

Graduating Student Survey 2011



Keene State College

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 College's programs and services and to reflect on their personal and intellectual growth and development. This document presents the findings of the 2011 Graduating Student Survey, focusing on those respondents who received bachelor's degrees.

Key Findings

- ❖ Overall, respondents expressed satisfaction with their Keene State College experience:
 - 89% percent were satisfied or very satisfied with their Keene State College education.
 - 88% would recommend KSC to others.
 - 72% would still choose to attend KSC if they had it to do over again.
- ❖ Three-fourths or more of the respondents reported that their KSC experiences contributed “very much” or “quite a bit” to their knowledge, skills, and personal growth in a number of important areas:
 - Understanding the content and skills central to their major (80%)
 - Thinking critically and analytically (79%)
 - Finding, evaluating, and using information (79%)
 - Approaching problems or issues creatively (77%)
 - Examining issues from various perspectives (75%)
- ❖ Strong majorities agreed that KSC provides a positive learning environment:
 - The College provides support for students to succeed academically (86%).
 - Faculty at KSC are concerned about student learning and development (84%).
 - The atmosphere at KSC emphasizes academics and encourages academic development (81%).
- ❖ Many respondents benefitted from participating in service-learning courses:
 - 59% reported taking at least one course in their time at KSC that incorporated a service learning component.
 - Of these, 90% reported their community service experiences have made them more comfortable collaborating with others for a common goal; 89% agreed that their service experiences had increased their self-awareness; and 85% indicated that their community service activities will help them with future career plans.
- ❖ 46% have plans to work in their field following graduation, while 29% report that they will be entering graduate school.

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 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 2011, 1,056 eligible students completed the Graduating Student Survey prior to attending the commencement ceremonies. These students were awarded 23 associate's degrees, 1,077 bachelor's degrees, and 38 masters' degrees. The number of unduplicated bachelor's level respondents is 1,011. This report summarizes their responses.

Respondent Characteristics

The median age of respondents was 21 years, and their average cumulative self-reported grade point average was 3.16. Fifty-three percent of graduates were New Hampshire residents, and 60% were women. Eighty-one percent originally entered Keene State College as first-time, first-year freshmen and 34% were first-generation students. Respondents received degrees in 932 single program areas and 79 received a degree in more than one program area. The largest number of dual degrees (38) were in Education. The characteristics of the respondents are similar to that of the entire graduating class. A summary of respondent characteristics is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Student Characteristics

	Category	Count	Percent
Gender	Women	608	60%
	Men	403	40%
Race	Non-White	15	1%
	White	927	92%
Residency	In State	537	53%
	Out of State	474	47%
Admissions Category	First Time, First-Year Freshmen	817	81%
	Transfer	168	17%
	Readmits	25	2%
First Generation Students		348	34%
Median Age = 21			
Average Cumulative GPA = 3.16			

Student Satisfaction

The Spring 2011 respondents resembled the 2010 class in their overall satisfaction and commitment to the college (Table 2). Eighty-nine percent said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their Keene State College education; 88% would recommend Keene State to others; and 72% would choose to attend Keene State if they had to do it over again.

Table 2: Student Satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied are you with you Keene State College education?	Satisfied or Very Satisfied	
	2010 90%	2011 89%
Would you recommend Keene State College to others?	Likely or Very Likely	
	2010 87%	2011 88%
If you had to do it over again, would you choose Keene State College?	Likely or Very Likely	
	2010 78%	2011 72%

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

(Percent responding *Very Much* or *Quite a Bit*)



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.

- 37% of students worked on-campus, 53% worked off-campus.
- 82% spent 6 or more hours per week studying or preparing for classes.
- 43% spent from 1 to 5 hours per week studying or preparing for classes in the Mason Library. 37% spent 6 or more hours in the library.
- 56% spent 1 to 5 hours per week commuting to classes.
- 13% of students were providing care for dependents living with them.
- 88% had attended a film, performance, lecture or other cultural event on campus at least once during the academic year.
- 81% 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?

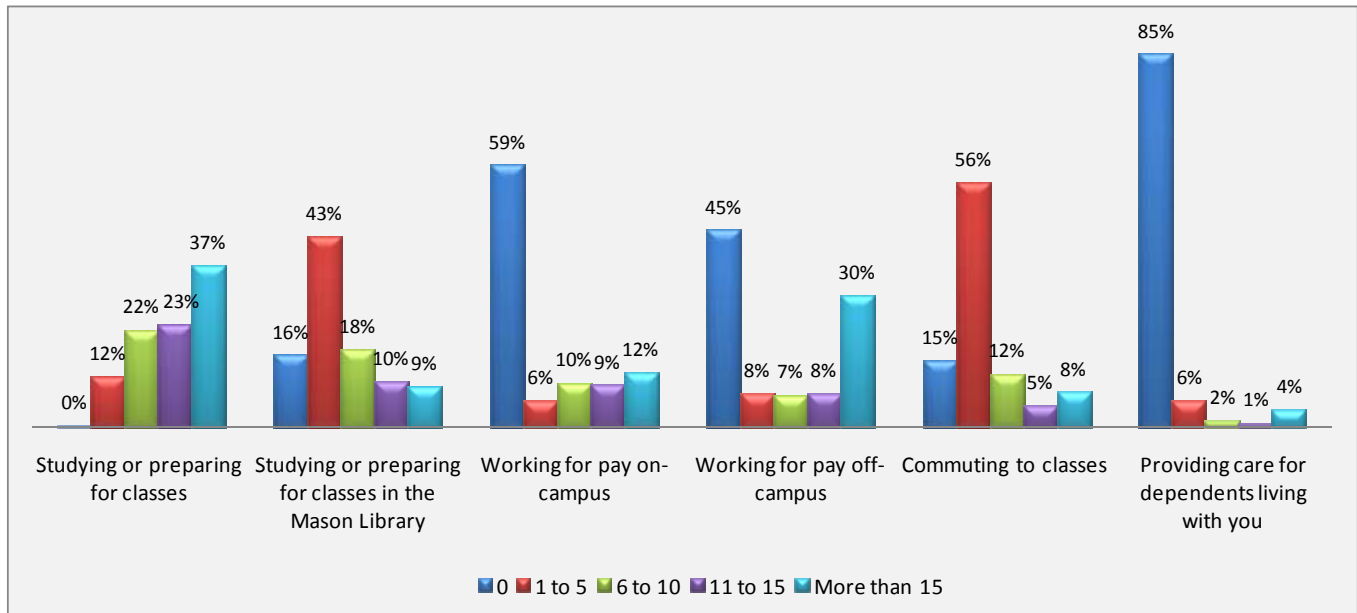
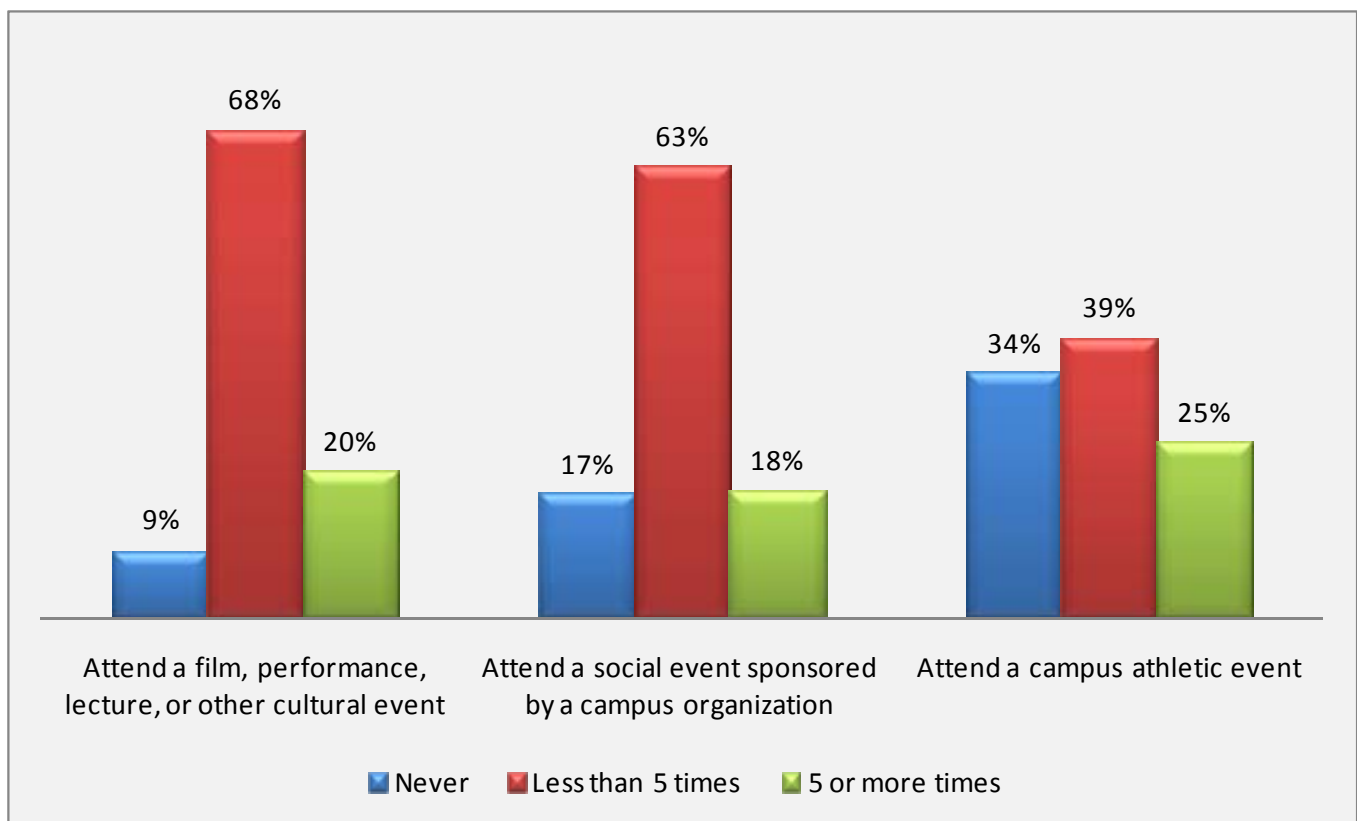


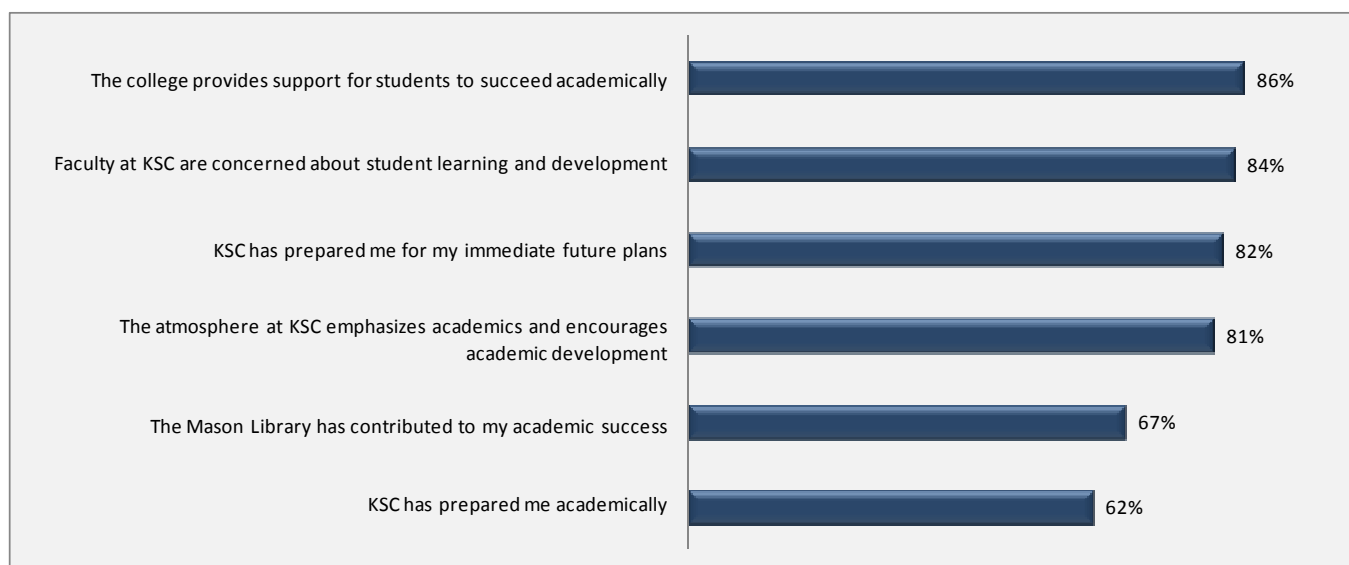
Figure 3: During the past year, how many times did you do each of the following?



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?” As Figure 4 shows, by strong majorities they gave positive ratings to each of the elements about which they were asked.

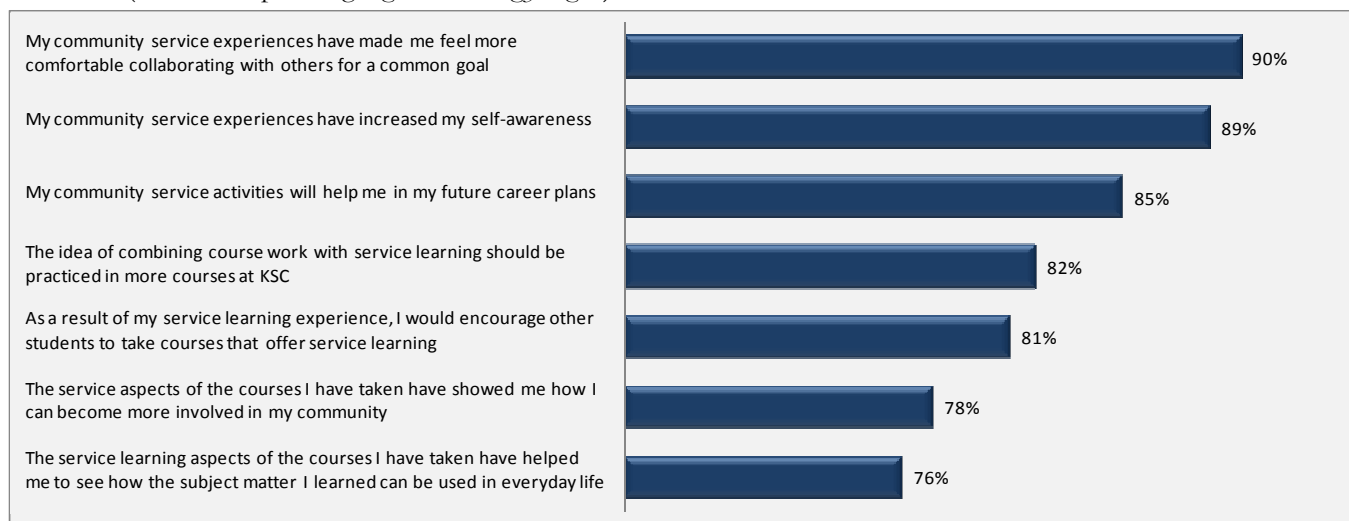
Figure 4: Evaluation of learning environment at KSC
(Percent responding *Agree* or *Strongly Agree*)



Service Learning and Community Service

Fifty-nine percent (594) of the graduating students reported that they had taken at least one course that incorporated a service learning component. Their evaluations of these experiences are presented in Figure 5. As this figure shows, respondents reported that their service-learning experiences yielded important benefits for their personal development and career preparation.

Figure 5: Student agreement with academic service learning outcomes.
(Percent responding *Agree* or *Strongly Agree*)



Beyond service-learning courses for academic credit, 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. The hours that students reported spending in their voluntary service during their senior year are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Hours student spent in KSC-sponsored community service activities during their senior year

Service Hours	Percent
0	46%
1 to 10	29%
11 to 20	8%
21 to 30	4%
31 to 40	4%
41 or more	8%

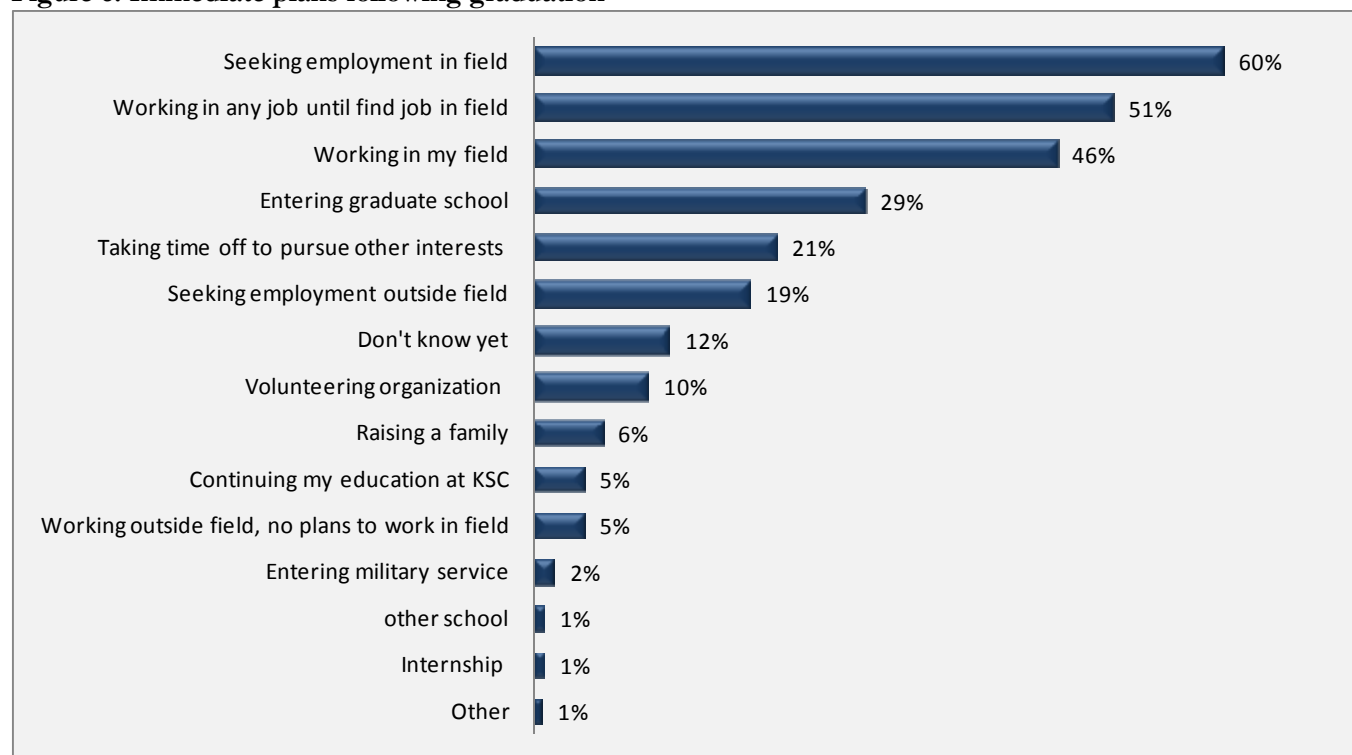
} 53%

Note: Numbers do not total to 100% due to rounding.

Plans Following Graduation

Students were asked about their immediate plans following graduation. Forty-six percent reported that they had plans to work in their field while 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 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



Note: Percentages total to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to check all categories that applied to them.

Figure 7: Geographic location of students who will be working in their field.

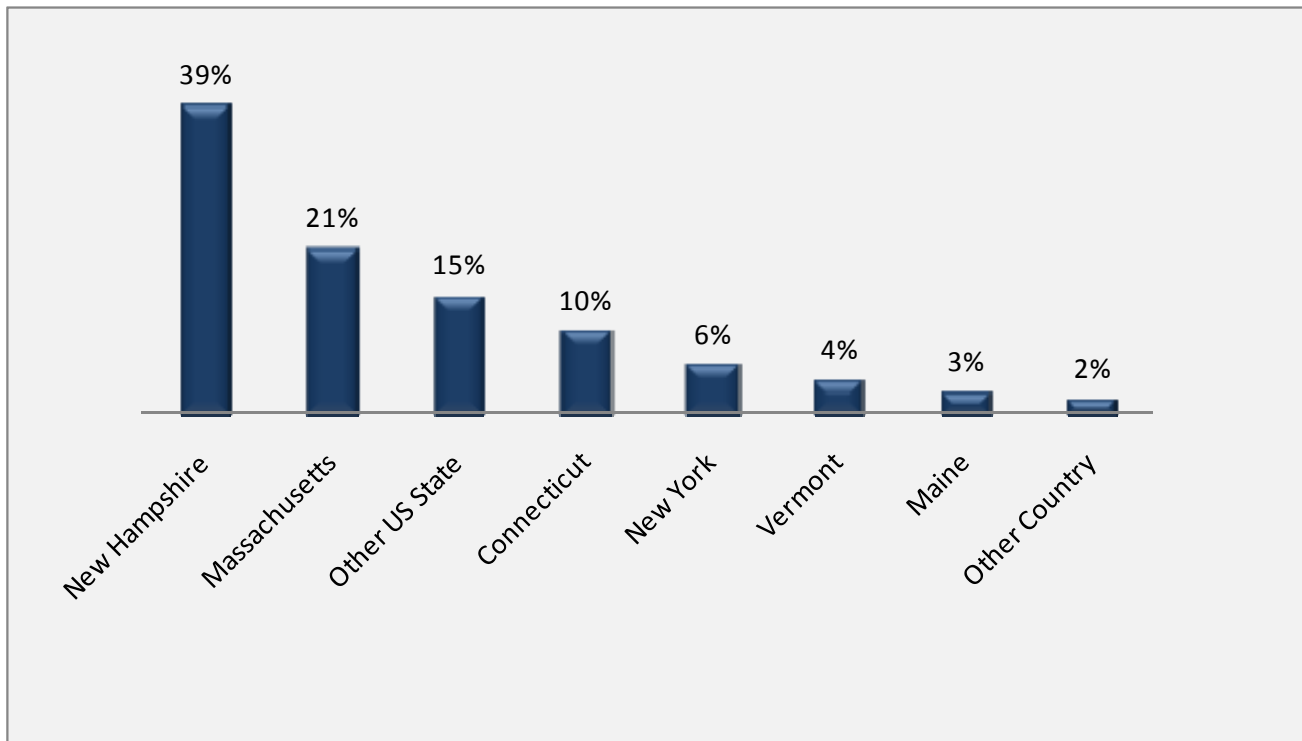
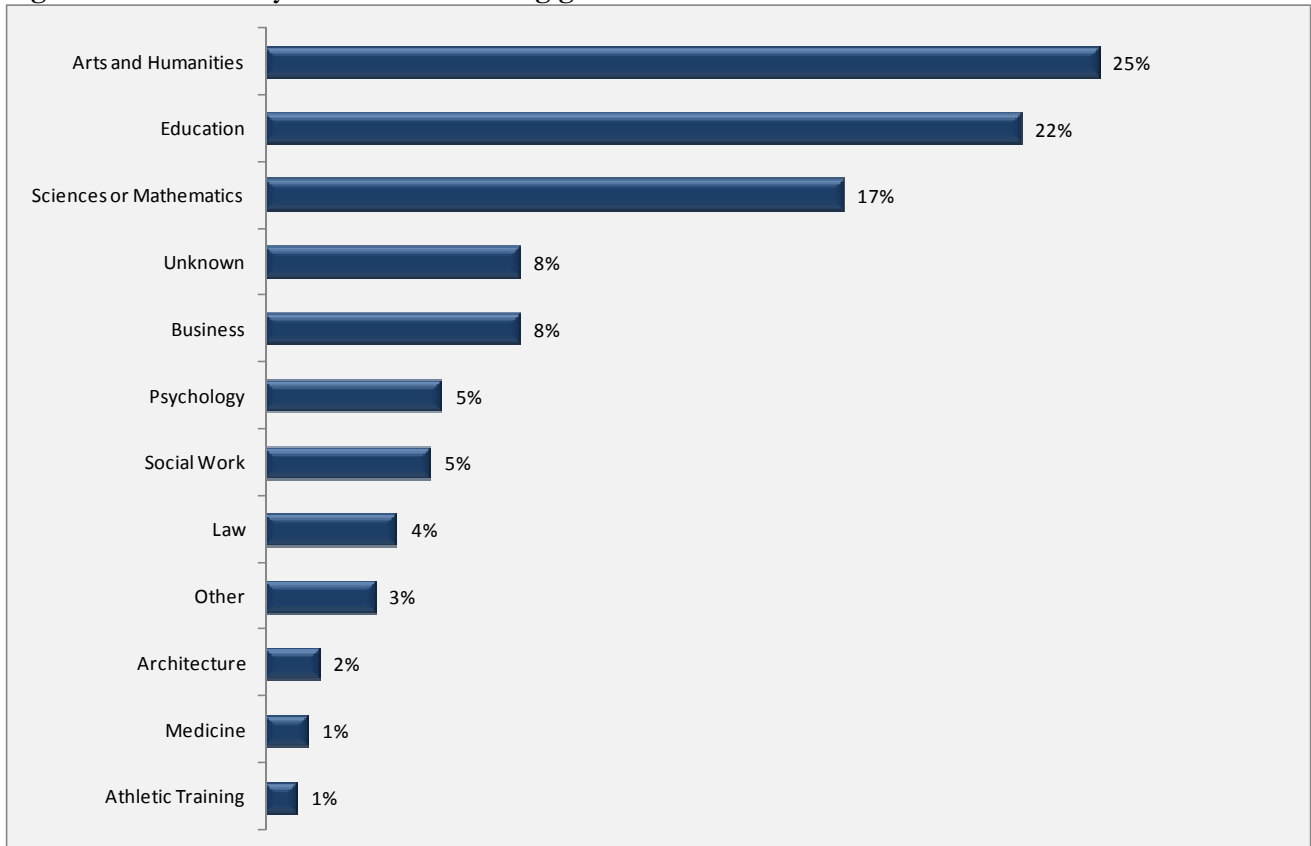


Figure 8: Area of study for students entering graduate school.



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