

2019 Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies Survey Overall Results (Ph.D. 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
Biochemistry & Cell Biology (BCB)	25	7%
Chemistry (CHEM)	22	6%
Computer Science (COSC)	31	9%
Earth Sciences (EARS)	11	3%
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (EEB)	17	5%
Ecology, Evolution, Ecosystems & Society (EEES)	18	5%
Engineering Sciences (ENGS)	63	18%
Math (MATH)	14	4%
Microbiology (MICR)	22	6%
Molecular & Cellular Biology (MCB)	10	3%
Molecular and Systems Biology (MSB)	16	5%
Physics (PHYS)	26	7%
Program in Molecular Medicine (PEMM)	31	9%
Psychological & Brain Sciences (PBS)	24	7%
Quantitative Biomedical Sciences (QBS)	19	5%
The Dartmouth Institute (TDI)	6	2%
	355	100%

Gender		
	N	Percent
Female	175	49%
Male	180	51%
	355	100%

Race/Ethnicity/Citizenship		
	N	Percent
International	105	30%
Minority	56	16%
Unknown	4	1%

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Race/Ethnicity/Citizenship		
	N	Percent
White	190	54%
	355	100%

Student Type		
	N	Percent
Continuing	281	79%
New	74	21%
	355	100%

Stage of graduate studies

Q1. Year in Program:		
	N	Percent
First year	71	20%
Second year	58	16%
Third year	69	19%
Fourth year	63	18%
Fifth year	46	13%
> 5 years	47	13%
	354	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
3.84	2%	8%	13%	58%	19%	337

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	4%	12%	26%	38%	20%	355

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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 student life experience at Dartmouth	3.18	7%	20%	34%	27%	12%	355
Your overall experience at Dartmouth	3.49	2%	14%	33%	38%	14%	354

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	3.73	3%	13%	25%	26%	33%	326	29	355
Programs and resources of the writing center or program (RWIT)	3.51	4%	17%	30%	23%	27%	101	254	355
Programs and resources of the teaching center or program (DCAL)	3.78	2%	6%	33%	31%	28%	194	161	355
Health insurance coverage provided by Dartmouth	3.13	12%	19%	28%	25%	16%	329	26	355
Information technology resources	3.81	1%	10%	25%	36%	28%	319	36	355
Laboratory, clinical, studio, or other physical facilities	3.80	2%	8%	25%	36%	29%	326	29	355
Your personal workspace (e.g., desk or office)	3.60	5%	10%	30%	31%	24%	354	1	355
Guarini School professional development offerings	3.26	4%	20%	35%	28%	13%	245	109	354
Psychological counseling services	2.93	21%	17%	27%	18%	17%	190	165	355
Campus health care services	3.60	5%	12%	25%	32%	26%	314	40	354
Programs and services for international students	3.15	11%	18%	32%	21%	17%	115	240	355

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*	4.13	1%	6%	13%	39%	41%	351
collegial: contentious*	3.89	3%	7%	20%	38%	32%	351
non-sexist: sexist*	3.60	5%	15%	24%	29%	27%	352
collaborative: individualistic*	3.67	7%	12%	18%	33%	30%	353
cooperative: competitive*	3.86	3%	7%	22%	37%	31%	353
not supportive: supportive	3.82	5%	7%	18%	41%	29%	352
rigid: flexible	3.52	7%	11%	25%	39%	19%	351
threatening: protective	3.64	4%	5%	35%	35%	21%	352
encouraging: discouraging*	3.89	3%	7%	17%	44%	29%	353
inclusive: exclusionary*	3.68	5%	11%	23%	34%	28%	352
positive for persons with disabilities: negative for persons with disabilities*	3.52	3%	7%	45%	24%	20%	344
positive for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or transgender: negative for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or transgender*	3.80	2%	5%	33%	30%	29%	345
positive for people of spiritual/religious backgrounds: negative for people of spiritual/religious backgrounds*	3.55	2%	4%	50%	24%	19%	344
positive for People of Color: negative for People of Color*	3.51	5%	9%	35%	30%	21%	348
positive for non-native English speakers: negative for non-native English speakers*	3.45	3%	13%	39%	26%	19%	349
welcoming: not welcoming*	3.99	4%	7%	14%	36%	39%	353
homogeneous: diverse	2.84	16%	26%	26%	22%	10%	353
disrespectful: respectful	3.96	3%	6%	17%	41%	33%	353

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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	4.01	3%	5%	10%	52%	30%	329	11	340
I have to work harder than some of my peers to be perceived as a legitimate scholar	3.19	8%	24%	26%	26%	17%	335	9	344
My own relationships and interactions with faculty are positive	4.21	1%	4%	8%	47%	40%	343	1	344
I have the resources I need to succeed	3.94	4%	7%	13%	45%	31%	342	2	344
My program is responsive to student concerns	3.48	8%	14%	19%	39%	19%	328	16	344
Financial support for students in my program is distributed fairly	4.05	2%	6%	13%	44%	35%	290	53	343
My program's procedures are fair and equitable to all	3.68	6%	9%	18%	45%	22%	327	16	343
I am comfortable voicing my feelings and opinions in front of others in my program	3.63	7%	12%	14%	44%	23%	340	4	344

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	1.58	53%	36%	11%	334	4	338
Academic or social isolation	1.87	36%	42%	22%	329	9	338
Your self-confidence	1.97	29%	44%	27%	334	4	338
Time management difficulties	1.83	35%	47%	18%	335	3	338
Current job market	1.61	56%	26%	17%	254	83	337
Finding housing	1.65	53%	28%	19%	312	25	337
Transportation to Dartmouth	1.63	54%	28%	17%	324	14	338
Availability of faculty	1.46	62%	29%	8%	331	7	338
Relationship with advisor	1.46	67%	20%	13%	333	5	338
Competition among your peers	1.31	73%	23%	4%	327	10	337
Cost of housing	1.97	35%	34%	31%	327	11	338
Family obligations	1.55	56%	32%	11%	319	18	337
Insufficient financial support from Dartmouth	1.46	63%	28%	9%	319	18	337
Immigration laws and regulations	1.47	67%	18%	14%	209	128	337
Physical and/or mental health issues	1.92	33%	42%	25%	326	12	338
Other major obstacle (please describe)	2.08	38%	17%	45%	53	51	104

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	40%	18%	62%	29%
Selecting courses	43%	6%	51%	37%
Preparing for qualifying exams	39%	5%	44%	49%
Developing/improving your teaching	32%	22%	25%	52%
Developing your dissertation topic	64%	5%	31%	33%

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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	69%	13%	42%	27%
Writing and revising your dissertation	33%	5%	17%	64%
Consideration of academic career options	46%	11%	38%	43%
Consideration of non-academic or other professional career options	35%	17%	43%	43%

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	56%	26%	88%
Selecting courses	68%	10%	80%
Preparing for qualifying exams	75%	10%	86%
Developing/improving your teaching	67%	46%	52%
Developing your dissertation topic	95%	8%	45%
Conducting your dissertation research	95%	18%	58%
Writing and revising your dissertation	92%	13%	48%
Consideration of academic career options	80%	19%	67%
Consideration of non-academic or other professional career options	61%	31%	74%

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	4	1%
1	124	37%
2	107	32%
3	68	21%
4 or more	28	8%
	331	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	1	0%
Once a year	4	1%
Once a term	9	3%
2-3 times a term	12	4%
Monthly	17	5%
Twice a month	56	17%
Weekly or more often	234	70%
	333	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	11	3%
Just about the right amount of contact	248	74%
There is not enough contact; I do not receive all the guidance I need	46	14%
I am not sure	28	8%
	333	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	4.17	5%	5%	8%	33%	49%	329
Gives me constructive feedback on my work	4.08	5%	7%	8%	34%	46%	330
Clearly states expectations for my academic progress	3.60	9%	15%	14%	32%	31%	330
Has reasonable expectations for my academic progress	4.00	5%	6%	12%	38%	39%	330
Promotes my professional development	3.92	6%	4%	20%	31%	38%	330
Shares her/his considerable experience and/or training	4.14	4%	4%	11%	36%	45%	329

Guarini 2019 Survey Results (PhD only)

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	35%	30%	18%	9%	8%	330
Has made me feel valued	3.76	7%	10%	13%	36%	32%	327
Sees me as a source of labor to advance his/her career	2.18	42%	25%	15%	9%	9%	330

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	3.22	1%	10%	56%	34%	178	144	322
Avoiding plagiarism and other violations of the standards of academic integrity	3.21	1%	11%	56%	33%	180	142	322
Understanding the professional and research ethics in my field	3.12	1%	13%	57%	28%	232	88	320
Writing grant or fellowship proposals	3.14	4%	12%	49%	35%	202	120	322
Preparing articles for publication	3.21	6%	9%	43%	42%	184	138	322
Effective oral communication and presentations	3.33	1%	10%	42%	46%	231	90	321
Academic career planning	2.94	6%	18%	53%	23%	161	160	321
Non-academic career planning	2.63	17%	21%	43%	19%	144	178	322

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	3.03	14%	18%	30%	29%	9%	319
Quality of graduate-level teaching by faculty	3.23	7%	17%	33%	30%	12%	319
Quality of academic advising and guidance	3.34	9%	14%	31%	27%	19%	318
The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines	3.21	10%	20%	28%	21%	20%	318
Developing me as a scholar	3.49	3%	15%	32%	31%	19%	318
Developing me as a teacher	2.70	17%	28%	30%	16%	8%	319
Developing me as a communicator	3.31	6%	19%	29%	32%	15%	318

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	3.26	17%	13%	17%	35%	19%	309	10	319
Breadth of content in courses within your area of specialty	3.09	18%	14%	21%	33%	14%	309	10	319
Depth of content in courses outside your area of specialty	3.56	4%	12%	23%	45%	16%	292	26	318
Breadth of content in courses outside your area of specialty	3.60	6%	11%	18%	46%	19%	294	25	319
State-of-the-art course content	3.36	13%	10%	21%	41%	15%	297	20	317

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	3.27	6%	7%	41%	46%	128	181	309	

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	3.18	8%	9%	39%	43%	127	182	309
The exam topics were relevant to my training	3.32	4%	9%	37%	50%	127	183	310

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	18%	5%	77%	310
A written set of expectations about academic requirements and expected progress in your program	7%	4%	89%	310
Organized exposure to faculty and their current research interests	16%	5%	79%	308
advised research projects or papers)	18%	7%	75%	308
A written assessment of your academic progress, other than course grades and qualifying exams, at least annually	49%	6%	45%	310
A meeting with your Director of Graduate Studies and/or other faculty to assess your academic progress, at least annually	44%	9%	48%	309

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	3.75	5%	9%	14%	50%	22%	240

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 written set of expectations about academic requirements and expected progress in your program	3.65	10%	12%	11%	39%	29%	277
Organized exposure to faculty and their current research interests	3.83	6%	7%	17%	38%	32%	244
advised research projects or papers)	4.12	6%	6%	10%	28%	51%	232
A written assessment of your academic progress, other than course grades and qualifying exams, at least annually	3.42	12%	9%	22%	40%	17%	138
A meeting with your Director of Graduate Studies and/or other faculty to assess your academic progress, at least annually	3.71	6%	9%	19%	40%	26%	147

Developing Your Teaching

Q18. Have you recently had one or more teaching assistantship appointments at Dartmouth?		
	N	Percent
No	111	36%
Yes	201	64%
	312	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	4.29	1%	3%	9%	41%	46%	237

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 what the faculty expected of me	4.23	2%	3%	9%	43%	43%	235
This teaching appointment was related to my program of study	4.00	3%	7%	15%	38%	37%	235
I received helpful feedback about my teaching from the course instructor	3.27	14%	15%	23%	27%	21%	234

Q20. How has this teaching appointment affected your interest in teaching in the future?		
	N	Percent
Decreased my interest	36	18%
Made no difference	98	49%
Increased my interest	67	33%
	201	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	52%	41%	36%
Presented a paper or poster at a conference	47%	35%	43%
Submitted articles, book chapters, or technical reports that are under review	38%	28%	53%
Published or had accepted for publication articles, book chapters, or technical reports	29%	26%	58%
Wrote or assisted in writing a grant proposal	24%	28%	59%

Q22. When you entered your program, in which of the following did you envision yourself working upon completion of your degree?		
	N	Percent
Academia	179	58%

Q22. When you entered your program, in which of the following did you envision yourself working upon completion of your degree?		
	N	Percent
Business, industry, self-employment	102	33%
Government, non-profit	20	6%
Other, please describe:	9	3%
	310	100%

Q23. In which of the following do you now envision yourself working?		
	N	Percent
Academia	112	36%
Business, industry, self-employment	147	48%
Government, non-profit	25	8%
Other, please describe:	25	8%
	309	100%

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
3.62	5%	11%	19%	48%	17%	312

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
4.68	1%	2%	5%	13%	80%	312

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?	4.37	2%	5%	8%	25%	60%	312

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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 the same field of study?	4.21	2%	8%	13%	23%	55%	313
Would you choose to come to Dartmouth?	3.70	6%	9%	25%	30%	30%	312

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
3.65	7%	11%	23%	30%	30%	306

Appendix 1

Respondent vs. Non-Respondent Comparison

Guarini 2019 Survey Results (PhD 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 ($\chi^2 = 1.34$, $p = 0.2466$).