



**Sophomore/Co-op Survey (0202-6)**  
**June 2003**

During the Spring Quarter, 2003, NUPULSE surveyed 376 sophomore students in order to determine their current level of satisfaction with their academic and first co-op experience. The results of this survey are presented in this report and, where appropriate, these results are compared to those that were obtained in previous surveys.

**Executive Summary:**

*Overall, the results of this year's survey were similar to those that were obtained in previous years. Sample members were generally satisfied with their academic and co-op experiences and the availability of the faculty (both academic and co-op) and staff to assist them with any problems or concerns that they might be having. Further, more than 80% of the sophomores that were interviewed said that they were very confident that they would graduate from Northeastern and 95% percent said that they were somewhat or well prepared to go out on co-op.*

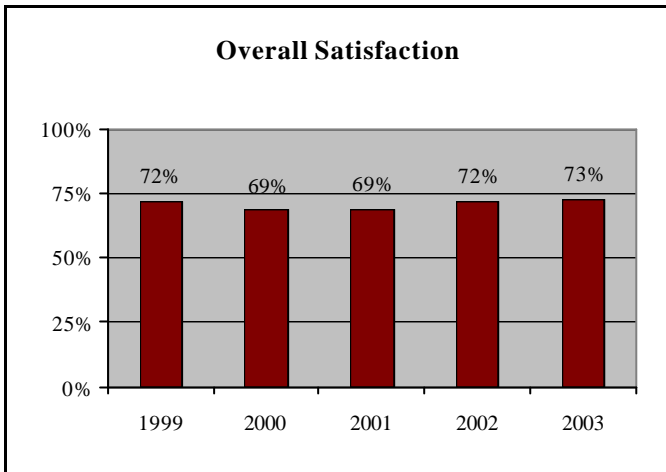
*The percentage of students in the sample that said that their co-op advisor assisted them in obtaining a co-op position is similar to that of most previous years. There was also a slight increase in the percentage of respondents who said that their co-op experience had met or exceeded their expectations. However, there was a small decrease in the percentage of respondents that expressed satisfaction with the co-op jobs that were available.*

*The percentage of respondents that had gone out on co-op by the spring quarter of their sophomore year continued to decline compared to past years. This year, the percentage was just 34%, compared to 39% last year and 62% four years ago.*

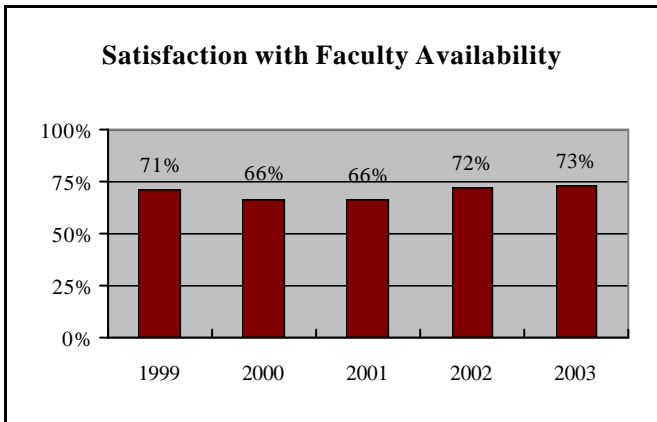
<u>College</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Arts & Sciences	146	39 %	Started as freshman	279	74 %
Bouvé Health Sciences	62	16	Transferred to NU	97	26
Business Administration	62	16		376	100 %
Computer Science	14	4			
Criminal Justice	24	6	<u>Gender</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Engineering	68	18	Male	184	49 %
	376	100 %	Female	192	51
				376	100 %
<u>Currently Living</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Final Disposition of Sample</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
At home	88	23 %	Completed interviews	376	24 %
NU dorm or apartment	203	54	Contacted but refused	89	6
Other non-NU housing	85	23	Unable to contact	135	9
	376	100 %	Phone number unavailable	948	60

	Ineligible / unusable	$\frac{23}{1571}$	$\frac{2}{100\%}$
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## Student Satisfaction



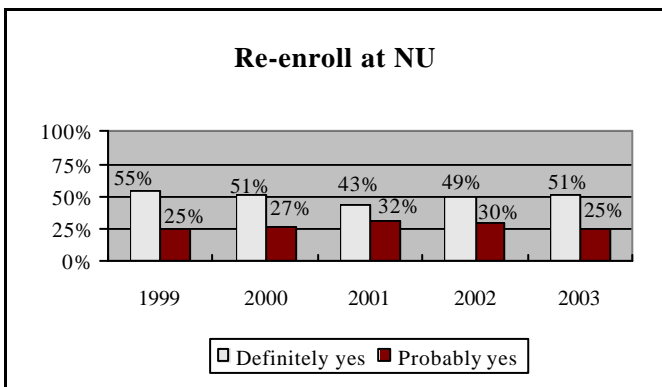
◆ Seventy-three percent (73%) of the survey respondents expressed an overall level of satisfaction with Northeastern. This percentage has remained relatively stable over the last five years.



◆ Seventy-three percent (73%) of the sample members also expressed satisfaction with faculty availability. This percentage, too, has remained relatively stable over the last five years.

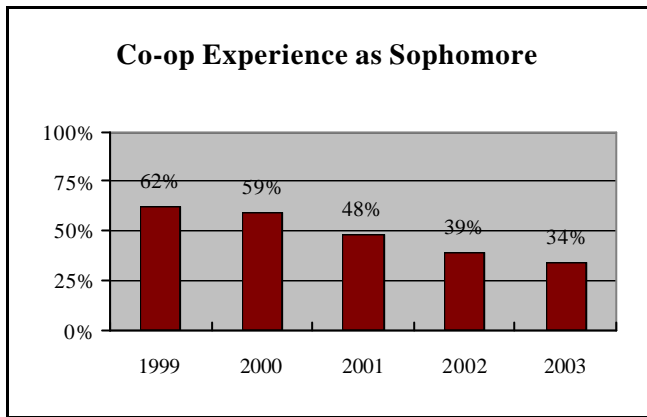


◆ Forty-nine percent (49%) of this year's respondents said that they were satisfied with the availability of the staff to help them resolve any academic program questions or concerns that they might have had.



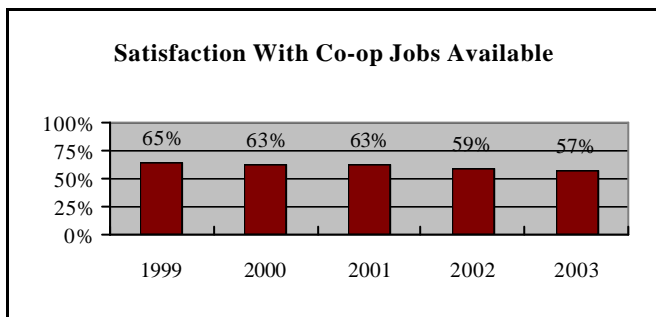
◆ Seventy-six percent (76%) of the respondents indicated that if they had it to do over again, they would definitely or probably re-enroll at Northeastern. This percentage is not significantly different from the percentages that have been obtained in earlier years.

## Co-op and the Sophomore Experience

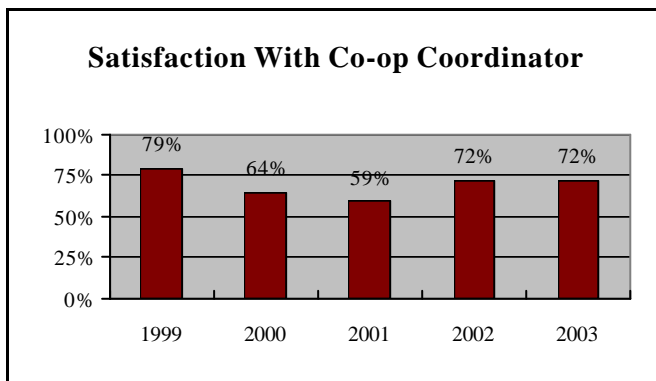


◆ There has been a large decline over the past five years in the percentage of sophomores who had gone out on co-op by the spring quarter of their sophomore year. Eighty-five percent (85%) of those who had not yet gone out on co-op, plan to do so in the future.

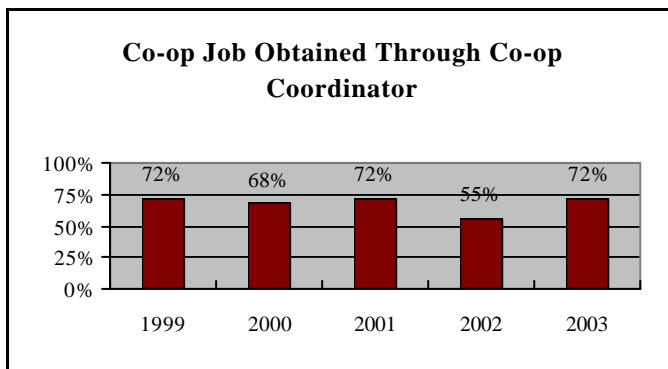
*The following results are based on the responses of the 127 respondents that indicated they had been out on co-op.*



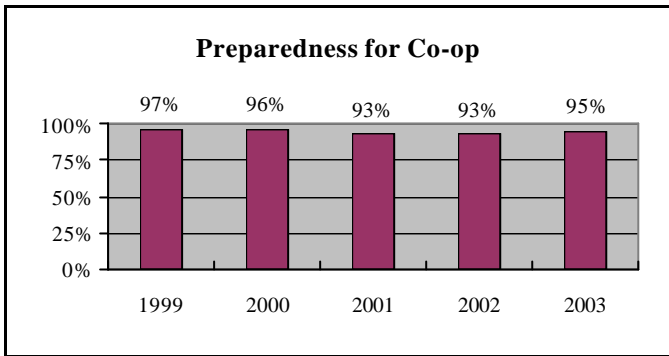
◆ Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the respondents said that they were “somewhat satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the co-op jobs that were available to them. This is a slight decrease from previous years and eight percentage points below the 1999 level.



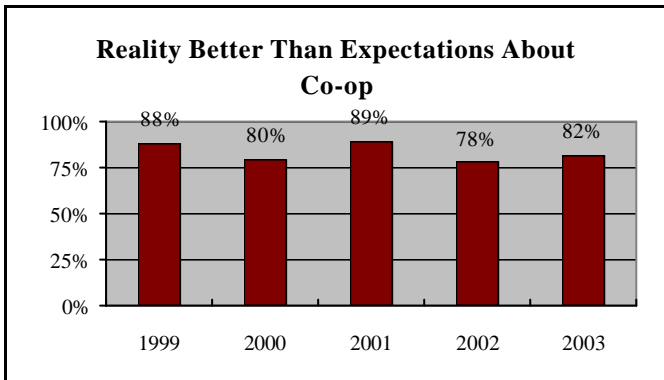
◆ Seventy-two percent (72%) of the sample members said they were “somewhat satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the availability of their co-op coordinator to assist them in obtaining a co-op placement. This is the same percentage as last year, but seven percentage points below the 1999 level.



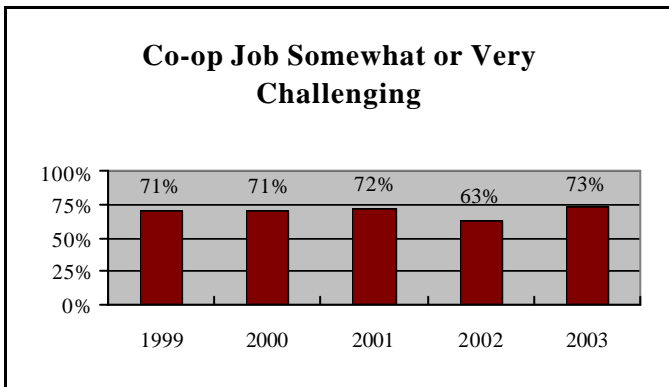
◆ In last year's survey, only 55% of the sample members said that they obtained a co-op job with the assistance of a co-op coordinator. This year, the percentage increased to 72%, a 17 percentage point increase.



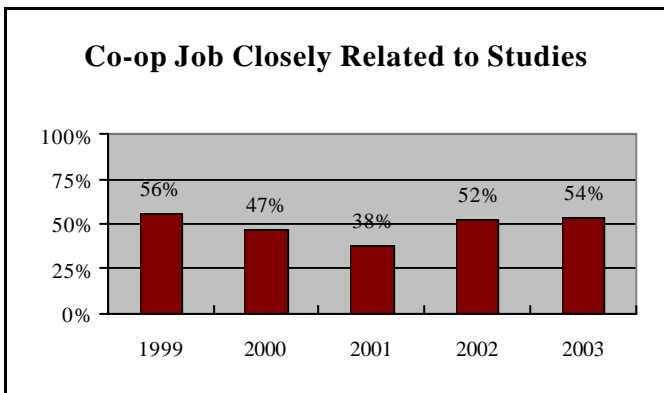
◆Ninety-five percent (95%) of the students said that they were “well prepared” or “somewhat prepared” to go out on co-op. This percentage is similar to previous years’ percentages.



◆ Compared to last year, there was a slight increase in the percentage of sample members who had already gone out on co-op and who said that their co-op experience was “as expected” or “better than expected.”

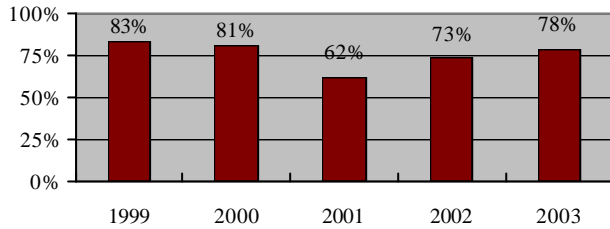


◆Seventy-three percent (73%) of the surveyed students found their first co-op job to be “somewhat challenging” or “very challenging”. This percentage was greater than last year, but is similar to the percentages that had been obtained in earlier surveys.



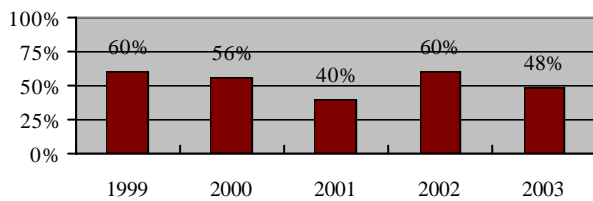
◆ Fifty-four percent of the sophomores reported their co-op job was closely related to their studies. Similar findings were reported last year after a previous decline.

### Apply Classroom Learning to Co-op



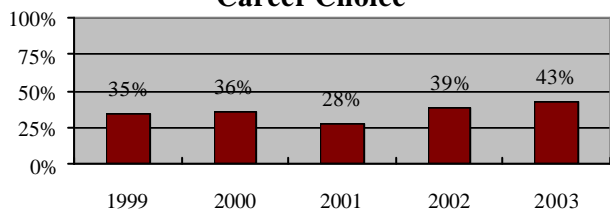
◆ This year, there was a slight increase in the percentage of respondents that said they could apply “some” or “a great deal” of what they had learned in the classroom to their co-op job. However, this percentage is slightly below the levels obtained in the first two years this survey was conducted.

### Co-op Enhanced Job-related Skills A Great Deal



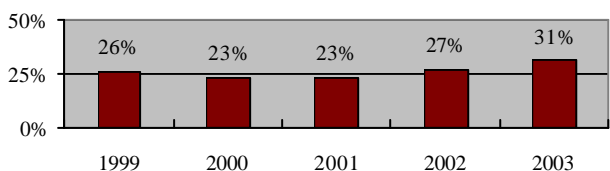
◆ This year, 48% of the sample said that their co-op experience had enhanced their job-related skills a great deal. This was a 12 percentage point drop from last year.

### Changed or May Change Existing Career Choice



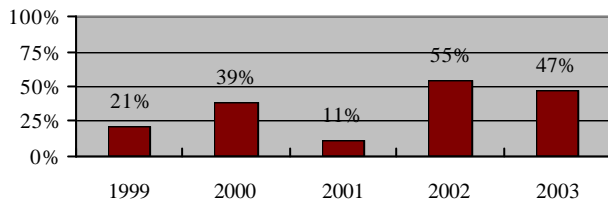
◆ Forty-three percent (43%) of sophomores in the sample indicated that their co-op experience had caused them to already change or think about changing their existing career choice. This is the highest percentage in the last five years.

### Changed or May Change Existing Major



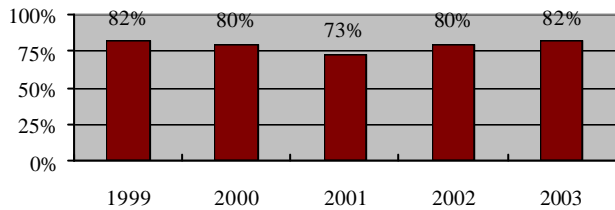
◆ Approximately three out of every ten (31%) respondents said that their co-op experience had caused them to already change or think about changing their choice of a major. This is the highest percentage in the last five years.

### NU Residence while on Co-op



◆ This year, there was a decline in the percentage of students living in a residence hall while on co-op. This percentage has fluctuated greatly over the last five years.

### Very Confident of NU Graduation



◆ More than eight out of every ten sophomores (82%) that were interviewed said that they were very confident that they would graduate from NU. This result is comparable to those obtained in previous years.