



# FINDINGS FROM THE 2012 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.

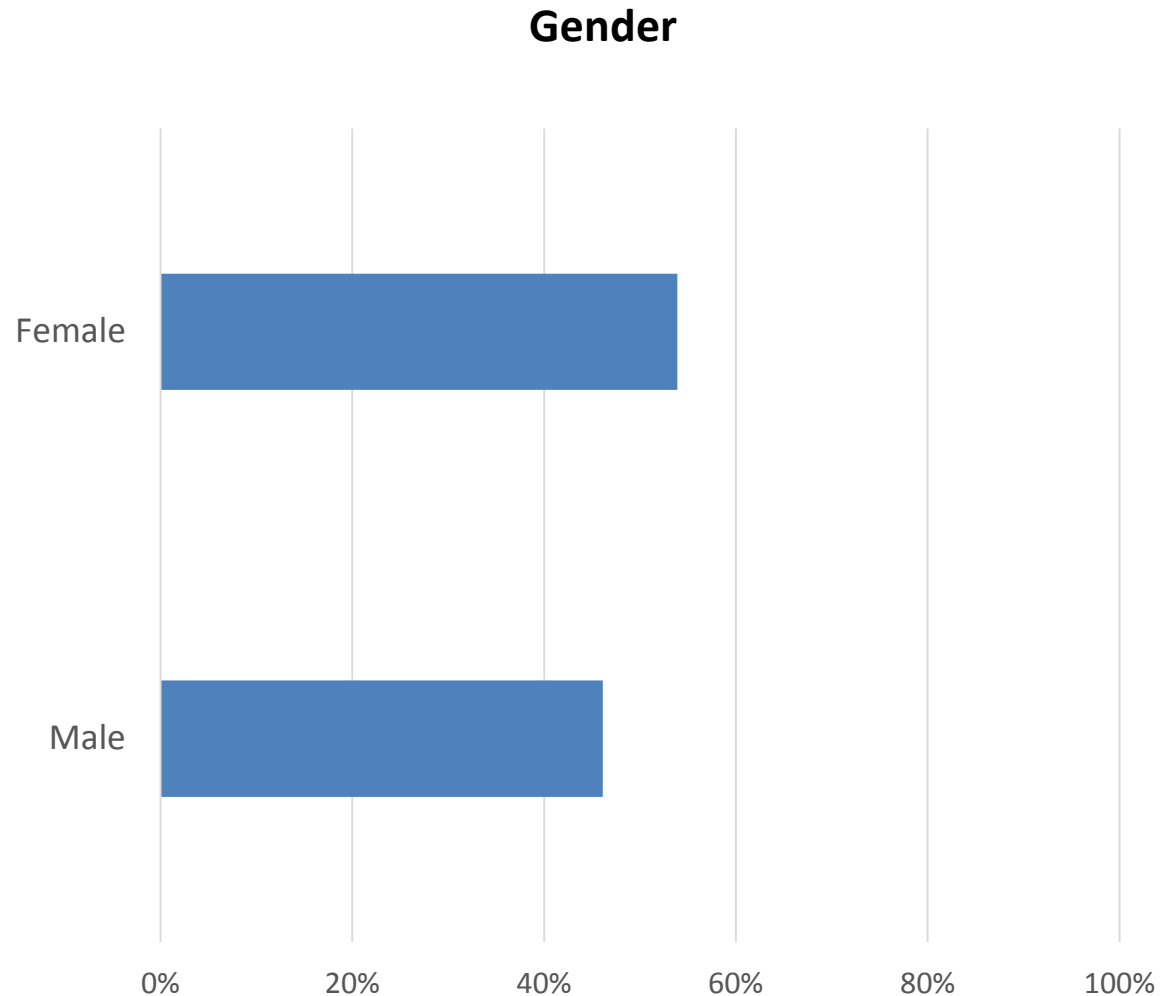
# Definition of Peer Groups

- Thirty-one highly selective, private colleges and universities participated in the 2012 Senior Survey. We selected 14 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=10) and Peer 2 Group includes participating Ivy League schools (n=4).

# Survey Methodology

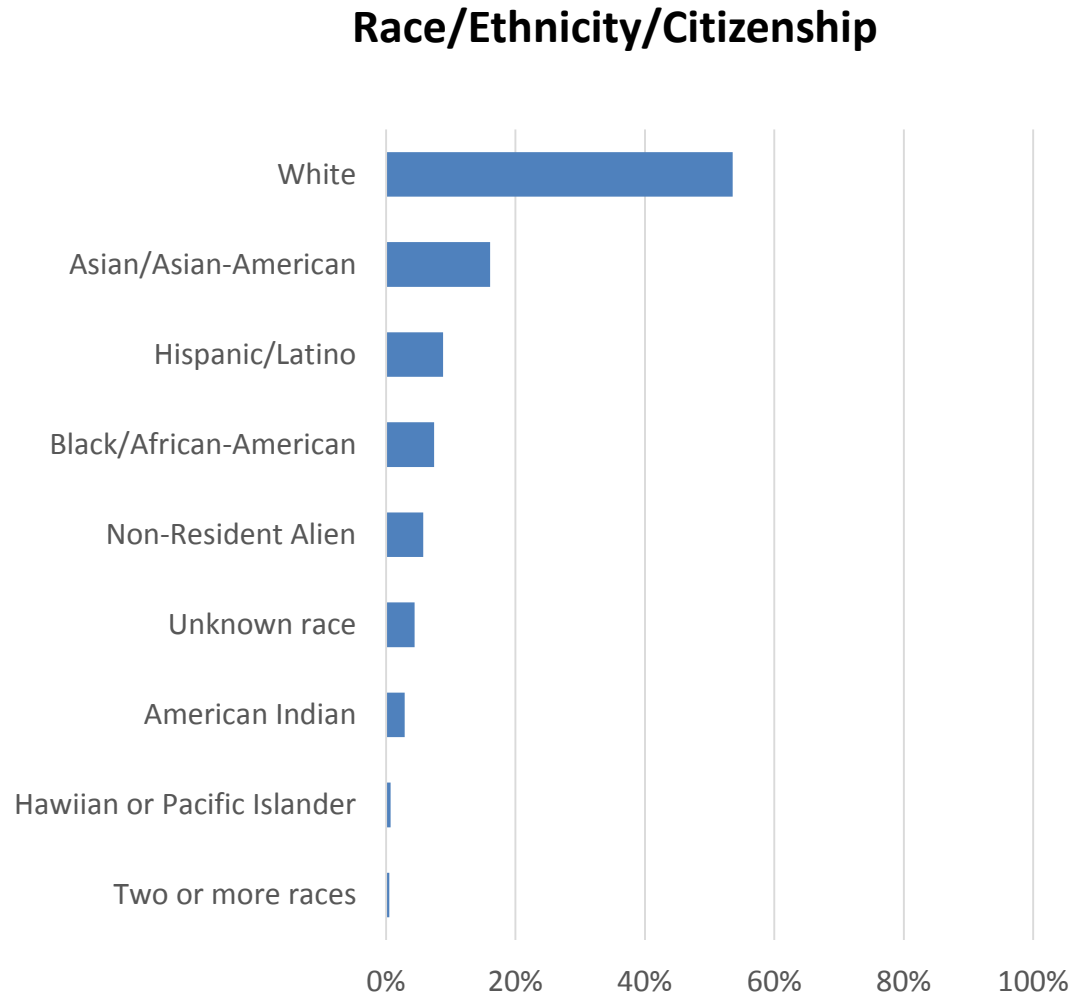
- The 2012 Senior Survey was emailed to 1,118 seniors. Of those email addresses, 40 bounced back for a total population of 1,078 receiving the survey.
- Dartmouth's response rate was 55% (n=592).
- While slightly more women and white students responded to the survey, the responding seniors were generally representative of the population of graduating seniors.

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



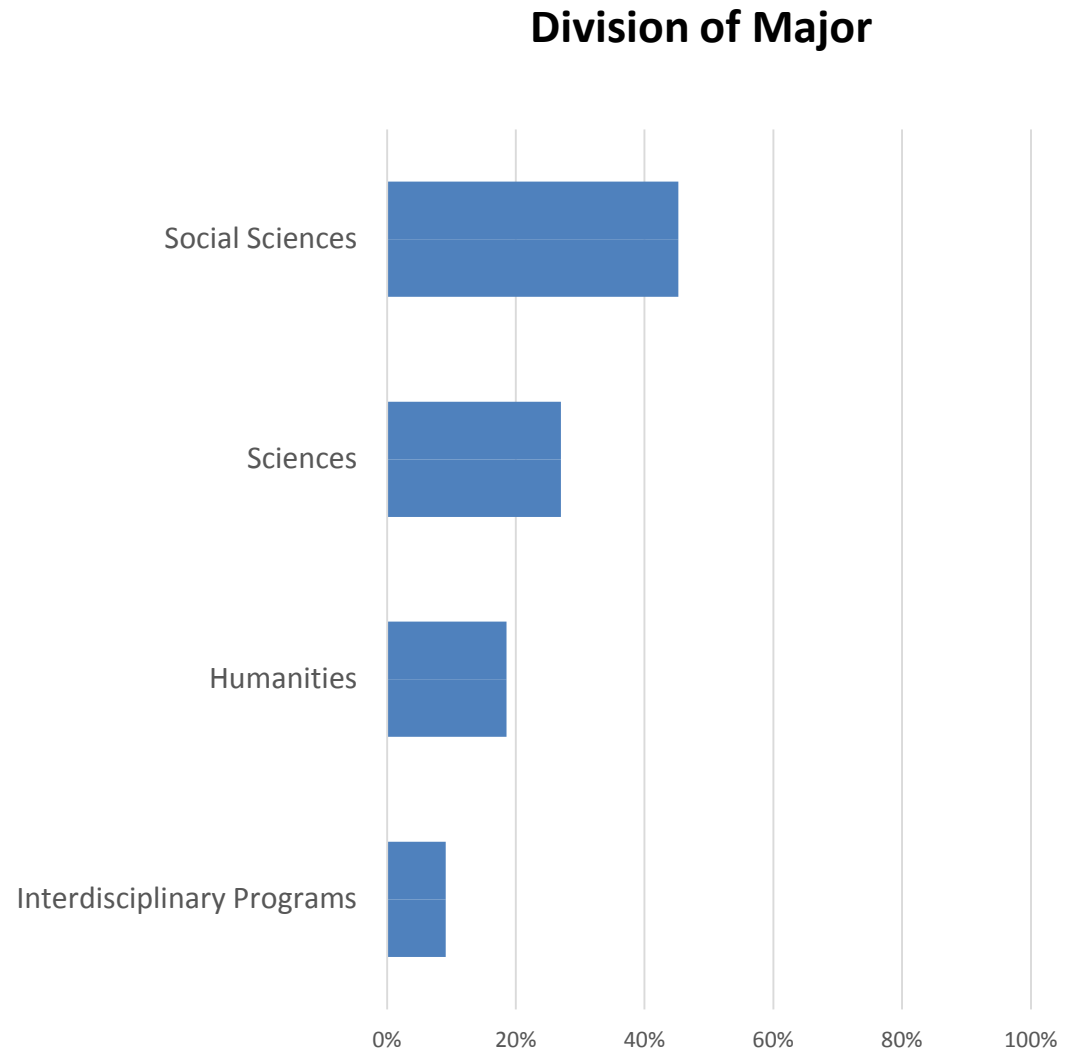
# Race and Ethnicity

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





- Social science majors were over-represented in the sample while interdisciplinary majors were under-represented.



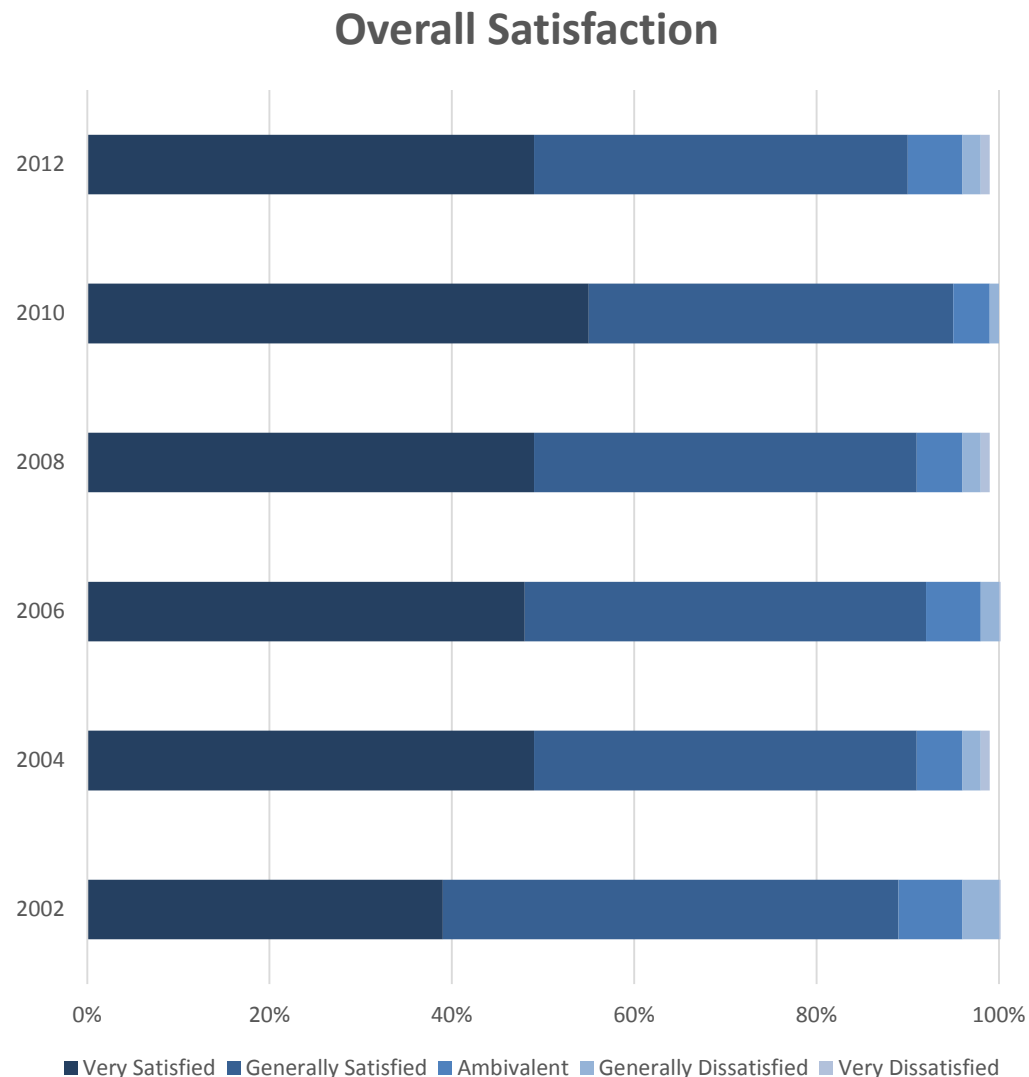


# SATISFACTION & EXPERIENCES



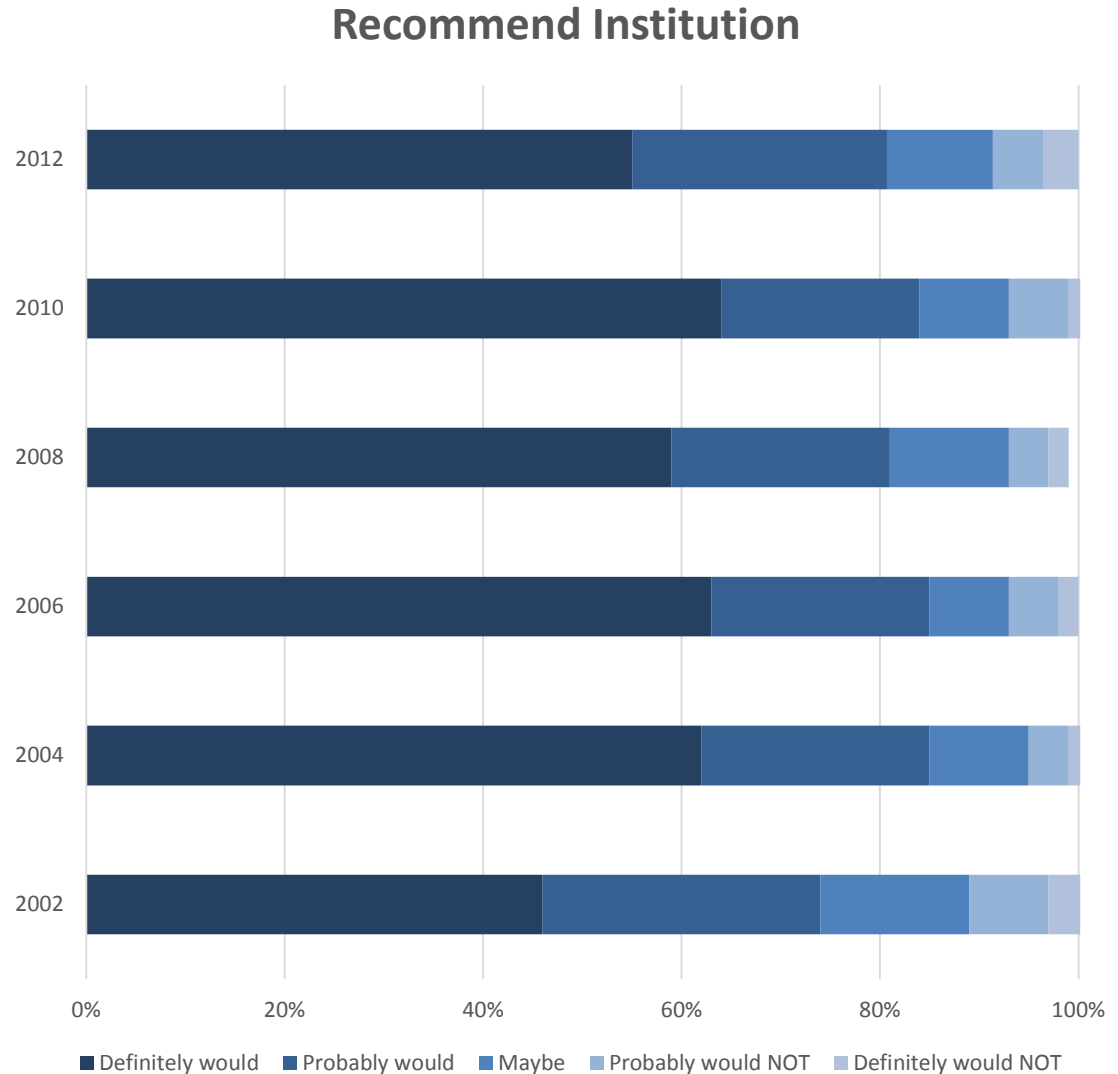
# Overall Satisfaction with Dartmouth College

- Overall satisfaction with the college experience decreased from 2010 and returned to 2008 levels.



# Recommendation of Dartmouth College

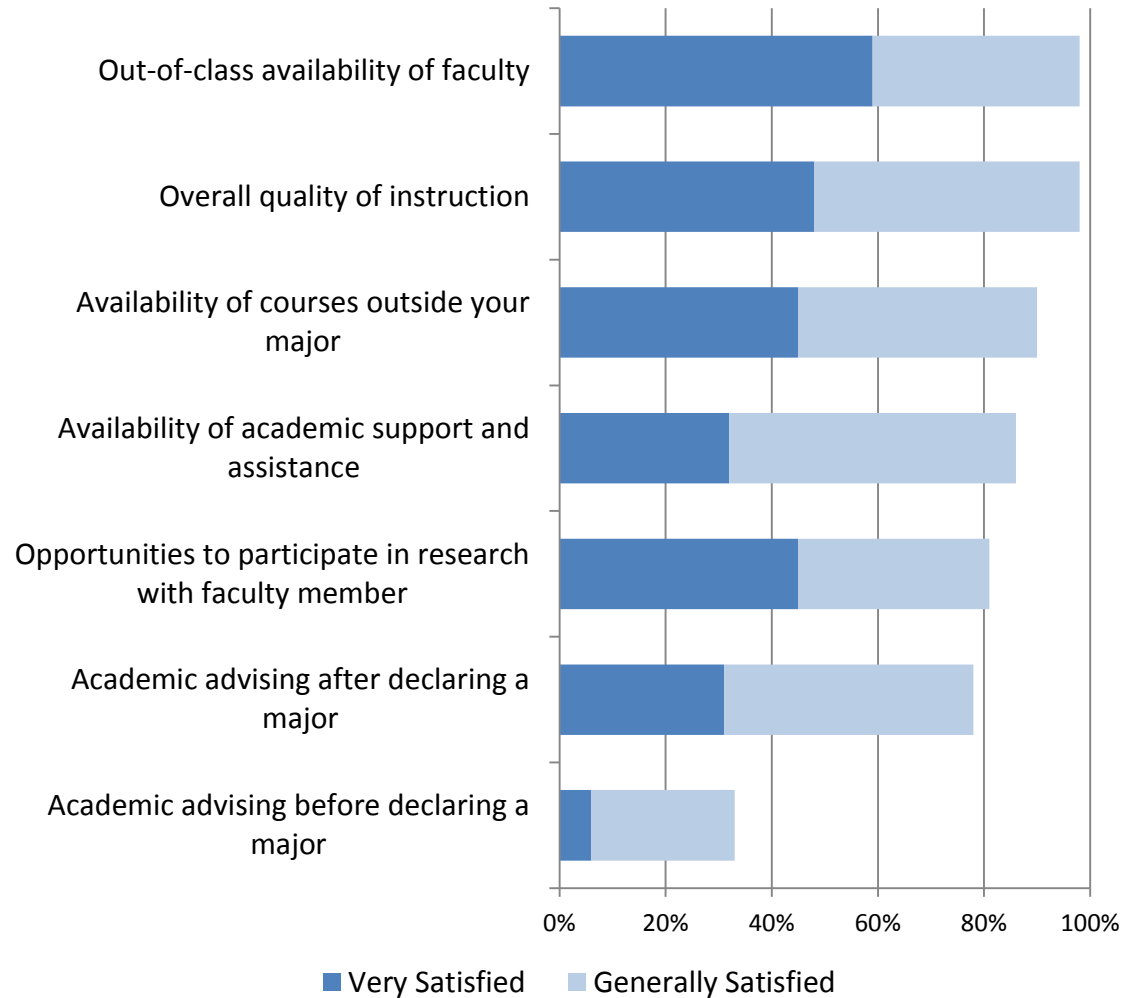
- In 2012, 81% of Dartmouth seniors would recommend Dartmouth to other students, which is on par with previous administrations of the survey.



# Satisfaction with Academic Experience

- More than 90% of Dartmouth seniors were satisfied with the overall quality of instruction (98%) and the availability of faculty (98%), while 92% were satisfied with course availability.

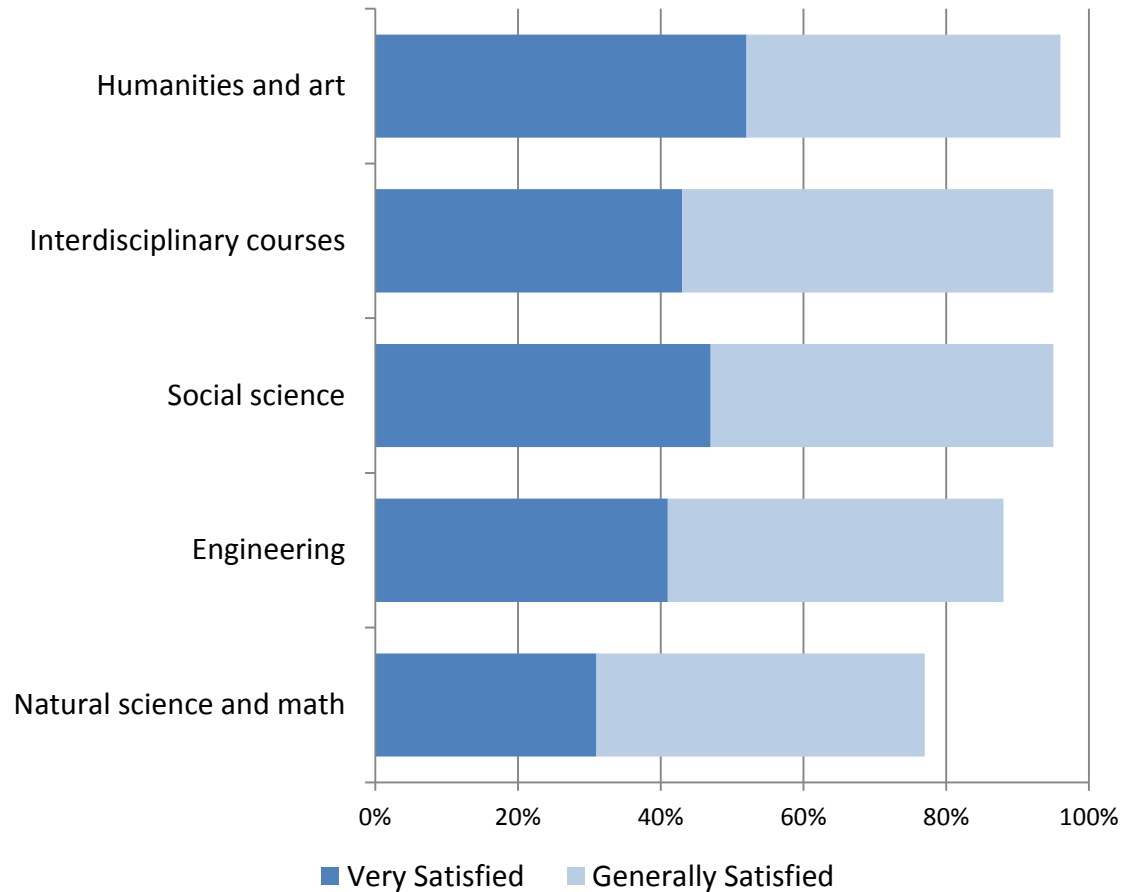
## Satisfaction with Academic Experience



# Satisfaction with Academic Experience (cont.)

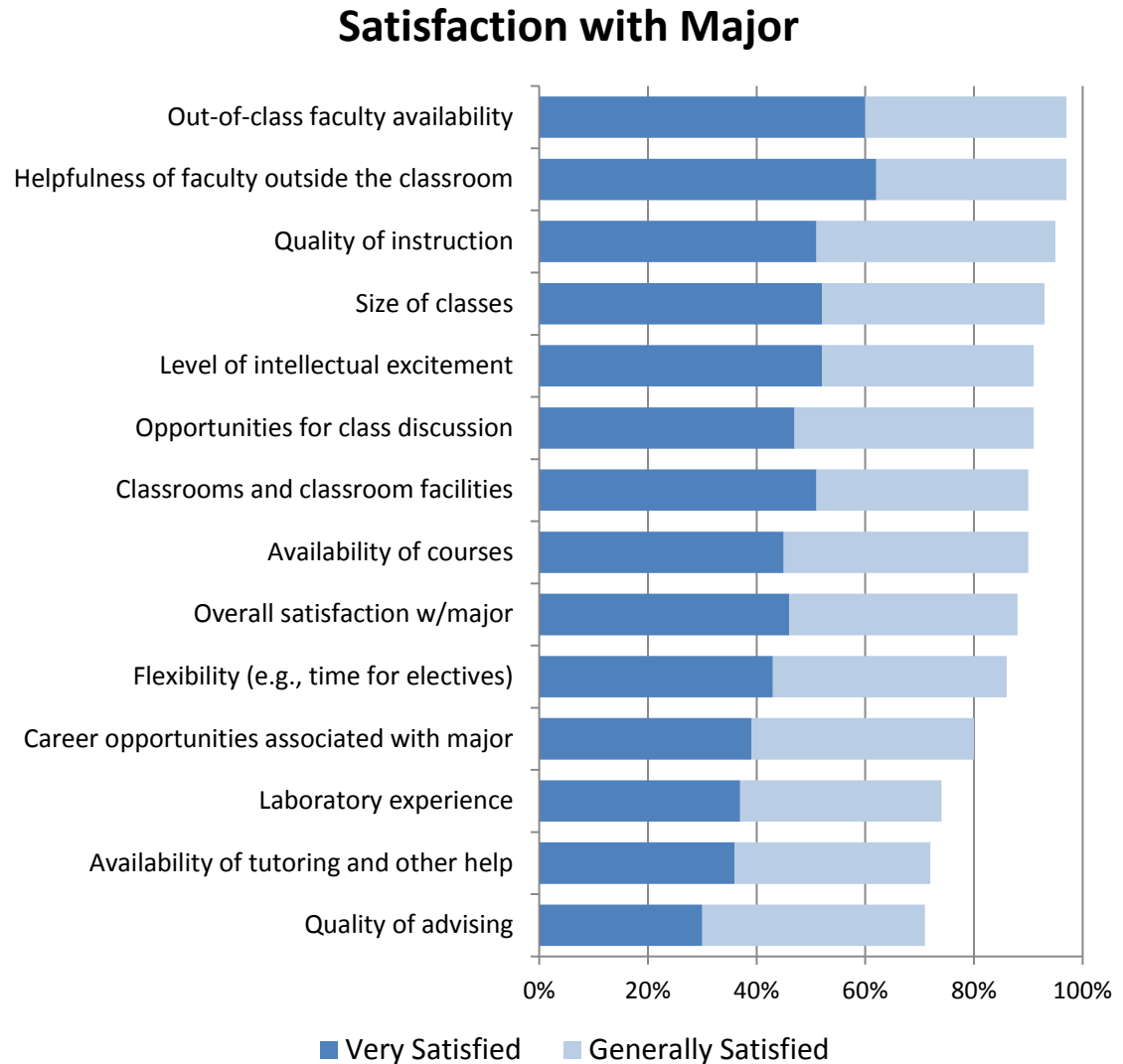
- Students were most satisfied with instruction in humanities and art (96%) and social science (95%).
- Seniors were least satisfied with instruction in natural science and math (77%).

## Satisfaction with Academic Experience



# Satisfaction with Components of Major

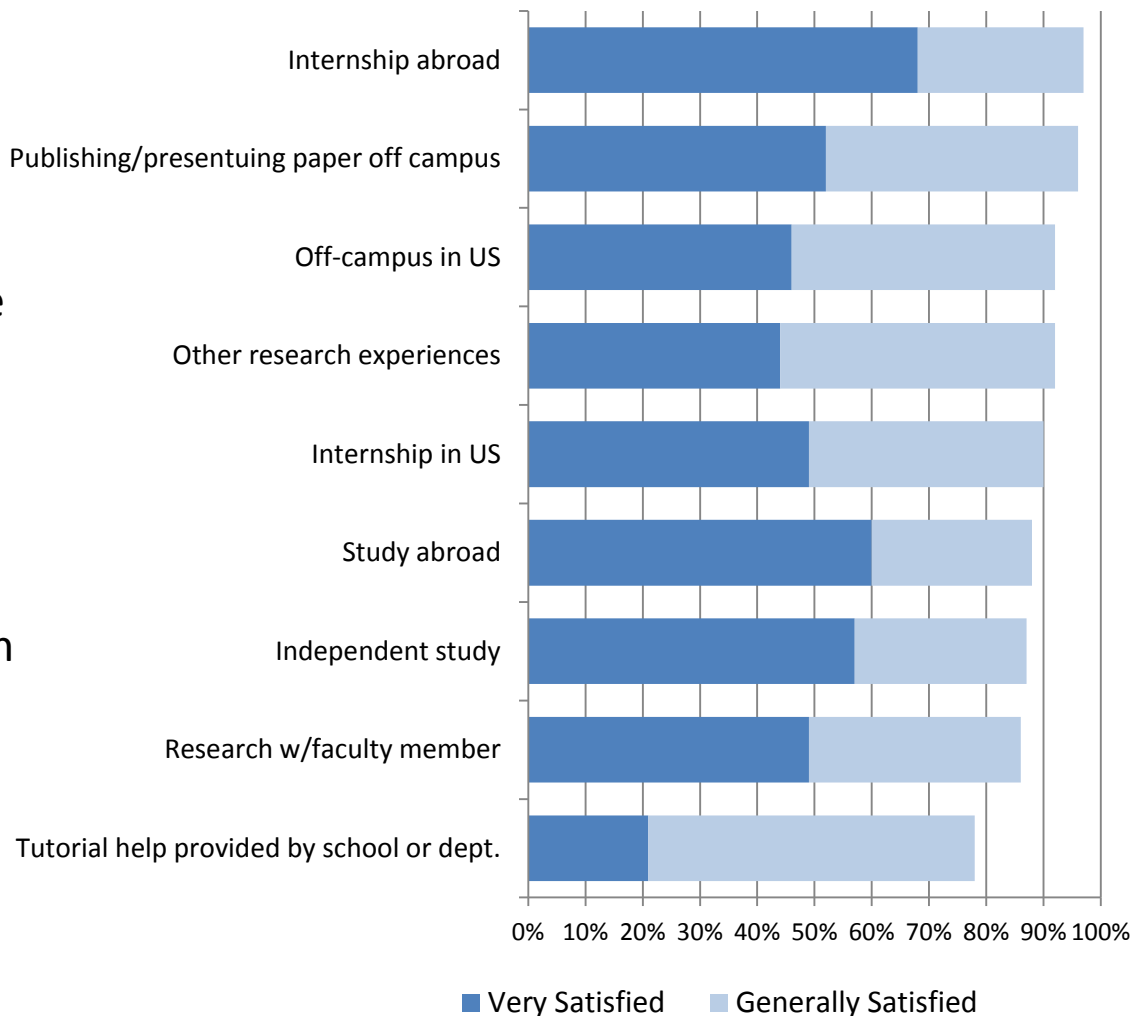
- Students were extremely satisfied with various components of their major experience.
- They were most satisfied with the helpfulness of faculty (97%), out-of-class faculty availability (97%), and the quality of instruction (95%).



# Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

## 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 (97%), publishing/presenting a paper off campus (96%), off campus experiences in the US (92%), and other research experiences (92%).

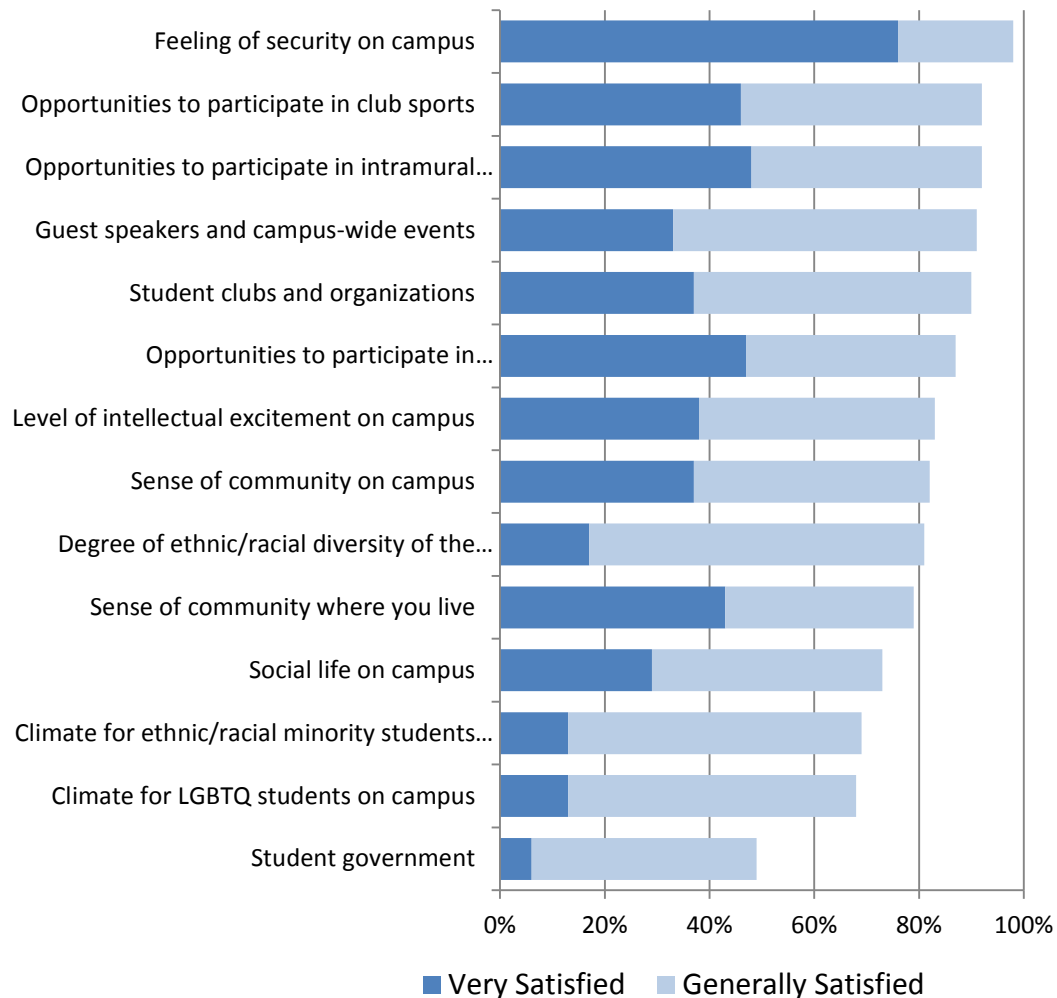




# Satisfaction with Campus Life

- Students' satisfaction with elements of campus life varied dramatically.
- 98% of seniors felt secure on campus.
- 90% or more were satisfied with club sports, recreational/intramurals, guest speakers and campus-wide events and student clubs and organizations.
- 69% and 68% were satisfied with the climate for ethnic/racial minority and LGBTQ students, respectively.
- 49% were satisfied with the student government.

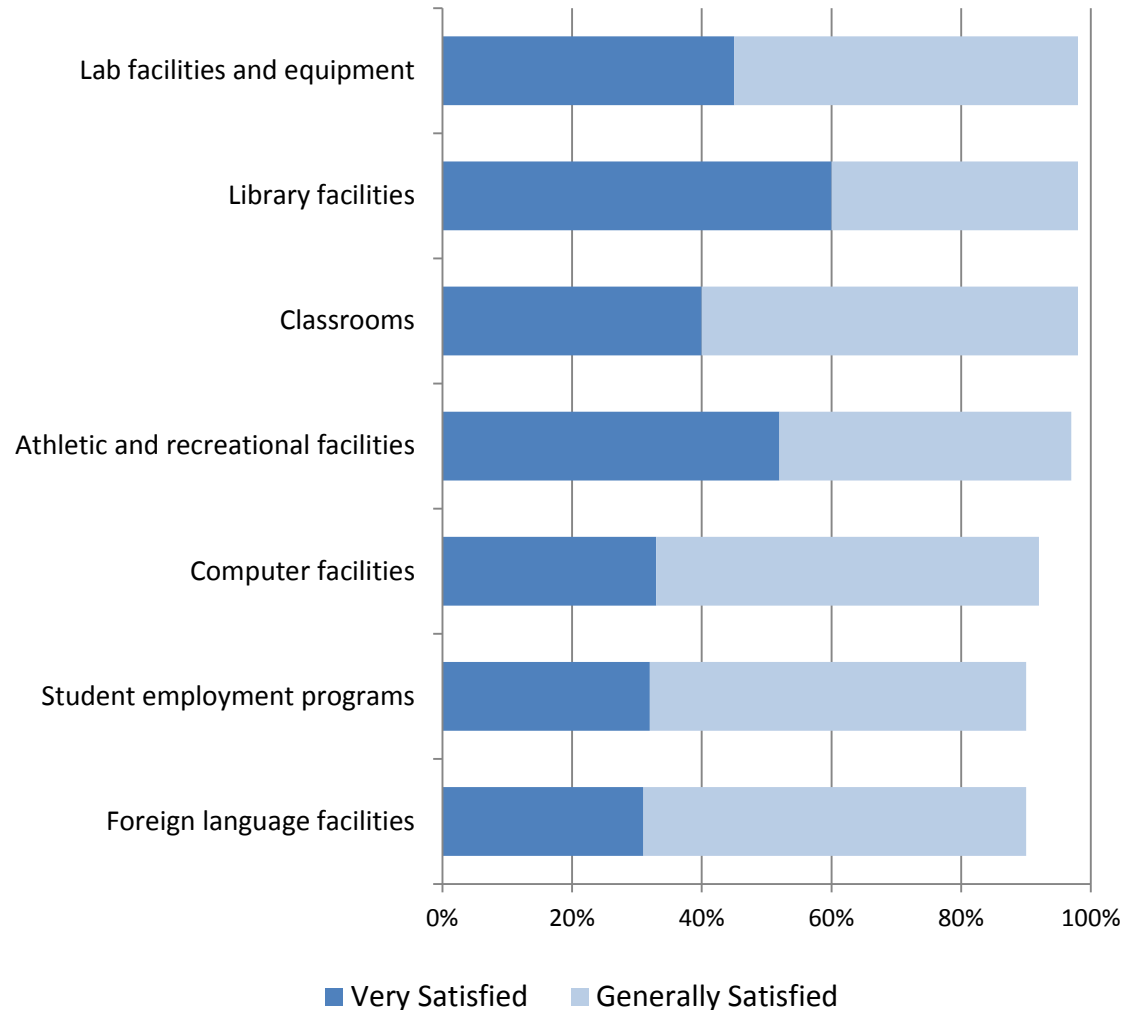
## Satisfaction with Campus Life



# Satisfaction with Facilities and Services

- Seniors were most satisfied with the following facilities or services: labs (98%), the library (98%), classrooms (98%), athletic facilities (97%), computer facilities (90%), student employment (90%), and foreign language labs (90%).

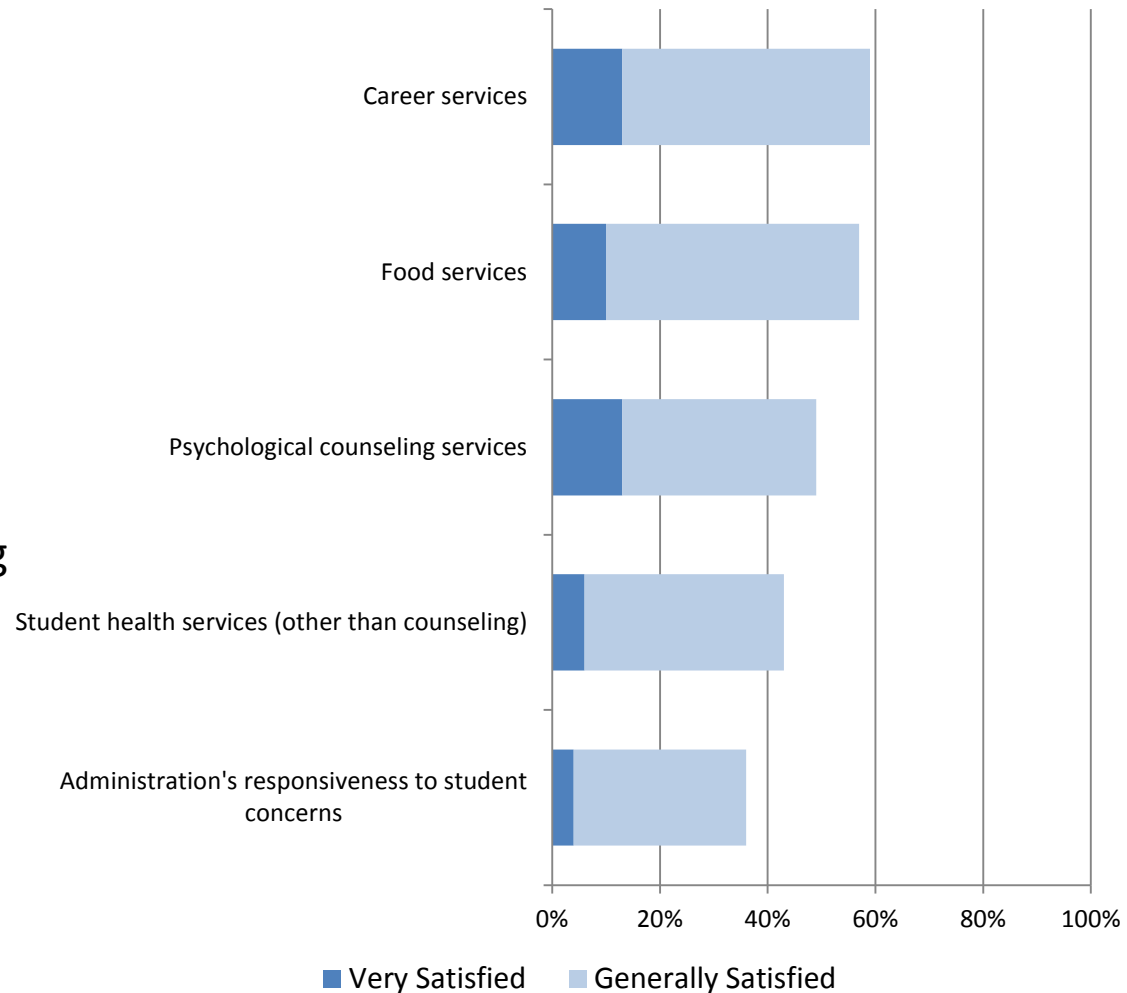
## Satisfaction with Facilities/Services



# Satisfaction with Facilities and Services (cont'd.)

- Seniors were least satisfied with the administration's responsiveness to students (36%).
- Students were also less satisfied with career services (59%), food services (57%), psychological counseling (49%), and health services (43%).

## Satisfaction with Facilities/Services



# Areas of High Satisfaction Compared to 2010

- Seniors had the highest rate of being “very satisfied” in the area of security on campus.
- Dartmouth improved in two areas compared to 2010, but decreased in nearly all others.

Top 10 Areas of High Satisfaction	2012 Percent "Very Satisfied"	2010 Percent "Very Satisfied"
Feeling of security on campus	76%	81%
Internship abroad	68%	66%
Helpfulness of faculty outside the classroom	62%	66%
Out-of-class faculty availability (major)	60%	70%
Study abroad	60%	61%
Library facilities	60%	67%
Out-of-class availability of faculty (overall academic experience)	59%	71%
Independent study	57%	62%
Humanities and art	52%	52%
Level of intellectual excitement (Major)	52%	51%
Size of classes	52%	54%
Publishing/presenting a paper off campus	52%	66%
Athletic and recreational facilities	52%	60%
	Higher in 2012	Lower in 2012



# Areas for Improvement Compared to 2010

- Of the top 10 areas for improvement in 2012, nearly all were in Campus Services and Facilities and Campus Life.

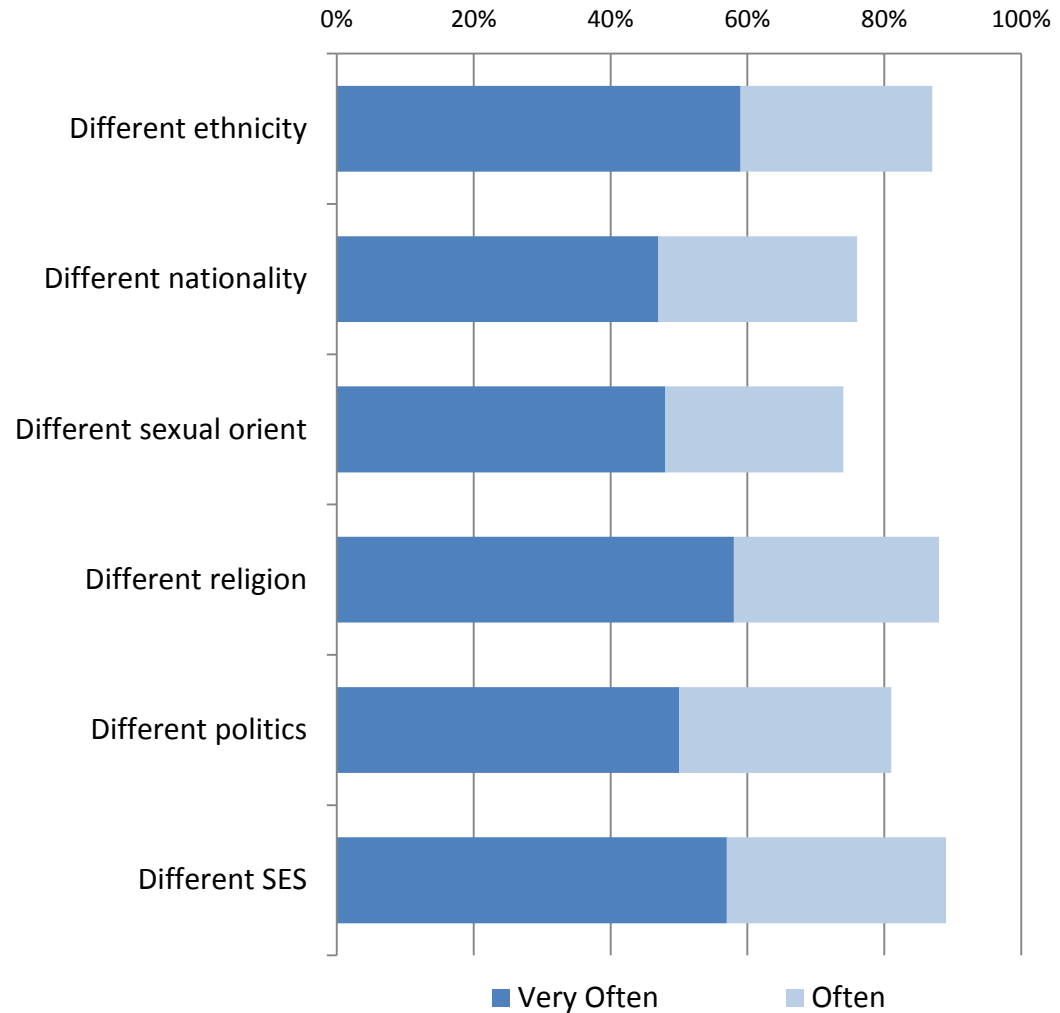
Top 10 Areas for Improvement	2012 Percent "Very Dissatisfied"	2010 Percent "Very Dissatisfied"
Administration's responsiveness	25%	7%
Psychological counselling services	24%	10%
Student health services (other than counseling)	23%	10%
Academic advising before declaring a major	19%	14%
Food services	15%	5%
Student Government	11%	15%
Career Services	10%	13%
Academic advising after declaring a major	9%	Not asked in 2010
Climate for LGBTQ students on campus	9%	Not asked in 2010
Social life on campus	9%	5%
	Higher in 2012	Lower in 2012



# Interactions with Others

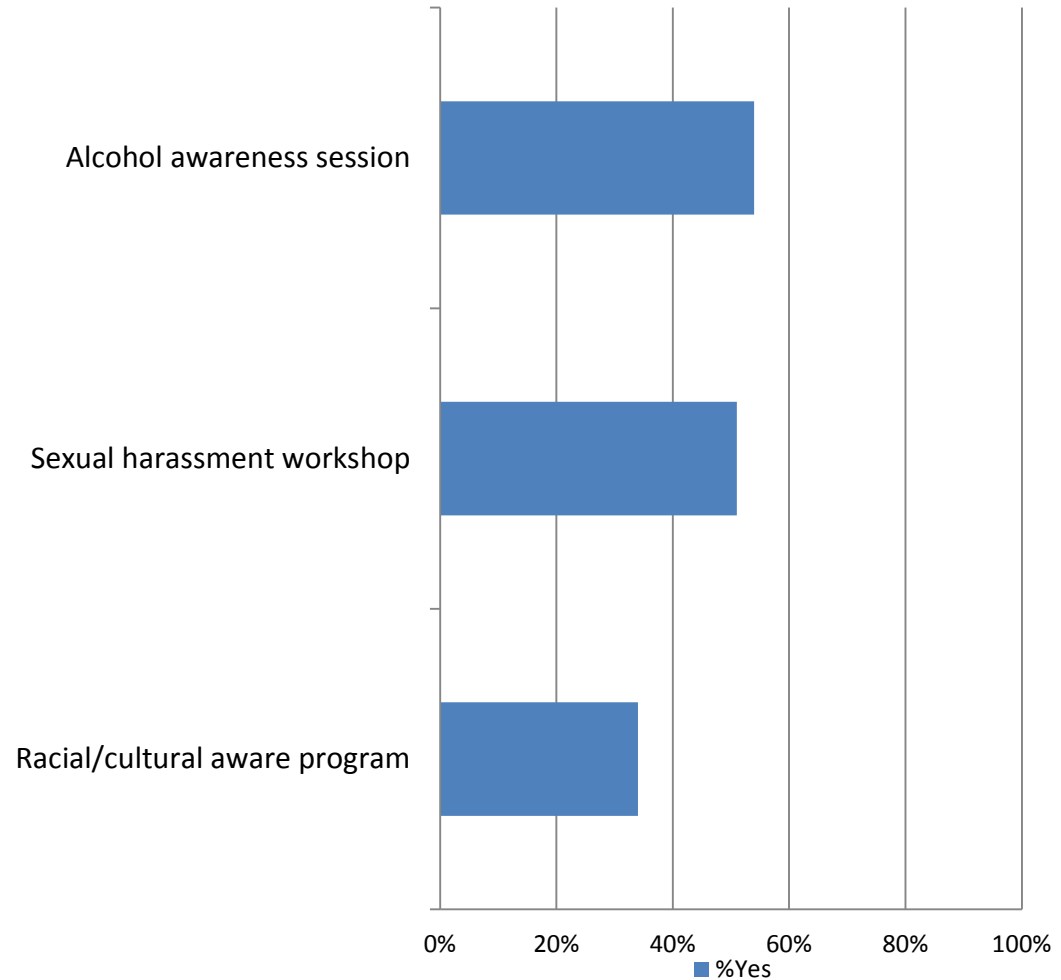
- Dartmouth students reported interacting most with students of different religions, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity.

## Interactions with Different Groups



## Interaction with Different Groups

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

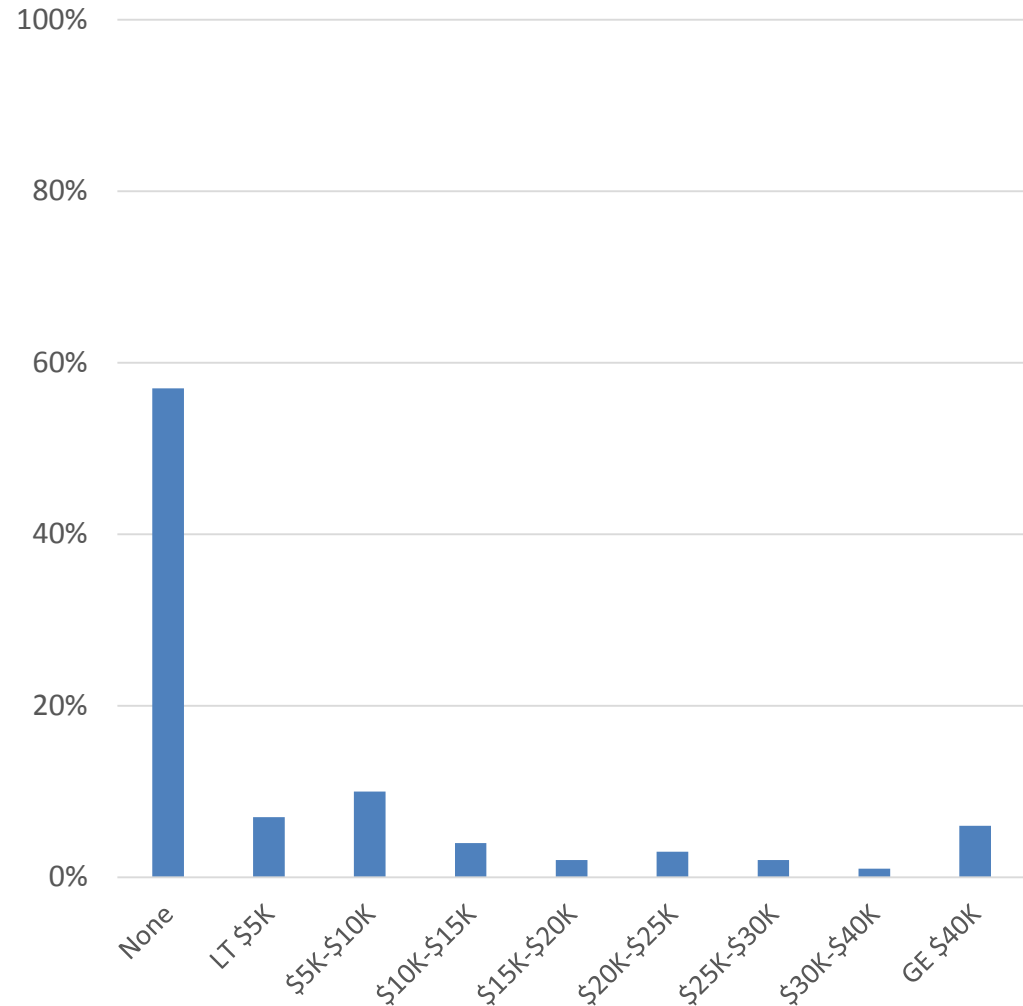




# Financial Aid and Debt

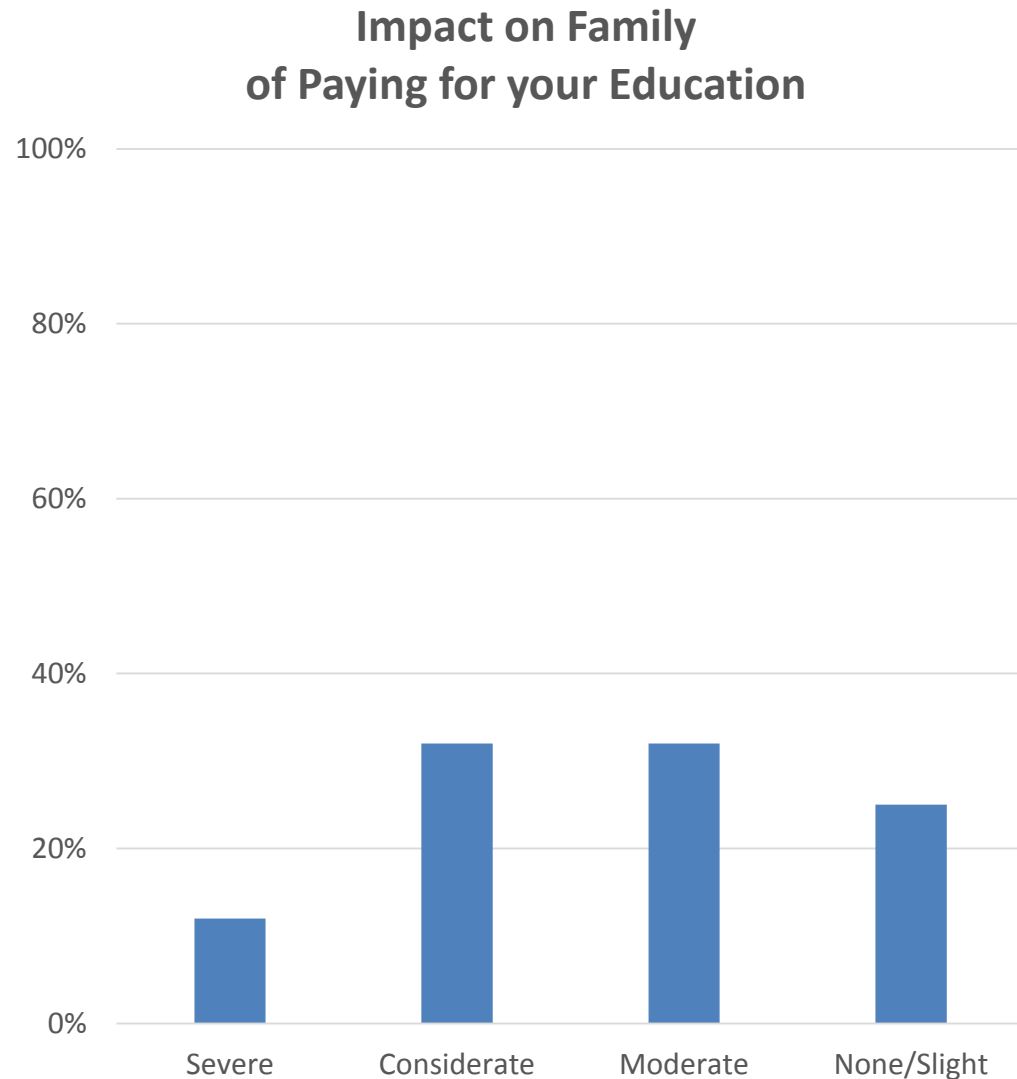
- 52% of Dartmouth respondents received financial aid (e.g., grant, student loan, or work study job).
- Of those respondents who did borrow money, the largest percentages had borrowed \$5K-\$10K (10%), less than \$5K (7%), and more than \$40K (6%).

### Amount Borrowed for Education



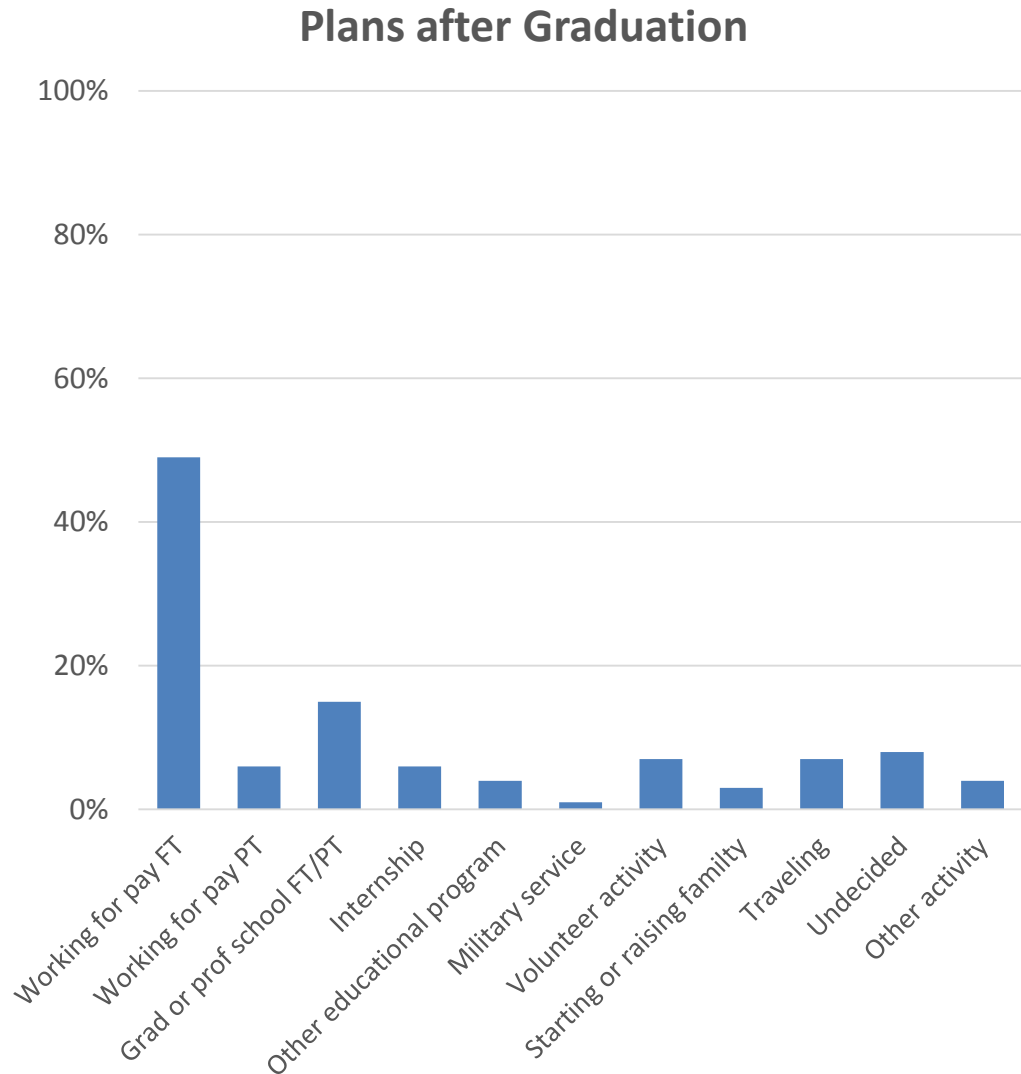
# Impact on Family

- The majority of students felt the impact of paying for their education on their family was moderate (32%) to considerate (32%).



# Plans for the Fall

- Nearly half (49%) of seniors planned on working full-time in the fall.
- Smaller percentages planned on attending graduate or professional school full- or part-time (15%), volunteering (7%), and traveling (7%).

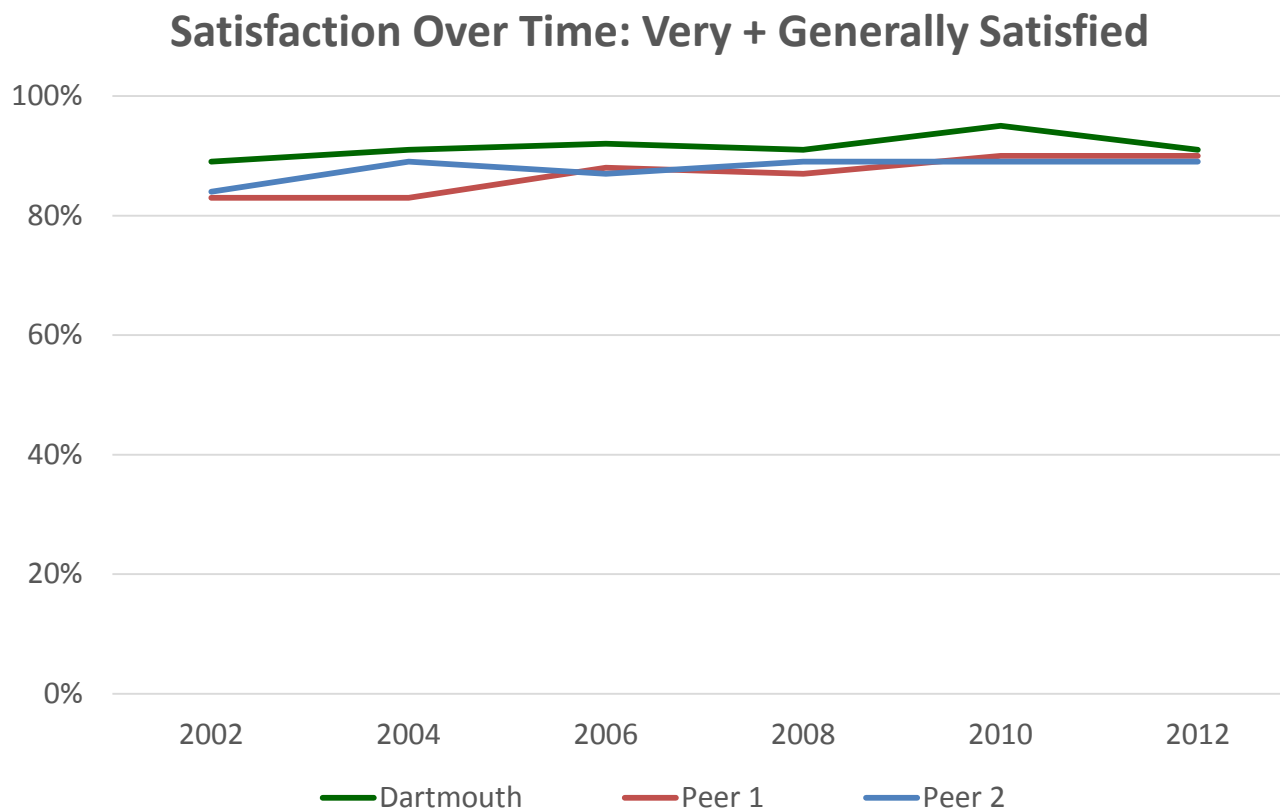


# PEER COMPARISONS



# Overall Satisfaction Over Time

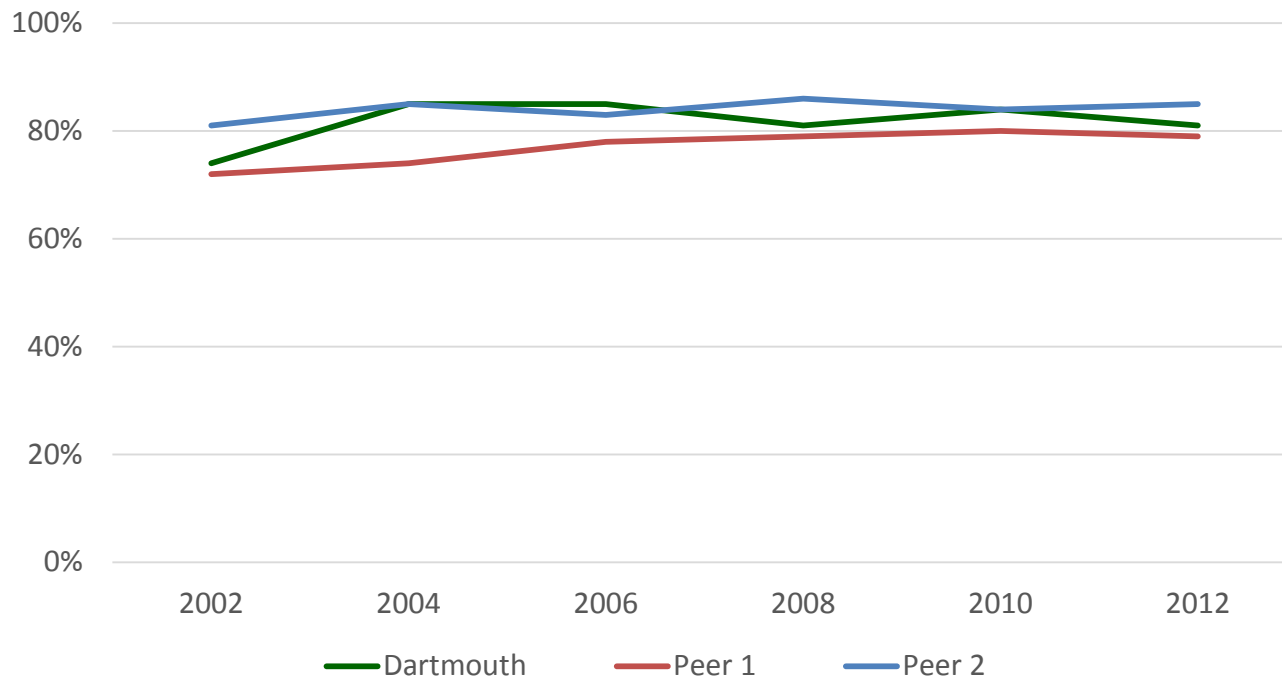
- Dartmouth students have been “very” or “generally” more satisfied over time compared to students at peer institutions.



# Recommend Institution Over Time

- Over time, Dartmouth students “definitely” or “probably would” recommend Dartmouth at higher rates than students at Peer 1 institutions. Meanwhile, the rates between Dartmouth and Peer 2 institutions has ebbed and flowed over time.

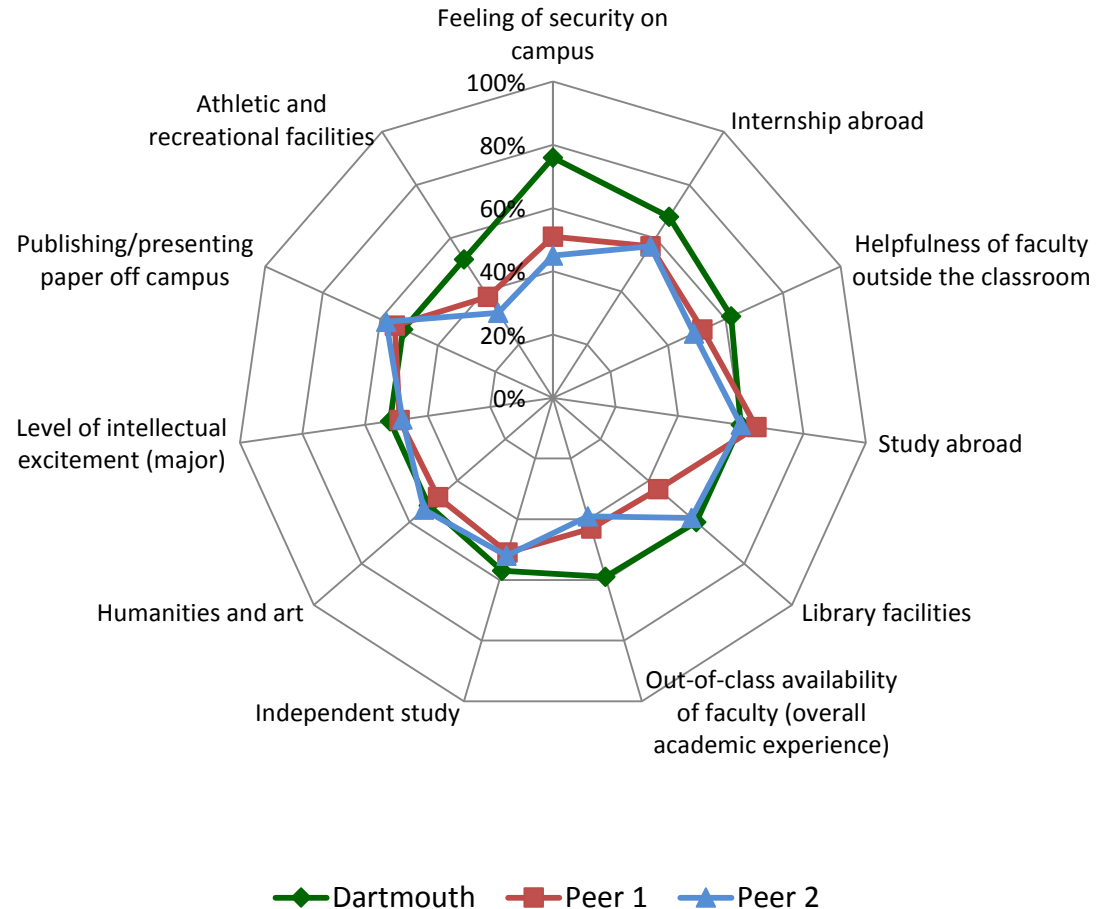
Recommend Institution:  
Definitely + Probably Would



# Areas of High Satisfaction: Percent “Very Satisfied”

- For Dartmouth’s top 10 areas of highest, we outpaced both peer groups in all areas except study abroad and publishing/presenting paper off campus.

## Areas of High Satisfaction “Very Satisfied”

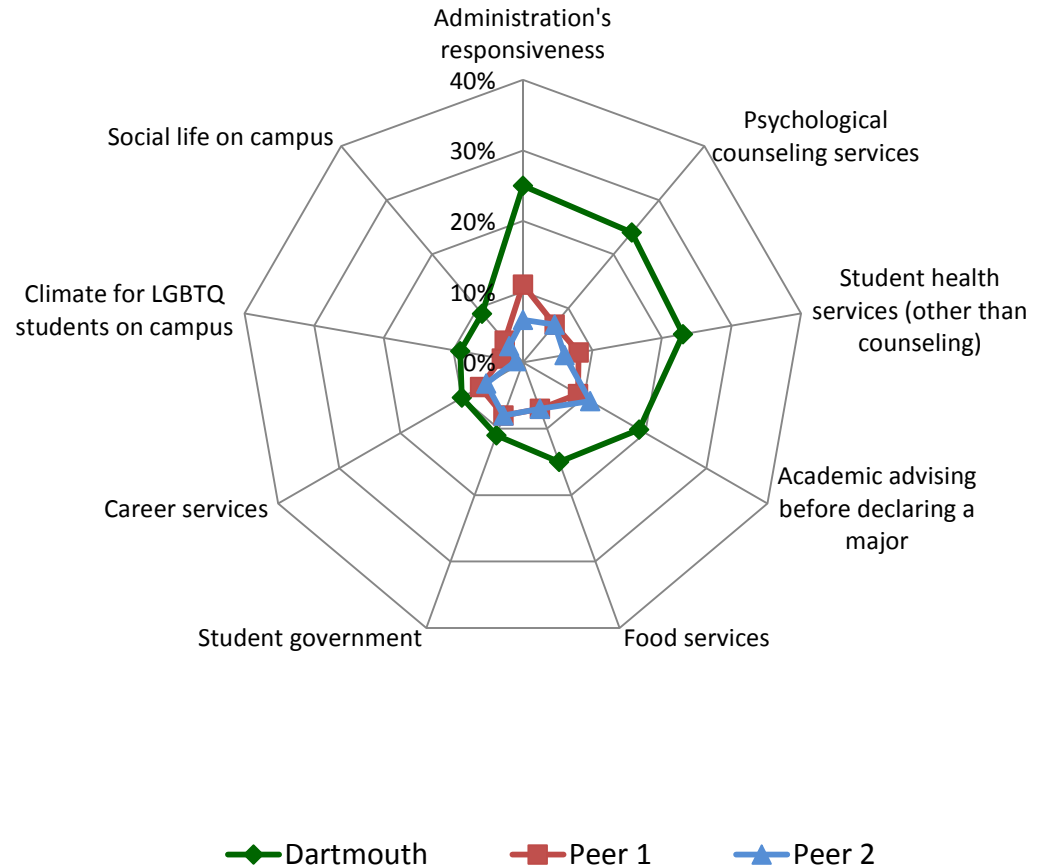




# Areas for Improvement : Percent “Very Dissatisfied”

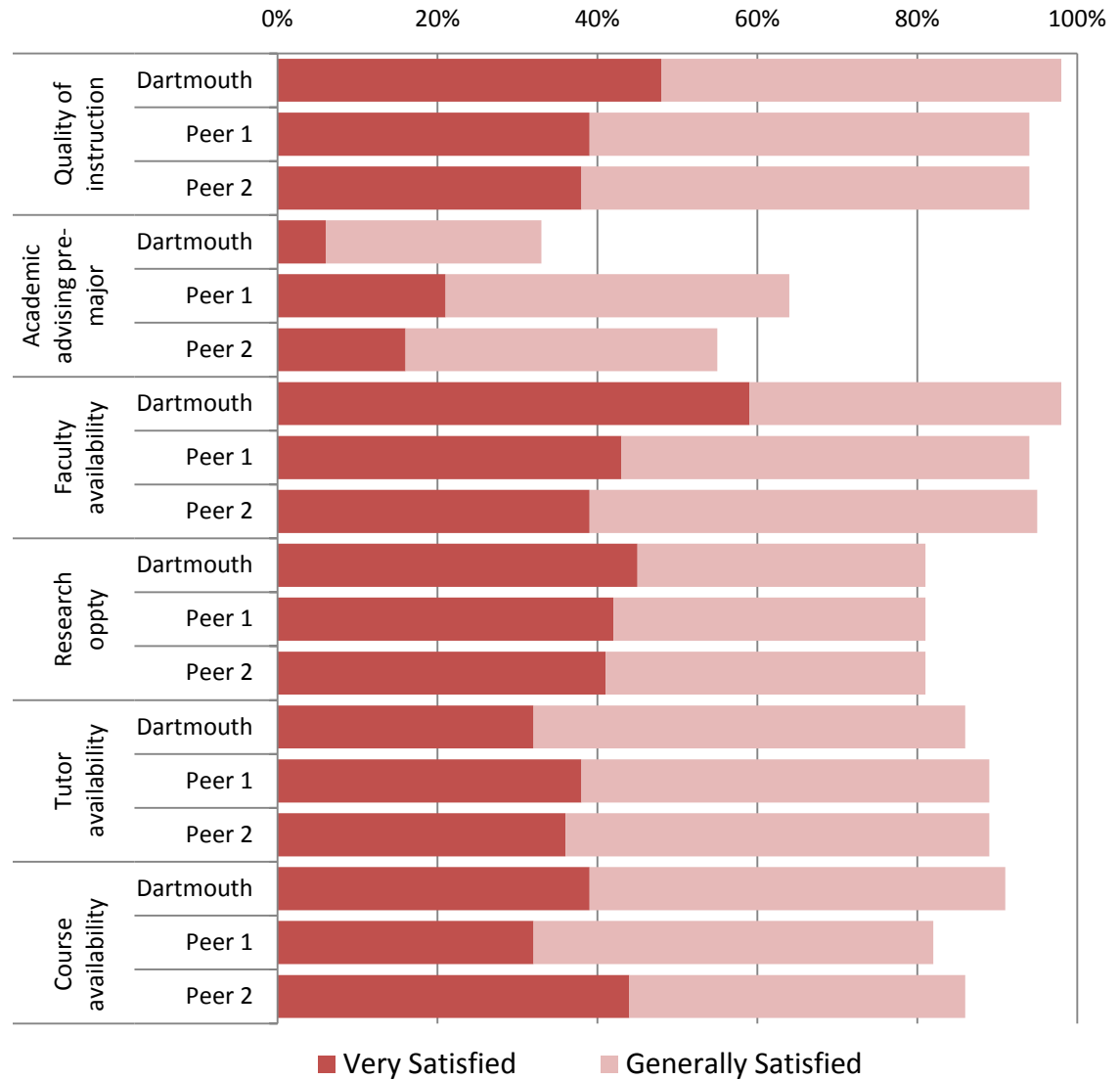
- For Dartmouth’s top 10 areas for improvement, we had higher rates of dissatisfaction compared to both peer groups for all items.

## Areas for Improvement “Very Dissatisfied”



# Satisfaction with Academic Experiences

## Satisfaction with Academic Experience

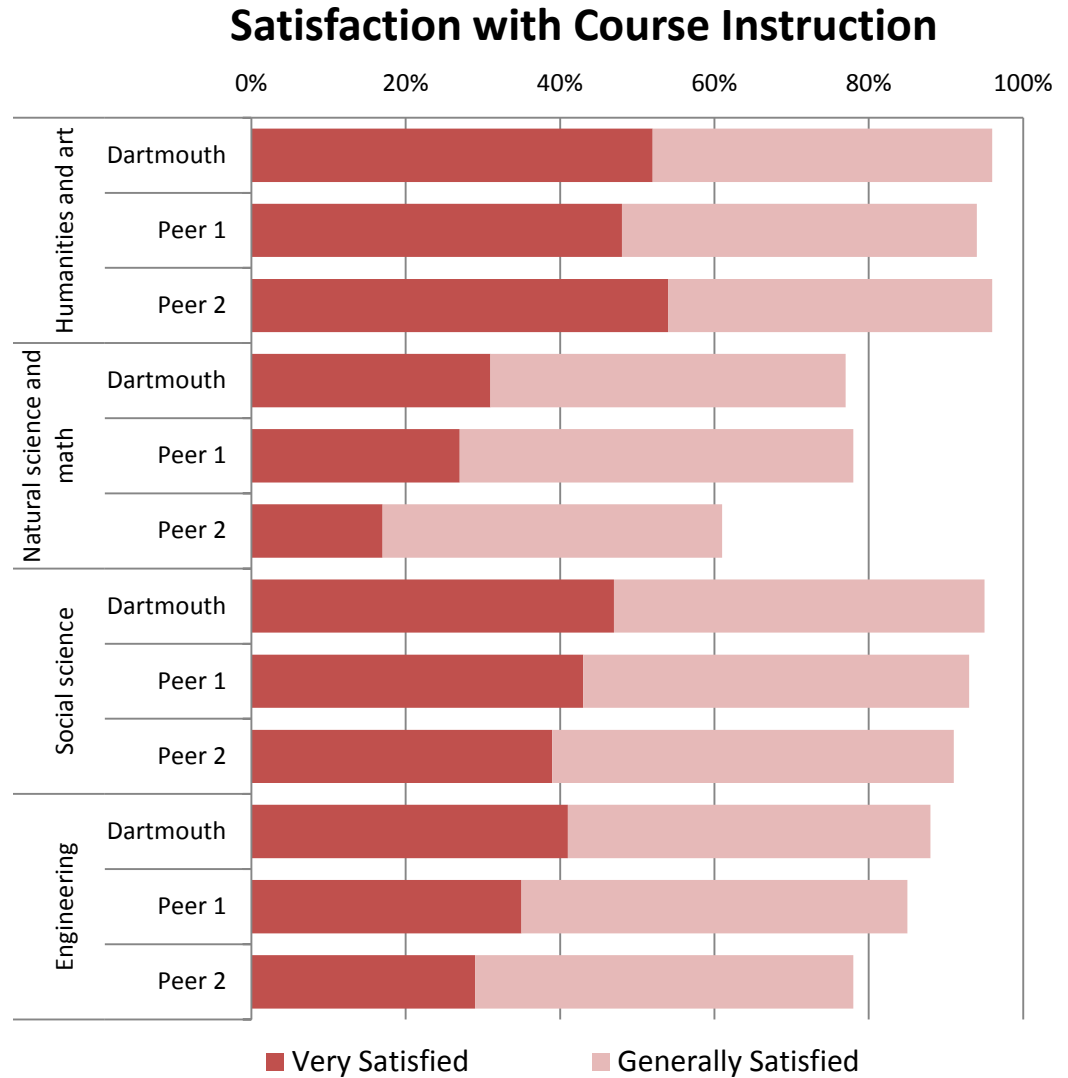


- Dartmouth outpaced peers in quality of instruction, and faculty and course availability.
- Students at peer institutions were more satisfied with pre-major advising and tutorial assistance.



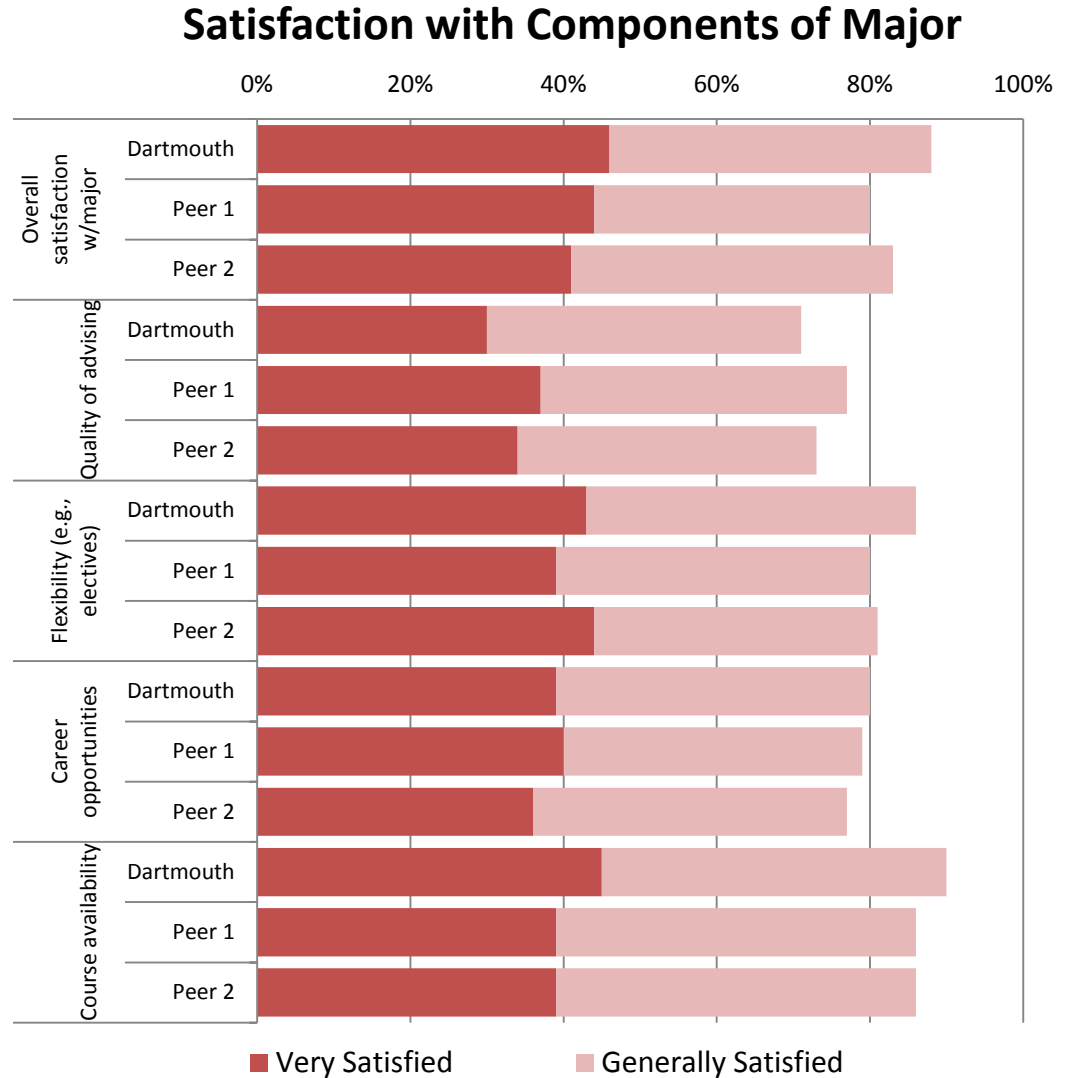
# Satisfaction with Course Instruction

- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with course instruction in all areas compared to peers.



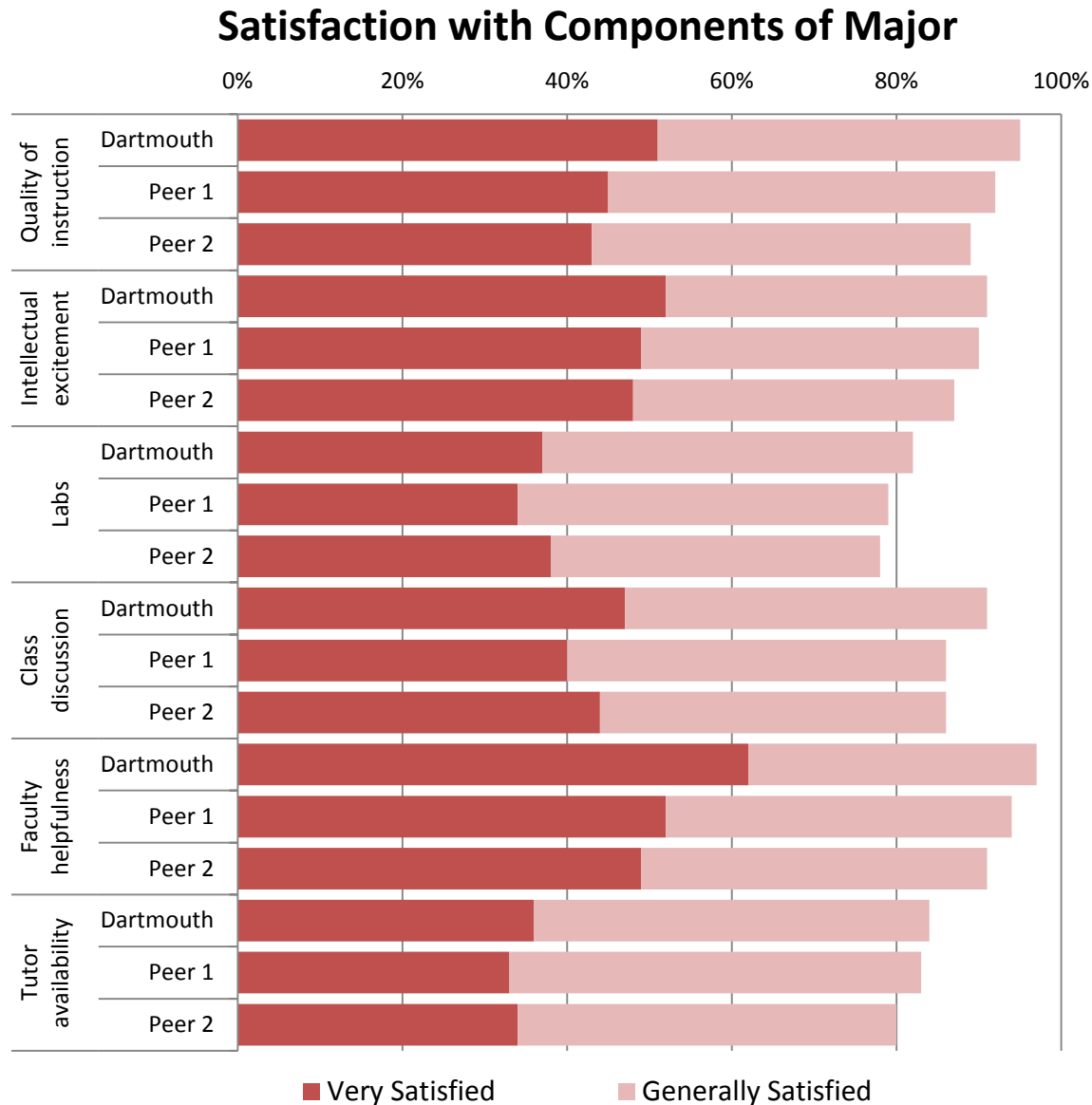
# Satisfaction with Components of Major

- Dartmouth students were more satisfied overall with their major, flexibility, and course availability.
- Dartmouth students were less satisfied with advising in their major and career opportunities.



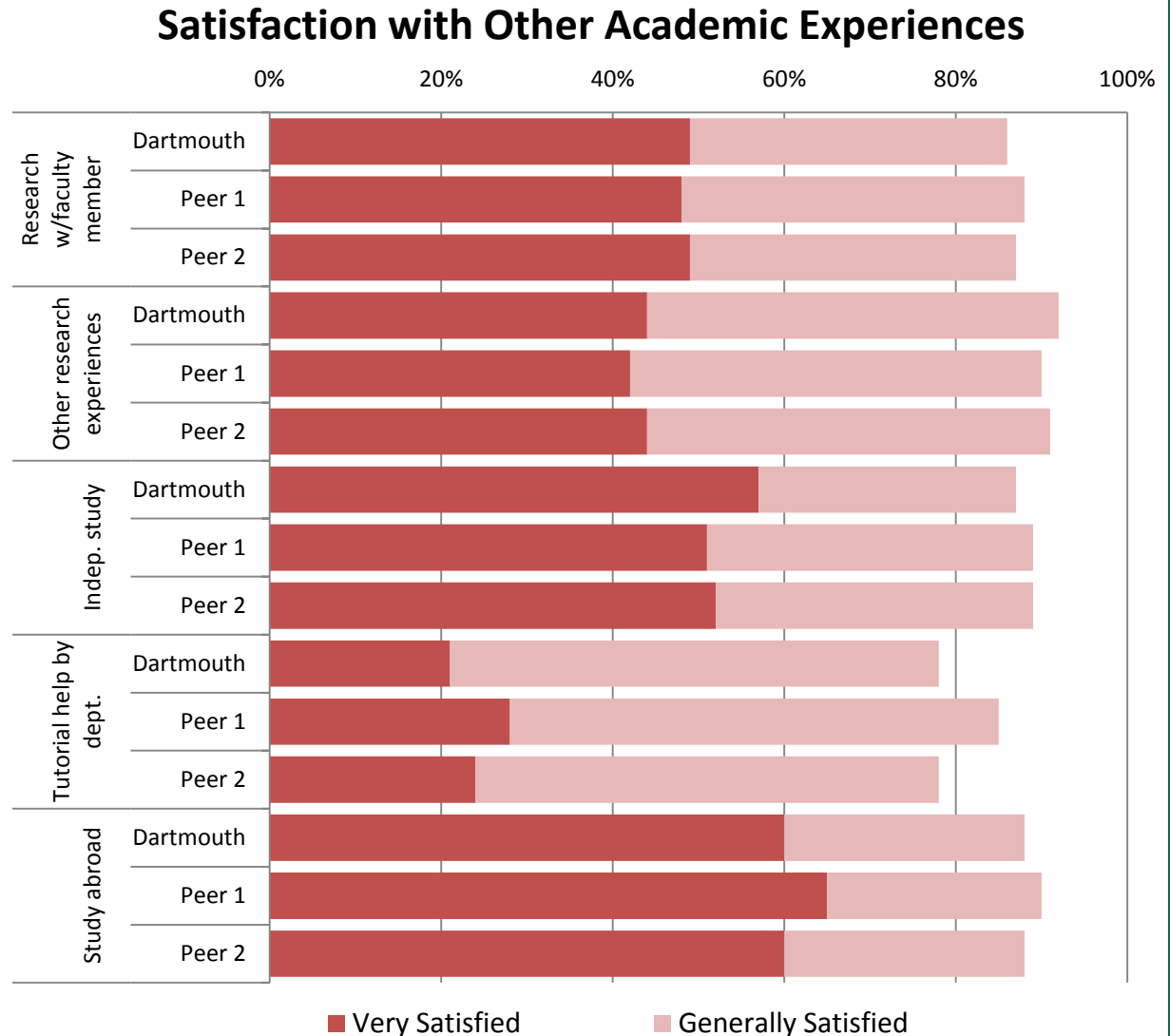
# Satisfaction with Components of Major (cont.)

- Dartmouth students were most satisfied with faculty helpfulness (97%), which outpaced both peer groups.
- Dartmouth students were also generally more satisfied than peers on quality of instruction, intellectual excitement, class discussion, and tutor availability.



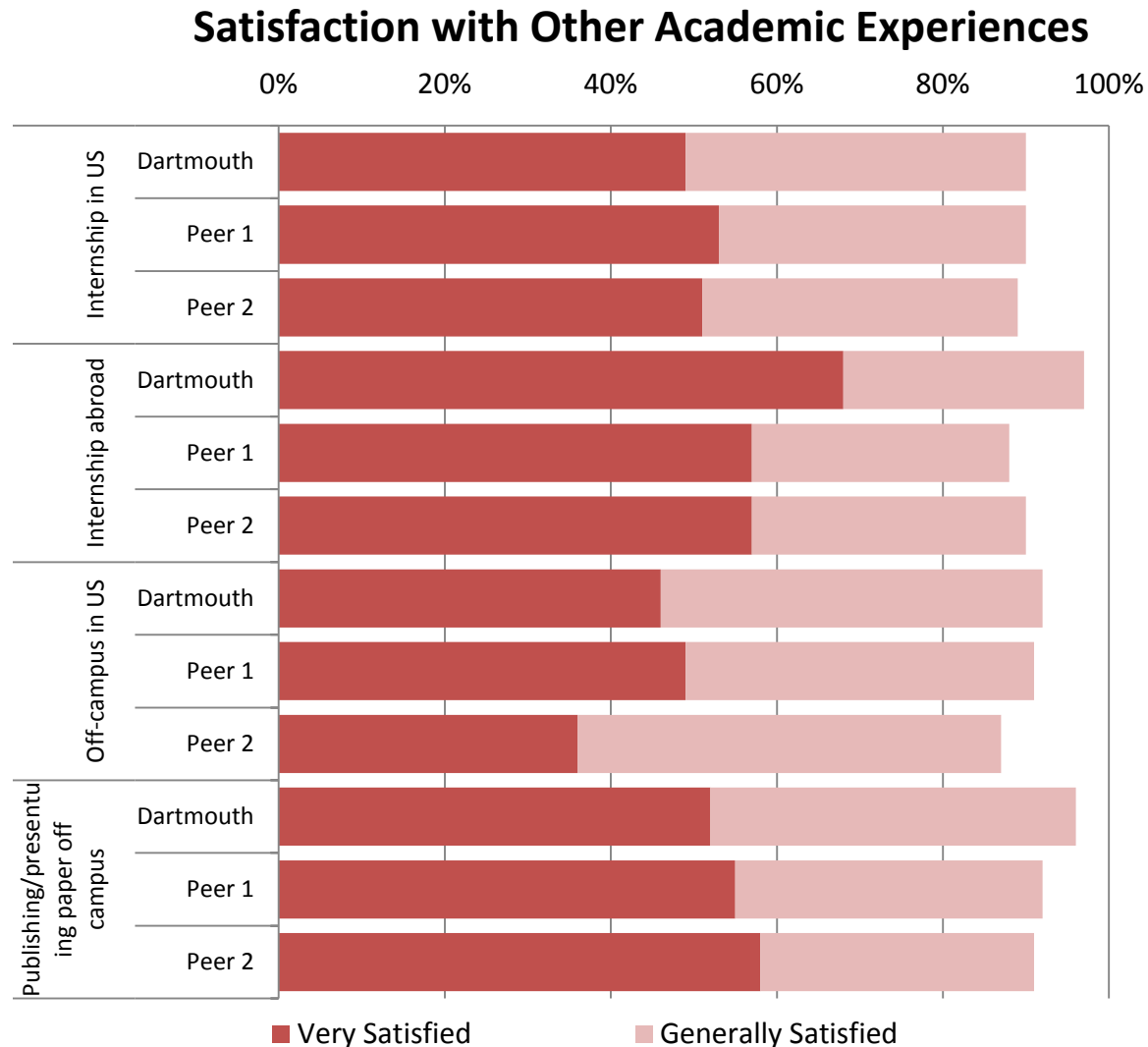
# Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

- There were no large differences in satisfaction between Dartmouth students and peers among these other academic experiences.



# Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences (cont.)

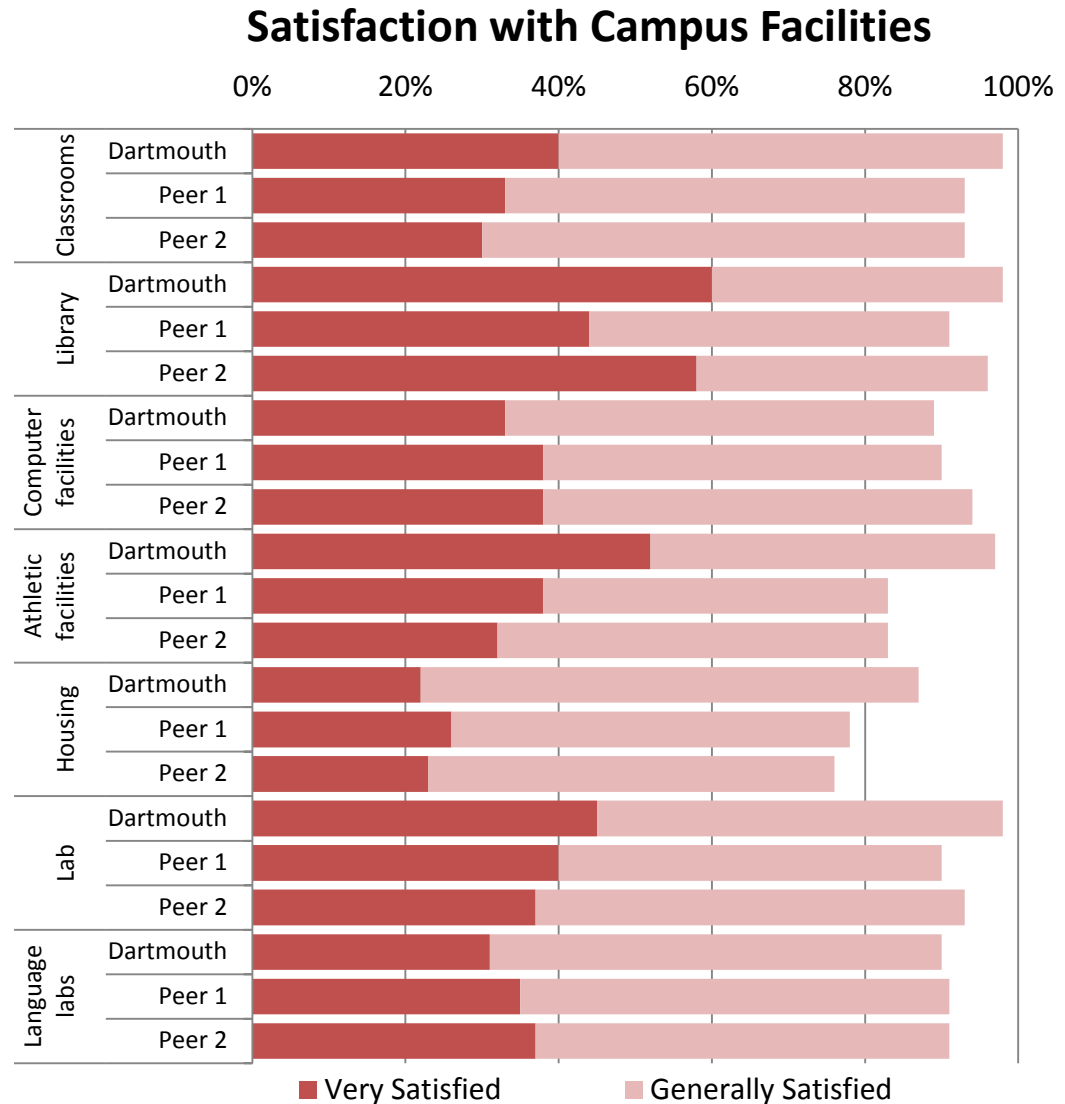
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with internships abroad and in publishing/presenting a paper off campus than either peer group.





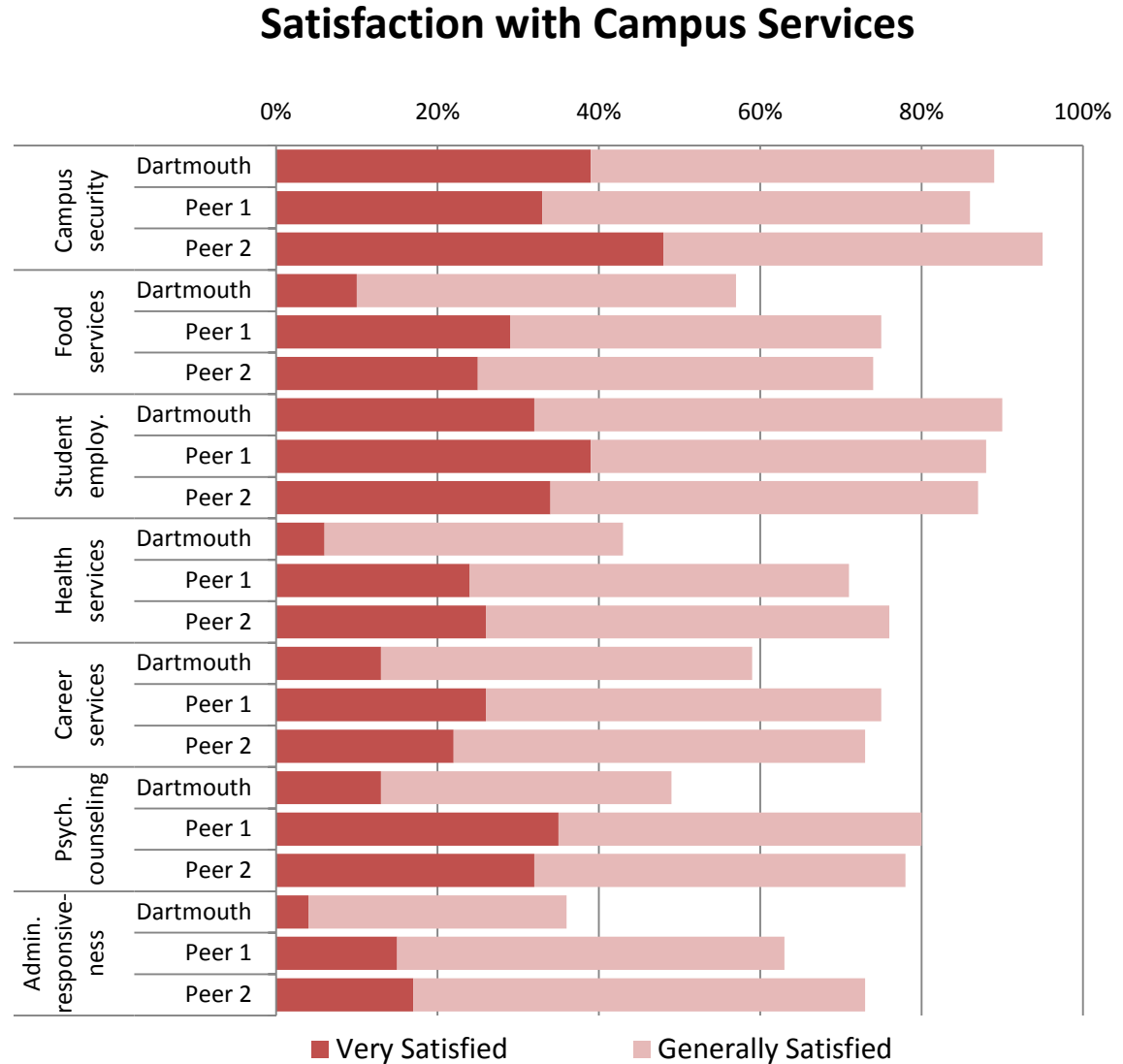
# Satisfaction with Campus Facilities

- Overall, there were high levels of satisfaction with campus facilities across all institutions.
- Dartmouth students were much more satisfied with labs (98%), athletic facilities (97%), and housing (87%) than students at peers institutions.



# Satisfaction with Campus Services

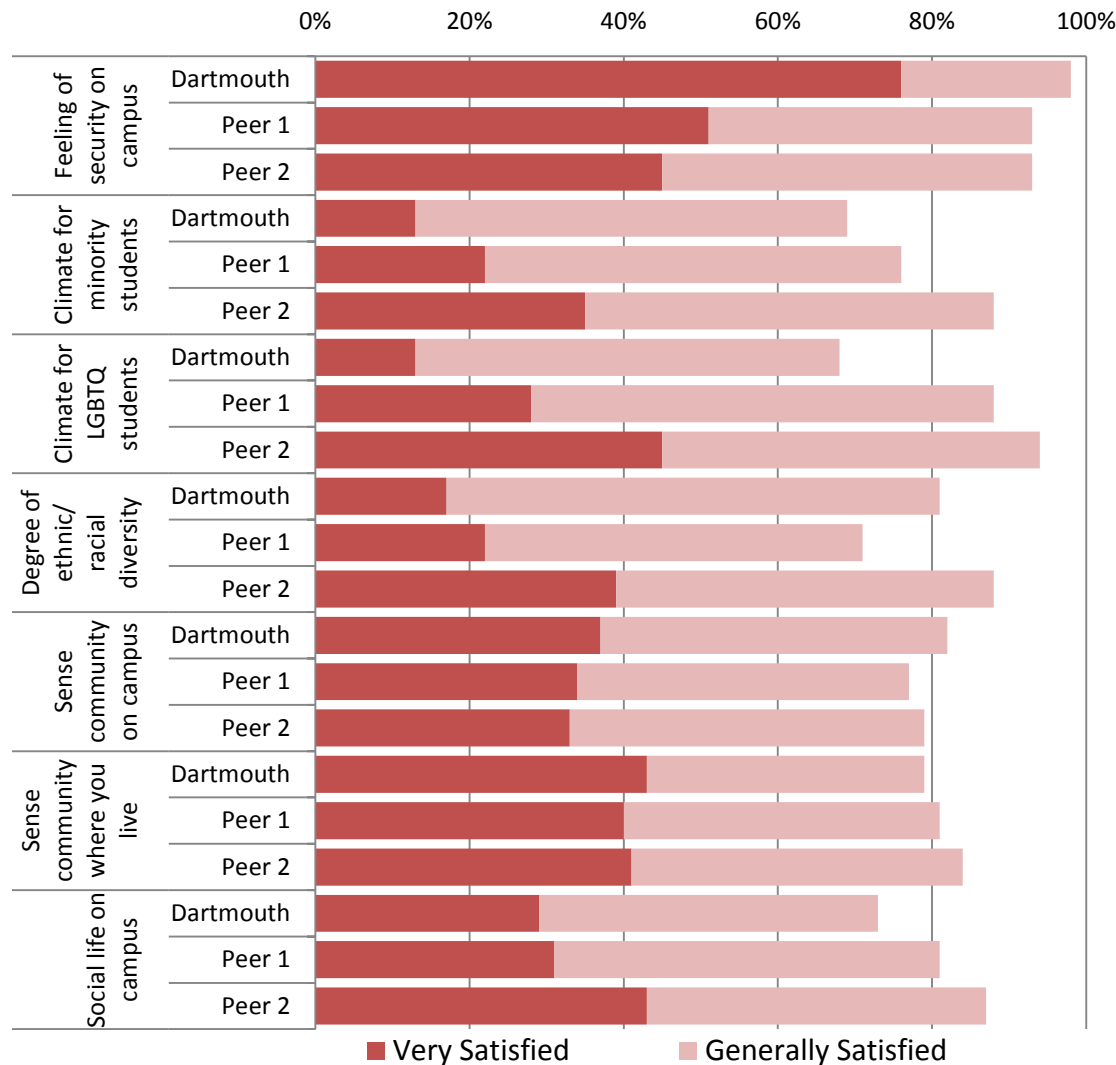
- Compared to Peers, Dartmouth students were less satisfied in a number of campus service areas including administration's responsiveness, psychological counseling, health, food, and career services.



# Satisfaction with Campus Life

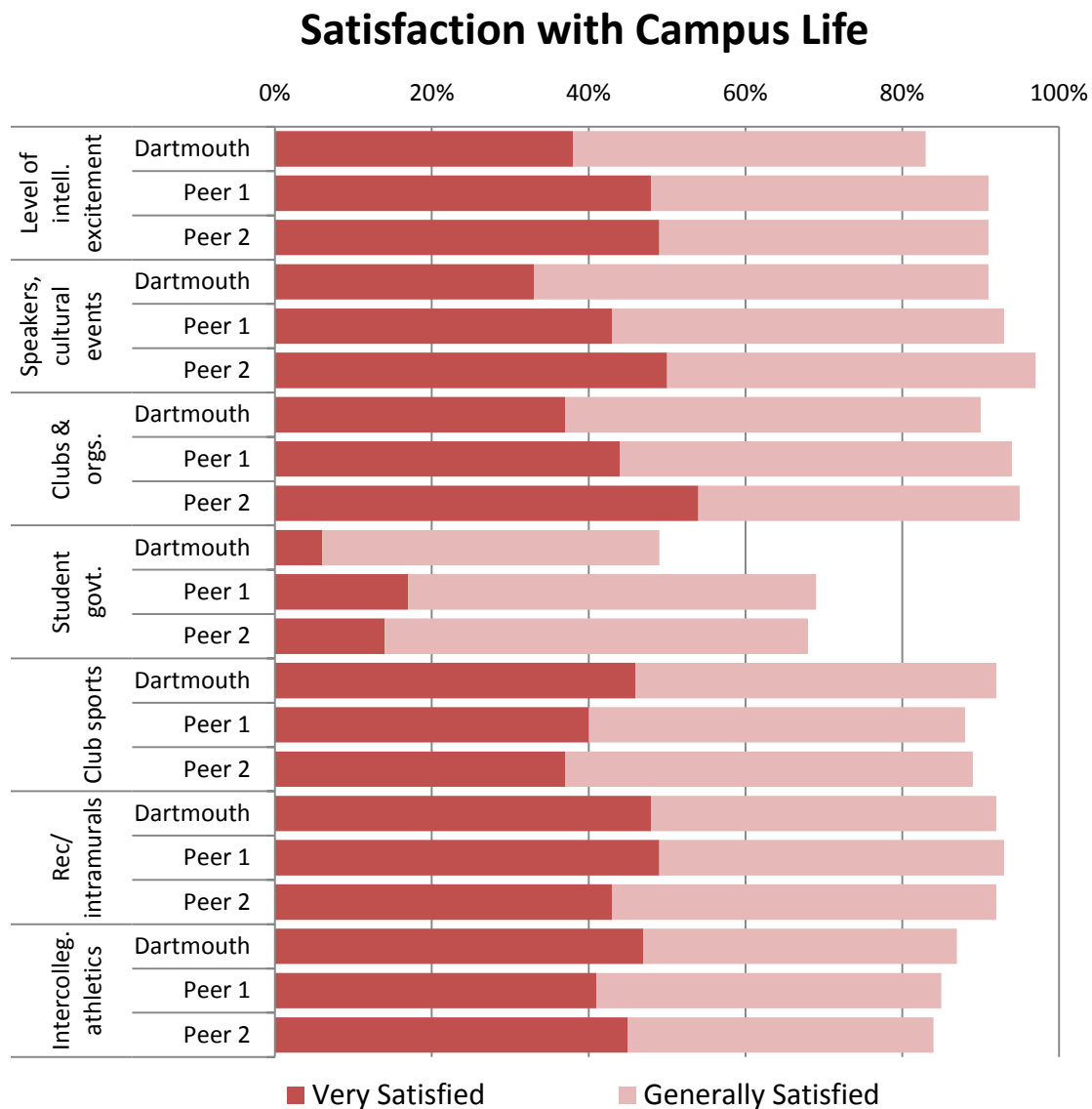
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied than both peer groups on feelings of security and sense of community on campus.
- The areas where Dartmouth students were less satisfied than peers included climate for minority and LGBTQ students and social life on campus.

## Satisfaction with Campus Life



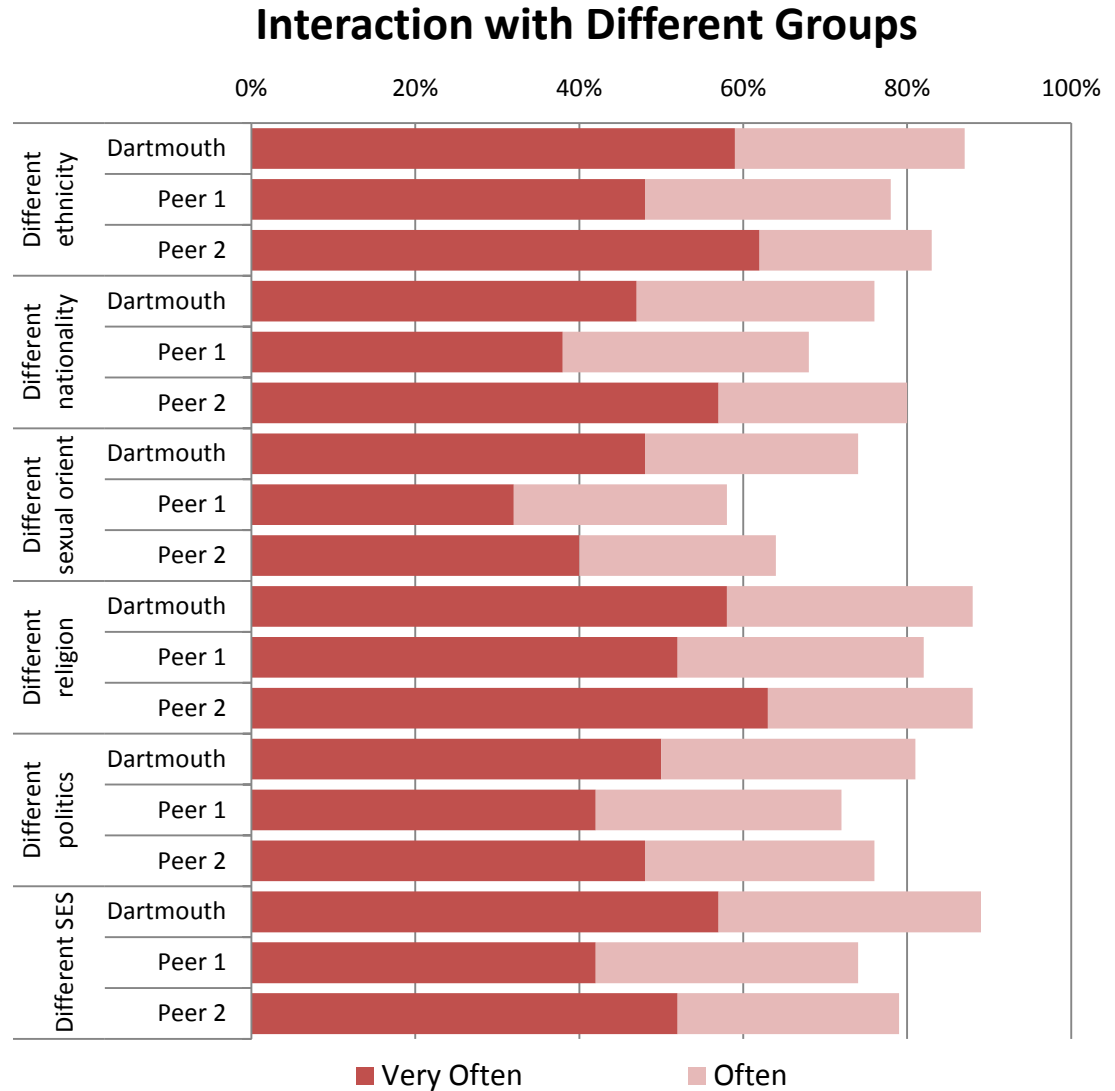
# Satisfaction with Campus Life (cont.)

- For the majority of remaining campus life items, Dartmouth and peer students had comparable levels of high overall satisfaction (above 80%).
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with club sports and intercollegiate athletics.
- They were less satisfied with student government, the level of intellectual excitement, and clubs and organizations.



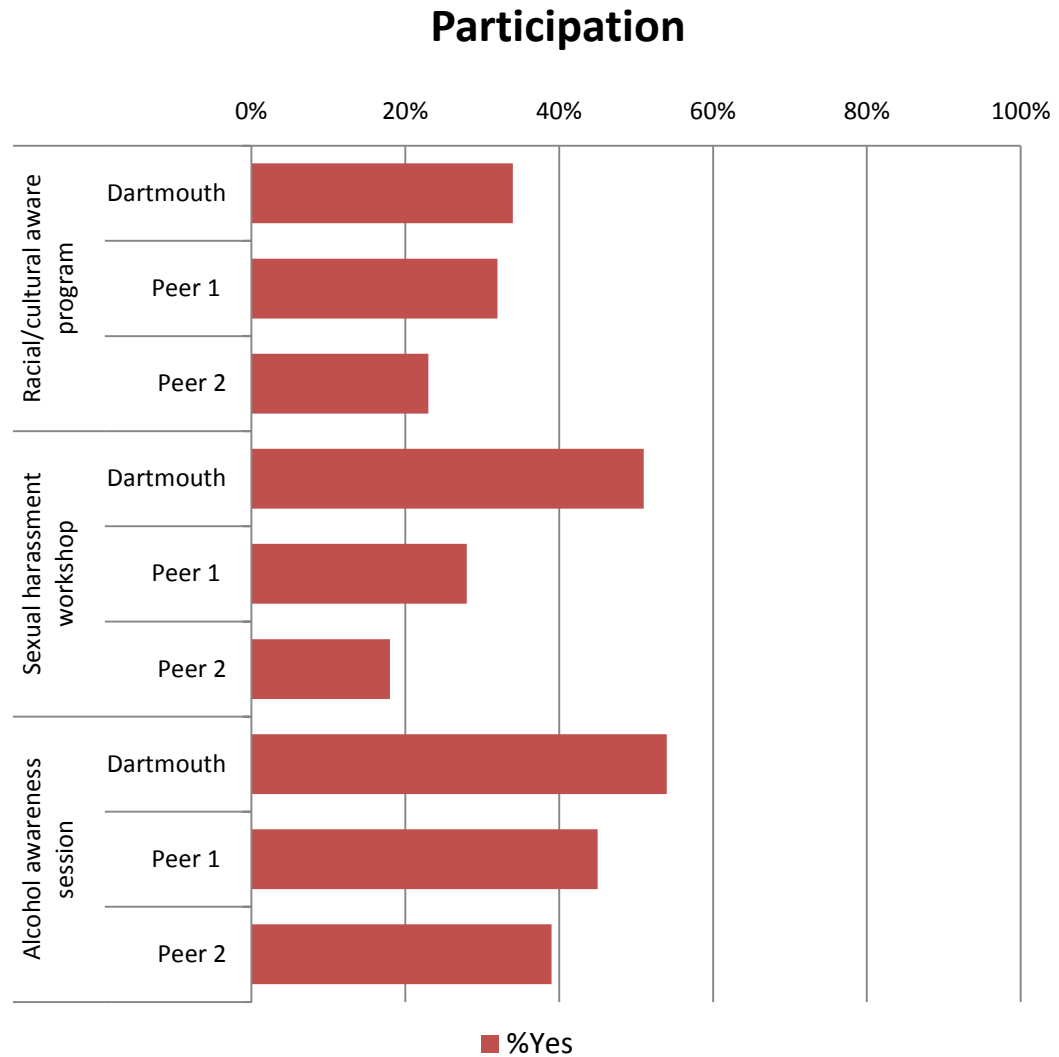
# Interactions with Others

- Dartmouth seniors reported interacting with other groups as much, or more, than peers.



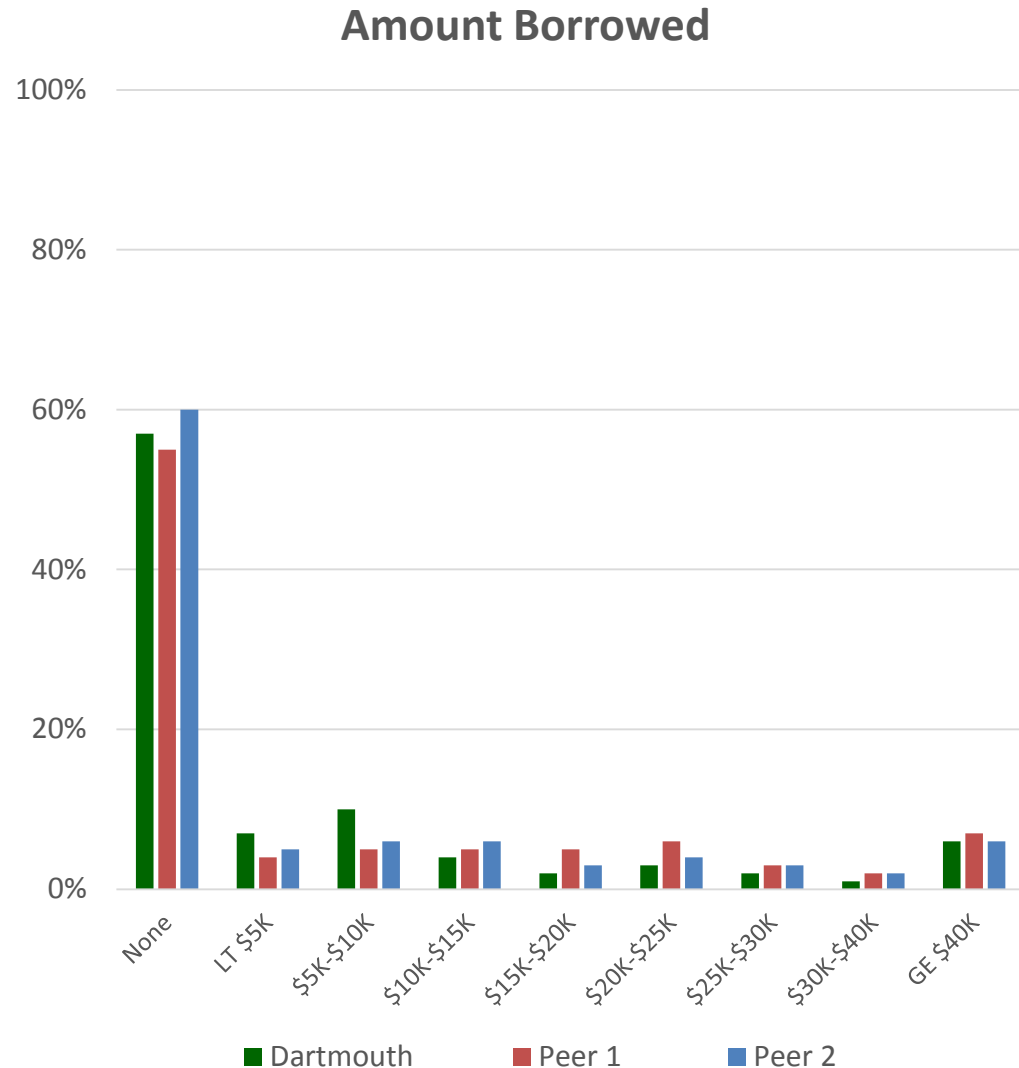
# Participation

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



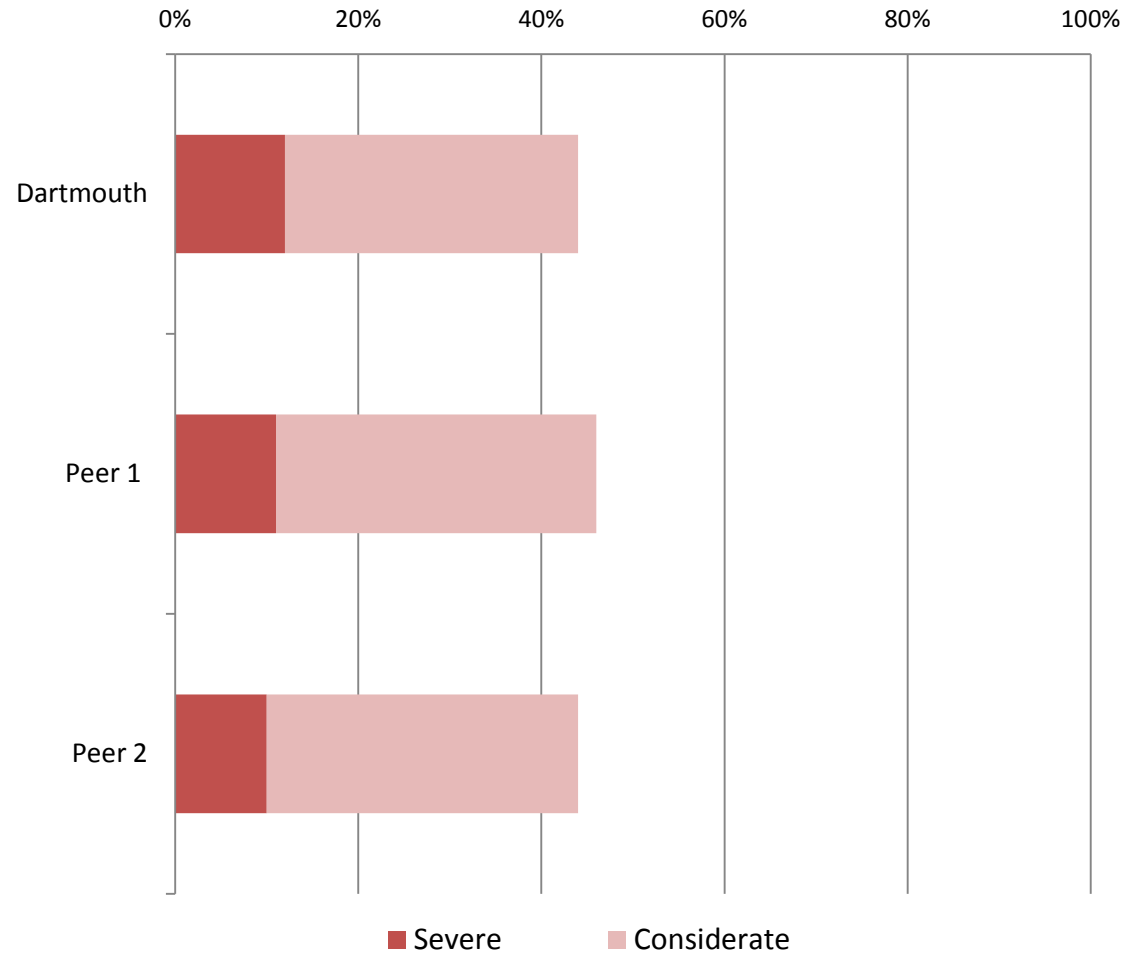
# Financial Aid and Debt

- Over half of all respondents received financial aid (e.g., grant, student loan, or work study job).
- Dartmouth seniors who did borrow money tended to owe less compared to peers.



# Impact on Family

## Impact on Family of Paying for your Education



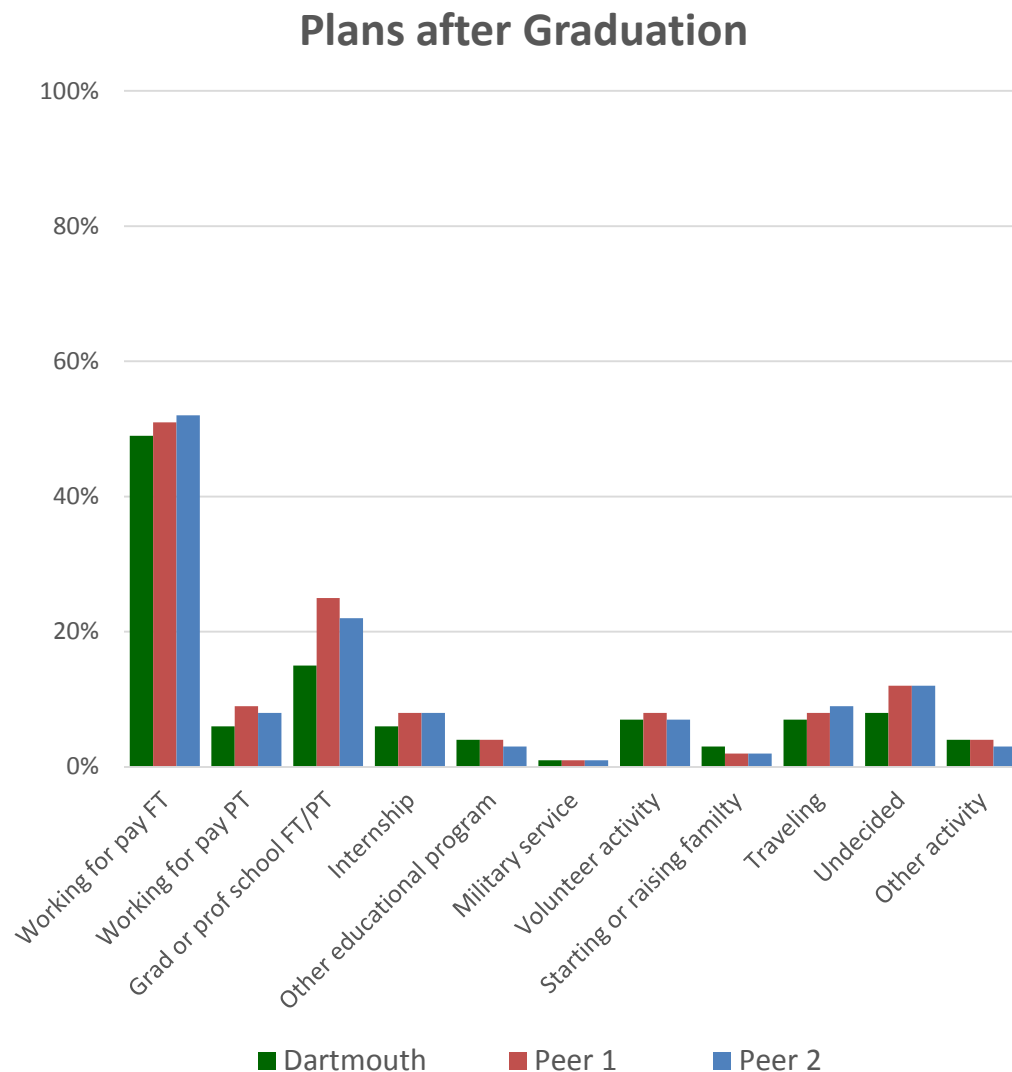
- There were no differences between Dartmouth and its peers with respect to the family impact of their student debt.





# Plans for the Fall

- Half of all respondents were planning on employment during the upcoming Fall.
- A smaller percentage of Dartmouth seniors (15%) planned on attending graduate or professional school full- or part-time compared to both Peer 1 (25%) and Peer 2 (22%) groups.



# Summary

- While 90% of students were very or generally satisfied overall, only 81% would definitely or probably recommend Dartmouth to a high school student which resembled him/her.
- The top 10 high satisfaction items spanned academic experiences, including components of the major, as well as campus facilities and campus life.
- Nearly all of the top 10 items that Dartmouth could improve upon fell into the campus services area, most notably administration's responsiveness to student concerns.

# Summary

- Over half of Dartmouth students received some type of financial aid.
- Of students who did borrow, the largest percentage borrowed between \$5K-\$10K and 64% reported that the impact on their family for paying for this education would be considerate or moderate.
- Nearly half of the students plan on working full-time in the fall, while the next largest percentage (15%) plan on attending graduate or professional school.

# Summary

- Dartmouth students reported higher satisfaction than peers in many components of academic experience, 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 compared to peers.
- Dartmouth had a number of components lower than peers in the area of campus life.