Sources and Notes

UCUES 2006

Q: During your typical 7-day (168 hour) week during the academic term, how many hours do you spend doing the following?

A. Paid employment (include paid internships)
B. Attending classes, discussion sections, or labs
C. Studying and other academic activities outside of class

CIRP 2006

Q: During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week working for pay?

Definition: Class level is defined by cumulative units earned: Freshmen = 0-44.9, Sophomore = 45-89.9, Junior = 90-134.9, and Senior = 135+. 

Scholarship of Teaching Presents

“Changes in Time Use by College Students and the Implications for Educators”

Presenters: Dr. Philip Babcock (UCSB) & Dr. Mindy Marks (UCR)

Location: Surge 172

November 8, 2007 @ 11:30-1:30 p.m.

http://www.instruction.ucr.edu/
This edition of the “Student Survey Brief” is based on data from the 2006 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES), but also draws on the 2006 Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshmen Survey.

**Paid Employment**

As students progress through their academic careers paid employment demands more time in their lives. According to the CIRP survey of matriculating freshmen, 48% of entering freshmen worked during their last year in high school. The UCUES survey reveals that only 40% of freshmen work during their first year at UCR. By way of contrast, 68% of UCR seniors work for pay.

![Hours Spent Working by Class Level](image1.png)

The stair-step figure above illustrates that students are more likely to hold jobs for pay and also to work longer hours as they progress through the ranks. As a whole, 57% of UCR undergraduates are employed, which is roughly equivalent to the 56% who work for pay system wide. The average weekly hours of work is 16.5 for UCR students, but only 14.7 for UC students as a whole.

**Class Attendance & Study Time**

The figure below offers information on hours spent in class, once again by class level. A majority of students spend between 11-20 hours per week in class. (Average hours of class attendance for UCR students is 16.1, as compared to 15.5 for students system wide.) In contrast to the results for paid employment, there is little significant variation in class time across class levels in these data. As compared to the other class levels, a larger percentage of seniors attend class only 1-10 hours per week, which may be the result of taking fewer units or being absent from class more often. Indeed, seniors are overrepresented, in comparison to other undergraduates, in the combined tales of the “hours in class” distribution, suggesting perhaps that some seniors are skating towards graduation while others are hurriedly trying to finish up.

![Hours Spent Attending Class by Class Level](image2.png)

Looking across the results in all three figures, there is little evidence of a negative relationship between work for pay and school work. Seniors are disproportionally represented in the ranks of students spending more than 20 hours in paid employment per week, and yet their time devoted to school work (both inside and outside of class) is not disproportionately less than that of their fellow class mates.