

On Course

A newsletter of the Dartmouth College Registrar's Office

Volume 2, Issue 3

February 2016

Updates & Improvements

New! Reports on demand

Departments and Programs each now have a set of reports they may use to review their course data. We delivered them in early January, and they have been extremely well-received. In February we will be rolling out additional department and program reports such as enrollment, major/minor, and course history reports. This will allow quick access to departmental information on demand.

Thank you

Thanks to Computing Services' Banner and Data Warehouse teams for partnering with us to provide these updates and new releases. Thank you as well to department administrators Meredyth Morley, Jill Syphus, and Joe Cadoret for providing feedback on the Timetable Editor reports as they were developed.

Connected Course Systems:

Dartmouth Course Management System

Over the last four years we have developed and connected course management systems in a coordinated fashion. We have named this set of applications and tools the Dartmouth Course Management System (DCMS). The DCMS encompasses the Timetable Editor, DCARS, the ORC/ Catalog, the public and registration Timetables, and other related items such as a set of new reports for departments and programs. The goal was to create a single, integrated system to manage course information to improve curricular flow, reduce error, and improve efficiency.

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60-Second Student Survey from Fall 2015

Thank you students for participating in our first 60-second survey on course planning. Here are the results, based on **833** respondents:

Timetable of Courses is the most popular planning tool

Students indicated that they use the Timetable of Courses (82% of respondents) the most often to plan their courses for an upcoming term, followed closely by the ORC/Catalog (77% of respondents). Department/Program websites are also popular resources with 56% of respondents indicating that they reference them. They use other resources only 5% of the time in comparison, with median grades in particular reflected in the comments. While many students did not yet know that course assessment reports were available to them, nearly 20% of respondents indicated that they did use course assessments.

Course Assessment Reports

We received a great deal of commentary on the course assessment reports, reflecting excitement that the information was available, and a strong desire for more faculty to opt in to increase the data presented.

Major and Minor Planning

When planning their majors and minors, students increase their use of department/program web pages (68% of respondents), followed by the ORC/Catalog (51% of respondents). Again, course assessments were rarely used, but enthusiasm for using them in the future is reflected in the comments received. Other resources used included faculty, faculty advisors, undergraduate deans, and peers, which indicated a strong personal component to major/minor planning.

What did we learn?

See some representative responses below or our [Fall Survey Comments page](#) for a fuller sampling of student commentary. We also have some graphical representations of the responses to the survey available.

What's next?

What's on the horizon for student course planning? Improvements to the Banner landing page, the major declaration process, and the addition of major requirements in DegreeWorks. Any students interested in working with us to test applications, let us know! Just email us at registrar@dartmouth.edu.

See next page for representative comments from the survey

60-Second Student Survey from Fall 2015

Representative Comments

- **Question 1 - Which of the following do you use regularly to plan your courses for an upcoming term?**

"The new course assessment reports are awesome. Please add to these. Timetable is also great, I wish the spring term one was already up."

"The inconsistencies in the times that future courses are listed on department websites and when they are actually offered has made planning difficult."

- **Question 2 - Which of the following applications do you seldom or never use to plan your courses for an upcoming term?**

"I use as many resources as I can when choosing classes"

"ORC sometimes provides less updated info on hour/terms offered than department websites, which can be a hassle sometimes"

- **Question 3 - Which of the following applications do you use regularly to plan your major/minor or anticipated major/minor?**

"Again, I haven't had the chance to use the course assessment reports, but I'm checking the box because if I could have used them in the past I absolutely would have. I also use my professors, advisors, and fellow students as resources during this planning process."

"My dean and faculty advisor help me the most"

- **Question 4 - Which of the following applications do you seldom or never use to plan your major/minor or anticipated major/minor?**

"I think I will utilize all these resources at some time"

"When I need to find when a course is offered I have found specific department pages to have much more information on who will be teaching a section, and when (often through next academic year or more, not just in the upcoming term or two)."

- **Question 5 - Additional Comments**

"The reason why course assessments are useless is not because they're inherently useless. They're fantastic! However, the system for using them is atrocious, and the default opt-out system makes it so none of the classes I have an interest in taking have reviews. I would love if displaying them were mandatory, but even changing to a default opt-in would increase the number of reviews substantially. Until this is done, it will be borderline useless, as teachers can cherry pick based on their feedback."

"Wouldn't it be amazing if there was a program that allowed me to input my d-plan and then add all the courses that I needed to take and then the program, since it would know when each class is offered (since that is honestly the most annoying thing to figure out myself when planning) would arrange a 4 year plan of when I should take each course <wistful sigh>."

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Course Assessment

Course Assessment reports for students now include summer and fall 2015 terms.

In fall 2015 our course assessment completion rate for undergraduates was 94.7%!

Did you know?...

We offer many in-depth guides for students, faculty and staff available 24/7 on our website. Visit our [Guides page](#) to take a look!

A Warm Welcome

This term, we're excited to welcome three new student staff members!

Helping us in the role of general office assistants, we welcome Jarius Brown '18 and Genna (Yihang) Liu '19.

Assisting us in a new position of Application Support Intern, we welcome Faith Rotich '18. Faith is available for one-on-one outreach to Department/Program administrators, faculty members, and Chairs for questions about Timetable Editor, DCARS, DegreeWorks and Online Major.

Registrar's Office Staff:



Clockwise from back left: José, Sal, David, Pam, Andy, Amy, Meredith, Angie, Whitney, Delia

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