



2010 CIRP FRESHMAN SURVEY

Office of Institutional Research
Dartmouth College



CONTENTS

Overview	3
Respondent Characteristics	6
College Choice	7
Reasons to Attend	8
Financial Issues	9
Self-Ratings	13
High School Behavior	14
Highest Degree Planned	17
Career Plans	18
Life Goals	19
College Expectations	20
Reflections	21



- The CIRP Freshman Survey is a national longitudinal study administered by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).
- It is regarded as one of the most comprehensive sources of information on incoming college students in America.

- In the fall of 2010, 77% (n=879/1,143) of the incoming first-year class at Dartmouth participated in the CIRP Freshman Survey during First-Year Orientation.
- A paper-and-pencil survey, the instrument covers a wide range of topics including demographics, pre-college experiences, reasons for attending college, academic plans, personal opinions and beliefs, financial aid status, and parental background.

- This presentation provides some characteristics of Dartmouth first-year students including their reasons for choosing Dartmouth, financial concerns, self-ratings, life goals, and expectations of their college career.
- This information can be used to better understand our students so we can further develop an educational environment that fosters their academic and personal success.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

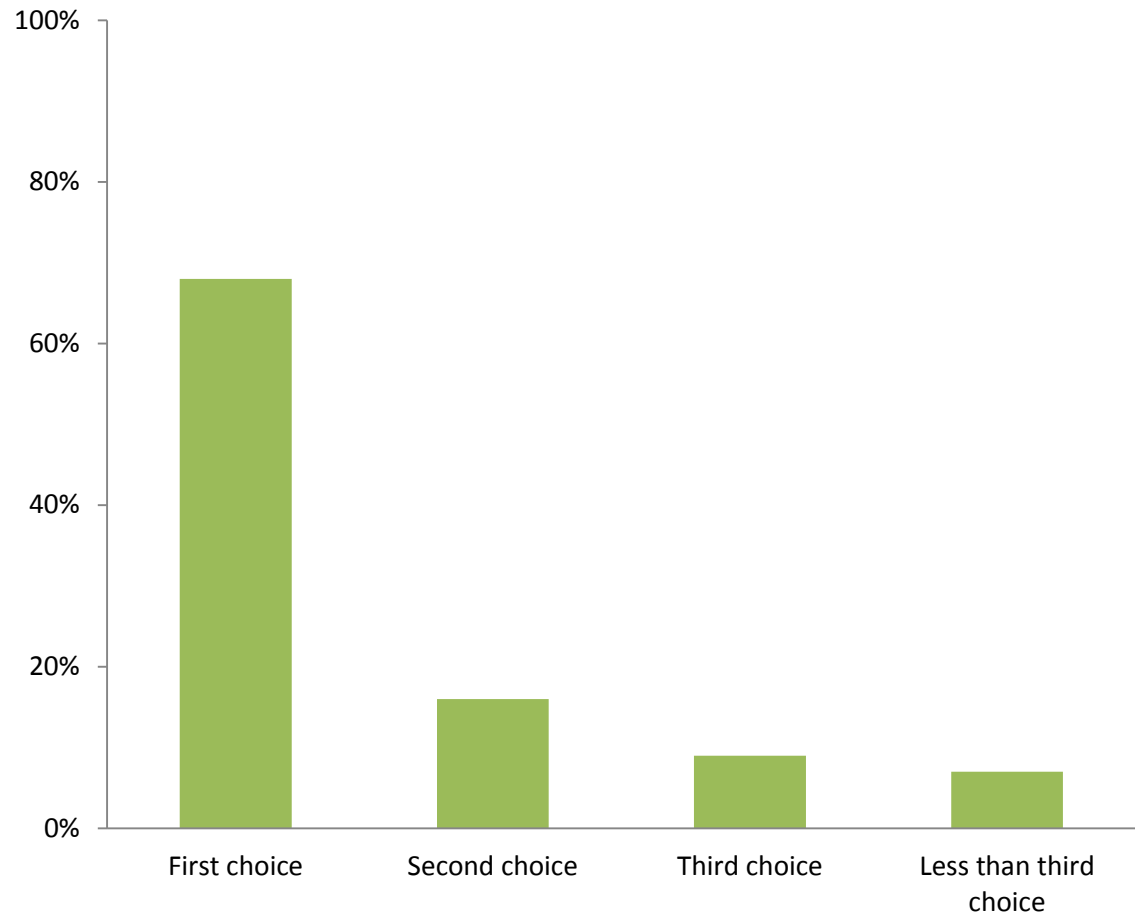
- 49% of the Dartmouth respondents identified as male and 51% as female.
- Racial/ethnic composition of respondents ($n=838$) was:
 - White: **57%**
 - Asian-American: **17%**
 - Hispanic: **6%**
 - African-American: **5%**
 - International: **7%**
 - Native American/Hawaiian: **4%**
 - Multiracial: **4%**
- 14% of Dartmouth respondents reported that English is not their native language



Q: Is this college your...?

Dartmouth was:

- The first college choice for **68%** of the respondents.
- The second college choice for **16% of the** respondents.

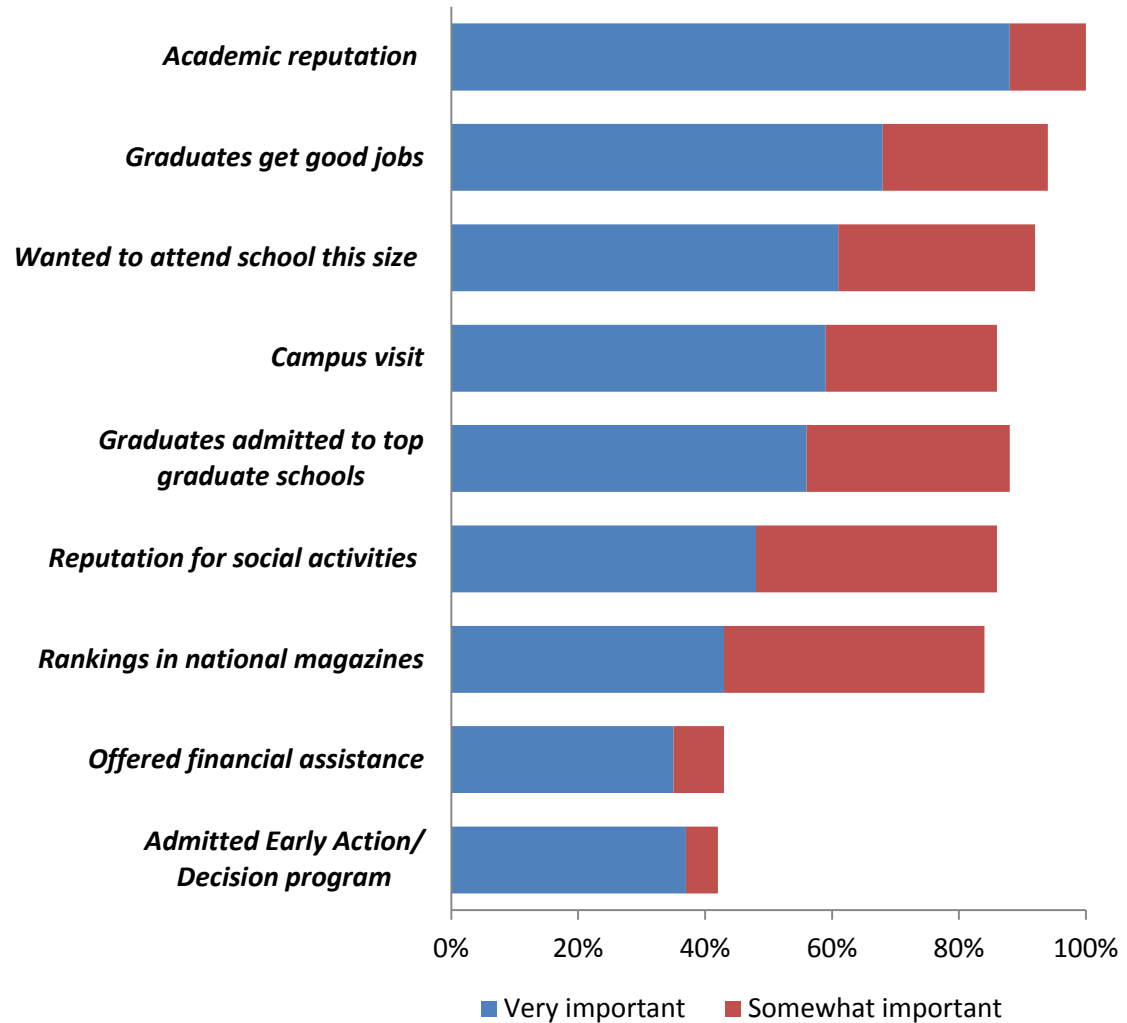


TOP RANKED REASONS

Q: How important was each reason in your decision to come here?

Top ranked reasons for attending Dartmouth:

- Academic reputation of the College (**100%**)
- Graduates getting good jobs (**94%**)
- Wanted to attend school this size (**92%**)

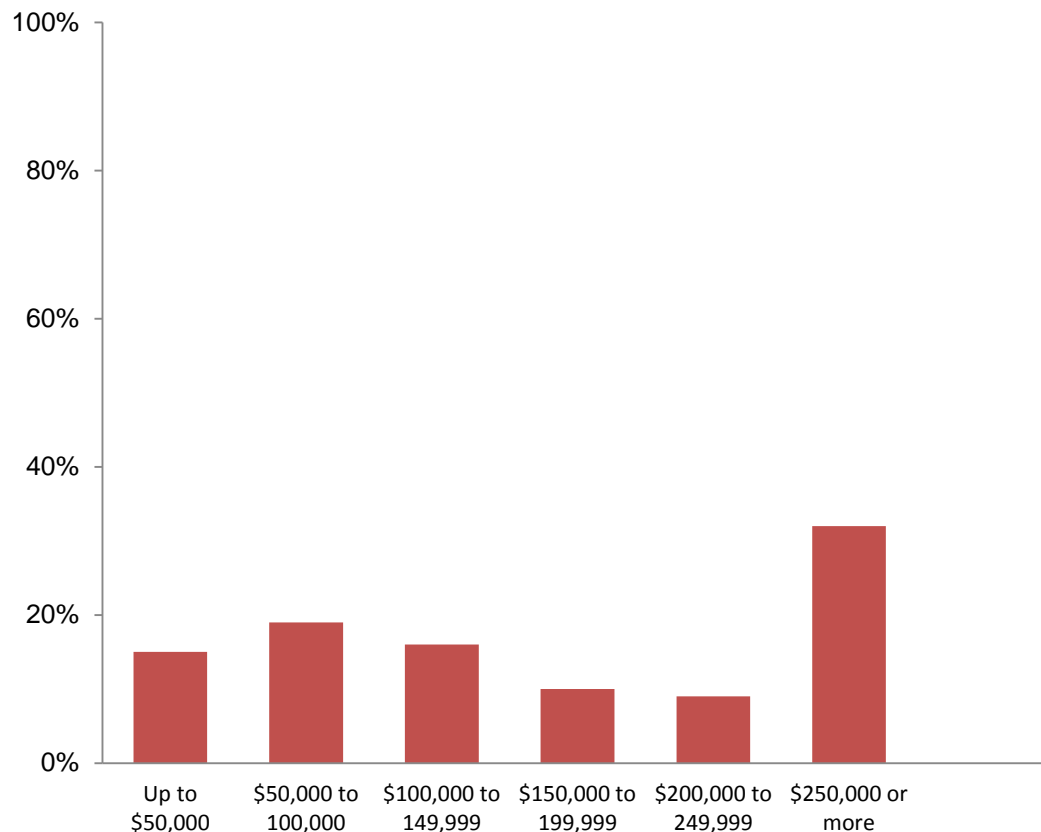


PARENTAL INCOME

Q: What is your best estimate of your parents' total income last year?

Reported household income:

- **32%** above **\$250,000**
- **50%** above **\$150,000**
- **15%** below **\$50,000**

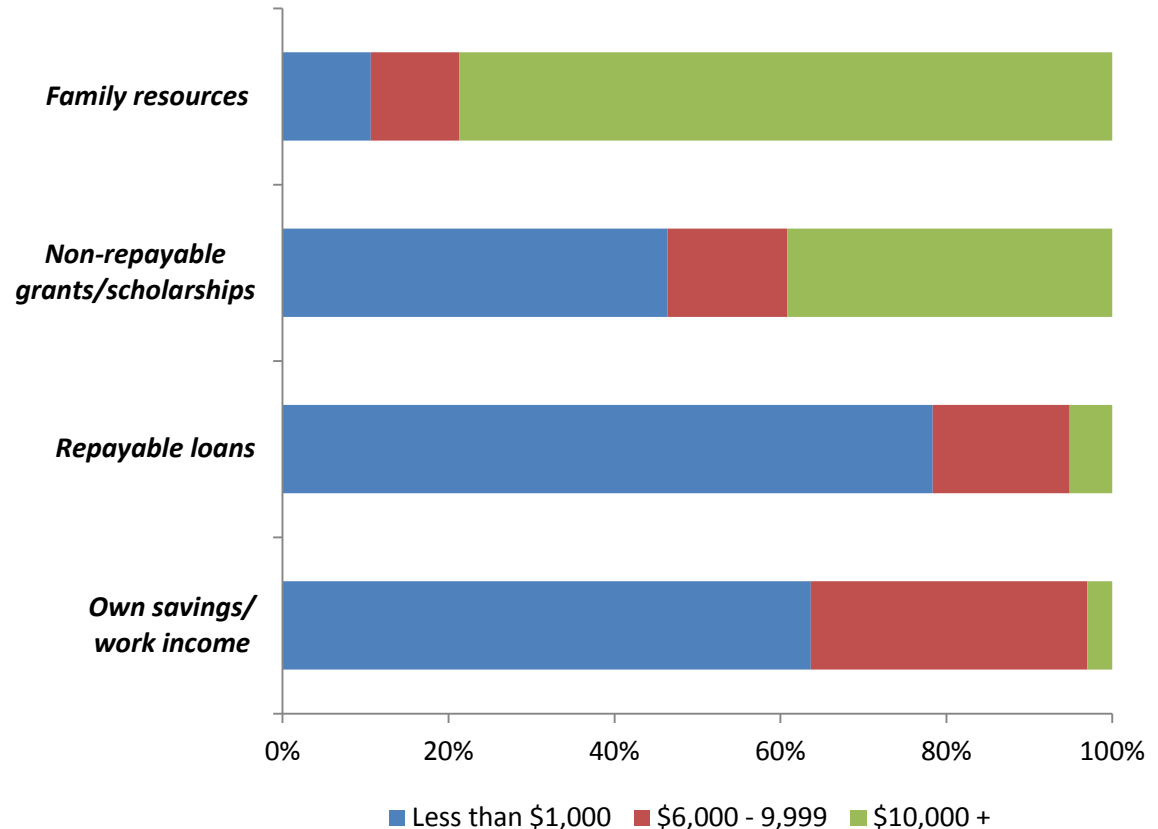


FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Q: How much of your first year's educational expense from the sources listed below?

For first-year students, the majority of resources (\$10,000 or above) come from :

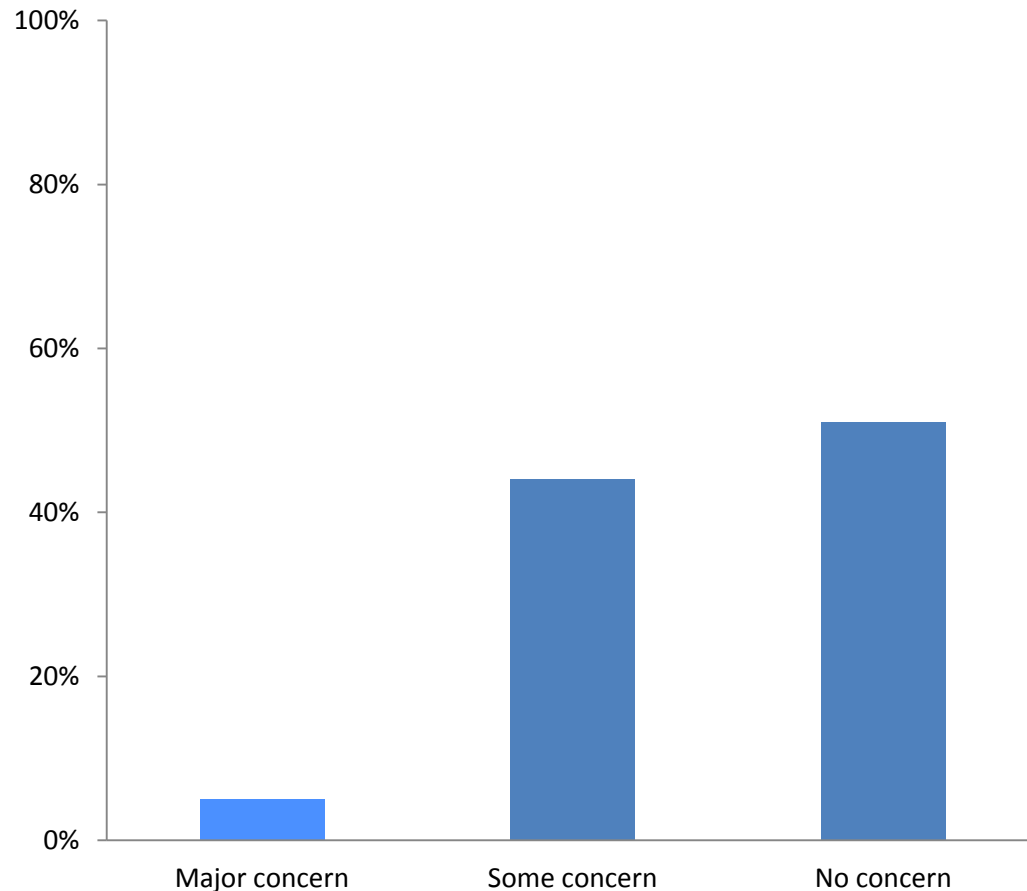
- Family (**74%**)
- Non-repayable grants/scholarship (**38%**)
- Repayable loans (**5%**)



CONCERN REGARDING ABILITY TO FINANCE EDUCATION

The ability to finance their college education was:

- A **major** concern for 5% of the respondents
- **NOT** a concern for 51% of the respondents

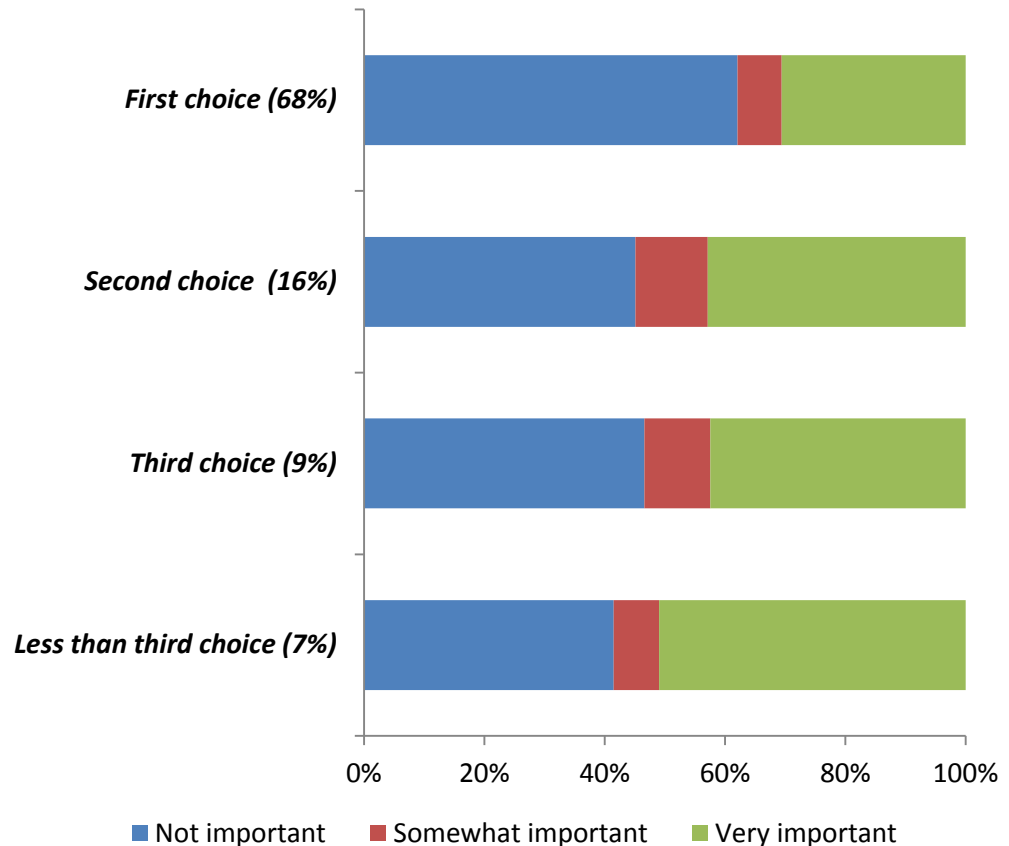


INFLUENCE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON ENROLLMENT DECISIONS

The Importance of Financial Assistance in Admission Decisions

Financial assistance was a **very important** consideration in enrollment decisions for:

- **31%** of respondents whose first choice was Dartmouth
- **43%** of respondents whose second choice was Dartmouth



RANKED SELF-RATINGS

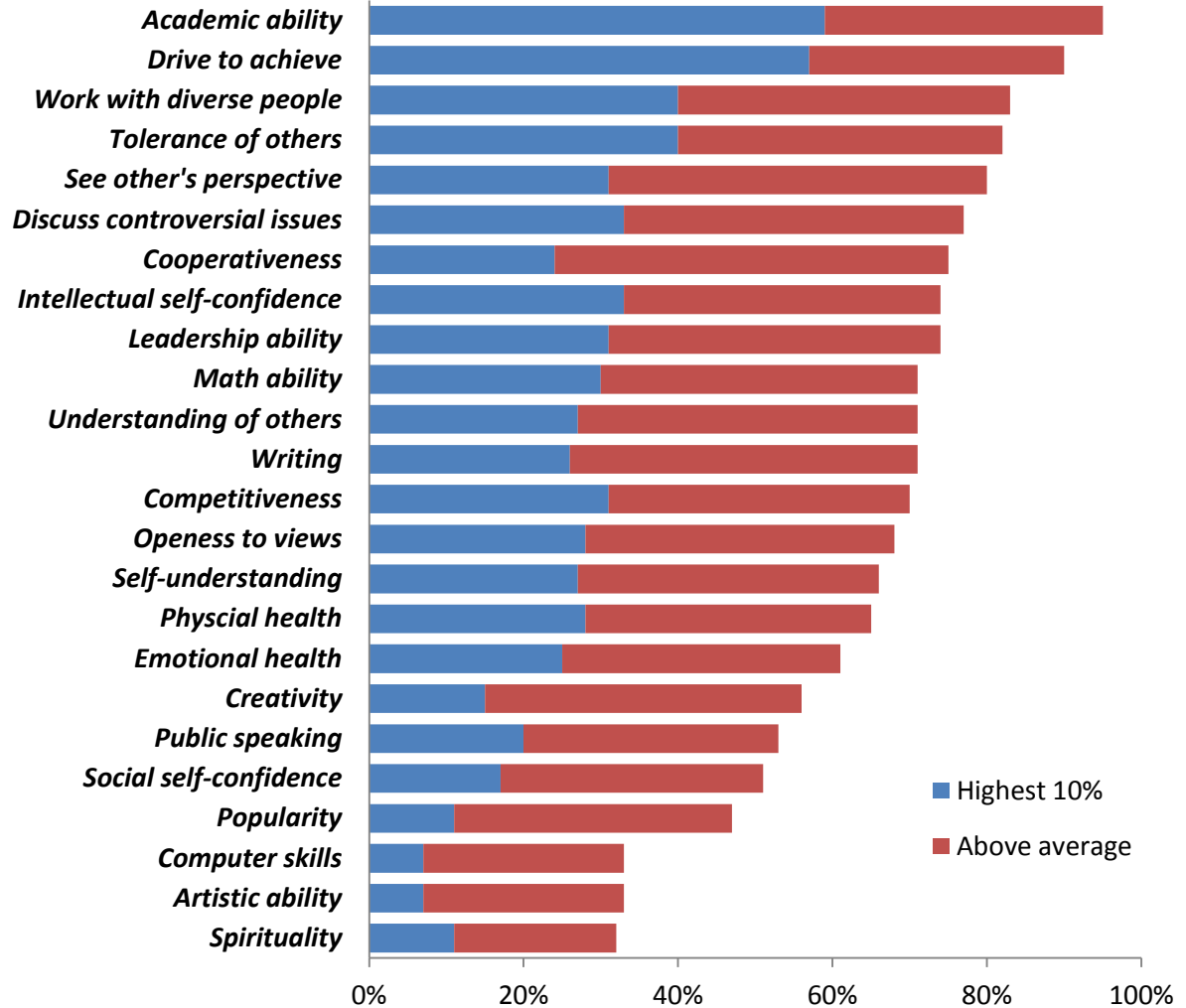
Q: Rate yourself on the following traits as compared to an average person your age.

Top self-rated traits:

- Academic ability (95%)
- Drive to achieve (90%)
- Work with diverse people (83%)

Lowest self-rated traits:

- Spirituality (32%)
- Artistic ability (33%)
- Computer skills (33%)

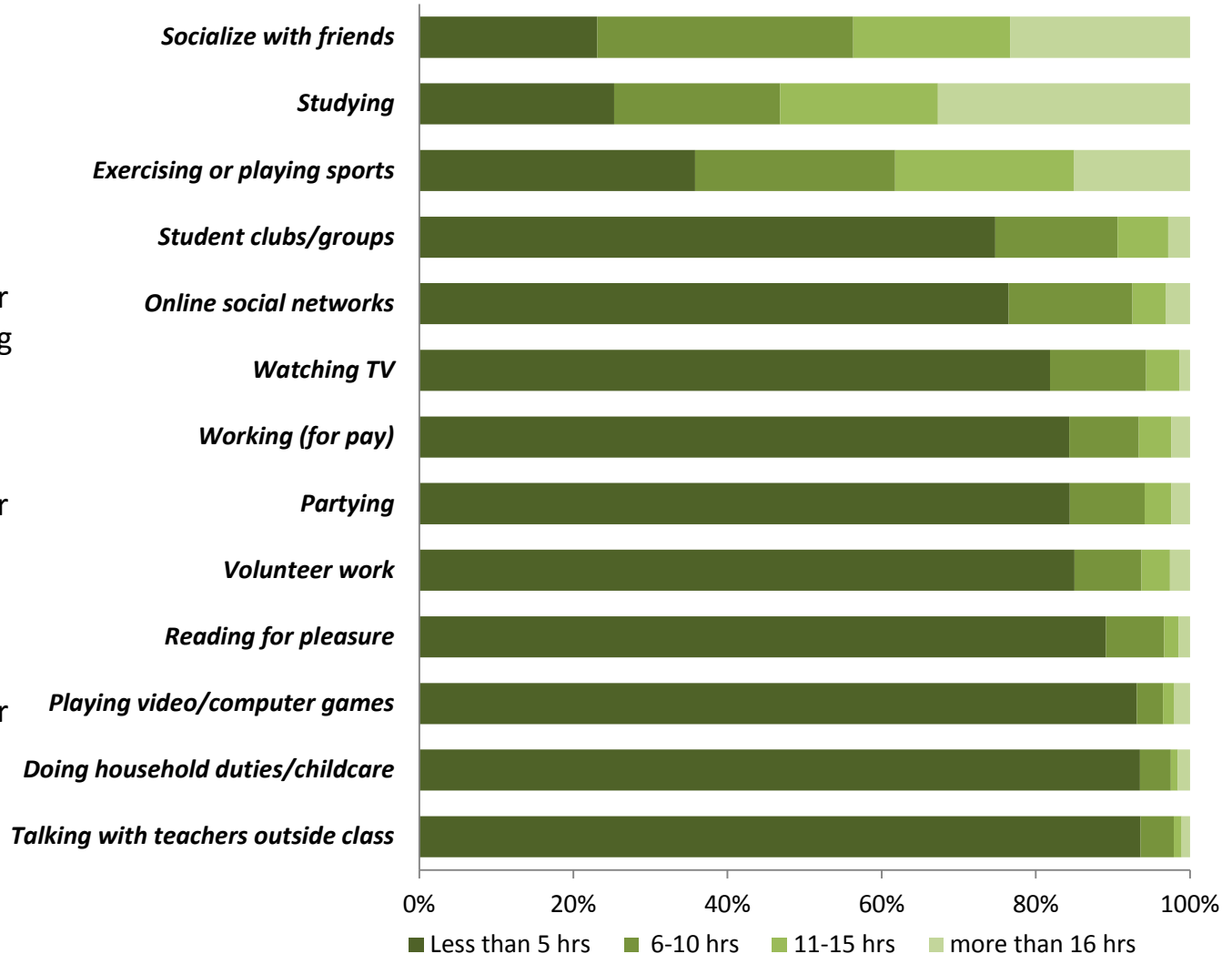


USE OF TIME

Q: During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week on the following activities?

During their last year in high school:

- **43%** spent 11 hours or more per week in socializing with friends
- **44%** spend 11 hours or more per week in exercise or sports
- **33%** spent 16 hours or more per week studying

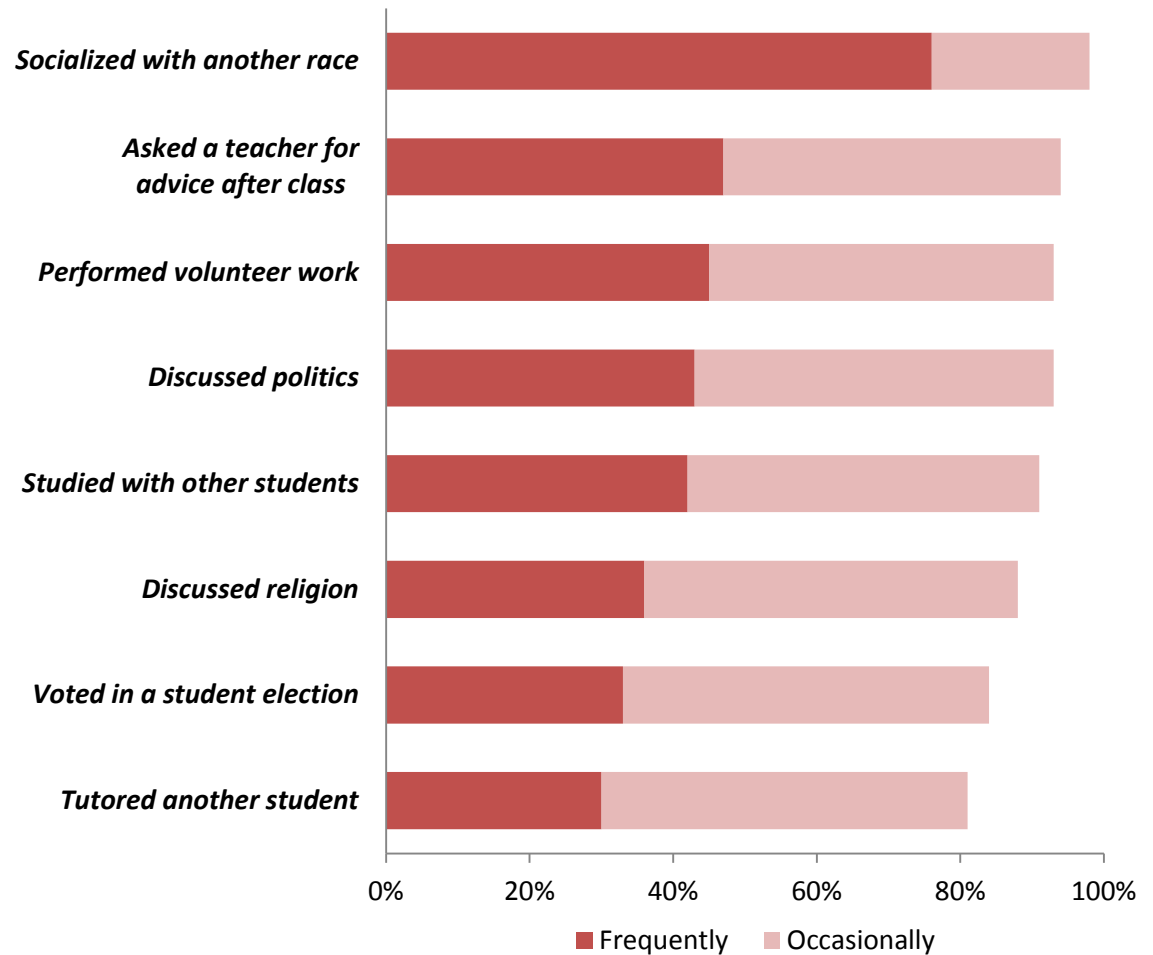


PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Q: Indicate the frequency of participating in each of the activities below during the last year?

The most frequent activities were:

- Socializing with someone from another racial/ethnic group (98%)
- Asking a teacher for advice after class (94%)
- Performing volunteer work (93%)
- Discussing politics (93%)

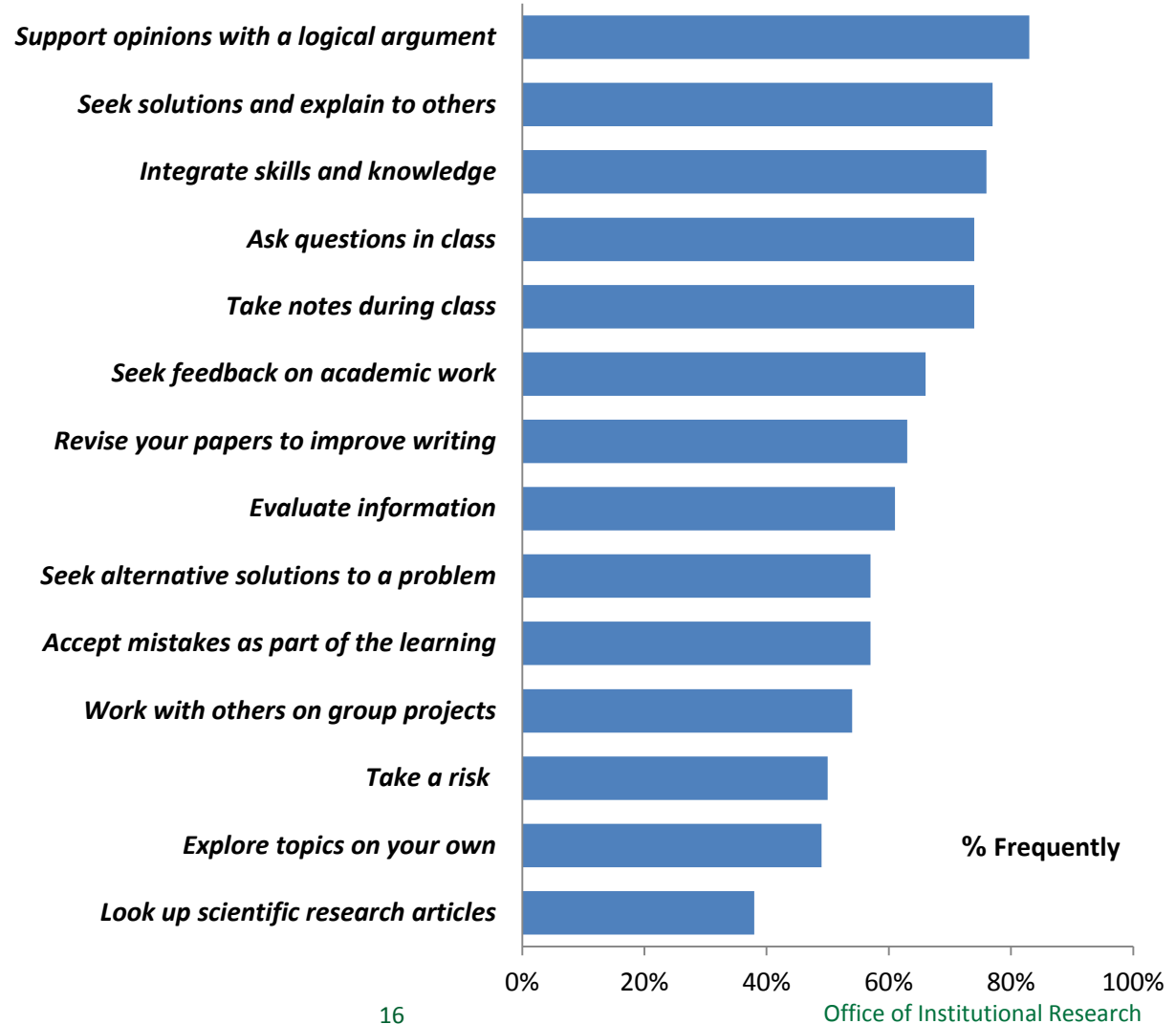


ACTIVE LEARNING BEHAVIOR

Q: How often in the past year did you...

During their high school senior year, Dartmouth respondents **frequently**:

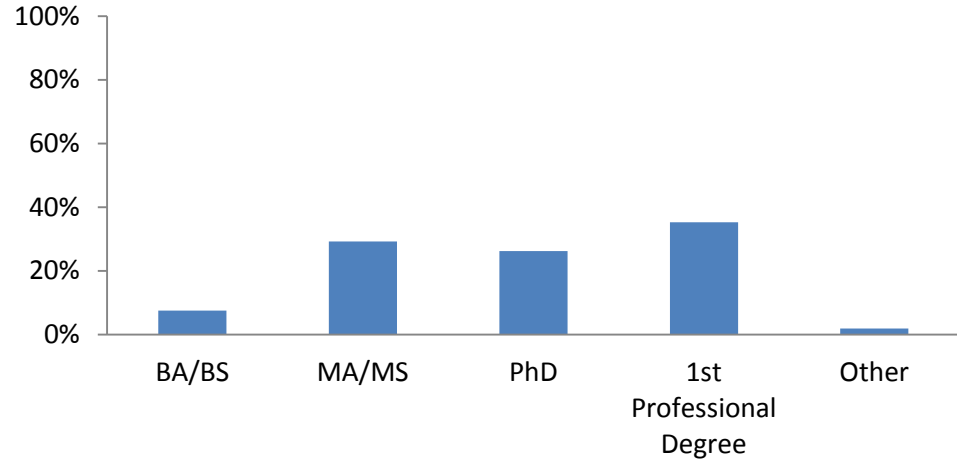
- Supported opinions with a logical argument (83%)
- Sought solutions to problems and explained them to others (77%)
- Integrated skills and knowledge from different resources and experiences (76%)



ACADEMIC DEGREE ASPIRATION

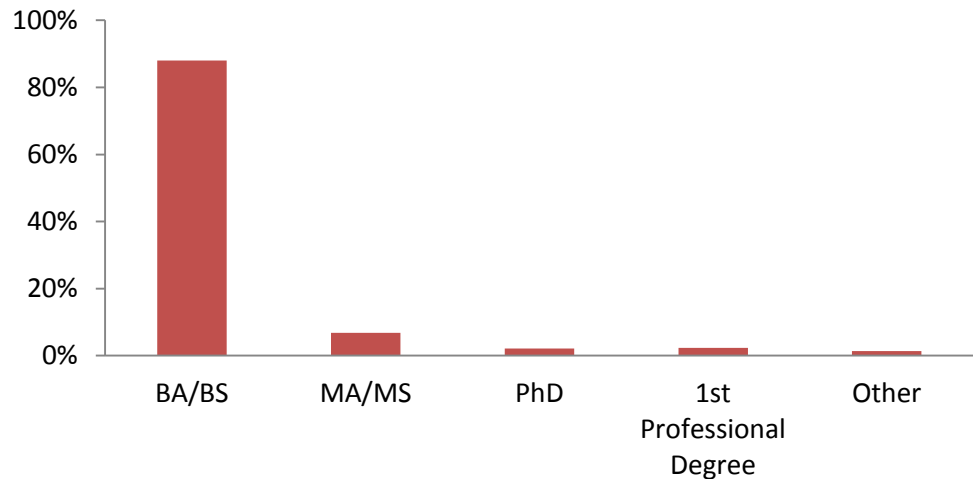
90% of the Dartmouth respondents planned on getting an advanced degree.

Highest Degree Planned Anywhere



88% reported that the highest degree they would obtain at Dartmouth would be a bachelor's.

Highest Degree Planned at Dartmouth



INTENDED CAREERS

Around **22%** of the Dartmouth respondents had not decided on a career.

One in six (**17%**) planned on being a physician and one in nine (**11%**) anticipated becoming a business executive.

Top Intended Careers	
Physician	17%
Business Executive	11%
Lawyer	8%
Engineer	7%
Scientist	6%
Undecided	22%



RANKED LIFE GOALS

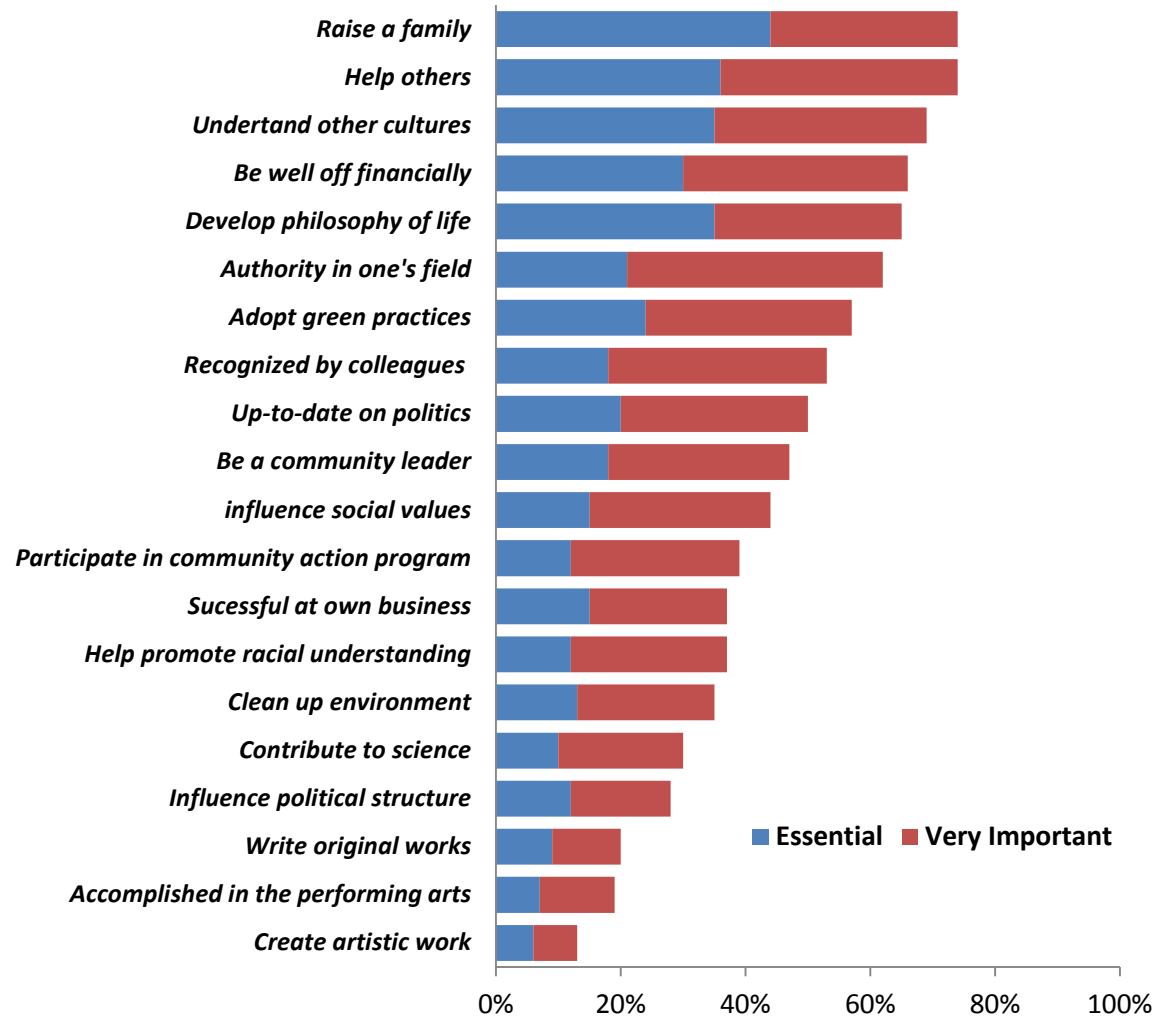
Q: What is the importance to you of each of the following?

Top ranked life goals:

- Raise a family (74%)
- Help others (74%)
- Understand other cultures (69%)

Lowest ranked life goals

- Create artistic work (13%)
- Be accomplished in performing arts (19%)
- Write original work (20%)

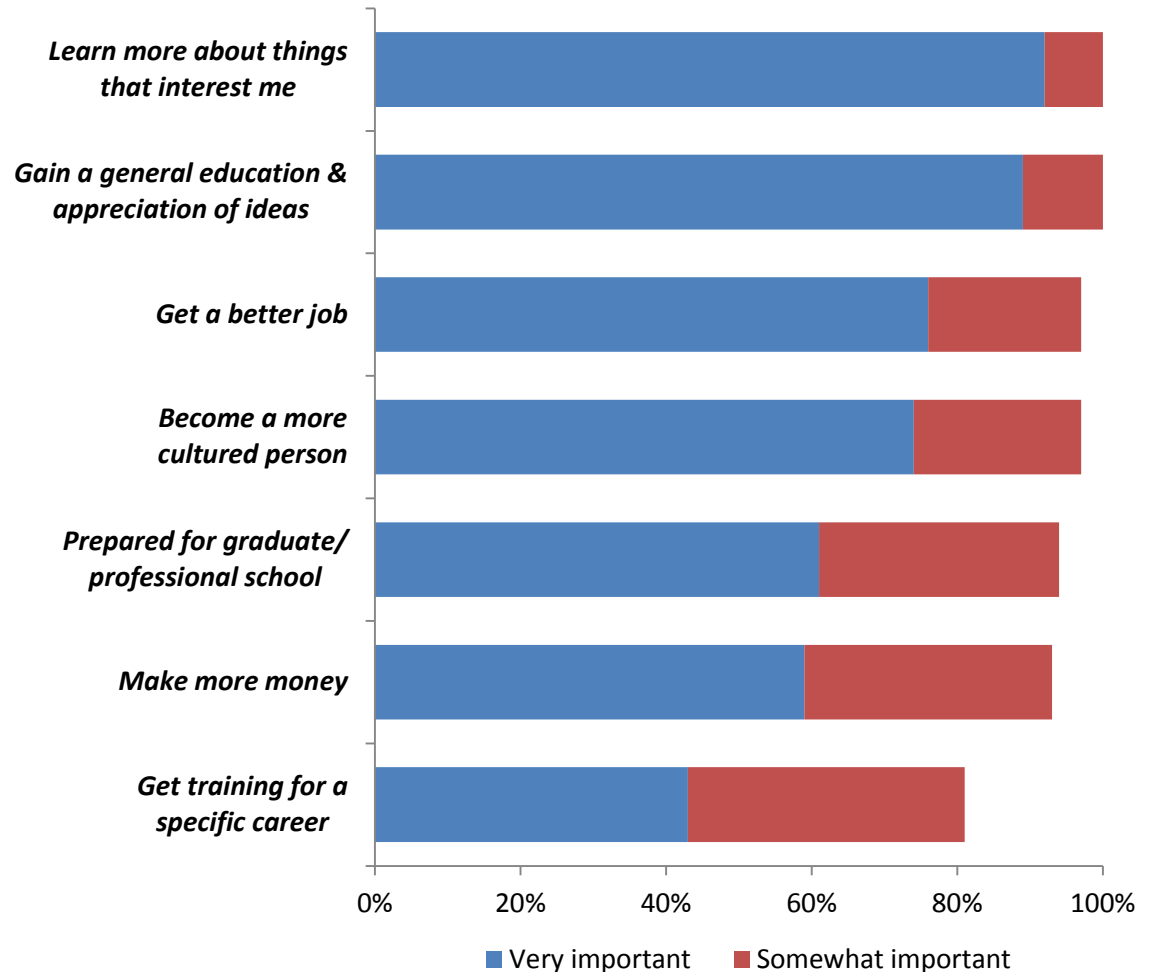


RANKED COLLEGE EDUCATION EXPECTATION

Q: In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following?

Top ranked expectations for college education:

- Learn more about things that interest me (100%)
- Gain a general education and appreciation of ideas (100%)
- Get a better job (97%)
- Become a more cultured person (97%)



RANKED COLLEGE LIFE EXPECTATIONS

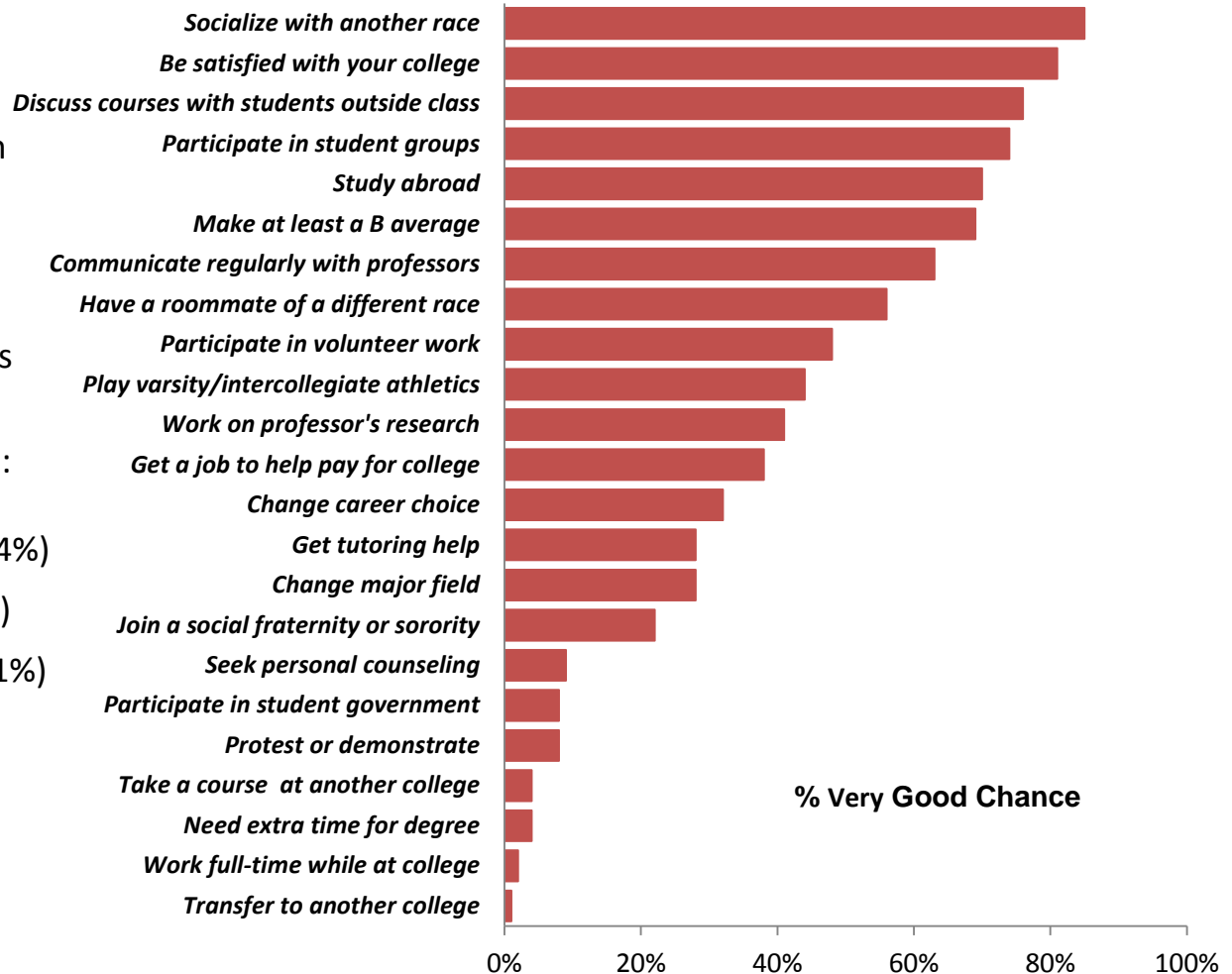
Q: What is your best guess at the chances you will:

Respondents are very **likely** to:

- Socialize with students from another race/ethnicity (85%)
- Be satisfied with Dartmouth (81%)
- Discuss courses with students outside of class (76%)

Respondents are very **unlikely** to:

- Need extra time for degree (4%)
- Work full-time in college (2%)
- Transfer to another college (1%)



SUMMARY

- Most first-year students (68%) indicated that Dartmouth College was their first choice.
- The top three reasons for attending Dartmouth are academic reputation, graduates getting good jobs, and wanting to attend a school of this size.
- More than 80% of Dartmouth incoming students rated themselves, compared to an average person of their age, as above average or in the highest 10% in academic ability, drive to achieve, ability to work with diverse people, tolerance of others, and seeing others' perspectives.

SUMMARY - CONTINUED

- 50% of Dartmouth incoming students reported that their parents' total income was \$150,000 or more.
- 51% of Dartmouth incoming students reported no concern regarding their ability to finance college education.
- During their last year in high school, over 40% of Dartmouth students spent more than 11 hours a week socializing with friends, while over 30% studied more than 16 hours in a typical week.

SUMMARY - CONTINUED

- 90% of Dartmouth incoming students planned on getting an advanced degree.
- More than 70% of Dartmouth incoming students think there is a very good chance they will discuss courses outside of class, participate in student groups, be satisfied with Dartmouth, and socialize with students from another race/ethnicity.
- The top reasons to attend college for Dartmouth first-year students were learning things that interests them, gaining a general education and appreciation of ideas, getting a good job, and becoming a more cultured person.