

**2019 Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies Survey
Overall Results (Master's only)**

Dartmouth College
Office of Institutional Research
April 2019



Methods and Sample

- Nine hundred and forty-eight graduate students (including Ph.D. and Master's) from the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Thayer were invited to participate via email.
- The survey was administered electronically.
- A pre-survey notice was sent to each student from Kerry Landers, Assistant Dean of Graduate Student Affairs.
- The survey invitation and four email reminders were sent from the Office of Institutional Research.
- Data collection lasted six weeks.
- A gift certificate to the Pine Restaurant for \$50.00 was provided as an incentive.
- The overall response rate was 50% (471/948). The response rate for Ph.D. students was 58% (355/612) and for Master's it was 35% (116/336).
- There were no statistically significant differences between survey respondents and non-respondents due to race/ethnicity ($\chi^2 = 1.98$, $p > 0.05$), or student type ($\chi^2 = 1.52$, $p > 0.05$). Statistical significant differences were found between majors ($\chi^2 = 87.95$, $p < 0.0001$), with responses highest among students who majored in Ecology, Evolution, Ecosystems & Society (95%), and lowest among students who majored in Health Care Delivery Science (19%). See Appendix 1 for details.

Respondent Characteristics

Major		
	N	Percent
Chemistry (CHEM)	2	2%
Comparative Literature (COLT)	4	3%
Computer Science (COSC)	10	9%
Earth Sciences (EARS)	6	5%
Engineering Sciences (ENGS)	2	2%
Health Care Delivery Science (HCDS)	15	13%
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS)	55	47%
Math (MATH)	3	3%
Music (MUS)	4	3%
Psychological & Brain Sciences (PBS)	2	2%
Quantitative Biomedical Sciences (QBS)	10	9%
The Dartmouth Institute (TDI)	3	3%
	116	100%

Gender		
	N	Percent
Female	60	52%
Male	56	48%
	116	100%

Race/Ethnicity/Citizenship		
	N	Percent
International	32	28%
Minority	18	16%
Unknown	6	5%
White	60	52%
	116	100%

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Student Type		
	N	Percent
Continuing	60	52%
New	56	48%
	116	100%

Stage of graduate studies

Q1. Year in Program:		
	N	Percent
First year	52	45%
Second year	42	36%
Third year	16	14%
Fourth year	1	1%
Fifth year	2	2%
> 5 years	3	3%
	116	100%

Overall Satisfaction

Q2. Overall, how satisfied are you with your graduate education?						
Scale: 1 = Very dissatisfied, ... 5 = Very satisfied						
Overall Average	Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Ambivalent	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied	N
3.88	3%	9%	12%	52%	25%	112

Q3. Please rate each of the following.							
Scale: 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Very good, 5 = Excellent							
	Overall Average	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N
Your academic experience at Dartmouth	3.58	3%	15%	25%	33%	23%	115
Your student life experience at Dartmouth	3.14	6%	19%	40%	26%	10%	113
Your overall experience at Dartmouth	3.55	3%	11%	31%	35%	19%	115

Resources and Services

Q4. Please rate the quality of the following support and services provided by Dartmouth.									
Scale: 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Very good, 5 = Excellent									
	Overall Average	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N	N Not Available or Not used	N Total
Financial support provided by Dartmouth	3.52	12%	11%	25%	17%	35%	92	24	116
Programs and resources of the writing center or program (RWIT)	4.18	3%	5%	13%	31%	49%	39	77	116
Programs and resources of the teaching center or program (DCAL)	4.06	3%	6%	23%	20%	49%	35	81	116
Health insurance coverage provided by Dartmouth	3.37	12%	12%	28%	22%	26%	65	51	116
Information technology resources	3.95	0%	6%	27%	32%	35%	95	21	116
Laboratory, clinical, studio, or other physical facilities	3.76	3%	6%	36%	24%	31%	70	45	115
Your personal workspace (e.g., desk or office)	3.43	14%	10%	27%	17%	32%	63	53	116
Guarini School professional development offerings	2.89	20%	20%	24%	25%	11%	71	45	116
Psychological counseling services	2.95	18%	20%	30%	15%	18%	40	76	116
Campus health care services	3.65	2%	18%	23%	31%	27%	62	54	116
Programs and services for international students	3.28	22%	6%	22%	22%	28%	32	83	115

Program Climate

Q5. Using a scale of 1–5, please rate the department or program climate on the following dimensions							
1 = Negative... 5 = Positive (Value was recoded for items with an *)							
	Overall Average	1	2	3	4	5	N
friendly: hostile*	4.30	1%	3%	12%	35%	50%	115
collegial: contentious*	3.93	1%	7%	25%	32%	35%	115
non-sexist: sexist*	3.67	5%	14%	25%	21%	35%	114
collaborative: individualistic*	3.47	6%	18%	22%	29%	24%	116
cooperative: competitive*	3.88	2%	4%	31%	30%	33%	116
not supportive: supportive	3.80	7%	6%	17%	39%	30%	115

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Q5. Using a scale of 1–5, please rate the department or program climate on the following dimensions							
1 = Negative... 5 = Positive (Value was recoded for items with an *)							
	Overall Average	1	2	3	4	5	N
rigid: flexible	3.48	10%	7%	28%	34%	21%	116
threatening: protective	3.71	1%	6%	39%	29%	25%	115
encouraging: discouraging*	3.99	3%	6%	15%	40%	36%	116
inclusive: exclusionary*	3.85	1%	11%	22%	34%	32%	115
positive for persons with disabilities: negative for persons with disabilities*	3.73	3%	4%	42%	21%	30%	113
positive for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or transgender: negative for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or transgender*	4.09	2%	0%	27%	30%	41%	112
positive for people of spiritual/religious backgrounds: negative for people of spiritual/religious backgrounds*	3.80	2%	4%	40%	22%	32%	114
positive for People of Color: negative for People of Color*	3.73	4%	9%	28%	27%	32%	114
positive for non-native English speakers: negative for non-native English speakers*	3.68	1%	6%	42%	26%	25%	112
welcoming: not welcoming*	4.03	5%	7%	11%	33%	43%	115
homogeneous: diverse	3.06	16%	15%	30%	26%	13%	114
disrespectful: respectful	4.06	3%	6%	17%	30%	43%	115

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Q6. Rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.										
Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree, ... 5 = Strongly agree										
	Overall Average	Strongly disagree	Generally disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Generally agree	Strongly agree	N	N NA or don't know	N	Total
My peers value my research/scholarship	3.93	0%	8%	17%	50%	25%	102	11		113
I have to work harder than some of my peers to be perceived as a legitimate scholar	3.11	10%	19%	34%	26%	12%	104	9		113
My own relationships and interactions with faculty are positive	4.16	1%	7%	11%	37%	44%	114	0		114
I have the resources I need to succeed	3.91	5%	8%	7%	50%	30%	113	0		113
My program is responsive to student concerns	3.70	8%	12%	15%	31%	34%	108	6		114
Financial support for students in my program is distributed fairly	3.63	12%	5%	23%	26%	33%	81	33		114
My program's procedures are fair and equitable to all	3.79	2%	14%	18%	34%	32%	104	10		114
I am comfortable voicing my feelings and opinions in front of others in my program	3.75	7%	12%	13%	34%	33%	114	0		114

Obstacles to Academic Success

Q7. Rate the extent to which the following have been obstacles to your academic progress in the last year.							
1 = Not an obstacle, 2 = A minor obstacle, 3 = A major obstacle							
	Overall Average	Not an obstacle	A minor obstacle	A major obstacle	N	N Not applicable	N Total
Program structure or requirements	1.77	36%	52%	13%	104	5	109
Academic or social isolation	1.81	39%	40%	21%	107	4	111
Your self-confidence	1.75	44%	36%	19%	108	3	111
Time management difficulties	1.83	37%	44%	19%	109	1	110
Current job market	1.91	40%	30%	30%	86	24	110
Finding housing	1.66	54%	25%	21%	92	19	111
Transportation to Dartmouth	1.57	53%	36%	10%	96	14	110
Availability of faculty	1.51	62%	25%	13%	110	1	111
Relationship with advisor	1.40	68%	24%	8%	87	24	111
Competition among your peers	1.25	77%	21%	2%	102	9	111
Cost of housing	1.96	36%	32%	32%	94	16	110
Family obligations	1.58	57%	28%	15%	102	8	110
Insufficient financial support from Dartmouth	1.71	47%	34%	19%	91	20	111
Immigration laws and regulations	1.43	68%	22%	11%	65	46	111
Physical and/or mental health issues	1.73	46%	34%	19%	99	12	111
Other major obstacle (please describe)	2.00	47%	5%	47%	19	17	36

Mentoring and Advising

Q8a. During the last year, did you receive helpful advice or assistance on the following? If so, from whom - faculty, Graduate Studies staff, students, or others?				
	Faculty	Staff	Students/ Others	N/A- Didn't seek advice
Navigating the systems and culture of graduate education	37%	32%	49%	33%
Selecting courses	29%	21%	48%	34%
Preparing for qualifying exams	7%	2%	12%	85%
Developing/improving your teaching	21%	7%	11%	76%
Developing your dissertation topic	36%	11%	20%	56%

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Q8a. During the last year, did you receive helpful advice or assistance on the following? If so, from whom - faculty, Graduate Studies staff, students, or others?				
	Faculty	Staff	Students/ Others	N/A- Didn't seek advice
Conducting your dissertation research	34%	13%	15%	58%
Writing and revising your dissertation	32%	9%	14%	65%
Consideration of academic career options	28%	12%	19%	66%
Consideration of non-academic or other professional career options	26%	15%	26%	60%

Q8b. During the last year, did you receive helpful advice or assistance on the following? If so, from whom - faculty, Graduate Studies staff, students, or others? (Excluding N/A)			
	Faculty	Staff	Students/ Others
Navigating the systems and culture of graduate education	55%	47%	73%
Selecting courses	44%	31%	73%
Preparing for qualifying exams	47%	12%	82%
Developing/improving your teaching	82%	29%	46%
Developing your dissertation topic	82%	25%	45%
Conducting your dissertation research	80%	31%	35%
Writing and revising your dissertation	90%	24%	39%
Consideration of academic career options	78%	33%	55%
Consideration of non-academic or other professional career options	65%	37%	63%

Q9. How many faculty members at Dartmouth do you consider to be your advisors or mentors (i.e., faculty who give you advice about your education, career development, or other matters of concern to you as a graduate student)?		
	N	Percent
0	20	18%
1	36	33%
2	31	28%
3	15	14%
4 or more	7	6%
	109	100%

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Q10. How often do you typically have substantive contact with your primary advisor about your academic progress and research?		
	N	Percent
Less often than yearly	16	15%
Once a year	9	8%
Once a term	19	18%
2-3 times a term	10	9%
Monthly	8	8%
Twice a month	21	20%
Weekly or more often	23	22%
	106	100%

Q11. Is this frequency about right, not enough contact, or too much contact?		
	N	Percent
There is too much contact; I do not have enough independence	2	2%
Just about the right amount of contact	61	58%
There is not enough contact; I do not receive all the guidance I need	27	25%
I am not sure	16	15%
	106	100%

Q12. For each of the following statements, indicate the extent to which it describes your primary advisor.							
1 = Strongly disagree, ... 5 = Strongly agree							
	Overall Average	Strongly disagree	Generally disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Generally agree	Strongly agree	N
Discusses my research with me on a regular basis	3.54	8%	7%	32%	29%	24%	100
Gives me constructive feedback on my work	3.65	9%	7%	22%	33%	28%	99
Clearly states expectations for my academic progress	3.41	8%	11%	33%	28%	20%	100
Has reasonable expectations for my academic progress	3.68	8%	4%	25%	39%	25%	101
Promotes my professional development	3.50	10%	5%	33%	29%	23%	100
Shares her/his considerable experience and/or training	3.71	8%	4%	25%	35%	28%	100

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Q12. For each of the following statements, indicate the extent to which it describes your primary advisor.							
1 = Strongly disagree, ... 5 = Strongly agree							
	Overall Average	Strongly disagree	Generally disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Generally agree	Strongly agree	N
Expects me to work so many hours that it is hard to have a personal life	2.25	36%	24%	26%	7%	7%	100
Has made me feel valued	3.68	8%	2%	31%	32%	27%	100
Sees me as a source of labor to advance his/her career	2.12	44%	17%	26%	9%	4%	100

Q13. Have you received assistance or support on each of the following? If so, how helpful was the assistance or support? (Based on those who have received assistance/support)								
1 = Not at all helpful, ... 4 = Very helpful								
	Overall Average	Not at all helpful	Not very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	N	N Have not received assistance or support	N Total
Standards for academic or professional writing in my field	3.28	3%	6%	50%	41%	64	38	102
Avoiding plagiarism and other violations of the standards of academic integrity	3.13	6%	7%	54%	32%	68	33	101
Understanding the professional and research ethics in my field	3.07	7%	10%	49%	33%	67	35	102
Writing grant or fellowship proposals	2.94	12%	6%	59%	24%	34	67	101
Preparing articles for publication	2.75	13%	15%	58%	15%	40	60	100
Effective oral communication and presentations	2.94	8%	14%	54%	24%	63	40	103
Academic career planning	2.78	14%	17%	47%	22%	36	65	101
Non-academic career planning	2.75	17%	14%	47%	22%	36	64	100

Program Quality

Q14. Please rate your program in the following areas.							
Scale: 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Very good, 5 = Excellent							
	Overall Average	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N
Quality of graduate curriculum	3.09	14%	18%	32%	19%	18%	101
Quality of graduate-level teaching by faculty	3.48	9%	12%	28%	26%	26%	101
Quality of academic advising and guidance	3.06	17%	13%	34%	21%	16%	101
The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines	3.35	15%	12%	22%	25%	26%	100
Developing me as a scholar	3.29	7%	21%	29%	22%	21%	100
Developing me as a teacher	2.72	17%	24%	36%	13%	9%	98
Developing me as a communicator	3.26	6%	22%	29%	26%	17%	100

Q15. Rate the quality of courses offered to you.									
Scale: 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Average, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent									
	Overall Average	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent	N	N Not applicable	N Total
Depth of content in courses within your area of specialty	3.61	10%	13%	12%	34%	31%	98	3	101
Breadth of content in courses within your area of specialty	3.59	8%	15%	16%	32%	29%	100	1	101
Depth of content in courses outside your area of specialty	3.85	4%	13%	13%	34%	36%	94	7	101
Breadth of content in courses outside your area of specialty	3.81	4%	14%	12%	34%	35%	91	9	100
State-of-the-art course content	3.41	15%	12%	13%	38%	22%	86	15	101

Q16. If you completed a qualifying exam this past year, what was your experience? Check the circle that best represents your agreement with the statements.									
Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree, ... 4 = Strongly agree									
	Overall Average	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	N	N Not applicable	N Total	
The conduct of exam was fair	3.15	15%	0%	38%	46%	13	79	92	

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Q16. If you completed a qualifying exam this past year, what was your experience? Check the circle that best represents your agreement with the statements.								
Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree, ... 4 = Strongly agree								
	Overall Average	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	N	N Not applicable	N Total
The exam was useful in consolidating my knowledge	3.31	0%	8%	54%	38%	13	79	92
The exam topics were relevant to my training	3.27	0%	18%	36%	45%	11	80	91

Early Advice and Support Provided by Departments or Programs

Q17a. Does your department or program provide pre-candidacy students with the following opportunities or resources?				
	No, not available	Available but I did not participate/receive	I participated	N
A departmental/program orientation to help you understand the process of completing your graduate degree	10%	7%	82%	97
A written set of expectations about academic requirements and expected progress in your program	7%	6%	86%	96
Organized exposure to faculty and their current research interests	30%	12%	58%	97
Early research opportunities (e.g., laboratory rotations, research assistantships, faculty-advised research projects or papers)	42%	18%	41%	96
A written assessment of your academic progress, other than course grades and qualifying exams, at least annually	46%	6%	48%	96
A meeting with your Director of Graduate Studies and/or other faculty to assess your academic progress, at least annually	32%	17%	51%	96

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Q17b. If participated, how effective were the following opportunities or resources provided by your department or program to pre-candidacy students? If participated, how effective was it?							
Scale: 1 = Very ineffective, ... 5 = Very effective							
	Overall Average	Very ineffective	Somewhat ineffective	Neither effective nor ineffective	Somewhat effective	Very effective	N
A departmental/program orientation to help you understand the process of completing your graduate degree	3.84	6%	13%	4%	46%	31%	80
A written set of expectations about academic requirements and expected progress in your program	3.93	5%	8%	14%	34%	39%	83
Organized exposure to faculty and their current research interests	3.50	13%	11%	18%	32%	27%	56
Early research opportunities (e.g., laboratory rotations, research assistantships, faculty-advised research projects or papers)	3.56	10%	5%	23%	41%	21%	39
A written assessment of your academic progress, other than course grades and qualifying exams, at least annually	3.65	9%	2%	30%	33%	26%	46
A meeting with your Director of Graduate Studies and/or other faculty to assess your academic progress, at least annually	3.57	12%	2%	22%	43%	20%	49

Developing Your Teaching

Q18. Have you recently had one or more teaching assistantship appointments at Dartmouth?		
	N	Percent
No	69	70%
Yes	30	30%
	99	100%

Q19. Rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about this most recent teaching appointment. (Excluding those who did not have teaching assistantships)							
1 = Strongly disagree, ... 5 = Strongly agree							
	Overall Average	Strongly disagree	Generally disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Generally agree	Strongly agree	N
I understood the goals of the course	3.91	4%	0%	30%	34%	32%	53
I understood what the faculty expected of me	3.83	2%	4%	35%	29%	31%	52
This teaching appointment was related to my program of study	3.58	10%	4%	32%	26%	28%	50
I received helpful feedback about my teaching from the course instructor	3.36	6%	16%	34%	24%	20%	50

Q20. How has this teaching appointment affected your interest in teaching in the future?		
	N	Percent
Decreased my interest	1	3%
Made no difference	12	40%
Increased my interest	17	57%
	30	100%

Career Development

Q21. While a graduate student at Dartmouth, have you done any of the following?			
	In the past year	Since starting this program	Neither
Attended a professional conference	28%	23%	61%
Presented a paper or poster at a conference	14%	11%	81%
Submitted articles, book chapters, or technical reports that are under review	19%	13%	76%
Published or had accepted for publication articles, book chapters, or technical reports	18%	14%	75%
Wrote or assisted in writing a grant proposal	16%	9%	80%

Q22. When you entered your program, in which of the following did you envision yourself working upon completion of your degree?		
	N	Percent
Academia	40	41%
Business, industry, self-employment	34	35%
Government, non-profit	16	16%
Other, please describe:	8	8%
	98	100%

Q23. In which of the following do you now envision yourself working?		
	N	Percent
Academia	34	35%
Business, industry, self-employment	37	38%
Government, non-profit	17	17%
Other, please describe:	10	10%
	98	100%

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Q24. My program is preparing me adequately for my current career goals.						
1 = Strongly disagree, ... 5 = Strongly agree						
Overall Average	Strongly disagree	Generally disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Generally agree	Strongly agree	N
3.47	8%	12%	22%	39%	18%	99

Revisiting Your Graduate Studies

Q25. How likely are you to stay in your program until you achieve your ultimate degree objective?						
1 = Very unlikely, ... 5 = Very likely						
Overall Average	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Not sure	Somewhat likely	Very likely	N
4.56	4%	2%	6%	10%	78%	99

Q26. If you could start all over again...							
1 = Definitely not, 2 = Probably not, 3 = Maybe, 4 = Probably, 5 = Definitely							
	Overall Average	Definitely not	Probably not	Maybe	Probably	Definitely	N
Would you choose to pursue a PhD or Master's?	4.35	2%	1%	18%	17%	61%	98
Would you choose the same field of study?	4.17	1%	6%	16%	28%	49%	98
Would you choose to come to Dartmouth?	3.66	8%	12%	22%	21%	36%	99

Q27. Would you recommend Dartmouth to someone considering your field of study?						
1 = Definitely not, 2 = Probably not, 3 = Maybe, 4 = Probably, 5 = Definitely						
Overall Average	Definitely not	Probably not	Maybe	Probably	Definitely	N
3.61	10%	13%	17%	26%	34%	96

Appendix 1

Respondent vs. Non-Respondent Comparison

Guarini 2019 Survey Results (Master only)

Major

	Number of Survey Respondents	Number of Invitations	Response Rate
Biochemistry & Cell Biology (BCB)	25	38	66%
Chemistry (CHEM)	24	42	57%
Comparative Literature (COLT)	4	9	44%
Computer Science (COSC)	41	80	51%
Earth Sciences (EARS)	17	25	68%
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (EEB)	17	29	59%
Ecology, Evolution, Ecosystems & Society (EEES)	18	19	95%
Engineering Sciences (ENGS)	65	132	49%
Health Care Delivery Science (HCDS)	15	81	19%
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS)	55	155	35%
Math (MATH)	17	28	61%
Microbiology (MICR)	22	53	42%
Molecular & Cellular Biology (MCB)	10	23	43%
Molecular and Systems Biology (MSB)	16	22	73%
Music (MUS)	4	5	80%
Physics (PHYS)	26	42	62%
Program in Molecular Medicine (PEMM)	31	48	65%
Psychological & Brain Sciences (PBS)	26	42	62%
Quantitative Biomedical Sciences (QBS)	29	59	49%
The Dartmouth Institute (TDI)	9	16	56%
Total	471	948	50%

There were statistically significant differences between survey respondents and non-respondents due to major ($\chi^2 = 87.95$, $p < 0.0001$).

Race/Ethnicity/Citizenship

	Number of Survey Respondents	Number of Invitations	Response Rate
International	137	279	49%
Minority	74	155	48%
Unknown	10	25	40%
White	250	489	51%
Total	471	948	50%

Excluding respondents with “Unknown”, there were no statistically significant differences between survey respondents and non-respondents due to race/ethnicity ($\chi^2 = 0.65$, $p = 0.7218$).

Student type

	Number of Survey Respondents	Number of Invitations	Response Rate
Continuing	341	670	51%
New	130	278	47%
Total	471	948	50%

There were no statistically significant differences between survey respondents and non-respondents due to student type ($\chi^2 = 1.34$, $p = 0.2466$).