

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 2016 NEW STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

### SURVEY BACKGROUND

The New Student Survey is a broad-based survey of incoming students. It covers a wide range of topics including one's approach to being a student, high school experiences, level of college preparation, and expectations for college and the future. It is used at Dartmouth and comparable private universities and colleges to understand the first-year student population. Findings from past New Student Surveys have enabled Dartmouth's faculty and administration to improve the Dartmouth experience.

### RESULTS

#### Expectations for college

##### Dartmouth

Nearly all students think the most important or essential **opportunities** that Dartmouth would provide to them are to discover and pursue:

- an **intellectual passion**
- skills valuable in the **workforce**
- skills for **lifelong learning**
- **good job**

The vast majority of incoming students are interested or very interested in:

- having an **internship**
- joining a **student club or organization** during their undergraduate years.

##### Peer Institutions

A higher percentage of Dartmouth students think a **broad liberal arts education** is **essential**. (35% vs Ivy U 30%; Non-Ivy U 22%).

Compared to our peers, a **higher** percentage of Dartmouth students are interested or very interested in:

- working with a professor on a **research project** (93% vs Ivy U 89%; Non-Ivy U 87%)
- **studying abroad** (91% vs Ivy U 78%; Non-Ivy U 83%)
- joining a **fraternity or sorority** (50% vs Ivy U 34%; Non-Ivy U 34%)
- participating in **intercollegiate athletics** (NCAA) (41% vs Ivy U 26%; Non-Ivy U 29%)

## Preparation for college

### Dartmouth

The **majority of students** feel they are very well or quite well prepared to succeed **academically (75%)** and **socially (79%)** at Dartmouth.

**Over two-thirds** of students feel they are very well or quite well prepared to:

- live away from home
- ask for help when needing it
- find a group to feel part of
- have a roommate
- manage time effectively.

Over **90%** of students feel they are very well or quite well prepared to:

- function effectively as a member of a team
- develop or clarify a personal code of values or ethics
- think analytically and logically
- function independently without supervision
- identify moral and ethical issues

**Fewer** students think they are very well or quite well prepared to:

- read or speak a foreign language (**52%**)
- conduct scholarly research (**59%**)
- understand the significance of art, music, literature, and drama (**61%**)

### Peer Institutions

The majority of Dartmouth and Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students feel they are very well or quite well prepared to succeed **academically (75% vs Ivy U 72%; Non-Ivy U 80%)** and **socially (79% vs Ivy U 74%; Non-Ivy U 80%)**.

Compared to our peers, Dartmouth students think they are **less** prepared to **select courses (53% vs Ivy U 68%; Non-Ivy U 69%)**. Otherwise, Dartmouth results are similar to peers (e.g., live away from home, ask for help, find a group, etc.).

**Similar** percentages of Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students feel **well prepared** to: function effectively as a member of a team, develop or clarify a personal code of values or ethics, think analytically and logically, function independently without supervision, and identify moral and ethical issues.

**Similar** percentages of Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students feel **less prepared** to: read or speak a foreign language, conduct scholarly research, and understand the significance of art, music, literature, and drama.

## You as a student

### Dartmouth

Most **students identify** with the following statements:

- I prefer courses that arouse my curiosity, even if they are difficult (**94%**)
- Getting the best grades I can is very important to me (**93%**)
- More than two-thirds of students agree that they **prefer** classes with **lots of discussion**
- **62%** prefer to learn through hands-on activities (labs, studios, etc.)

The courses/subjects **over three-fourths** of students are most interested in are:

- Mathematics, Statistics, or Computer Science
- Foreign Languages and Literatures
- Psychology
- Economics
- Political Science/International Relations/Government

### Peer Institutions

**Similar** percentages of Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students **identify** with the statements: I prefer courses that arouse my curiosity, even if they are difficult; getting the best grades I can is very important to me; I prefer classes with lots of discussion; and I prefer to learn through hands-on activities.

The courses/subjects **over three-fourths** of **Ivy U** are most interested in are:

- Psychology
- Economics
- Political Science/International Relations/Government
- Mathematics, Statistics, or Computer Science

The courses/subjects **over three-fourths** of **Non-Ivy U** are most interested in are:

- Mathematics, Statistics, or Computer Science
- Psychology

## Paying for college

### Dartmouth

- **46%** percent of **students receive financial aid** from Dartmouth.
- **13%** of students receive **Pell Grants**.
- **36%** of students are **concerned** "quite a bit" or "a great deal" about their family's **ability to pay** for their college. **Twenty-nine percent** of students are **not concerned** at all.

### Peer Institutions

- Ivy, **47%** percent of students receive financial aid; Non-Ivy U **52%**.
- The same percentage (**13%**) of Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students receive **Pell Grants**.
- Compared to other Ivy universities, a higher percentage of Dartmouth students **need to take out student loans** to help finance their first year in college (**25%** vs Ivy U **17%**).

## After college

### Dartmouth

**68%** of students intend to **pursue a graduate or professional degree** after they complete their bachelor's degrees.

When students think about their own **lives and future**, the two items rated the **most** important are:

- being a leader in their field (**85%**)
- being well-off financially (**84%**)

**Least** important:

- participating in religious activities (**23%**)
- expressing themselves artistically (**32%**)

### Peer Institutions

Over two-thirds of Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students also intend to **pursue a graduate or professional degree** after they complete their bachelor's degrees.

When Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students think about their own **lives and future**, the same two items are rated as the **most** important:

- being a leader in their field (Ivy U **83%**; Non-Ivy U **82%**)
- being well-off financially (Ivy U **85%**; Non-Ivy U **82%**)

**Least** important:

- participating in religious activities (Ivy U **22%**; Non-Ivy U **28%**)
- expressing themselves artistically (Ivy U **37%**; Non-Ivy U **34%**)

## The High School experience

### Dartmouth

- **60%** of students attended **public** high schools while **40%** attended **private** high schools.
- **9%** of students graduated from high **schools outside of the United States**.

Often or very often during their **last high school year**:

- felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (**53%**)
- felt very sad (**17%**)
- felt like they didn't fit in (**10%**)

**94%** of respondents report that they had a leadership role in a student group, club, or team.

**32%** of students report that **they worked for pay** during their senior year in high school.

**25%** of students report having **used marijuana** at least once.

### Peer Institutions

- **61%** of **Ivy U** students attended **public** high schools while **38%** attended **private** high schools.
- **60%** of **Non-Ivy U** students attended **public** high schools while **40%** attended **private** high schools.
- **9%** of students graduated from high **schools outside of the United States**.

Compared to our peers, a higher percentage of Dartmouth students report **feeling overwhelmed** (**53%** vs Ivy U **43%**; Non-Ivy U **47%**).

Compared to our Ivy U peers, a lower percentage of Dartmouth students report **completing a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)** during high school (**14%** vs Ivy U **26%**).

Compared to our peers, a higher percentage of Dartmouth students report that they **played one or more varsity sports** (**71%** vs Ivy U **58%**; Non-Ivy U **62%**).

**21%** of **Ivy U** students report having **used marijuana** at least once.

## Student Background

### Dartmouth

- **85%** report **English is their native language**.
- **16%** describe the racial composition of their last high school or neighborhood as mostly or nearly all people of color.
- **23%** report **no religious, spiritual, or philosophical** practice.
- **13%** describe their **political views** as conservative or very conservative, and **53%** as liberal or very liberal.

### Peer Institutions

Compared to our Ivy U peers, a **lower percentage** of Dartmouth students had **talked with more than 5 members** of their class (**41%** vs Ivy U **53%**).

Compared to our Ivy U peers, a **higher percentage** of Dartmouth students report English is their native language (**85%** vs Ivy U **79%**) and in turn **speak Entirely English** at home with their family (**65%** vs Ivy U **50%**).

Ivy U and Non-Ivy U students report **similar levels** of **racial composition** of their last high school and neighborhood and **political views**.