

2007 Survey Of America's College Students

Conducted On Behalf Of:
The Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute For Public Policy

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Methodology

This report analyzes the findings of a survey among American college students conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., for the Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy. Since 2001, the Panetta Institute has sponsored a yearly survey of U.S. college students that yields invaluable insights into their opinions. Because of the research's continuity and depth, it truly is one of the best barometers for measuring college students' attitudes. Hart Research is honored to have conducted this important research on behalf of the Panetta Institute, and we present the results in this summary of key findings.

In an effort to reach a more representative sample of college students, the survey's methodology consists of interviews conducted by telephone and on-line. Hart Research interviewed 600 college students using traditional telephone interviewing based on list samples of college students at four-year higher-learning institutions nationwide. This list included a considerable number of cell phone numbers; approximately one-third of the telephone respondents were reached on their cell phone. In addition, Hart Research contracted with an on-line survey vendor to administer an identical survey to a sample of people currently enrolled in some type of post-secondary institution drawn from the vendor's multimillion-member respondent panel. In the on-line survey, screening questions limited participation to students enrolled in a four-year higher-learning institution. A total of 440 interviews were completed on-line, for a total combined sample of 1,040 college students. All interviews, whether by phone or on-line, were conducted from April 11 to 17, 2007. Some demographics were weighted in each sample to achieve representative samples of four-year college students nationwide. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points for the overall sample and higher for specific subgroups.

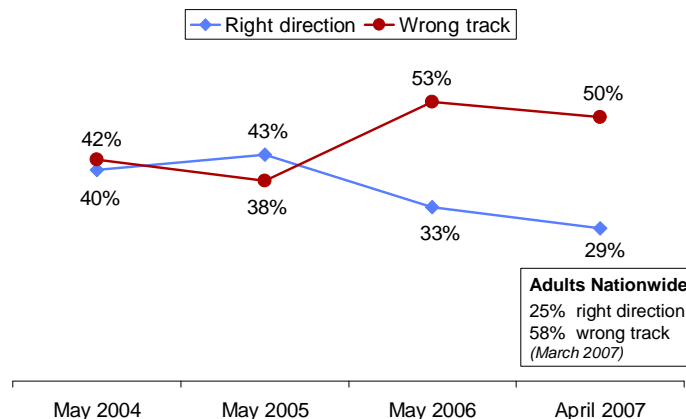
The State Of The Nation

For the third year in a row, the proportion of America's college students who think that the country is generally headed in the right direction has declined. Today, just 29% believe that the nation is headed in the right direction, while half (50%) think it is on the wrong track. This compares to a high of 43% saying right direction in 2003. College students appear slightly more optimistic about the country's direction than the general public as a whole, however, as a March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll finds that only one-fourth (25%) of all adults feel that the nation is headed in the right direction.

A noticeable gender gap exists here, with men (33% right direction, 45% wrong track) reporting a modestly rosier outlook than women (26%, 54%). While about one-third of white (32%) and Asian students (33%) say the country is headed in the right direction, 27% of Hispanic and 17% of African-American students agree. In terms of partisanship, just 18% of students identifying as Democrats say the country is on the right track while 27% of independents and a bare majority (51%) of Republicans do. Seniors view the country's direction more negatively—just 23% say right direction—than do all first years, sophomores, and juniors combined (32%).

Direction Of The Nation

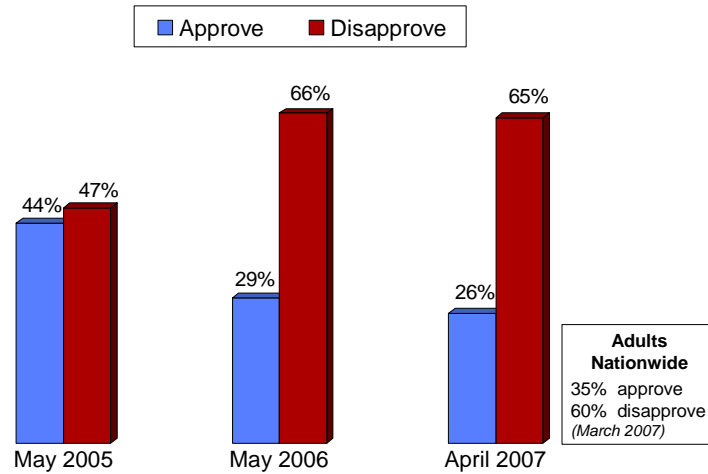
All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction . . . or off on the wrong track?



Just 26% of college students say they feel confident and secure about the country's future, while 66% feel more uncertain and concerned. This is nearly identical to our findings among college students from a year ago (26% confident and secure, 67% uncertain and concerned), but it represents a significant shift toward pessimism when compared to 2004 (35% confident, 50% uncertain). Again, we see a huge disparity in sentiment across party lines. While college Republicans (45% confident/secure to 47% uncertain/concerned) are nearly evenly divided in their feelings about the country's future, nearly two-thirds (65%) of independents and fully three-fourths (76%) of Democrats are uncertain and concerned.

A large majority (65%) of today's college students disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president. Compared with all adults nationwide, college students are more negative toward the president. The March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll found that among all adults, 35% approve and 60% disapprove of the job that Bush is doing. Compared with previous surveys among college students for the Panetta Institute, this year's poll shows the lowest approval rating for Bush ever recorded. Disapproval is particularly high among African-American students (82%). President Bush sees his best approval ratings among students in the South (37% approve, 53% disapprove) and his worst ratings among students in the Northeast (16% approve, 74% disapprove).

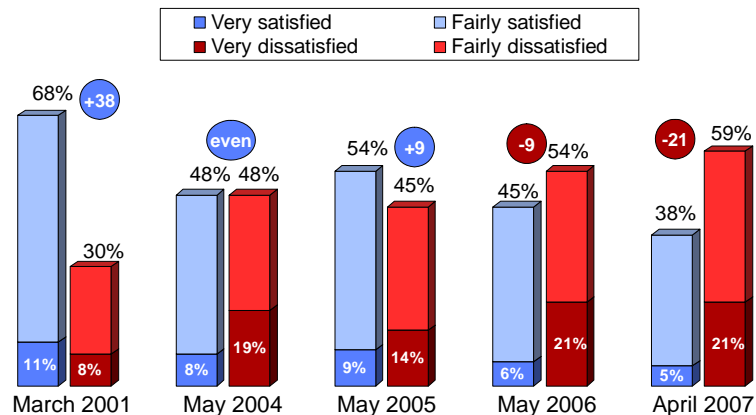
George W. Bush's Job Approval Rating



More broadly, college students are deeply unhappy with the quality of political leadership they see today. Fully 59% of college students are dissatisfied with the country's political leadership, 21 points greater than those who say they are satisfied (38%). This represents a huge 30-point decline in satisfaction since our first survey results for the Panetta Institute in March 2001, which showed 68% satisfaction with the nation's political leadership. This question has revealed a growing trend of dissatisfaction over time, as the following chart demonstrates.

Satisfaction With U.S. Leadership

In general, how satisfied are you with the quality of the country's political leadership today?



Students in the South (44%) are more satisfied with the country's political leadership than are those in the Northeast (31%), Midwest (39%), and Mountain/West regions (34%). Students' assessment of the country's political leadership seems to be more focused on the White House than on the recently elected Democratic Congress, as just 23% of college Democrats say they are satisfied with the quality of the country's political leadership while fully 69% of college Republicans are satisfied. College students who already are following the 2008 presidential race are more dissatisfied (64%) than are those who are not following it (52%). Students for whom television is a major source of political news are more satisfied with the country's political leadership (41% satisfied, 57% dissatisfied) than are those who cite Internet news sites as a major source (34%, 63%).

One reason for students' current dissatisfaction may be their view that the government should do more to solve problems and help meet people's needs (64%) over the position that government is already doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals (27%). College students are far more pro-government than are all adults nationwide, as the March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll found that 52% of adults say the government should do more while 40% say the government is already doing too much. A gender gap exists among college students, as men (58%) are less likely than are women (69%) to think the government ought to be doing more. This question breaks down predictably according to students' ideology, as liberals (78%) are more pro-government than moderates (63%) and conservatives (42%).

Perhaps paradoxically, while students predominately agree that the government ought to be doing more to solve the country's problems, they have little trust in Washington to do what is right. Just more than one-third (36%) of students trust the government to always (3%) or sometimes (33%) do what is right, while 62% say that they trust the government to get it right only some of the time (60%) or never (2%).

The War In Iraq

The most important issue to college students today is the war in Iraq. They do not feel that the war has been worth the cost borne by the United States, and they favor a timeline for troop withdrawal and endorse efforts in Congress to use restrictions on funding as a way to limit further military engagement.

Just 32% of college students feel that removing Saddam Hussein from power was worth the number of U.S. casualties and the financial cost of the war and this proportion is essentially unchanged since 2005. This also is consistent with the views of the general public as seen in the March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll results, which show that 33% of adults feel the war is worth the costs. Among college students, we see a slight gender gap, with men (36%) slightly more in favor of the war than women (29%). While 38% of white students think the war has been worth it, 30% of Hispanic students, 20% of Asian students, and just 14% of African-American students agree. Predictable variation by partisanship exists as well—Democratic students feel the war has not been worth it by 57 points, independents also believe that the war has not been worth it, but only by 26 points, while Republican students think the war has been worth it by 52 points.

Students' View Of The Iraq War			
	<u>Worth It</u>	<u>NOT Worth It</u>	<i>Differential</i> <i>(Worth It – NOT)</i>
	%	%	±
All College Students	32	53	-21
Men	36	52	-16
Women	29	54	-25
Whites	38	47	-9
Hispanics	30	62	-32
African Americans	14	71	-57
Asians	20	61	-41
Northeast	26	61	-35
South	41	43	-2
Midwest	32	55	-23
Mountain/West	27	56	-29
Democrats	15	72	-57
Independents	26	52	-26
Republicans	71	19	+52

Moreover, college students express more support than does the general public for Congressional Democrats' approach to changing course on Iraq. We asked students whether they favor or oppose Congress's restricting funding for the war as a way of limiting President Bush's ability to send additional troops to Iraq. Whereas the general public is divided on the issue, with 45% in favor and 48% opposing (according to the March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll), a 54% majority of college students are in favor of Congress limiting funds for the war, while just 37% oppose.

College students also feel very strongly that we must set a timeline for withdrawing our troops from Iraq. This year's Panetta Institute survey asks students which statement about troop levels in Iraq they agree with more:

"We need to keep our troops in Iraq as long as necessary to stabilize the situation and prevent Iraq from becoming a haven for terrorists."

OR

"We need to set a timeline for withdrawing our troops from Iraq to make clear to Iraqis that the United States will not remain in Iraq indefinitely and that Iraqis need to stand up and fight for their country."

By greater than three to one, students agree that we need to set a timetable for withdrawal (73%) over keeping troops in Iraq as long as necessary (22%). Only college Republicans and conservatives (both 52%) favor keeping our troops in Iraq for as long as necessary.

While today's college students are critical of the Iraq War, there have been few large-scale student protests across college campuses compared with the Vietnam era. When asked why they believe that to be the case, a large proportion of students suggested that the lack of a military draft is at the root of today's relative inaction. Nearly half (48%) of all students agree that fewer protests take place because without a draft many students are not affected directly by the war. Another 24% say that college students are just not as active on national issues as are previous generations, 14% say there are more effective ways to voice their opposition today via the Internet, and 10% say that protests would be seen as a message against our troops that would embolden our enemies.

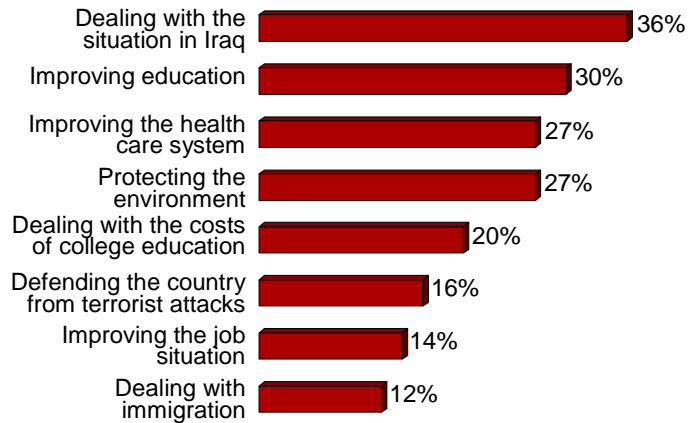
Other Issues Of The Day

Despite anxiety over the war in Iraq, today's students are divided over whether the problems that their generation will face are mostly international or national in scope. While 47% say their generation's problems are more national than international, 44% feel that the reverse is true. Students' political ideology influences their response, as liberals (49% international to 46% national) think that more of their generation's problems will be international in focus, moderates are divided (46% to 45%), and conservatives (34% to 54%) think that their generation's problems mainly will be domestic. Interestingly we see that students' sources of news also seems to influence their perspective, as those who say news Web sites are a major source of news are more likely to say their generation's problems will be international (49% to 44%) than are those who cite television as a major source of news, whose views are essentially reversed (43% to 50%). Also of note, Democratic men and women take opposite stances on this issue, with 56% of Democratic men coming down on the side of international problems and 54% of Democratic women saying domestic problems will be their generation's greatest concerns.

The survey further corroborates students' division on whether their generation's problems will be more international or national in scope when it comes to the top one or two specific issues that are most important to them personally. Students cite dealing with the situation in Iraq (36%) as their most important issue, with the domestic concerns of improving education (30%) and improving the health care system (27%) close behind. Protecting the environment (27%) is another of students' top issues and one that has both national and international implications. One in five (20%) students say that dealing with the costs of college education is personally one of their top two issues.

Most Important Issues

Which one or two of the following issues are the most important to you personally?



Some interesting differences across subgroups exist as well. While Iraq is the top issue for both male and female students, for men Iraq (32%) is tied with improving education (32%) as their top issues, while for women Iraq (38%) is clearly their top issue and improving the health care system (30%) comes in second. For Hispanic students, improving the health care system (33%) is the number-one issue, and improving education (31%) rates higher than dealing with the situation in Iraq (28%). For African-American students, Iraq is the top issue, with one in three (33%) students citing the war, yet it is not much higher than dealing with the costs of college education (30%) and improving education (30%).

For students in the South, dealing with the situation in Iraq (42%) is far and away the number-one issue, with improving education (26%) and the health care system (25%) rounding out their top tier of issues. However, in the Mountain/West region of the country, students' number-one issue is protecting the environment (38%) and their second issue is improving education (35%), with Iraq coming in third (29%). We also see notable differences across party lines. For college Democrats, dealing with the situation in Iraq (38%) and protecting the environment (35%) are the top issues for them personally, while among college Republicans, Iraq (33%), defending the country from terrorism (32%), and improving education (29%) are the top issues. Among politically independent students, four issues

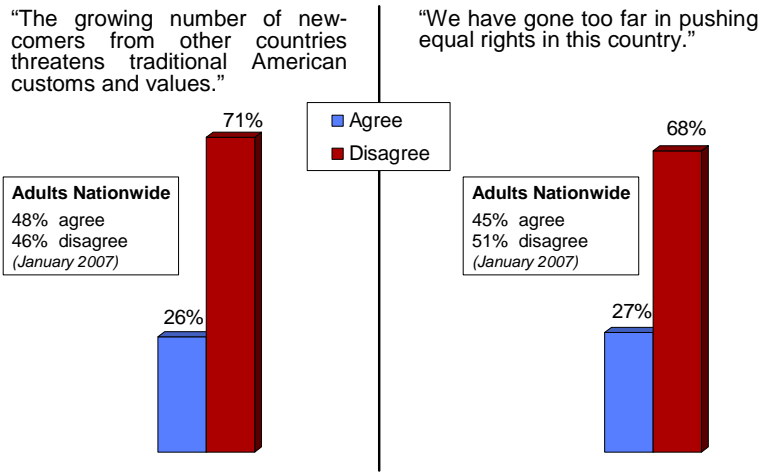
stand out as most important: Iraq (34%), improving education (29%), improving the health care system (28%), and protecting the environment (26%).

With the issue of global warming becoming more and more visible in the mainstream press these days—including a popular book and documentary by former Vice President Al Gore—this year’s survey includes a question asking whether students think that global warming will pose a serious threat to them or their way of life in their lifetimes. While there is still much contentious public debate on this issue, college students clearly think that global warming will pose a threat in their lifetime; three in five (60%) students say global warming would pose a threat while just 35% disagree.

When it comes to the issue of immigration, we see a vast difference in the views of college students compared with the general public. When students are asked whether they agree or disagree with a statement saying that the growing number of newcomers from other countries threatens traditional American customs and values, 71% disagree, including majorities of Republicans (59%) and conservatives (54%). When Pew Research asked this question of the general public in a January 2007 poll, 48% agreed with that same statement and 46% disagreed.

On the issue of civil rights, students again express a very distinctive viewpoint from the general public. We asked whether students agree or disagree with a statement that says that the nation has gone “too far” in pushing equal rights. Whereas 45% of all adults in the Pew survey agree and 51% disagree, just 27% of college students agree that we have gone too far in pushing civil rights and 68% disagree.

Attitudes Toward Immigration And Equal Rights



2008 Presidential Race

Though the first primary is more than seven months away, and the election itself is almost a year and a half from now, college students clearly have been affected by the early beginning to the 2008 presidential election. Many already are following the race, and a surprisingly high proportion report already being active in a campaign. College students are following the election with a combination of old and new media sources—both television and Internet news Web sites as well as MySpace, Facebook, and blogs. As we have seen, college students are largely dissatisfied with the nation’s current political leadership, and they are looking for change. At the same time, they take a pragmatic approach, hoping to find a candidate who is “practical and realistic.” In terms of the candidates themselves, in the Democratic primary, Barack Obama holds a commanding lead over Hillary Clinton and the rest of the field, while Rudy Giuliani and John McCain are the two top-tier candidates on the Republican side. In the general election, Obama holds large leads over various Republican adversaries while other hypothetical matchups are much closer.

Three in five (61%) college students already are following the 2008 presidential race very (15%) or somewhat closely (46%). While this is somewhat less than the 73% of Americans overall who said they are closely following the race in the March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll, a proportion this high among

college students this far out from the election is surprising. Male college students (67% very or somewhat closely) follow the presidential race more closely than do female college students (55%), and those who are dissatisfied with the country's political leadership (66%) also are paying more attention to the race than are satisfied students (55%). Interestingly, partisan divides also exist, as 66% of Democrats are closely following the race while Republicans (56%) and independents (53%) lag somewhat behind. Not all Democratic primary voters are following the race as closely—Obama supporters (73%) in the Democratic primary follow the race more closely than do Clinton supporters (60%). Last, college students who say they are registered to vote (65%) are much more likely to be following the race closely than are those who say they are not registered (41%).

In our 2005 Panetta Institute poll, 9% of college students reported that they had been involved in the previous year's presidential campaign. Today, 6% say they are *already* involved in the 2008 presidential election, and another 33% currently are not involved but plan to be (54% do not plan to be involved at all). On this measure, we again see a partisan divide as Republicans (59%) are more inclined to sit this election out than are Democrats (48%).

Not only are many college students already following the presidential race closely, large proportions also are using new forms of media to follow politics and civic affairs; this already has affected how the campaigns communicate. In fact, even in the past two years we have seen a shift in news sources. In our 2005 survey, 79% of college students rated television as a major or secondary news source for them—the top source rated—and 70% cited Internet news Web sites. Today, those two forms of information are at the same level (76%). Moreover, on-line social networking Web sites such as MySpace and Facebook (48%), which were not even a consideration in 2005, now rank about as high as community or city newspapers (53%) and ahead of professors (40%). In fact, fully 86% of college students say that they have a personal page on a social networking Web site such as MySpace or Facebook.

Somewhat surprisingly, there are no significant demographic breaks in terms of media sources, though it is worth noting that we did not ask college students what *specific* TV network or news Web sites they turn to. However, Democrats

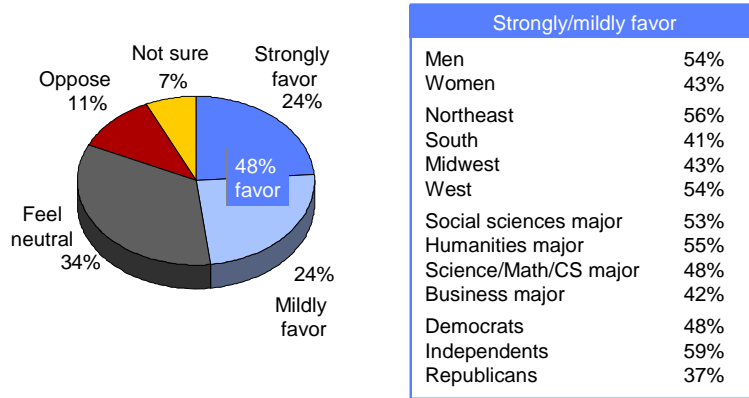
tend to turn to professors (46%), campus newspapers (41%), and Internet blogs (22%) more than Republicans do (28%, 32%, and 12% respectively). The bottom line is that the way college students receive their news is changing, and campaigns will have to continue to adapt to this.

Sources For Politics And Civic Affairs	
<i>Proportion who say "major" or "secondary" source</i>	
	<u>%</u>
Television	76
Internet news Web sites	76
Family or friends	65
Community or city newspaper	53
On-line social networking (MySpace/Facebook)	48
Professors	40
Campus newspaper	38
Internet blogs	19

As noted previously, fully 59% of college students are dissatisfied with the country's political leadership. In another reflection of their dissatisfaction with today's political leadership, a large plurality (48%) of college students would favor the creation of a new independent political party. This is identical to the 48% of all registered voters who said they would favor the creation of an independent party in an October 2006 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll. As the graph shows, interesting demographic breaks exist, most notably by party identification. Additionally, a majority (55%) of those who are dissatisfied with the country's political leadership would favor the creation of an independent party while only 39% of those who are satisfied with the country's political leadership feel this way.

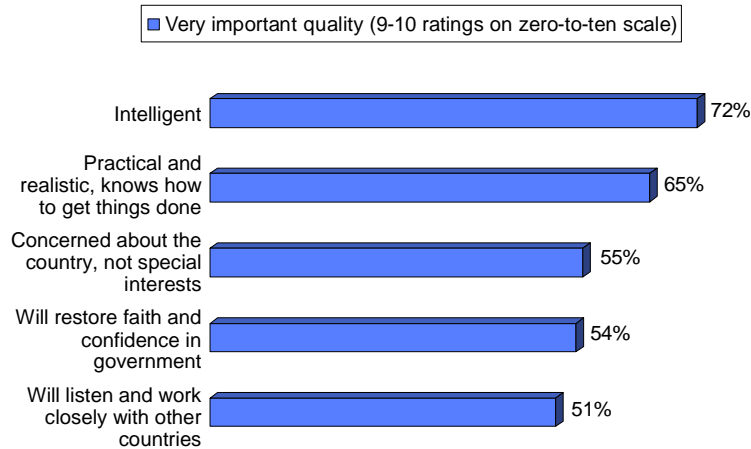
Support For Building New Independent Political Party

Would you [favor or oppose] building a new independent political party to run a credible candidate for president?



So what are college students looking for in a presidential candidate? Majorities select five qualities that they believe are “very important” (nine or 10 on a one-to-10 scale) for a presidential candidate to have. These qualities are focused on broad characteristics and not specific policy ideas. Moreover, several of them are focused on change and offer a different course than the current President is perceived as taking. However, this does not mean that college students believe it is vital to select a candidate who has worked outside of government—only 26% say this is very important. Of the top five qualities on the following chart, broad-based, bipartisan support exists for the top four items; however, partisan lines present themselves when it comes to “listening and working closely with other countries,” as majorities of Democrats (62%) and independents (51%) believe that this quality is important but only 30% of Republicans agree.

Most Important Qualities In A Presidential Candidate



Significant partisan breaks exist on other qualities, many of which focus on a specific policy. Most notably there are major partisan divides on withdrawing our troops from Iraq and addressing economic inequality.

Presidential Qualities By Party Identification

Proportion who rate 9-10 on a 10-point scale

	<u>All College Students</u> %	<u>Democrats</u> %	<u>Independents</u> %	<u>Republicans</u> %
Understands the concerns and values of young people	40	45	35	34
Will address economic inequality and the growing gap between the rich and poor	40	48	45	18
Is idealistic and stands up for principle	39	39	33	46
Will work to withdraw our troops from Iraq as soon as possible	36	48	36	12
Will take a tough approach on fighting terrorism	29	23	32	39
Has worked outside of government and brings a fresh perspective	26	27	31	19
Politically independent, not partisan	17	14	35	6

We also asked college students their preference in the Democratic and Republican presidential primaries. Among potential Democratic primary voters, Barack Obama holds a large advantage over the field with 50% of the vote, Hillary Clinton receives 27%, and John Edwards garners 11%. Importantly, among those who are closely following the race and may be more likely to actually vote, Obama's

lead over Clinton grows to 31 points (55% to 24%). The rest of the Democratic field receives relatively little support. These results among college students are a reversal of those from the March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll, which shows Clinton with a 12-point lead over Obama (40% to 28%) and Edwards with 15%. Obama does particularly well among Democratic primary voters who are African-American (62%) and those in the Midwest (59%). Clinton closes the gap among frequent churchgoers, as those who attend church once a week or more favor Obama by only 40% to 37%.

On the Republican side, the results among college students more closely reflect the national results. Among college students, Rudy Giuliani holds a 37% to 31% lead over John McCain with all other candidates in the single digits. This compares to the 14-point lead that Giuliani enjoys over McCain in the March 2007 NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll (38% to 24%). Because far fewer college students are defined as Republican primary voters in our sample, it is not possible to look at subgroups in great detail; however, we would note that there is a significant gender gap here as men slightly favor McCain (34% to 32%) while more women support Giuliani (41% to 29%). Distant third-place candidate Mitt Romney receives 10% of the vote among men and only 3% among women. Those who attend church once a week or more stand out as 32% favor McCain and 31% support Giuliani.

Looking to the general election, we again find college students with a strong preference for Obama: the junior senator from Illinois holds large leads over both Giuliani (55% to 30%, a 25-point lead) and McCain (58% to 27%, a 31-point lead). By contrast, Clinton leads McCain by only nine points (47% to 38%) and is in a statistical dead heat with Giuliani, actually trailing him 44% to 43%. The real story here is that the middle of the electorate—independents, moderates, and college students in the Midwest—are far more supportive of Obama than they are of Clinton (Democrats also are more supportive). Moreover, while women largely favor either Clinton or Obama over a Republican opponent, Clinton trails both Giuliani and McCain among men while Obama holds commanding leads. Obama also receives nearly a quarter of the vote among Republicans against both Giuliani and McCain, far more than Clinton. The following chart shows both the depth and breadth of

Obama's support among college students relative to Clinton.

Presidential Trial Heats By Subgroup								
	Clinton	Giuliani	Obama	Giuliani	Clinton	McCain	Obama	McCain
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All voters	43	44	55	30	47	38	58	27
Men	37	50	55	31	40	47	53	34
Women	48	38	54	30	52	31	63	21
Northeast	47	41	58	30	55	33	60	24
South	33	54	49	36	35	49	55	32
Midwest	44	43	54	27	45	39	63	23
West	51	34	59	27	56	28	54	28
Social sciences	49	38	58	29	51	31	64	27
Humanities	43	42	62	28	53	31	65	21
Science/math/CS	48	41	56	29	48	40	57	24
Business	32	57	45	40	40	51	50	35
Income: Below avg.	50	36	60	22	53	30	63	25
Income: Avg.	45	44	54	33	51	34	55	28
Income: Above avg.	40	47	53	34	43	45	60	28
Democrats	67	22	76	14	72	16	82	9
Independents	31	43	45	20	40	32	47	20
Republicans	9	85	23	71	6	85	24	68
Liberals	68	20	76	14	68	18	83	10
Moderates	33	52	51	32	44	41	52	28
Conservatives	15	76	27	60	17	72	26	63
Church: Never	51	33	57	24	55	24	69	18
Church:								
Twice month/less	45	43	59	28	50	37	62	25
Church:								
Once a week/more	32	55	45	41	35	52	44	41
News source:								
Web sites	47	42	58	30	53	36	65	22
News source: TV	42	47	58	32	51	38	57	31
Iraq: worth it	22	71	35	53	23	67	30	55
Iraq: not worth it	59	28	67	19	63	23	79	11

The following is a brief breakdown of each of the trial heats tested in the poll.

- **Clinton vs. Giuliani.** Hillary Clinton (43%) and Rudy Giuliani (44%) are in a statistical dead heat. Male and female college students are divided as Giuliani leads among men (50% to 37%) and Clinton leads among women (48% to 38%). Regionally, Giuliani holds a large lead among students from the South (54% to 33%) and those from the West favor Clinton (51% to 34%). As noted above, Clinton has difficulties with the political middle as she loses both independents (43% to 31%) and moderates (52% to 33%). There also is an intensity gap among partisans as Democrats favor Clinton by 67% to 22% while Republicans prefer Giuliani by a larger 85% to 9% margin. As is the case in all the trial heats, the Iraq war is a clear dividing line—Giuliani leads among those who believe that the war was worth it (71% to 22%) and Clinton holds the advantage among those who believe it was not (59% to 28%). Minority students favor Hillary Clinton as she receives 56% of the Asian vote, 57% of the Hispanic vote, and 73% of the African-American vote.
- **Clinton vs. McCain.** Hillary Clinton holds a 47%-to-38% advantage over John McCain. We again see a gender gap as male students support McCain (47% to 40%) and female students favor Clinton (52% to 31%). Regionally, Clinton receives strong support in the Northeast (55% to 33% lead over McCain) and the West (56% to 28%) while McCain leads significantly in the South (49% to 35% over Clinton). While Clinton leads McCain among independents (40% to 32%) there is still a partisan intensity gap as Democrats favor Clinton 72% to 16% and Republicans favor McCain 85% to 6%.
- **Obama vs. Giuliani.** Barack Obama leads Rudy Giuliani by 25 points (55% to 30%). Unlike with Hillary Clinton, Obama receives strong support among both men and women over Giuliani—Obama leads 55% to 31% among men and 54% to 30% among women. Obama also leads in all regions. Even in the South, where Obama holds his smallest lead, he has a 13-point advantage (49% to 36%). Obama also bests Giuliani among independents 45% to 20% and on partisan intensity, leading with Democrats 76% to 14% while Giuliani leads with Republicans 71% to 23%.
- **Obama vs. McCain.** Barack Obama holds a 58% to 27% advantage over John McCain. Again, Obama receives strong support among both men (53% to 34%) and women (63% to 21%). Obama also holds large leads in all geographic regions. Obama leads McCain among independents 47% to 20% and also has a large partisan intensity advantage, as he receives 82% of the Democratic vote compared with 68% of the Republican vote for McCain.
- **Edwards vs. Giuliani.** Rudy Giuliani leads John Edwards by 42% to 39%, which is within the margin of error. Patterns of support for John Edwards look more like those for Hillary Clinton than for Barack Obama, as we again see a gender gap with men favoring Giuliani (46% to 36%) and women supporting Edwards (42% to 38%). Interestingly, Giuliani leads in his home region, the Northeast (44% to 39%) and in Edwards' home region, the South (49% to 36%). Edwards holds a 39% to 31% advantage in the West.

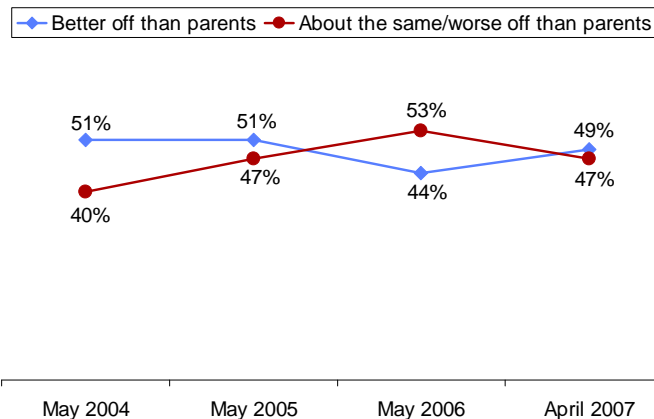
Giuliani leads among independents 39% to 24% and his intensity among Republicans (77% to 11%) is greater than Edwards' intensity among Democrats (60% to 26%).

Jobs And The Economy

Financially, nearly half (49%) of college students surveyed think they will end up being better off than their parents, with 47% thinking they will be worse off (9%) or about the same (38%) as their parents. Students' optimism about their financial prospects is back up again, after the proportion feeling they would end up being better off than their parents dipped down to 44% in 2006, the lowest figure we have seen since we started asking this question in 2004 for the Panetta Institute.

Outlook For The Future

Financially, do you think you will end up being better off than your parents, worse off, or about the same?

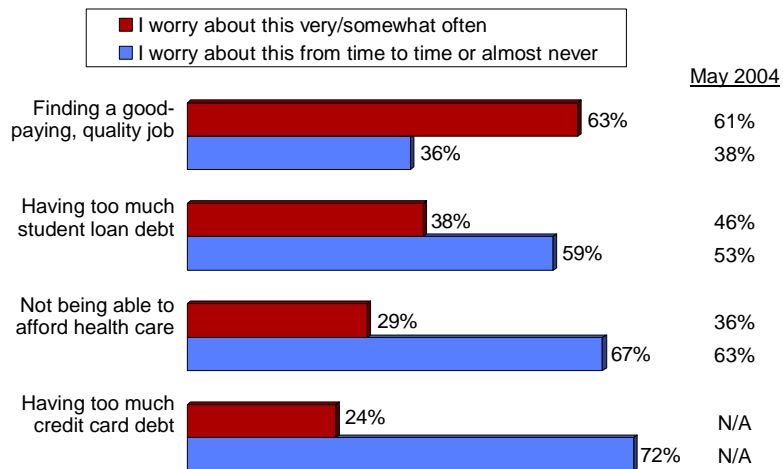


College men (53%) are more optimistic about their future financial prospects than are women (46%). In fact, a plurality (49%) of women think they will end up worse off (9%) or about the same (40%) as their parents. Hispanic students (73% better off) and African-American students (60%) show much more optimism on this question than do white students (47%) and Asian students (48%). While pluralities of first years (47%), sophomores (50%), and juniors (50%) all feel they will be worse off or about the same as their parents, 55% of seniors feel they will be better off. Two-thirds (67%) of students who report that they come from families with below-average incomes think they will end up better off financially than their

parents, considerably higher than among students from average income families (56%) and those who come from above-average families (37%).

In terms of college students' economic and financial concerns, finding a good-paying and high-quality job ranks the highest. Fully two-thirds (66%) of students say they worry at least somewhat often about finding a good-paying, high-quality job, up from 61% a year ago. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of students worry about having too much student loan debt, the same proportion as a year ago, although a plurality (41%) of students today almost never worry about having too much student loan debt. Whereas in last year's Panetta Institute survey, 36% of students worried about not being able to afford health care, that proportion has fallen to 29% this year, while 43% never worry about it. Considering how much attention is given in the media to growing credit card debt among young people, it is interesting that less than a quarter (24%) of college students are worried about having too much credit card debt while a 53% majority say they never worry about it.

Top-Of-Mind Concerns



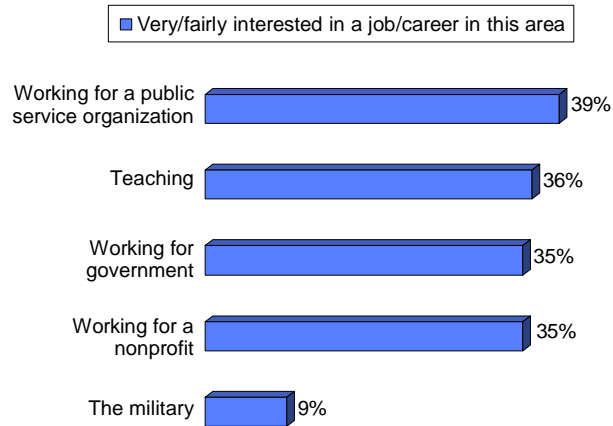
Public And Community Service

In similar proportions to last year's survey, college students remain interested in several post-college career paths, including working in government. However, in this year's survey fewer college students are interested in teaching or working for a nonprofit. Several high-water marks offer positive news for the state of college students relative to community service. For example, we find record highs in terms of both the proportion of college students who have been asked to get involved in politics and public service and the proportion of college students who say they have been involved in community activities. Moreover, significant proportions of college students indicate an interest in pursuing service-oriented experiences upon graduation either through a full-time job such as Teach for America, VISTA, or AmeriCorps, or by donating time through their employer.

Since our 2001 survey, we have gauged interest in various career paths, including working for the government. Today, we find that working for a public service organization (39% very or fairly interested), teaching (36%), working for the government (35%), and working for a nonprofit (35%) are on par with each other. Roughly one in 10 (9%) college students say they are very or fairly interested in the military and this number has remained steady over the past three years. This year's survey finds a lower proportion of college students who are interested in teaching (down from 45% to 36% this year) and working for a nonprofit (down from 43% to 35%). Interest in working for the government remains essentially unchanged.

Some noteworthy subgroup breaks exist as men (44%) are much more likely than women (27%) to be interested in working for the government while women are much more likely to be interested in nonprofits (42% to 27%). While we did see a similar divide in interest in working for a nonprofit in last year's survey, we did not see the divide in working in government. Additionally, seniors (42%) are more likely than underclassmen to say they are interested in working in government. Social science majors (54%) are more likely than those in other majors to express an interest in a public service organization. Last, while 9% express an interest in serving in the military, 18% of those who believe the war in Iraq was worth it are interested.

Interest In Career Areas



Encouragingly, 59% of college students today say they have been asked about getting involved in politics or public service, which marks the highest proportion we have recorded since we first tracked this question in 2004. In fact, the proportion who report being asked has increased by 14 points since 2004 and is up six points from last year's survey. Importantly, a definite correlation exists between community service and being asked to participate in public service, as 64% of those who volunteer in the community say someone has spoken to them while only 44% of those who do not volunteer in the community say this is the case. While the overall number of 59% is encouraging, there is still work to be done, for example 51% of African-American college students say that they have been asked by someone to get involved.

We also have tracked interest in running for both federal elected office as well as state and local offices. Today, one in four (25%) college students would be interested in running for federal office, which is essentially unchanged from last year's survey (26%) but is down somewhat from a high of 32% in 2005. Men (36%) are more likely than are women (17%) to express an interest. Social science majors (39%) also are more interested than are other majors. Additionally, those who volunteer in the community (28%) and are following the presidential race closely (33%) are more interested in running for federal office.

Thirty-seven percent of college students would be interested in running for local or state office. This proportion tracks closely with the 38% who expressed an

interest in last year's survey and also is down from the high of 47% in 2005. Again, we see that men (46%) are more interested than women (29%) and social science (53%) and business majors (46%) are more interested in running for local office than are others. Interestingly, Republicans (44%) are more interested in running for local office than are Democrats (35%) and independents (34%) and those who are closely following the presidential race (45%) also are more interested in running for local office.

In terms of community service, 77% of college students say they have been involved in community activities, which also is a high-water mark for the Panetta Institute survey. More women (81%) have been involved in community activities than have men (72%). Again, it is worth noting that only 69% of African-American students say this is the case. Among those who say they have been involved in community activities, 25% say these activities were part of a service-learning component of the curriculum and 75% say they chose to do these activities on their own. Overall, 17% of college students say that their college or university requires service learning as a requirement to graduate.

A significant proportion of college students say that they would have an interest in pursuing community service-related endeavors either through a full-time job or on a volunteer basis after graduation. One in three (33%) college students say that they have considered a service-oriented experience such as Teach for America, VISTA, or AmeriCorps after graduation and 82% say they would be likely to donate their time and expertise to those in need through their job if their employer allowed this. While large majorities of all college students would likely donate time through their employer, college students in the Northeast (41%), and social science (46%) and humanities (44%) majors are more likely to have considered a full-time service-oriented experience such as Teach for America, VISTA, or AmeriCorps.