

## **A preliminary look at findings from Carleton's initial round of the Wabash national study (Fall 2008 First-year, First-time students)**

Compared to the other 33 participating liberal arts colleges, Carleton student respondents:  
*(items in italics are reported by Wabash as statistically significant at the .001 or .00001 level)*

- Are more balanced by gender (nearly 50/50)
- Are more likely to be Asian, nonresident aliens, or to give “unknown” or “no response” on the race ethnicity question; slightly less likely to report black or Hispanic.
- Are more likely to report that English is not their native language (9%)
- Are much more likely (86.9% vs. 50.6%) to have earned an A average in high school
- Are much more likely to see a Ph.D. as their lifetime highest degree (44.1%)
- Are more likely to consider their college their first choice institution (71.8% vs. 63.4)
- Are much more likely to have earned at least some AP or IB credit upon entering college
- *Were the least likely to work for pay in high school*
- *Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> (of 34) in participating in extracurricular activities, and in studying/doing homework (both alone and with friends)*
- *Were less interested in becoming successful in a business of their own, working in a prestigious occupation, making a lot of money, obtaining recognition from colleagues for contributions to their field, or having administrative responsibility for the work of others*
- *More interested in developing a meaningful philosophy of life, but less interested in integrating spirituality into their life*
- *Are more likely to lean to the left politically (14.8% far left; 55.0% liberal)*
- *Are more likely to rate their health highly, (5<sup>th</sup> of 34) and less likely to consume alcoholic beverages (27 of 34) in a typical week in high school; are more likely exercise more than six hours per week; are more likely not to smoke cigarettes (96.6%)*
- *Had the highest (1 of 34) score on the College Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) Critical Thinking Test*
- *Performed significantly higher on the “Need for Cognition” scale and on the Miville-Guzman Universality-Diversity Scale (short form)*
- *Ranked very highly on the Defining Issues Test (DIT) that looks at issues related to moral reasoning: (they ranked first on the scale related to items that appeal to: consensus-building procedures, insisting on due process, safeguarding minimal basic rights, and organizing social arrangements in terms of appealing to ideals).*
- *Ranked much higher on scales that attempt to measure “openness to diversity and challenge”, openness to valuing differences in viewpoint with “respect and civility”, (Controversy with Civility) and a “positive attitude toward literacy”.*