

Freshman Experience Survey (0102-3)

During the Winter Quarter, 2002, NUPULSE surveyed 435 Northeastern University freshmen (Fall 2001 entering class). The survey was designed to assess the satisfaction level of freshmen at the end of their first year and to identify factors that were correlated with satisfaction. A further objective of this research was to examine the perceptions of freshmen with regard to co-op and to determine how these perceptions have changed since the beginning of the academic year.

This is the fifth year in which freshmen have been surveyed and, where appropriate, the results of the four previous surveys (Fall 1997-2000 entering classes) are presented for comparison purposes.

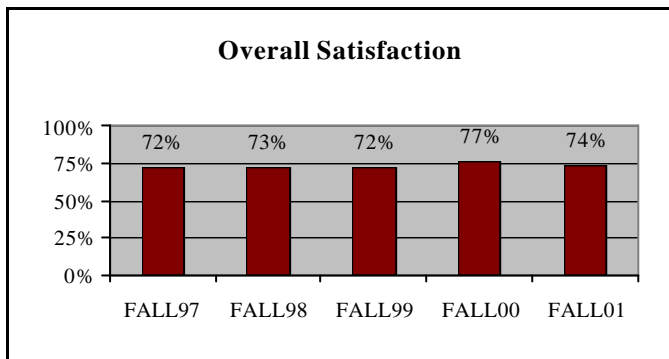
Executive Summary

On average, for the last five years, greater than seven out of every ten respondents in this Freshman Satisfaction survey expressed overall satisfaction with Northeastern. The percentage of freshmen who said that they would "definitely" or "probably" re-enroll at NU if they had it to do over remains about the same as last year at 85%. Eighty-three percent (83%) of this year's freshmen indicated that co-op was an important factor in their decision to attend NU, and one out of four would choose a four-year, non co-op option if it were available. The number of students who perceive co-op as being about what they expected rose from 61% to 77%, although the percentage perceiving co-op as better than expected fell from 33% to 17%.

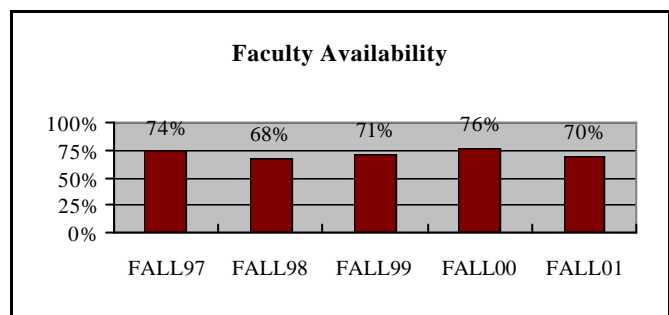
Respondent Characteristics

<u>College</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Currently Living</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Arts & Sciences	162	37%	At home	40	9%
Bouvé	47	11	NU dorm or apartment	383	88
Business Administration	74	17	Other non-NU housing	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>
Computer Science	31	7		435	100%
Criminal Justice	34	8			
Engineering	59	14	<u>Final Disposition of the Sample</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
School of General Studies	23	5	Completed interviews	435	31%
Other/DK	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Contacted, but refused	194	14
	435	100%	Not contacted	125	9
<u>Gender</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	Phone number unavailable	633	45
Male	190	44%	Ineligible/unusable	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>
Female	<u>245</u>	<u>56</u>		1396	100%
	435	100%			

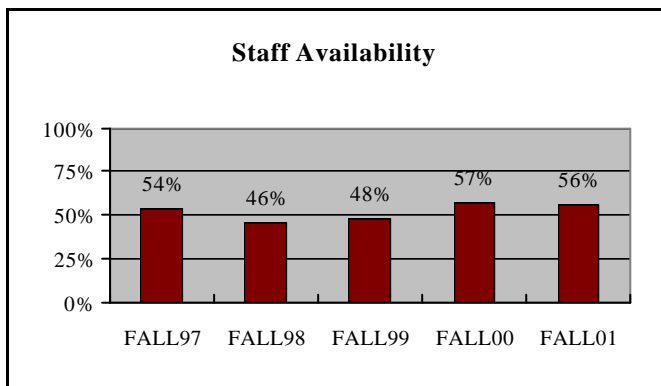
Student Satisfaction



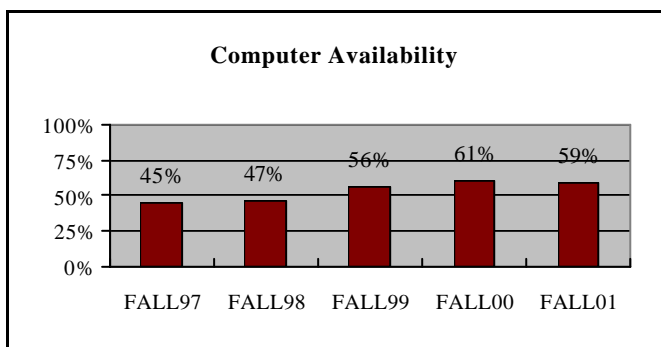
◆ Students were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with NU at the end of their first year. Three out of four students indicated they were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with their overall Northeastern experience at the end of their first year.



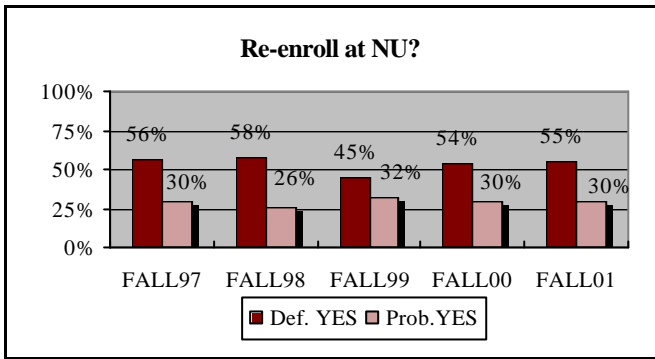
◆ This year, the level of satisfaction with the availability of professors to help outside the classroom was lower than last, but comparable to previous years, with approximately 70% of the respondents indicating they were either "completely" or "somewhat" satisfied with faculty availability.



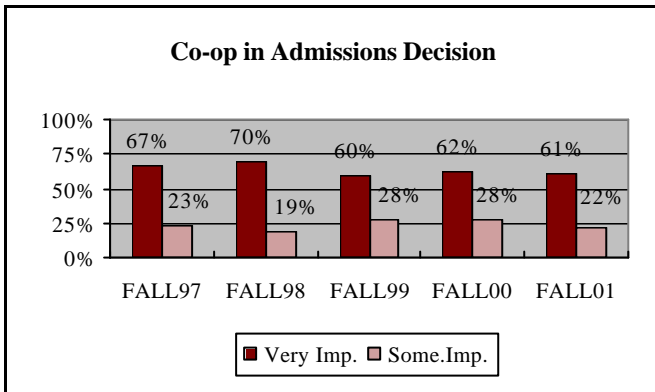
◆ For the past two years, the percentage of students that were satisfied with the availability of staff to help them resolve their academic program questions and concerns was higher than in previous years.



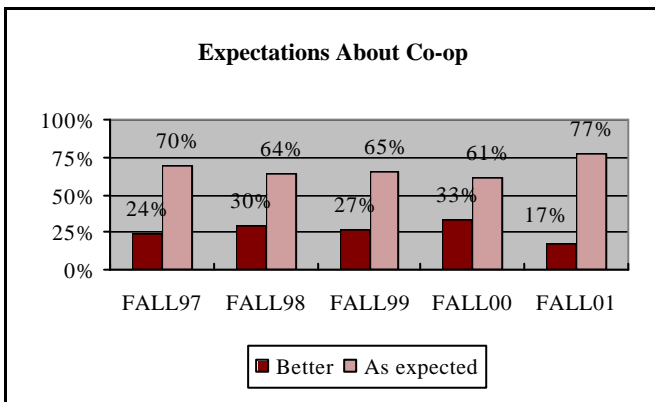
◆ The percentage of students who were satisfied with the availability of computers is 14% higher than five years ago.



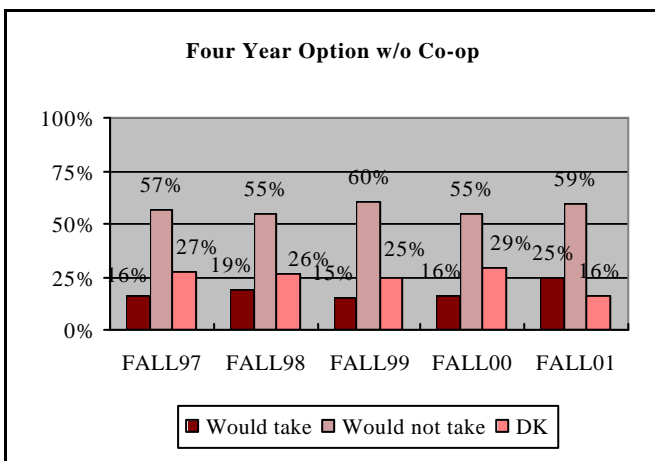
◆The percentage of respondents who said that they would "definitely re-enroll" or "probably re-enroll" at NU has stabilized after a decrease seen in 1999.



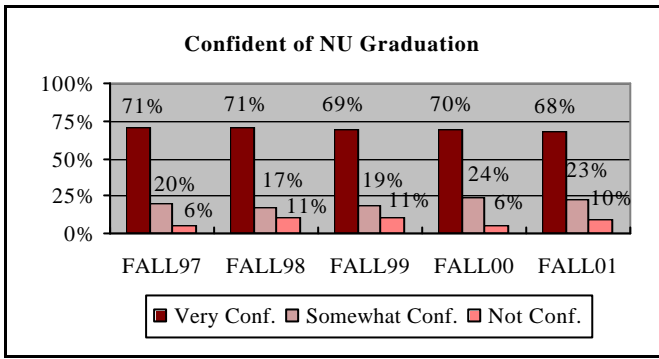
◆Freshmen were asked how important the co-op program was in their decision to attend Northeastern. Approximately 83% of the respondents indicated it was either "very important" or "somewhat important", compared to 90% last year.



◆At the end of their freshmen year, 17% of students perceived co-op as being better than what they had originally expected, compared to 33% last year. The number of students who perceived co-op as about what they originally expected rose from 61% to 77%.



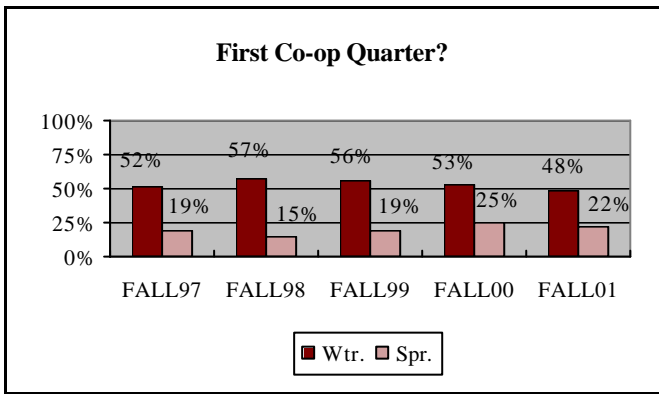
◆While the majority of the respondents indicated that they would not choose a four-year program without co-op if that option were available at NU, one out of four indicated that they would choose this option.



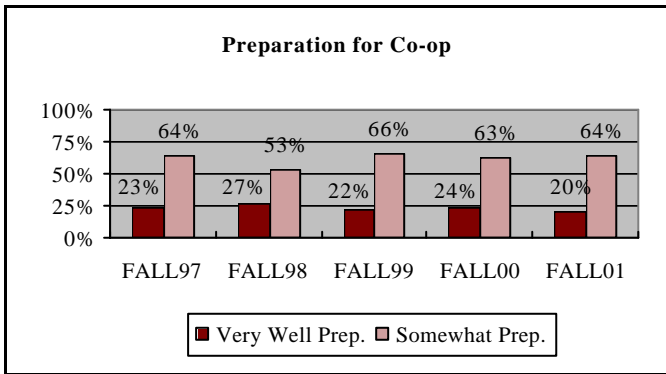
◆ As in the case of the three previous surveys, approximately 9 out of 10 respondents said they were confident that they would graduate from NU.

Co-op and the Freshmen Experience

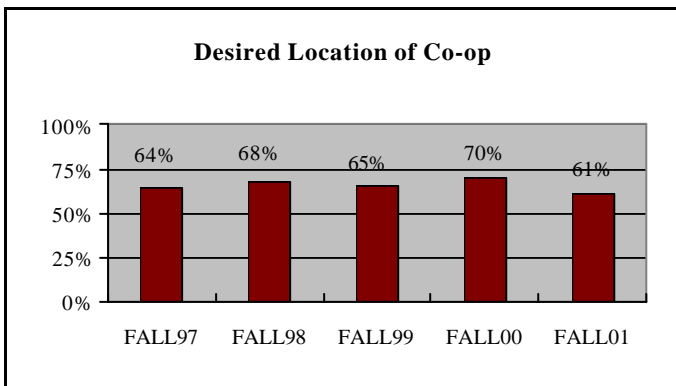
The following results are based on the responses of the 409 freshmen (94% of freshmen surveyed) who indicated that they plan on participating in co-op.



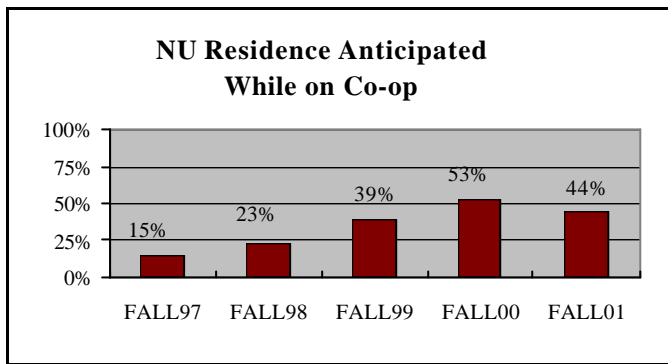
◆ A majority of the freshmen, 48%, expect to have their first co-op experience in the Winter quarter of their sophomore year while 22% plan to defer until the Spring quarter.



◆ There was little change in the percentage of freshmen who indicated that they were either "very well prepared" or "somewhat prepared" to go out on co-op.



◆ The increase seen in past years of the percentage of students hoping to have their first co-op experience in Boston has decreased this year by 9%.



◆ Respondents in the past two years were more likely to say that they anticipated living in a NU residence while on co-op than in previous years, although this number has dropped 9% from last year.

The table below correlates various student characteristics with a student's overall satisfaction with Northeastern. As can be seen, satisfaction levels did not vary significantly among the various subgroups that were investigated.

Overall Satisfaction and Student Characteristics

Factors	Overall Satisfaction			n
	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Less than satisfied	
Overall Satisfaction:	16%	58%	26%	435
Gender:				
Male	18%	56%	26%	190
Female	15	59	27	245
College:				
Arts & Sciences	14%	53%	33%	162
Bouvé	17	62	21	47
Business Administration	15	57	28	74
Computer Science	26	45	29	31
Criminal Justice	12	62	27	34
Engineering	20	71	8	59
School of General Studies	17	61	22	23
Current Residence:				
On-campus	15%	59%	27%	383
Off-campus	27	50	23	52
Currently Working:				
Yes	18%	59%	23%	216
No	15	56	30	219
Work Location:				
On-campus	19%	59%	22%	139
Off-campus	18	57	25	61
Both	6	75	19	16
Joined Clubs/Organizations:				
Yes	18%	55%	27%	226
No	15	60	25	209
Attended Athletic Events:				
Yes	18%	58%	24%	261
No	13	57	30	174

