Satisfaction with the Residential Experience

Every year on the COFHE Senior Survey, graduating seniors rate their satisfaction with various aspects of college life. This brief examines items related to satisfaction with the residential experience.

Figure 1 shows Duke trend lines for sense of community where you live and student housing facilities. Satisfaction with sense of community increased steadily from 2.8 in 2003-2004 to 3.0 in 2009-2010 and since then has hovered between 3.0 and 3.1. Satisfaction with student housing facilities in 2017 was the same (2.7) as in 2003-2004, peaking at 2.9 between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014.

Figure 2 shows comparable trend lines from COFHE peer institutions. Satisfaction at peer institutions started at a higher level, 2.9 for housing facilities and 3.0 for sense of community, and has remained relatively constant. Satisfaction with sense of community at Duke has been on par with peer institutions since 2009-2010 except for a slight dip in 2015-2016. Satisfaction with housing facilities at Duke consistently remains below the same measure at peer institutions.

The data referenced in this brief is from COFHE Senior Survey reports compiled by the Office of Institutional Research. For Figures 1 and 2, data points on the X-axis (horizontal) are the averages of means across two years except for 2017. The Y-axis (vertical) only shows half of the 4-point rating scale in order to illustrate small changes from year to year.

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