



2009 DARTMOUTH ALUMNI SURVEY

Office of Institutional Research



Contents

- Survey overview
- Postgraduate education
- Employment and careers
- Undergraduate experience
- Undergraduate preparation
- Overall satisfaction
- Connections to alma mater
- Changing Dartmouth?
- Reflections



Alumni Survey: Background information

Survey Administration

- Online survey was available during June 2009
- 21 questions including rating items and demographic variables, sponsored by COFHE

Respondents and Response Rates

- 217/926 (23.4%) - Class of 1998
- 287/1004 (28.6%) - Class of 2004
- 504/1930 (26.1%) - Overall

Peer Groups

Dartmouth data are compared to:

- Peer 1 - highly selective private institutions in Northeast
- Peer 2 - highly selective private institutions beyond Northeast
- Peer 3 - highly selective coed liberal arts colleges



Respondents to Alumni Survey

Who Responded to the Survey?

Class of 1998

- 53% of respondents were women
- 25% were students of color
- 3% were international students

Class of 2004

- 51% of respondents were women
- 29% were students of color
- 4% were international students

While women responded at a slightly higher rate than men, the respondents were generally representative of their classes

Gender	Class 1998		Class 2004	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Female	114	52.5	147	51.2
Male	103	47.5	140	48.8
Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian	0	0	2	0.7
Asian	16	7.4	16	5.6
Black	8	3.7	8	2.8
Hispanic	10	4.6	13	4.5
White	163	75.1	204	71.1
Multi-ethnic	6	2.8	5	1.7
Other	8	3.7	27	9.4
International	6	2.8	12	4.1

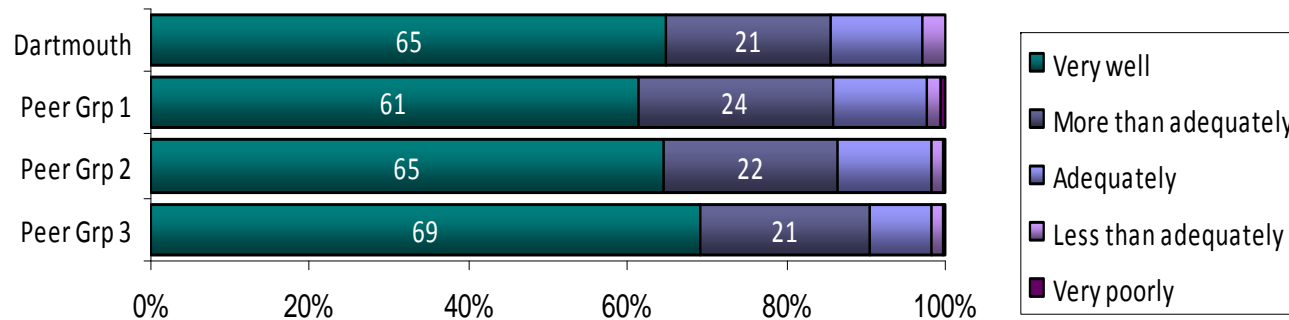


Post-graduate Education: Class of 1998

Of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998, 82% have enrolled in a graduate or professional school since graduating, more than respondents from Peer 1 Schools (75%) and Peer 2 Schools (72%)

There was no difference between Dartmouth and peer institutions regarding feeling prepared for graduate school

How well did your undergraduate institution prepare you for graduate or professional school?



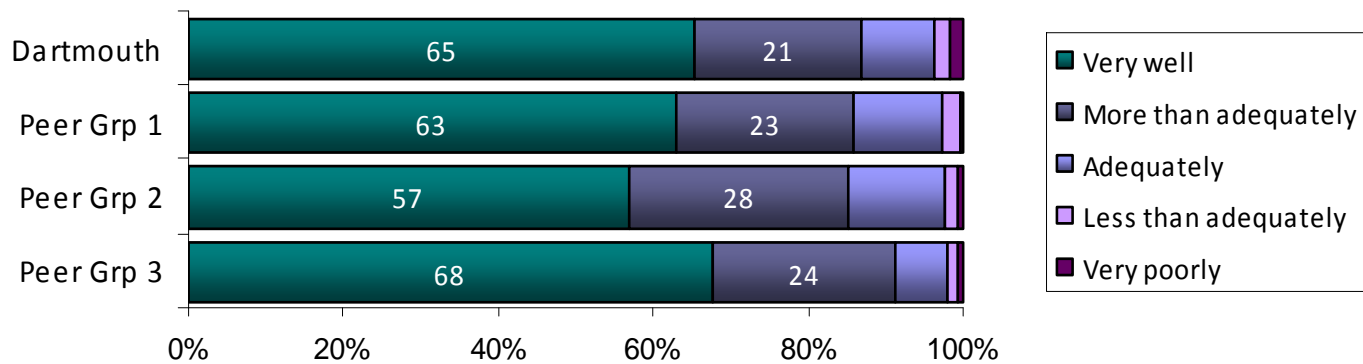


Post-graduate Education: Class of 2004

Of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004, 67% have enrolled in a graduate or professional school since graduating, with no significant difference compared to peer groups [Peer Group 1(71%) , Peer Group 2 (71%), and Peer Group 3 (68%)]

There was no difference between respondents from Dartmouth and peer institutions regarding feeling prepared for graduate school

How well did your undergraduate institution prepare you for graduate or professional school?



Post-graduate Education: Classes of 1998 and 2004

Overall:

- 13% of respondents have a law degree
- 6% MD or other medical doctorate
- 37% master's degree
- 5% other doctorate

	Class 1998 (N=215)		Class 2004 (N=283)		Total (N=498)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Professional (Law and Medicine)						
Law degree (LLB or JD)	31	14.4	34	12.0	65	13.1
Medical degree (MD)	18	8.4	6	2.1	24	4.8
Other medical degree	4	1.9	2	0.7	6	1.2
Master's Degree						
Master's of Arts or Science	42	19.5	46	16.3	88	17.7
Business	35	16.3	5	1.8	40	8.0
Engineering	2	0.9	9	3.2	11	2.2
Other Professional Master's	13	6.1	7	2.5	20	4.0
Other Master's Degree	14	6.5	12	4.2	26	5.2
Doctoral Degree						
Biological Sciences	8	3.7	1	0.4	9	1.8
Engineering, or applied sciences	3	1.4	1	0.4	4	0.8
Humanities or arts	1	0.5	1	0.4	2	0.4
Physical sciences	2	0.9	2	0.7	4	0.8
Social sciences	6	2.8	0	0.0	6	1.2



Employment and careers: Classes of 1998 and 2004

Q. Are you working for pay right now? If not, why not? *Mark all that apply.*

Overall:

- 71% of respondents work full-time
- 9% work part-time
- 15% are students

	Class 1998 (N=215)		Class 2004 (N=280)		Total (N=495)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Working for pay						
Yes, full-time	171	79.5	178	63.6	349	70.5
Yes, part-time	19	8.8	24	8.6	43	8.7
Not working for pay						
No, looking for work	6	2.8	11	3.9	17	3.4
No, student	6	2.8	67	23.9	73	14.8
No, raising a family	11	5.1	0	0.0	11	2.2
No, volunteer	1	0.5	3	1.1	4	0.8
Not working for other reasons	6	2.8	8	2.9	14	2.8

Mark all that apply option; thus, percent columns may add up to more than 100%



Employment and careers: Classes of 1998 and 2004

Q. What is your principal occupation right now? If you are not working for pay, what kind of work do you usually do or expect to do in the future?

The majority of graduates from the classes of 1998 and 2004 have occupations in: **business** (30%), followed by the **legal profession** (15%), **education** (14%), and **health** (13%)

Employment Sector	No.	Percent
Business	145	29.7
Legal	72	14.7
Educator	69	14.1
Health	62	12.7
Other	42	8.6
Engineer	41	8.4
Science	32	6.5
Creative	26	5.3

Total 489 100.0



Employment and Careers: Classes of 1998 and 2004

Dartmouth graduates from the Class of 2004 are more likely to work for a **non-profit organization (14%)** than graduates from Peer Group 1 (8%) and Peer Group 2 schools (9%)

no significant difference between Dartmouth and Peer Group 3 at 15%

Dartmouth graduates from the Class of 1998 are more likely to work in **elementary or secondary education (9%)** than graduates from Peer Group 1 (4%) and Peer Group 2 schools (6%)

no significant difference between Dartmouth and Peer Group 3 at 8%

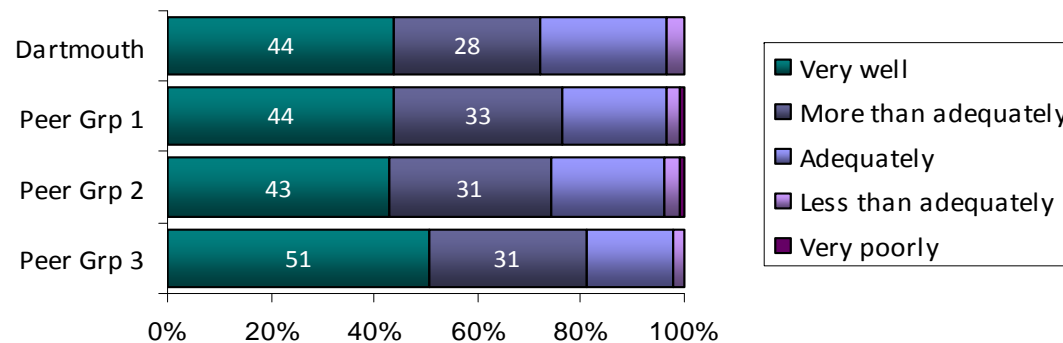


Employment Preparation: Class of 1998

- Of the graduates who are working, 35% of respondents from the Class of 1998 report working at the senior level, executive level, or chief executive level
- 9% work as the CEO, CFO, COO, GM or principal in an organization compared to 6% of Peer Group 1, Peer Group 2 and Peer Group 3 schools

72% of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998 felt “more than adequately” or “very well “prepared for their current career; there was no significant difference between Dartmouth and peer institutions

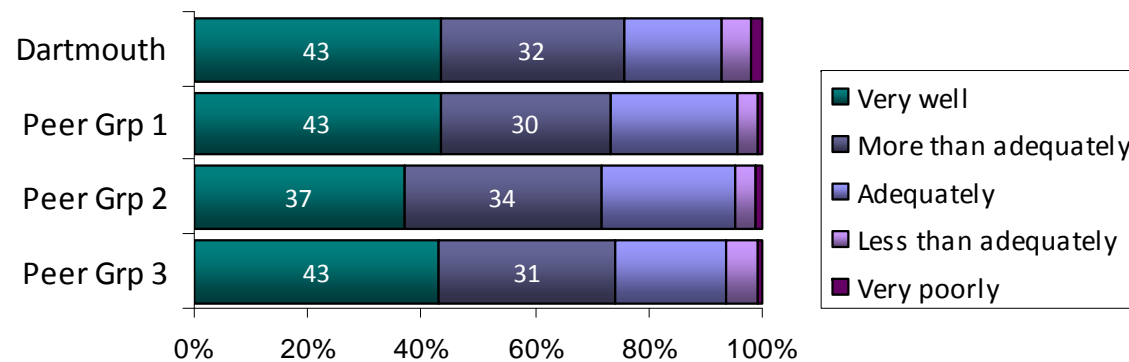
How well did your undergraduate institution prepare you for your current career?



Employment Preparation: Class of 2004

75% of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004 felt “more than adequately” or “very well” prepared for their current career; there was no significant difference between Dartmouth and peer institutions

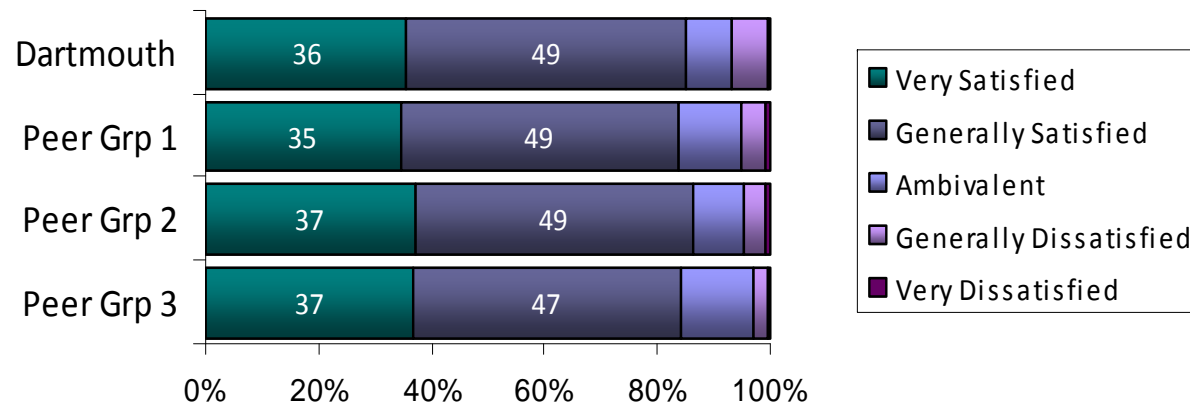
How well did your undergraduate institution prepare you for your current career?



Overall satisfaction with Career: Class of 1998

85% of respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998 reported being “generally satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the course of their career thus far; there was no significant difference between Dartmouth and peer institutions

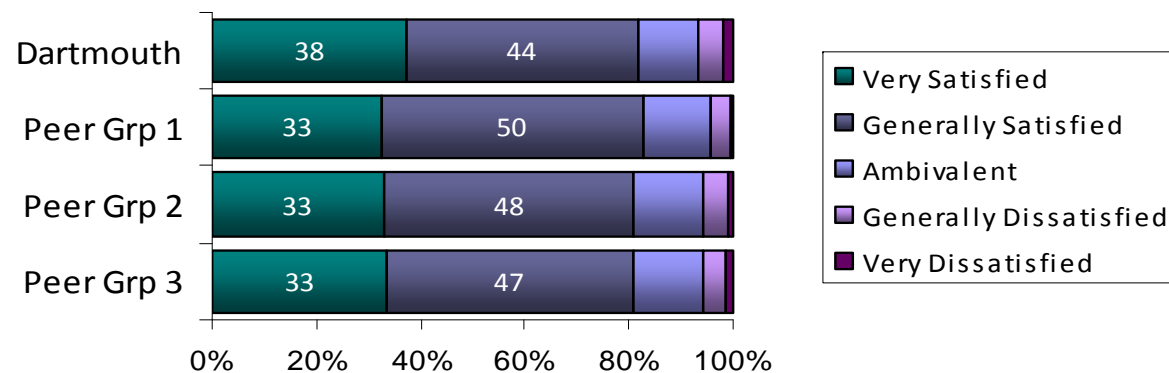
Overall, how satisfied are you with the course of your career thus far?



Overall Satisfaction with Career: Class of 2004

82% of respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004 reported being “generally satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the course of their career thus far; there was no significant difference between Dartmouth and peer institutions

Overall, how satisfied are you with the course of your career thus far?



Activities Outside the Classroom: Class of 1998

Respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998 reported they were more likely to be an active participant in:

Intercollegiate athletics than Peer Group 1 and Peer Group 2 schools (less than Peer Group 3)

A fraternity or sorority than alumni from all peer schools

<i>Percent</i> engaged in an activity for two or more years as an undergraduate				
Undergraduate experience	% Dartmouth (n=217)	% Peer 1 (n=3,194)	% Peer 2 (n=2,322)	% Peer 3 (n=494)
Student government	5.2	5.5	5.5	7.3
Intercollegiate athletics	36.2	23.5	19.7	51.4
Intramural sports	27.7	24.5	24.3	25.7
Student publications	13.2	12.0	8.1	15.7
Performing arts/music	22.1	21.7	21.0	29.7
Political organization or club	10.8	11.1	10.4	12.5
Ethnic or cultural club	18.3	22.3	20.4	24.2
Academic club, honor society, professional org	14.6	19.2	19.3	8.6
Community Service	39.0	39.0	39.7	28.0
Fraternity/Sorority	50.2	20.4	26.4	5.6
Religious groups	18.3	17.2	19.6	14.8
On-campus employment during academic year	50.7	51.4	49.4	58.3
Off-campus employment during academic year	11.7	13.3	20.3	8.4

Red indicates percent significantly lower than Dartmouth; green indicates significantly higher (p<0.05)



Activities Outside the Classroom: Class of 2004

Respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004 reported they were more likely to be an active participant in:

Intramural sports than Peer Group 1 and Peer Group 2 schools

Community service than all peer group schools

Fraternity or sorority than all peer group schools

<i>Percent</i> engaged in activity for two or more years as undergraduate				
Undergraduate experience	% Dartmouth (n=287)	% Peer 1 (n=1,583)	% Peer 2 (n=1,203)	% Peer 3 (n=227)
Student government	9.8	6.9	7.0	8.6
Intercollegiate athletics	36.5	30.6	23.2	57.3
Intramural sports	34.7	24.7	27.8	41.4
Student publications	15.2	17.4	8.5	10.5
Performing arts/music	22.7	29.0	21.4	29.1
Political organization or club	13.4	16.5	11.6	16.4
Ethnic or cultural club	13.4	23.7	21.5	16.8
Academic club, honor society, professional org	17.3	14.5	28.3	13.2
Community Service	55.6	43.4	37.8	34.6
Fraternity/Sorority	52.0	15.1	29.8	13.2
Religious groups	18.1	20.3	20.1	12.3
On-campus employment during academic year	58.1	47.9	53.4	56.8

Red indicates percent significantly lower than Dartmouth; green indicates significantly higher (p<0.05)



Academic Experience: Class of 1998

Respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998 were more likely to **work with faculty doing research** compared to Peer Groups 2 & 3, and **other than coursework or research** compared to Peer Groups 1 & 2; they were also more likely to **study abroad** and have an **internship** during the academic year compared to all peer groups

While you were an undergraduate did you... <i>(Percent responding Yes)</i>				
Undergraduate experience	% Dartmouth (n=217)	% Peer 1 (n=3,194)	% Peer 2 (n=2,322)	% Peer 3 (n=494)
Work with faculty on his/her research?	40.1	35.2	32.4	31.0
Interact with faculty other than coursework or research?	61.8	47.2	47.9	60.6
Study abroad	61.3	20.7	31.3	36.3
Study at another college in the U.S.?	9.4	10.2	13.1	12.3
Engage in independent study credit?	36.3	31.1	31.5	40.0
Have an internship during a school term?	34.4	14.7	25.6	8.5
Have a summer (non-term) internship?	63.7	63.9	56.7	61.0

Red indicates significantly lower percent than Dartmouth



Academic Experience: Class of 2004

Respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004 were more likely to **study abroad** and have an **internship** during the academic year compared to all peer groups; they were more likely to **interact with faculty other than coursework or research** compared to Peer Groups 1 & 2 and less likely than Peer Group 3

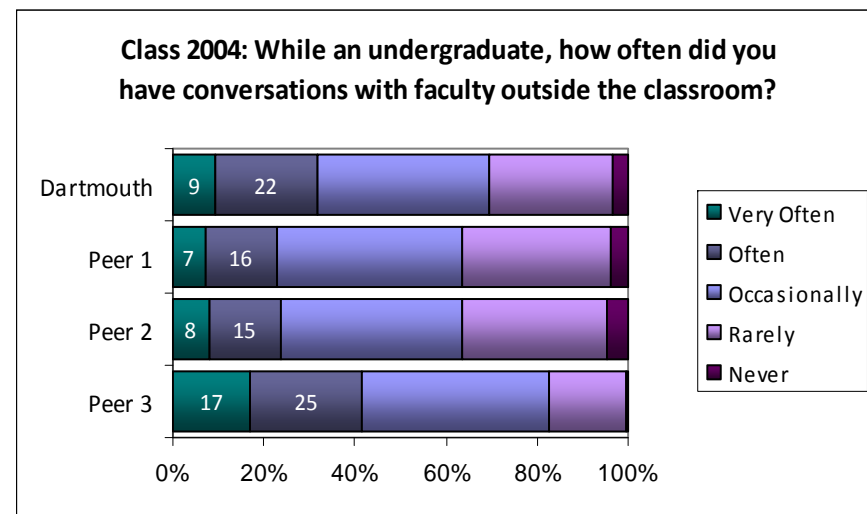
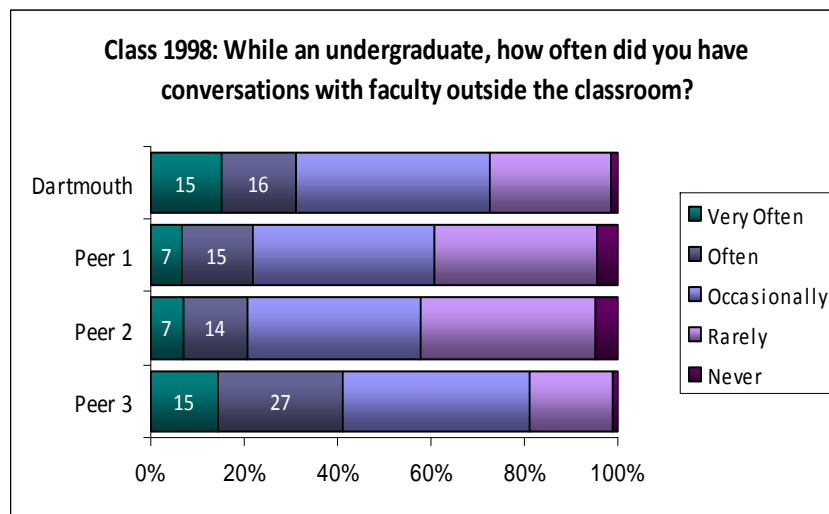
While you were an undergraduate did you... <i>(Percent responding Yes)</i>				
Undergraduate experience	% Dartmouth (n=287)	% Peer 1 (n=1,583)	% Peer 2 (n=1,203)	% Peer 3 (n=227)
Work with faculty on his/her research?	37.6	33.6	41.7	37.0
Interact with faculty other than coursework or research?	61.0	49.4	51.6	72.6
Study abroad	60.7	23.5	40.6	51.6
Study at another college in the U.S.?	10.5	6.6	11.8	5.9
Engage in independent study credit?	33.6	28.2	33.0	46.1
Have an internship during a school term?	32.1	10.6	18.4	9.6
Have a summer (non-term) internship?	69.3	70.8	58.2	64.4

Red indicates significantly lower percent than Dartmouth, green indicates significantly higher



Student Faculty Engagement: Classes of 1998 & 2004

On average, respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998 were more likely to have **conversations with faculty outside of class**, than those from Peer Groups 1 & 2; Respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004 were more likely than those from Peer Group 1, but less than Peer Group 3



Based on what you know, how well do you think Dartmouth prepared you to... Scale: 1=very poorly, 2=less than adequately, 3=adequately, 4=more than adequately, 5=very well		Mean value: Class 1998 & Peer Groups 1, 2, 3			
		Dartmouth a (n=217)	Peer 1 b (n=3,194)	Peer 2 c (n=2,322)	Peer 3 d (n=494)
Active Learning and Critical Thinking	Acquire new skills and knowledge on own	4.36	4.30	4.28	4.40
	Think analytically and logically	4.40 d	4.42 d	4.41 d	4.60 a,b,c
	Formulate, create original ideas and solutions	3.99 d	4.13 d	4.10 d	4.32 a,b,c
Personal Responsibility and Self-Efficacy	Be an effective leader	3.83	3.73	3.72	3.79
	Relate well to people of different races/nations/religions	3.85 b,c,d	4.08 a	4.14 a	4.09 a
	Understand social problems	3.75	3.77 d	3.79 d	3.98 ,b,c
	Work effectively as a member of a team	3.98	3.96	3.95	4.04
	Be self-confident	3.97	3.95	3.93 d	4.08 c
	Be an active member of a community	3.84	3.69	3.68	3.72
	Maintain a healthy lifestyle	3.49 b	3.12 a,c,d	3.31 b,d	3.57 b,c
Knowledge and Breadth of Study	Write effectively	4.13 d	4.12 d	4.11 d	4.49 a,b,c
	Communicate well orally	3.81	3.84 d	3.83 d	4.01 b,c
	Read or speak a foreign language	3.35 b,c,d	2.96 a	3.03 a	2.98 a
	Understand the significance of art, music, literature, and drama	3.97	3.88 d	3.82 d	4.20 b,c
	Gain in-depth knowledge of a field	3.92	3.97	3.91	3.94
Scientific Inquiry	Understand the role of science and technology in society	3.90	3.82	3.86 d	3.69 c
	Use quantitative tools	3.63	3.72 d	3.77 d	3.54 b,c

Note: Statistically significant differences (p<0.05) denoted by letters, Dartmouth=a, Peer 1=b, Peer 2=c, Peer 3=d; Colors denote the difference in the peer group means compared to Dartmouth



Based on what you know, how well do you think Dartmouth prepared you to... Scale: 1=very poorly, 2=less than adequately, 3=adequately, 4=more than adequately, 5=very well		Mean value: Class 2004 & Peer Groups 1, 2, 3			
		Dartmouth a (n=287)	Peer 1 b (n=1,583)	Peer 2 c (n=1,203)	Peer 3 d (n=227)
Active Learning and Critical Thinking	Acquire new skills and knowledge on own	4.32	4.37 c	4.26 b,d	4.46 c
	Think analytically and logically	4.43 d	4.48 d	4.43 d	4.67 a,b,c
	Formulate, create original ideas and solutions	4.16	4.17	4.08 d	4.33 c
Personal Responsibility and Self-Efficacy	Be an effective leader	3.95 c	3.85 c	3.63 a,b,d	3.91 c
	Relate well to people of different races/nations/religions	3.96 b	4.16 a,c,d	3.97 b	3.96 b
	Understand social problems	3.91	3.93 c	3.80 b	4.00
	Work effectively as a member of a team	4.16 b,c	3.93 a,d	3.80 a,d	4.15 b,c
	Be self-confident	4.07 c	3.96 c	3.77 a,b,d	4.08 c
	Be an active member of a community	4.00 c	3.82 c	3.56 a,b,d	3.85 c
	Maintain a healthy lifestyle	3.56 b,c,d	3.23 a,c,d	3.04 a,b,d	3.93 a,b,c
Knowledge and Breadth of Study	Write effectively	4.25 c,b	4.30 a,c	4.08 a,b,d	4.40 c,d
	Communicate well orally	3.89 c	3.94 c	3.7 a, b, d	4.04 c
	Read or speak a foreign language	3.40 c,d	3.26 c,d	2.97 a,b,d	2.72 a,b,c
	Understand the significance of art, music, literature, and drama	3.97 b,c	4.15 a,c	3.74 a,b,d	4.16 c
	Gain in-depth knowledge of a field	3.90	3.99	3.95	3.95
Scientific Inquiry	Understand the role of science and technology in society	3.84	3.79 c	3.94 b	3.95
	Use quantitative tools	3.61 c	3.58 c,d	3.84 a, b	3.79 b

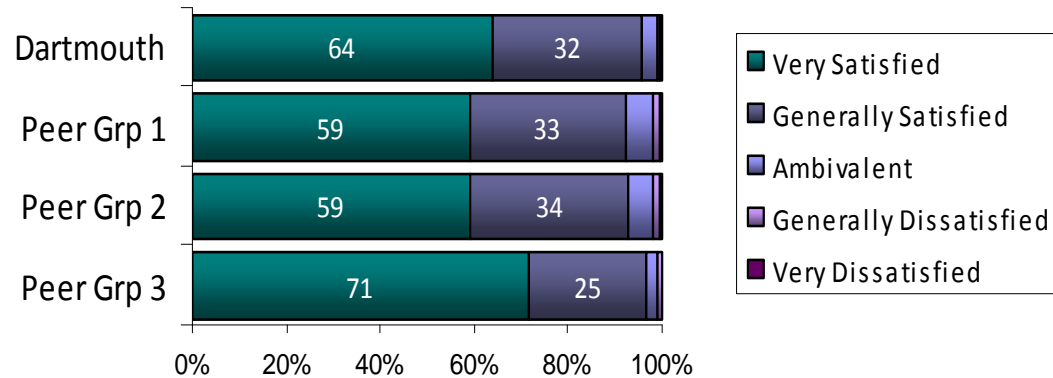
Note: Statistically significant differences (p<0.05) denoted by letters, Dartmouth=a, Peer 1=b, Peer 2=c, Peer 3=d; Colors denote the difference in the peer group means compared to Dartmouth



Overall Satisfaction with Undergraduate Education: Class of 1998

- Of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998, 96% are “generally satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their Dartmouth education (no difference by gender, or students of color)
- 94% “definitely would” or “probably would” recommend the college to a current high school senior
- No significant difference compared to peer institutions with overall satisfaction or recommending alma mater

Overall, how satisfied are you with your undergraduate education?



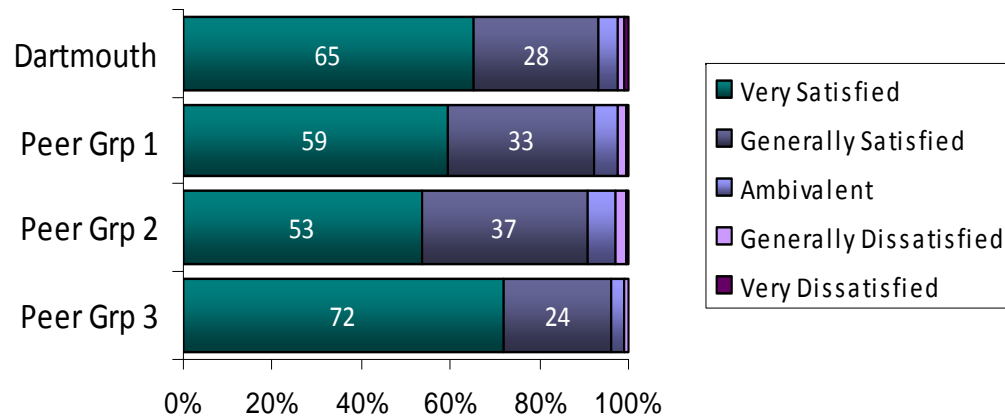
The Class of 1998 Senior Survey data: 89% of this class was generally or very satisfied; 79% would definitely or probably recommend



Overall Satisfaction with Undergraduate Education: Class of 2004

- Of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004, 93% are “generally satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their Dartmouth education
- 88% “definitely would” or “probably would” recommend the college to a current high school senior
- Dartmouth women are more satisfied and more likely to recommend than men, no difference for students of color
- Dartmouth graduates are more satisfied and more likely to recommend alma mater to a current senior than those from Peer Group 2 schools

Overall, how satisfied were you with your undergraduate education?



The Class of 2004 Senior Survey data: 91% of this class was generally or very satisfied; 85% would definitely or probably recommend

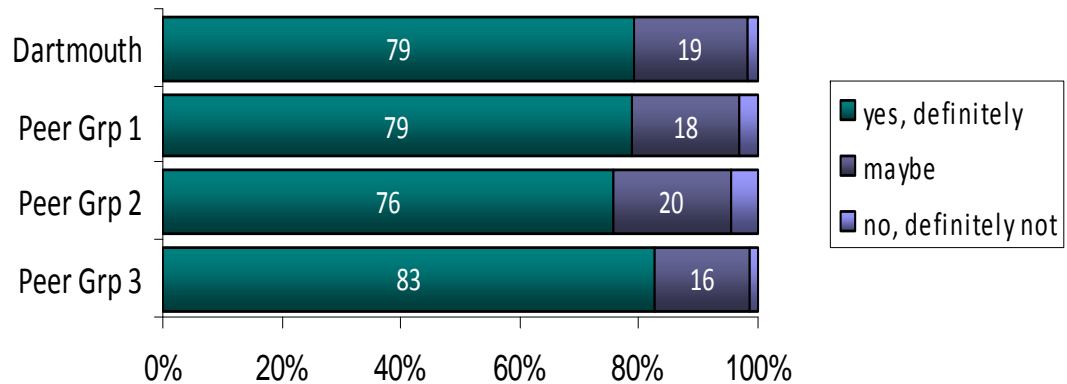


Did the Benefits Outweigh the financial cost: Class of 1998

Of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 1998

- 79% believe the benefits from attending Dartmouth outweigh the financial costs
- No significant difference compared to peer institutions
- Lower loans, higher household income, and greater satisfaction with current life are correlated with increased perceived worth of a Dartmouth education**

Did the benefits you received from your undergraduate education outweigh the financial costs to you and your family?

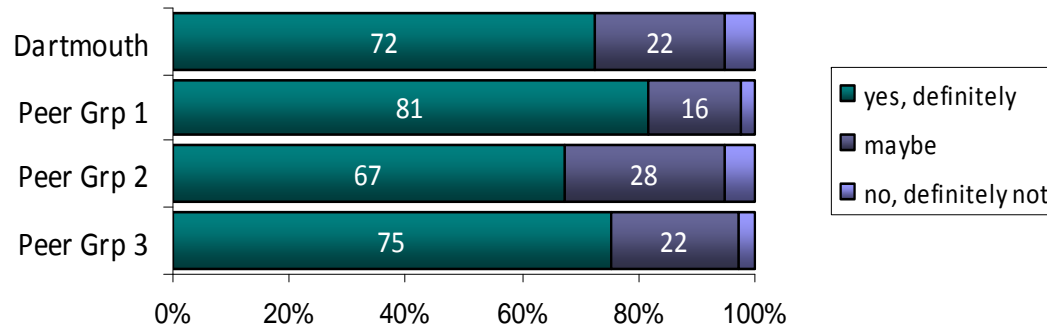


Did the Benefits Outweigh the financial cost: Class of 2004

Of the respondents from the Dartmouth Class of 2004

- 72% believe the benefits from attending Dartmouth outweigh the financial costs
- Dartmouth is significantly different compared to Peer Group 1
- **Lower loans and higher satisfaction with current life are correlated with increased perceived worth of a Dartmouth education**

Did the benefits you received from your undergraduate institution outweigh the financial costs to you and your family?



Satisfaction with life right now: Class of 1998 & 2004

- 93% of Dartmouth alumni from the Class of 1998 and 94% from the Class of 2004 are “generally satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their life right now
- No significant differences compared to peer groups for the Classes 1998 & 2004
- Being a student of color is inversely related to satisfaction with life now for Class 1998
- Engaging in intercollegiate athletics for 2 or more years as an undergraduate is associated with increased satisfaction with life now for respondents from the Class of 2004



What is important at this point in your life and career?

- Dartmouth respondents from the Class of 1998 indicate that **being well off financially is less important** compared to alumni from Peer 1 & 2 schools
- This difference was also observed in respondents from the Class of 2004 compared to Peer 2 schools

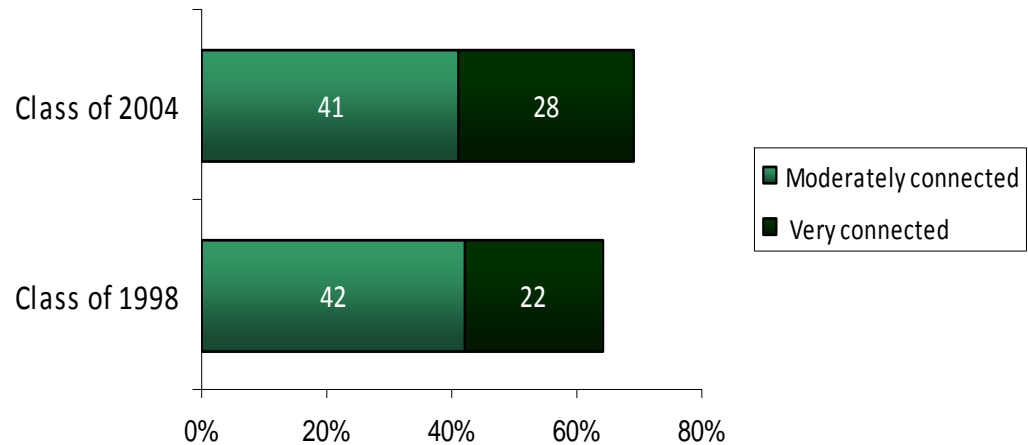


Connections to Dartmouth: Classes of 1998 & 2004

The Dartmouth respondents who feel “moderately connected” or “very connected” to the college:

- Class of 1998: 64%
- Class of 2004: 69%

Today, how connected do you feel to Dartmouth?

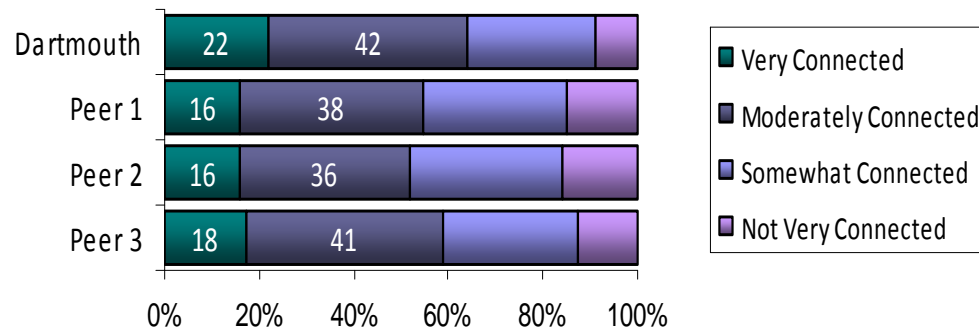


Connections to Alma Mater: Class of 1998

- 64% of Dartmouth 1998 alumni surveyed feel “moderately connected” or “very connected” to the college

- Dartmouth alums feel more connection to their alma mater than those from Peer 1 and Peer 2 schools**

Today, how connected do you feel to your undergraduate institution?

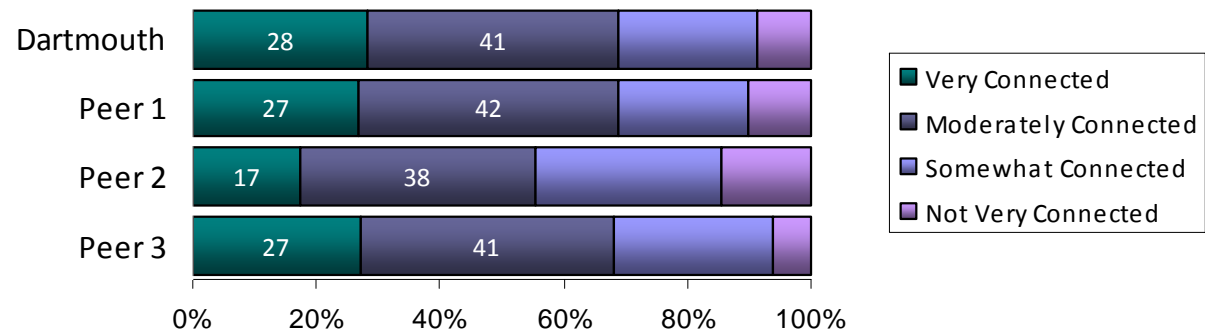


Connections to Alma Mater: Class of 2004

- 69% of Dartmouth Class of 2004 alumni surveyed feel “moderately connected” or “very connected” to the college

- Dartmouth alums feel more connected to their alma mater than those from Peer 2 schools**

Today, how connected do you feel to your undergraduate institution?



How have alumni stayed connected to Dartmouth?

Q. In the past five years, have you participated in any of the following activities? Mark all that apply.

Over 3/4 of alumni have visited the campus in the last five years

Activities	Class 1998 (n=217)		Class 2004 (n=287)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Visited campus	169	77.9	242	84.3
Attended a reunion	121	55.8	91	31.7
Worked as an admissions officer	73	33.6	73	25.4
Worked as a career advisor/mentor	34	15.7	42	14.6
mentored or advised a student organization	5	2.3	16	5.6
Worked as a fundraising volunteer	17	7.8	11	3.8
Worked as a class or reunion volunteer	14	6.5	16	5.6
Worked as another college volunteer	22	10.1	27	9.4



Alumni giving for the Classes of 1998 and 2004

76% of the Class of 2004 and 79% of the Class of 1998 will give at the same level or more in the future

Q. In the past five years, have you participated in any of the following activities?

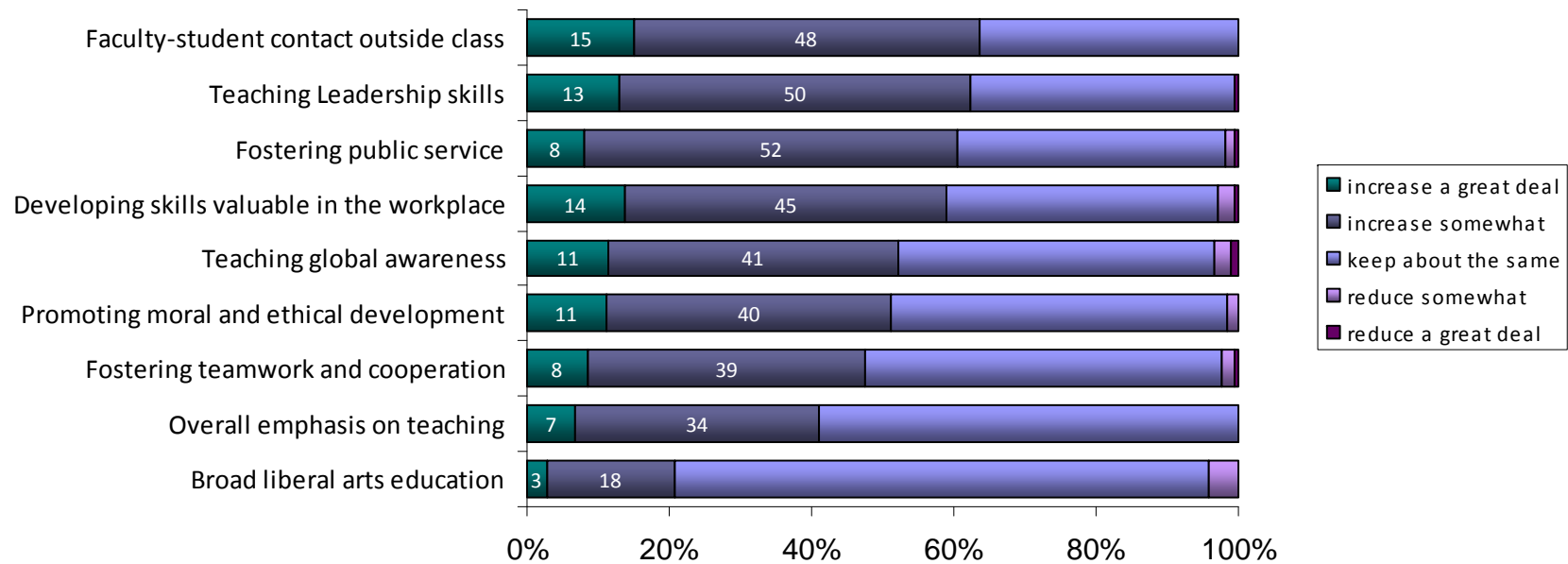
Giving	Class 1998 (n=217)		Class 2004 (n=287)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
I have not contributed financially and do not plan to in the future	12	5.6	21	7.7
I have not contributed financially but plan to in the future	20	9.4	40	14.6
I have contributed financially but plan to give less or not at all in the future	13	6.1	6	2.2
I have contributed financially and plan to give at the same level in the future	93	43.7	87	31.8
I have contributed financially and plan to increase my giving in the future	75	35.2	120	43.8



Changing the Dartmouth Education: Class 1998



Q. How would you change the emphasis Dartmouth places on these aspects of undergraduate education?

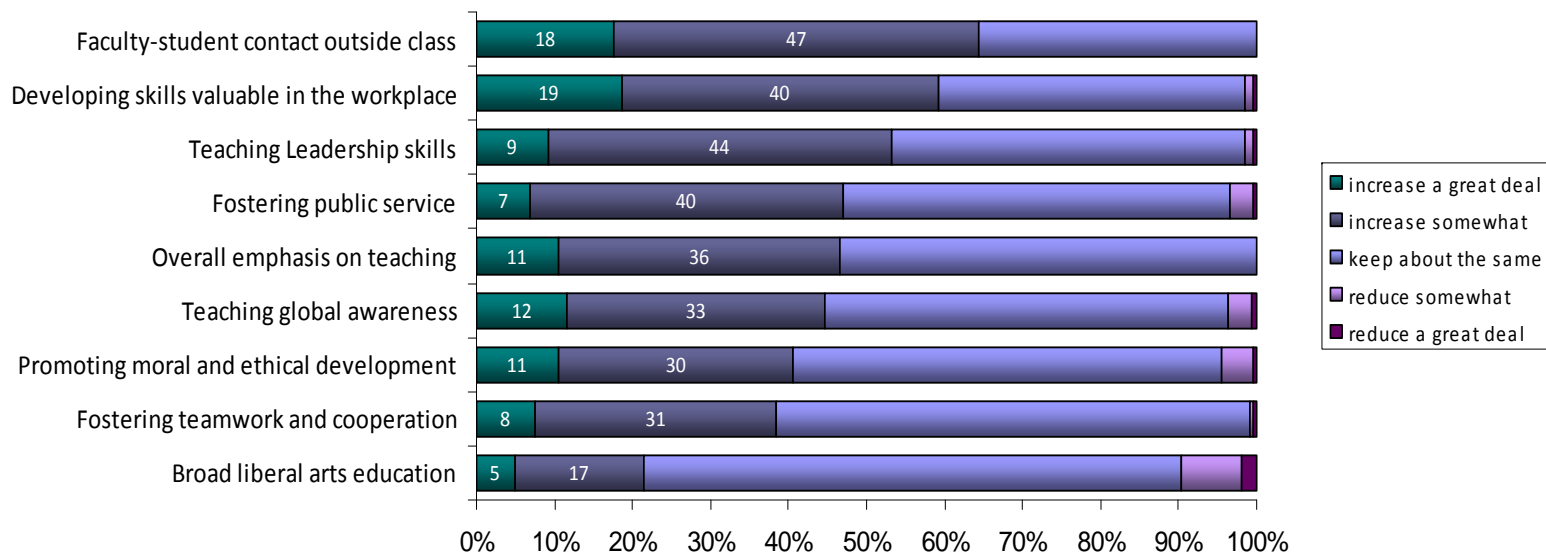


Want to “increase somewhat” or a “great deal”

- 63% faculty student contact outside class
- 63% teaching leadership skills
- 60% fostering public service

Changing the Dartmouth Education: Class 2004

Q. How would you change the emphasis Dartmouth places on these aspects of undergraduate education?



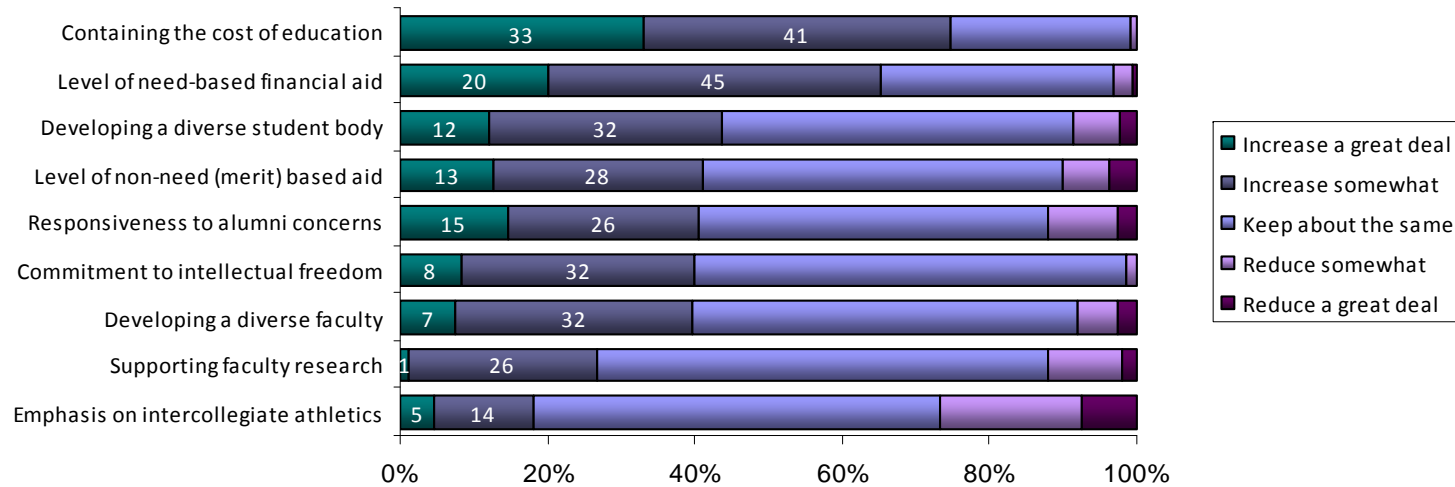
Want to “increase somewhat” or a “great deal”

- 65% faculty student contact outside class
- 59% developing skills valuable in the workplace
- 53% teaching leadership skills



Changing College Life: Class 1998

Q. How would you change the emphasis Dartmouth places on the following aspects of college life?



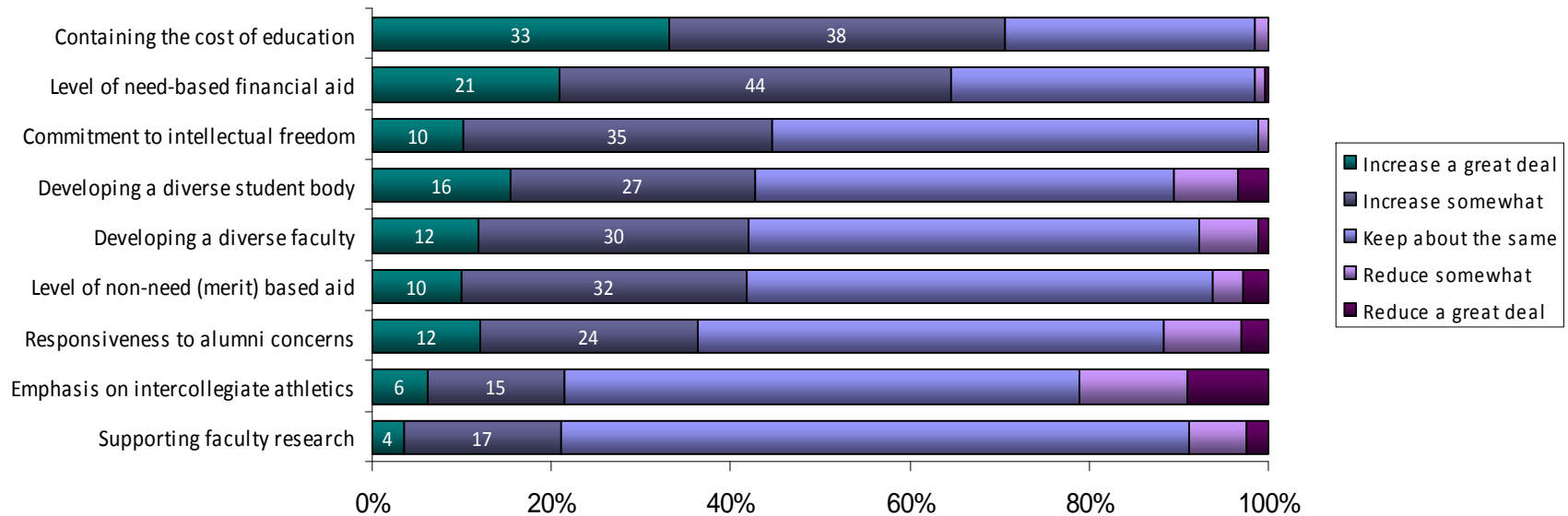
Want to “increase somewhat” or a “great deal”

- 74% contain the cost of education
- 65% need-based financial aid



Changing College Life: Class 2004

Q. How would you change the emphasis Dartmouth places on the following aspects of college life?



Want to “increase somewhat” or a “great deal”

- 71% containing the cost of education
- 65% need-based financial aid



Reflections on the Alumni Survey Responses

Compared to peers, Dartmouth does more in areas of:

- Undergraduate engagement
 - **Faculty student interactions**
 - **Work with faculty on research**
 - Gains in the ability of reading and speaking a **foreign language**
- Undergraduate participation
 - **Study abroad** programs
 - **Internship** during academic term
 - **Intercollegiate athletics** for 2 or more years
 - **Fraternity or sorority** involvement
 - **Community service**



Reflections on the Alumni Survey Responses

Compared to peers, Dartmouth respondents report they are:

- More likely to have enrolled in **graduate or professional school**
- More likely to **work for a non-profit**
- More likely to **work in elementary for secondary education**

Compared to peers, Dartmouth respondents also indicate:

- That **being well off financially is less important**
- They have **more connection to their alma mater**



Reflections on the Alumni Survey Responses

What do alumni want Dartmouth to emphasize more?

- **Need-based** financial aid
- **Cost containment** of education
- **Increasing faculty-student contact outside class**
- **Teaching leadership skills**

