



Non-Returning Student Study – Survey Results & Transfer Institutions 2023

I. Methodology

- This study examined the attitudinal reasons students gave for voluntarily withdrawing from Skidmore College. Satisfaction levels related to areas of academic and social concern for their transfer institution and Skidmore were also assessed.
- Students who entered Skidmore at any time as a first-time, first-year student but voluntarily withdrew between Sept 1, 2021 and Aug 30, 2023 were contacted five times from November 2023 through January 2024 to complete the survey. Dismissed and academically disqualified students were excluded from this study.
- The overall response rate was 24% (299 former students contacted, 68 responded, and at least 18 were not contactable). The proportion of students of color responding was similar to the population; however, men were less likely to respond.

II. Reasons for Leaving

- Non-returning students were presented with a list of possible reasons for leaving Skidmore. The concerns of greatest importance in leaving were related to social areas and size (see Table IIa). Findings were somewhat similar to 2021. The largest changes were personal/family difficulties decreased in importance in 2023 but social concerns about marijuana/drug-related activities and lack of social options on campus that are alternatives to downtown increased in importance as reasons for leaving.
- Comparisons based on select demographic/identity variables were considered (see Table IIa for complete findings).
 - Non-returning women were less likely than men to report perceiving Skidmore's location as isolated and the student body size as small as reasons; however, women were more likely than men to report personal/family reasons, illness, financial difficulty, and the transition to residential living as reasons.
 - Students of color were more likely than white students to report that lack of diversity in the student body, difficulty interacting with students/faculty unlike me, or a bias/discrimination incident were reasons for leaving. Students of color were also more likely than white students to report social life's focus on alcohol/marijuana/drug-related activities as reasons.
 - Students receiving Skidmore need-based grant aid were more likely than those not receiving such aid to indicate that financial difficulties prompted leaving.
 - Students with high AQR scores were more likely to report their greater academic motivation compared to other students as a reason for leaving. High AQR students were less likely to cite many social issues as reasons for leaving including not fitting in and cliques making it difficult to form friendships.
- Former students were asked if their reason(s) for leaving Skidmore were related to experiences based on their identity (e.g., race or ethnicity, gender identity or expression, etc.). Some former students reported these were major or minor reasons (see Table IIb) with 15% reporting experiences related to their socioeconomic status as a major reason and 9% reporting experiences related to their race/ethnicity as a major reason. Students of color were more likely than white students to report experiences as a result of their race/ethnicity as a reason for leaving.
 - Former students were also asked a related open-ended question: *"You indicated an aspect of your identity was a reason for leaving Skidmore. If you are able to, please share more about your experience(s)."* Responses included:
 - Student population is incredibly privileged/wealthy
 - Not belonging/imposter/the other/left out because of race and cliques
 - Microaggressions/implicit or explicit racism, transphobia, sexism, etc.
 - Social life too focused on drugs/alcohol

Table IIa: Reasons for Leaving Skidmore - Please indicate the extent to which each was a reason for your decision to leave Skidmore College.

Question	Broad Area	2023	2021	2023			2023			
		Mean (N=68)	Mean (N=46)	Major Reason (%)	Minor Reason (%)	Not a Reason (%)	Woman	Student of Color	Skidmore Need-Based Aid	High AQR (8-10)
On-campus <u>social life</u> was <u>not what I anticipated</u>	Social	2.3	2.1	50	29	21				↓
I <u>never</u> felt as though I <u>fit into</u> the Skidmore community	Social	2.2	2.0	44	30	26				↓
The presence of <u>cliques</u> on campus made it difficult to form new friendships	Social	2.0	1.9	33	30	36				↓
Not enough viable social options on campus that are <u>alternatives to downtown</u>	Social	2.0	1.5	29	39	32				
Skidmore lacked <u>school spirit</u> , pride and a sense of total community	Social	2.0	1.7	29	38	33				
I prefer a <u>larger university</u>	Size	1.9	1.7	33	27	39	↓			
Skidmore's student body is <u>smaller</u> than I initially perceived	Size	1.9	1.7	35	20	46	↓			
Skidmore's location is more <u>isolated</u> than I initially perceived	Location	1.7	1.7	24	24	52				
I needed time to <u>sort out my options</u> for the future	Personal	1.7	1.7	26	20	55				
The student body was not <u>diverse</u> enough	DEI	1.7	1.5	21	23	56	↑	↑		
I could not find <u>co-curricular activities</u> that interested me	Social	1.6	1.5	19	26	55				
The variety of <u>course offerings</u> was too <u>limited</u>	Offerings	1.6	1.7	18	24	58				
Social life is too focused on marijuana or other <u>drug-related</u> activities	Social	1.6	1.3	21	17	62		↑		
I was <u>more academically motivated</u> than other Skidmore students	Academic	1.6	1.4	20	17	64				↑
It was difficult to interact with students or faculty <u>unlike me</u>	Social	1.5	1.4	14	26	61		↑		↓
Skidmore <u>does not offer a major</u> in my field of interest	Offerings	1.5	1.5	14	24	62				
I experienced <u>personal/family difficulties</u> and chose to leave	Personal	1.5	1.9	17	17	67	↑			
A <u>bias or discrimination</u> -based event	DEI	1.5	1.4	21	6	73		↑		↓
The quality of <u>faculty advising/mentoring</u> did not meet my expectations	Faculty	1.4	1.3	17	11	73				↓
The <u>residence hall</u> atmosphere was not conducive to academic endeavors	Social/ Academic	1.4	1.2	15	14	71				
I did not find my courses to be sufficiently <u>engaging</u>	Academic	1.4	1.2	11	21	68				
I wanted to be <u>closer to home</u>	Personal	1.4	1.6	11	20	70				
COVID-19 <u>pandemic</u> issues/concerns	Pandemic	1.4	1.4	15	9	76				↓
I could not <u>get into the courses</u> I wanted	Offerings	1.4	1.3	11	18	71		↑		↓
Social life is too focused on <u>alcohol-related</u> activities	Social	1.4	1.2	11	15	74		↑		
The quality of <u>interactions with faculty</u> did not meet my expectations	Faculty	1.4	1.3	9	17	74	↑			
<u>Financial</u> difficulties prompted me to leave	Finances	1.3	1.5	8	17	76	↑		↑	

Table IIa: Reasons for Leaving Skidmore - Please indicate the extent to which each was a reason for your decision to leave Skidmore College.

Question	Broad Area	2023	2021	2023			2023			
		Mean (N=68)	Mean (N=46)	Major Reason (%)	Minor Reason (%)	Not a Reason (%)	Woman	Student of Color	Skidmore Need-Based Aid	High AQR (8-10)
Illness forced me to withdraw	Illness	1.3	1.3	11	11	79	↑			↓
I did not have to work very hard to get good grades, and I craved more challenge	Academic	1.3	1.3	11	5	85				
The faculty did not expect enough from students	Faculty	1.3	1.1	9	8	83				
I was overwhelmed by the academic workload	Academic	1.2	1.2	6	8	86				
I wanted to work directly with faculty more frequently	Faculty	1.2	1.2	2	12	86				
I was unable to make the transition to college residential living	Social	1.1	1.2	2	11	88	↑	↑		

Scale: 1=Not a Reason, 2=Minor Reason, 3=Major Reason
Difference: at least $p \leq .05$

Table IIb. Reasons for Leaving - My experiences at Skidmore as a result of my:

Question	2023	2021	2023			2023			
	Mean (N=68)	Mean (N=46)	Major Reason (%)	Minor Reason (%)	Not a Reason (%)	Woman	Student of Color	Skidmore Need-Based Aid	High AQR (8-10)
socioeconomic status.	1.4	1.2	15	8	77		↑	↑	
other	1.3	1.3	17	0	83				
race or ethnicity.	1.2	1.1	9	5	86		↑	↑	
sexual orientation.	1.1	1.0	3	6	91				
(dis)ability.	1.1	1.1	0	12	88	↑	↑		
gender identity or expression.	1.1	1.0	3	5	92		↑		
religion.	1.1	1.0	2	3	96				
citizenship status.	1.0	1.0	0	3	97				

Scale: 1=Not a Reason, 2=Minor Reason, 3=Major Reason
Difference: at least $p \leq .05$

III. Satisfaction with Skidmore & Transfer Institution

- To further clarify the reasons for leaving, former students were asked if their Skidmore experience was worse than, the same as, or better than their transfer institution experience in several areas. There are some concerns when asking such questions including the difference in terms of age and most having a first-year/sophomore experience at Skidmore and a junior/senior experience at a transfer institution. The findings appear to reaffirm the importance and the expectations that former students place on certain college experiences.
- For the areas where Skidmore did best, nearly one-third of former students indicated that Skidmore was “better” in terms of student-faculty interaction in and outside of the classroom and faculty advising/mentoring (see Table IIIa). Approximately two-thirds said Skidmore was “worse” than their transfer institution concerning co-curricular offerings, social life, school spirit, diversity, geographic location, and sense of community.
 - Former students were also asked the open-ended question “*What exactly drew you to your transfer college/university?*”
 - The most frequent responses included:
 - Academics (rigor/reputation/more challenging/higher ranked)
 - Financial (lower cost/in-state tuition/scholarship)
 - Size (student body and/or institution larger)
 - More major or minor options/Has desired major
 - Closer to home/family
 - Location (larger city/more urban)
 - Additional responses were:
 - Social environment (better social opportunities or community)
 - More extracurricular activities
 - More supportive atmosphere/Listens to students/There for students
 - Better school spirit
 - Variety of/more course options
 - Internships/Co-op/Employment opportunities
 - Peers more academically motivated/driven
 - Fewer cliques/Peers more friendly or nicer
 - Alcohol or drugs less prominent
 - Sports/athletic opportunities

Table IIIa: Skidmore Compared to Transfer Institution - Was your Skidmore experience worse than, the same as, or better than your transfer institution experience in the following areas?

	2023	2021	2023			2023			
Question	Mean (N=61)	Mean (N=41)	Worse (%)	Same (%)	Better (%)	Woman	Student of Color	Skidmore Need- Based Aid	High AQR (8-10)
Student-faculty interaction in the classroom	2.1	2.2	21	48	31				↑
Student-faculty interaction outside the classroom	2.1	2.0	19	53	28		↑		
Faculty advising and mentoring	2.1	2.1	22	47	31				
Academic workload	1.8	2.0	37	44	19				
Degree of academic engagement	1.8	2.0	40	41	19				
On-campus living environment (if applicable)	1.8	1.7	48	25	27	↓			
Academic engagement of peers	1.7	1.9	45	36	19				
Affordability	1.7	1.6	50	32	18				
Geographic location of the institution	1.6	1.7	58	20	22			↑	
Sense of community	1.6	1.8	57	22	21				
Social life	1.6	1.7	59	19	22				
Co-curricular or extra-curricular activities/opportunities of interest to you	1.6	1.8	64	15	20				
Diversity of the student body	1.5	1.9	58	32	10				
School spirit/pride	1.5	1.6	59	31	10				

Scale: 1=Worse, 2=Same, 3=Better
Difference: at least $p \leq .05$

IV. Academic Interests, Choice, & Clearinghouse Data

- Ninety-one percent (91%) of respondents indicated transferring to another institution after leaving Skidmore. Institutions attended by survey respondents included a mix of universities and colleges (See Table IVa).

Table IVa: Institutions Attended by Survey Respondents (2023)			
Institution	# Former Students	Institution	# Former Students
Boston U	4	Kenyon C	1
Boston C	2	Lesley U	1
Savannah C of Art and Design	2	Marist C	1
The New School	2	Mass C of Art and Design	1
U of Maryland	2	Nazareth U	1
Washington U in St Louis	2	New York U	1
American U	1	Northeastern U	1
American U of Paris	1	Norwich U	1
Berkshire CC	1	Ramapo C	1
Binghamton U	1	Stony Brook U	1
Brooklyn C	1	Syracuse U	1
Bucknell U	1	U of Cincinnati	1
C of Charleston	1	U of Connecticut	1
Colgate U	1	U of Hartford	1
Colorado U	1	U of Kansas	1
Columbia U	1	U of Maine at Farmington	1
Cornell U	1	U of New England	1
CUNY Hunter C	1	U of Southern California	1
Emory U	1	U of St Andrews	1
Fordham U	1	U of Tennessee	1
Furman U	1	U of Utah	1
George Mason U	1	U of Vienna	1
Georgetown U	1	U of Virginia	1
Goldsmiths, U of London	1	U of Wisconsin–Parkside	1
Ithaca C	1	Villanova U	1

- The National Student Clearinghouse provides a more complete picture of the U.S. institutions to which Skidmore non-returning students transferred (See Table IVb). Sixty-five percent (65%) of non-returning students were matched to Clearinghouse data.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) of former Skidmore students attended private 4-year institutions, 41% attended public 4-year institutions, and 13% attended public 2-year institutions. Compared to the prior report, the percentage of students transferring to another private 4-year institution decreased (from 61% to 47%) while the percentage choosing a public 4-year institution increased (from 31% to 41%).
- States enrolling the greatest share of former students during this timeframe were NY (34%), MA (11%), CA (5%), PA (5%), and CT (4%). NJ, FL, IL, NC, CO, and NH each had 3%.
- Compared to prior findings, this is a very diverse group of transfer institutions. While larger and urban institutions are still present and New York State schools are well represented, a greater number of SUNY institutions and community colleges are represented.

Table IVb: U.S. Institutions Attended by All Skidmore Students who Withdrew Voluntarily between Sept 1, 2021 and Aug 30, 2023*

Institution	State	Sector	# Former Students		Institution	State	Sector	# Former Students
NEW YORK U	NY	Private 4-Year	6		MONMOUTH U	NJ	Private 4-Year	1
CORNELL U	NY	Private 4-Year	4		MONTCLAIR STATE U	NJ	Public 4-Year	1
CUNY HUNTER C	NY	Public 4-Year	4		MONTGOMERY COUNTY CC	PA	Public 2-Year	1
SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE	NH	Private 4-Year	4		MOUNT HOLYOKE C	MA	Private 4-Year	1
U OF CONNECTICUT	CT	Public 4-Year	4		NORTH CAROLINA STATE U	NC	Public 4-Year	1
U OF NORTH CAROLINA	NC	Public 4-Year	4		NORTHEASTERN U	MA	Private 4-Year	1
CUNY BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN CC	NY	Public 2-Year	3		NORTHERN VIRGINIA CC	VA	Public 2-Year	1
GEORGETOWN U	DC	Private 4-Year	3		NORWICH U	VT	Private 4-Year	1
ITHACA C	NY	Private 4-Year	3		PALM BEACH STATE C	FL	Public 4-Year	1
SYRACUSE U	NY	Private 4-Year	3		PAUL SMITH'S C	NY	Private 4-Year	1
BERKSHIRE CC	MA	Public 2-Year	2		PITZER C	CA	Private 4-Year	1
BOSTON C	MA	Private 4-Year	2		PURDUE U GLOBAL	IN	Public 4-Year	1
BOSTON U	MA	Private 4-Year	2		QUINNIPIAC U	CT	Private 4-Year	1
COLORADO STATE U	CO	Public 4-Year	2		RAMAPO C OF NEW JERSEY	NJ	Public 4-Year	1
CUNY BERNARD M. BARUCH C	NY	Public 4-Year	2		RUTGERS - NEW BRUNSWICK	NJ	Public 4-Year	1
CUNY LEHMAN C	NY	Public 4-Year	2		SACRED HEART U	CT	Private 4-Year	1
MASS C OF ART & DESIGN	MA	Public 4-Year	2		SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR C	CA	Public 2-Year	1
NAZARETH C OF ROCHESTER	NY	Private 4-Year	2		SANTA BARBARA CITY C	CA	Public 2-Year	1
PENNSYLVANIA STATE U	PA	Public 4-Year	2		SANTA MONICA C	CA	Public 2-Year	1
SUNY NEW PALTZ	NY	Public 4-Year	2		SAVANNAH C OF ART & DESIGN	GA	Private 4-Year	1
SUNY BINGHAMTON	NY	Public 4-Year	2		SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS	NY	Private 4-Year	1
SUNY PURCHASE C	NY	Public 4-Year	2		SMITH C	MA	Private 4-Year	1
SUNY STONY BROOK U	NY	Public 4-Year	2		SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL CC	MA	Public 2-Year	1
SUNY SUFFOLK COUNTY CC	NY	Public 2-Year	2		ST LAWRENCE U	NY	Private 4-Year	1
THE NEW SCHOOL	NY	Private 4-Year	2		ST. OLAF C	MN	Private 4-Year	1
U OF COLORADO BOULDER	CO	Public 4-Year	2		STETSON U	FL	Private 4-Year	1
U OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO	IL	Public 4-Year	2		SUFFOLK U BOSTON	MA	Private 4-Year	1
U OF MASS AT AMHERST	MA	Public 4-Year	2		SUNY ADIRONDACK CC	NY	Public 2-Year	1
U OF MIAMI	FL	Private 4-Year	2		SUNY C OF ENVIRONMENTAL	NY	Public 4-Year	1
WASHINGTON U	MO	Private 4-Year	2		SUNY FASHION INST OF TECH	NY	Public 4-Year	1
ALBION C	MI	Private 4-Year	1		SUNY MOHAWK VALLEY CC	NY	Public 2-Year	1
AMERICAN U	DC	Private 4-Year	1		SUNY OSWEGO	NY	Public 4-Year	1
ARIZONA STATE U	AZ	Public 4-Year	1		SUNY U AT ALBANY	NY	Public 4-Year	1
AUSTIN CC DISTRICT	TX	Public 2-Year	1		SUNY U AT BUFFALO	NY	Public 4-Year	1
BABSON C	MA	Private 4-Year	1		SUNY WESTCHESTER CC	NY	Public 2-Year	1
BARD C	NY	Private 4-Year	1		SWARTHMORE C	PA	Private 4-Year	1
BARNARD C	NY	Private 4-Year	1		TEMPLE U	PA	Public 4-Year	1
BELLEVUE C	WA	Public 4-Year	1		TOWSON U	MD	Public 4-Year	1
BENNINGTON C	VT	Private 4-Year	1		TULANE U	LA	Private 4-Year	1
BERGEN CC	NJ	Public 2-Year	1		U OF CALIFORNIA - IRVINE	CA	Public 4-Year	1
BUCKNELL U	PA	Private 4-Year	1		U OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	FL	Public 4-Year	1
CHAPMAN U-ORANGE	CA	Private 4-Year	1		U OF CINCINNATI	OH	Public 4-Year	1
CHICAGO STATE U	IL	Public 4-Year	1		U OF COLORADO DENVER	CO	Public 4-Year	1
CITY OF CHICAGO - HAROLD WASH C	IL	Public 2-Year	1		U OF DELAWARE	DE	Public 4-Year	1
CLARK U	MA	Private 4-Year	1		U OF HARTFORD	CT	Private 4-Year	1
COLGATE U	NY	Private 4-Year	1		U OF HOUSTON	TX	Public 4-Year	1
COLUMBIA U	NY	Private 4-Year	1		U OF KANSAS	KS	Public 4-Year	1
CUNY BROOKLYN C	NY	Public 4-Year	1		U OF MAINE FARMINGTON	ME	Public 4-Year	1

Table IVb: U.S. Institutions Attended by All Skidmore Students who Withdrew Voluntarily between Sept 1, 2021 and Aug 30, 2023*

Institution	State	Sector	# Former Students	Institution	State	Sector	# Former Students
DENISON U	OH	Private 4-Year	1	U OF MARYLAND - C PARK	MD	Public 4-Year	1
DIABLO VALLEY C	CA	Public 2-Year	1	U OF MASSACHUSETTS GLOBAL	CA	Private 4-Year	1
DILLARD U	LA	Private 4-Year	1	U OF MICHIGAN	MI	Public 4-Year	1
EMERSON C	MA	Private 4-Year	1	U OF NEW ENGLAND	ME	Private 4-Year	1
EMMANUEL C	MA	Private 4-Year	1	U OF NEW HAMPSHIRE-DURHAM	NH	Public 4-Year	1
EMORY U	GA	Private 4-Year	1	U OF PENNSYLVANIA	PA	Private 4-Year	1
FORDHAM U	NY	Private 4-Year	1	U OF SAN DIEGO	CA	Private 4-Year	1
FURMAN U	SC	Private 4-Year	1	U OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	CA	Private 4-Year	1
JAMES MADISON U	VA	Public 4-Year	1	U OF SOUTHERN MAINE	ME	Public 4-Year	1
KNOX C	IL	Private 4-Year	1	U OF TENNESSEE	TN	Public 4-Year	1
LAFAYETTE C	PA	Private 4-Year	1	U OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	TX	Public 4-Year	1
LE MOYNE C	NY	Private 4-Year	1	U OF UTAH	UT	Public 4-Year	1
LESLEY U	MA	Private 4-Year	1	U OF VIRGINIA	VA	Public 4-Year	1
LOYOLA U CHICAGO	IL	Private 4-Year	1	U OF WISCONSIN - PARKSIDE	WI	Public 4-Year	1
MARIST C	NY	Private 4-Year	1	UNION C OF UNION COUNTY NJ	NJ	Public 2-Year	1
MARSHALL U HUNTINGTON	WV	Public 4-Year	1	VALENCIA C	FL	Public 4-Year	1
MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN C	NY	Private 4-Year	1	VILLANOVA U	PA	Private 4-Year	1
MERCY C	NY	Private 4-Year	1	VIRGINIA WESTERN CC	VA	Public 2-Year	1
MINNEAPOLIS COMM & TECH C	MN	Public 2-Year	1	WASHINGTON STATE U	WA	Public 4-Year	1
MINNESOTA STATE U - MANKATO	MN	Public 4-Year	1	WESLEYAN U	CT	Private 4-Year	1

*Source: National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker

- Non-returning students were asked to provide their current course of study or area of interest on the survey (See Table IVc). The list contains a mix of majors offered at Skidmore and those that are not.

Table IVc: Academic Majors of Former Students at Transfer Institutions (2023)

Major	# Former Students	Major	# Former Students
Art (2D)	1	Exercise Science	1
Accounting	1	Expressive Art Therapy & Holistic Health	1
Aerospace Engineering	1	Finance/Economics	1
Technical Theater	1	Game development	1
Biology	2	Health Science	1
Electronic Music/Computing and Tech	1	Human Biology	1
Business Administration	2	Illustration/Painting	1
Business Management and Accounting	1	International Relations	1
Chemistry	1	Kinesiology	1
Communication Design	1	Management & Marketing	1
Communication Studies	1	Mathematics/Computer Science	1
Culture and Media Studies	1	Mathematics	1
Data Analytics/Managerial Economics	1	Neuroscience/Public Health	1
Digital Media/Animation	1	Nursing	1
Early Childhood Education	1	Nutritional Science	1
Earth and Environmental Science	1	Peace and Conflict Studies	1
Economics	1	Political Science	2
Economics/Computer Science	1	Political Science/Comm and Media Ethics	1
Education	2	Psychology	5
English	1	Public Policy	1
English/Art History	1	Recorded Music	1

Table IVc: Academic Majors of Former Students at Transfer Institutions (2023)			
Major	# Former Students	Major	# Former Students
English Language and Literature	1	Screen Studies/Filmmaking	1
English/Film	1	Social Work	1
Environmental Studies	2	Sociology	1
Environmental Studies/Political Science	1		

- To gauge if some students consider Skidmore to be a stepping stone to transferring, former students were asked if “you expected to graduate from Skidmore” upon initial enrollment. Very few (12%) indicated that they did not expect to graduate from Skidmore. There is no discernable difference in AQR scores for those expecting to graduate upon entry and those not.
- Fifty-five percent (55%) of non-returning students reported that Skidmore was accurately represented to them during the recruitment and admissions process. This figure tends to vary greatly based on survey administration year and in recent years has been between 55% to 75%.
 - Former students who felt Skidmore was not portrayed accurately before entry responded to the question: *“In what ways was Skidmore not accurately presented to you?”* The top areas mentioned included:
 - Presented as inclusive and/or diverse and experience was otherwise
 - Social aspects worse than presented (from social programs/activities/clubs to social issues/environment)
 - Living situation not accurately presented
- Former students were asked about their knowledge of how to access Health Services and the Counseling Center as well as their utilization of these services during their time at Skidmore. Ninety-one percent (91%) of non-returning students reported knowing how to access both and 68% said they utilized the services of one or both. These figures are similar to the last administration.

V. In Their Voice - Narrative Responses

- Former students were also asked to respond to a series of open-ended questions. A bulleted summary of their responses follows. Note that the same respondent may have mentioned similar themes in responding to each question.
- *What did you like most about your time at Skidmore?*
 - The two most frequently cited areas were:
 - My friends/Relationships/Friendships
 - Instructors (accessible, approachable, etc.)
 - Other areas included:
 - My classes/Academics
 - Saratoga/Downtown/Location
 - Academic rigor/experiences
 - Athletics team
 - Food/Dining Hall
- *What presented the most challenge to you during your time at Skidmore?*
 - Social life/Lack of social opportunities/Finding something to engage with outside of class
 - Making genuine friends/Finding my people/Not fitting in/Too many cliques
 - COVID-19 impacts on life and college (online courses, isolation, making friends)
 - Living conditions (roommates, triples, residential living)
 - Isolated location of campus/Feeling isolated because of location
 - Lack of campus activities (clubs, club sports, extracurriculars)
 - Mental health/Personal health concerns
 - Too far from home/parents
 - Feeling that student well-being is not prioritized
- *Is there anything Skidmore might have done differently that would have changed your decision to leave?*
 - No/Nothing/Not the right fit
 - Increase diversity (racial, socioeconomic, geographic)/Be more inclusive
 - Better advising
 - Address alcohol and drug culture/Provide alternatives to it
 - Less expensive/More financial aid
 - Revitalize extracurricular activities
 - Evaluate instructors better so only high-quality professors are teaching
 - Offer more majors/Have my major