



FINDINGS FROM THE 2014 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.

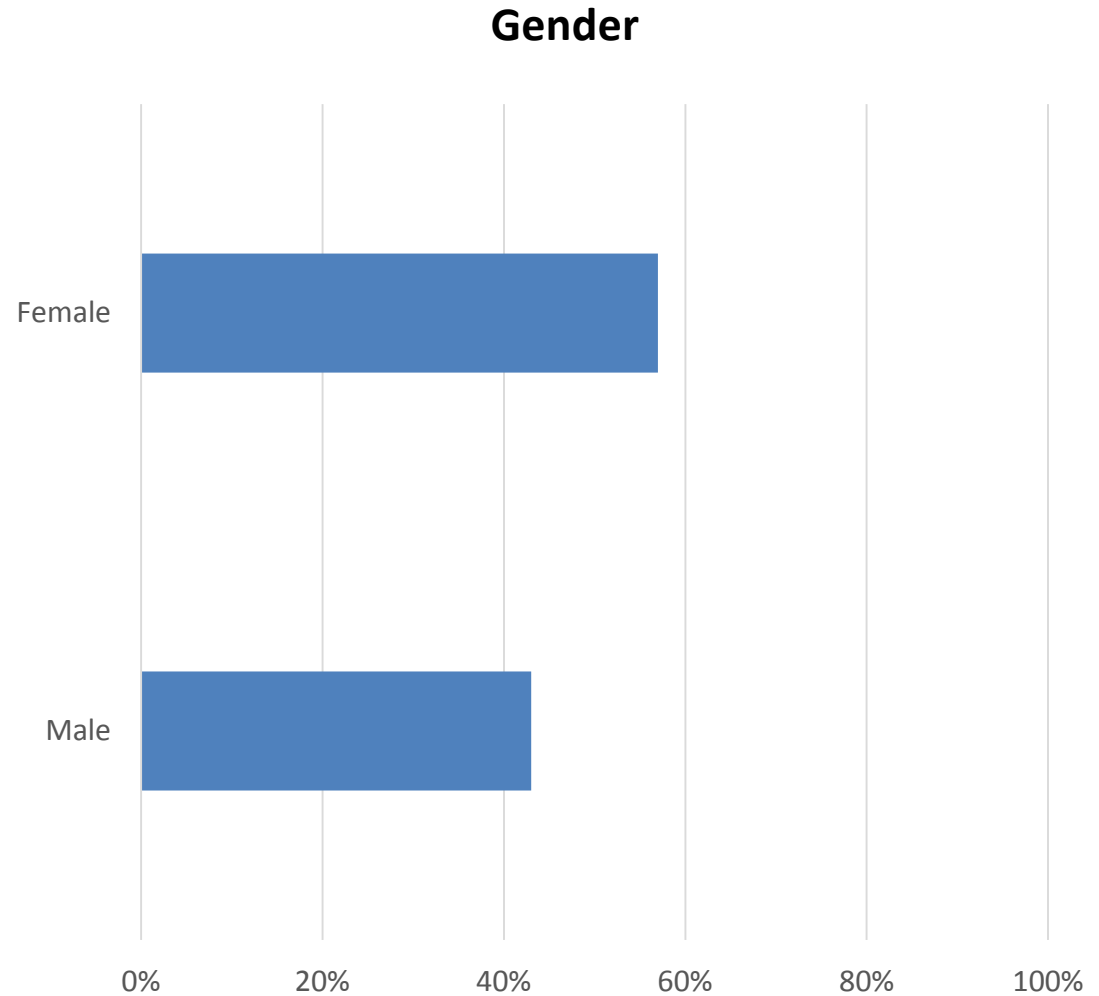
Definition of Peer Groups

- Thirty-eight highly selective, private colleges and universities participated in the 2014 Senior Survey. We selected 20 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 = 13) and Peer Group 2 includes participating Ivy League schools (n = 7).

Survey Methodology

- The 2014 Senior Survey was emailed to 1,120 seniors.
- Dartmouth's response rate was 44% (n = 486).
- There were no statistically significant differences between the survey respondents and the population on gender, race/ethnicity, and citizenship. The responding seniors were generally representative of the population of graduating seniors.

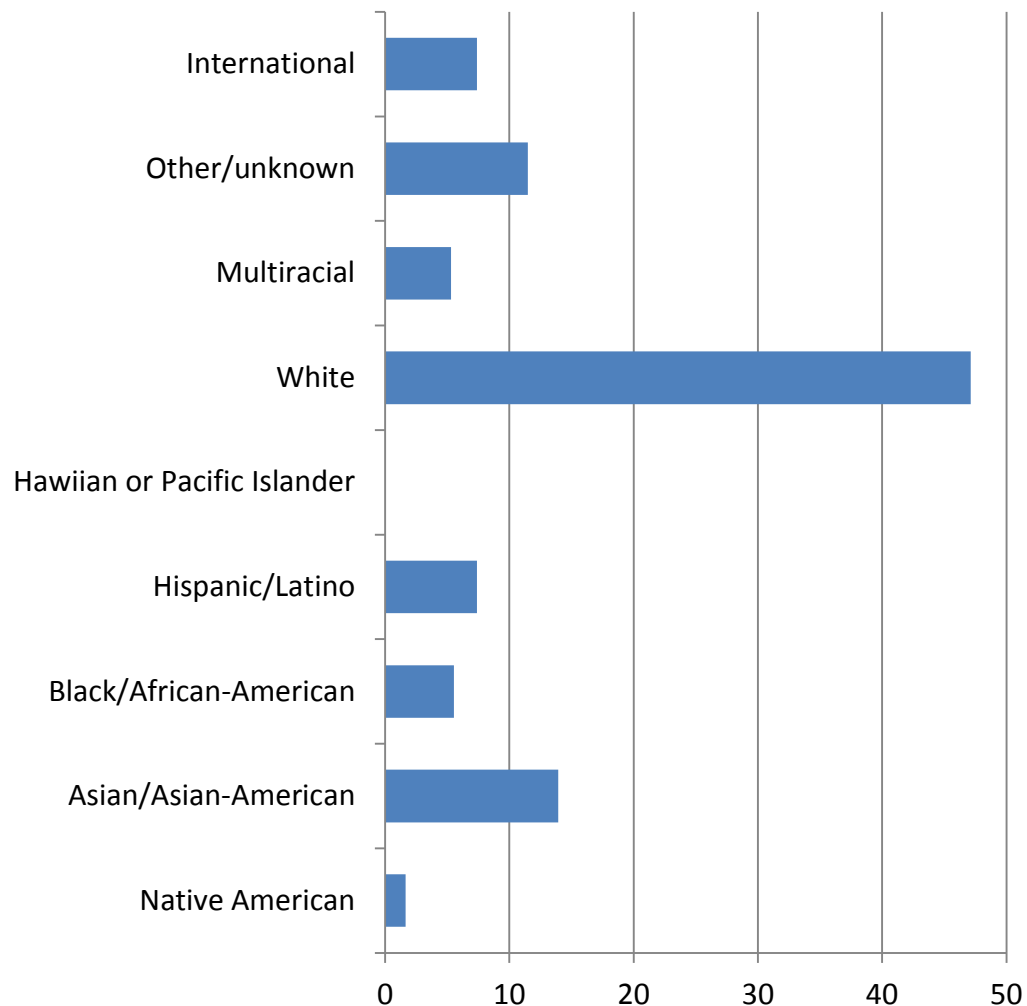
- There were slightly more women than men who responded to the survey.



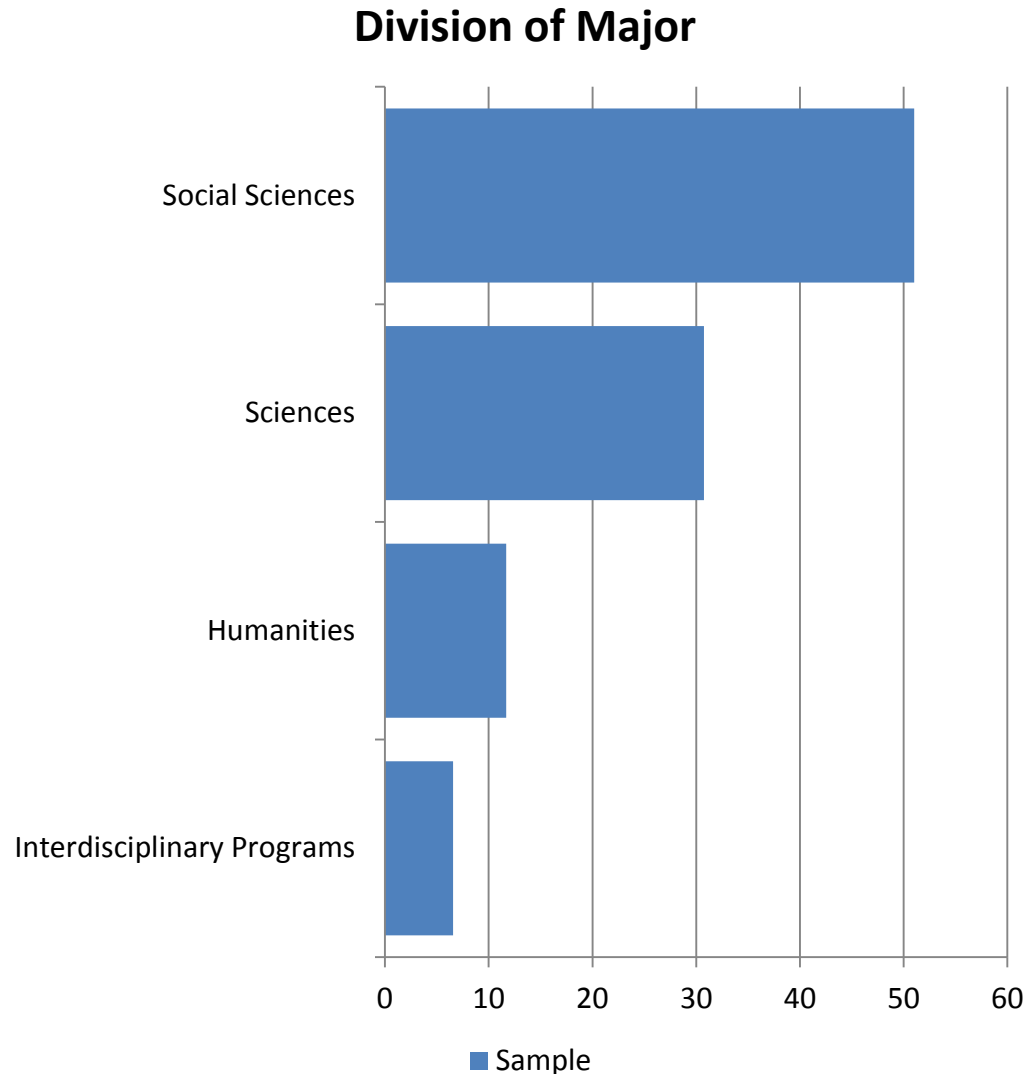
Race and Ethnicity

- Almost 50% of the respondents self-identified as White (47%).
- Asian-Americans were the largest under-represented group responding (14%), followed by students self-identifying as Hispanic/Latino(a). International students comprised 7% of the respondents.

Race/Ethnicity/Citizenship



- The majority of the students responding to the survey were majoring in a social sciences (51%). There were fewer students majoring in a humanities (12%) or interdisciplinary program (7%).

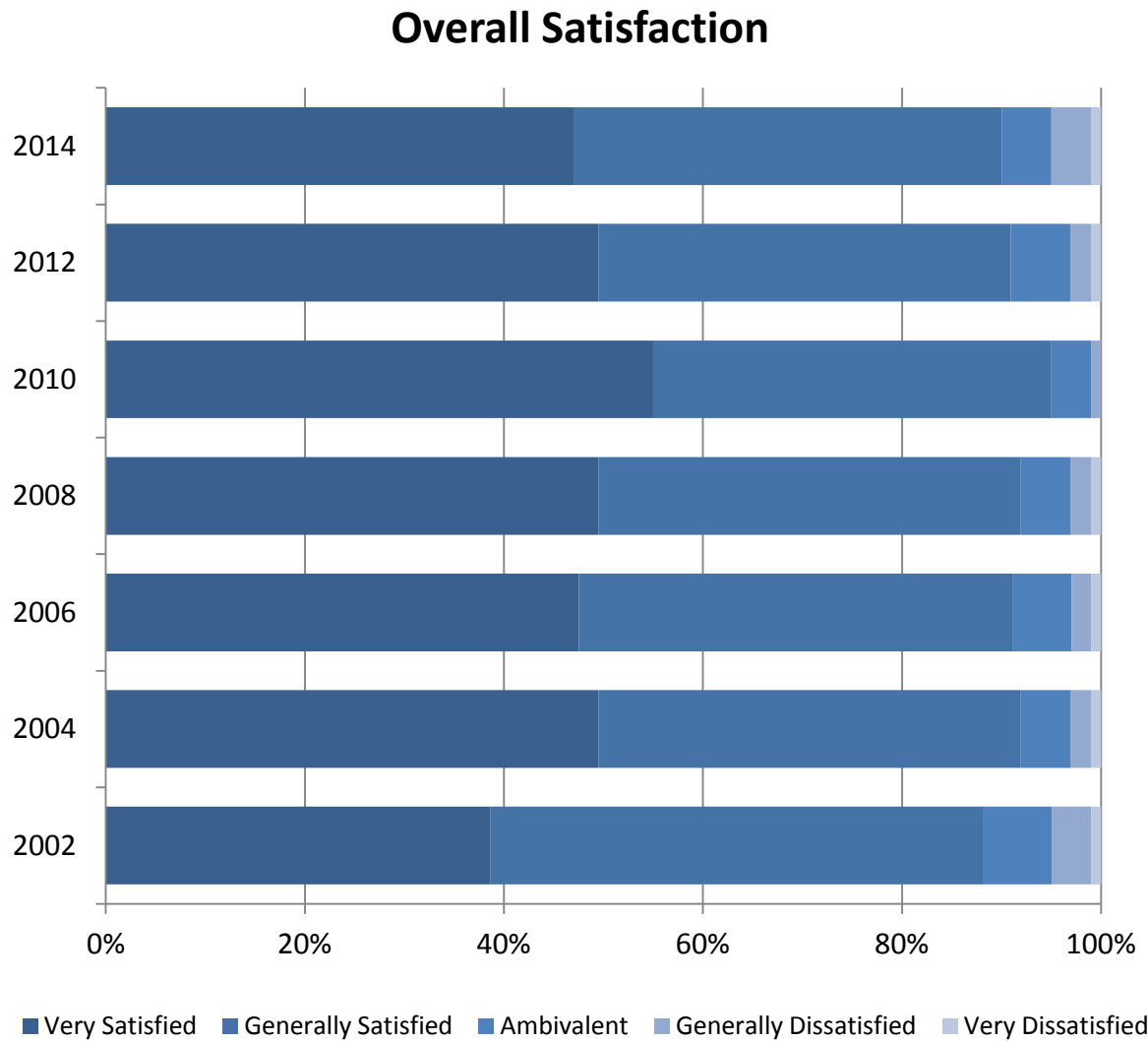


SATISFACTION & EXPERIENCES



Overall Satisfaction with Dartmouth College

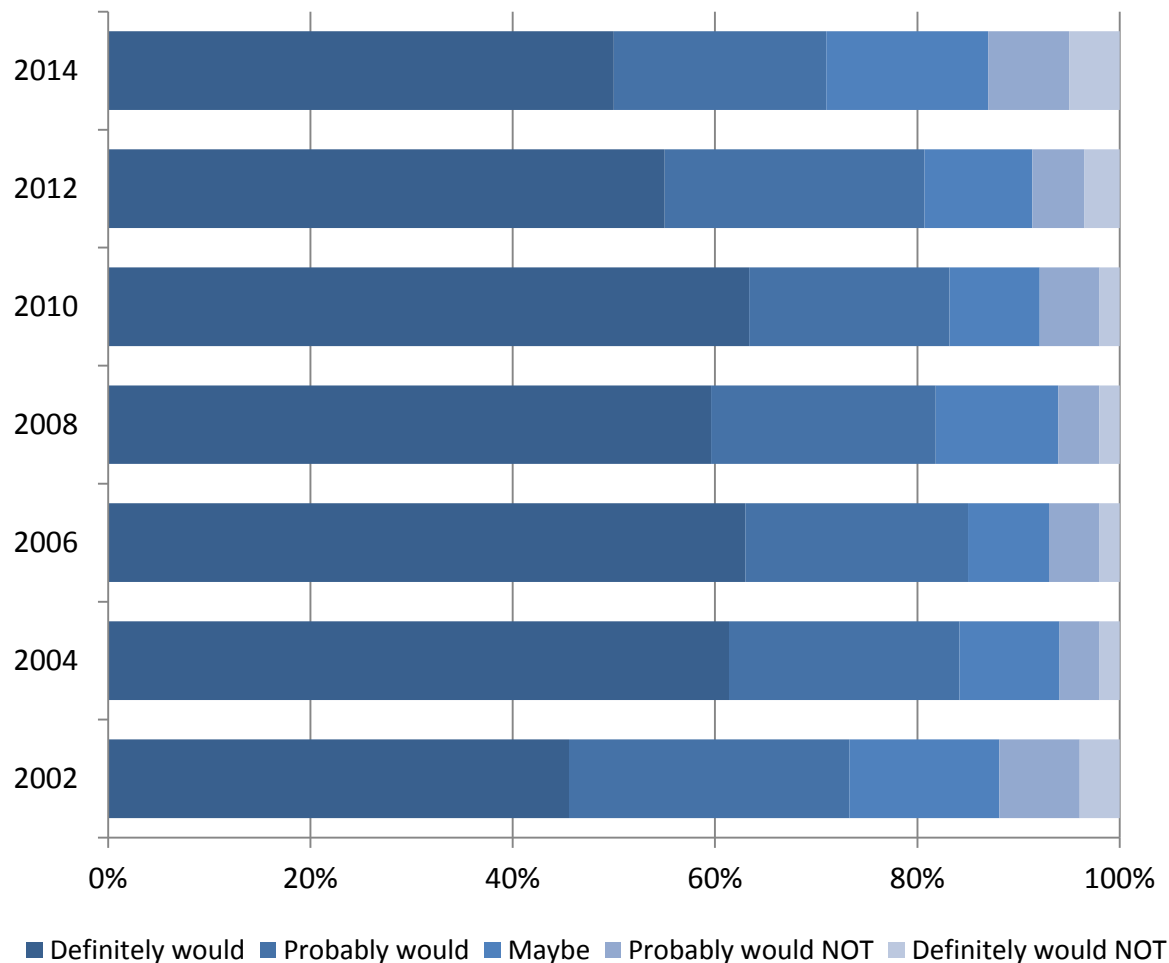
- Satisfaction with undergraduate education remains high with 90% of students indicating positive satisfaction.
- Satisfaction has decreased somewhat, returning to pre-2010 levels.



Recommendation of Dartmouth College

- In 2014, 71% of Dartmouth seniors definitely or probably would encourage a high school senior who resembled them to attend Dartmouth.
- Endorsement of Dartmouth has decreased over time, returning to levels experienced in 2002.

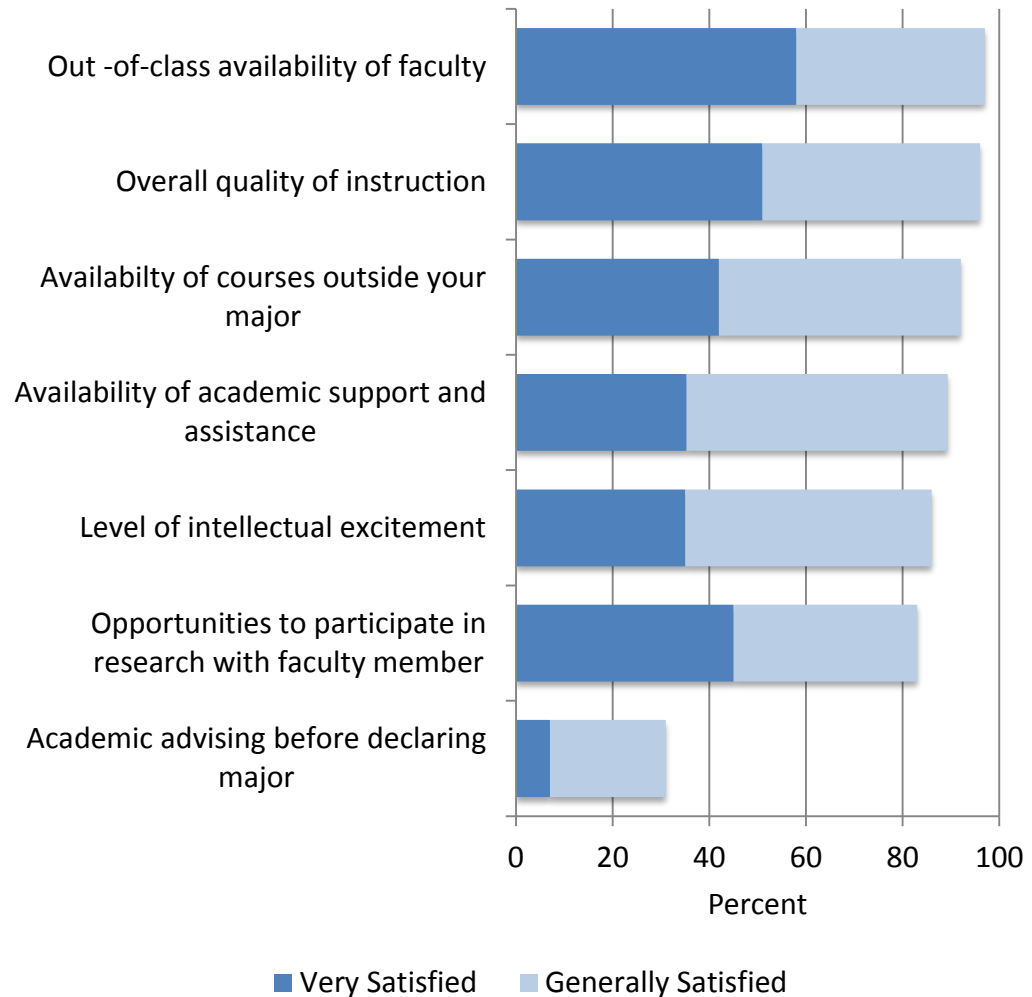
Recommend Institution



Satisfaction with Academic Experience

- More than 90% of Dartmouth seniors were satisfied with the out-of-class availability of faculty (97%), overall quality of instruction (96%), and course availability (92%).
- Satisfaction with academic advising before declaring a major was lower (31%).

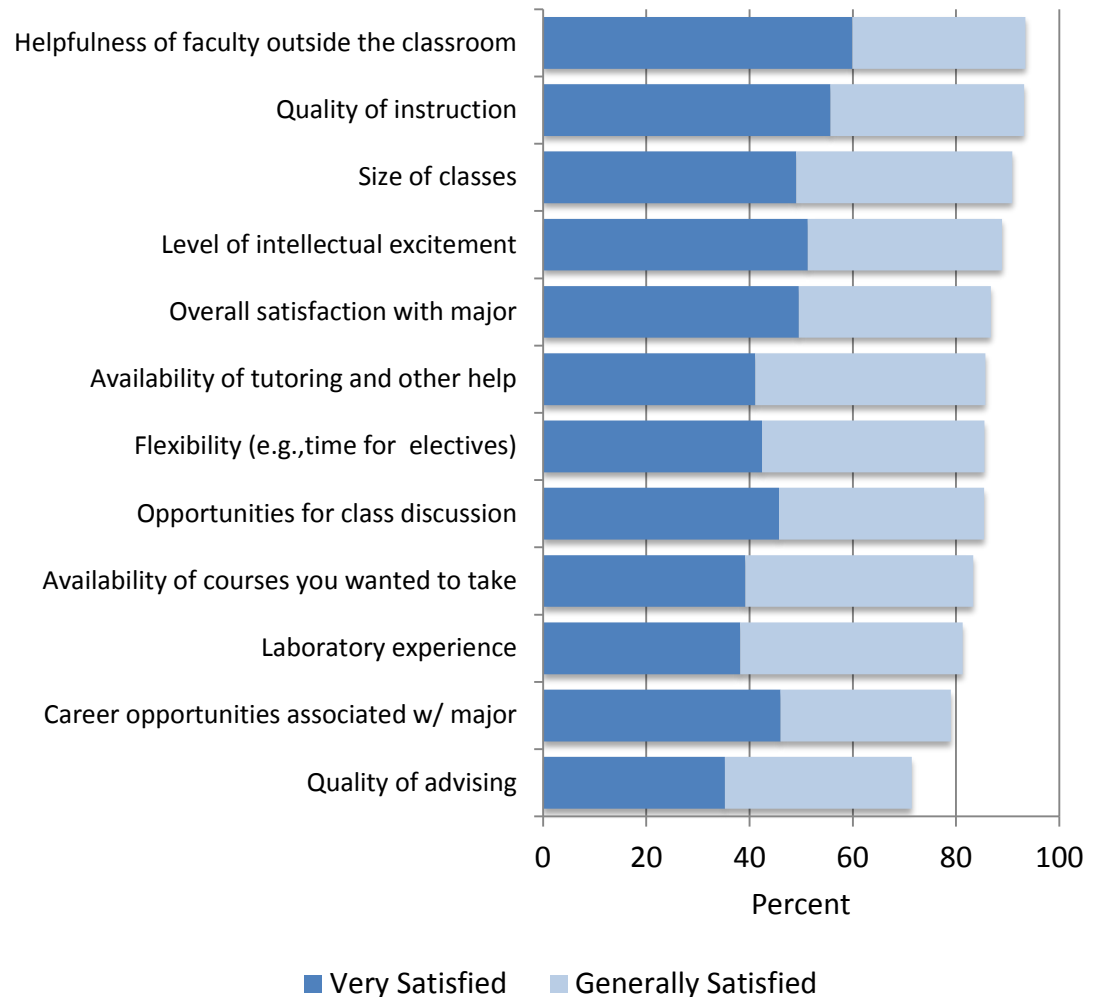
Satisfaction with Academic Experience



Satisfaction with Components of Major

- Students were extremely satisfied with some aspects of their major experience.
- The greatest satisfaction was with the helpfulness of faculty (94%), the quality of instruction (93%), size of classes (93%) and intellectual excitement (89%).
- There was less satisfaction with the availability of courses (83%), the lab experience (81%), career opportunities (79%), and quality of advising (71%).

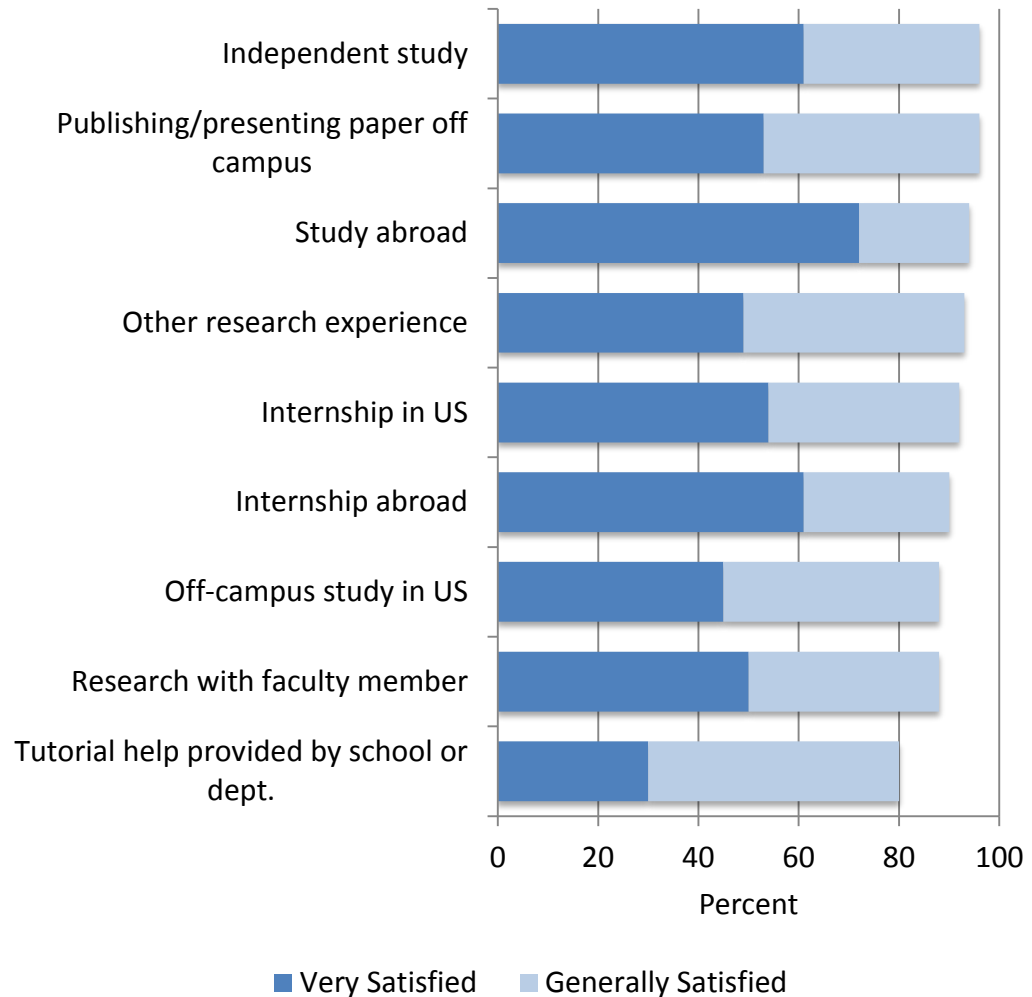
Satisfaction with Major



Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

- Seniors were also satisfied with other academic experiences.
- Over 90% of seniors were satisfied with the following experiences: independent study (96%), publishing a paper (96%), study abroad (94%), other research experiences (93%) internships in the US (92%), and internships abroad (90%).

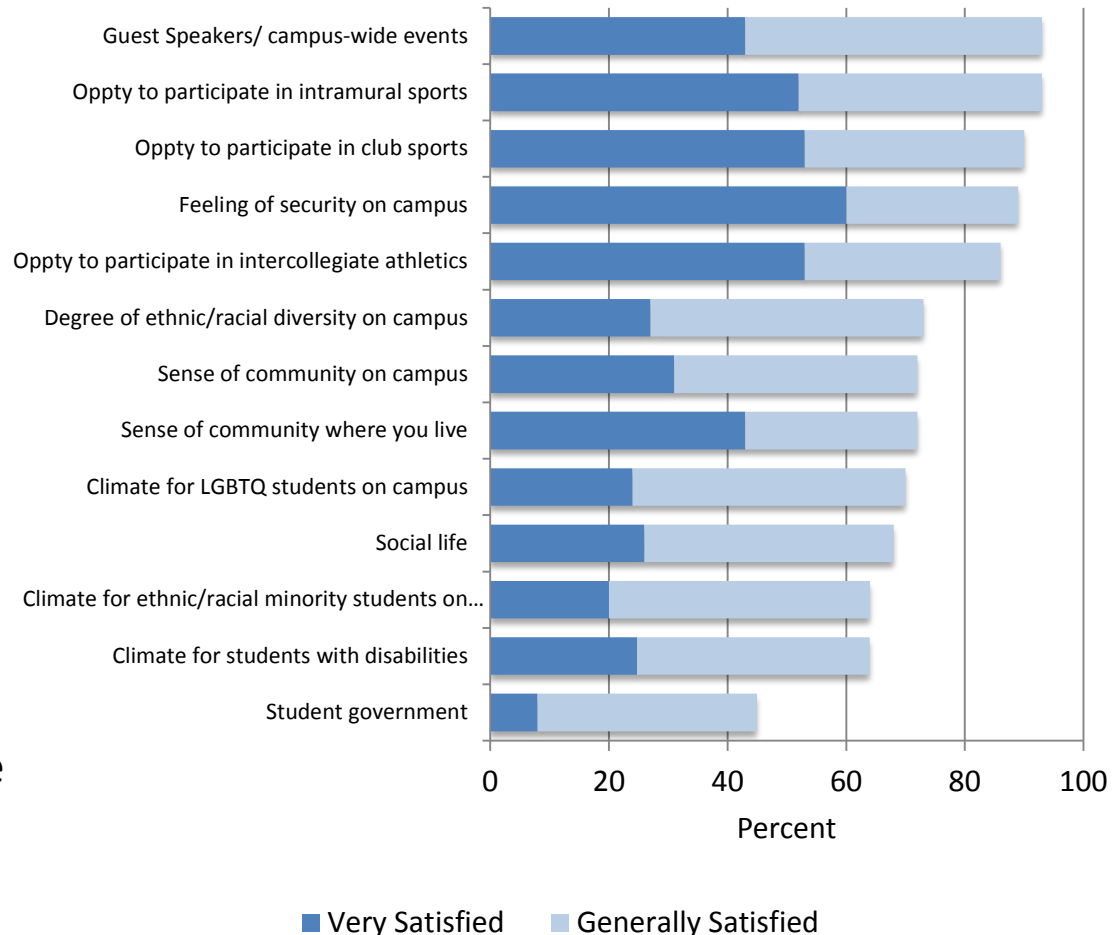
Satisfaction with Other Academics



Satisfaction with Campus Life

- Students' satisfaction with elements of campus life varied considerably.
- 93% were satisfied with guest speakers and intramural sports opportunities.
- 89% of seniors felt very secure on campus.
- 72% were satisfied with campus community, and 68% with social life on campus.
- 64% were satisfied with the climate for minorities and students with disabilities

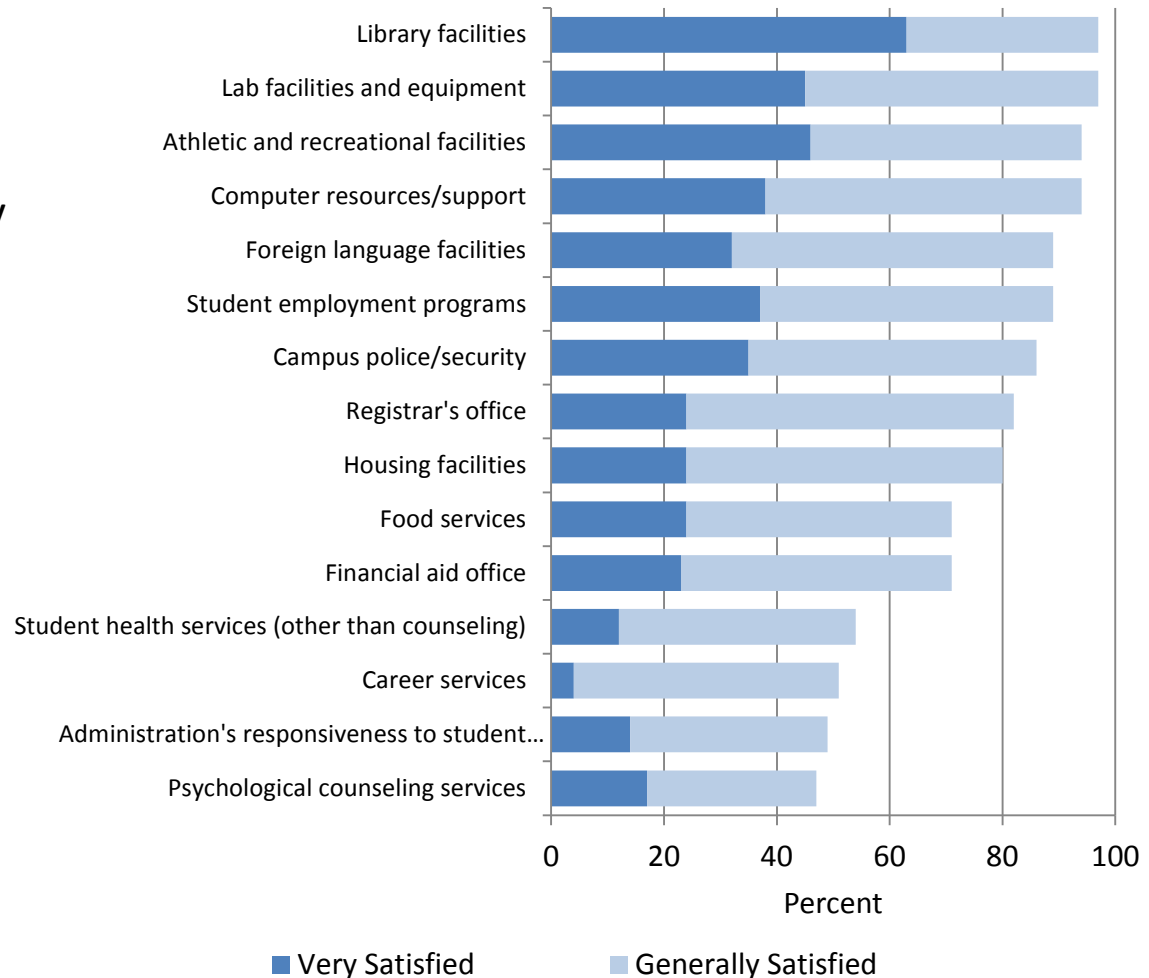
Satisfaction with Campus Life



Satisfaction with Facilities and Services

- More than 90% of seniors were satisfied with the following facilities or services: library (97%), laboratory (9%), computer resources (94%), and athletic facilities (94%).
- Respondents were least satisfied with the administration's responsiveness to student concerns (49%) and psychological counseling services (47%).

Satisfaction with Facilities/Services



Areas of High Satisfaction Compared to 2012

- Seniors were most satisfied with their study abroad experience (72% very satisfied) and their volunteer service abroad (65%).
- Dartmouth improved in 5 areas compared to 2012, but decreased in all of the other areas.

Top 10 Areas of High Satisfaction	2014 Percent "Very Satisfied"	2012 Percent "Very Satisfied"
Study abroad	72%	60%
Volunteer service abroad	65%	Not asked in 2012
Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities	63%	56%
Library facilities	63%	60%
Independent study	61%	57%
Internship abroad	61%	68%
Feeling of security on campus	60%	76%
Helpfulness of faculty outside the classroom (in major)	60%	62%
Out-of-class faculty availability	58%	59%
Quality of instruction in major	56%	51%

Higher in 2014

Lower in 2012



Areas for Improvement Compared to 2012

- Seniors were least satisfied with the academic advising before declaring a major (30% very dissatisfied).
- Dartmouth improved in 4 areas compared to 2012, but decreased in all of the other areas. Most of these areas were in Campus services and Campus life.

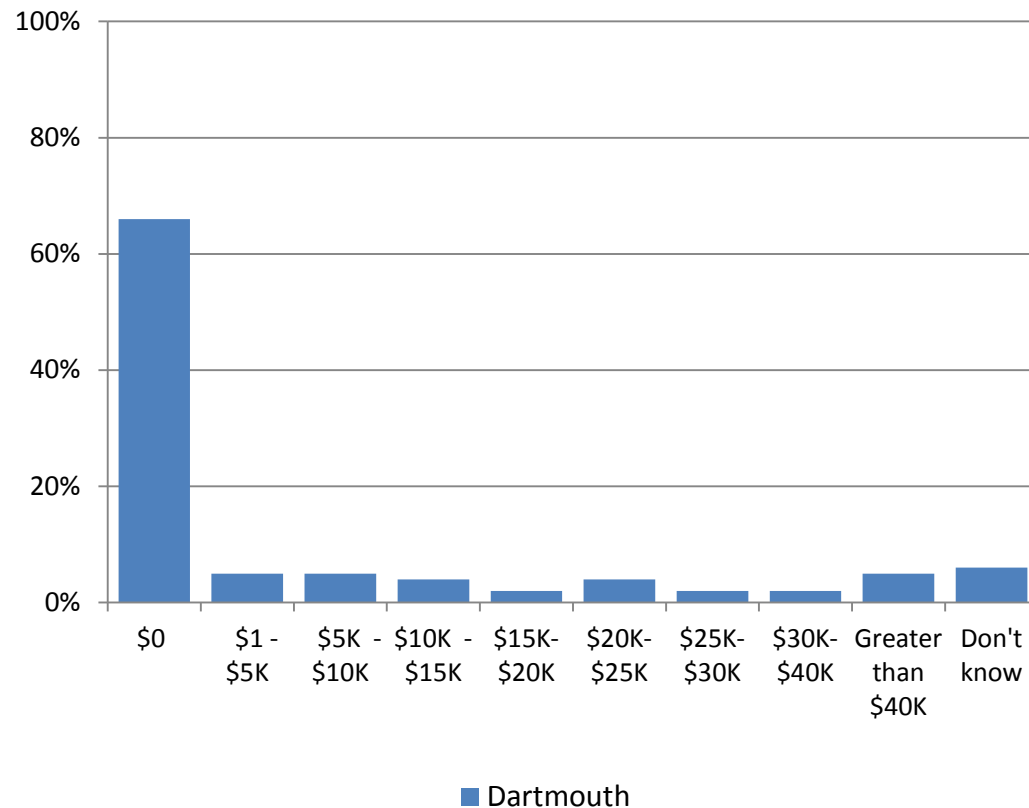
Top 10 Areas for Improvement	2014 Percent "Very Dissatisfied"	2012 Percent "Very Dissatisfied"
Academic advising before declaring a major	30%	19%
Psychological counseling services	21%	24%
Administration's responsiveness	16%	25%
Student health services (excluding counseling)	16%	23%
Student government	15%	11%
Social life on campus	11%	9%
Food services	10%	15%
Climate for minority students on campus	9%	8%
Sense of community where you live	8%	6%
Sense of community on campus	8%	4%
Career Services	16%	10%
	Higher in 2014	Lower in 2012



Financial Aid and Debt

- Over half (53%) of Dartmouth students reported receiving some form of financial aid.
- Over 66% of Dartmouth students did not borrow any money for their education.
- 5% of students borrowed over \$40,000 for their education.

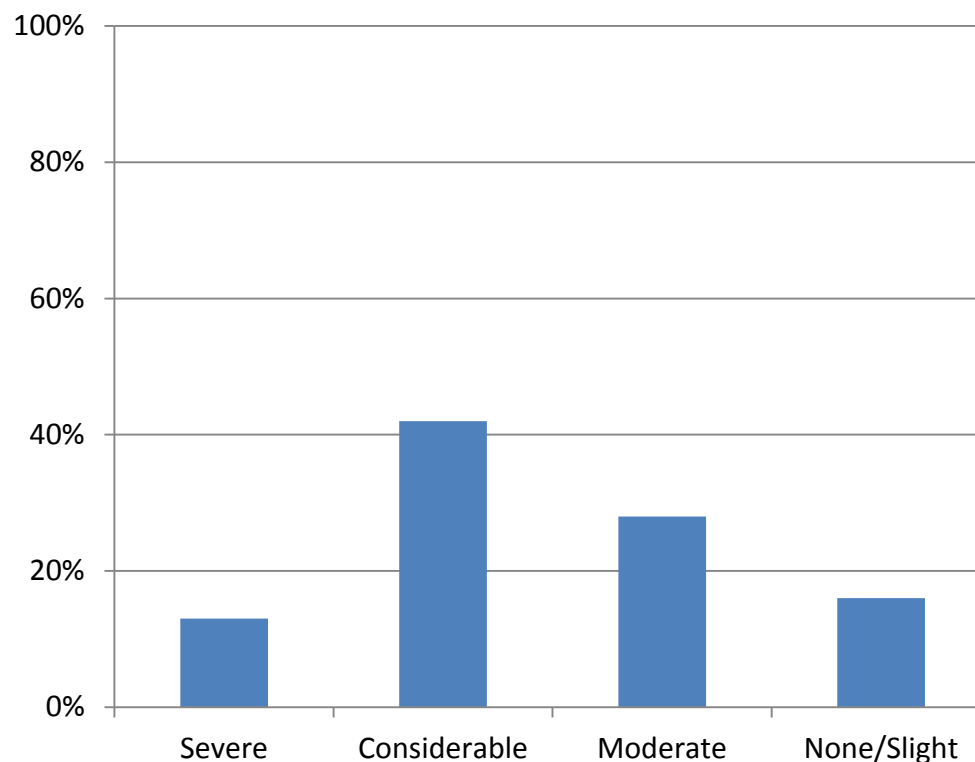
Amount Borrowed for Education



Impact of Student Debt

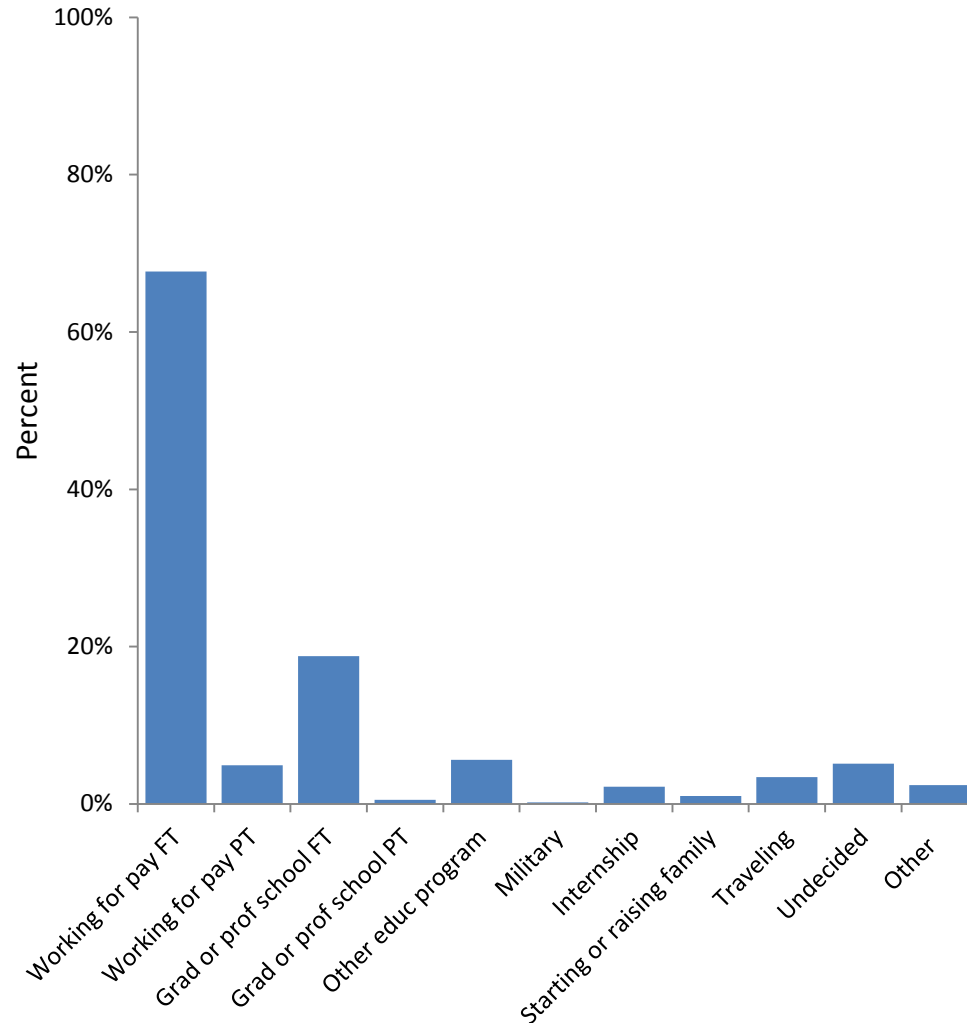
- Dartmouth students report that the impact of their student debt is moderate (28%) to considerable (42%).
- Only 13% of the seniors indicated that the impact was severe and another 16% noted that there was no impact or that the impact was slight.

**Impact on Family
of Paying for your Education**



- The majority of the survey respondents were planning on employment during the upcoming Fall (73%).
- More than one-fourth were planning to attend graduate school or some other educational program (26%)
- Additional plans included internships (2%) and traveling (3%).

Plans After Graduation



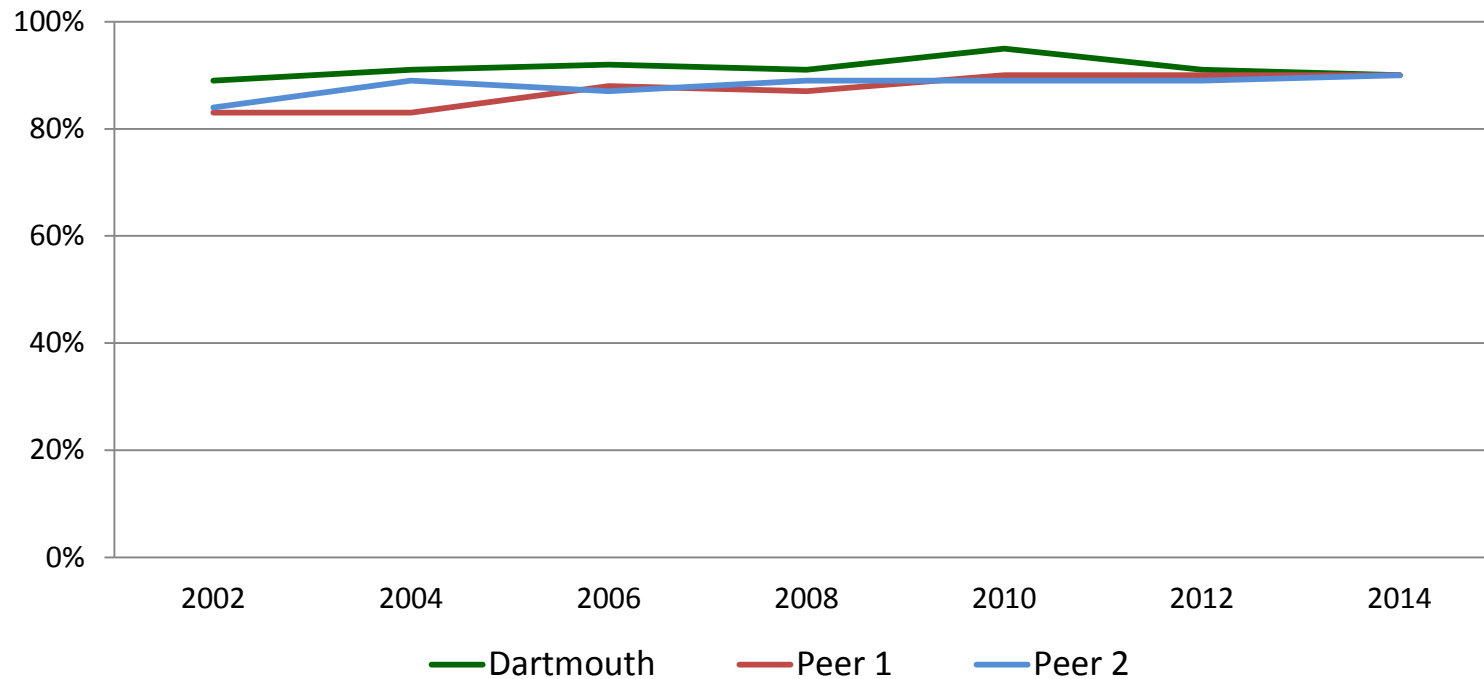
PEER COMPARISONS



Overall Satisfaction Over Time

- Historically, Dartmouth students have been more satisfied with their education than students at peer institutions.
- Dartmouth satisfaction began to drop in 2012 and is now equal to our peers.

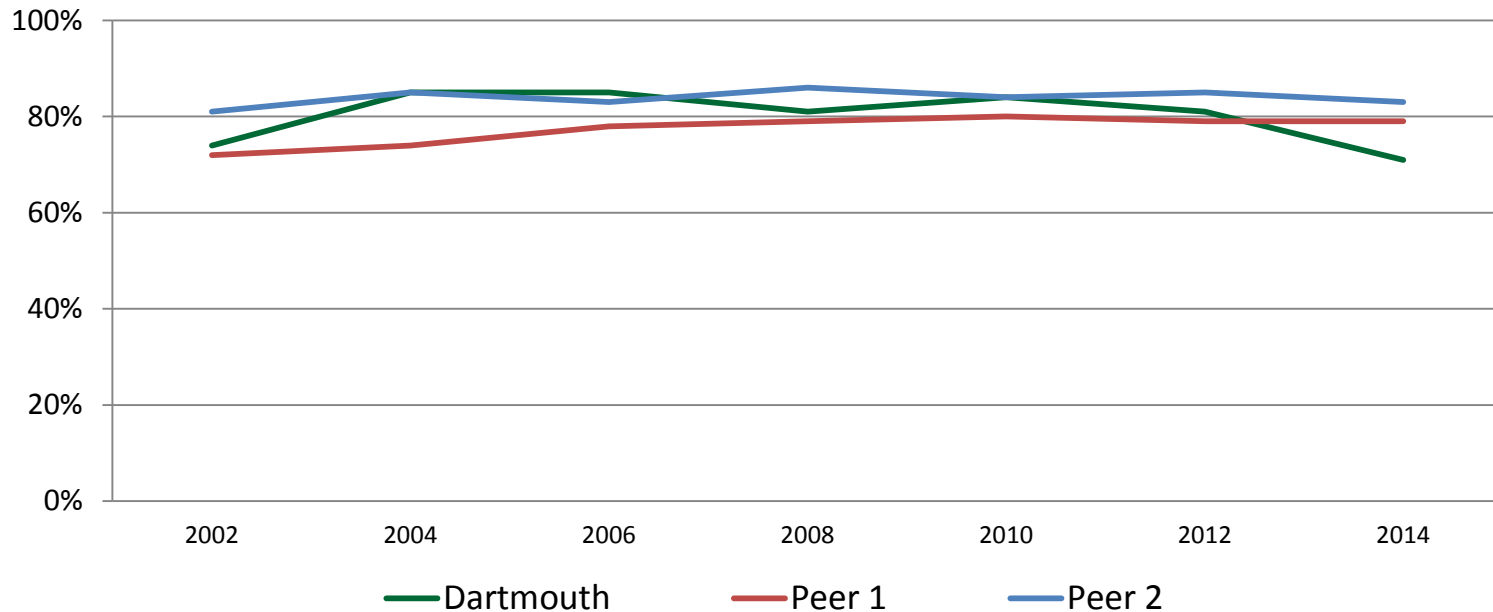
Satisfaction Over Time: Very and Generally Satisfied



Recommend Institution Over Time

- Dartmouth students have tended to recommend Dartmouth at the same levels as students at Peer 2 institutions.
- Dartmouth students' willingness to recommend their institution dropped in 2014 and is now lower than both peer groups.

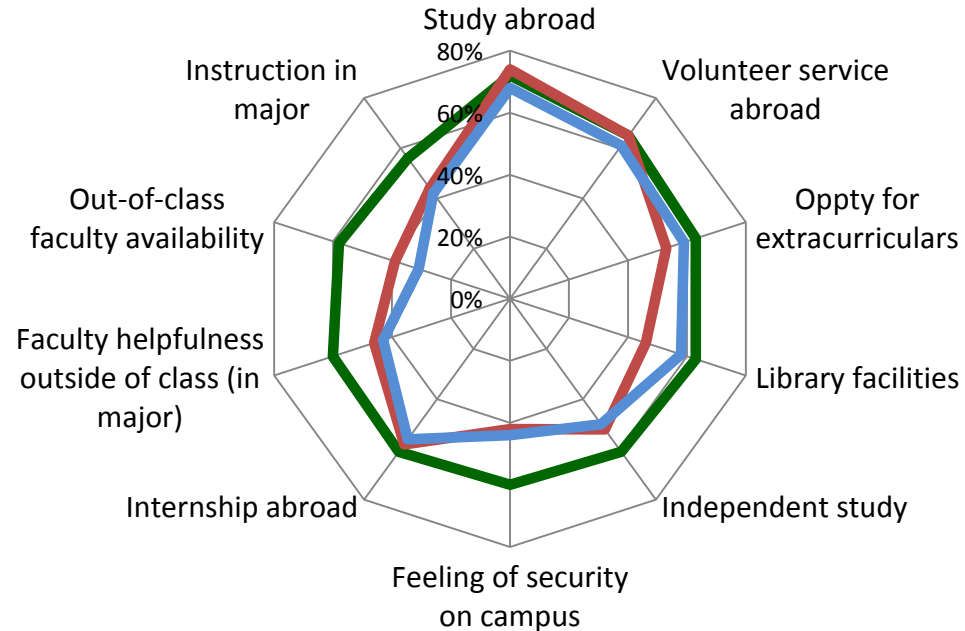
Recommend Institution: Definitely + Probably Would



Areas of High Satisfaction: Percent “Very Satisfied”

- For Dartmouth’s top 10 areas of highest satisfaction, we outpace both peer groups in all areas except study abroad and volunteer services abroad.

Areas of High Satisfaction “Very Satisfied”



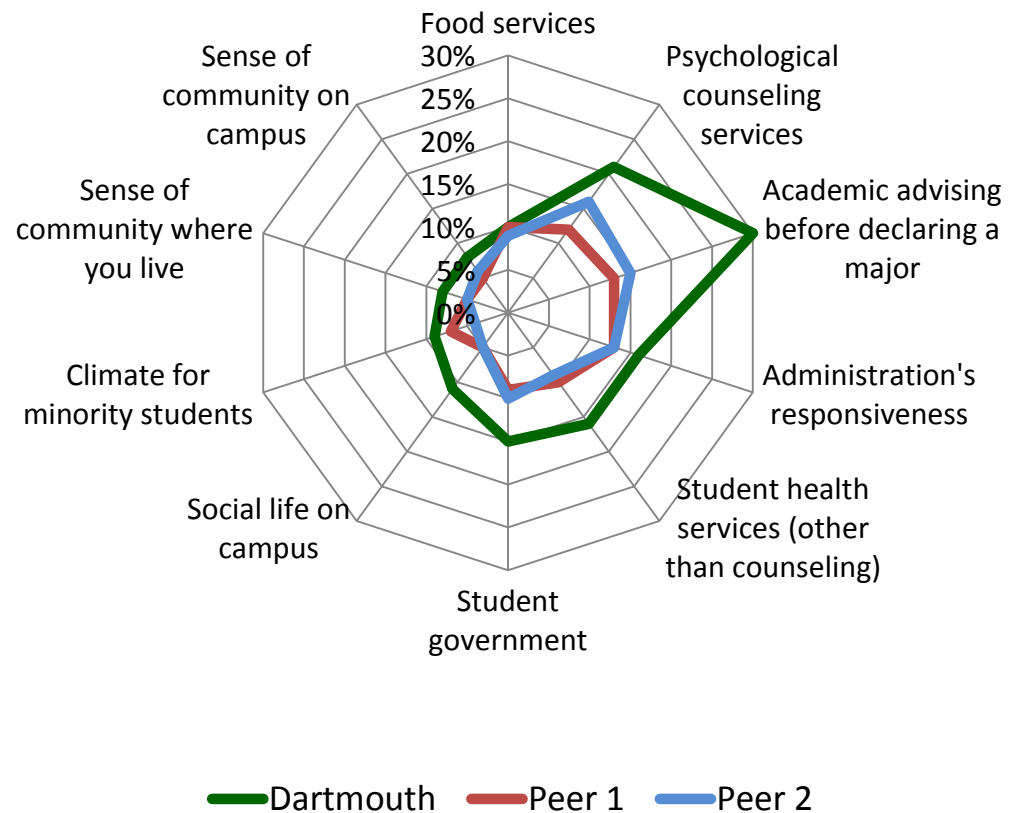
— Dartmouth — Peer 1 — Peer 2



Areas for Improvement: Percent “Very Dissatisfied”

- For Dartmouth’s top 10 areas for improvement, we are more dissatisfied than both peer groups in every area except food services.

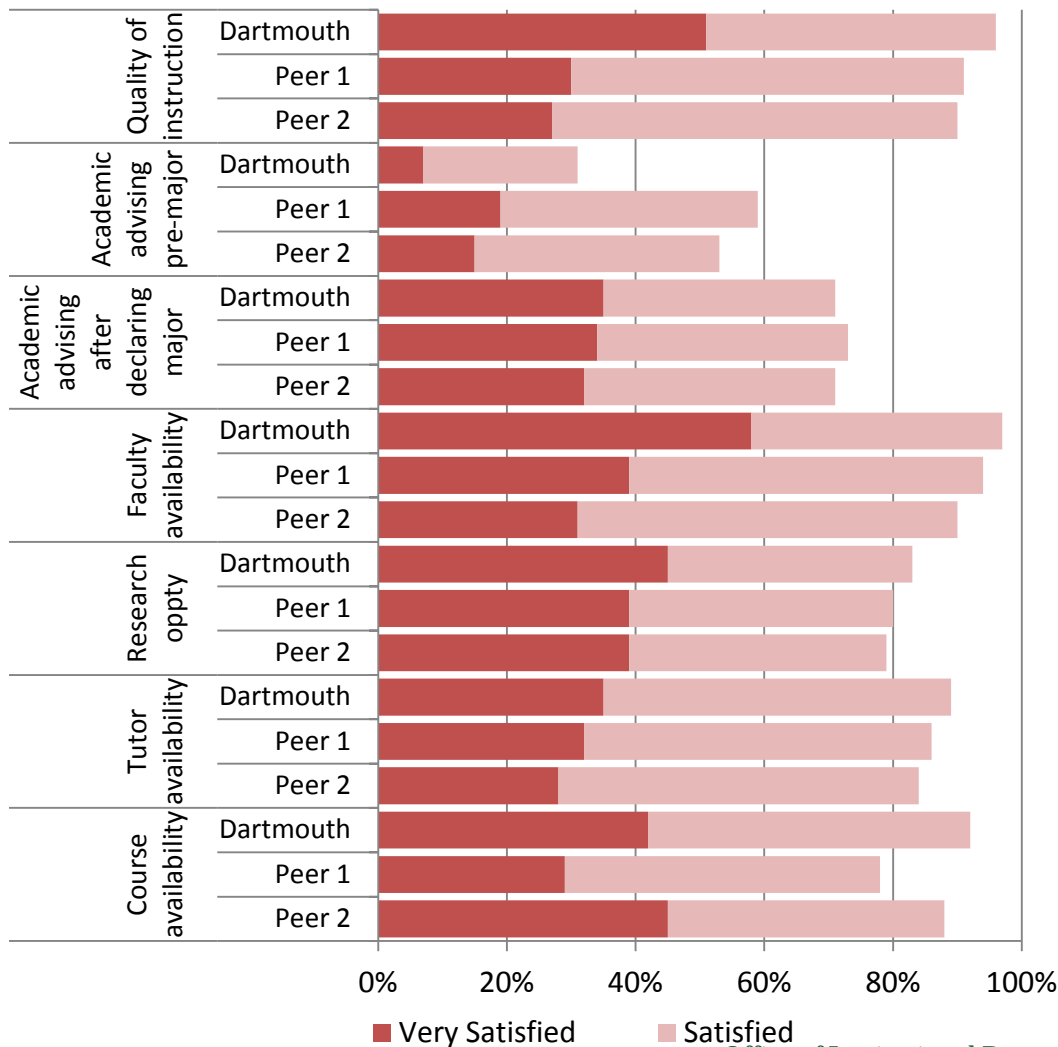
Areas for Improvement “Very Dissatisfied”



Satisfaction with Academic Experiences

Satisfaction with Academic Experiences

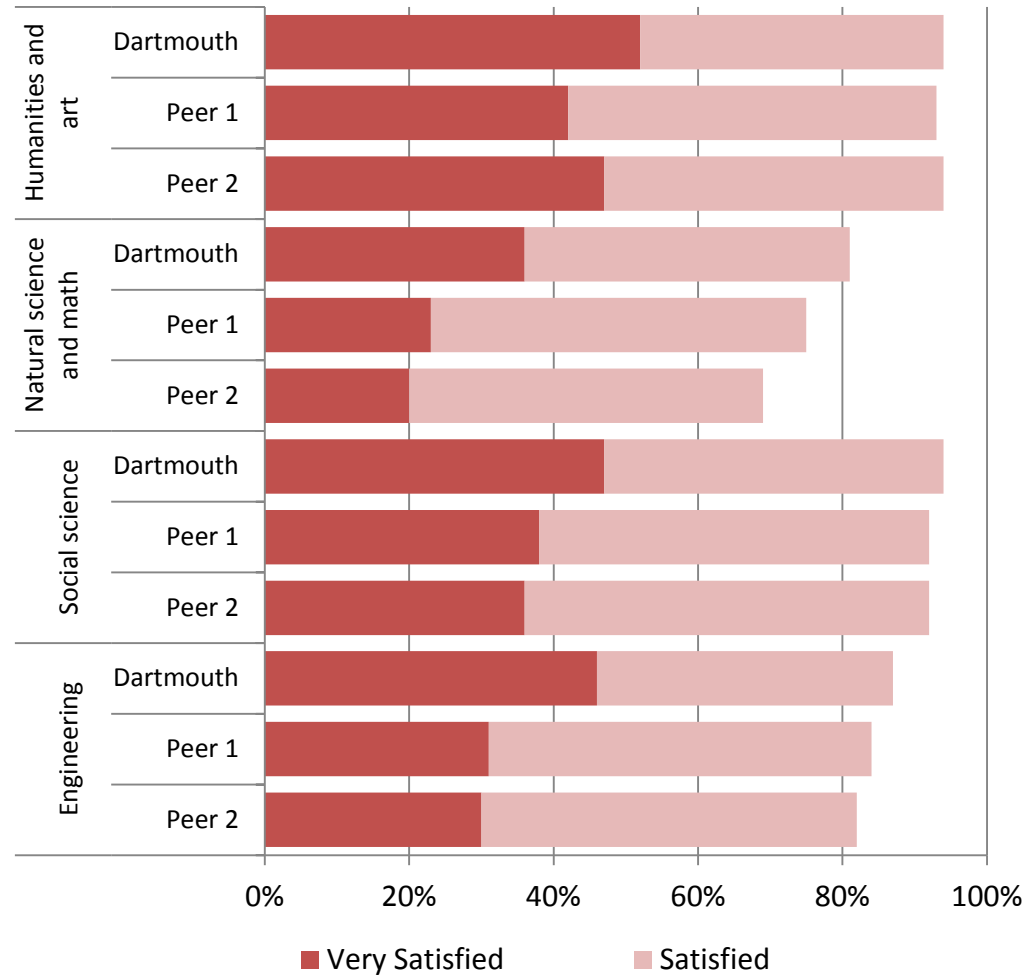
- Compared to peers, Dartmouth students are more satisfied with the quality of instruction, faculty availability, and course availability.
- Dartmouth students are less satisfied with academic advising before declaring a major and equally satisfied with advising after declaring their major.



Satisfaction with Course Instruction

- Compared to peers, Dartmouth students are more satisfied with course instruction in the sciences, social sciences and engineering.
- Dartmouth students are highly satisfied with the instruction in the humanities. This is similar to our peers (~94% positive satisfaction).

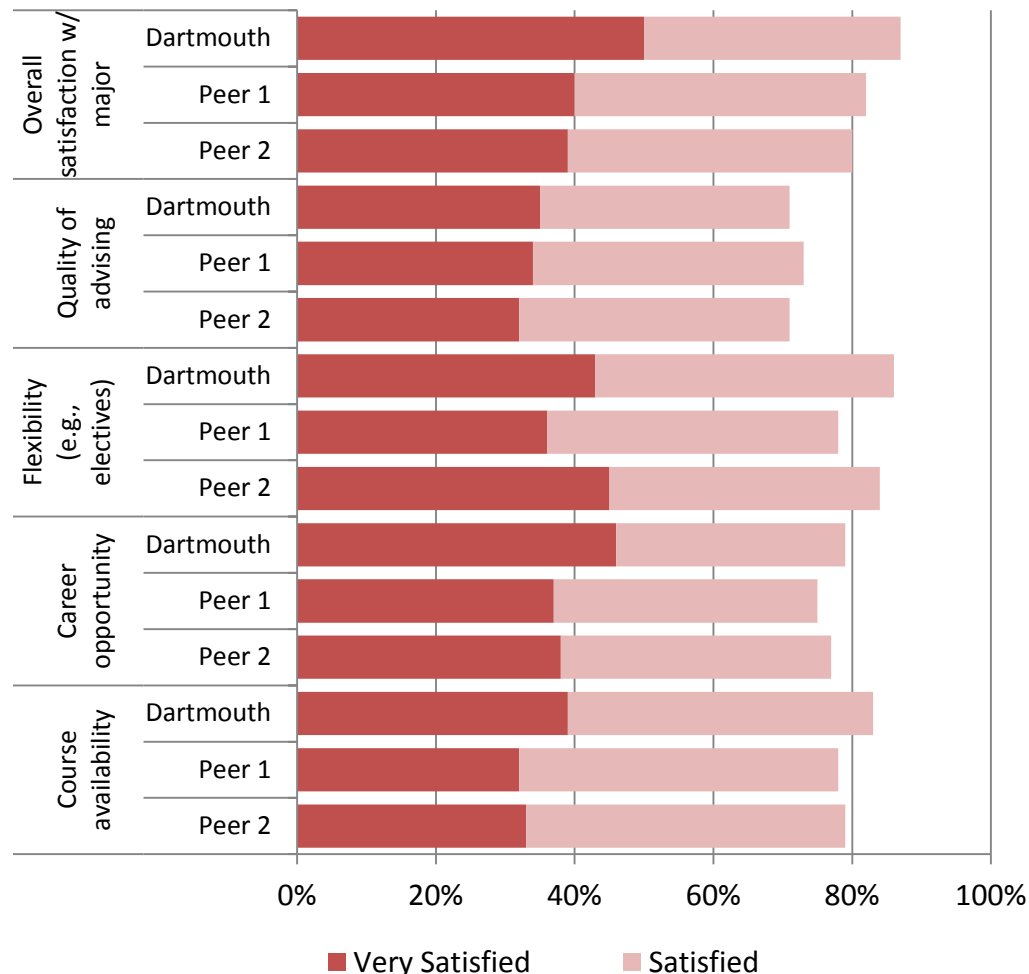
Satisfaction with Course Instruction



Satisfaction with Components of Major

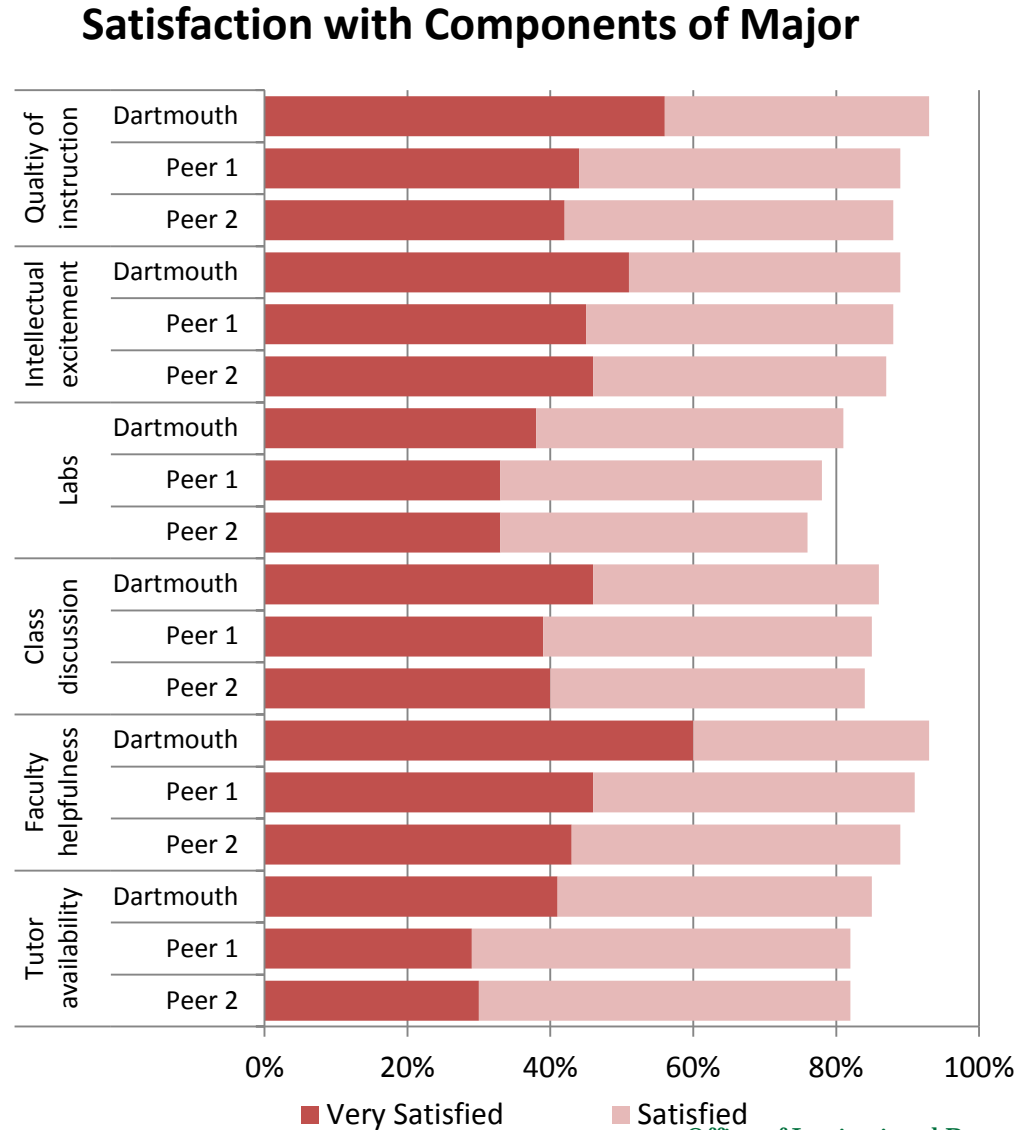
- Overall, Dartmouth students are satisfied with aspects of their majors.
- Compared to peers, Dartmouth students have greater overall satisfaction with their major. They are also more satisfied with the flexibility of their majors and course availability.
- Students from all schools were less satisfied with the quality of advising.

Satisfaction with Components of Major



Satisfaction with Components of Major (cont.)

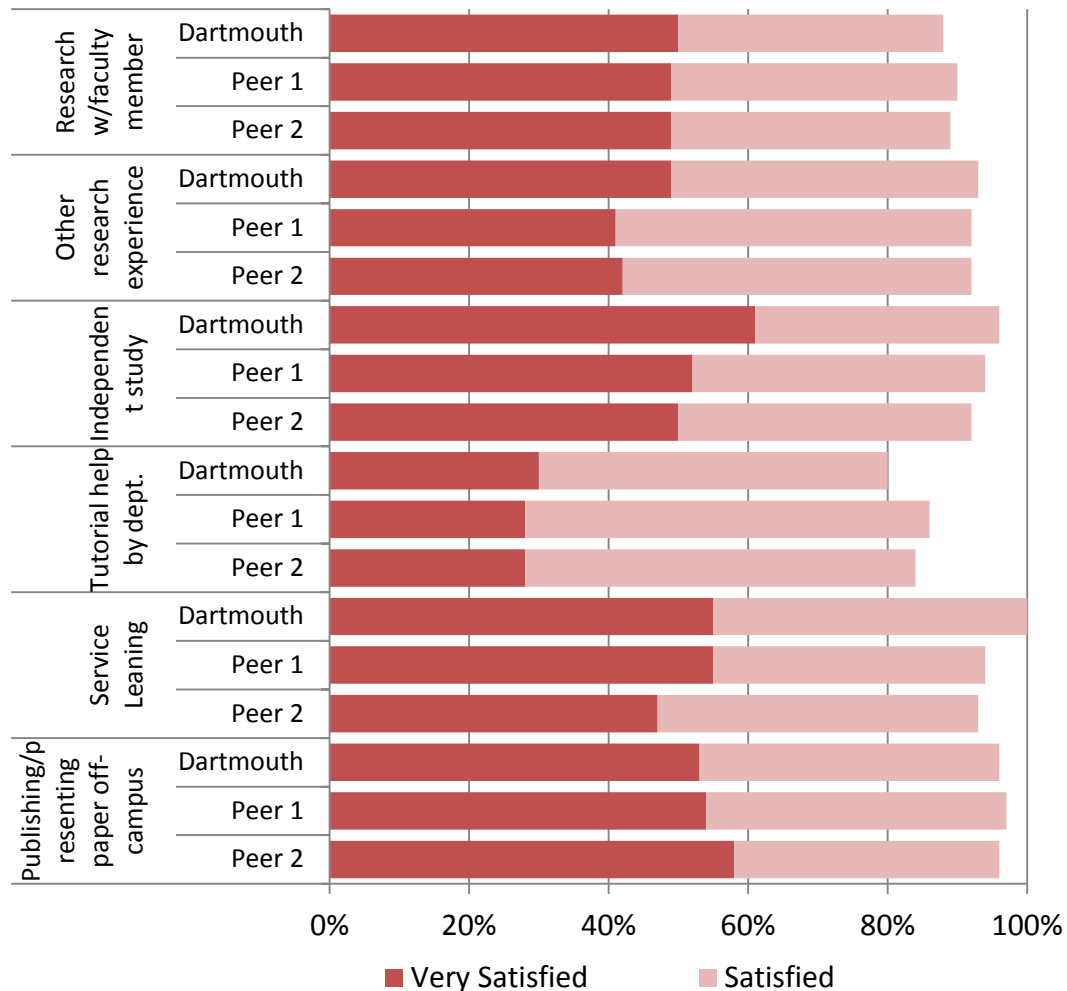
- Dartmouth students are most satisfied with the quality of instruction and faculty helpfulness. Satisfaction also remains high with intellectual excitement, class discussion and tutor availability.
- In general, Dartmouth students are more satisfied with aspects of their majors than students at peer schools.



Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences

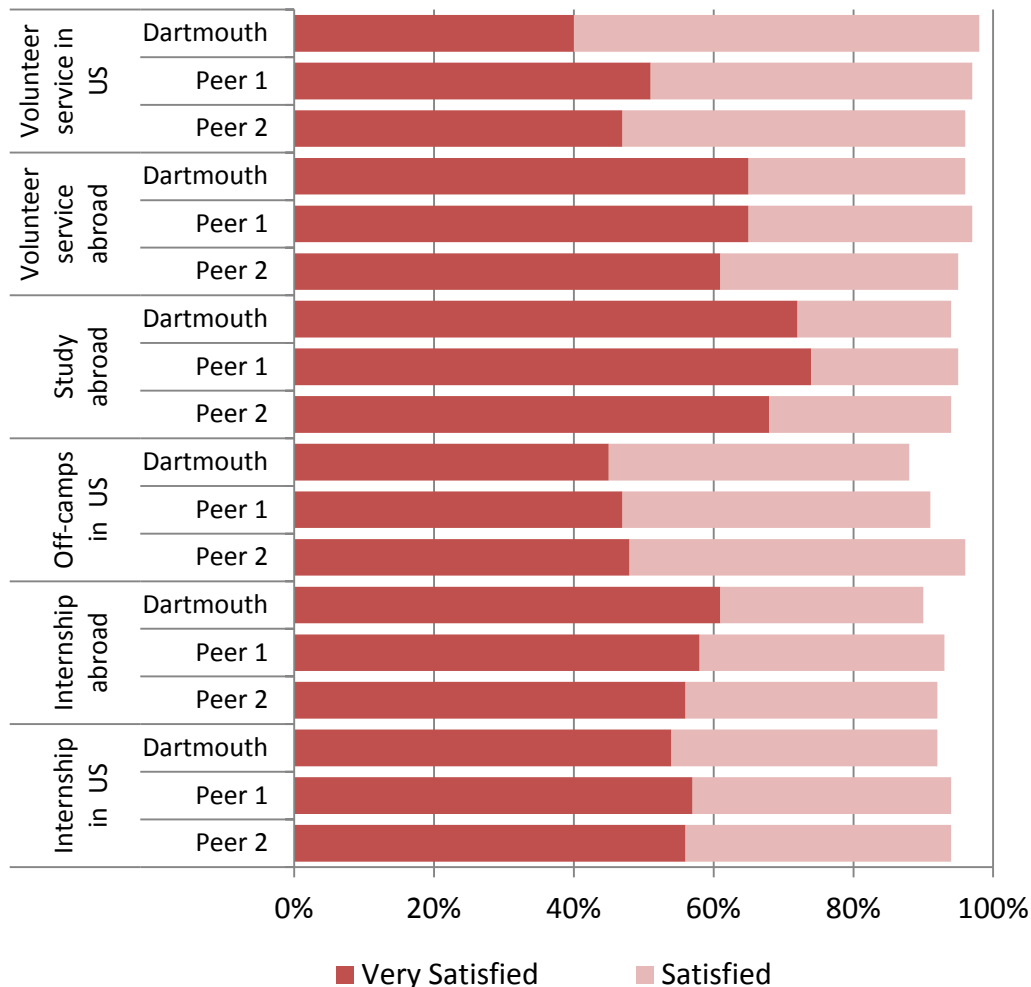
- Dartmouth students are most satisfied with service learning experiences and independent studies than both peer groups.
- Dartmouth lowest area of satisfaction, compared to peers, was with tutorial help by department.



Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences (cont.)

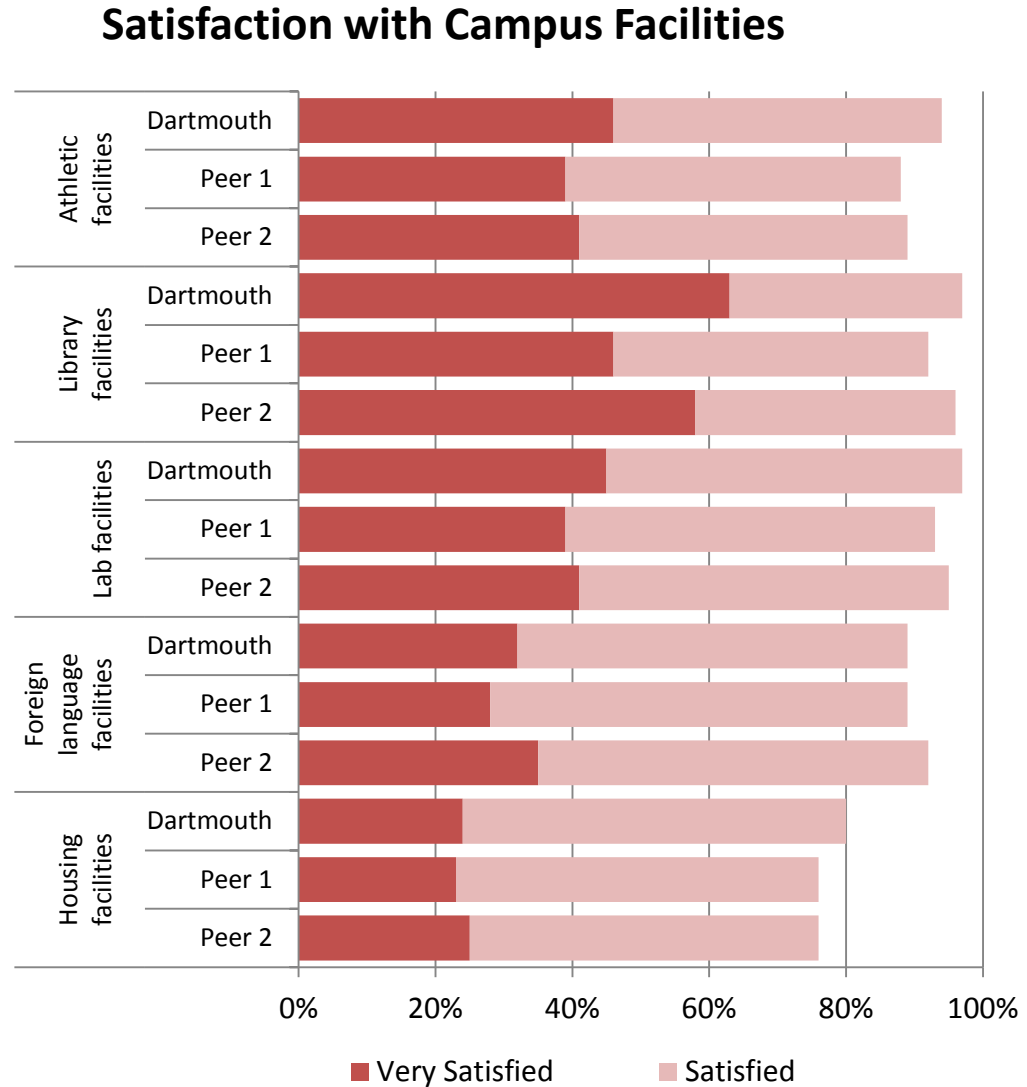
- Students at Dartmouth and our peer schools are highly satisfied with volunteer experiences (in US and abroad), study abroad, and internships.
- Study abroad experiences had the highest reported percentages of “very satisfied” from Dartmouth and peers.

Satisfaction with Other Academic Experiences



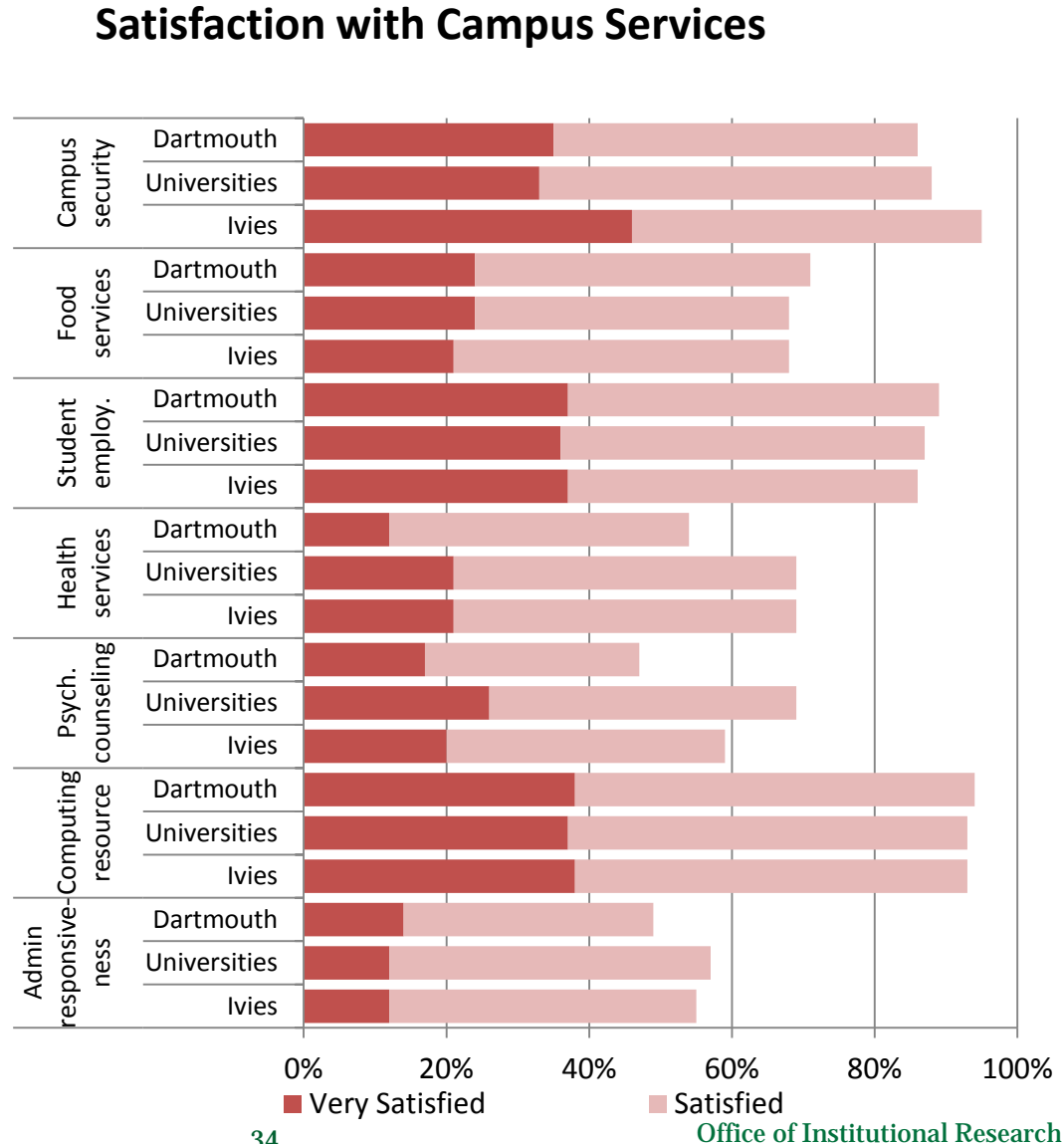
Satisfaction with Campus Facilities

- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with the athletic, library, laboratory, and housing facilities compared to peers.



Satisfaction with Campus Services

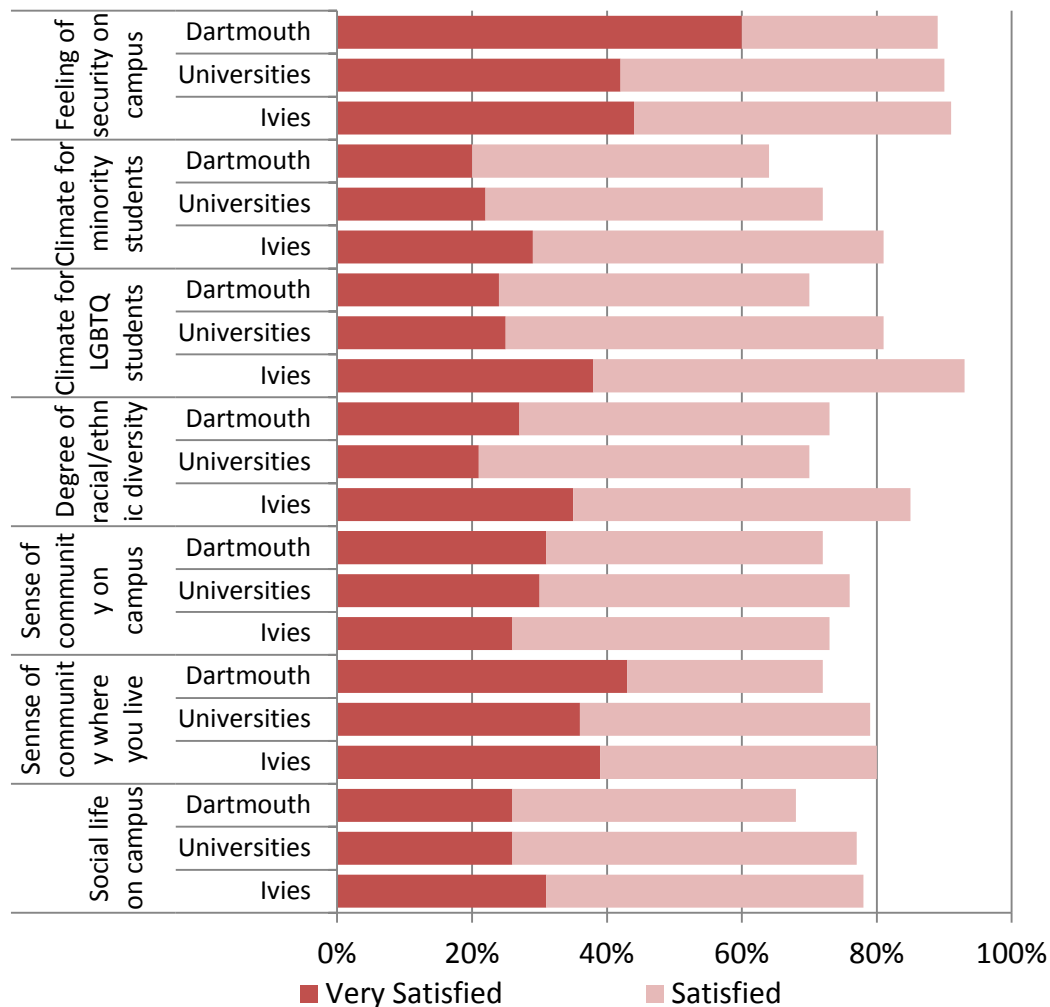
- Dartmouth and peer students were most satisfied with computing resources. Student employment and campus security were also highly rated.
- Lower areas of satisfaction included food services, health services, psychological counseling, and administration's responsiveness to student concerns.



Satisfaction with Campus Life

- Dartmouth and peer students were most satisfied with the feeling of security on campus.
- Dartmouth students were less satisfied than peer students on climate for minorities and LGBTQ students, sense of community where you live, and social life on campus.

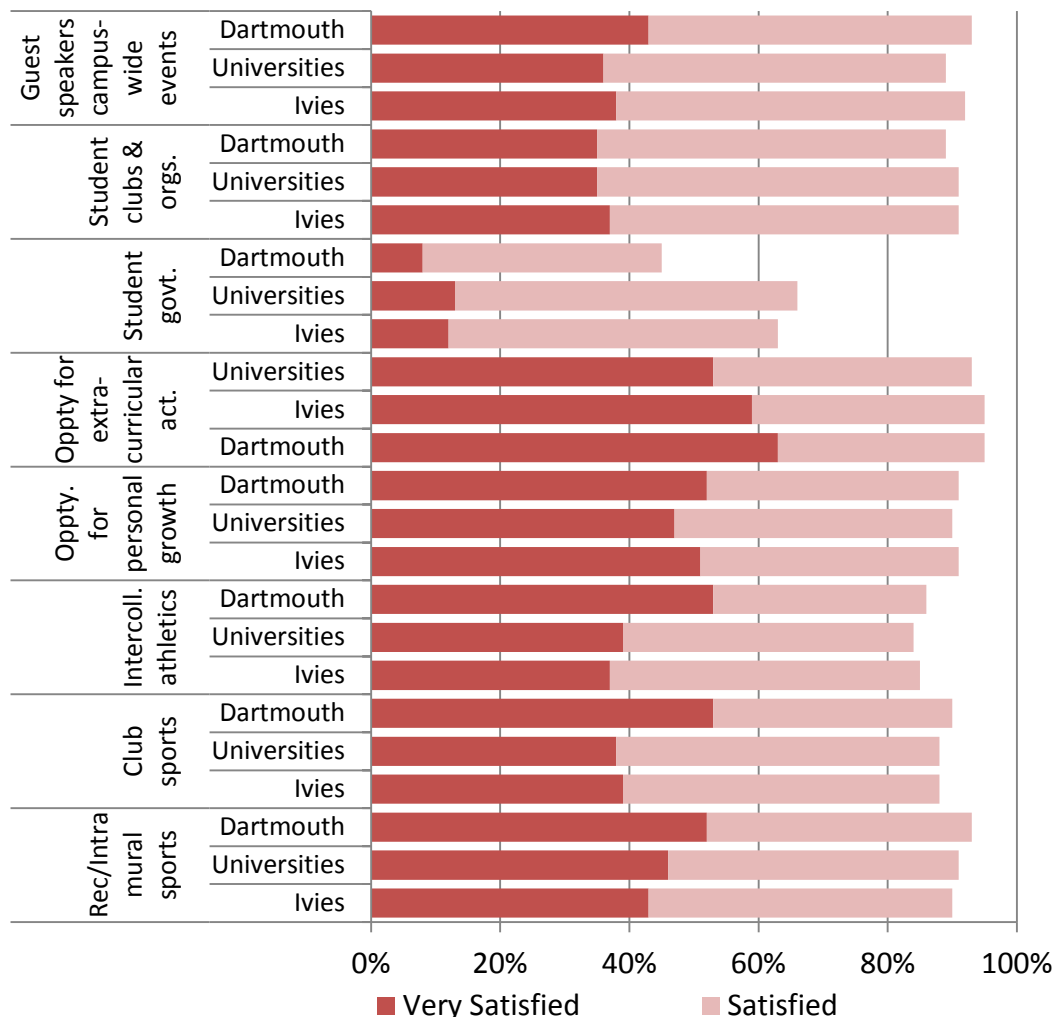
Satisfaction with Campus Life



Satisfaction with Campus Life (cont.)

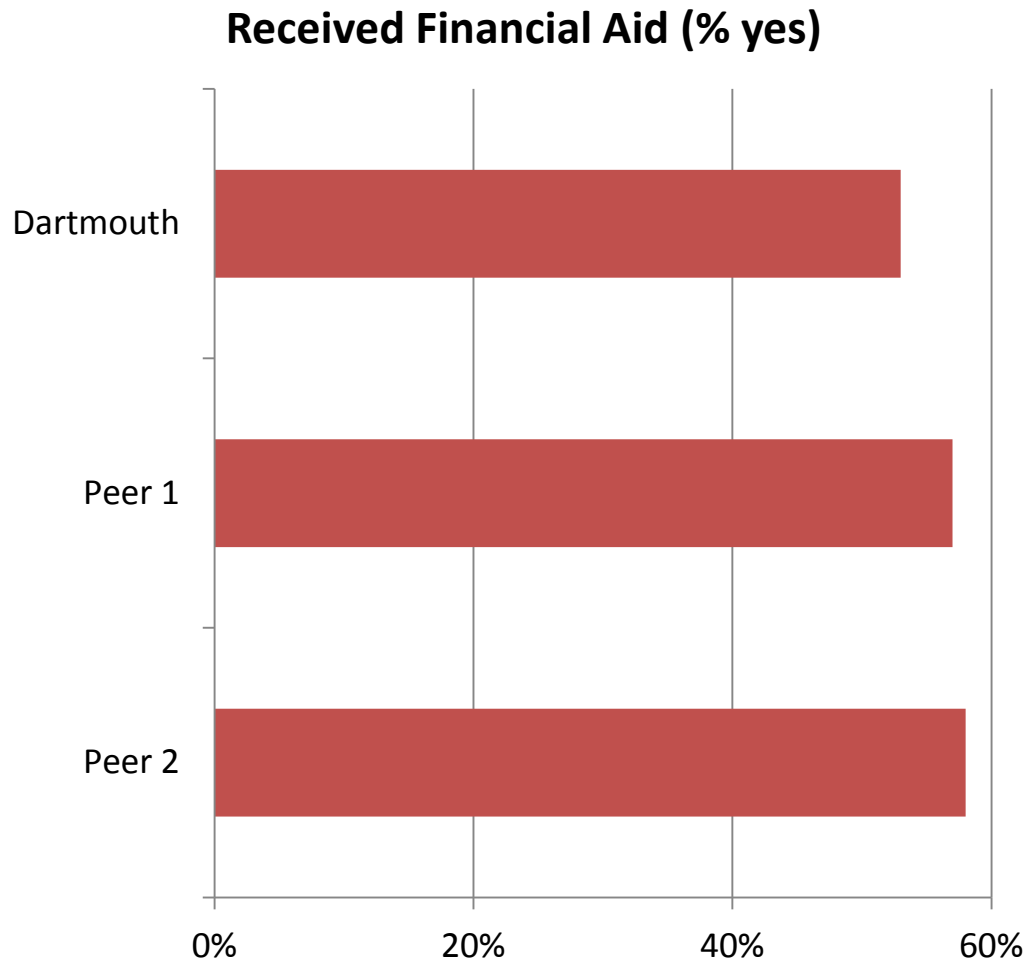
- All students were least satisfied with their student government.
- Students were more satisfied with guest speakers/campus-wide events and opportunities for extra-curricular activities.
- Dartmouth students were more satisfied with intramural sports, club sports, and inter-collegiate athletics.

Satisfaction with Campus Life



Financial Aid and Debt

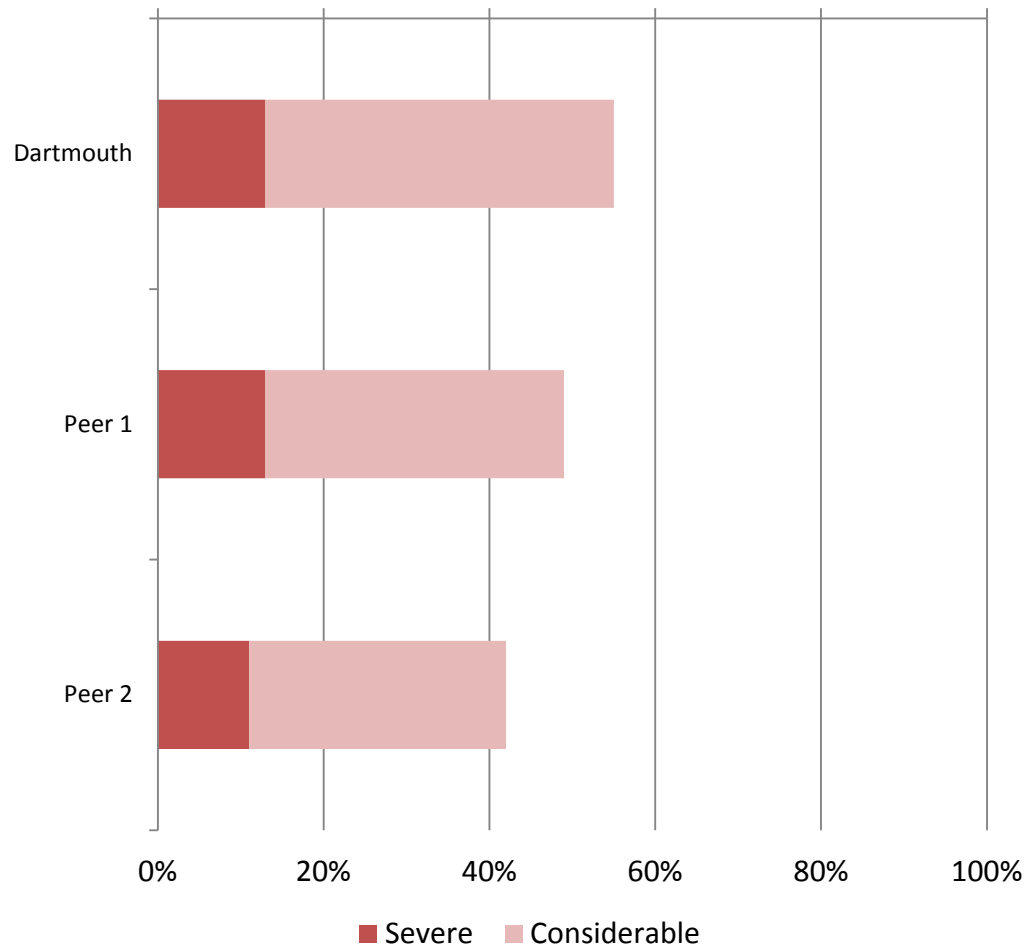
- Over half of the respondents indicated that they had received some form of financial aid (e.g., grant, student loan, or work study job).
- Fewer Dartmouth students received financial aid than students attending Peer 1 and Peer 2 schools.



Impact on Families

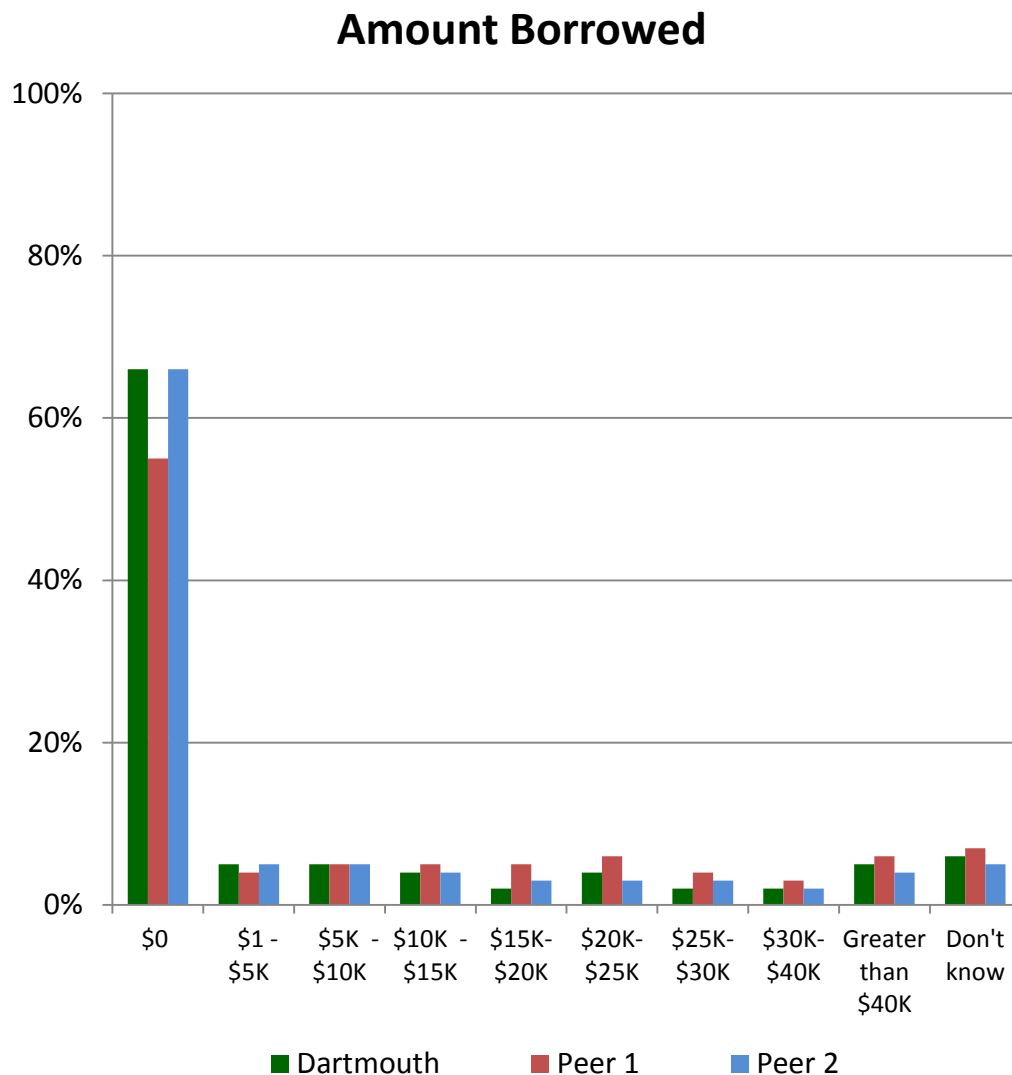
- Compared to peers, a greater percent of Dartmouth students indicate that the impact of paying for their education would be “considerable” or “severe”.
- An equal percentage (13%) of Dartmouth and Peer 1 students note that the impact will be “severe”.

Impact on Family
of Paying for your Education



Financial Aid and Debt

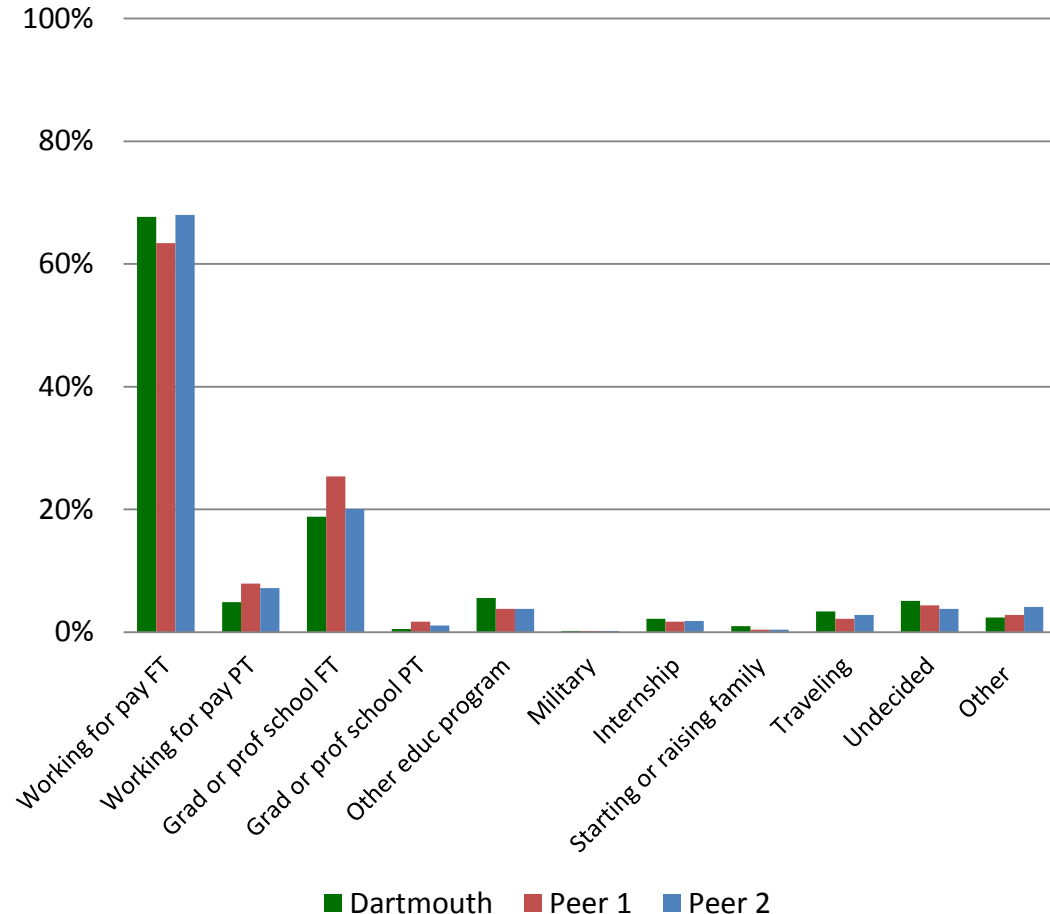
- Over half of all respondents did not borrow money to pay for their education.
- Between 4% and 6% of the respondents indicated that they borrowed more than \$40,000.
- Dartmouth seniors who did borrow money tended to owe less than the Peer 1 group.



Plans for Fall

- Over half the respondents were planning on employment in the Fall.
- A smaller percentage of Dartmouth seniors (26%) planned on attending graduate/professional school or some other educational program compared to students attending Peer 1 (30%) or Peer 2 schools (31%).

Plans after Graduation



Summary

- Students are quite satisfied with their Dartmouth experience as 79% would recommend Dartmouth and 90% are satisfied overall.
- Compared to previous years, satisfaction with undergraduate education has decreased. Willingness to endorse Dartmouth has also dropped and is now below peers.
- Of the top 10 items students were satisfied with, most were academic and a few were related to atmosphere (feeling secure on campus) or opportunities (for extracurricular activities).

Summary

- Of the top 10 items for improvement, most were in the campus services and campus life areas. For academics, satisfaction with quality of advising before declaring a major continues to lag.
- Dartmouth students report higher satisfaction than peers in many components of academic experience, instruction, major, and facilities.
- Dartmouth had a number of components lower than peers in the area of campus life.

Summary

- Over half of Dartmouth students received some type of financial aid.
- Most students did not borrow any money for their education. Around 10% reported borrowing \$10,000 or less. A small percent (5%) borrowed more than \$40,000.
- Most students indicated that the impact on their family to pay for their education would be considerable or moderate.
- Over half of the students plan to work in the fall while, the next largest percentage (20%) 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 had a number of components in campus life which satisfaction was lower than peers.
- For all schools, over half of the respondents were planning on employment, followed by attending graduate/professional school or some other educational program.