



FINDINGS FROM THE 2010 SENIOR SURVEY

Office of Institutional Research
Dartmouth College



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Purpose

- The purpose is to report the satisfaction of graduating seniors with their overall college experience.
- Satisfaction was measured and analyzed over both general and specific areas of college life to better understand our students' undergraduate experiences and to further enhance them.
- Dartmouth's results are contrasted with those of two different peer groups to provide benchmarking information with comparable institutions.

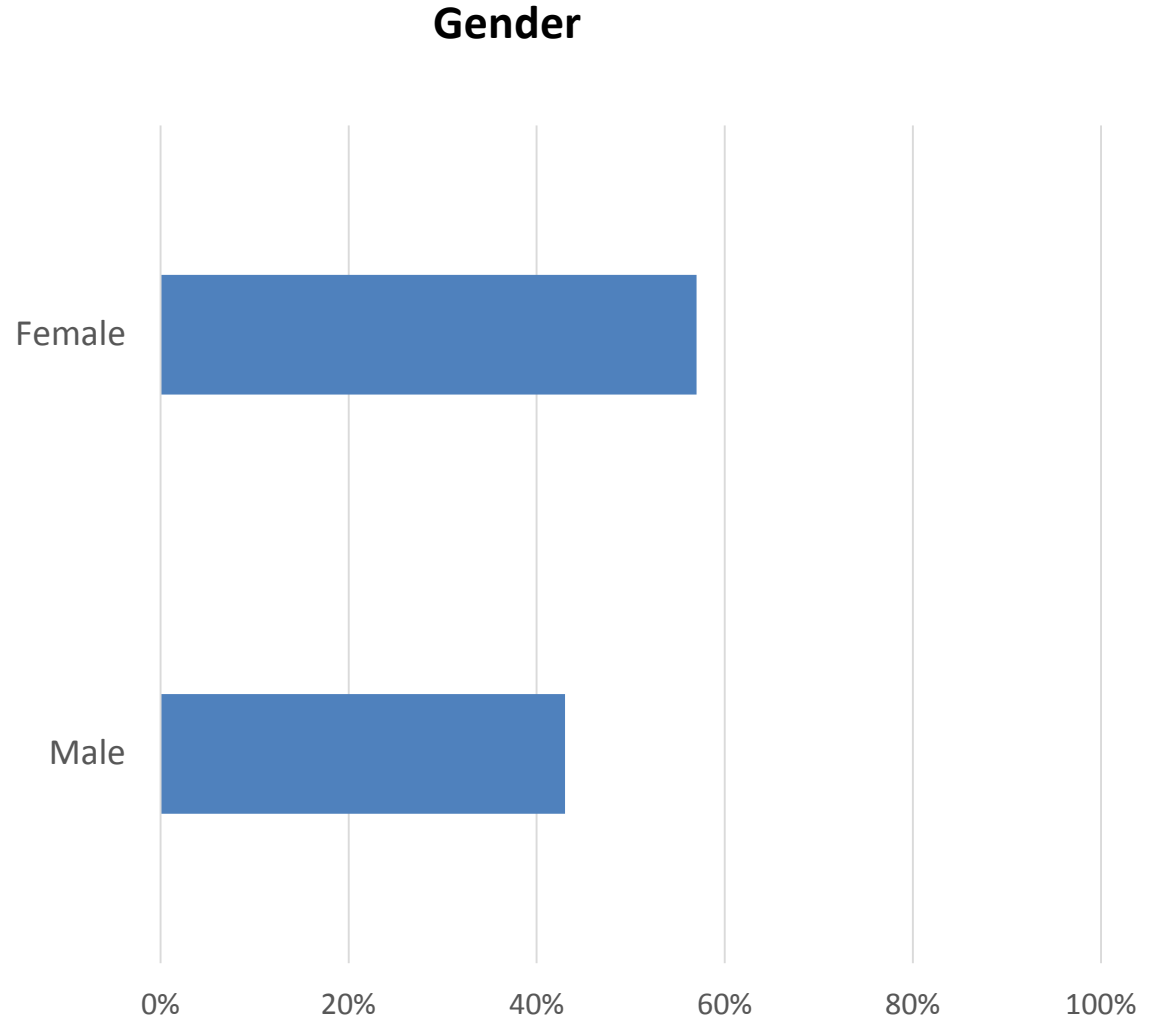
Definition of Peer Groups

- Thirty-nine highly selective, private colleges and universities participated in the 2010 Senior Survey. We selected 21 of the participating schools to include in this investigation.
- Two peer groups were created to provide an external point of comparison and bench-marking for our survey results.
- Peer Group 1 contains highly selective, private universities (n = 14) and Peer 2 Group includes participating Ivy League schools (n = 7).

Survey Methodology

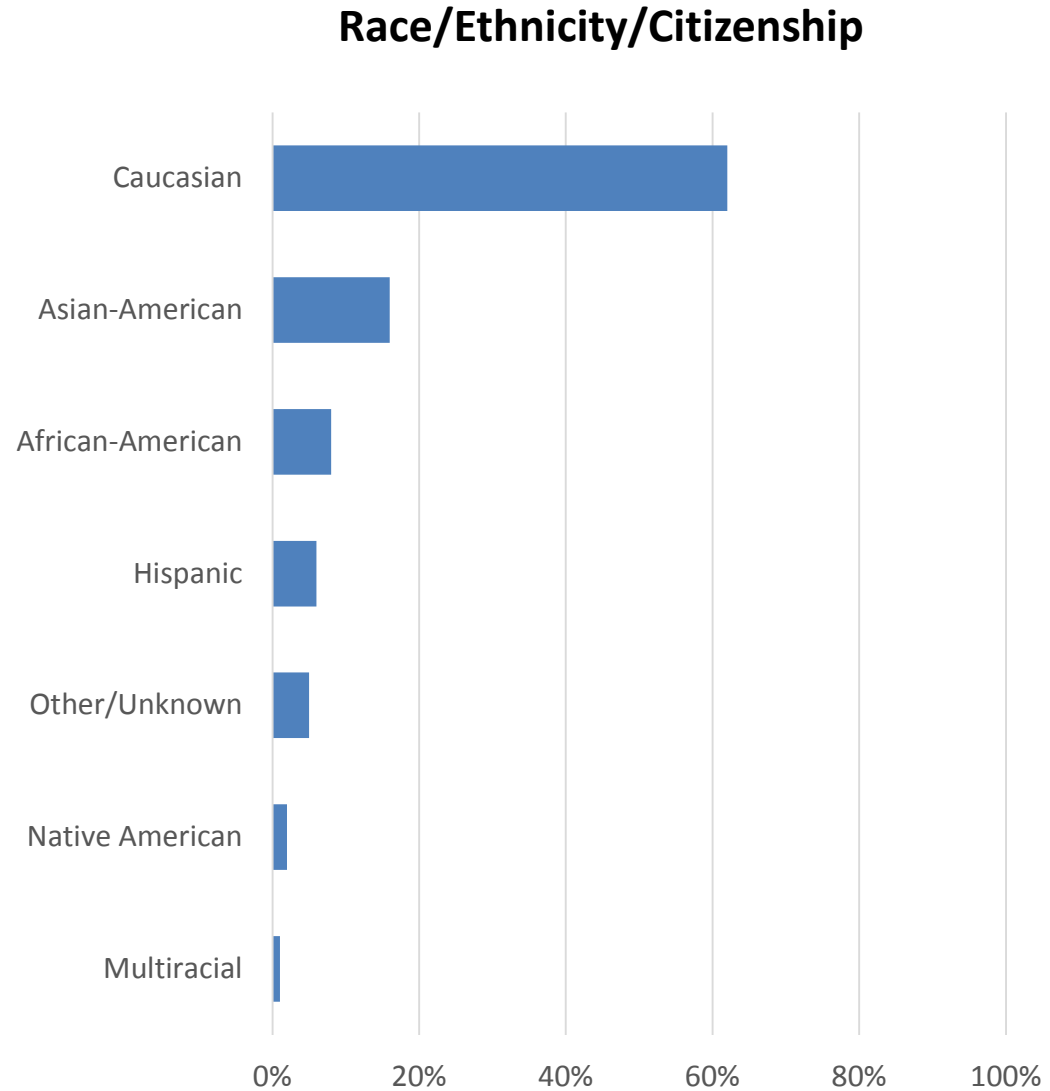
- The 2010 Senior Survey was emailed to 1,116 seniors. Of those email addresses, 64 bounced back for a total population of 1,052 receiving the survey.
- Dartmouth's response rate was 57% (n = 602).

- Consistent with other surveys, a greater proportion of woman completed the survey than men.



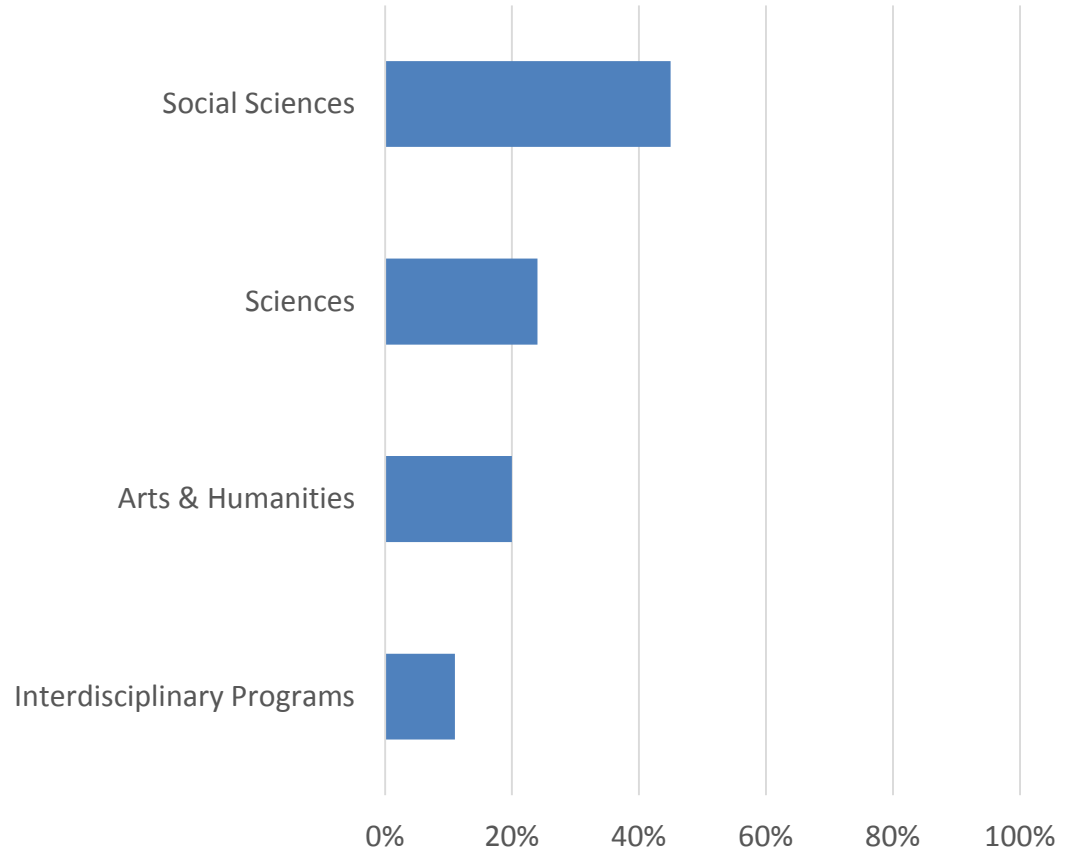
Race and Ethnicity

- There were no significant differences between respondents and non-respondents with respect to race/ethnicity.



- Students majoring in social sciences were slightly under-represented and students majoring in science were slightly over-represented.

Division of Major

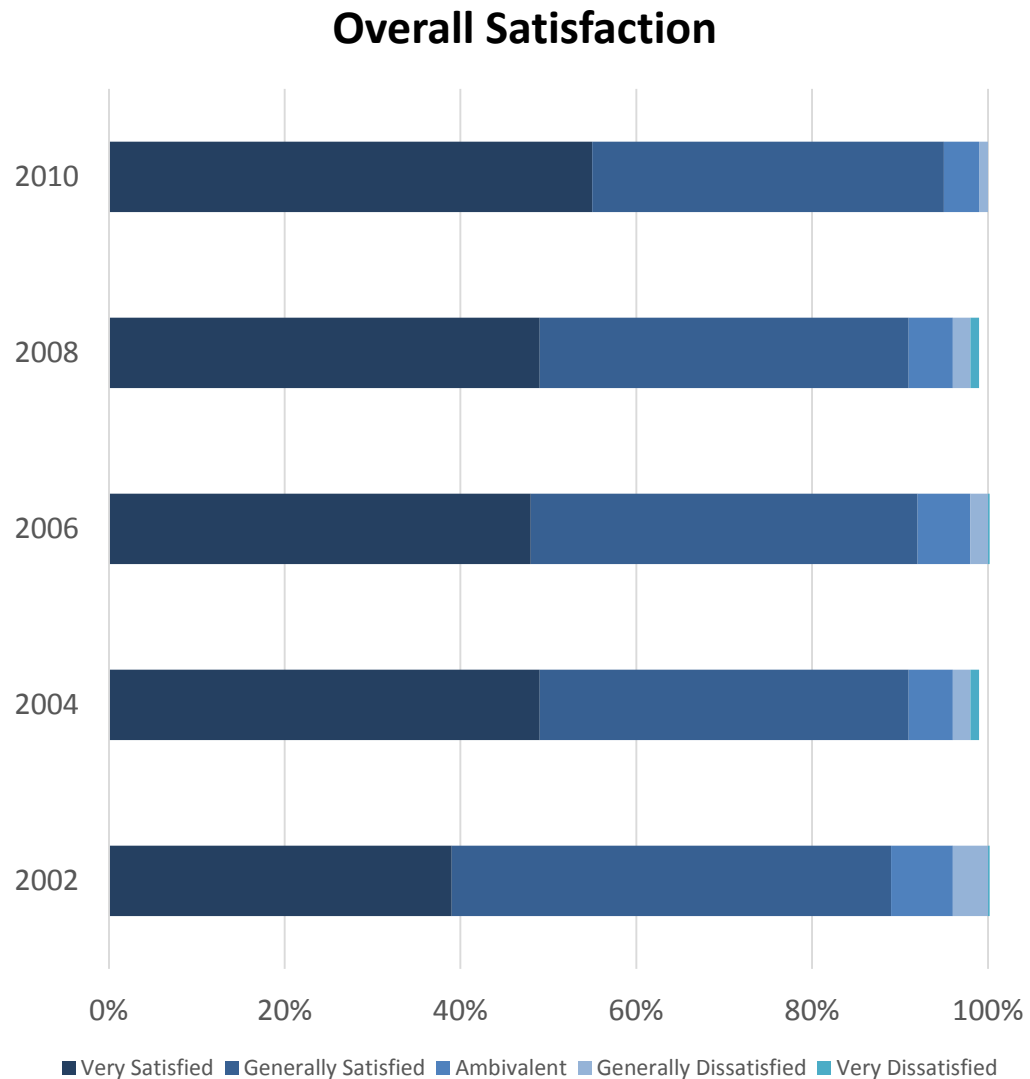


SATISFACTION & EXPERIENCES



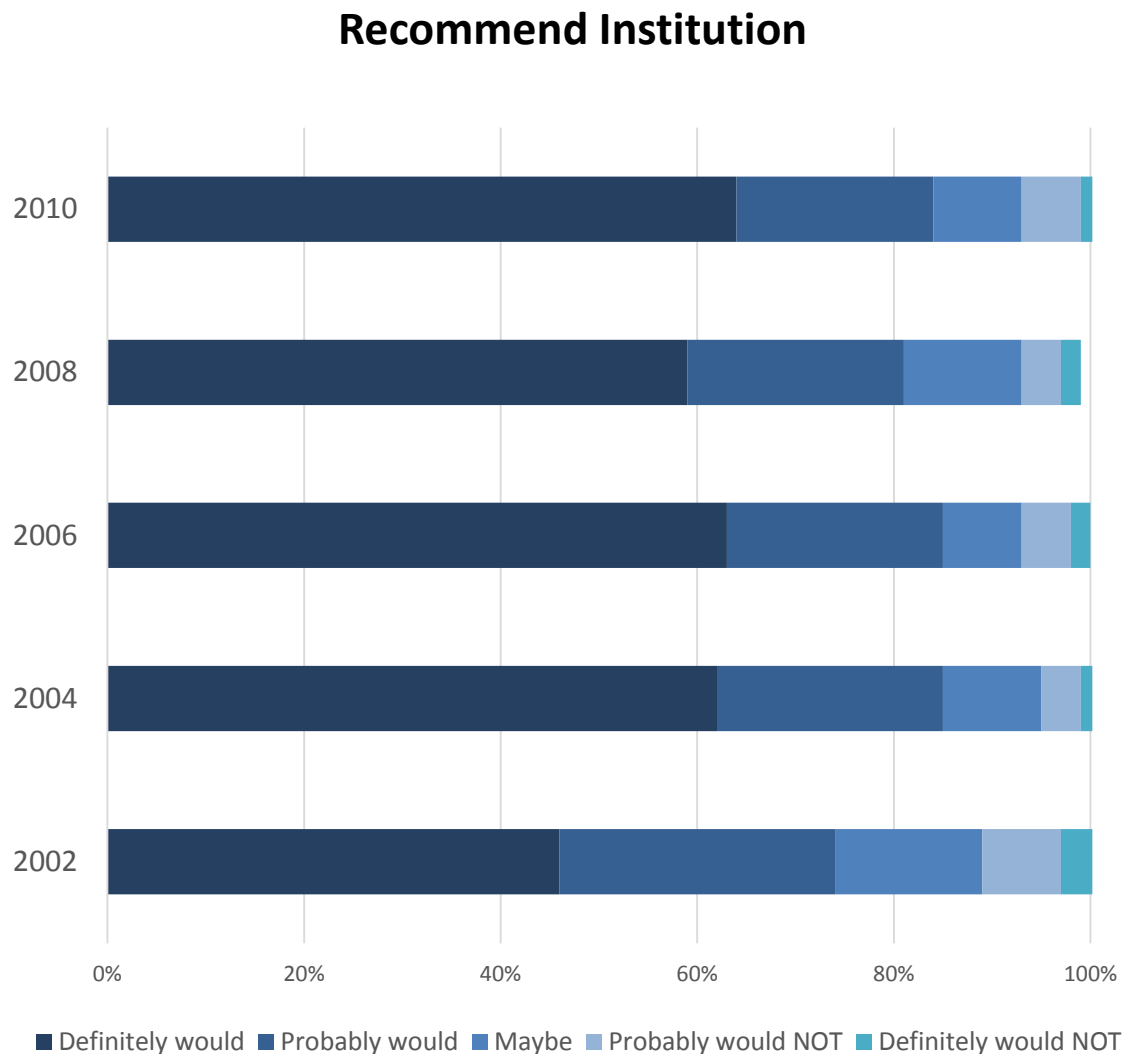
Overall Satisfaction with Dartmouth College

- The Class of 2010 had the highest level of “Very Satisfied” respondents compared to all previous years.



Recommendation of Dartmouth College

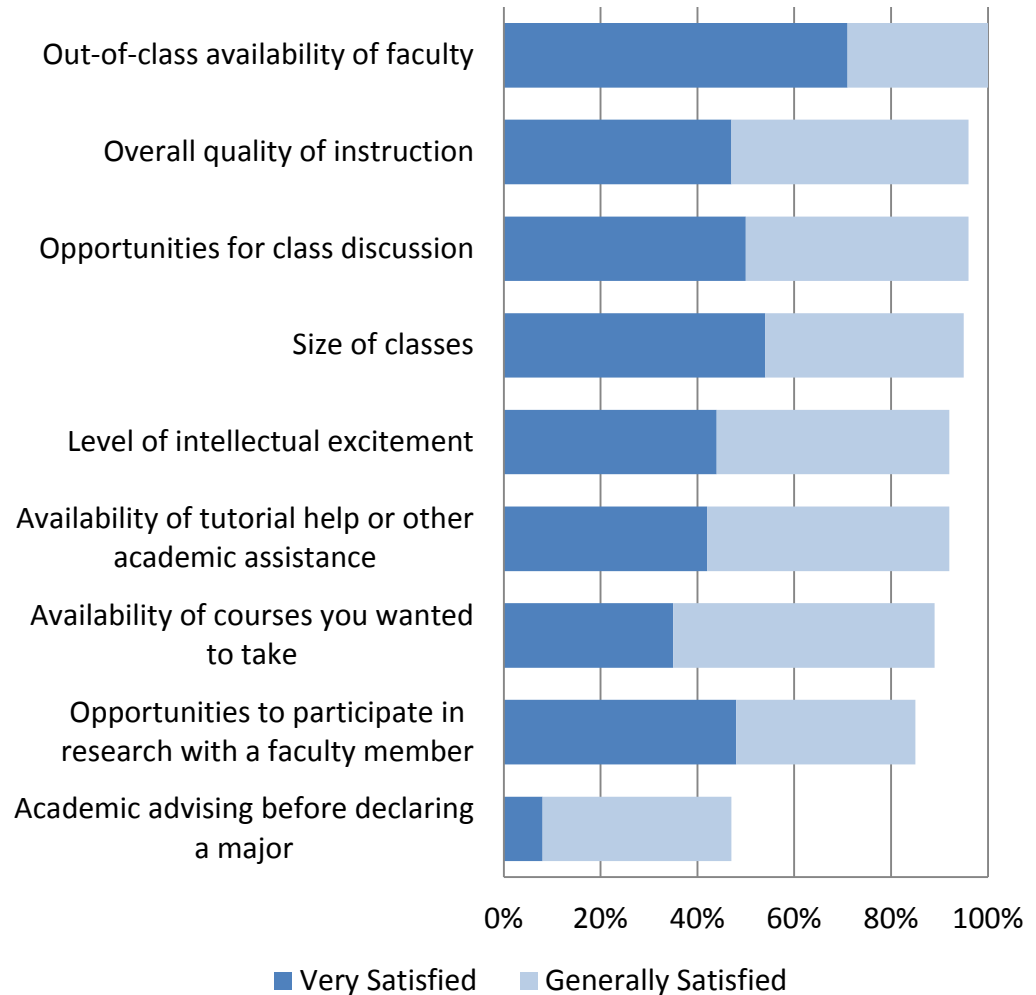
- In 2010, 84% of Dartmouth seniors would recommend Dartmouth to other students, which is similar to the 2006 and 2004, and higher than 2008 and 2002.



Satisfaction with Academic Experience

Satisfaction with Academic Experience

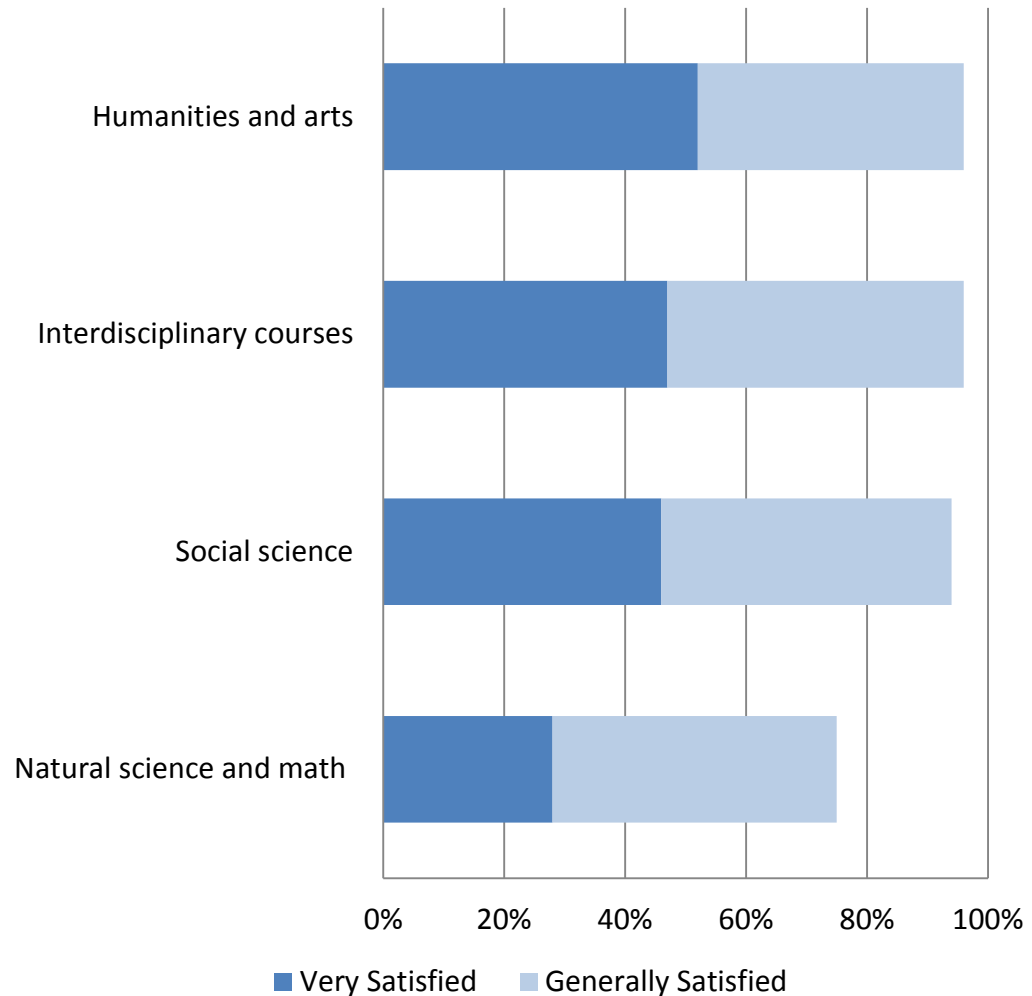
- More than 90% of Dartmouth seniors were satisfied with the following areas: out-of-class availability of faculty (99%); overall quality of instruction (96%); opportunities for class discussion (96%); size of classes (95%); level of intellectual excitement (92%); tutorial help (92%).



Satisfaction with Academic Experience (cont'd.)

- Seniors were most satisfied with instruction in humanities and art (96%) and interdisciplinary courses (96%).
- Seniors were least satisfied with instruction in natural science and math courses (75%).

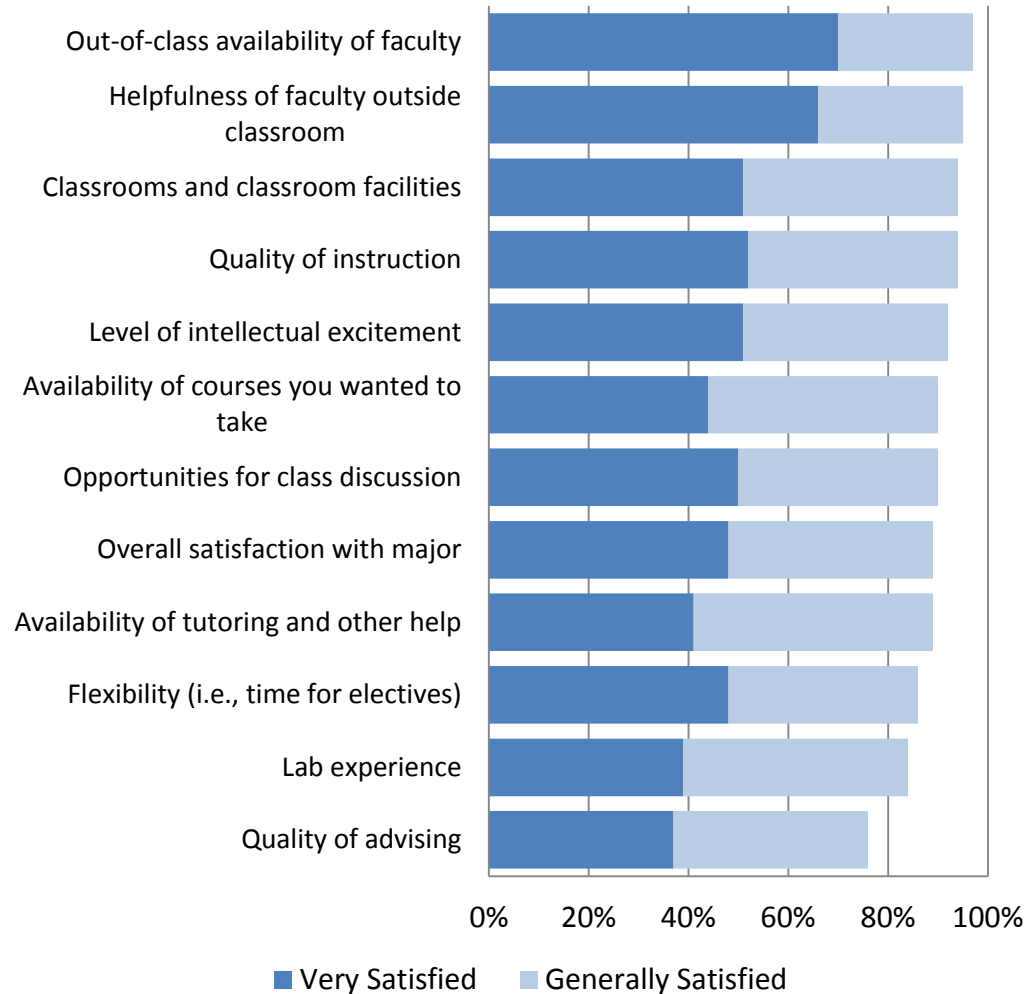
Satisfaction with Academic Experience



Satisfaction with Components of Major

- Students were extremely satisfied with various components of their major experience.
- They were most satisfied with out-of-class faculty availability (97%) and helpfulness of their faculty outside classroom(95%).

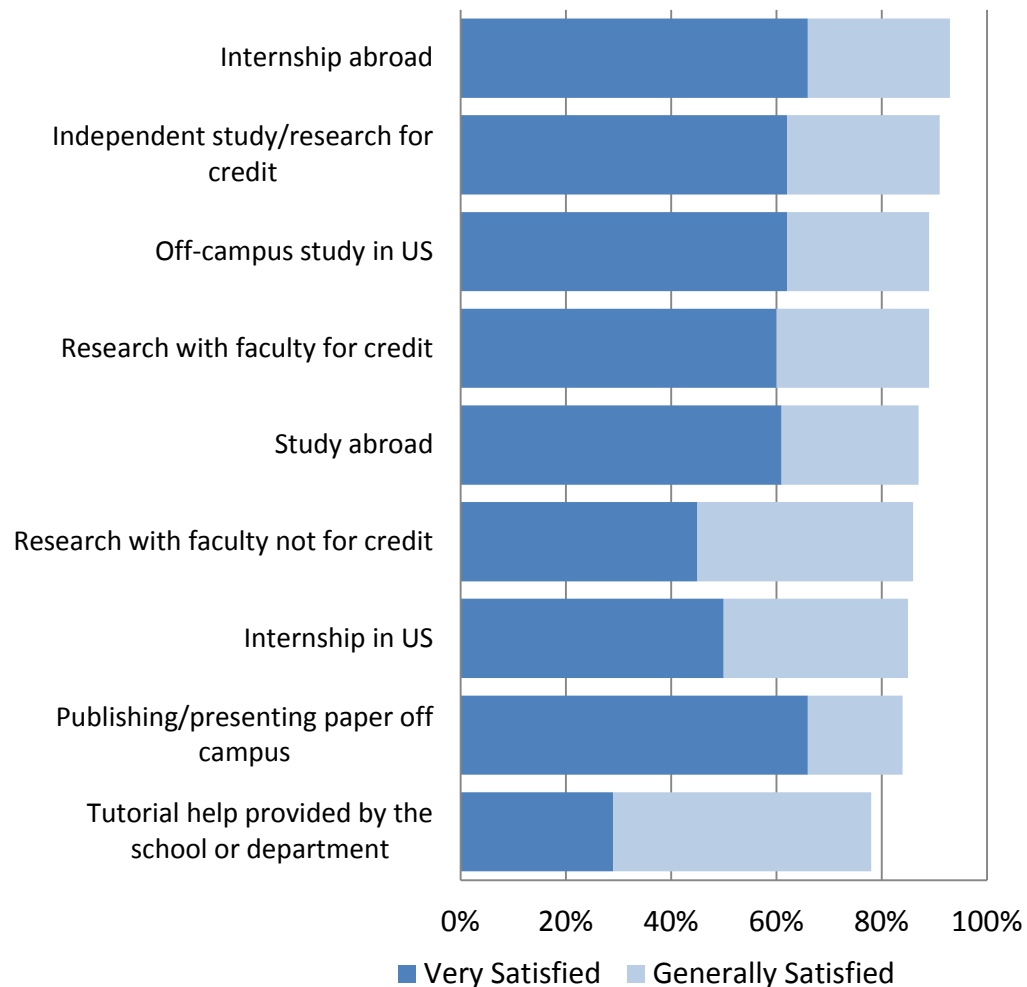
Satisfaction with Major



Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

- Seniors were also satisfied with other academic experiences.
- Over 90% of seniors were satisfied with the following experiences: internship abroad (93%) and independent study/research for credit (91%).

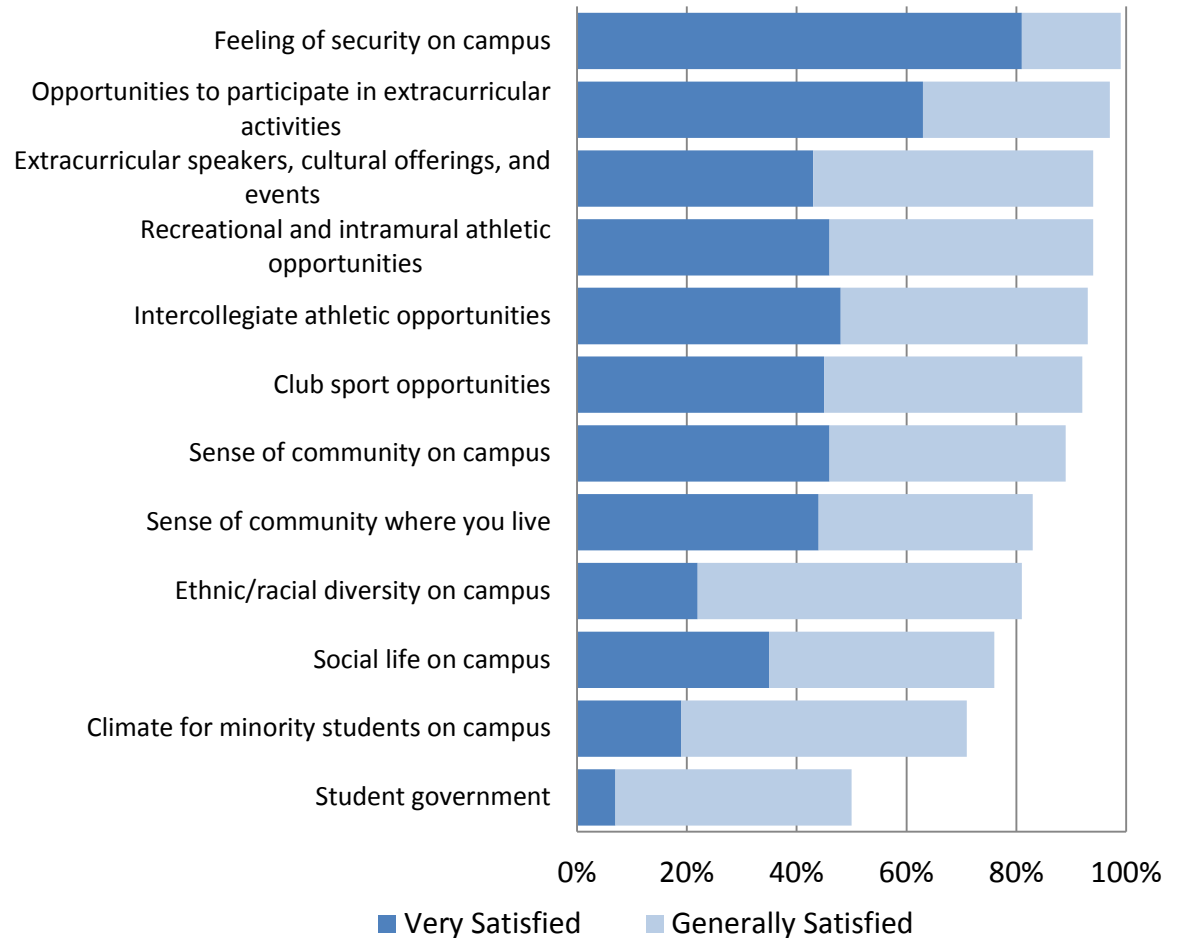
Satisfaction with Other Experiences



Satisfaction with Campus Life

- Students' satisfaction with elements of campus life varied dramatically.
- 99% of seniors felt very secure on campus.
- 97% were satisfied with extracurricular activities.
- 89% were satisfied with sense of community on campus.
- 76% were satisfied with social life.
- 50% were satisfied with student government.

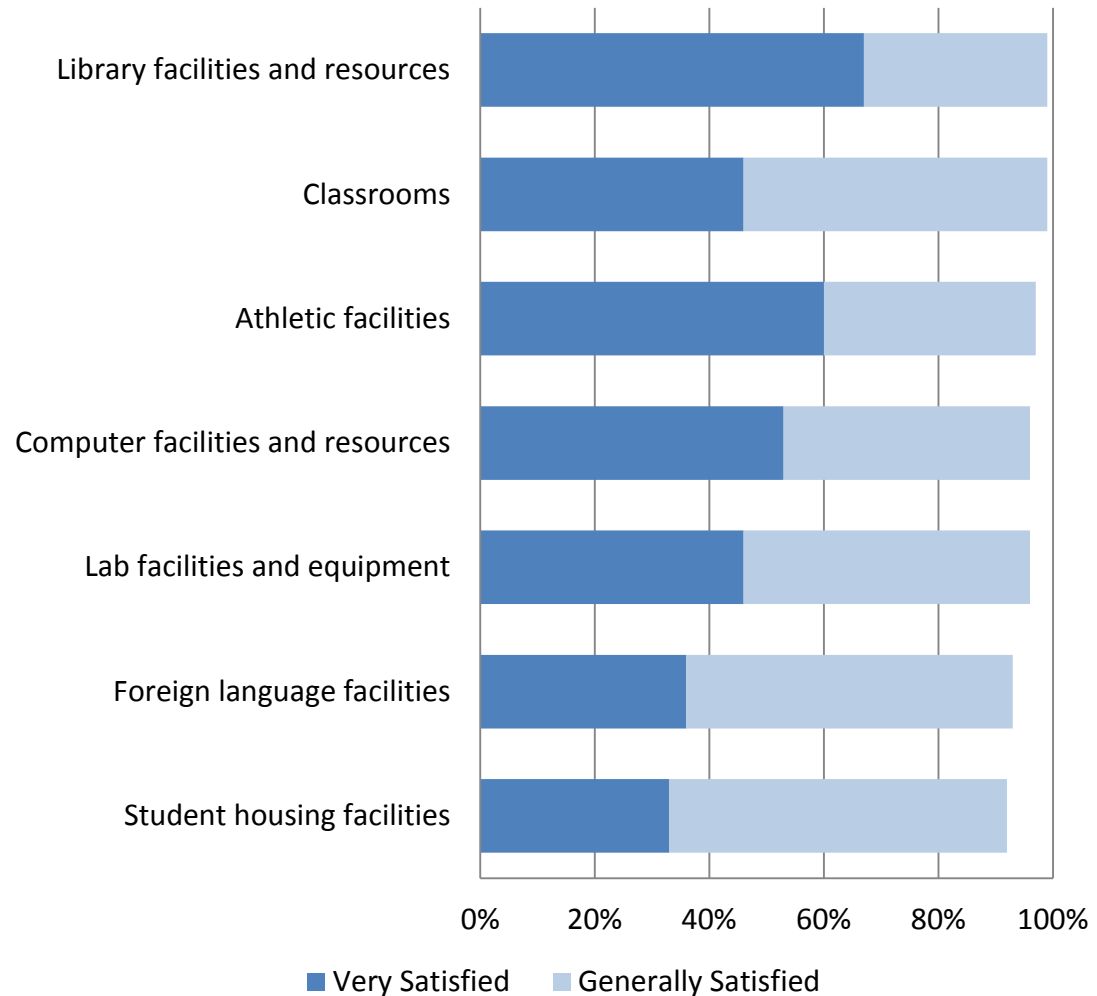
Satisfaction with Campus Life



Satisfaction with Facilities and Services

- More than 90% of seniors were satisfied with all campus facilities.

Satisfaction with Facilities

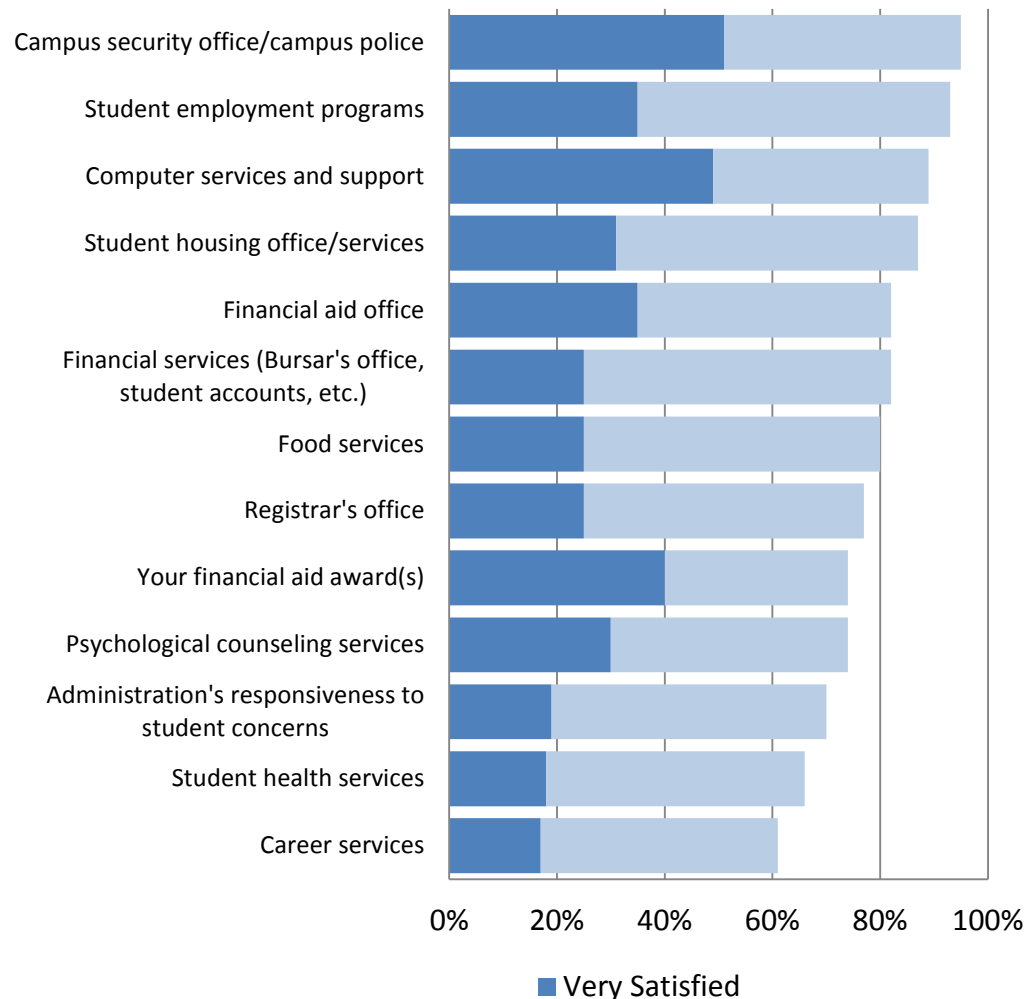


Satisfaction with Facilities and Services (cont.)

Students' satisfaction with campus services varied.

- Over 90% of the seniors were satisfied with campus security (95%) and student employment program (93%).
- 70% were satisfied with the administration's responsiveness to students.
- Seniors were overall least satisfied with career service (61%) and health service (66%).

Satisfaction with Services



Areas of High Satisfaction Compared to 2008

- Seniors had the highest rate of being “very satisfied” in the area of security on campus (81%).
- Dartmouth improved in all areas compared to 2008.

Top 10 Areas of Strength	2010 Percent "Very Satisfied"	2008 Percent "Very Satisfied"
Off-campus study in US	62%	Not asked in 2008
Independent study/research for credit	62%	51%
Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities	63%	60%
Internship abroad	66%	Not asked in 2008
Publishing/presenting paper off campus	66%	Not asked in 2008
Helpfulness of faculty outside classroom	66%	32%*
Library facilities	67%	65%
Out-of-class availability of faculty (major)	70%	Not asked in 2008
Out-of-class availability of faculty (overall academic experience)	71%	64%
Feeling of security on campus	81%	70%
<i>*Was not in top 10 in 2008</i>	Higher in 2010	Lower in 2010



Areas for Improvement Compared to 2008

- Of the top 10 areas for improvement in 2010, three elements in campus services worsened from 2008: pre-major advising, psychological counseling services, and administration's responsiveness.

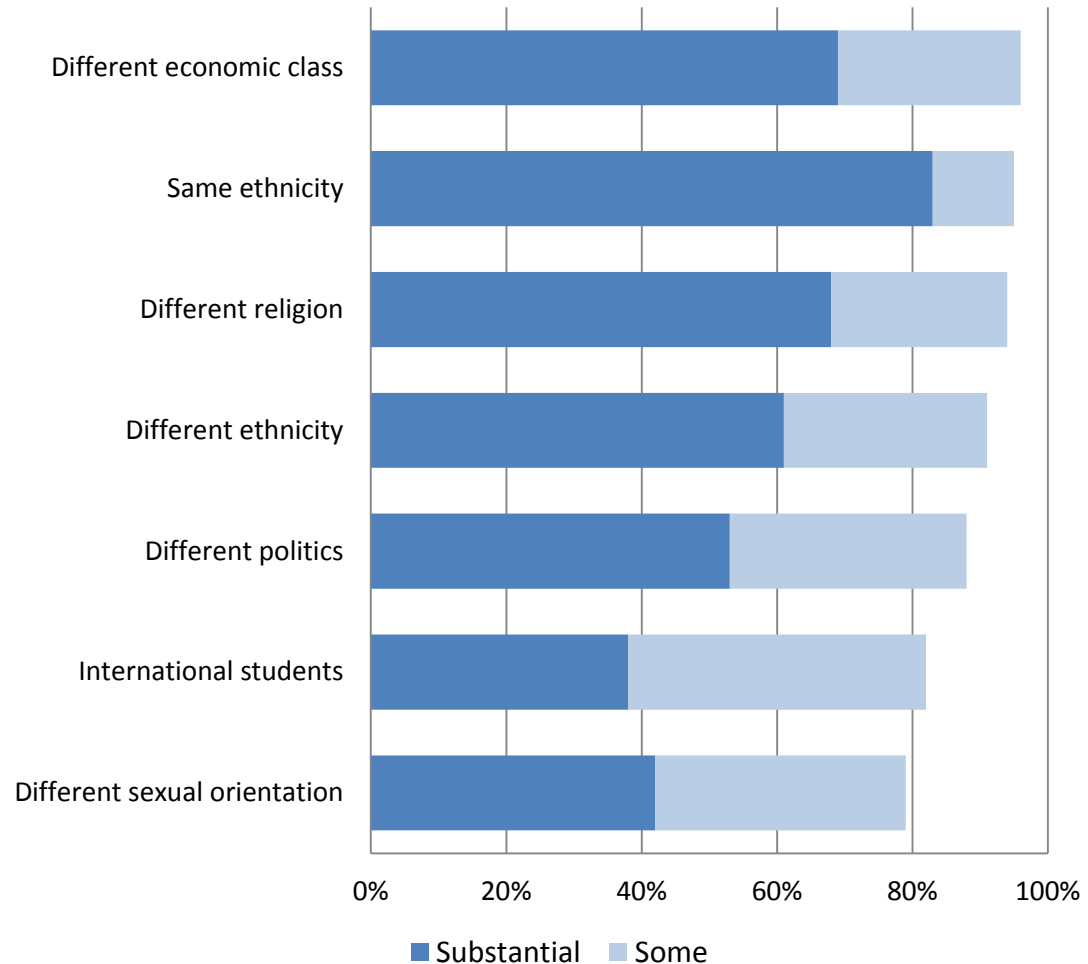
Top 10 Areas for Improvement	2010 Percent "Very Dissatisfied"	2008 Percent "Very Dissatisfied"
Registrar's office	6%	4%*
Administration's responsiveness	7%	10%
Tutorial help provided by the school or department	10%	Not asked in 2008
Health services	10%	10%
Psychological counseling services	10%	15%
Financial aid award	10%	10%
Publishing/presenting paper off-campus	11%	Not asked in 2008
Career services	13%	11%
Pre-major advising	14%	16%
Student government	15%	14%
	Higher in 2010	Lower in 2010
<i>*Was not in top 10 in 2008</i>		



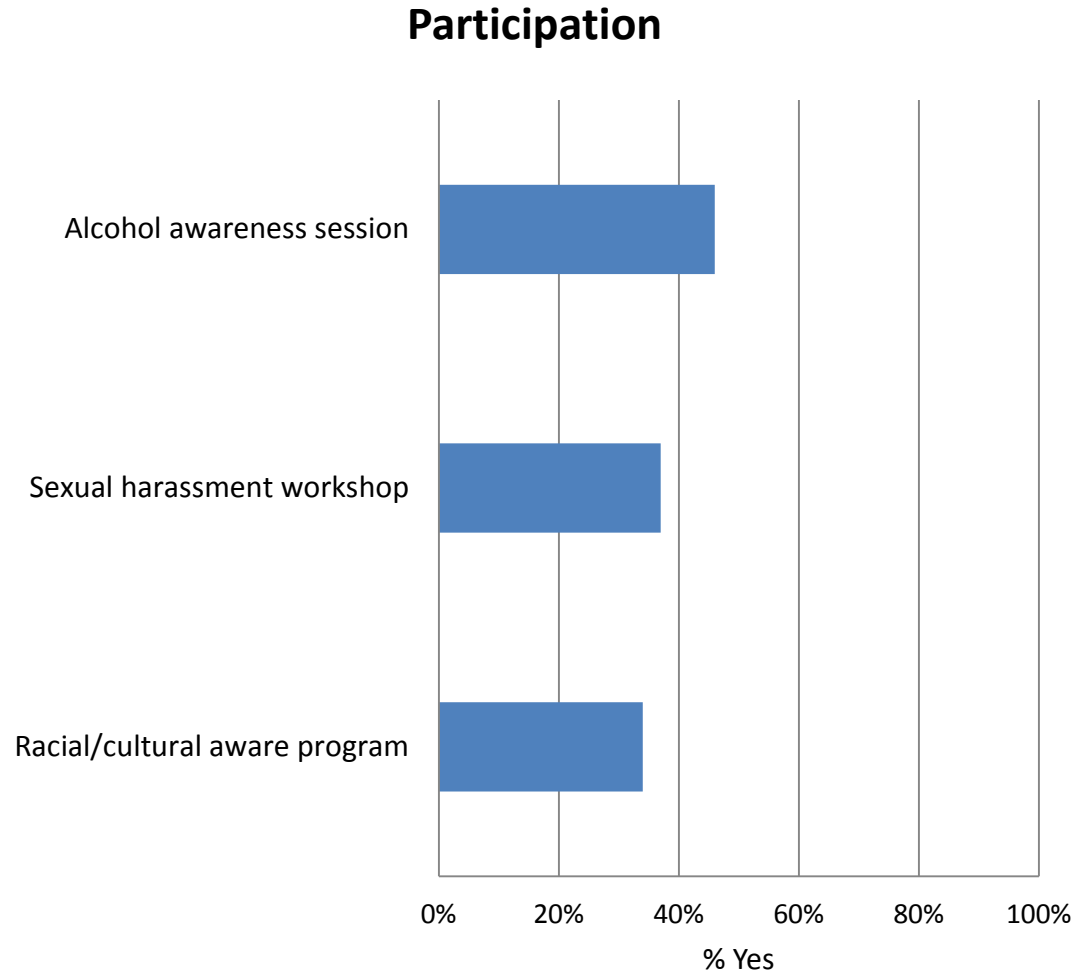
Interactions with Others

- Over 90% of Dartmouth students reported interacting with students of different economic class (96%), same ethnicity (95%), different religions (94%), and different ethnicity (91%).

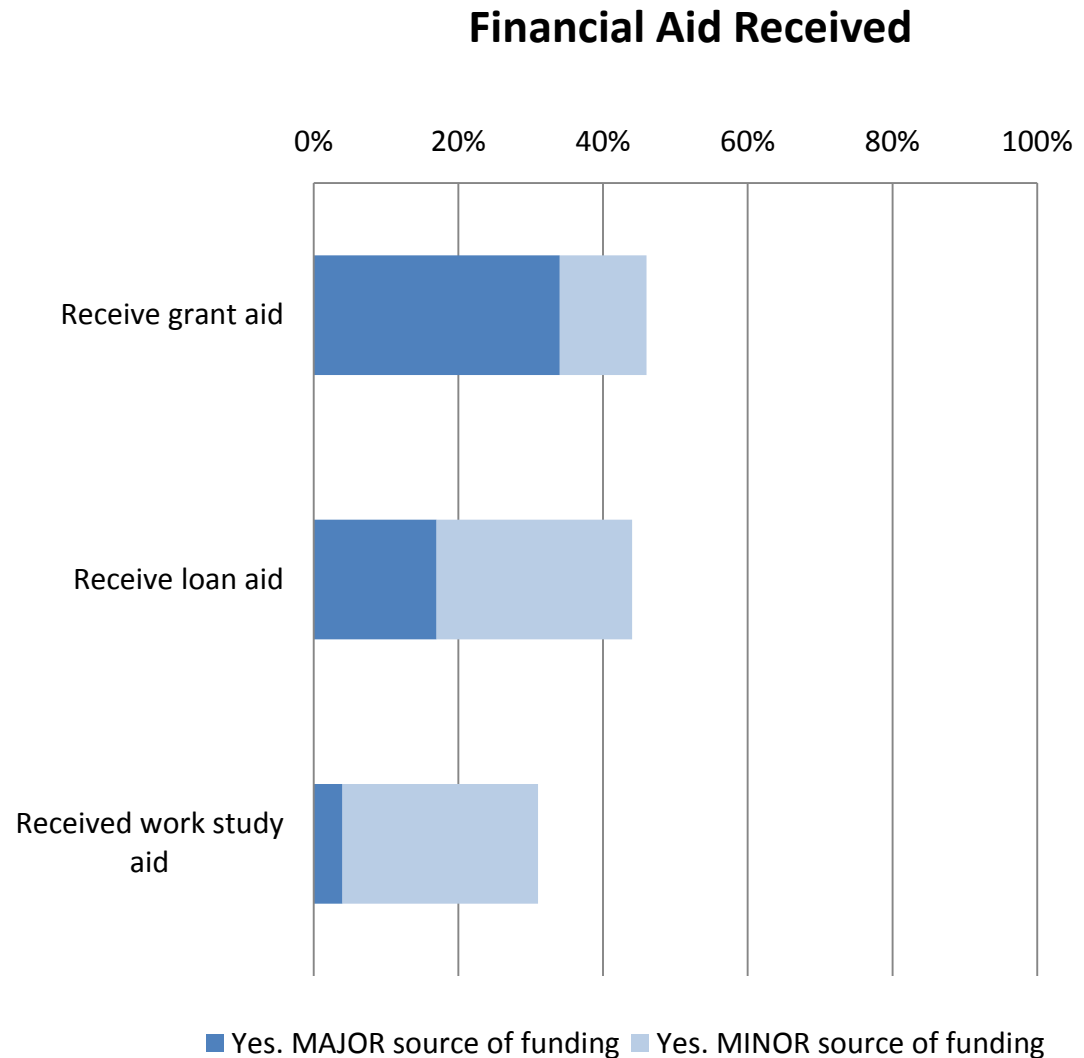
Interaction with Different Groups



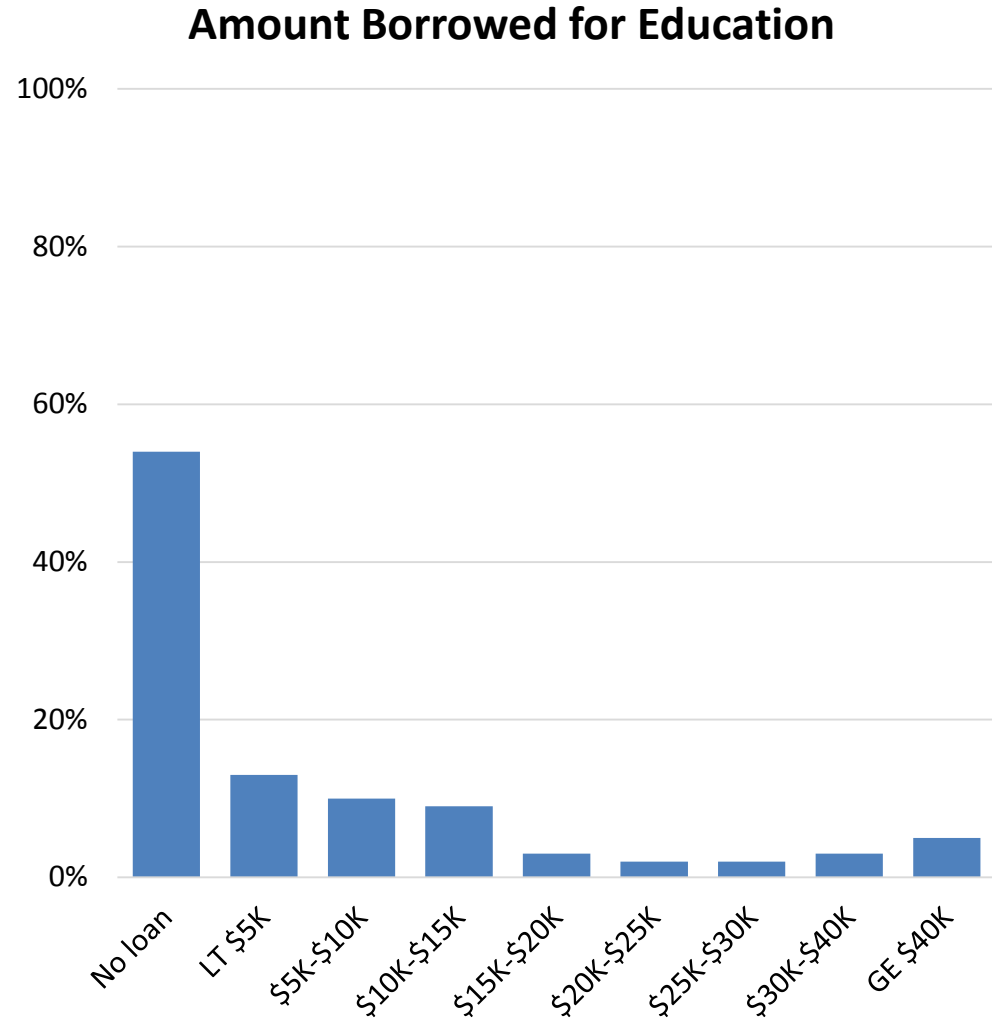
- Dartmouth students participated most in alcohol awareness sessions and least in racial/cultural awareness programs.



- 46% of Dartmouth students received grant aid, 44% received student loans, and 31% received work study aid.

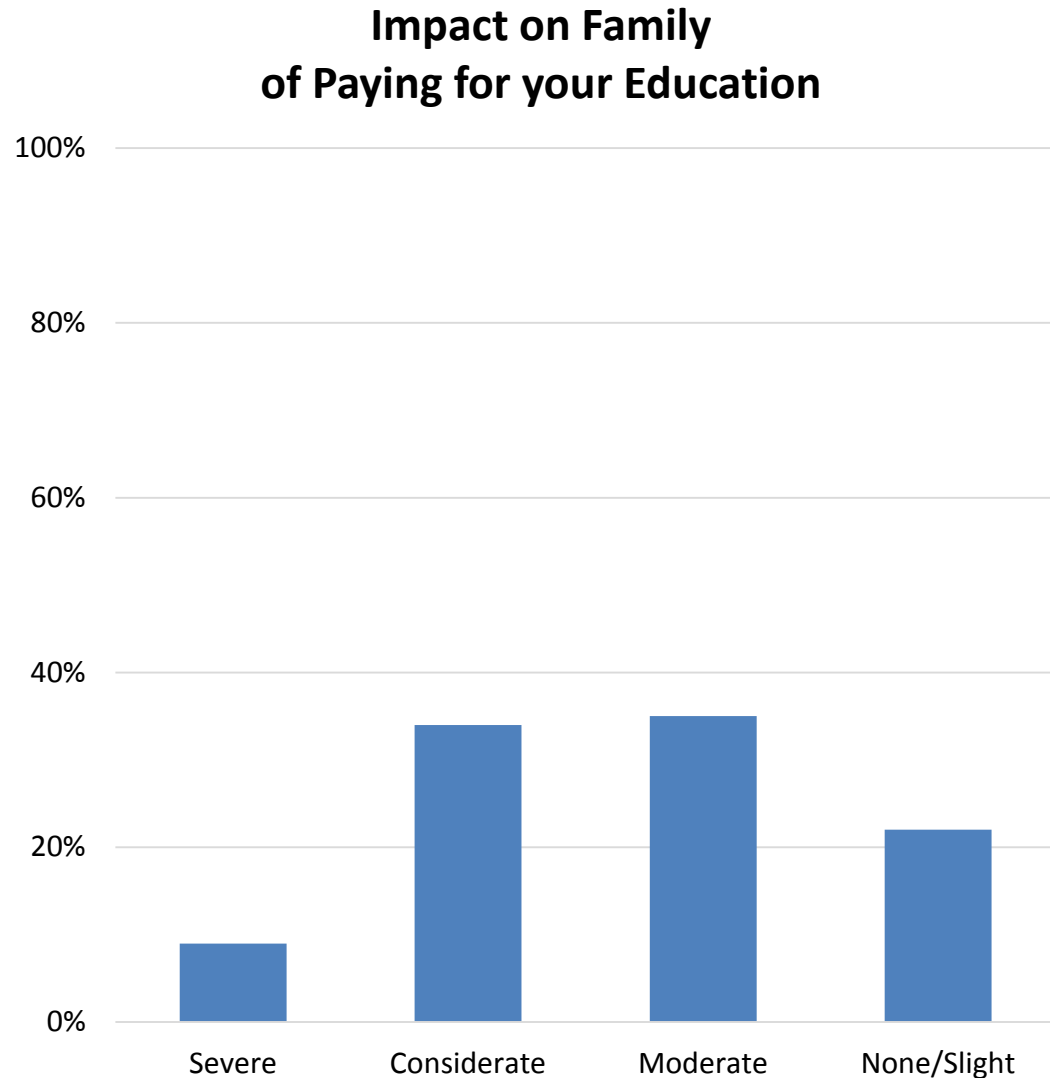


- Of those respondents who did borrow money, the largest percentages had borrowed less than \$5K (13%), \$5K-\$10K (10%), and more than \$10K-\$15K (9%).



Impact on Family

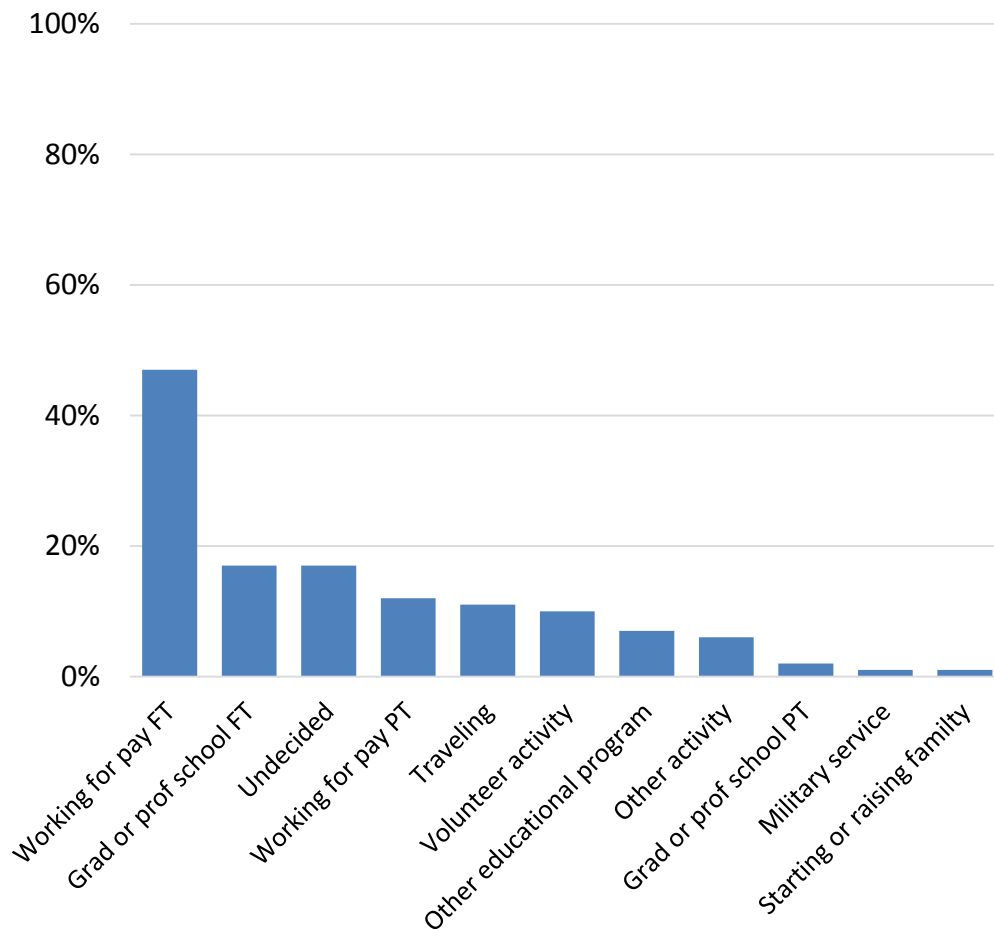
- The majority of students felt the impact on their family of paying for their education was moderate (35%) to considerate (34%).



Plans for the Fall

- 47% of seniors planned on working full-time in the fall.
- Smaller percentages planned on attending graduate or professional school full-time (17%), were undecided (17%), working for pay part-time (12%), traveling (11%), and volunteering (10%).

Plans after Graduation

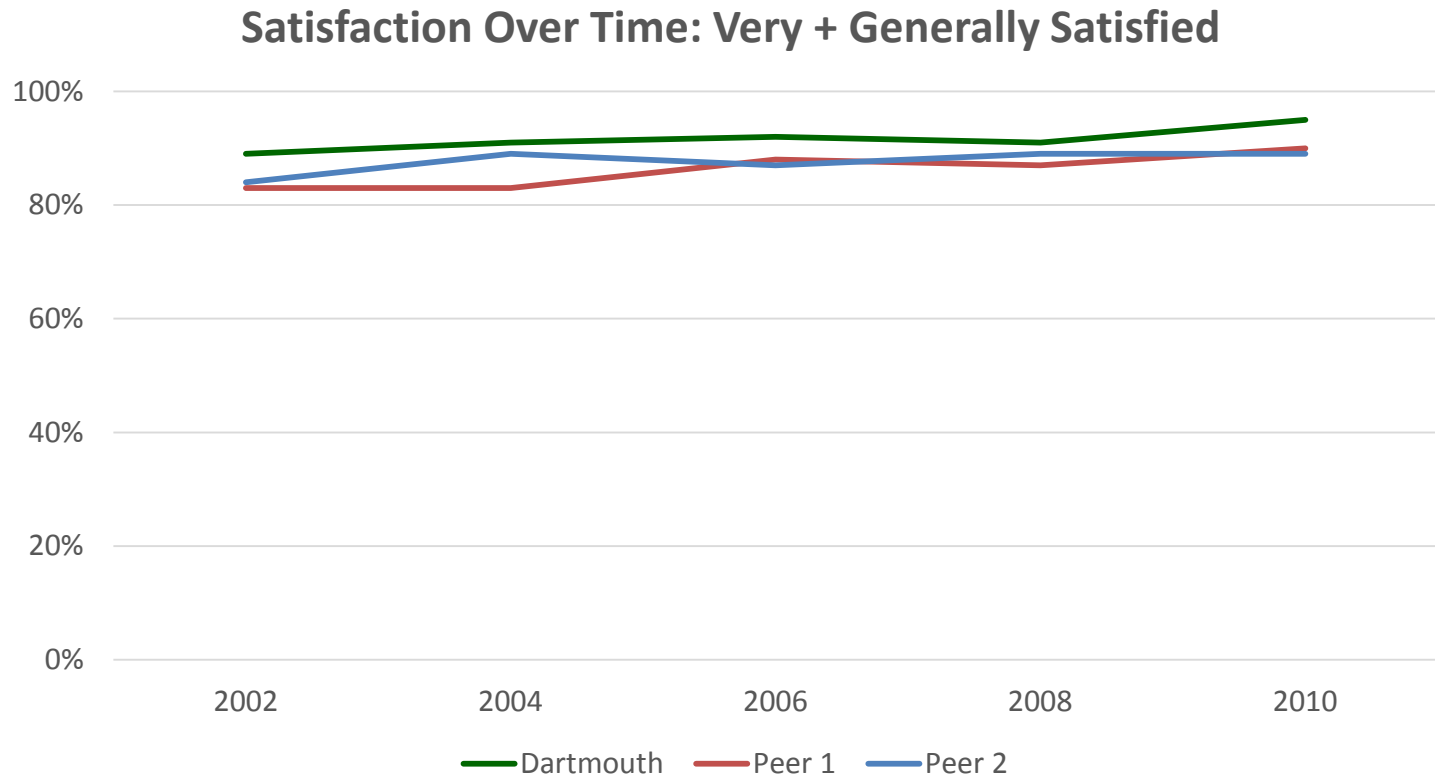


PEER COMPARISONS



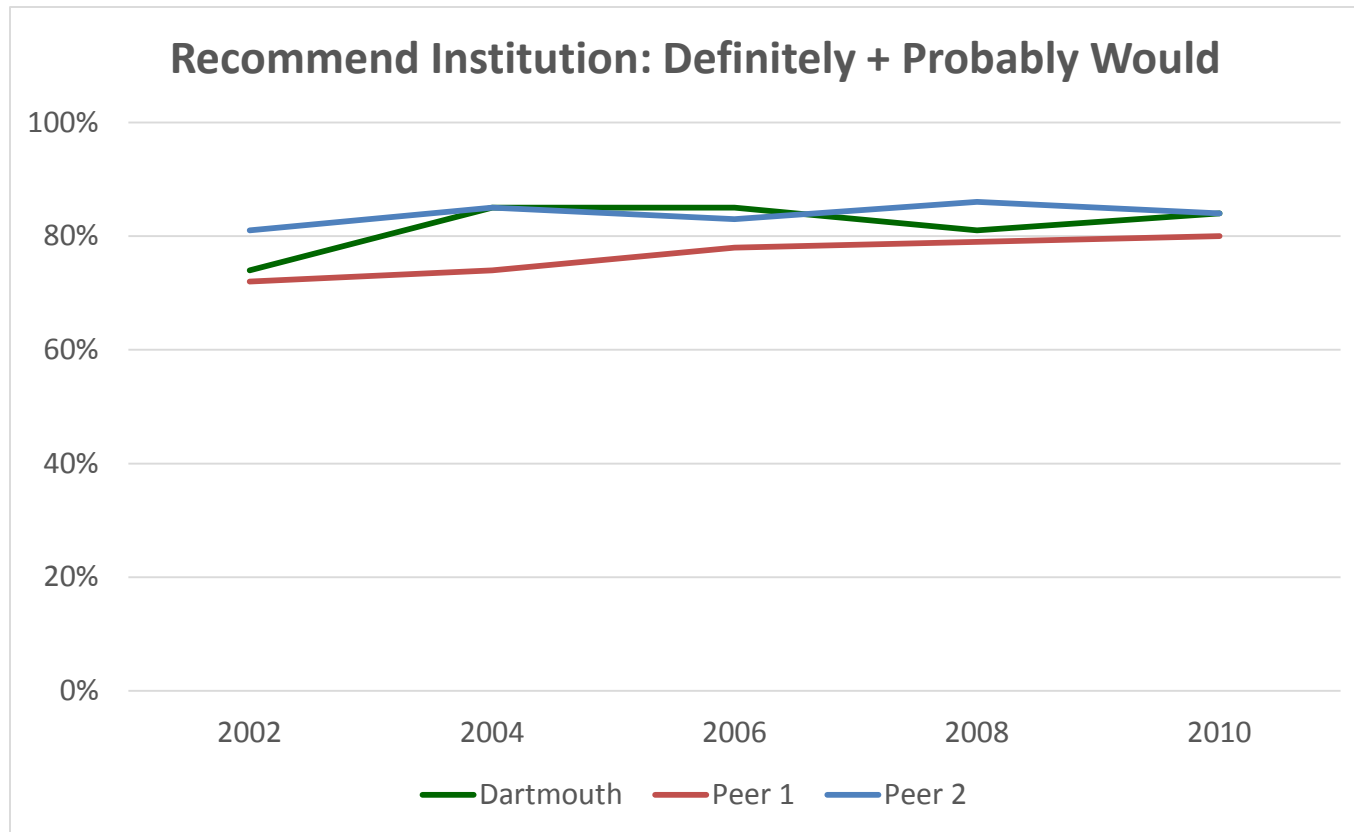
Overall Satisfaction Over Time

- Dartmouth students have been “very” or “generally” more satisfied over time compared to students at peer institutions.



Recommend Institution Over Time

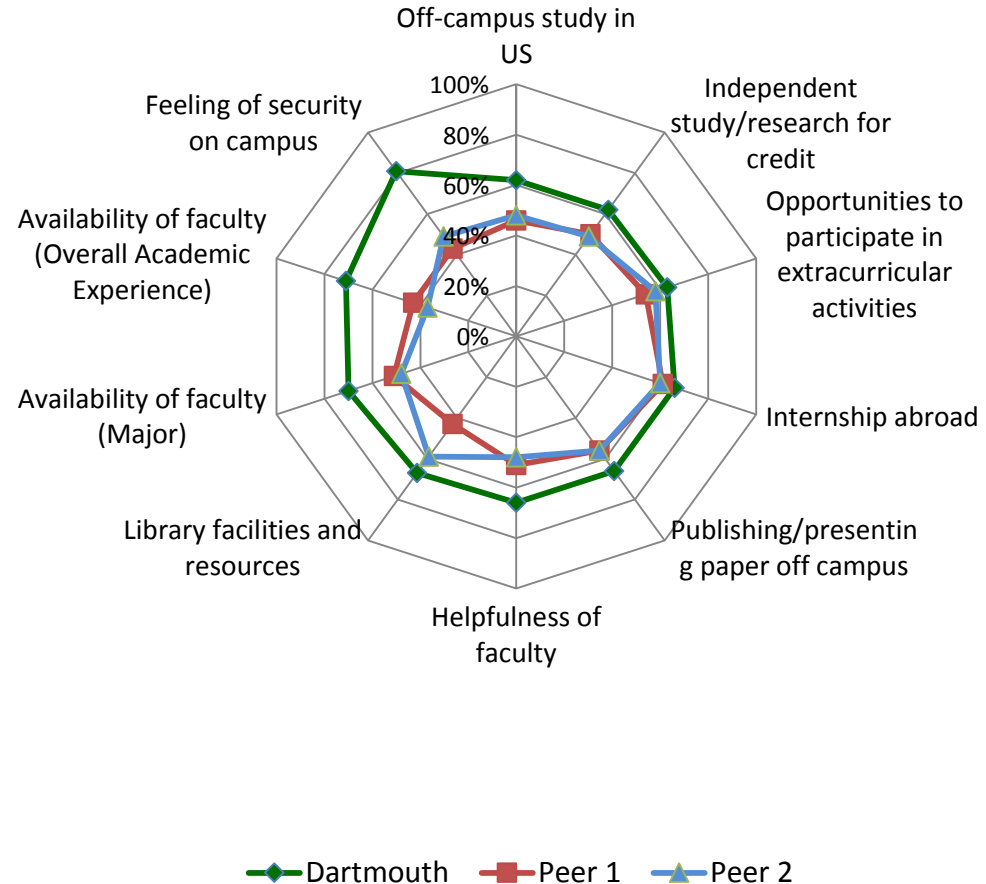
- Over time, both Dartmouth students and students at Peer 2 institutions “definitely” or “probably would” recommend their institution at higher rates than students at Peer 1 institutions.



Areas of High Satisfaction: Percent “Very Satisfied”

- For Dartmouth’s top 10 areas of highest satisfaction, we outpaced both peer groups in all areas.

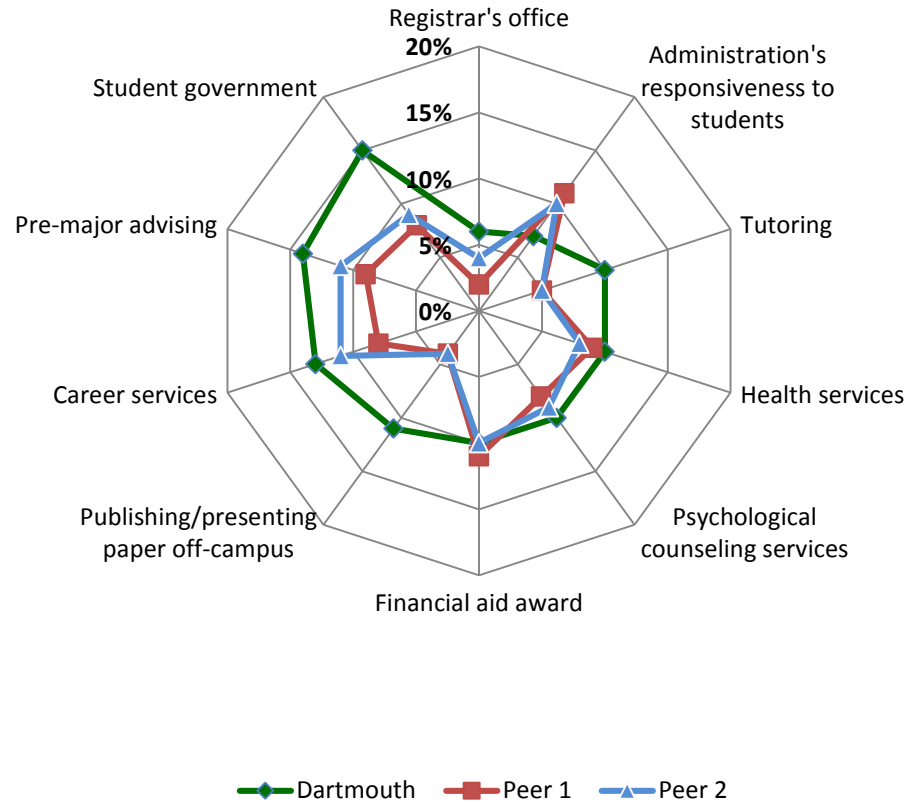
Areas of High Satisfaction “Very Satisfied”



Areas for Improvement : Percent “Very Dissatisfied”

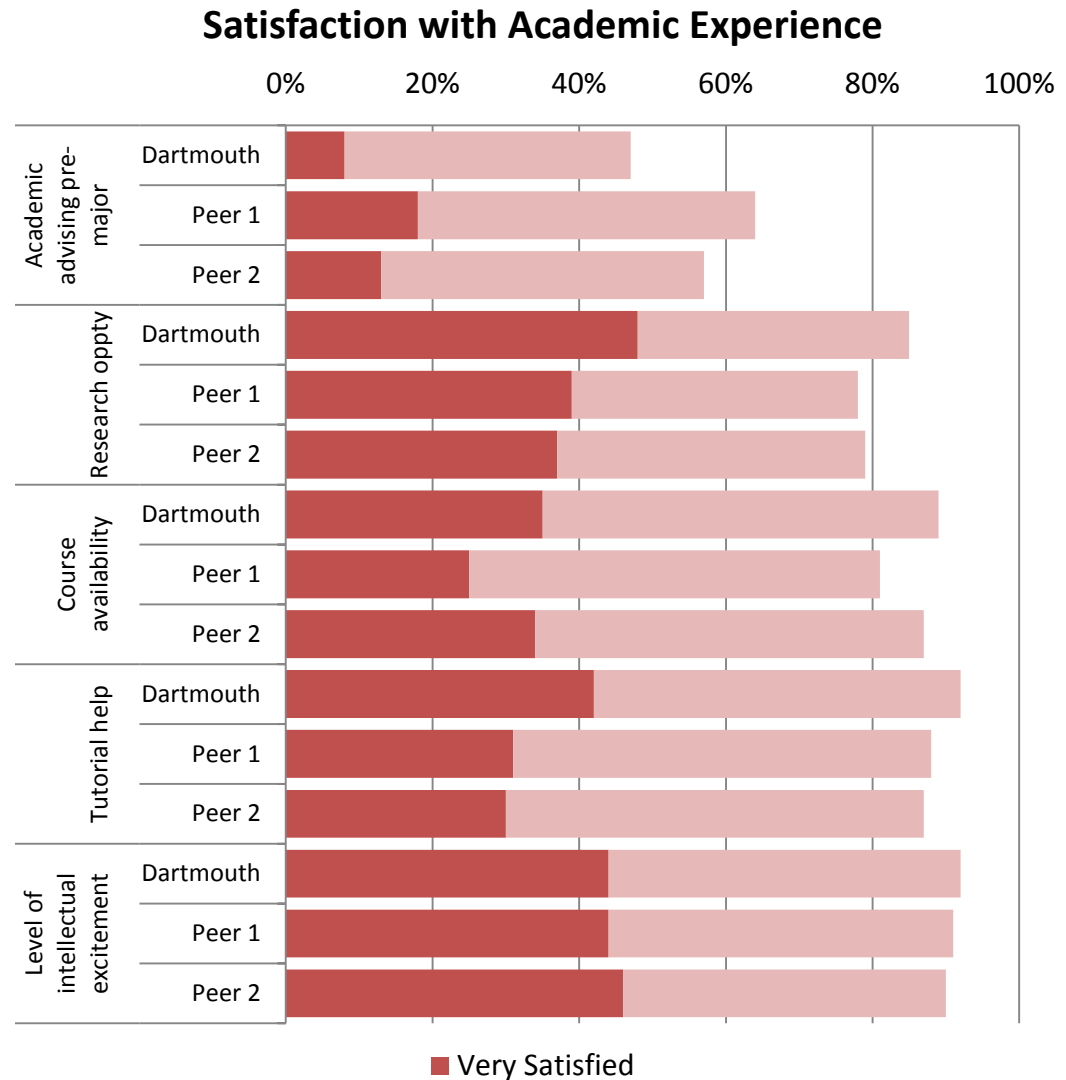
- For Dartmouth’s top 10 areas for improvement, we had higher rates of dissatisfaction compared to both peer groups for all items except the administration’s responsiveness to students.

Areas for Improvement “Very Dissatisfied”



Satisfaction with Academic Experiences

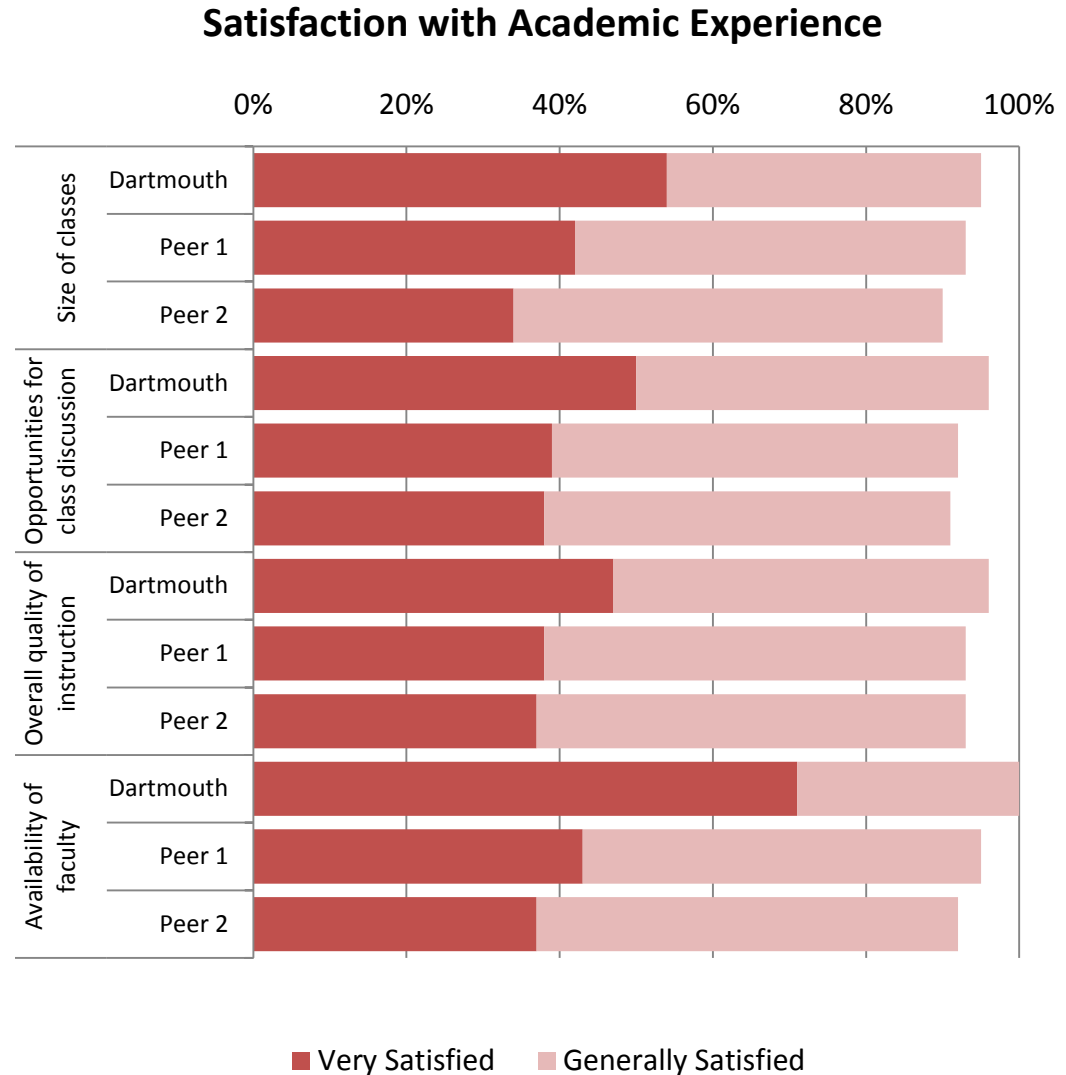
- Dartmouth outpaced peers in opportunities to conduct research with faculty, course availability, and tutorial help.
- Students at peer institutions were more satisfied with their pre-major advising.



Satisfaction with Academic Experiences (cont.)

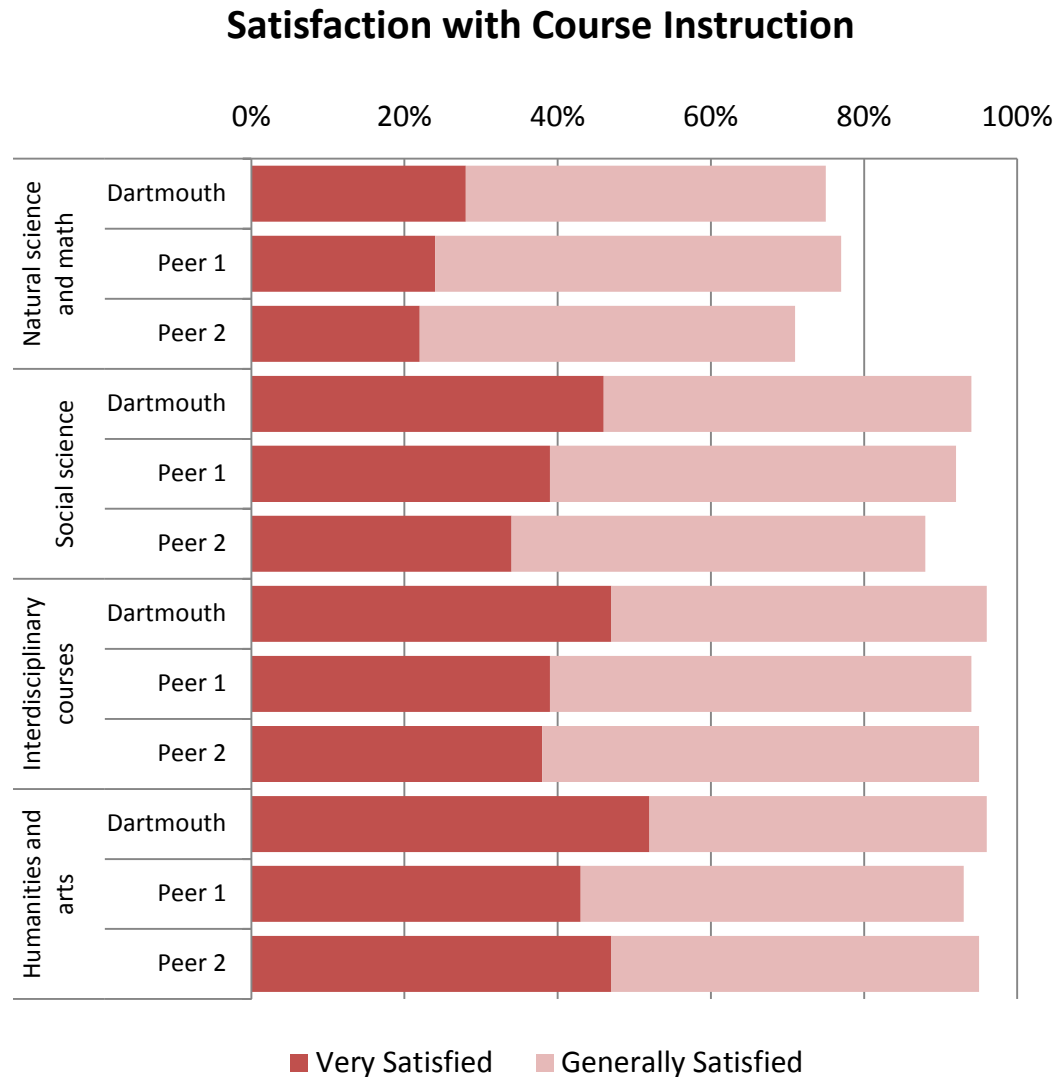
Dartmouth outpaced peers in all four areas:

- size of classes,
- opportunities for class discussion,
- overall quality of instruction,
- and faculty availability.



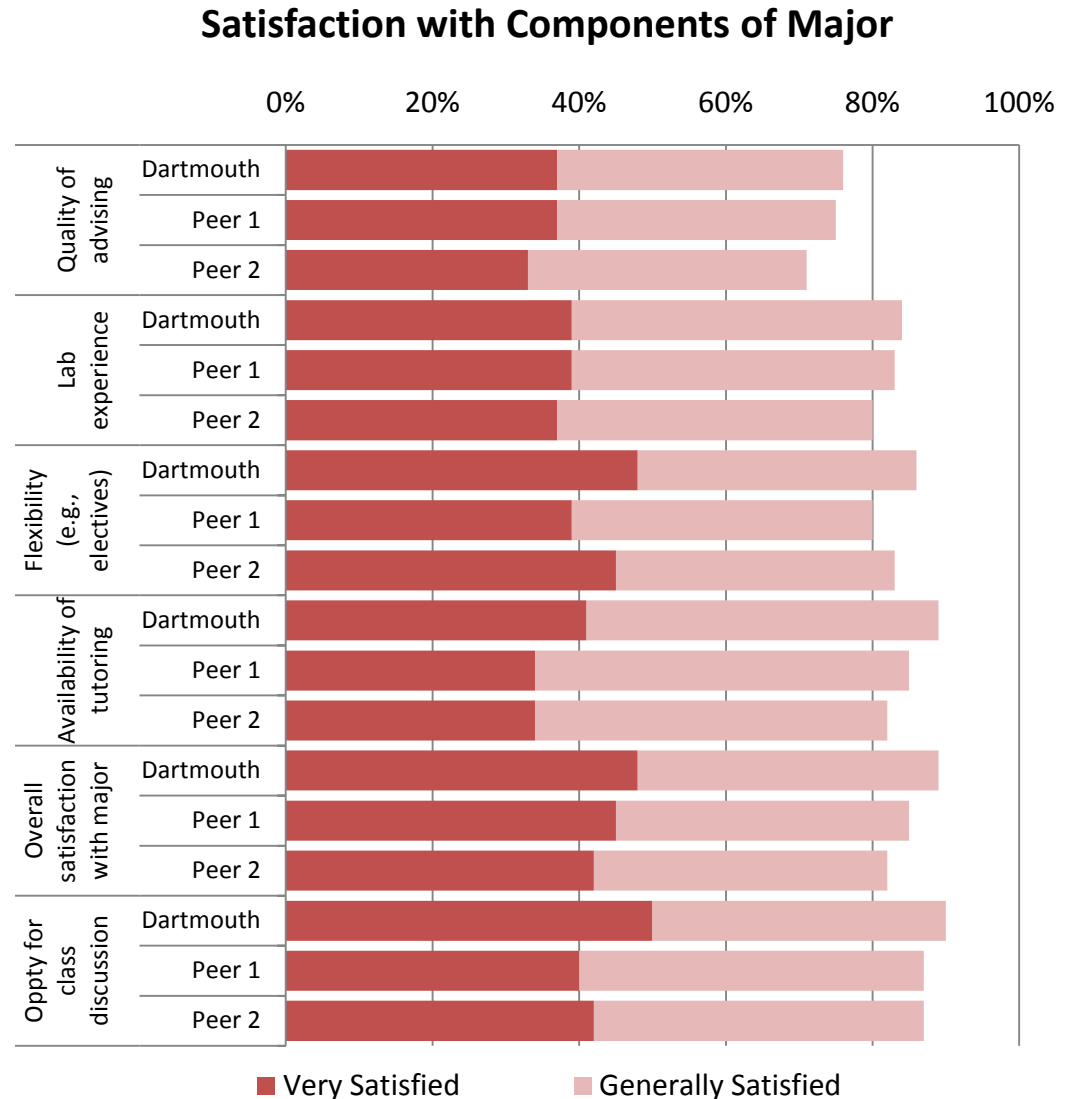
Satisfaction with Course Instruction

- Compared to peers, Dartmouth students were more satisfied with course instruction in all areas except natural science and math.



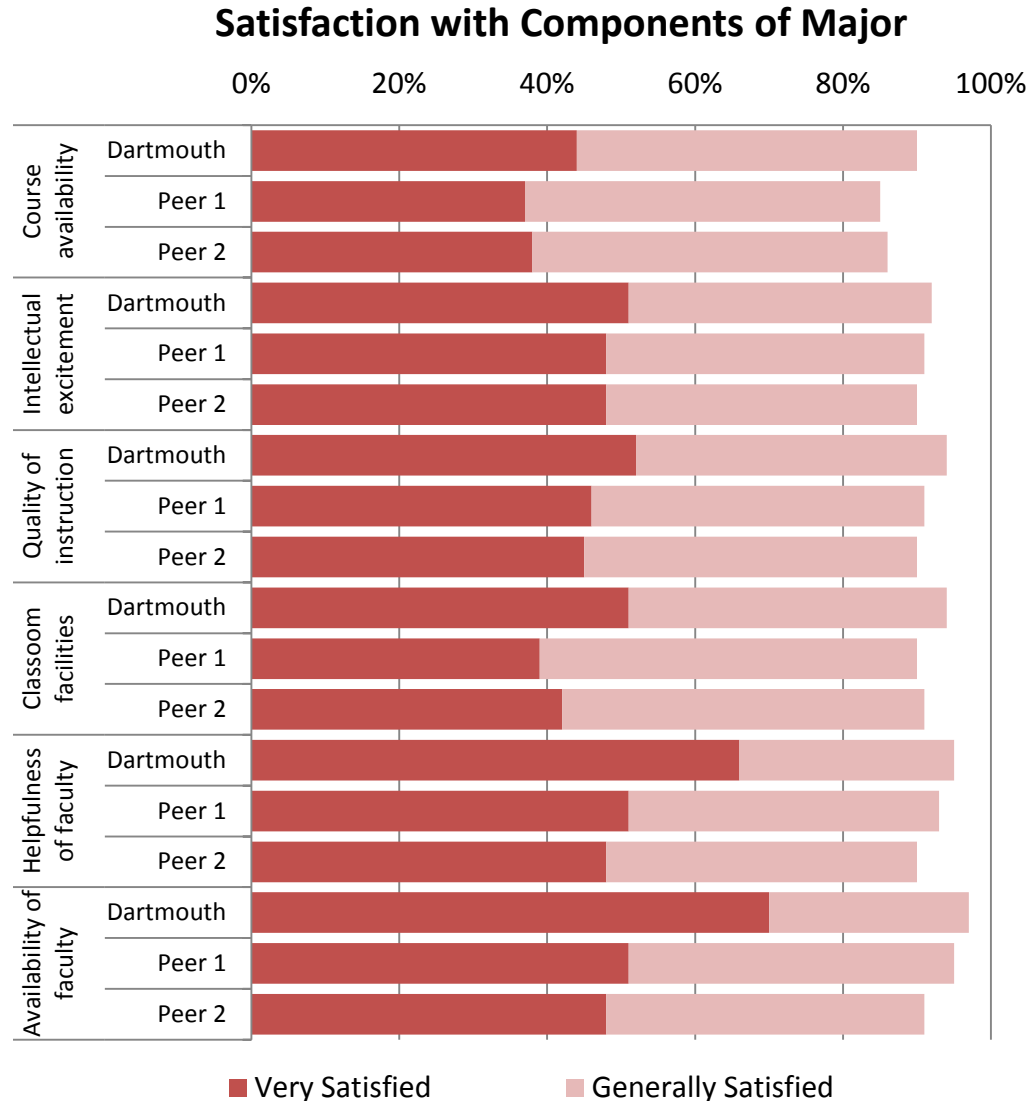
Satisfaction with Components of Major

- Dartmouth students were more satisfied overall with their major.
- Dartmouth students were also more satisfied with flexibility (e.g., electives), availability of tutoring, and opportunities for class discussion.



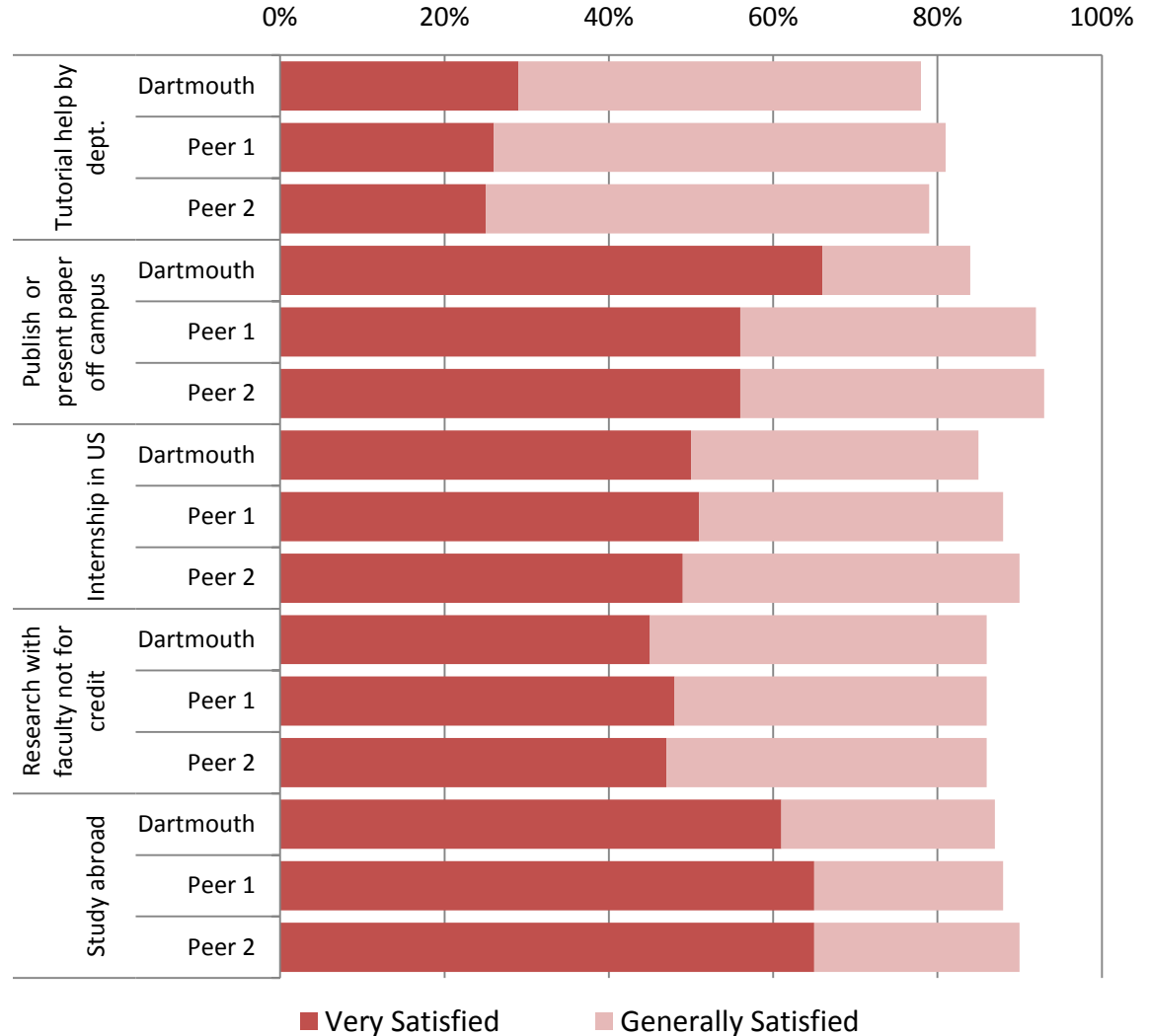
Satisfaction with Components of Major (cont.)

- Dartmouth students were most satisfied with faculty availability (97%), higher than both peer groups.
- Dartmouth students were also generally more satisfied than peers with course availability, intellectual excitement, quality of instruction, classroom facilities, and helpfulness of faculty.



Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

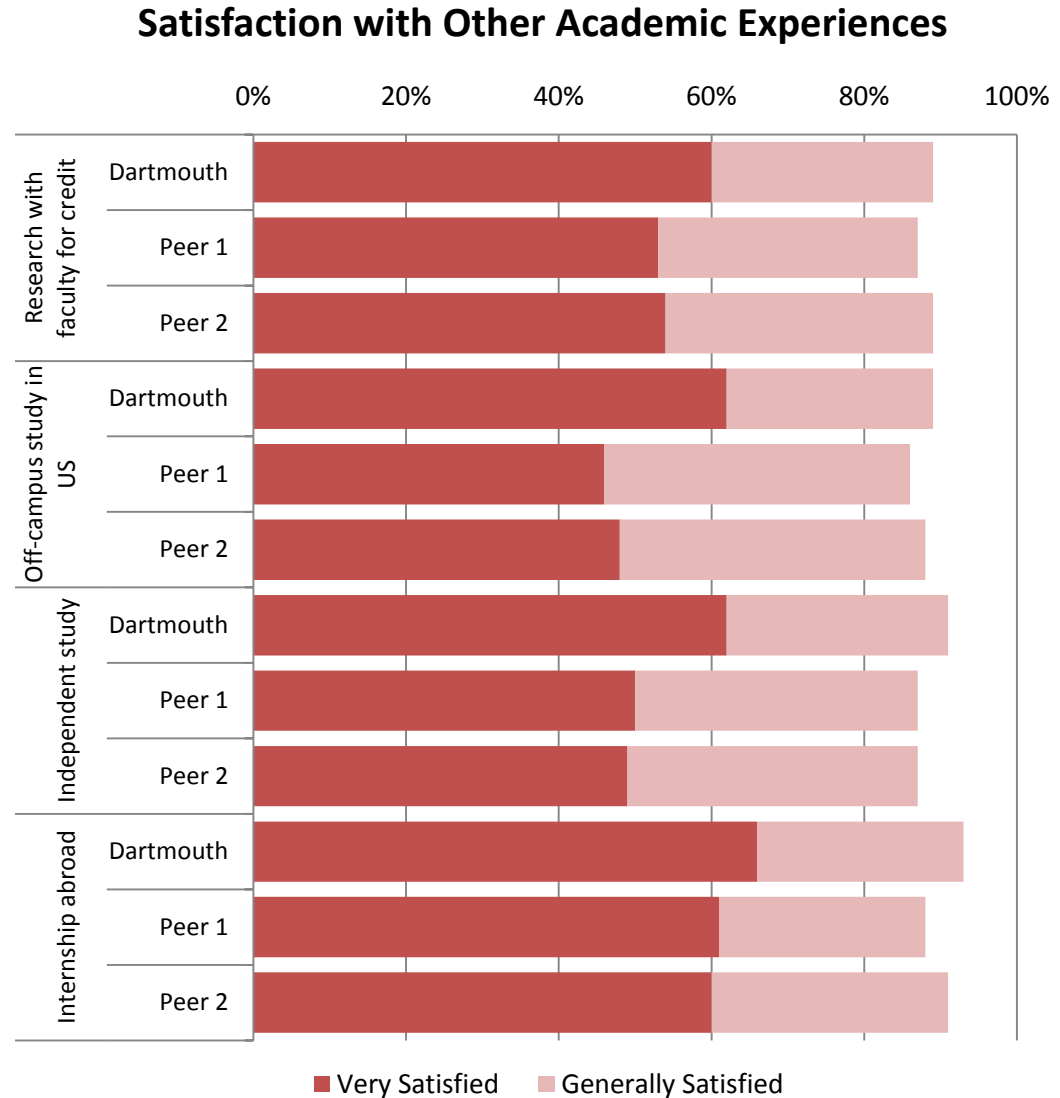


- Dartmouth students were less satisfied than students at peer institutions on publishing/presenting papers off campus.



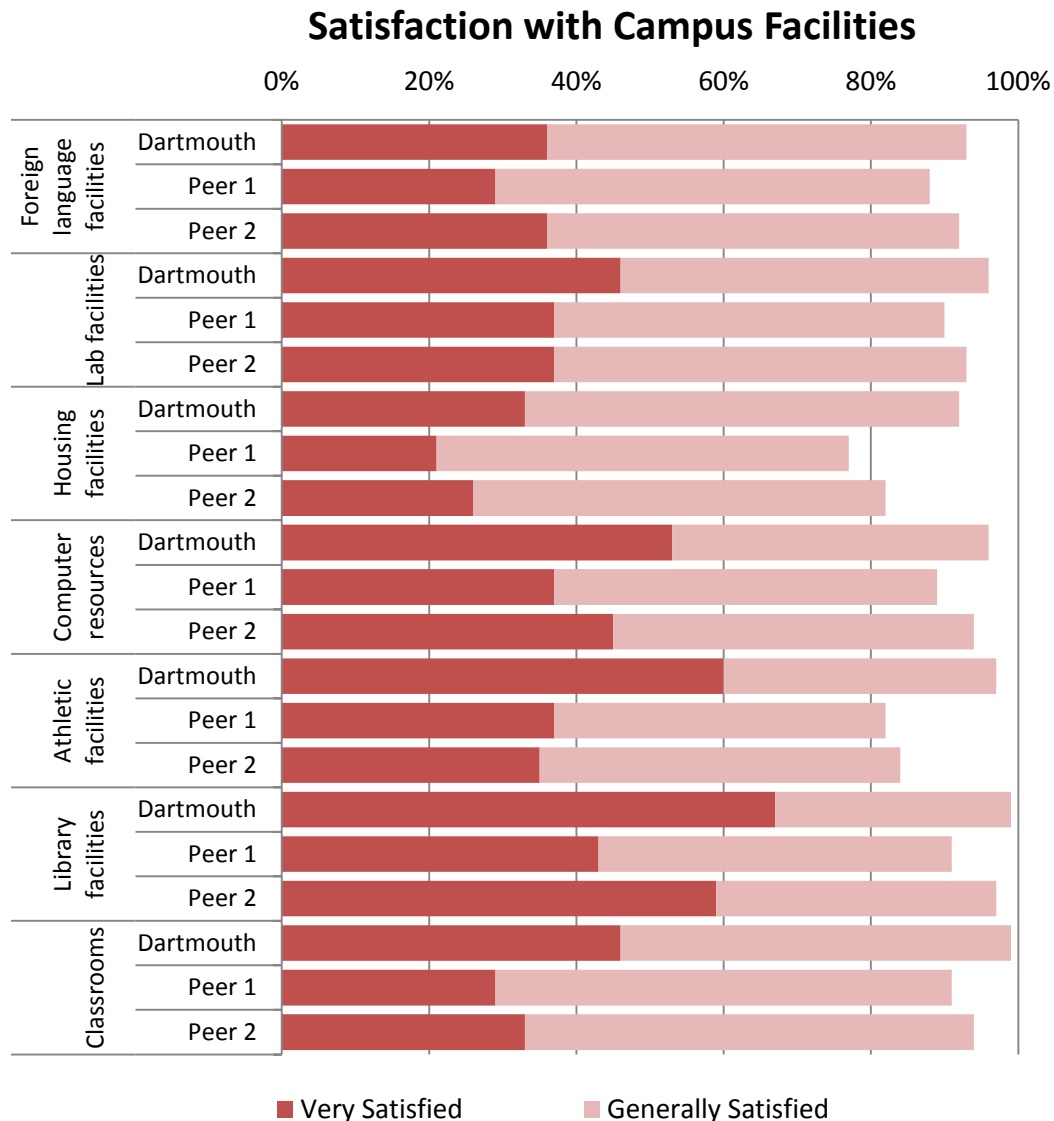
Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences (cont.)

- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with independent study and internships abroad compared to peers.



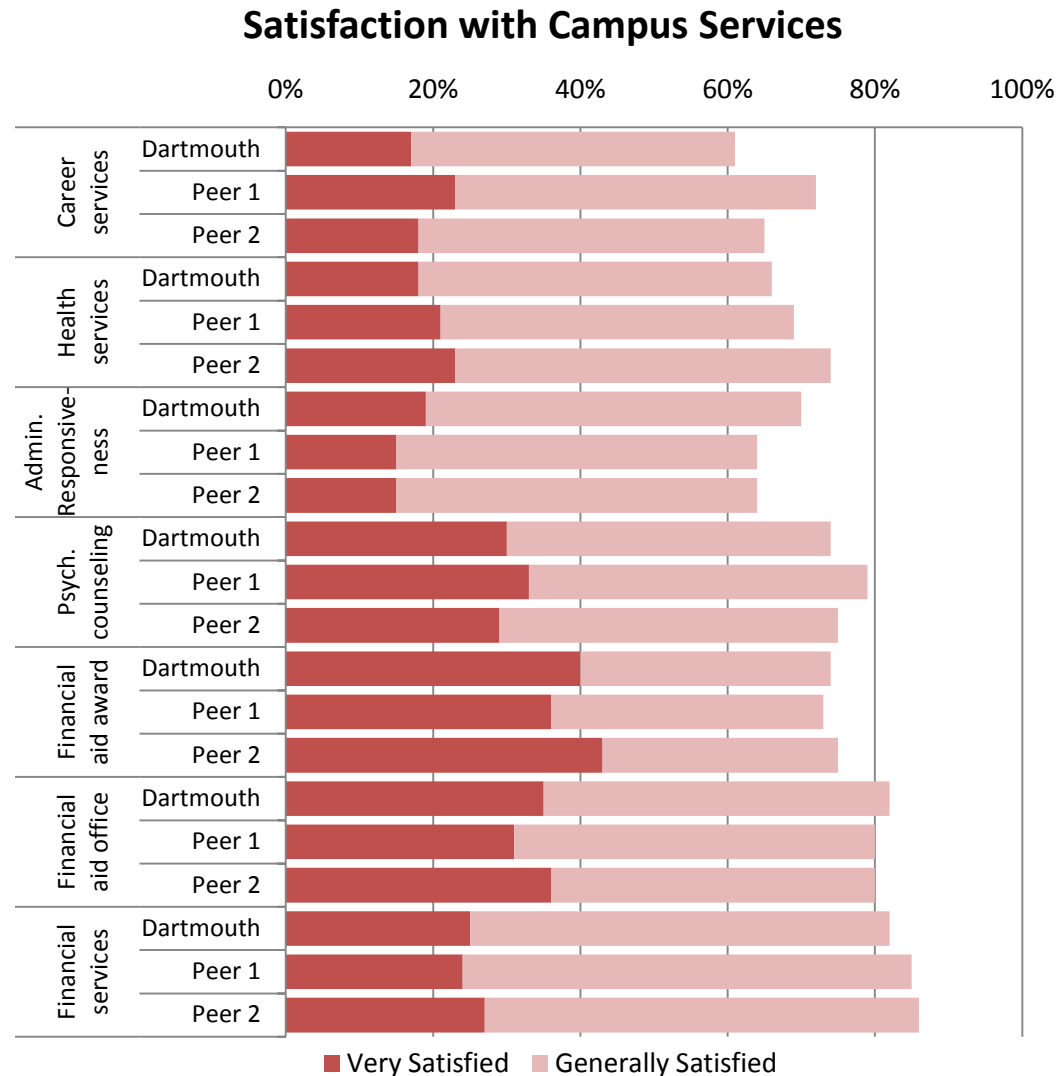
Satisfaction with Campus Facilities

- Overall, Dartmouth students were more satisfied with all campus facilities compared to peers.
- Dartmouth students were much more satisfied with athletic facilities (97%) and housing (92%) than students at peer institutions.



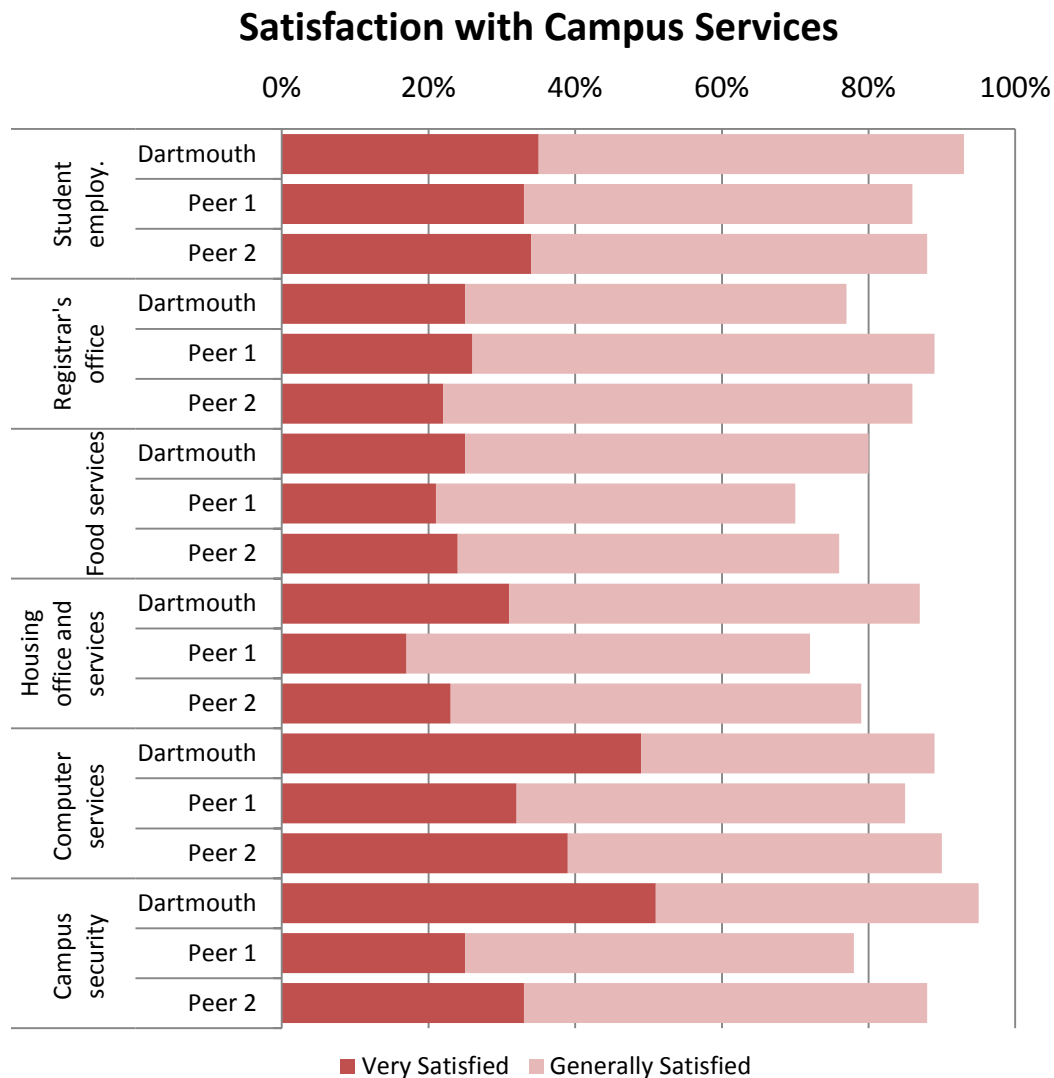
Satisfaction with Campus Services

- Compared to peers, Dartmouth students were less satisfied with career services, health services, and financial services, and financial services.
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with the administration's responsiveness.



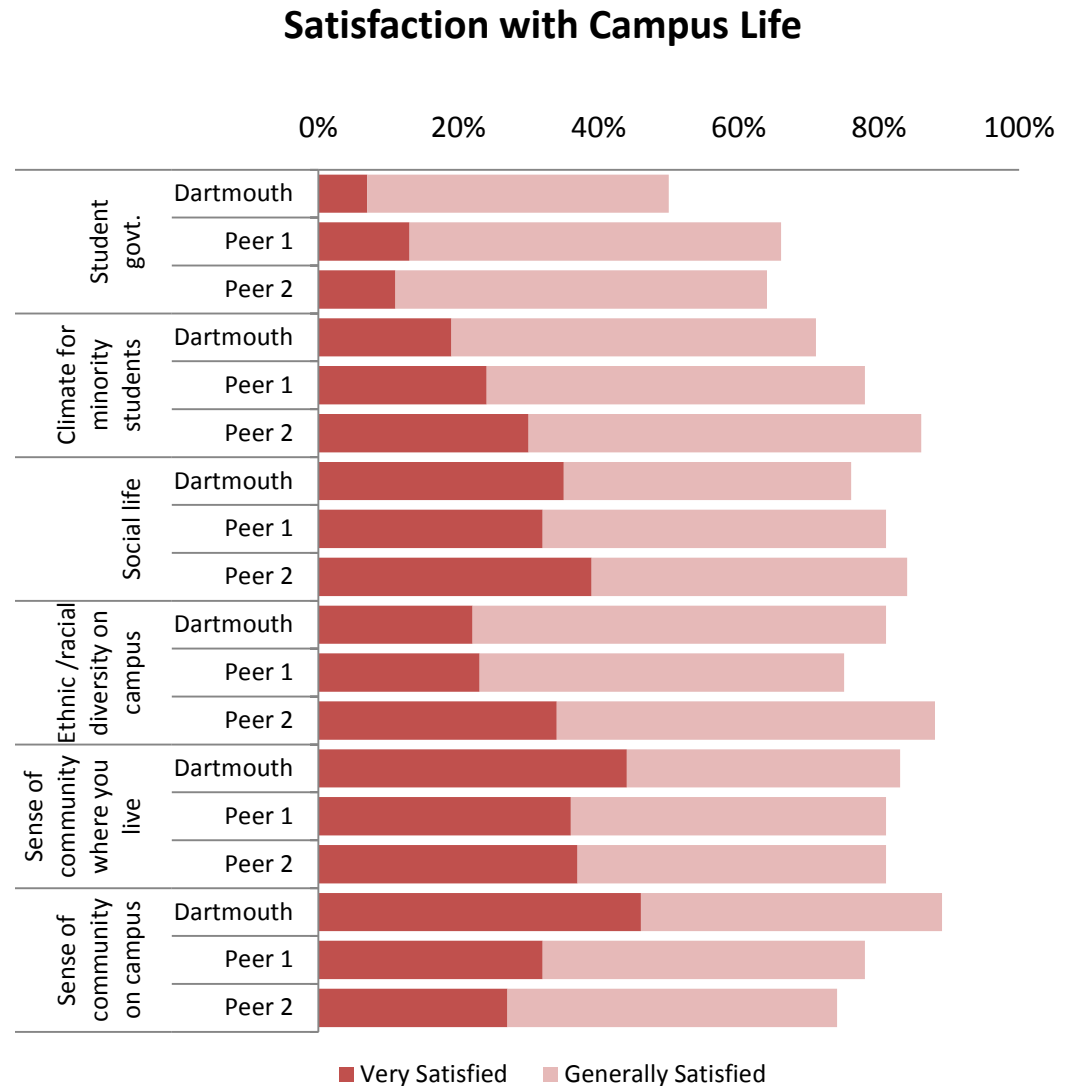
Satisfaction with Campus Services (cont.)

- Compared to peers, Dartmouth students were less satisfied with the registrar's office.
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with student employment, food services, the housing office and services, and campus security than students at peer institutions.



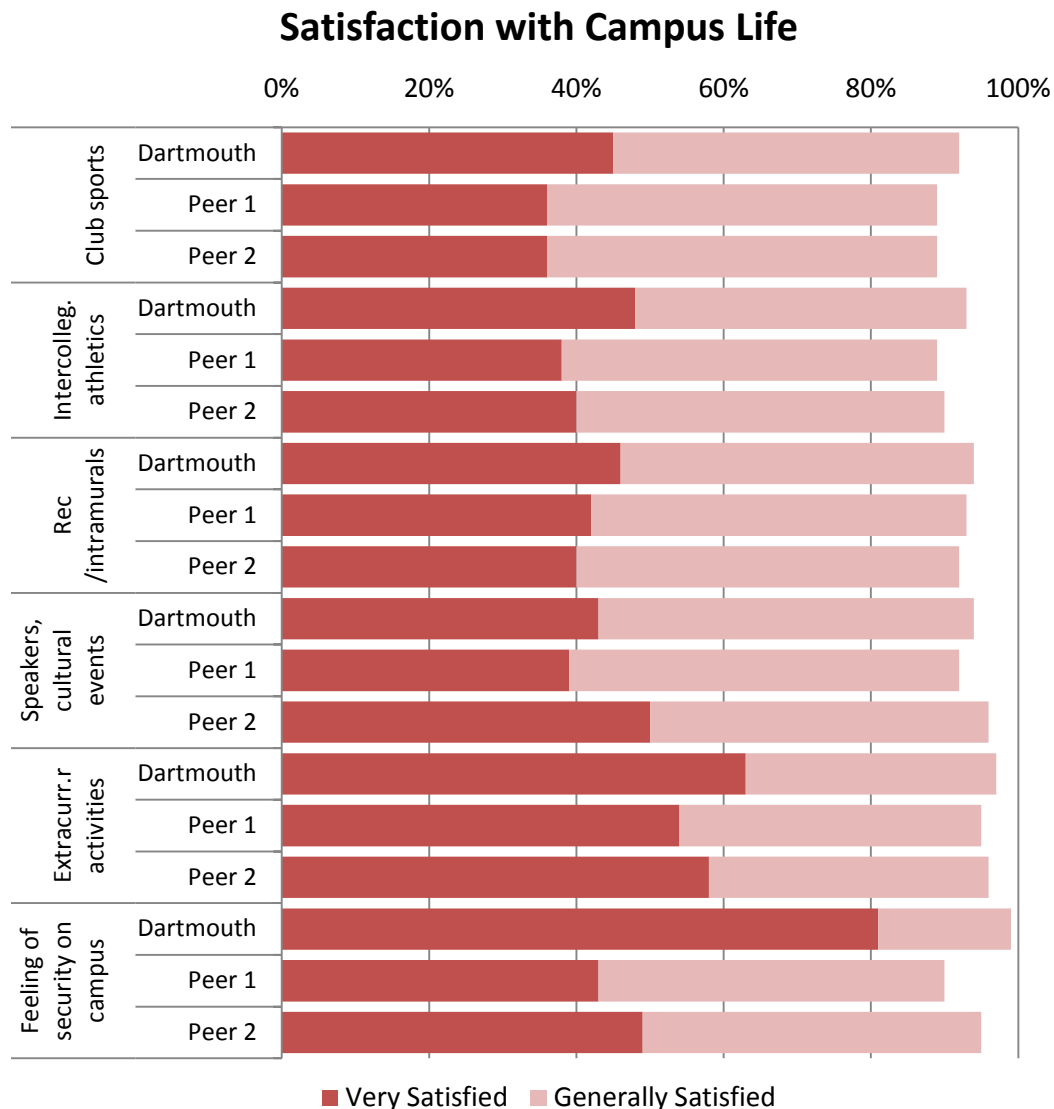
Satisfaction with Campus Life

- Compared to peers, Dartmouth students were less satisfied with student government, the climate for minority students, and social life.
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied than students at peer institutions with the sense of community where they live, and sense of community on campus.



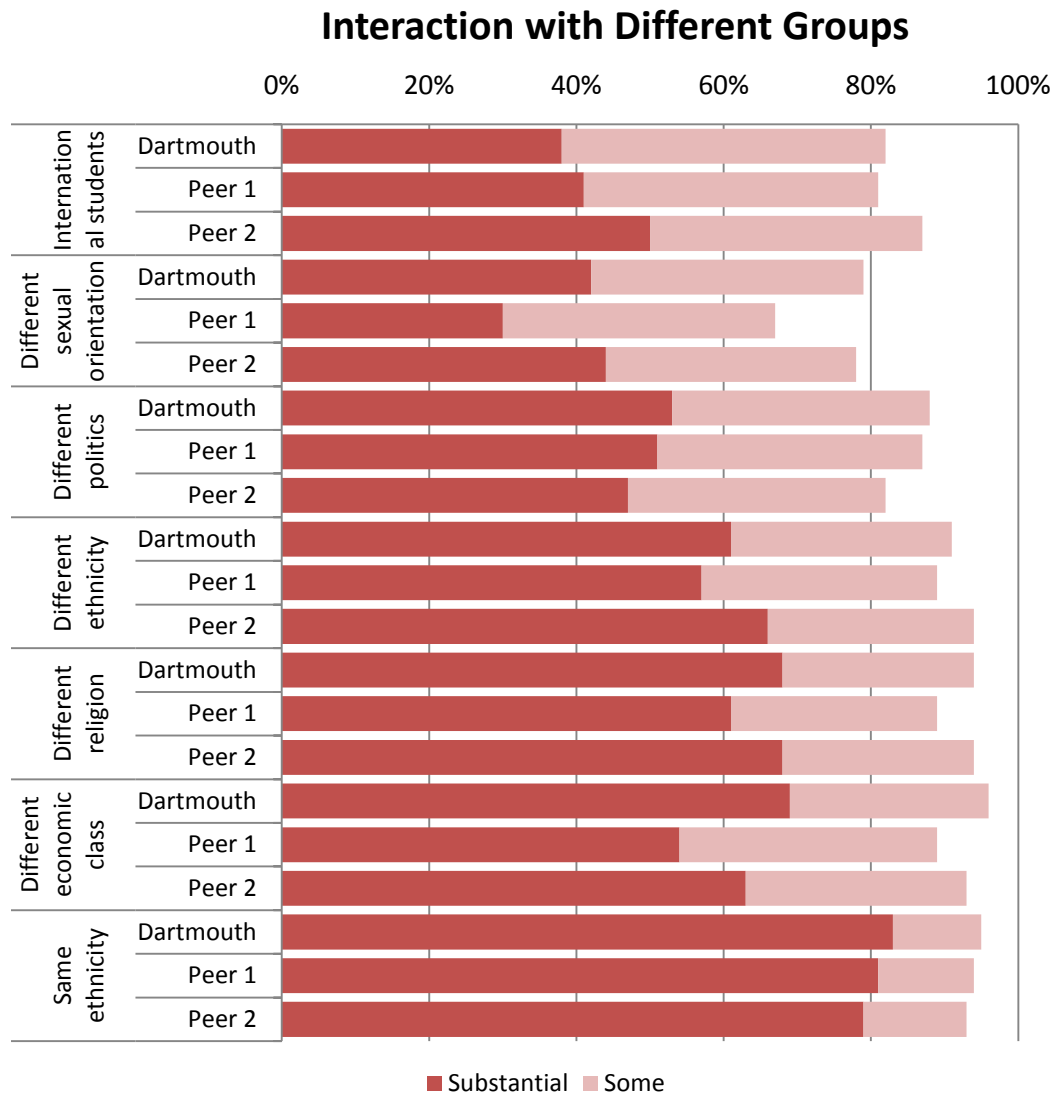
Satisfaction with Campus Life (cont.)

- For all the remaining campus life items, Dartmouth and peer students had comparable levels of high satisfaction (above 90%).
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied than both peer groups on feelings of security.



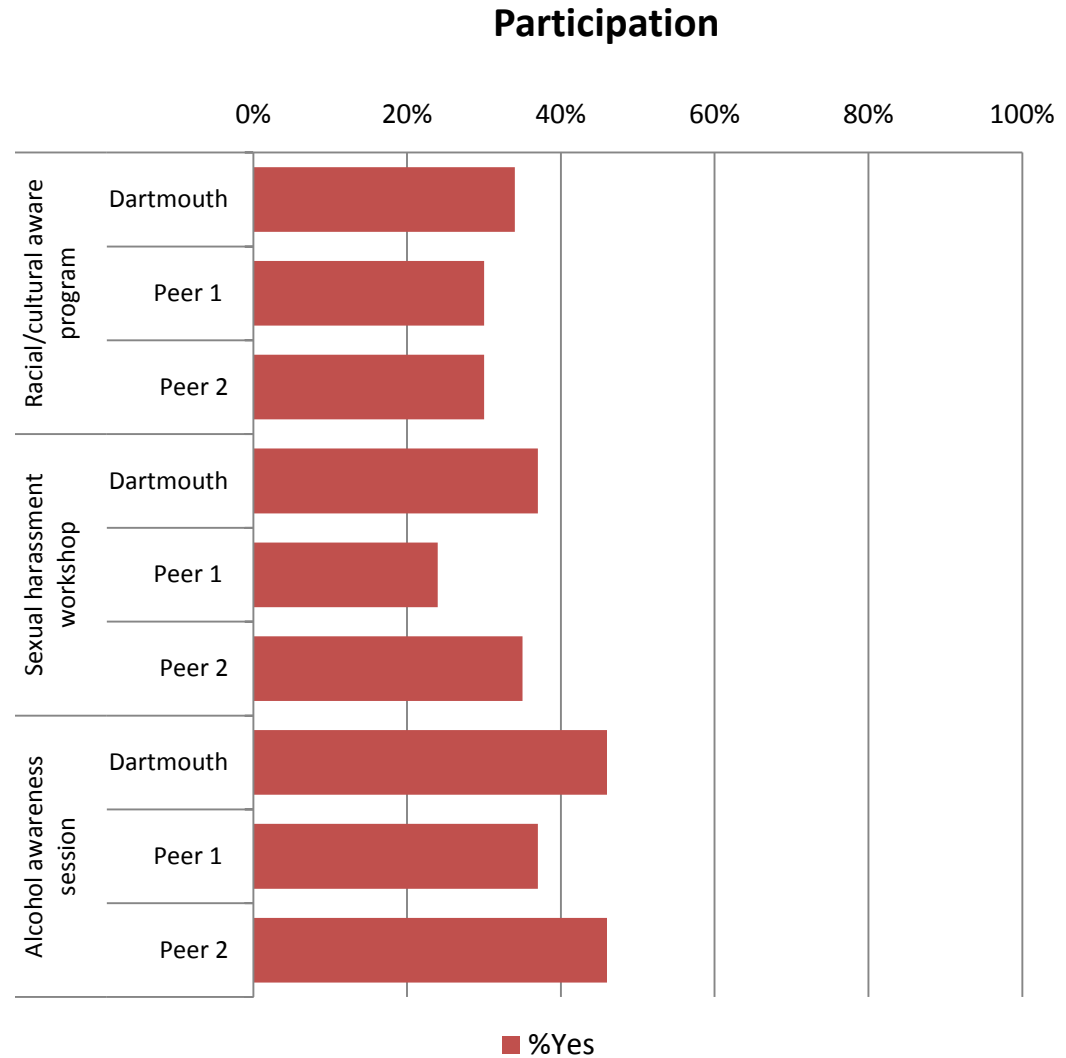
Interactions with Others

- There were no big differences between Dartmouth seniors and peers regarding interacting with other groups.



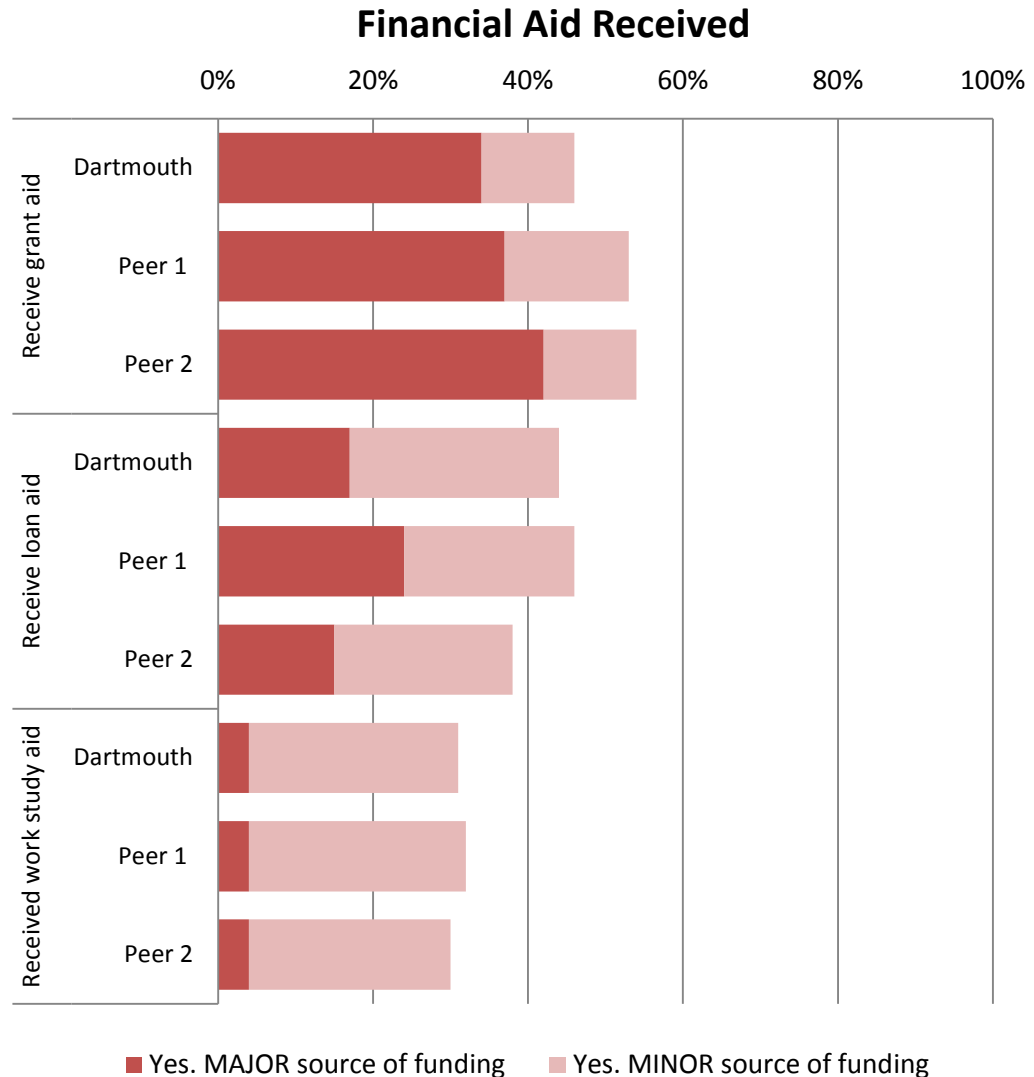
Participation

- Dartmouth students participated more often than peers in all program types.

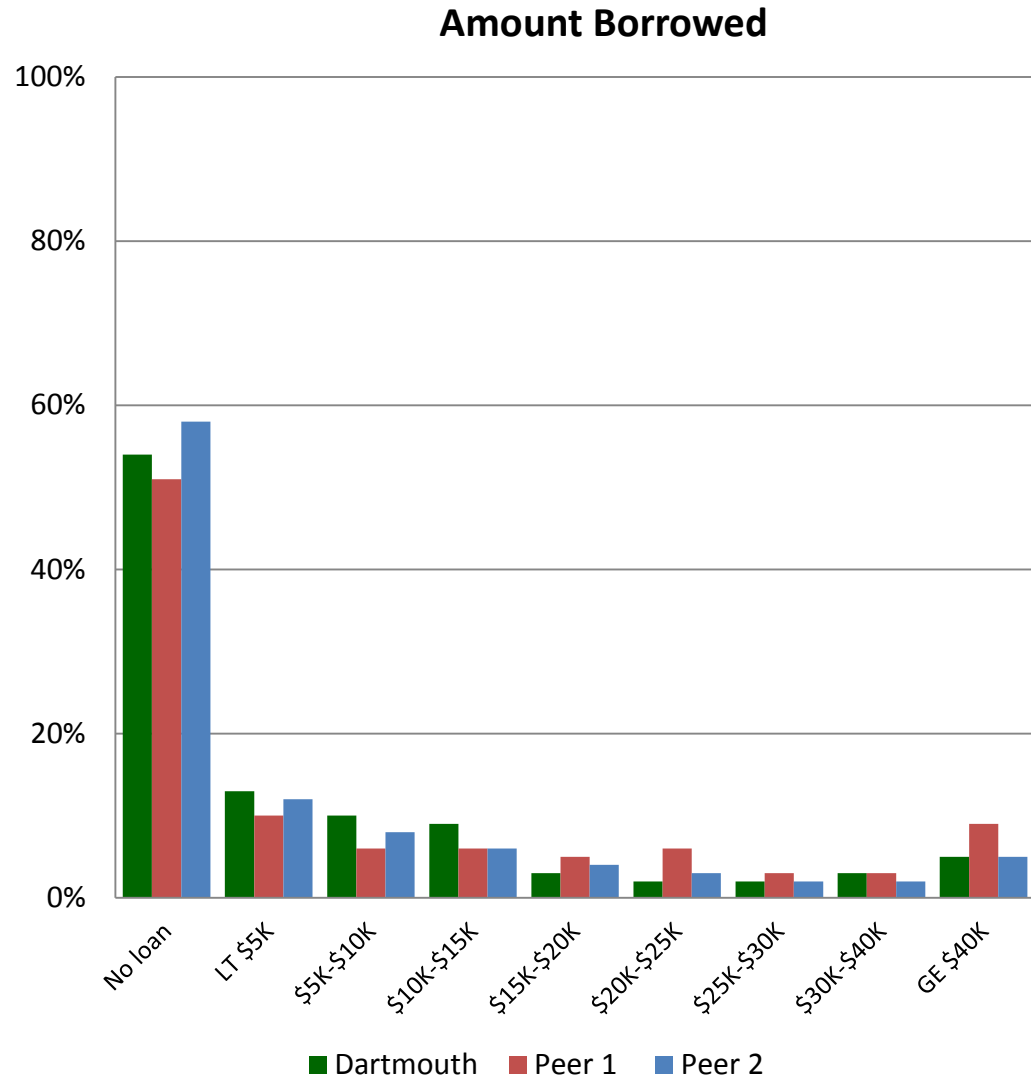


Financial Aid

- A smaller percentage (46%) of Dartmouth students received grant aid compared to students in both peer groups.

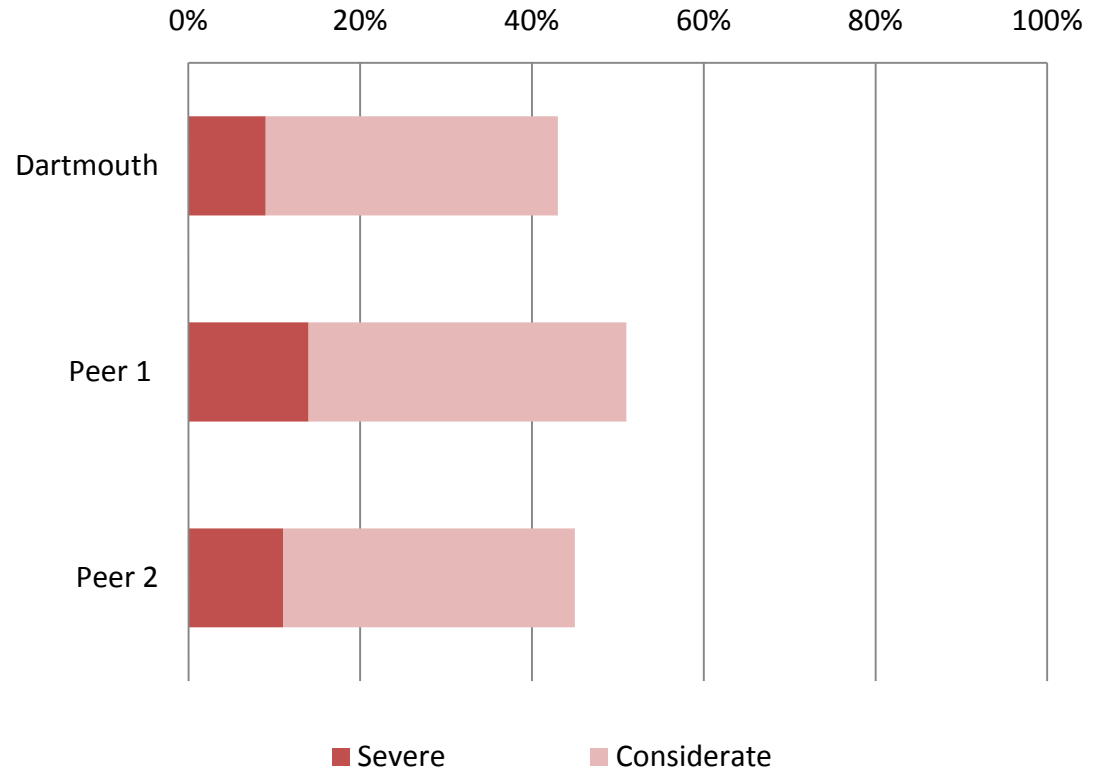


- Dartmouth seniors who did borrow money tended to owe less than peers.



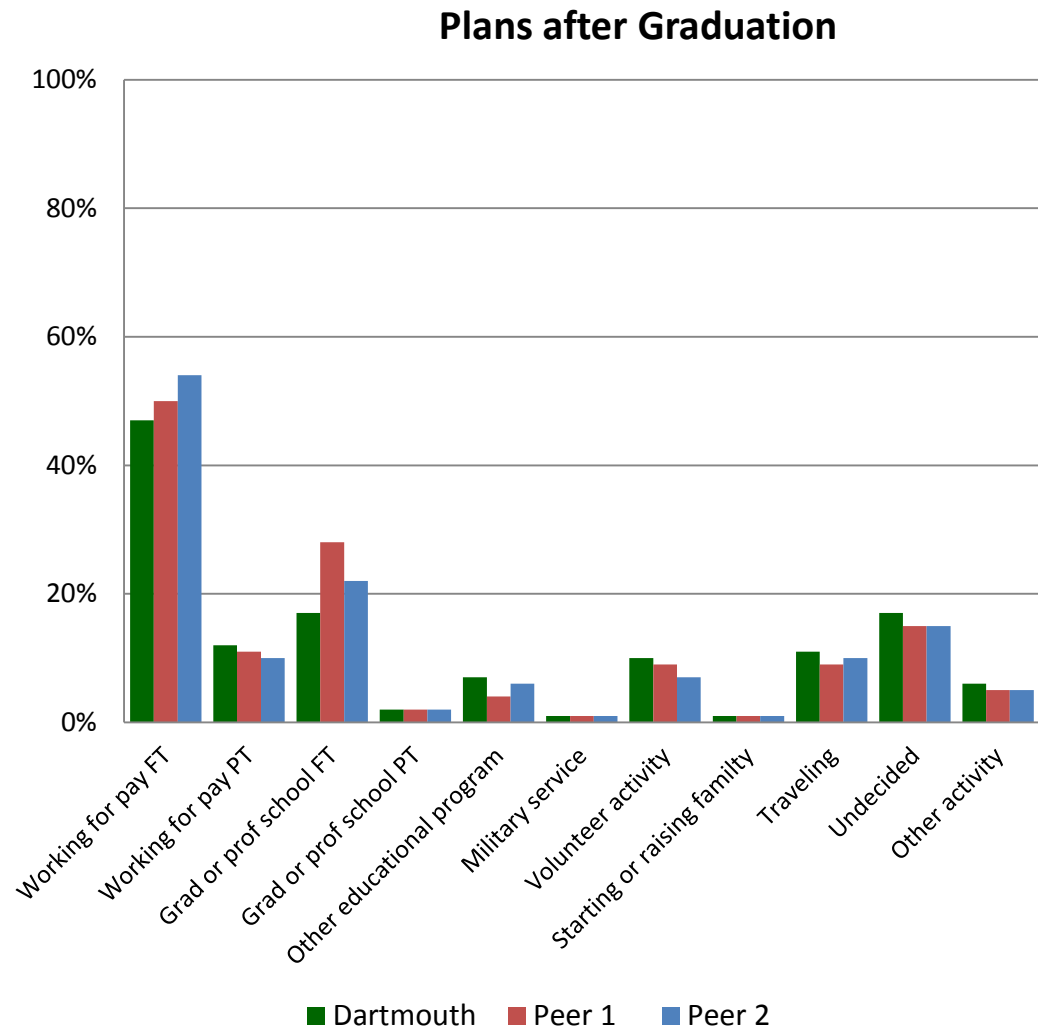
- Seniors from Peer 1 institutions perceived greater family impact of paying for their education than seniors from Dartmouth or Peer 2 institutions.

Impact on Family of Paying for your Education



Plans for the Fall

- Forty-seven percent of all respondents were planning on full-time employment during the upcoming Fall.
- A smaller percentage of Dartmouth seniors (17%) planned on attending graduate or professional school full-time compared to seniors at both Peer 1 (28%) and Peer 2 (22%) institutions.



Summary

- While 95% of students were very or generally satisfied overall, only 84% would definitely or probably recommend Dartmouth to a high school student who resembled him/her.
- Of the top 10 items students were satisfied with, seven were academic and three were related to a campus facility (library) or campus life (opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities; feeling of security on campus).
- Of the top 10 items that Dartmouth could improve on three were academic items, while the rest fell into the campus services area.

Summary

- Compared to peers, a smaller percentage of Dartmouth students received grant aid.
- Of students who did borrow, the largest percentage borrowed less than \$5k, and 43% reported that the impact on their family of paying for their education would be considerate or severe.
- Forty-seven percent of the students plan on working full-time in the fall while 17% plan on attending graduate or professional school.

Summary

- Dartmouth students report higher satisfaction than their peers in many components of academic experiences, instruction, major, and facilities.
- Dartmouth students interacted with different groups at higher rates and also participated more often in various programs related to racial/cultural awareness, sexual harassment, and alcohol awareness, than their peers.
- Dartmouth students rated a number of components lower than peers in the area of campus services and campus life.