



FINDINGS FROM THE 2008 SENIOR SURVEY

Office of Institutional Research
Dartmouth College



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- 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

- Twenty-three highly selective, private colleges and universities participated in the 2008 Senior Survey. We selected 9 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 institutions beyond the Northeast and Peer 2 Group includes highly selective, private institutions in the Northeast.



SENIOR SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- The 2008 Senior Survey was administered to 1,084 seniors at graduation rehearsal as a paper-and-pencil survey.
- Dartmouth's response rate was 89% (n=962).
- While slightly more women and white students responded to the survey, the responding seniors were generally representative of the population of graduating seniors.

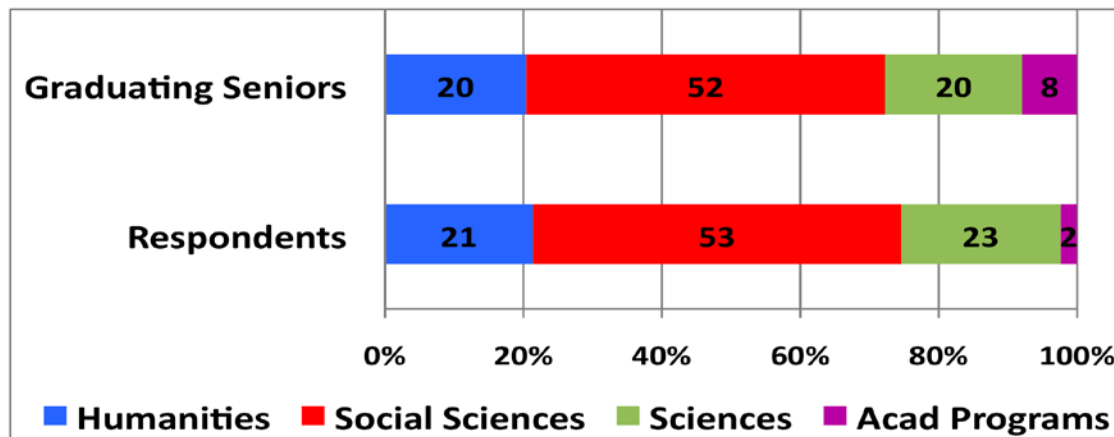
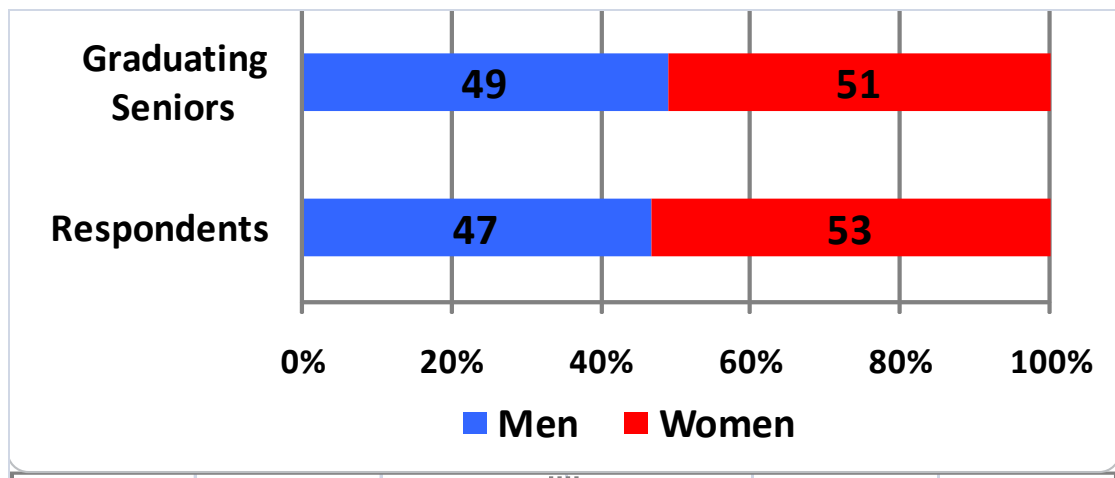


GENDER AND DIVISION OF MAJOR

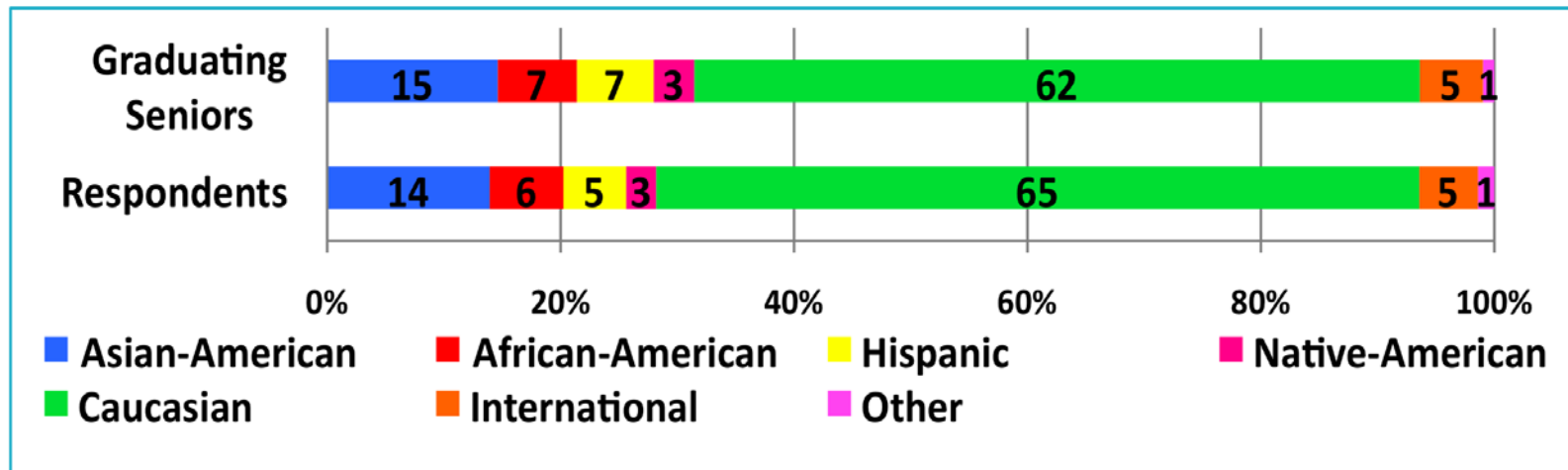
- Compared to the graduating class, slightly more survey respondents were female.

- Divisions of majors for survey respondents were generally representative of the graduating class. Majors in Academic programs were less represented in the survey responses.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



RACE/ETHNICITY



- Compared to the graduating class, slightly more survey respondents self-identified as Caucasian and fewer respondents were Hispanic.

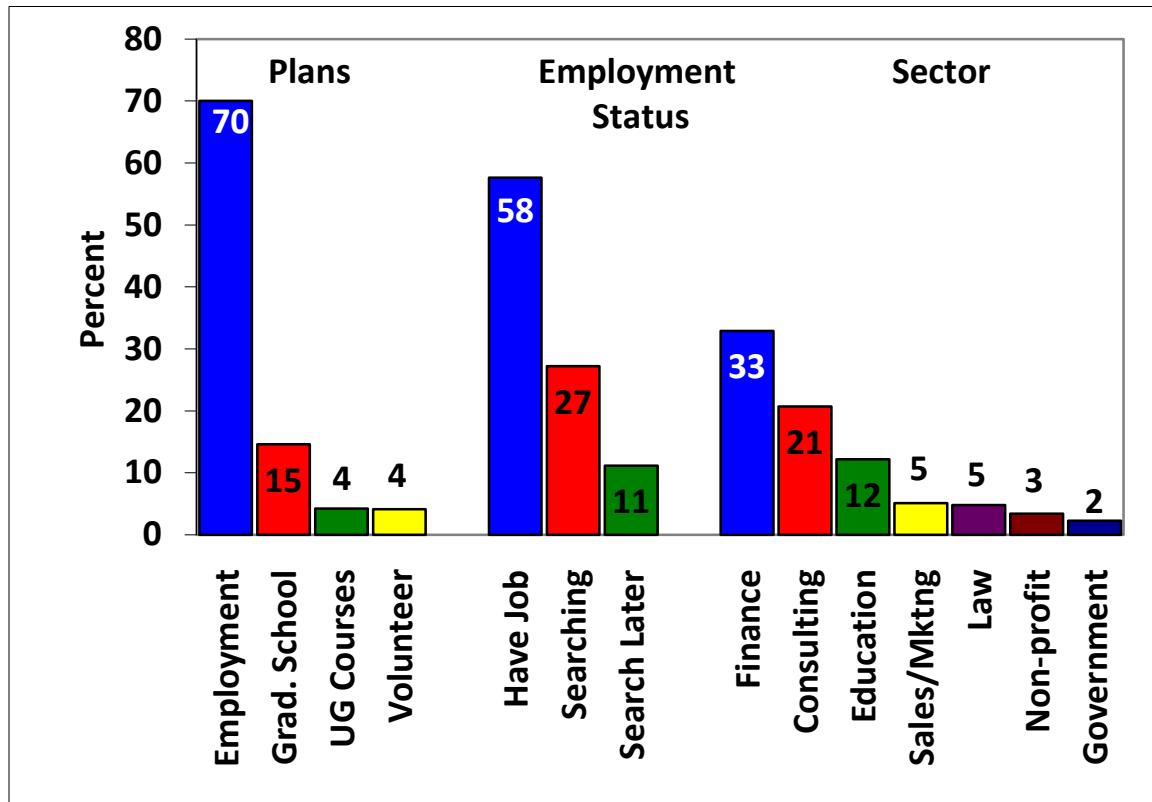
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

- The majority of the survey respondents were planning on employment during the upcoming Fall (70%).
- Of the graduates planning on employment, 58% had accepted a position.
- Seniors were most interested in financial services (33%), consulting (21%), or education sectors (12%).

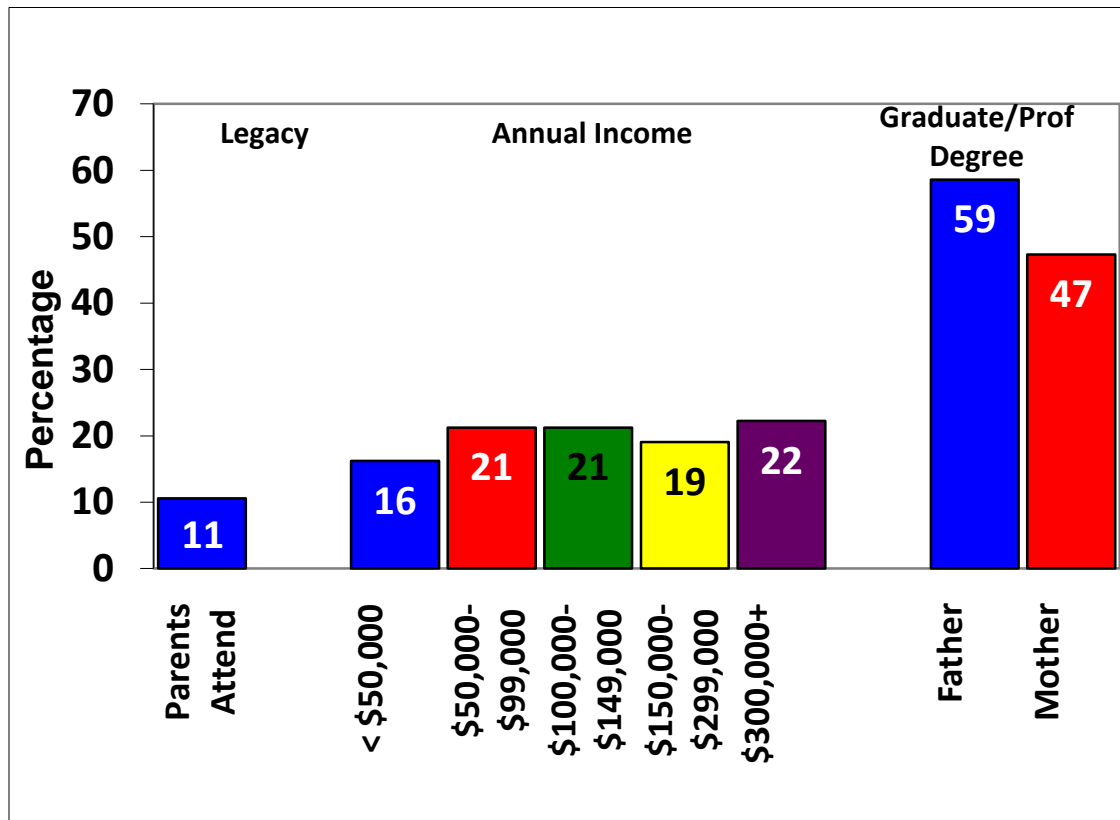
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



FAMILY BACKGROUND

- 11% of the sample reported that their parents attended Dartmouth.
- Family income was equally distributed along income categories.
- Parents were generally well-educated, with 59% of the fathers and 47% of the mothers having a graduate or professional degree.

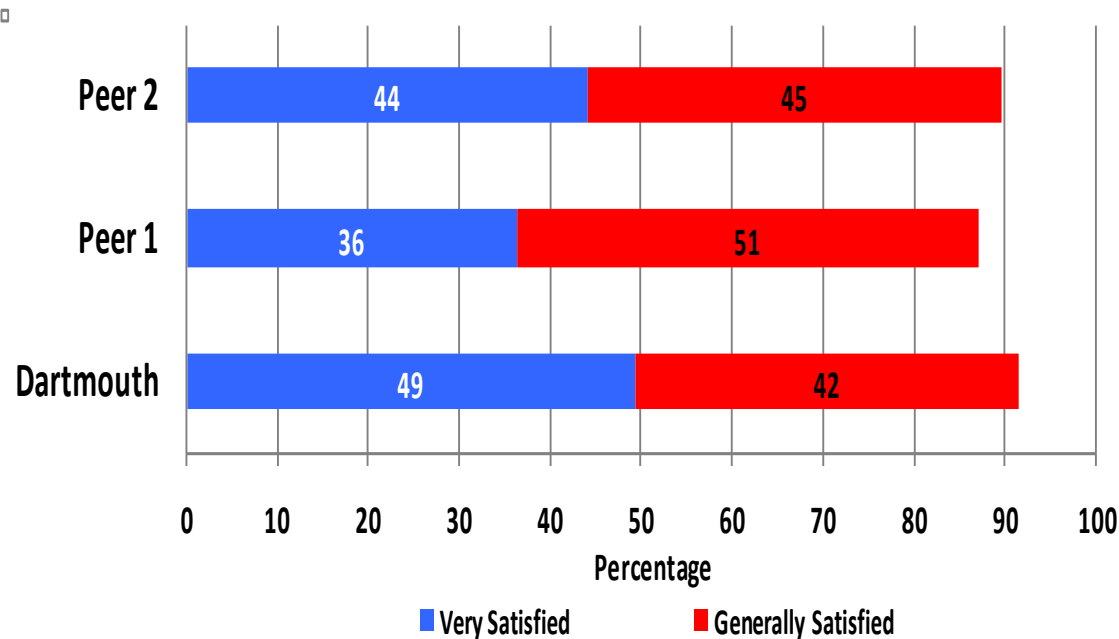
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE

- More Dartmouth students were either very or generally satisfied with their undergraduate experience (91%) compared to either peer group (Peer 1 – 87%; Peer 2 – 89%).

- More Dartmouth students were very satisfied (49%), as opposed to 36% for Peer 1 and 44% for Peer 2.

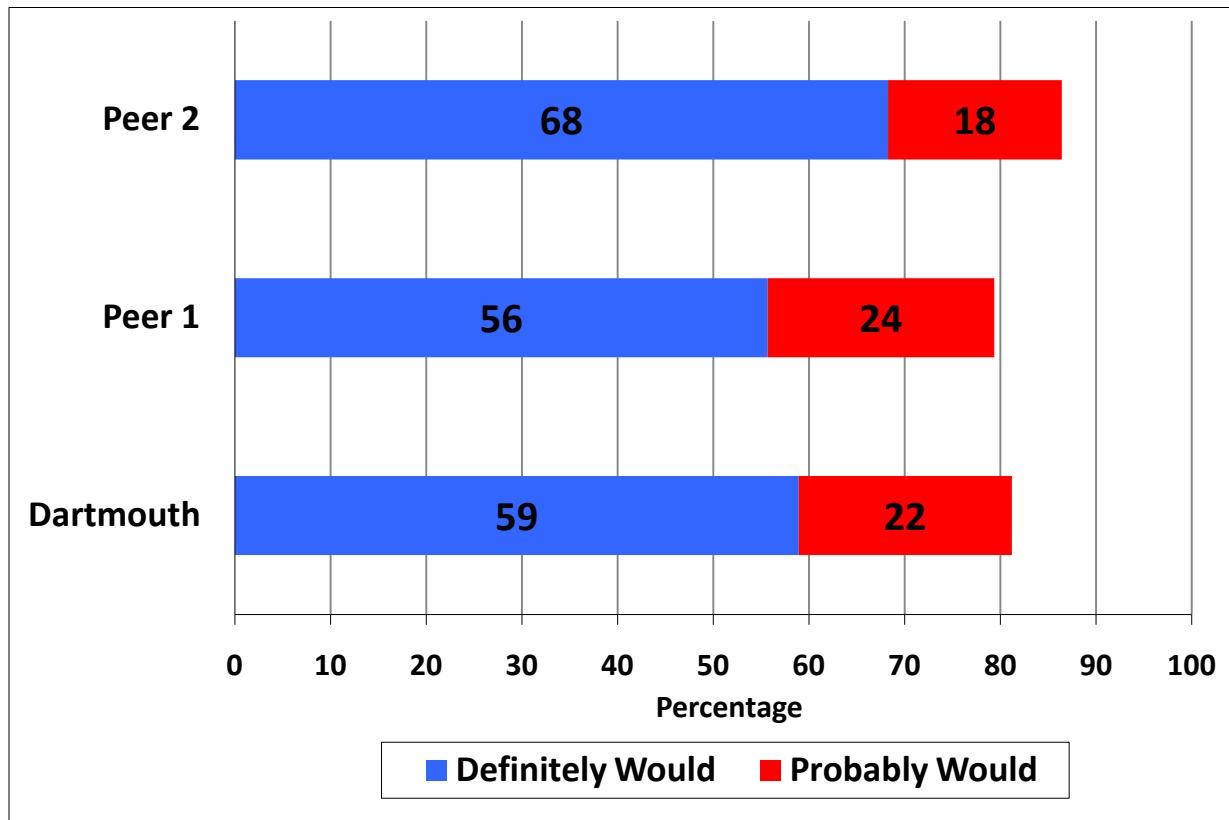


Source: 2008 Senior Survey



ENDORSEMENT OF SCHOOL

- Dartmouth students were slightly more likely to endorse their school than Peer 1 seniors and less likely than Peer 2 seniors.



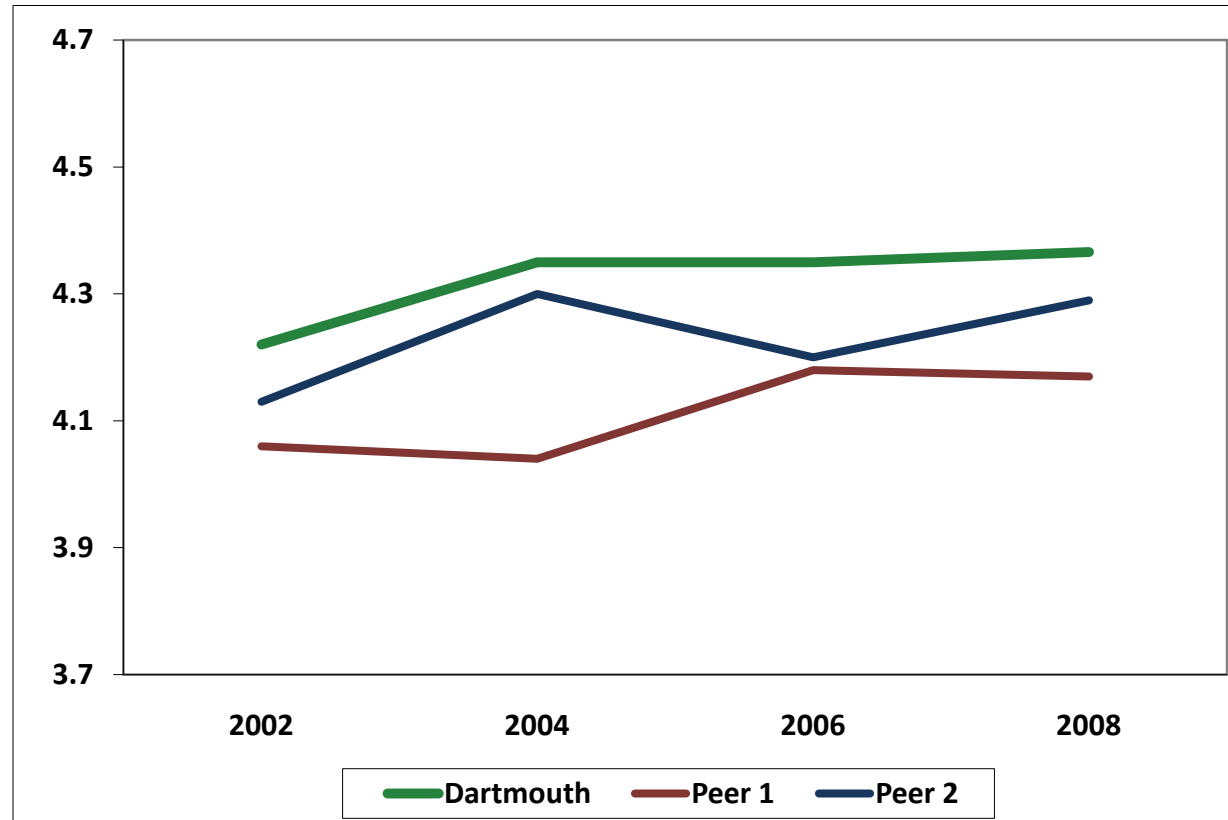
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



OVERALL SATISFACTION OVER TIME

- Dartmouth has consistently earned higher overall satisfaction scores over time than our peers.
- Dartmouth satisfaction has increase over time.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



AREAS OF STRENGTH COMPARED TO 2006

•Top areas of strength include *feeling of security on campus, study abroad, library facilities, faculty availability, and courses in major.*

•Satisfaction increased between 2006 and 2008 for *classrooms* and *athletic facilities*.

•Satisfaction decreased between 2006 and 2008 for the *study abroad* program and *computer facilities and resources*.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey

Area	2008 Percentage "Very Satisfied"	2006 Percentage "Very Satisfied"
Feeling of security on campus	70%	70%
Study Abroad	65%	71%
Library Facilities	65%	63%
Out of class faculty availability	64%	61%
Courses in major field	58%	56%
Extracurricular activities	60%	61%
Independent study/ self- designed courses	51%	53%
Computer facilities and resources	49%	53%
Humanities and arts courses	49%	48%
Classrooms	47%	41% ^a
Athletic facilities	46%	25% ^a
^a Not in top 10 in 2006.		
	Higher in 2008	Lower in 2008



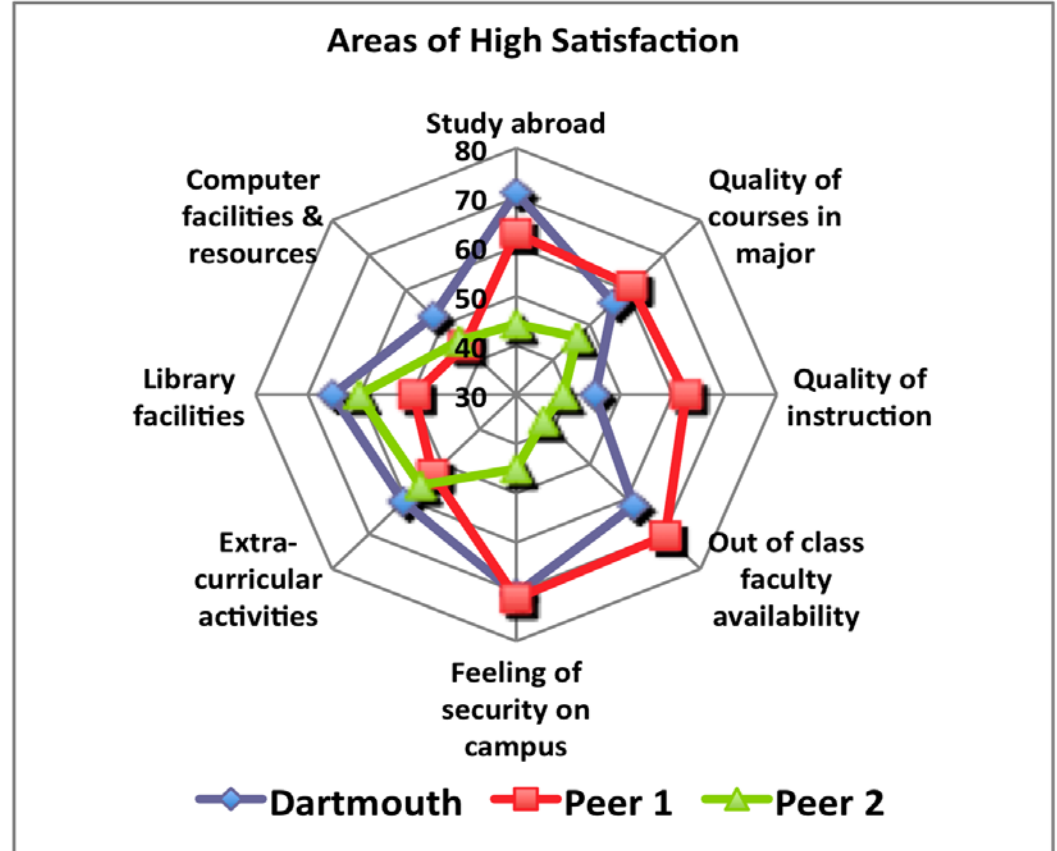
PEER COMPARISONS – AREAS OF STRENGTH

- Dartmouth students are more satisfied with *study abroad*, *computer resources and facilities*, *library facilities*, and *extra-curricular activities* than peers.

- Peer 1 schools report higher satisfaction for *quality of courses in major*, *quality of instruction*, and *out of class faculty availability*.

- Peer 2 schools have lower satisfaction ratings than Dartmouth for every area of high satisfaction.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



AREAS FOR WORK COMPARED TO 2006

- Top areas of dissatisfaction include *pre-major academic advising*, *psychological counseling*, *student government*, and *career services*.
- Dissatisfaction with *counseling services* was greater in 2008, compared to 2006. Dissatisfaction with *pre-major academic advising* decreased in that time frame.

Area	2008 Percentage "Very Dissatisfied"	2006 Percentage "Very Dissatisfied"
Academic advising before declaring major	16%	19%
Psychological counseling services	15%	8%
Student government	14%	15%
Career services	11%	11%
Your financial aid award(s)	10%	10%
Administrations responsiveness to students	10%	13%
Student health services	10%	8%
Climate for minority students on campus	6%	7%
Social life on campus	6%	5% ^a

^aNot in bottom 10 in 2006.

Lower in 2008

Higher in 2008

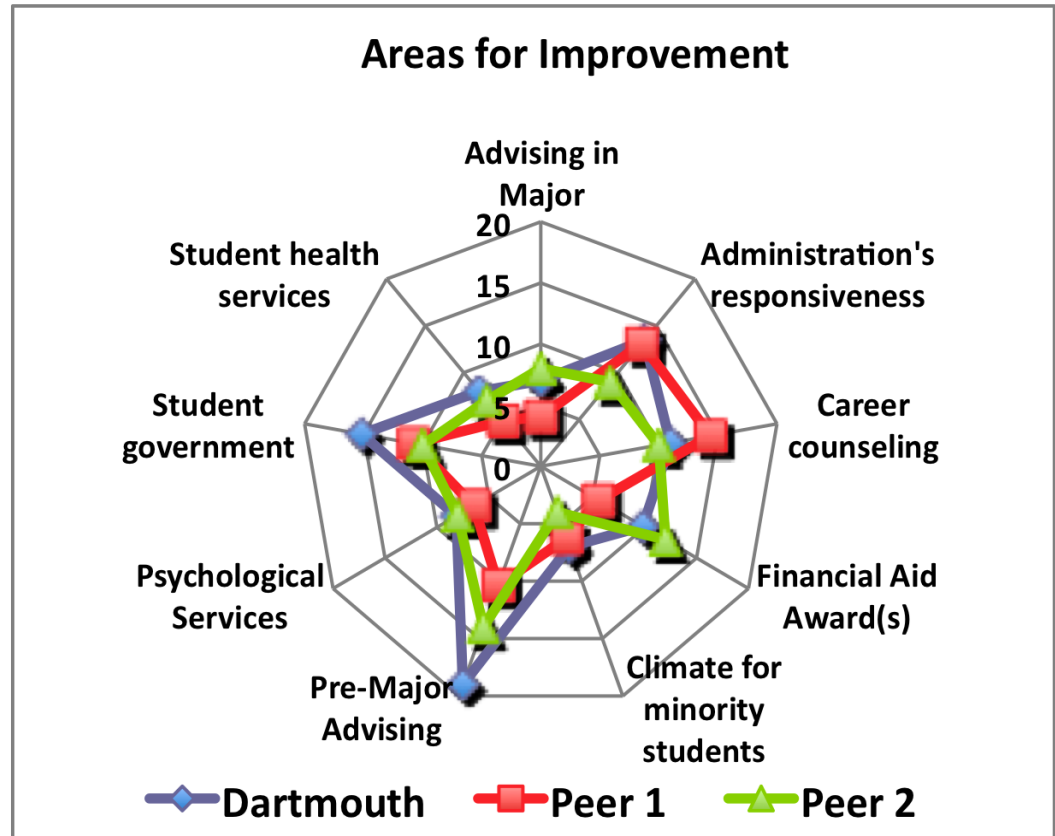
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



PEER COMPARISONS – AREAS FOR WORK

- More Dartmouth respondents were very dissatisfied with *Pre-major Advising, Student Government, Psychological Counseling Services, and Social Life on Campus* than our peers.
- Dartmouth and Peer 1 students are equally dissatisfied with *Administration's Responsiveness*.
- Peer 2 students are more dissatisfied *Financial Aid Awards* than Dartmouth students.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey

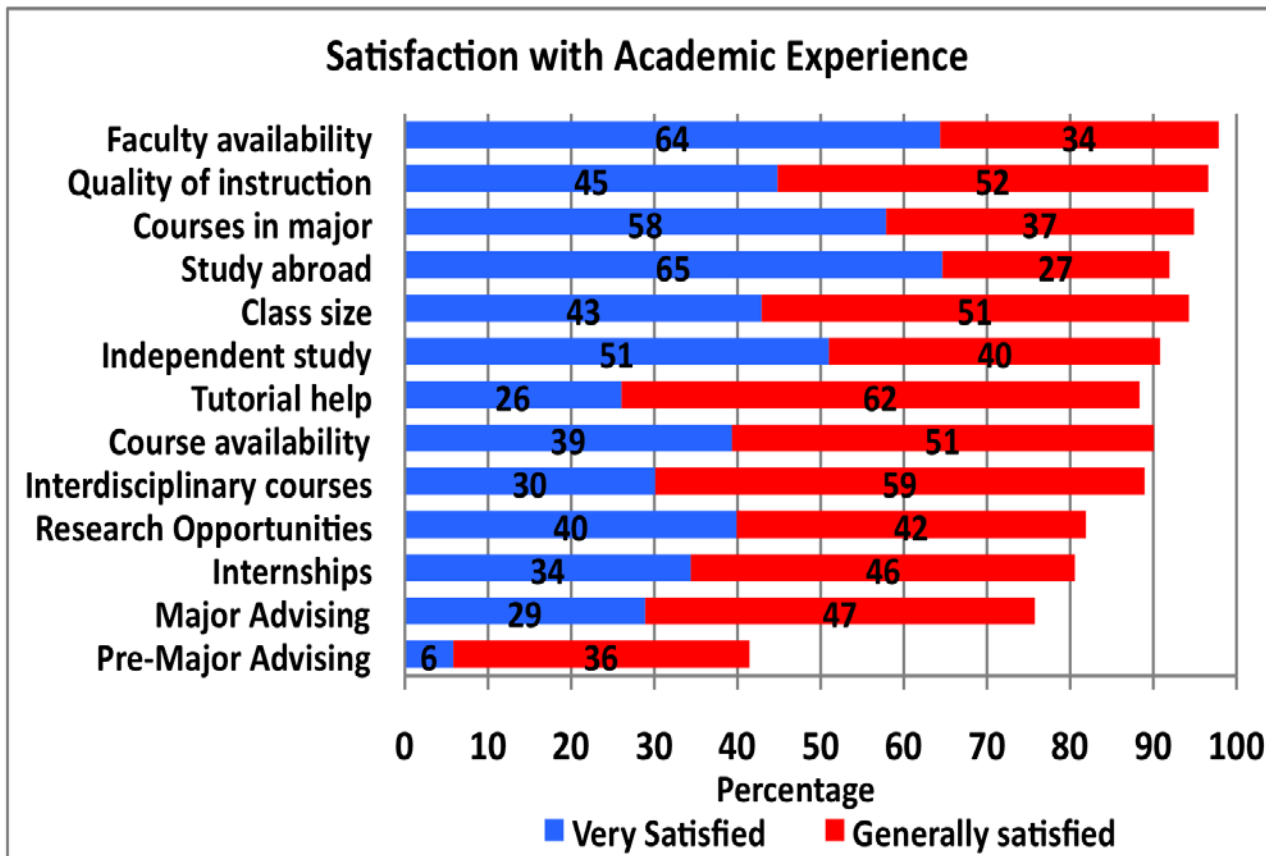


SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

•With the exception of *Academic Advising*, Dartmouth respondents were generally satisfied with Dartmouth's academic experience.

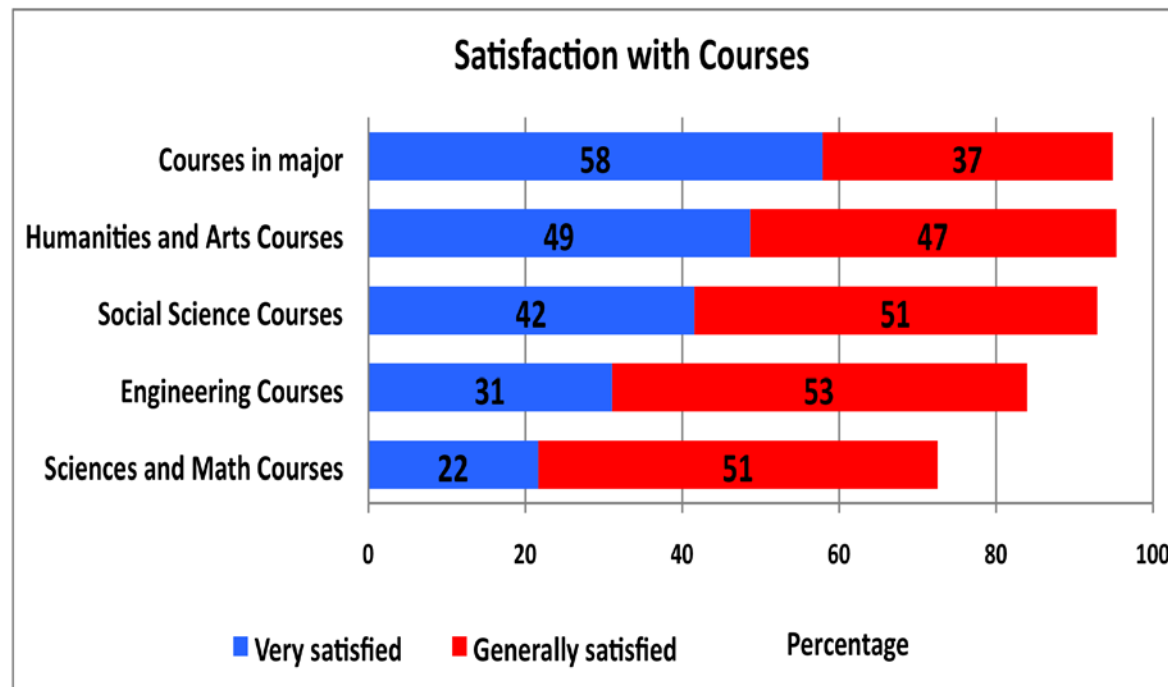
•Dartmouth Seniors are most satisfied with *Out-of-Class Faculty Availability, Instruction*, and *Class size* and least satisfied with *Major* and *Pre-major advising*.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF COURSE INSTRUCTION

- Overall, Dartmouth seniors are very satisfied with the Quality of Instruction at the college.
- The greatest satisfaction was in *Courses in one's Major* and *Humanities & arts courses*--the lowest in *Sciences & Math Courses*.



Source: 2008 Senior Survey

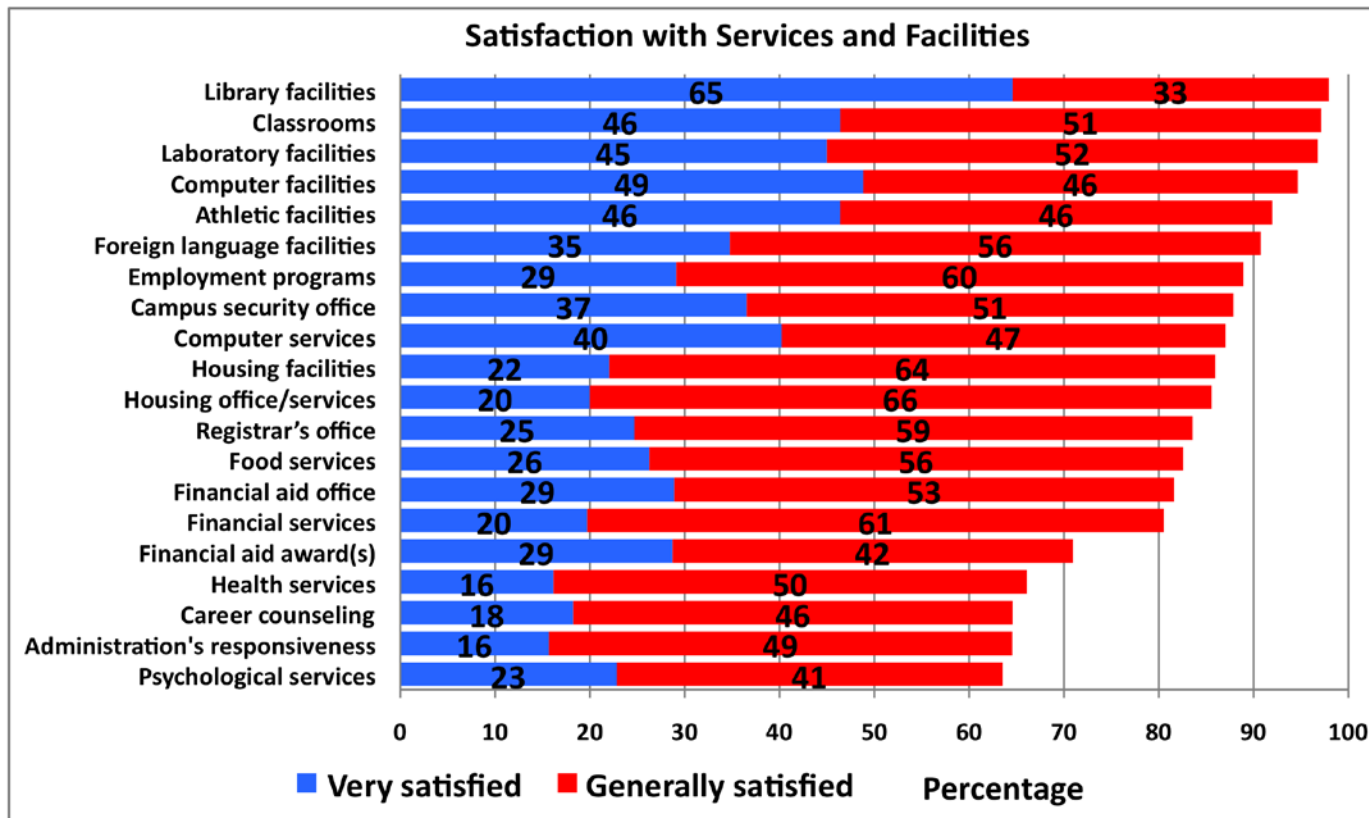


SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF CAMPUS SERVICES AND FACILITIES

•Dartmouth seniors are most satisfied with the *Facilities* provided by the college.

•Dartmouth seniors are least satisfied with *Psychological Counseling, Administration's Responsiveness, Career Counseling, and Health services.*

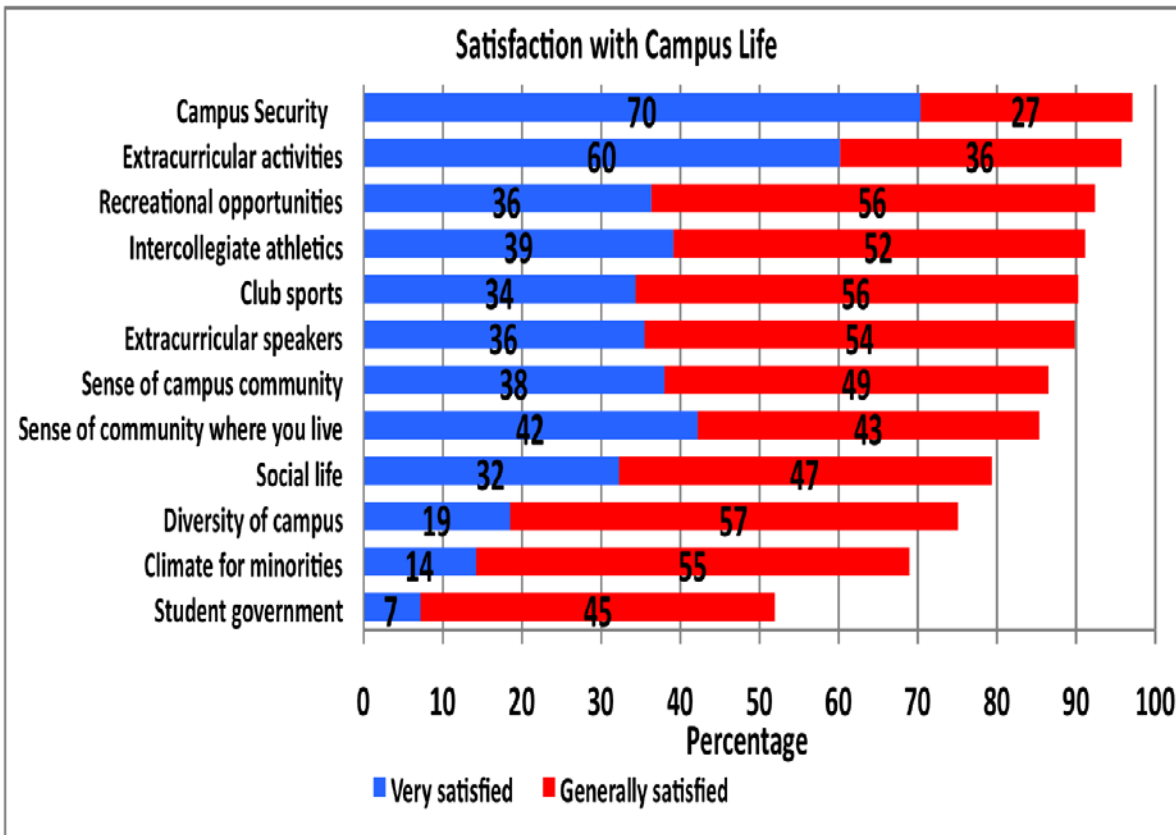
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF CAMPUS LIFE

- Dartmouth students are generally satisfied with the Quality of Campus Life.
- Areas of strength are *Campus Security* (97%) and *Extra-curricular Activities* (96%).
- Areas for improvement include *Student Government* (52%) and *Climate for Minorities* (69%).

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



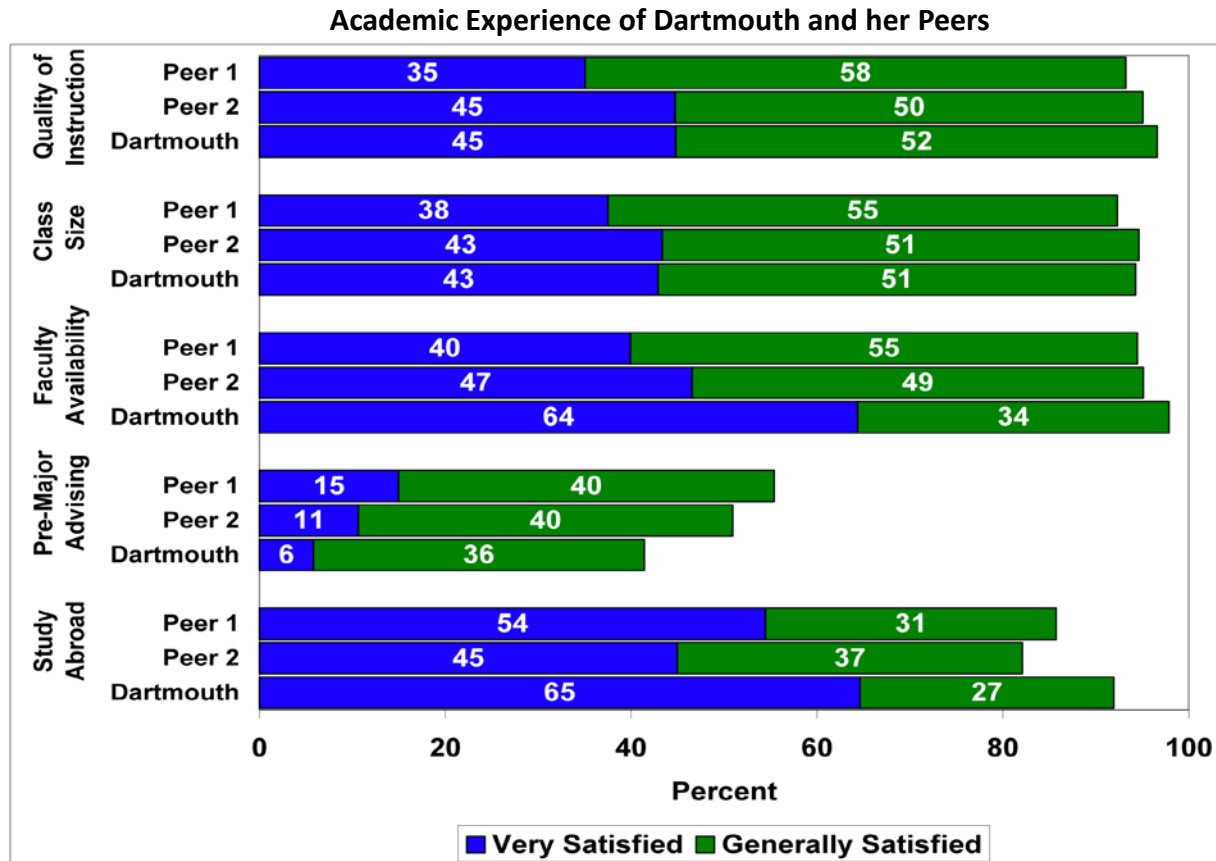
SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Dartmouth's satisfaction is similar to Peer 1 and Peer 2 schools for *Class size* and *Quality of Instruction*.

- Dartmouth's satisfaction is lower than both Peers for *Pre-major advising*.

- Dartmouth's satisfaction is higher than both peers for *Study Abroad Programs* and *Out-of-class faculty availability*.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Overall, Dartmouth students were significantly more satisfied with their undergraduate education than students from peer schools.
- Dartmouth scored significantly higher on most indicators of satisfaction than Peer 1. Dartmouth outperformed Peer 2 for *Overall Satisfaction, Internships, Study Abroad, and Course Availability*.
- Peers 1 and 2 received significantly higher satisfaction ratings for *Pre-major academic advising*. Peer 2 also received significantly higher satisfaction ratings for *Interdisciplinary courses*.

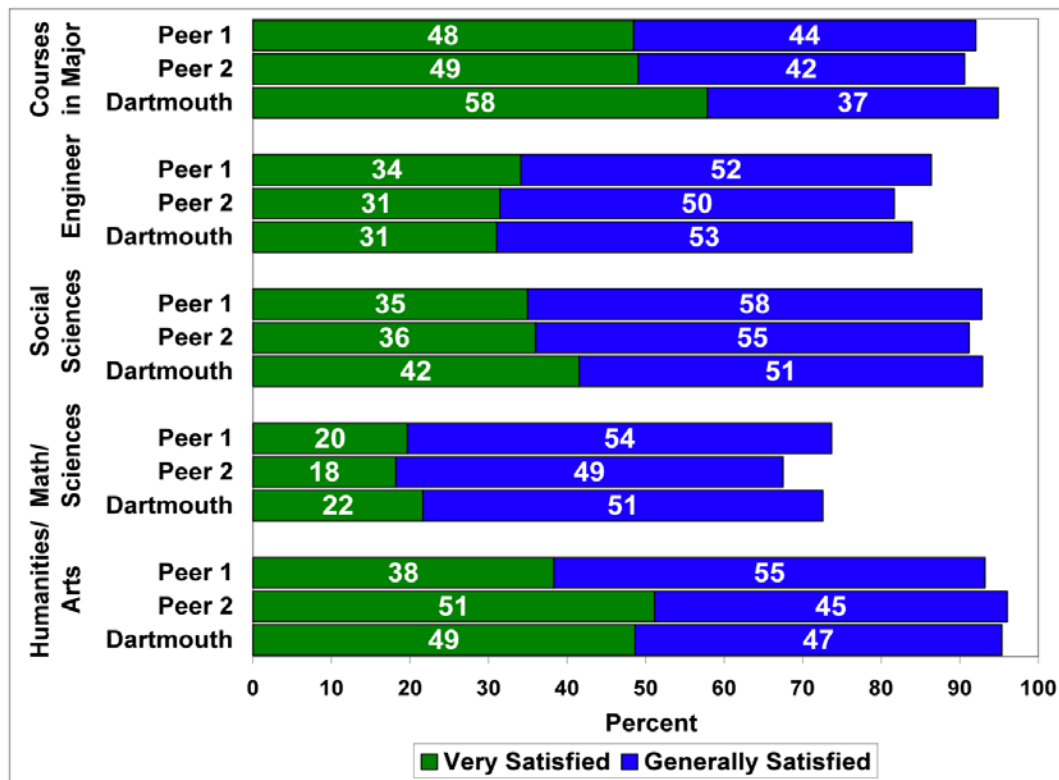
Source: 2008 Senior Survey

	Dartmouth Average Compared to Average of:	
Satisfaction with:	Peer 1	Peer 2
Overall satisfaction with undergraduate education		
Academic advising before declaring major		
Academic advising in your major		
Out of class faculty availability		
Opportunity to participate in research with faculty		
Tutorial help/ academic assistance		
Internships		
Study off-campus or abroad		
Course availability		
Quality of instruction		
Class size		
Interdisciplinary courses		
Independent study/ self-designed courses		
Dartmouth Mean:		
	Lower (at least $p < .05$)	
	Higher (at least $p < .05$)	
	Not statistically different ($p < .05$)	

SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

- Dartmouth's satisfaction is higher than both Peer groups for *Courses in Major*.
- Peer group 1's satisfaction is slightly higher than both Dartmouth and Peer 2 in *Engineering and Math/Sciences*.
- Except in *Humanities and Arts Courses*, Peer 2 has lower satisfaction than both Dartmouth and Peer 1 in all categories.

Quality of Instruction of Dartmouth and her Peers



Source: 2008 Senior Survey

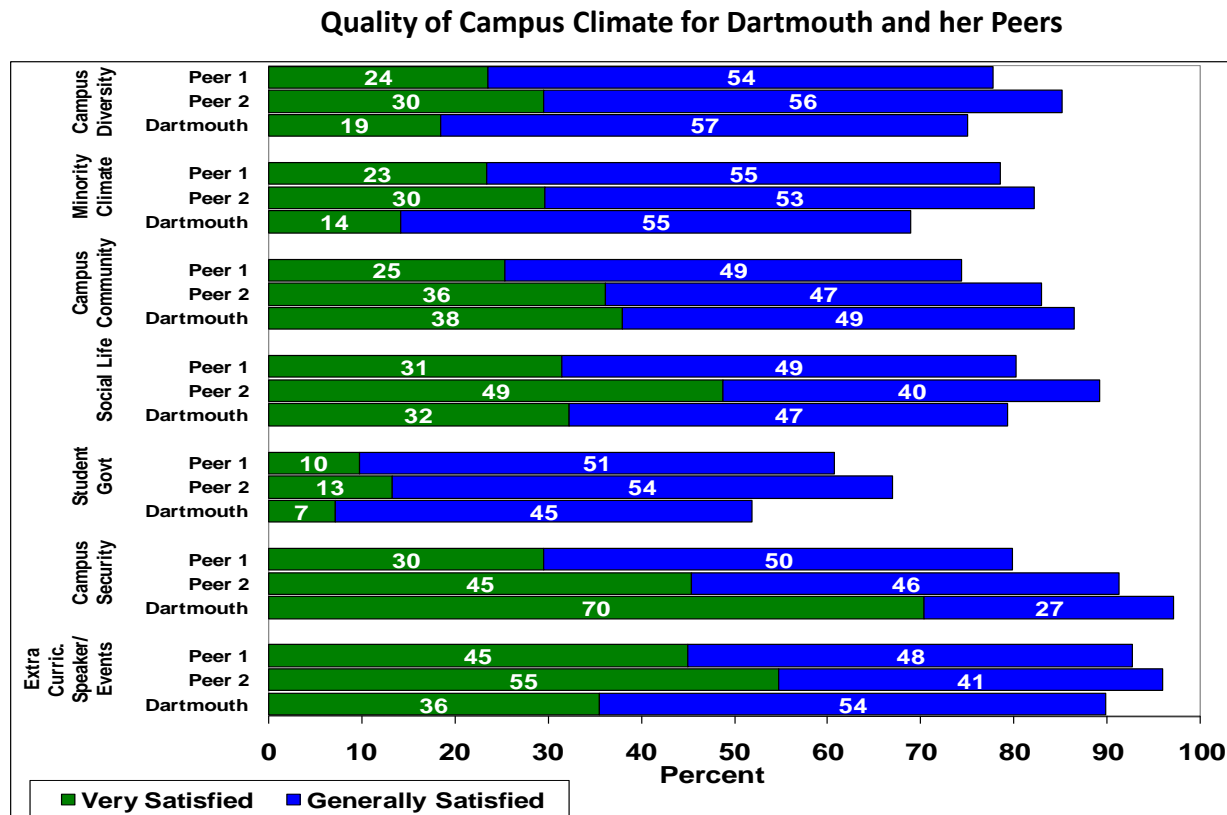


SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF CAMPUS CLIMATE

- Dartmouth students are less satisfied than those of Peer 1 or Peer 2 with *Campus Diversity*, *Climate for Minorities on Campus*, *Student Government*, *Social Life*, and *Extracurricular Events & Speakers*.

- Dartmouth students are more satisfied than those of Peer 1 or Peer 2 with *Campus Security* and *Sense of Community on Campus*.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF CAMPUS CLIMATE

•Dartmouth is significantly more satisfied with *Extracurricular Activities* than Peer 1. Likewise, Dartmouth is more satisfied than both peers with *Sense of Community on Campus*, *Sense of Community Where You Live*, and *Feeling of Security on Campus*.

•Students from both peer groups were significantly more satisfied than Dartmouth Students with *Student Government*; *Speakers, Cultural Offerings, and Events*; *Climate for Minorities on Campus*; and *Ethnic/Racial Diversity on Campus*.

•Students in peer group 2 were significantly more satisfied with their *Social Life on Campus* than those of Dartmouth.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey

	Dartmouth Average Compared to Average of:	
Satisfaction with:	Peer 1	Peer 2
Opportunities for extracurricular activities		
Social life on campus		
Student government		
Extra-curricular speakers, cultural offerings, and events		
Climate for minority students on campus		
Sense of a community on campus		
Sense of community where you live		
Ethnic/racial diversity of campus		
Intercollegiate athletic opportunities		
Club sport opportunities		
Recreational and intramural athletic opportunities		
Feeling of security on campus		
Dartmouth Mean:		
	Lower (at least $p < .05$)	
	Higher (at least $p < .05$)	
	Not statistically different ($p < .05$)	

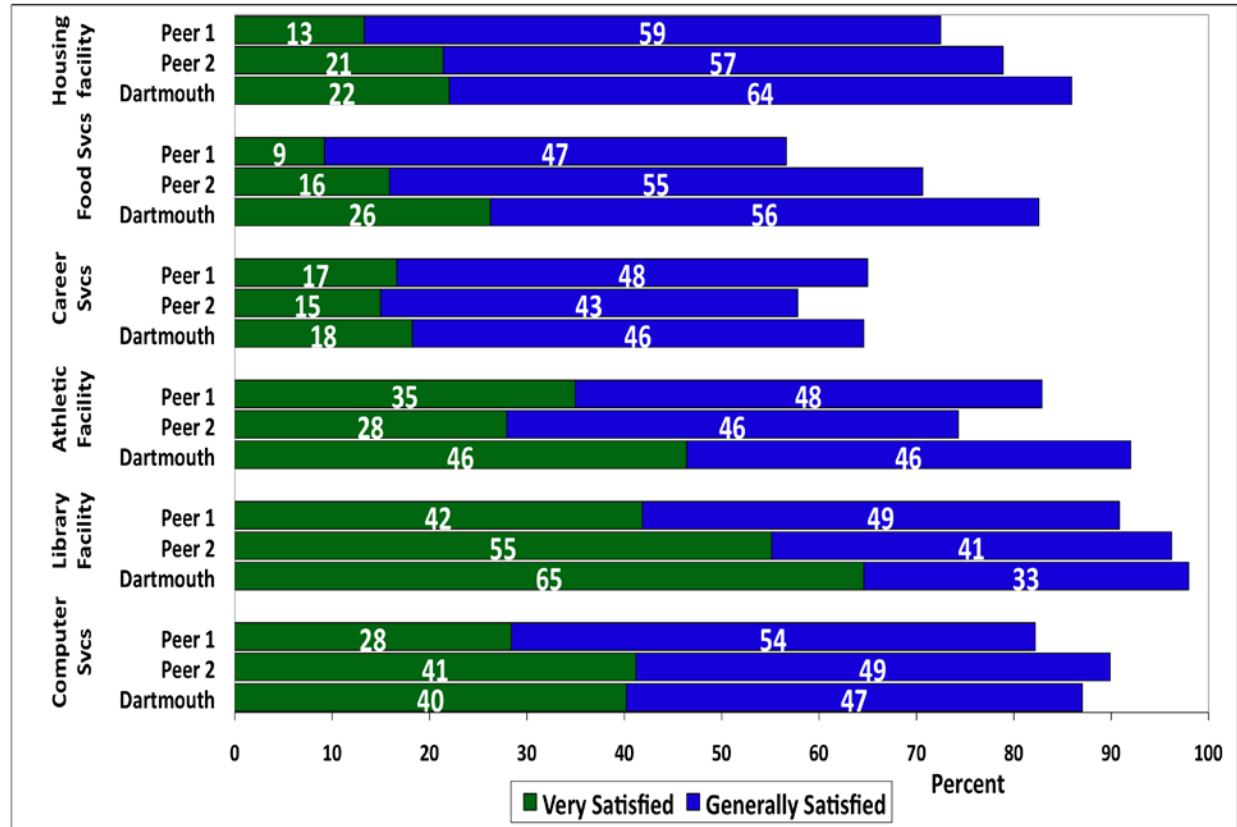
SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF OFFICES AND SERVICES

- Dartmouth students are more satisfied than those of Peer 1 and Peer 2 with *Housing facilities, Food Services, Athletic Facilities, and Library Facilities*.

- Peer 1 students are slightly more satisfied with *Career Services* than those of Dartmouth, and both are more satisfied than students from Peer 2.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey

Quality of Offices and Services for Dartmouth and her Peers



SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF OFFICES AND SERVICES

- Dartmouth students are more satisfied with *Food Services, Campus Security, and Student Housing Office/Services* than those of Peer 1 and 2.
- Dartmouth students are less satisfied than those of Peer 1 and 2 with *Psychological Counseling Services*.
- Dartmouth students are less satisfied than those of Peer 2 for *Financial Services and Student Health Services*.
- Peer 2 students are more satisfied with *Student Health Services and Financial Services* than those of Dartmouth.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey

Offices & Services	Dartmouth Average Compared to Average of:	
Satisfaction with:	Peer 1	Peer 2
Food services		
Campus security office/campus police		
Student housing office/services		
Financial aid office		
Financial services		
Computer services and support		
Administrations responsiveness to students		
Career counseling		
Psychological counseling services		
Student health services		
Your financial aid award(s)		
Registrar's office		
Student employment programs		
Dartmouth Mean:		
	Lower (at least $p < .05$)	
	Higher (at least $p < .05$)	
	Not statistically different ($p < .05$)	

SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF FACILITIES

•Dartmouth students are significantly more satisfied with all school facilities than those of Peer 1 and Peer 2 with one exception.

•Peer 2 students are significantly more satisfied with their *Foreign Language Facilities* than Dartmouth students.

Facilities	Dartmouth Average Compared to Average of:	
	Peer 1	Peer 2
Satisfaction with:		
Classrooms		
Laboratory facilities and equipment		
Foreign language facilities		
Computer facilities and resources		
Library facilities		
Athletic facilities		
Student housing facilities		
Dartmouth Mean:		
	Lower (at least $p < .05$)	
	Higher (at least $p < .05$)	
	Not statistically different ($p < .05$)	

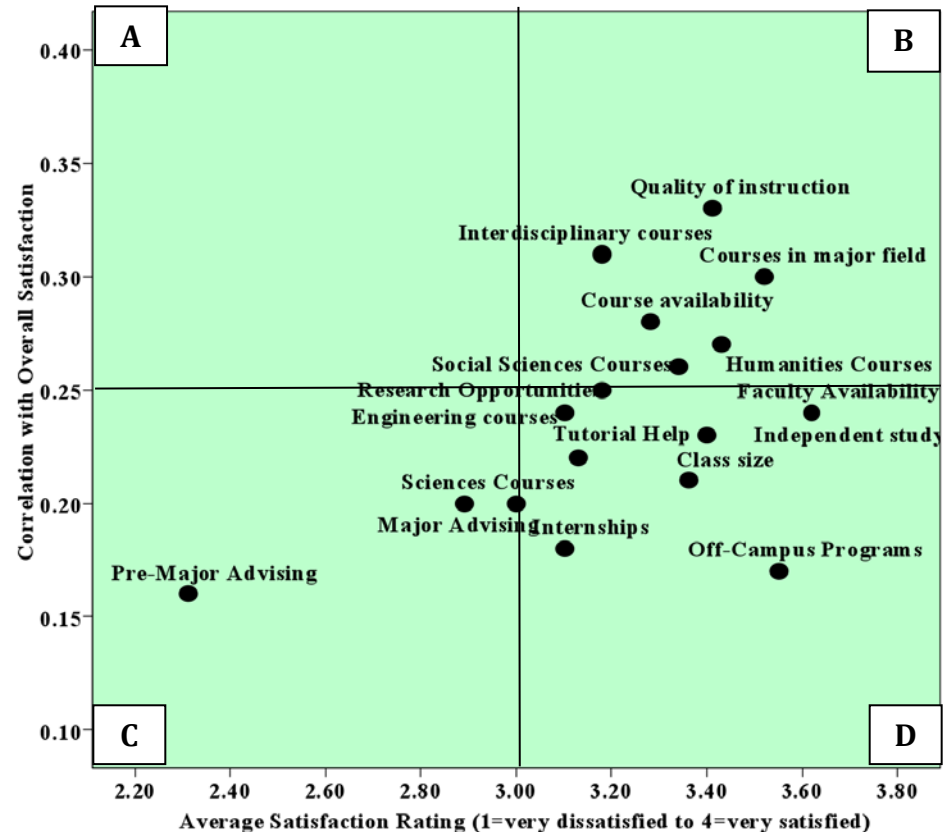
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



ACADEMIC AND INSTRUCTIONAL DRIVERS

- Key Weaknesses (A): There were no academic or instructional areas that were key drivers of overall satisfaction.
- Key Strengths (B): *Quality of Instruction*, *Interdisciplinary Courses*, *Courses in Major Field*, and *Course Availability* are key drivers for overall satisfaction at Dartmouth.
- Potential Weaknesses (C): *Pre-major Advising* and *Major Advising*, are areas to target for improvement.
- Potential Strengths (D): *Independent Study*, *Tutorial Help*, *Faculty Availability*, *Class Size*, and *Off-campus Programs* are areas of relatively high satisfaction that could lead to increased overall satisfaction.

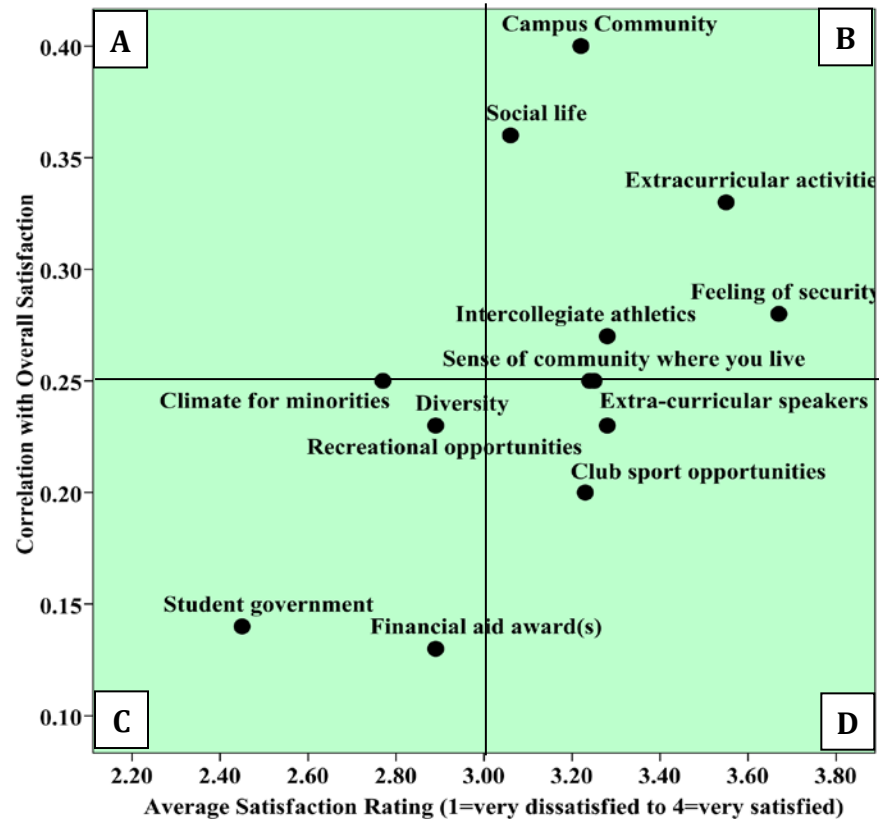
Source: 2008 Senior Survey



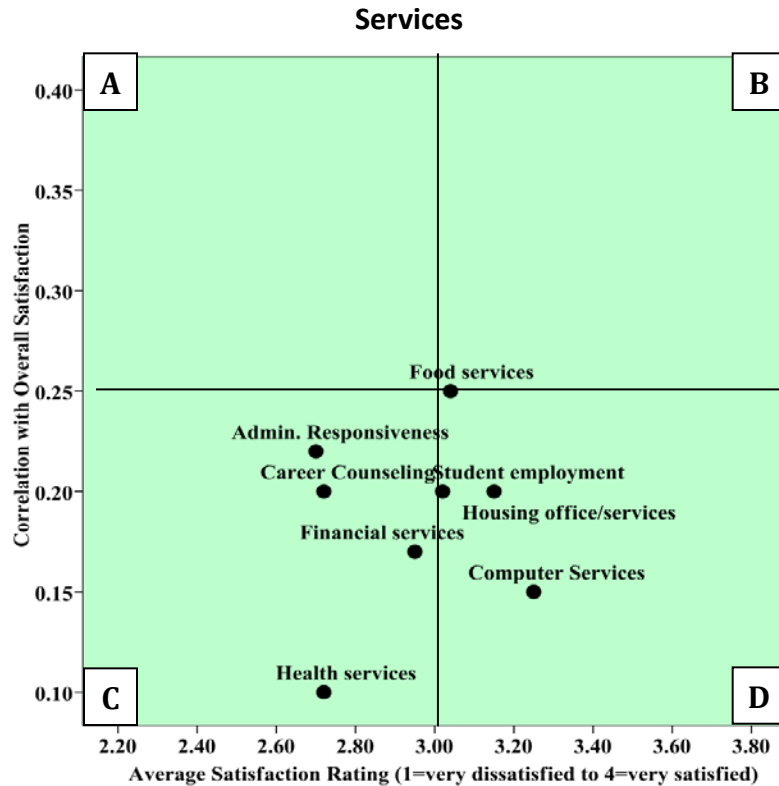
CAMPUS LIFE DRIVERS

- Key Weaknesses (A): Dissatisfaction with the *Climate for Minorities* may become a key driver of overall satisfaction at Dartmouth.
- Key Strengths (B): Satisfaction with *Campus Community*, *Extracurricular Activities*, *Feeling of Security*, and *Intercollegiate Athletics* drive the overall satisfaction.
- Potential Weaknesses (C) : *Satisfaction with Student Government*, *Financial Aid Awards*, *Recreational Opportunities*, and *Diversity* can be improved to increase overall satisfaction.
- Potential Strengths (D): *Sense of Community where One lives*, *Extracurricular Speakers*, and *Club Sports* have the potential to improve the overall satisfaction of the Dartmouth experience.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



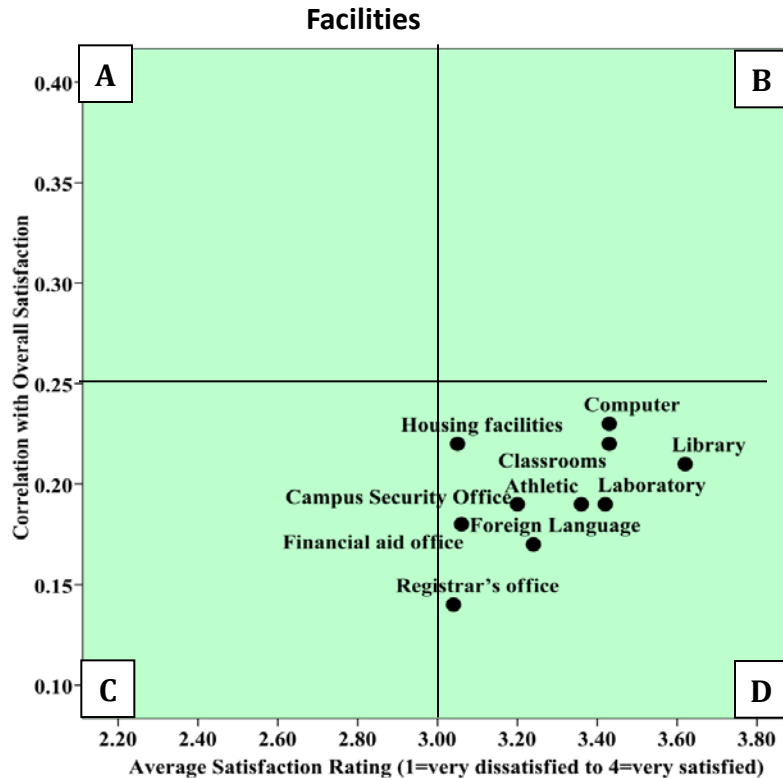
FACILITIES AND SERVICES DRIVERS



Source: 2008 Senior Survey

- Services provided by Dartmouth do not appear to be primary drivers of overall satisfaction. *Administrative Responsiveness* and *Career Counseling* are potential weaknesses (C) that could be targeted to improve overall satisfaction.
- Financial Services* could be improved. Although its correlation to satisfaction is low, dissatisfaction with *Health Services* could be a concern.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES DRIVERS



- While many of the facilities were highly rated by Dartmouth seniors, satisfaction with these facilities does not appear a primary driver of overall satisfaction. Correlations were generally between 0.17 and 0.23, explaining between 3% and 5% of the variance in overall satisfaction.

Source: 2008 Senior Survey



- Dartmouth students continue to be highly satisfied with their undergraduate experience and are likely to recommend Dartmouth.
- Top areas of satisfaction include: Opportunities for extracurricular activities and Feeling of Security on Campus; Library facilities; Courses in Major field and Humanities & Arts Courses; Faculty out-of-class availability and Off-campus Programs. Areas for continued work include: Pre-major advising; Administration's responsiveness to students; Student government; Psychological Counseling and Health Services; and Career Counseling.
- Compared to our peers, Dartmouth students are more satisfied with their undergraduate education and with most aspects of Dartmouth academics and facilities. Dartmouth students are somewhat less satisfied than students at peer schools with the aspects of Dartmouth campus life.

