In the 2003 CIRP* Survey administered to entering college freshmen, at least three in four new DePaul freshmen rated themselves above average in:

- drive to achieve 81.3%
- cooperativeness 80.3%
- academic ability 77.5%

There were some notable gaps of 5 or more percentage points between DePaul freshmen and freshmen at private universities. Areas where more DePaul freshmen rated themselves as above average, compared to private universities nationally were:

- social self confidence +11.9
- creativity +8.7
- artistic ability +5.9
- self understanding +5.5
- cooperativeness +5.4

Areas where fewer DePaul freshmen rated themselves as above average, compared to private universities nationally were:

- math ability -20.0
- academic ability -9.7
- religiousness -5.2
- physical health -5.0

*OIPR coordinates the collection of Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) data, which since 1966 have been a national barometer of the changing freshman profile. These 2003 data reflect responses from approximately 1,625 DPU freshmen.