

Graduating Student Survey 2010



Keene State College

Graduating Students' Responses to Graduating Student Survey

Introduction

As students look towards graduating, they reminisce about their college days and make plans for the future. It is an ideal time to ask them how their college experiences contributed to their development and prepared them for their post-graduation plans. The Graduating Student Survey provides students an opportunity to evaluate Keene State Colleges' programs and services and to reflect on their personal and intellectual growth and development.

Survey Administration

The Office of Student Affairs hosts a Commencement Fair each spring for graduating students. The Fair brings together representatives from all of the services that students may need to work with to complete their graduation preparations. Students are asked to complete the on-line Commencement Participation Form and Survey prior to being admitted to the Commencement Fair.

In spring 2010, 961 students completed the Graduating Student Survey prior to attending the commencement ceremonies. These students were awarded 25 Associates' degrees, 978 bachelors' degrees and 28 Masters' degrees. This report will focus on the bachelor's degree recipients.

Student Characteristics

Sixty-two percent of the bachelor's degree students were women. Four percent were non-white. Their median age was 23 years and their average cumulative grade point average was 3.15. Fifty-four percent of graduates are New Hampshire residents. Seventy-six percent originally entered Keene State College as first-time, first-year freshmen and 36% were first-generation students. A summary of student characteristics is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Student Characteristics

	Category	Count	Percent
Gender	Women	574	62%
	Men	352	38%
Race	Non-White	40	4%
	White	835	90%
Residency	In State	498	54%
	Out of State	428	46%
Admissions	First Time, First-Year	775	81%
	Transfer	137	14%
	Readmits	7	<1%
First Generation Students		340	36%
Median Age = 23			
Average Cumulative GPA = 3.15			

Degrees Awarded

Students participating in the commencement ceremonies were recognized for their achievements in 860 single program areas and 65 in dual program areas (Table 2). The majority of the dual degrees (32) were in Education.

Table 2: Degrees by School/Program Area

Single Degrees		Combined Degrees	
Department	Total	Department	Total
Arts & Humanities	219	Chemical Dependency	15
COMM	59	CDEP/PSYC	14
ART	33	CDEP/SOC	1
ENG	26		
FILM	25	Education	32
HIST	25	ED/PSYC	10
JRN	22	ED/ENG	5
MU	11	ED/THEA	4
TAD	9	ED/HIST	3
FR	5	ED/IND	2
SP	2	ED/AMST	1
AMST	1	ED/ART	1
HOLO	1	ED/GS	1
Professional Studies	278	ED/MATH	1
TDS	99	ED/MU	1
ESEC	86	ED/SOC	1
HLSC	73	ED/SP	1
PE	20		
Science	346	Other	18
MGT	86	ECON/MGT	2
PSYC	78	ACS/ENG	1
SOC	45	ACS/GEOG	1
BIO	23	CHEM/MATH	1
SOSCI	19	COMM/SP	1
CS	16	COMP/MATH	1
ECON	15	ENG/PSYC	1
ENST	15	FILM/COMM	1
MATH	15	FILM/PSYC	1
GEOG	10	FILM/SOC	1
POSC	9	HIST/HGS/PSYC	1
CHEM	5	HIST/HS/POSC	1
GEOL	3	HIST/POSC	1
MATH/PHYS	3	MGT/PSYC	1
CHEM/PHYS	2	MGT/SOC	1
CS/MATH	2	MU/PSYC	1
Interdisciplinary	17	THEA/PSYC	1
Individualized	17		

Student Satisfaction and Commitment

The Spring 2010 graduating class resembled the 2008¹ class in their overall satisfaction and commitment to the college (Table 3). Ninety percent of the students said that they were satisfied to very satisfied with their Keene State College education, 87% would recommend Keene State to others and 78% would choose to attend Keene State if they had to do it over again.

Table 3: Student Satisfaction and Commitment

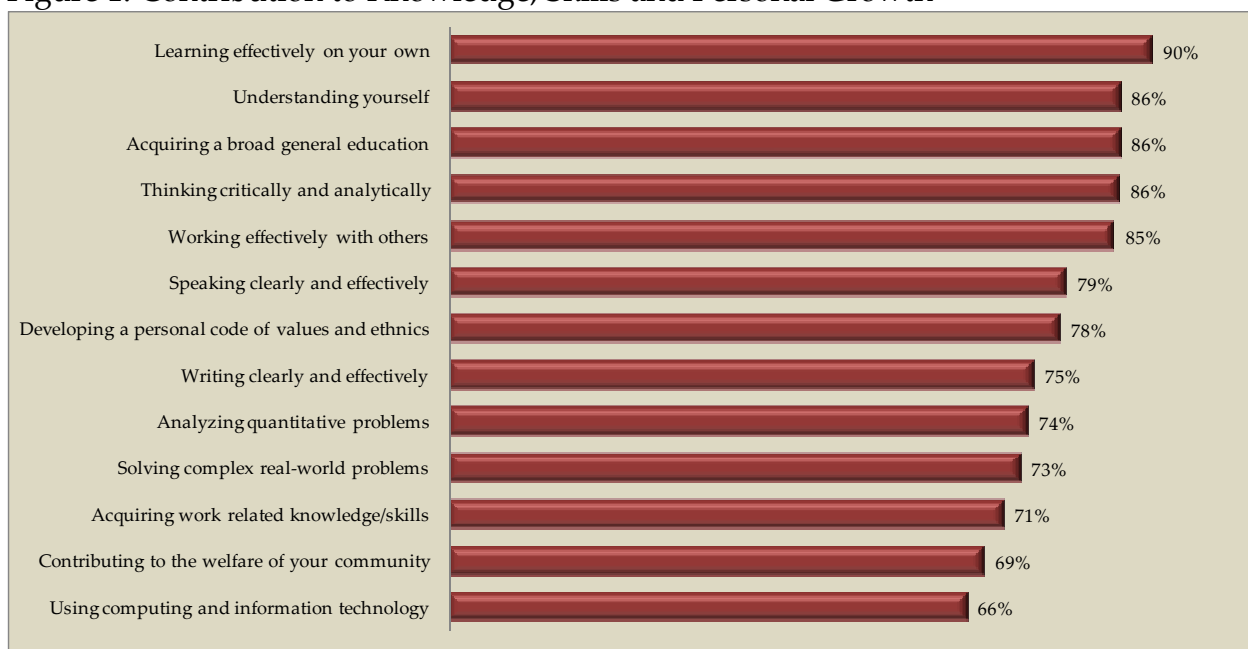
Overall, how satisfied are you with you Keene State College education?	Satisfied to Very Satisfied	
	2008	2010
	92%	90%
Would you recommend Keene State College to others?	Likely to Very Likely	
	2008	2010
	91%	87%
If you had to do it over again, would you choose Keene State College?	Likely to Very Likely	
	2008	2010
	73%	78%

¹The GSS was not administered in 2009, when graduating students were asked to complete the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) instead.

KSC Contribution to Knowledge, Skills and Personal Growth

Students were asked to rate how their learning experiences at Keene State College contributed to their knowledge, skills, and personal development, figure 1 summarizes these responses.

Figure 1: Contribution to Knowledge, Skills and Personal Growth



Student Engagement and Employment

Students were asked about their typical participation in certain activities and events during the past year. The responses are summarized in the bullets below and represented in Figures 2 and 3.

- 40% of students worked on-campus, 54% worked off-campus.
- 86% spent 6 or more hours per week studying or preparing for classes.
- 44% spent from 1 to 5 hours per week studying or preparing for classes in the Mason Library.
- 58% spent 1 to 5 hours per week commuting to classes.
- 13% of students were providing care for dependents living with them.
- 89% had attended a film, performance, lecture or other cultural event on campus at least once during the academic year.
- 79% had attended a social event sponsored by a campus organization at least once during the academic year.
- 64% had attended an athletic event at least once during the academic year.

Figure 2. During the past year, about how many hours did you spend, in a typical 7-day week, doing each of the following?

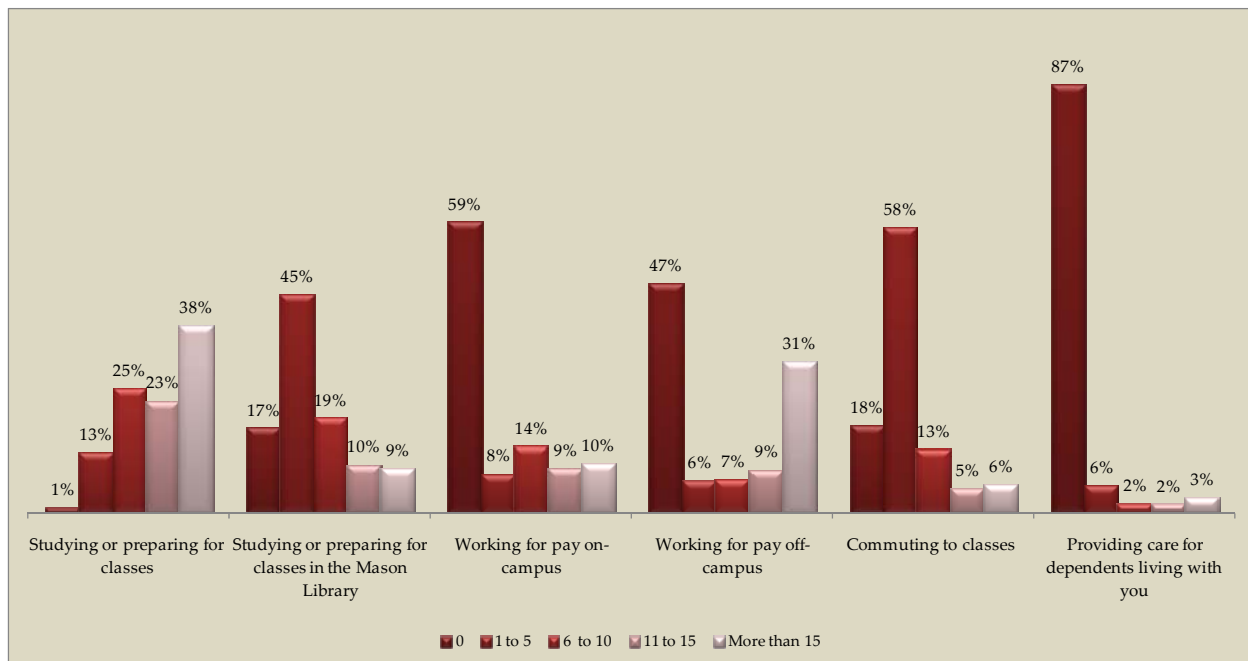
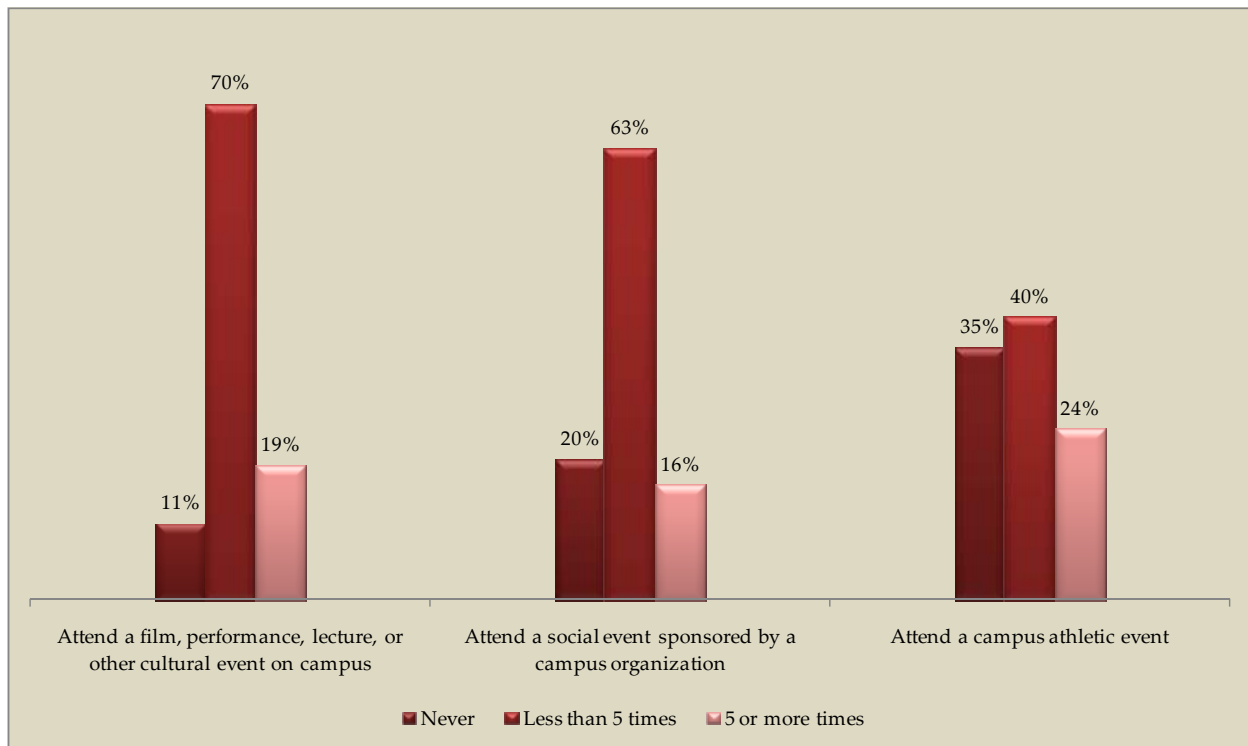


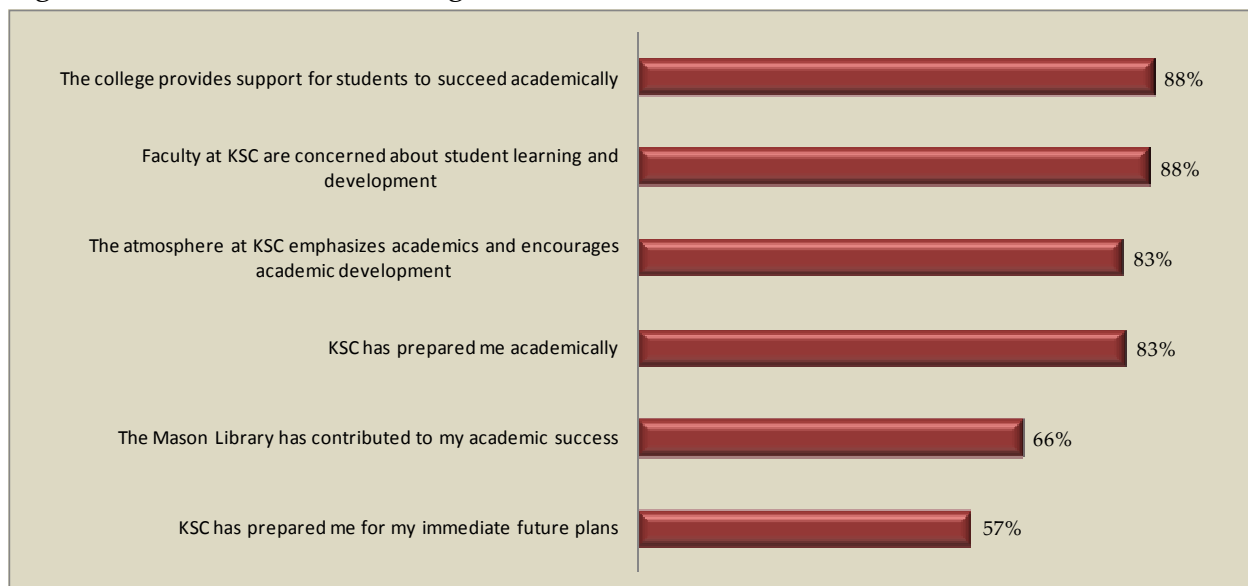
Figure 3: During the past year, how many times did you do each of the following?



Student's Evaluation of the Learning Environment at Keene State College

Graduating students were asked “How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the learning environment at KSC?”. Students often agreed or strongly agreed that their instructors were concerned about their academic development (88%), and that KSC provides support for them to succeed academically (88%).

Figure 4: Evaluation of Learning Environment at KSC



Service Learning and Community Service

Fifty-seven percent (531) of the graduating students reported that they had taken at least one course that incorporated a service learning component. Sixty-four percent of these students took two or more service learning courses. Their evaluations of these experiences are presented in Figure 5. Eighty-four percent of the students feel the service learning aspects of the courses they have taken have helped them to see how the subject matter learned can be used in everyday life. 83% would encourage other students to take service learning courses.

Table 4: Number of service learning courses taken by graduating students.

Courses	Percent
0	2%
1	33%
2	22%
3	20%
4	11%
5 or more	11%

Note: The total number of students who had taken a course with a service learning component was 531.

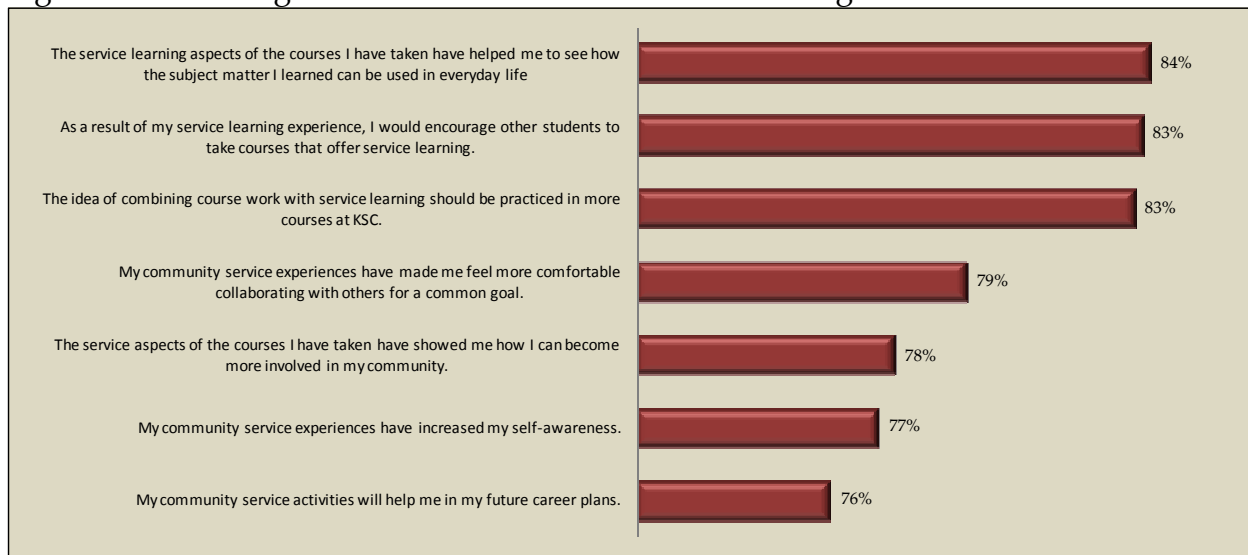
Graduating students were also asked whether they had volunteered their time to engage in a community service project sponsored by a Keene State College club or organization during the past their time at KSC – 40% (375) responded that they had. Ninety percent of these students reported they had participated in community service activities in the past year. The hours that these students reported spending in their voluntary service are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5: Hours student spent in KSC sponsored community service activities during the past year.

Service Hours	Percent
0	9%
1 to 10	44%
11 to 20	15%
21 to 30	9%
31 to 40	5%
41 or more	18%

Note: The total number of students who volunteered for a campus sponsored community service project was 575.

Figure 5: Student agreement with academic service learning outcomes



Plans Following Graduation

Students were asked about their immediate plans following graduation. Forty-nine percent plan to work in their field while another 60% indicated that they would be seeking a position in their field of study. Students were asked to choose all statements that applied to their future plans so many students are counted in multiple categories as summarized in Figure 6. For those students that indicated they would be working in their field after graduation Figure 7 shows the geographic location they will be working in. Figure 8 presents the area of study for those students indicating that they will be entering graduate school upon graduation.

Figure 6: Immediate plans following graduation

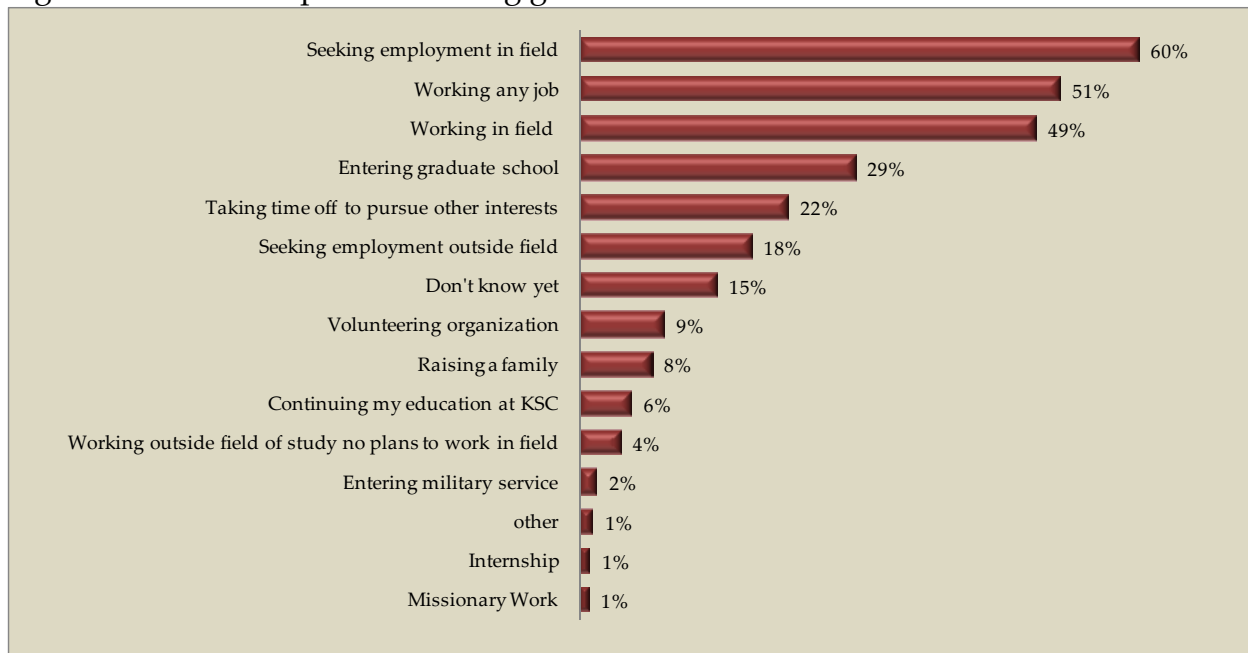


Figure 7: Geographic Location of Students working in their field

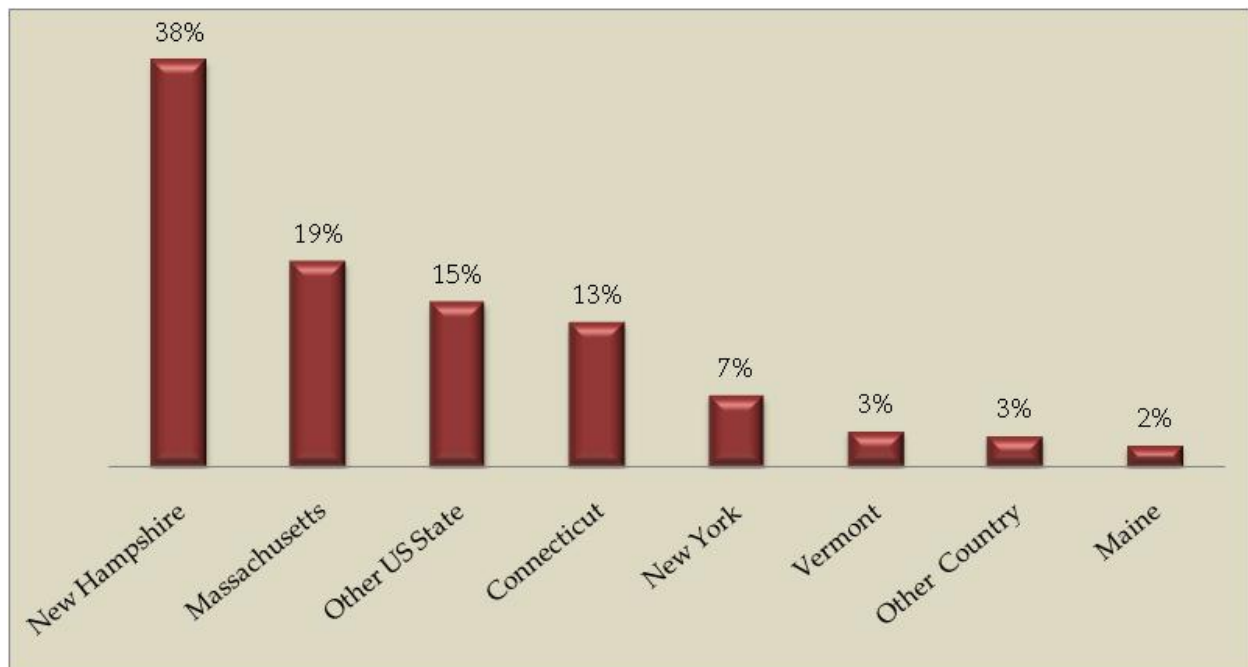
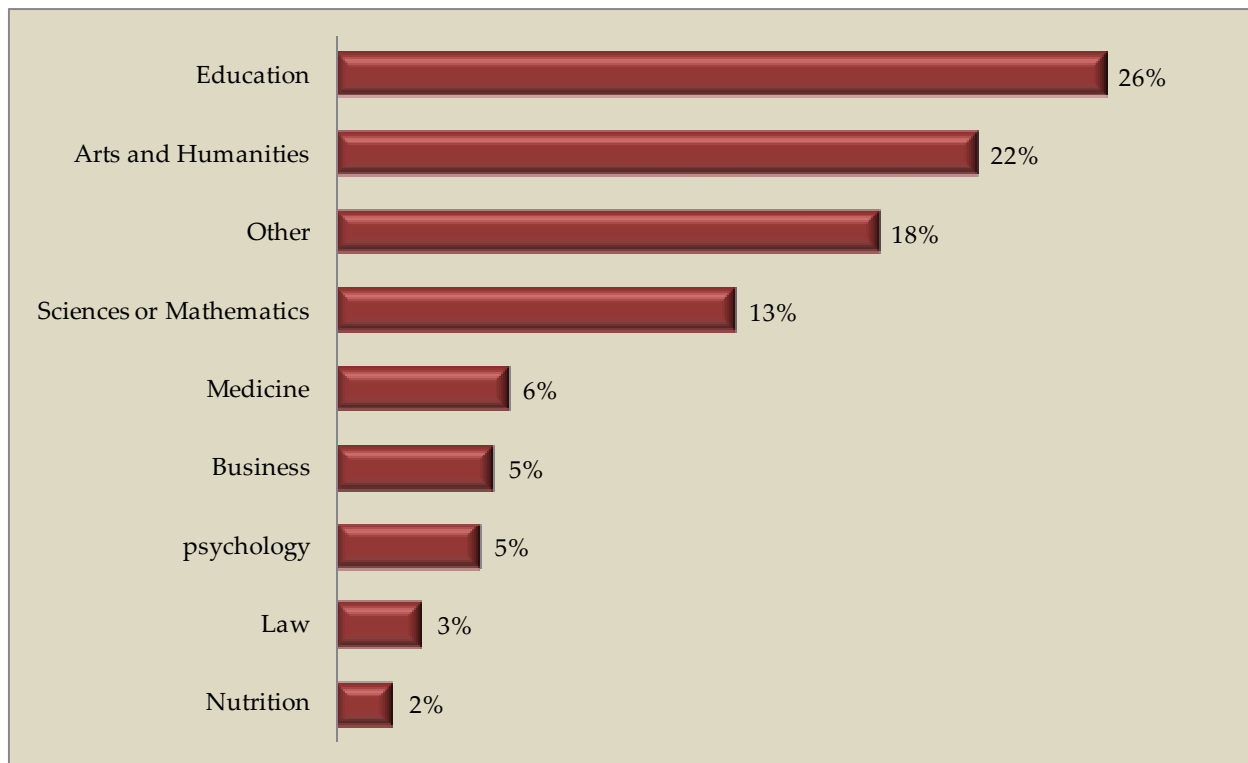


Figure 8: Area of study for students entering graduate school



Graduating Students' Reflections on Keene State College's Mission Statement are compiled in this [supplement](#).