	364	100%	697	100%	143	100%	1367	100%

**Table 28****How important was the price of the required course materials in your decision not to purchase them?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
The most important reason	19	63%	56	67%	85	39%	87	27%	12	24%	259	37%
Very important	6	20%	18	22%	66	31%	89	27%	7	14%	186	26%
Somewhat important	4	13%	7	8%	50	23%	110	34%	15	29%	186	26%
Not important at all	1	3%	1	1%	13	6%	36	11%	17	33%	68	10%
I've never failed to buy course materials	0	0%	1	1%	2	1%	3	1%	0	0%	6	1%
Total	30	100%	83	100%	216	100%	325	100%	51	100%	705	100%

## Preparation for Princeton

Students were asked to indicate how prepared did they feel they were for the academic rigors of Princeton. Fifty percent of the students in the *Upper social class* group indicated that they were *extremely well-prepared* as compared to 32% of the students in the *Upper-middle social class* group, 19% of the students in the *Middle social class* group, 17% of the students in the *Lower-middle class social* group, and 21% of the students in the *Lower social class* group (Table 29). Students in the *Lower middle class* group were somewhat more likely than the students in the other social groups to feel that they were *not well-prepared* or *adequately prepared*.

**Table 29**  
**How prepared did you feel you were for the academic rigors of Princeton?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Extremely well-prepared	9	21%	21	17%	68	19%	220	32%	71	50%	389	28%
Somewhat well-prepared	19	44%	39	32%	141	39%	278	40%	38	27%	515	38%
Adequately prepared	10	23%	38	31%	101	28%	156	22%	26	18%	331	24%
Not well prepared	5	12%	23	19%	53	15%	44	6%	8	6%	133	10%
Total	43	100%	121	100%	363	100%	698	100%	143	100%	1368	100%

## General happiness

The general level of happiness expressed by students varied by social class group such that students in the *Upper* (78%) and *Upper middle* (78%) *social class* groups were more likely than were students in the *Middle* (72%), *Lower-middle* (59%), or *Lower* (63%) *social class* groups to report that they were *always* or *usually* happy since coming to Princeton (Table 30).

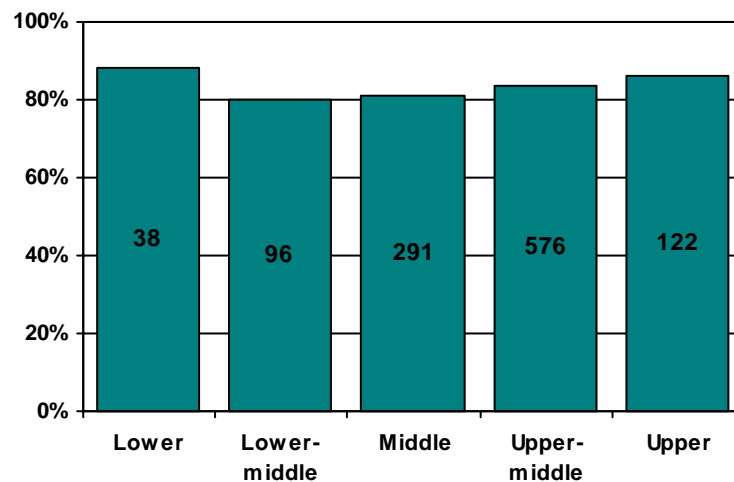
**Table 30**  
**In general, how often would you describe yourself as happy since coming to Princeton?**

	Family's social class during your senior year of high school?											
	Lower		Lower-middle		Middle		Upper-middle		Upper		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Always	3	7%	9	7%	43	12%	105	15%	23	16%	183	13%
Usually	24	56%	63	52%	220	60%	438	63%	89	62%	834	61%
Sometimes	15	35%	46	38%	88	24%	141	20%	26	18%	316	23%
Never	1	2%	3	2%	13	4%	14	2%	5	3%	36	3%
Total	43	100%	121	100%	364	100%	698	100%	143	100%	1369	100%

**Endorsement**

Approximately 80% of students in each of the five social class groups indicated that they would be excited if their children wanted to attend Princeton (Figure 7). Interestingly, 60% of students who indicated that they were only *sometimes* happy and 31% of students who indicated they were *never* happy since coming to Princeton, nevertheless indicated that they would be excited if their child wanted to attend Princeton (Figure 8).

**Figure 7**  
**Would you be excited if your children wanted to go to Princeton?**



**Figure 8**  
**Would you be excited if your children wanted to go to Princeton?**



# Appendix I

## ***Survey administration***

The Undergraduate Student Government developed a five-page questionnaire that was comprised of 48 questions during the 2007 spring term, which was reviewed and approved by Princeton IRP (Appendix II). The survey was administered via the internet using Survey Monkey, a commercial survey hosting service. The survey was launched on May 8, 2007 with an email to [usg-list@princeton.edu](mailto:usg-list@princeton.edu). A single reminder was sent on May 22, 2007, with the final survey submission occurring on May 23, 2007. 1,451 students completed at least some portion of the survey. The median time taken to complete the survey was approximately 8 minutes.

## ***Respondent Pool***

- It is estimated that approximately 30% of the undergraduate student body started the survey, with approximately 25% completing all five pages of the survey.
- Members of the Class of 2010 (freshmen) are slightly over-represented in the respondent pool while members of the Class of 2008 (juniors) are underrepresented in the respondent pool.
- As with most student surveys administered at Princeton, women are slightly over-represented in the respondent pool.
- Overall, the respondent pool appears to be fairly representative of the larger student body with respect to race / ethnicity
- However, within the respondent pool, the distribution of Hispanic students is quite asymmetric such that 47% of the Hispanic respondents are freshmen.
- The distribution of students' estimate of family income appears to be in fairly good agreement with family income data provided by the Office of Financial Aid.

## Response rate

	Number	Percent
Enrolled students	4699	100%
Saw Questionnaire	1451	31%

## Class / Year of study

	All Students <sup>1</sup>		Completed Survey	
	Number	Percent	Frequency	Percent
2010	1196	25%	456	31%
2009	1188	25%	373	26%
2008	1159	25%	293	20%
2007	1156	25%	329	23%
Total	4699	100%	1384	100%

<sup>1</sup>Office of the Registrar

## Gender

	All Students <sup>1</sup>		Saw Survey	
	Number	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Male	2520	54%	689	48%
Female	2179	46%	762	53%
Total	4699	100%	1451	100%

<sup>1</sup> Office of the Registrar

## Ethnicity

	All Students <sup>1</sup>		Completed Survey	
	Number	Percent	Frequency	Percent
White	2924	62%	897	62%
Asian	722	15%	232	16%
Black	430	9%	96	7%
Hispanic	340	7%	78	5%
Am. Indian	40	1%	9	1%
N/A	243	5%	n/a	n/a
Multiracial	n/a	n/a	78	5%
Other	n/a	n/a	51	4%
Total	4699	100%	1441	100%

<sup>1</sup> Office of the Registrar

## Princeton Family Income

	All Students <sup>1</sup>		Completed Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under \$25,000	283	6.0%	66	4.5%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	316	6.7%	105	7.2%
\$50,001- \$75,000	372	7.9%	143	9.9%
\$75,001 - \$100,000	389	8.3%	189	13.0%
\$100,001 - \$150,000	599	12.8%	252	17.4%
\$150,001 - \$250,000	515	11.0%	248	17.1%
\$250,001 or more	166	3.5%	n/s	n/a
\$250,001 \$500,000	n/a	n/a	200	13.8%
\$500,001 - \$100,000,000	n/a	n/a	92	6.3%
\$100,000,001 or more	n/a	n/a	66	4.5%
Did not apply for Financial Aid	2059	43.8%	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>4699</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Office of Financial Aid

## Respondent pool by Class / Year of Study and Race / Ethnicity

	Class									
	2007		2008		2009		2010		Total	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
White	212	65%	197	68%	228	61%	260	58%	897	62%
Black	24	7%	13	4%	30	8%	29	6%	96	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	51	16%	43	15%	62	17%	76	17%	232	16%
Hispanic	12	4%	11	4%	18	5%	37	8%	78	5%
American Indian	1	0%	1	0%	2	1%	5	1%	9	1%
Multiracial	16	5%	13	4%	22	6%	27	6%	78	5%
Other	12	4%	13	4%	9	2%	17	4%	51	4%

## Respondent pool by Race / Ethnicity and Class/ Year of Study

	White		Black		Asian/Pacific Islander		Hispanic		Multiracial	
	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%	Count	Col%
2007	212	24%	24	25%	51	22%	12	15%	16	21%
2008	197	22%	13	14%	43	19%	11	14%	13	17%
2009	228	25%	30	31%	62	27%	18	23%	22	28%
2010	260	29%	29	30%	76	33%	37	47%	27	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ***Appendix II***

### ***Invitation E mail message***

**From:** robertdbiederman@gmail.com [mailto:robertdbiederman@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Rob Biederman

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2007 10:26 AM

**To:** usg-list@Princeton.EDU

**Subject:** Why did you come to Princeton? Are you happy here?

A dedicated group of USG members has spent the last month exploring social and economic stratification and its effect on life at Princeton. We all talk about this in passing and have different views, but no one has any concrete facts. It's time to get them, and that's why we've developed this survey.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

This survey will help the USG understand the areas in which Princeton has done well and where it can do better in ensuring its opportunities are available to everyone. Results are anonymous, and prizes will be raffled off to respondents. Please take a few minutes of your time and respond to the survey questions.

Thanks to the committee members:

Committee Chair, Senior Class President Jim Williamson  
ULC Chair Lauren Barnett '08  
2008 Senator Aaron Souza  
2009 Senator Tracy Vu  
2010 Senator Ben Lund

## ***Survey Instrument***

[Exit this survey >>](#)

By clicking "Next", I acknowledge that I have been asked to participate in a survey. I understand that I will be asked to complete a questionnaire concerning social choices at Princeton. If I chose to, I may enter a raffle to win a Nintendo Wii and iTunes gift certificates. This survey has been approved by the University's Institutional Review Panel for Human Subjects.

In addition, by taking this survey I understand that:

A. My participation is voluntary, and I may withdraw my consent and discontinue participation in the project at any time. My refusal to participate will not result in any penalty.

B. By signing this agreement, I do not waive any legal rights or release Princeton University, its agents, or you from liability for negligence.

By clicking "Next", I hereby give my consent to be the subject of this survey.

[Next >>](#)

**\* 1. What class are you currently a member of?**

2007

2008

2009

2010

**2. How would you identify yourself?**

Multiracial

American Indian

Asian/Pacific Islander

Hispanic

White/Caucasian

Black

Other

**\* 3. Gender**

Male

Female

**\* 4. Which of the following categories best describes your family's social class during your senior year of high school?**

Lower

Lower-middle

Middle

Upper-middle

Upper

**5. Compared to the average American, would you say your family is**

Financially worse off

Financially better off

**6. What is your best estimate of your family income for the previous year?**

- Under 25,000
- 25,001-50,000
- 50,001-75,000
- 75,001-100,000
- 100,001-150,000
- 150,001-250,000
- 250,001-500,000
- 500,001-1,000,000
- 1,000,001 +

**7. What type of school did you attend in your senior year of high school?**

- Public non-magnet school
- Public magnet school
- Parochial private school
- Private school--boarding
- Private school--day student
- Home schooled
- Other

**8. Do many people from your high school attend Princeton or other Ivy League schools?**

- Every year, a sizable number attend
- A small number attend every year
- Over several years, a small number attend
- Only very rarely does anyone attend

**9. What is the highest level of education obtained by one of your parents?**

- Did not graduate high school
- High school diploma/GED
- Some college
- Bachelor's Degree

Master's Degree (not including MBA/MPA)

Professional Degree (JD, MBA, etc.)

Medical degree (MD, PsyD, DDS, etc.)

PhD or other Doctorates

Other

**10. How experienced was your family with college and Princeton?**

I am the first in my immediate family to attend college

Other family members have attended college, but I'm the first at Princeton

Other family members have previously attended Princeton

**11. How important were the following in your decision to come to Princeton**

The only factor	A significant factor	No more important than anything else	Marginally important	Not important at all	N/A
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Career prospects

Dorms/Living Conditions

Location

Academics

Diversity of student body

Athletics

Prestige

Social opportunities

Legacy status

Entrance to grad school

Financial aid

Extracurricular opportunities

**12. When you first came to Princeton, how much did you know about the social scene?**

- A lot
- Some
- Very little
- Nothing at all

**13. When you first arrived at Princeton, what were your feelings about the club-joining process?**

- I wanted to join a bicker club
- I wanted to join a sign-in club
- I wanted to join, but did not yet know which type of club
- I did not want to join a club at all
- I was unsure

**14. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors: Did you chose to bicker?**

- Yes
- No
- I'm a freshman

**15. Where did you first choose to bicker?**

- Ivy
- Cottage
- Cap and Gown
- Tiger Inn
- Tower
- I am a freshman
- I am an upperclassmen, but did not bicker

**16. How many of your friends made the same choice of eating option as you did?**

- Most
- Some
- Few

None

**17. Juniors and Seniors: What is your current dining option as of Spring 2007?  
Sophomores: What will be your dining option as of Fall 2007?**

Independent

Co-op

Residential College Meal Plan

Tower

Terrace

Quad

Colonial

Tiger Inn

Ivy

Cottage

Cap and Gown

Cloister

Charter

I'm a freshman

**18. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors: To what extent did cost factor into your decision regarding next year's dining options?**

A considerable amount

Somewhat

A little

Not at all

I'm a freshman

**19. How often do you go out to the Street?**

More than twice a week

Most Thursdays and Saturdays

Every few weekends

Rarely

Never

**20. Are you an RCA?**

Yes

No

**21. If you are an RCA, To what extend was your choice to become and RCA influenced by financial factors?**

A considerable amount

Somewhat

Slightly

Not at all

I'm not an RCA

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**22. How would you describe the socioeconomic status of the majority of your friends?**

- Lower
- Lower middle
- Middle
- Upper middle
- Upper

**23. In your most recent exclusive dating relationship at Princeton, how does/did your partner's background compare to yours?**

- Partner was from a more financially secure background
- Roughly the same
- Partner was from a less financially secure background
- I am unsure
- I have never been in an exclusive dating relationship at Princeton

**24. Are you more or less conscious of your spending habits since arriving at Princeton?**

- About the same
- More concerned with financial issues
- Less concerned with financial issues

**25. How did you spend your most recent intersession break?**

- At home
- On vacation
- On an academics-related, University-sponsored trip
- On a community service trip
- On campus primarily doing academic work
- On campus primarily working for pay
- On campus for other reasons
- Other

**26. Which varsity sport(s) do or did you play at Princeton (check all that apply)?**

I've never played a varsity sport

Basketball

Baseball

Crew

Cross Country

Fencing

Field Hockey

Football

Football — Sprint

Golf

Hockey

Lacrosse

Soccer

Softball

Squash

Swimming & Diving

Tennis

Track

Volleyball

Water Polo

Wrestling

Other

**27. Which club sport(s) do or did you play at Princeton (check all that apply)?**

I've never played a club sport

Aikido

Badminton

Ballroom Dance

Baseball

Basketball

Cycling/Mountain Biking

Equestrian

Field Hockey

Figure Skating

Ice Hockey

Karate

Kendo

Lacrosse

Rifle

Rugby

Sailing

Skiing/Snowboarding

Soccer

Softball

Squash

Swimming

Table Tennis

Tae Kwon Do

Tennis

Ultimate Frisbee

Volleyball

Other

**28. Did you choose to join a fraternity of sorority?**

I am a member of a Greek organization

I rushed, but am not currently a member

I chose not to join

Other

**29. To what extent have dues been a factor in your choice to join extracurricular activities?**

- Not a factor
- A minor factor
- A relatively important factor
- A significant factor
- One of the most important factors

**30. In which of the following situations/organizations do you feel out of place because of your background?**

- Weekend parties in rooms
- Other extracurricular activities
- Athletic team
- Weekend parties at eating clubs
- Eating club
- Fraternity/Sorority
- Other

**31. What type of jobs do you hold during the academic year (select all that apply)?**

- No job
- Off campus job
- On-campus job (not tutoring)
- Tutoring/Serving as a TA/RCC
- Managing or working for a Student Agency
- Other

**32. Are you, or have you ever been, an officer in any organization at Princeton?**

- No
- Yes

**33. Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action from the University?**

- No

Less severe than probation (Dean's Warning)

Probation

More severe than probation

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**34. What is your major or intended major?**

**35. In making your choice of major, which of the following factors played or will play important roles in your consideration?**

Availability of professors

Finding a job

Expected financial prospects

Interesting classes

Similarity with what friends were choosing

Preparation for graduate/professional school

Academic passion

Size of department

Other

**36. Which of the following best represents your post-graduation plans?**

Graduate School or Academic Fellowship

Professional School (Law school, medical school, etc.)

Travel

Business

Non-profit

Non-business private sector employment

Military

Public sector employment

Unsure

Other

**37. Which of the following factors would you say had the greatest impact on your decision?**

Financial prospects

Working environment/ability to balance work and life

Desired career prospects/chances for promotion

Desire to help other

Academic passion

Desire to use acquired skills

Other

**38. How certain did you feel about your post-graduation plans when you arrived at Princeton?**

Very certain

Somewhat certain

Uncertain

**39. Have your expected post-graduation plans changed during your time at Princeton?**

Completely

Somewhat

Not really

Not at all

**40. How do you plan to spend next summer?**

Study abroad

Leisure and travel

Summer classes in the U.S.

Paid employment (finance)

Unpaid employment

Paid employment (non-finance)

Other

**41. To what extent do financial concerns influence your summer plans?**

A considerable amount

Somewhat

A little

Not at all

**42. Did you ever not buy course books or packets that were required for a class?**

No

Yes

**43. If yes, how important was the price of the materials in your decision to not purchase them?**

The most important reason

Very important

Somewhat important

Not important at all

I've never failed to buy course materials

**44. What percent of classes do you skip?**

Almost none

Less than 25%

Between 25% and 50%

More than 50%

**45. How prepared did you feel for the academic rigor of Princeton?**

Extremely well prepared

Somewhat well prepared

Adequately prepared

Not prepared at all

**46. In general, how often would you describe yourself as happy since coming to Princeton?**

Always

Usually

Sometimes

Almost never

**47. Would you be excited if your children wanted to go to Princeton?**

No

Yes

48. Suppose you were the President of Princeton and had the Board of Trustees solidly behind you. What one major change would you introduce on Princeton's campus in regard to the academic or social experience of undergraduates here?

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[Exit this survey >>](#)

**49. If you would like to enter a raffle to win a Nintendo Wii or iTunes gift certificates, enter your netid here. All information is kept confidential.**

[<< Prev](#)

[Done >>](#)