

Sophomore/Co-op Survey (0102-4)

September 2002

During the Spring Quarter, 2002, NUPULSE surveyed 366 second-year students from the Fall 2000 entering class in order to determine their current level of satisfaction with their college experience and to learn more about their first co-op experience. This year's survey results are compared, where appropriate, to those of previous years. Please note that, for a variety of circumstances, NUPULSE was able to obtain only 99 completed interviews last year, compared to 292 and 460 the previous years. Therefore, caution should be exercised when reviewing comparable analyses using the results of the smaller sample.

Executive Summary

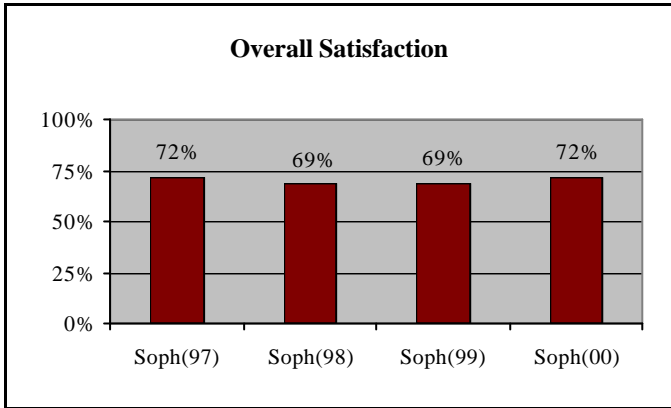
Overall satisfaction with Northeastern has remained consistent over the past four years, fluctuating only between 69% and 72%. Satisfaction with faculty availability has risen slightly, while satisfaction with staff availability has risen 10% in the past three years. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the students surveyed indicated that they would re-enroll in NU if they had it do over again. [The decline observed over the past three years in the percentage of sophomores who say they would definitely re-enroll at NU has recovered slightly (49%) from the low last year (43%)].

Thirty-nine percent of the respondents have been on co-op by spring of their sophomore year. This represents a 23% decline over the past four years. Satisfaction with co-op coordinators has risen this year while the number of students who obtained a job through their advisor has decreased (55% vs. 72%). The decline of students who said they could apply their classroom learning to co-op, and who said co-op enhanced their job-related skills, has recovered from last year (73% vs. 62% and 60% vs. 40% respectively).

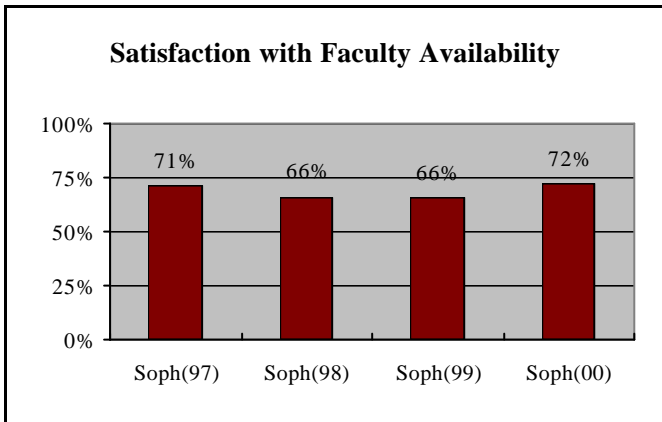
Finally, this year there was a significant difference in the number of students who are living in NU housing while on co-op. This year 55% of students are living on campus, compared to 11% last year.

	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Arts & Sciences	139	38 %	Started as freshman	307	84 %
Bouvé Health Sciences	51	14	Transferred to NU	59	16
Business Administration	79	22		366	100 %
Computer Science	18	5			
Criminal Justice	29	8	<u>Gender</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Engineering	49	13	Male	205	56 %
Don't Know	1	0	Female	160	44
	366	100 %		365	100 %
<u>Currently Living</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Final Disposition of Sample</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
At home	73	20 %	Completed interviews	366	22 %
NU dorm or apartment	203	55	Contacted but refused	175	11
Other non-NU housing	90	25	Unable to contact	305	18
	366	100 %	Phone number unavailable	765	46
			Ineligible / unusable	41	3
				1652	100 %

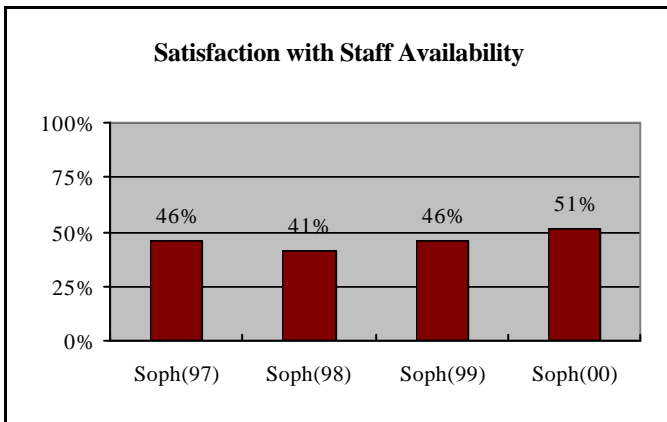
Student Satisfaction



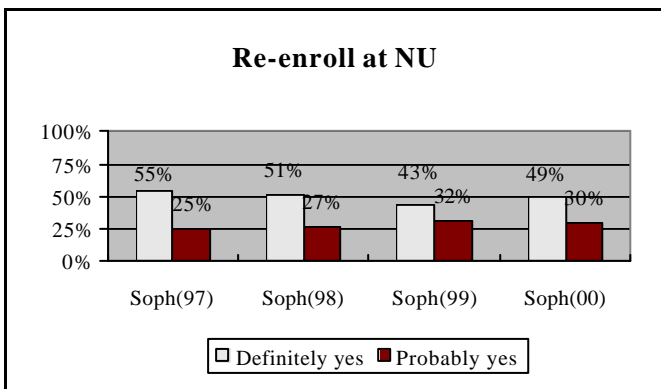
◆ The percentage of sophomores that expressed overall satisfaction with NU in this year's survey has been stable over the last four years.



◆ The percentage of respondents who expressed satisfaction with faculty availability has risen after a two-year drop.

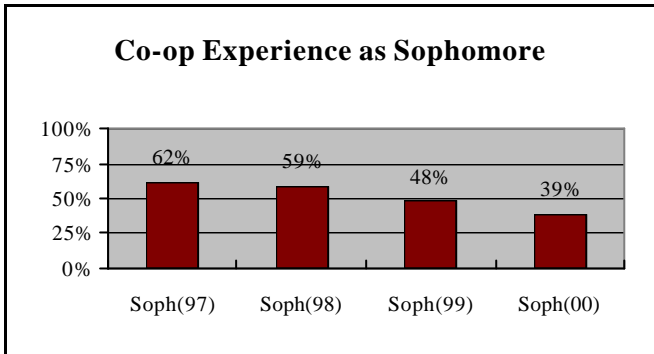


◆ Fifty-one percent of this year's respondents said that they were satisfied with the staff availability to help resolve academic program questions and concerns. This is the highest level of satisfaction over the four reported years.



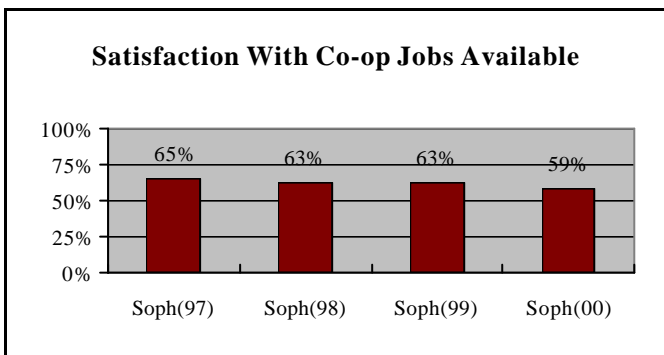
◆ This year, seventy-nine percent (79%) of the respondents indicated that if they had it to do over again, they would “definitely” or “probably” re-enroll at NU. This percentage is slightly more than last year (75%) and about the same as the two prior years (78% and 80%). Those that would “definitely” re-enroll rose from 43% to 49%.

Co-op and the Sophomore Experience

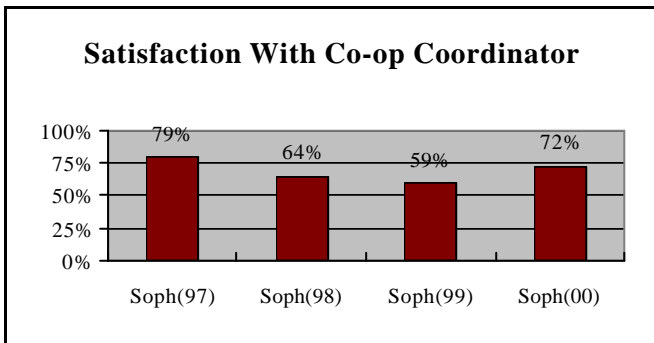


◆ There has been a 23% decrease over the past four years in the percentage of sophomores who had gone out on co-op by spring quarter. Of those who had not yet had their first co-op job, 87% are planning to do so.

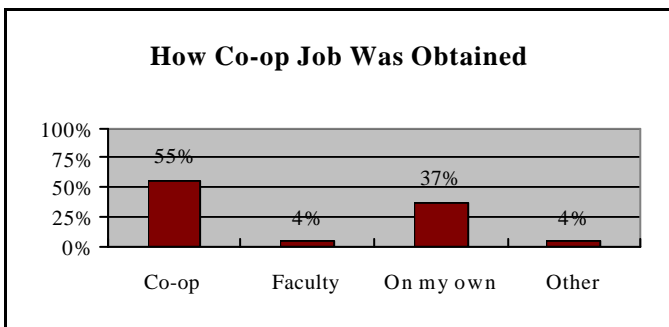
The following results are based on the responses of the 141 respondents that indicated they had been out on co-op.



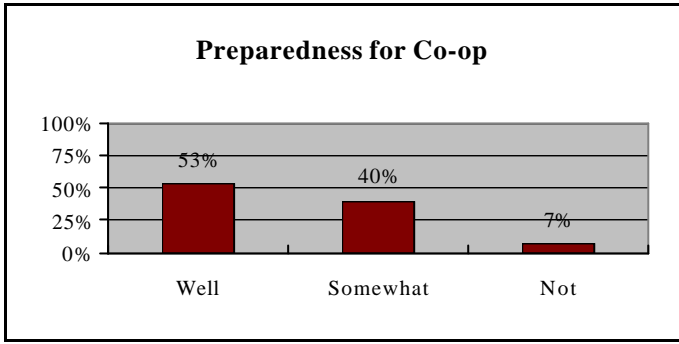
◆ Fifty-nine percent (59%) of the respondents said that they were “somewhat satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the co-op jobs that were available to them. This is a slight decrease from previous years.



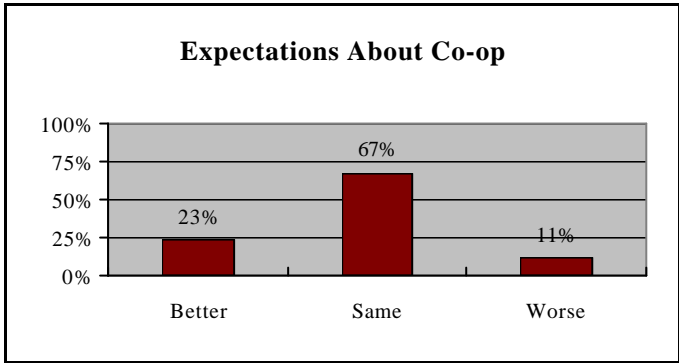
◆ Seventy-two percent (72%) of the survey respondents said they were “somewhat satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the availability of their co-op coordinator to assist them. This represents a sharp increase of 13% since the low last year.



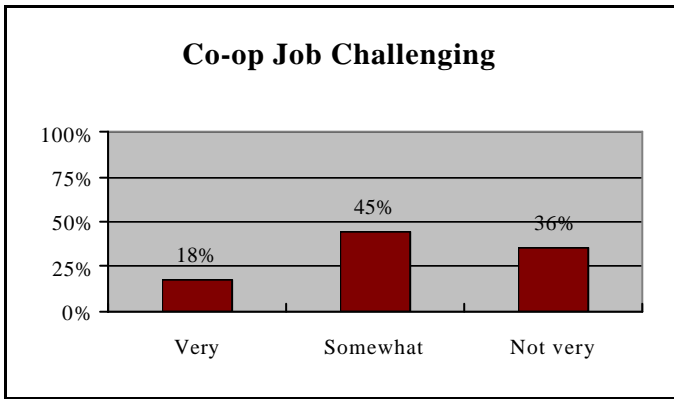
◆ There has been an increase in the number of students who obtain a co-op job on their own (37% vs. 21% last year). This year 55% of the respondents obtained their co-op job through their advisor, compared to 72% last year.



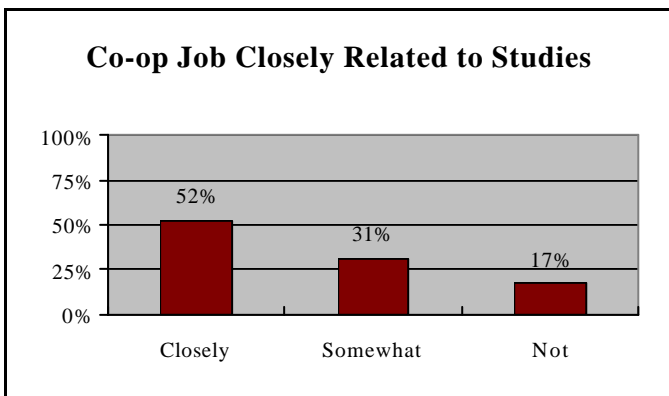
◆Ninety-three percent (93%) of the students said that they were “well prepared” or “somewhat prepared” to go out on co-op. While the total is the same as last year, this year 53% of students responded “well prepared”, compared to 38% last year.



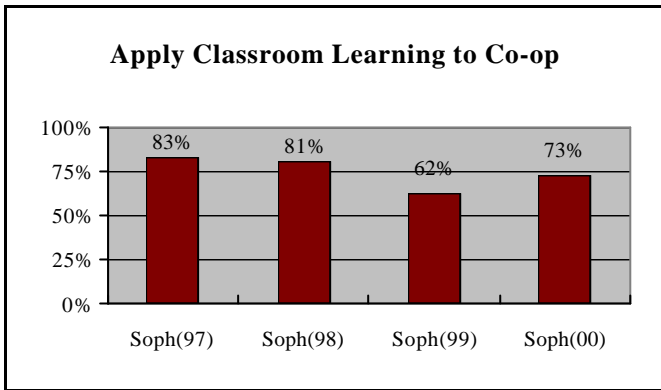
◆ Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents said that their co-op experience was as good as or better than what they had expected, compared to 90% last year.



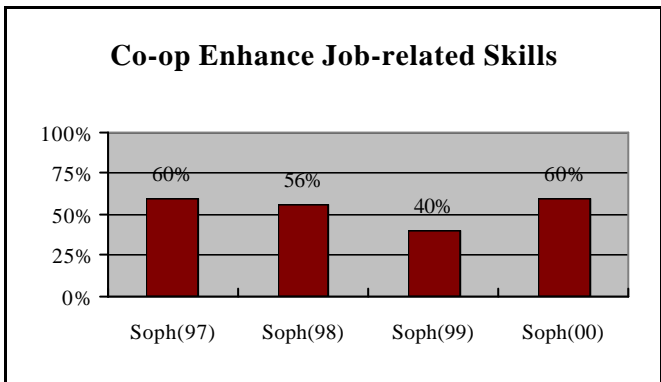
◆Sixty-three percent (63%) of the students found their first co-op job to be “somewhat challenging” or “very challenging”. In the previous two years, 72% and 71% found their first co-op job to be challenging.



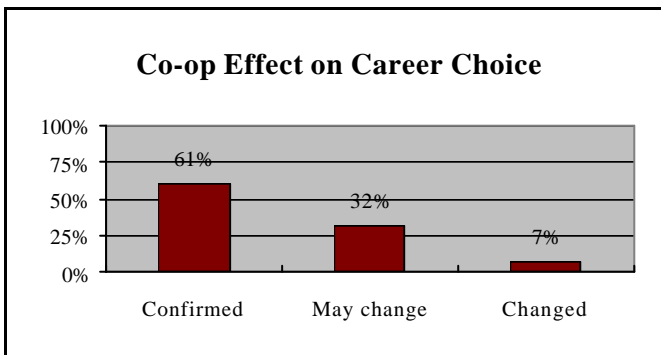
◆ The percentage of sophomores that reported their co-op job was closely related to their studies was 52%. This is an increase from last year (38%), but is comparable to two years ago (56%).



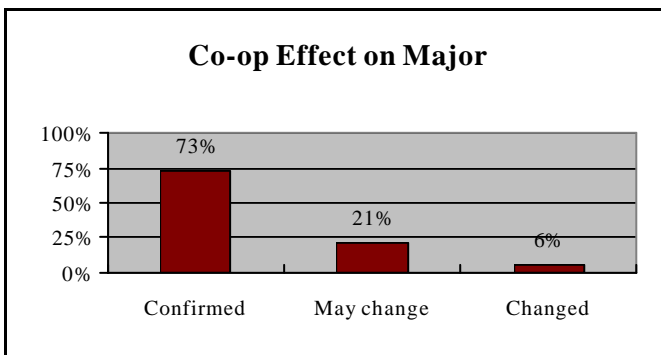
◆ This year, there was a significant increase in the percentage of respondents that said they could apply “some” or “a great deal” of what they had learned in the classroom to their co-op job, however the number is still down from the previous years.



◆ This year, 60% of the sophomores who had a co-op experience reported that the experience had enhanced their job-related skills a “great deal”, an increase from last year’s 40%. Overall, 91% of students reported the experience had been enhanced “somewhat” or a “great deal”.

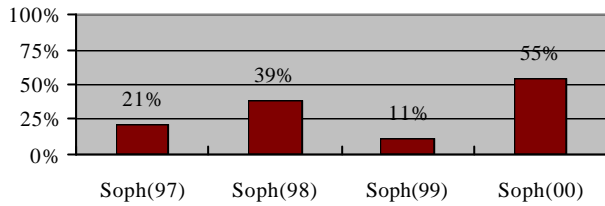


◆ Sixty-one percent (61%) of sophomores found that their co-op experience had confirmed their existing career choice. This number is down from 72% last year, and 64% and 65% for the previous years.



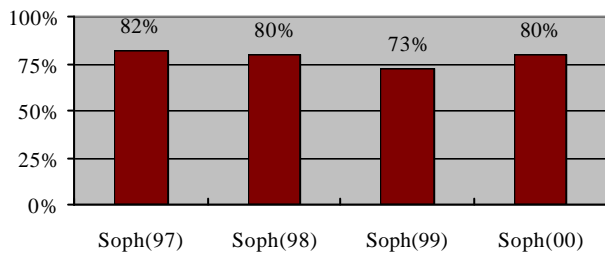
◆ Almost three-quarters (73%) of the sophomores indicated that their co-op experience had confirmed their choice of a major. Similar percentages (77%, 77% and 74%) were obtained in previous years.

NU Residence while on Co-op



◆ This year there was a sharp increase in students living in NU residence hall while on co-op. This year 55% of students lived on campus compared to 11% last year.

Confident of Graduation



◆ Eight out of every ten sophomores (80%) interviewed said they were “very confident” that they would graduate from NU. This is comparable to previous years (80% and 82%), with the exception of last year (73%).