

White Paper
Spring 2021
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Methodology

Number of Interviews and Margin of error:

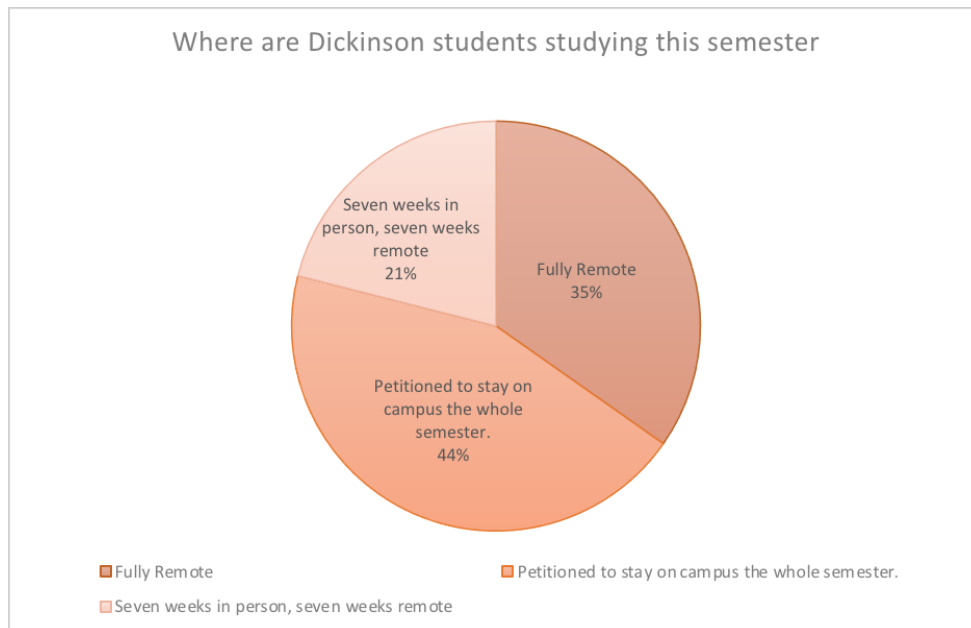
	Dickinson College
Number of interviews	97
Margin of Error	+/- 10.2

The margin of error tells you how many percentage points your results will differ from the real population value. The reason that the margin of error in our study is so high is because the sample size was only 97 respondents.

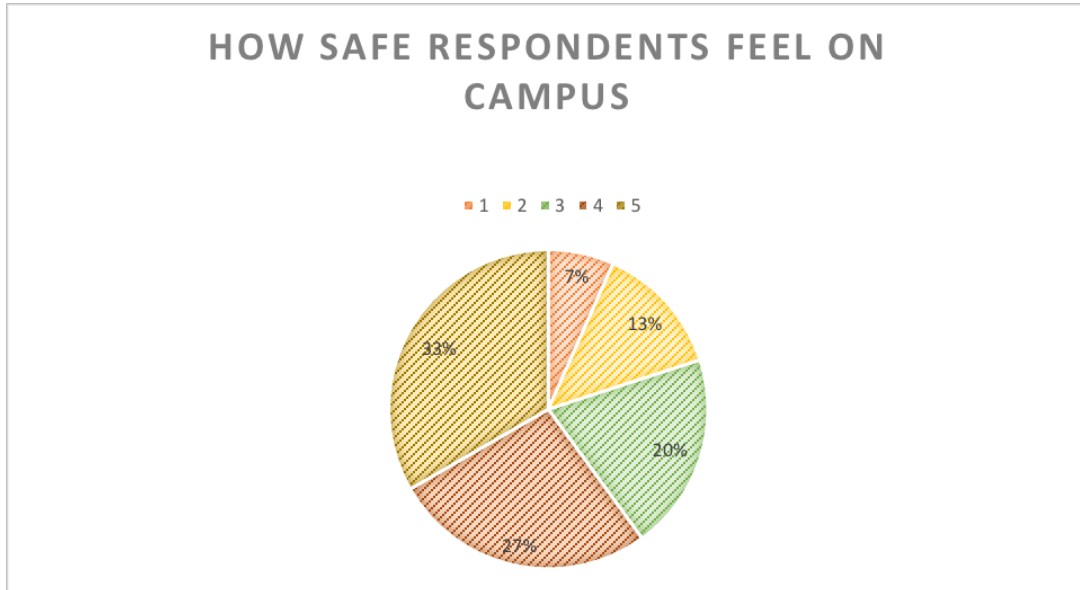
Date: March 19, 2021- April 1, 2021

Methods of interviewing: All surveys were conducted anonymously online. Student researchers sent invitations to the survey link to campus groups they were a part of such as, the Field Hockey Team, The Black Student union, ACE peer tutors, Posse, the freshman class Facebook page, along with social media followers such as snapchat and Instagram by posting the link on researchers' stories. All invitations were sent online and there was no in person encouragement of completing the survey.

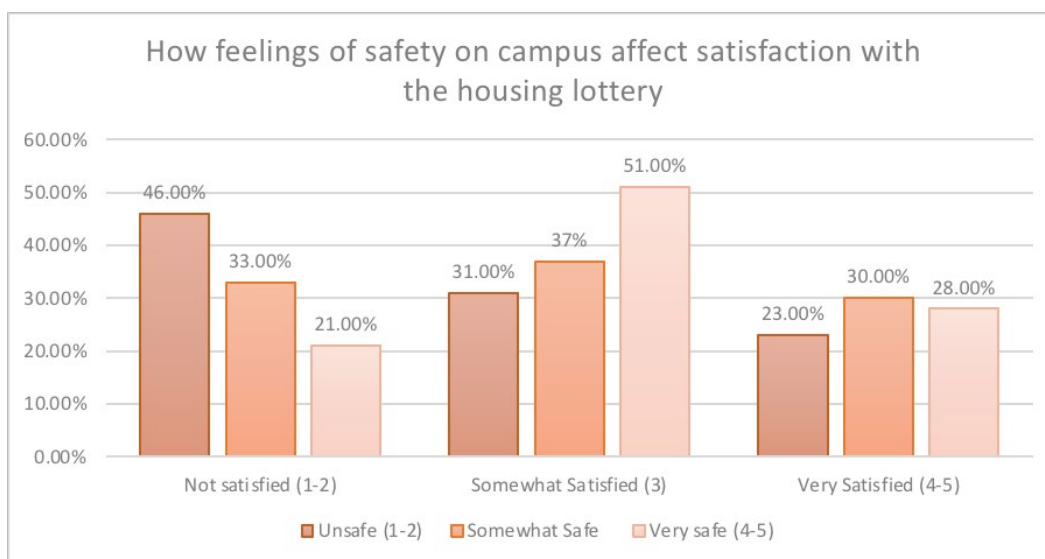
Graphs:



This univariate graph shows the breakdown of where Dickinson students are studying this semester. The graph shows that 44%, the largest number of student respondents, petitioned to stay on campus the whole semester, whereas 35% of respondents are fully remote and 21% of respondents were on campus for seven weeks and did 7 weeks remotely.



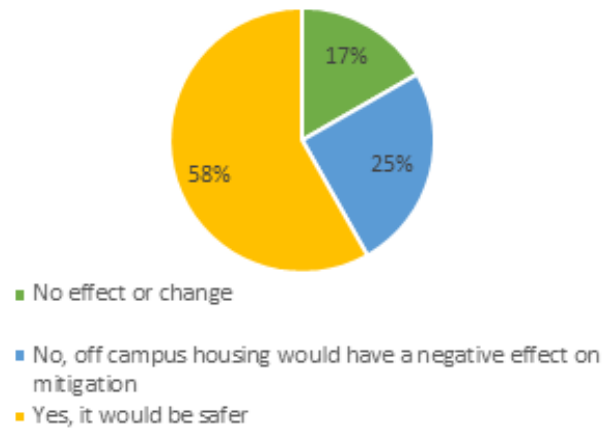
This univariate graph shows the breakdown of how safe student respondents generally feel on campus, on a scale of 1 being completely unsafe to 5 feeling completely safe. This shows that 33% of respondents feel completely safe on campus rating a 5/5 whereas 27% feel mostly safe rating it a 4/5, then 20% of respondents fall somewhere in the middle and rate their feelings of safety a 3/5, then 13% of respondents feel somewhat unsafe rating a 2/5 on the safety scale and lastly 7% of respondents felt completely unsafe on campus rating it a 1/5 on the safety scale.



This bivariate graph shows the relationship between how safe students feel on campus and their satisfaction with the housing lottery. What can be seen from this above graph is that out of all of the respondents who felt unsafe on campus, 46% of them were unsatisfied with the housing lottery. With that same group of respondents who felt unsafe on campus 31% of them felt somewhat satisfied with the housing lottery and then 23% of them felt very satisfied with the housing lottery. That shows that nearly double the respondents who felt unsafe on campus and responded to being very satisfied with the housing lottery were actually unsatisfied with the housing lottery. When looking at the group of respondents who felt somewhat safe on campus, 33% of them were not satisfied with the housing lottery, whereas 37% of them were somewhat satisfied and 30% of them were very satisfied. This shows that this group of respondents was relatively equally separated among feelings of complete dissatisfaction, mediocre satisfaction and high satisfaction with the housing lottery. Among the respondents that felt very safe, the majority of them responded to feeling somewhat satisfied with the housing lottery, with 51%. Then 21% of them were not satisfied and 28% of them were very satisfied, so a relatively even separation, with the primary feelings of those who felt very safe on campus being somewhat satisfied with the housing lottery.

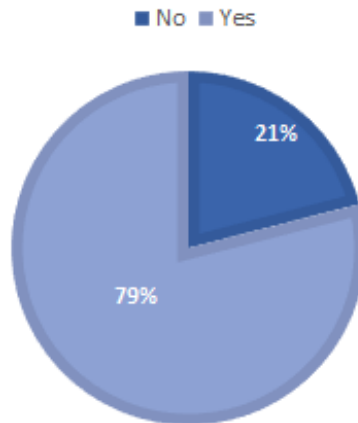
This was an interesting relationship to look at because it portrayed an issue where there is clear room for a policy change on campus, that being safety measures for students. The relationships seen in the above graph, between feelings of safety on campus and feelings of satisfaction with the housing lottery, primarily shows that those individuals who feel unsafe on campus also have high levels of dissatisfaction with the housing lottery. The other two groups of respondents generally split evenly about feelings of satisfaction with the housing lottery and hovered around somewhat satisfied. Nonetheless, the relationship shows that if campus safety were to increase and students were to feel more comfortable, then that would likely cause an increase in satisfaction with the housing lottery. Therefore, if there were policy changes to make campus feel safer, then those people who felt most unsafe on campus might in turn be more satisfied with the housing lottery. These increased safety measures could look like anything from more blue lights to more late-night campus van ability, to more DPS officers patrolling. In this case it can be seen that an increase in safety measures would not only likely lead to an increase of feelings of safety on campus but also with an increase in satisfaction with the housing lottery, so would positively benefit multiple areas.

The Effect of Off Campus Housing on Mitigation

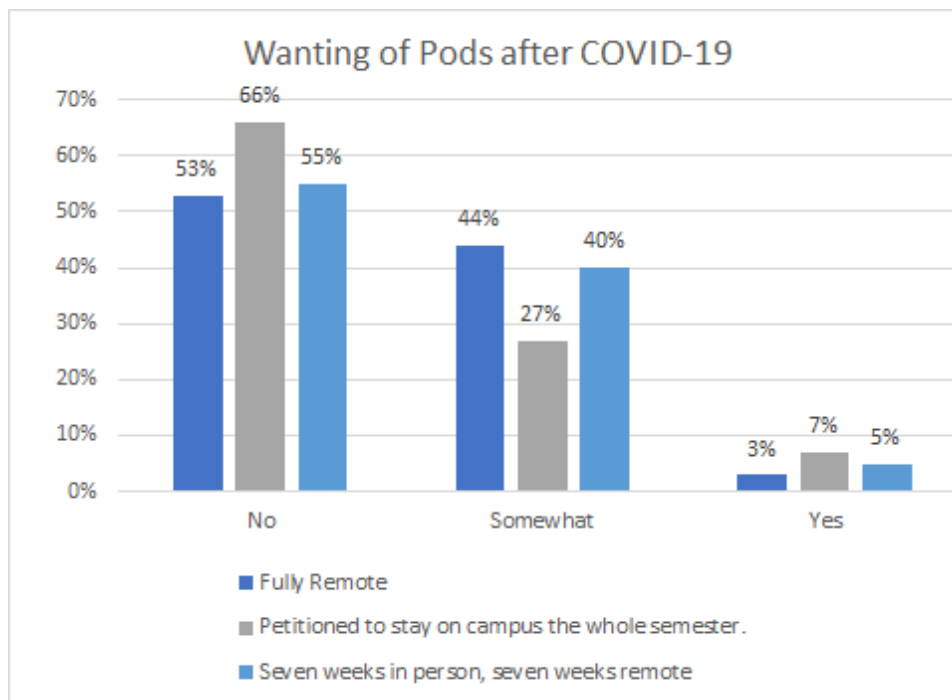


In the above graph we are looking at the population’s opinion on how the option of off campus housing would have helped to mitigate COVID-19. The table demonstrates the three options; yes, it would be safer to have off campus options, no off-campus housing would have a negative effect on mitigation and no effect/change. Off-campus housing is not much of an option for Dickinson students, they have access to places like the Goodyear apartments but that is still relatively a part of campus. This semester, off campus housing was not an option at all, and instead people who decided to live off campus in apartments or air b&b’s, were not allowed to take classes in person. As seen in the pie graph, over half of the respondents believed that off campus housing would have helped with mitigation. Off campus housing would provide for more distance between people, and not as many confined and close quarters. Close quarters where people are constantly meeting one another, gives room for more contact between people.

INTERESTED IN HAVING THE OPTION TO LIVE OFF CAMPUS.



As mentioned in the explanation above, off campus housing is not something that Dickinson students are not offered. This semester with COVID-19 and the pandemic, and the multiple restrictions on everything people have wished for off campus housing even more. It has been an ongoing issue for people that they would like off campus housing to be an option for people. About 80 percent of people that responded to our survey, agreed that they wished for more off-campus housing options. Off campus housing would grant more freedom to students, and at times it may even be cheaper for people. Other locations could have bigger spaces for students, and they may be able to split the cost evenly or better. Not every housing option at Dickinson has amenities, such as kitchens. The student room and board include the meal plan, and the dining hall and Union Station do not often have optimal food options. But people still need to pay for those meals that they may not eat, which is expensive. Having the option to stay off campus could help mediate the high cost of room and board, as well as provide a certain sense of freedom. This result was expected, or at least our group had expected it because many students have actively voiced hoping for off campus housing.

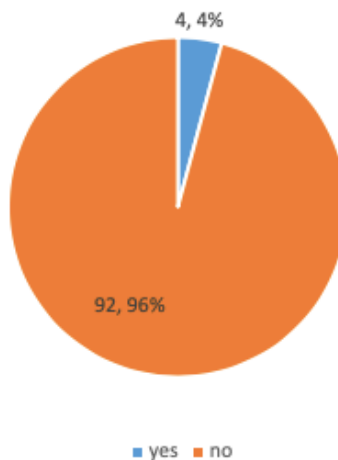


Pods are something that were created to help with mitigation of COVID-19. Mainly created for sports teams, where athletes are kept all together on one floor. For example, the field hockey upperclassmen girls all live on the first floor in the residence hall Atwater. Pods are supposed to be the people that you are always with, and eat meals with, so essentially people that you will be exposed to on a daily basis. People may feel restricted because of it. While looking at the graph above, students who decided to petition to live on campus the entire semester were the highest percentage of “no”. This could indicate that students who have been there for approximately fourteen weeks are now tired of having to be around the same people. We can also see that people who stayed on campus for half the time, were the second highest percentage of “no”. Once again indicating that people who have lived on campus during the “pod era” were not as keen on it. Furthermore, we can see that the “yes” was higher for people who lived on campus because they have experienced this effect and have more of an opinion on it. Those who

petitioned to stay for the full fourteen weeks have experienced pods the most. It is interesting to note that they were the subjects most likely to say both yes and no as opposed to somewhat.

This bivariate graph shows an interesting relation. The independent variable in the graph above was “Where are you studying this semester?”, and the dependent was whether the subjects wished to continue pods. This relationship is important to look at, especially the relation between the people who remained on campus for any period of time and their wishes for pods. Of course, those who are remote may feel this is a good idea, and wish to experience it. But by hearing opinions of people who have already experienced pods, we understand the impact of them better. Pods at times could be secluding, especially because people have to see the same students over and over again. This can be confining, especially during a pandemic when there are already so many measures in place. The data shows that people who petitioned to stay for fourteen weeks had the highest value of “no”. These students have been around their pod mates for longer than other students who remained on campus and therefore are feeling this effect even more. A change that I see coming is the removal of pods this coming fall. With the pandemic being somewhat under control, and vaccinations being given out, I do not see the point in continuing pods. Students do not seem very happy with pods, with only an overall 15% of respondents wishing to continue pods.

Should upperclassmen be given priority in the housing lottery?

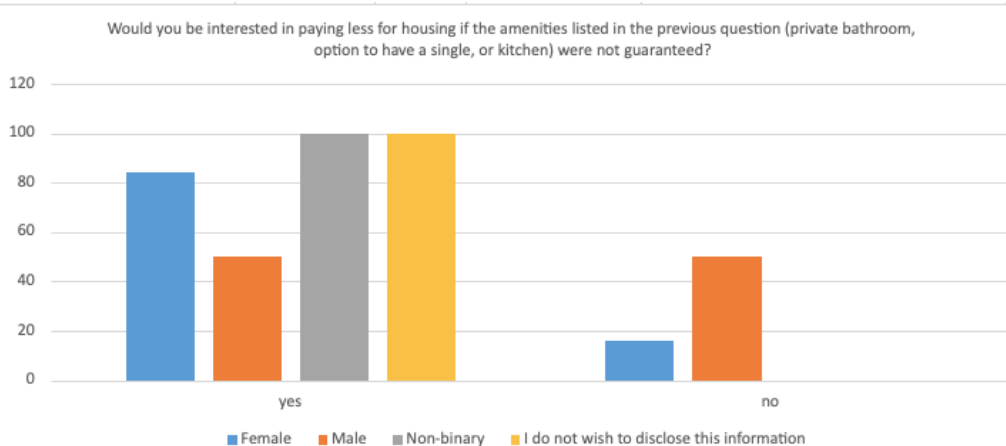


This univariate graph shows the responses of our survey participants when asked whether upperclassmen should be given priority in the housing lottery. On the first day of the Dickinson Housing Lottery, every senior is given a randomly assigned time slot to pick their housing preference. This process continues each day by seniority - seniors followed by juniors, sophomores followed by freshman. Looking at the results of our survey, we can draw a clear conclusion - almost all of our respondents agree upperclassmen should be given priority in the housing lottery. 92 or 96% of respondents selected yes while only 4 or 4% of respondents selected no. I used a pie graph to show this relationship because it is simple and easy to understand, allowing the reader to comprehend the information quickly. Based on the results, I would recommend Dickinson keep their housing lottery policy and continue to give priority to

upperclassmen. In the future, I think it would be interesting to investigate whether the respondents who would benefit from the policy, rising juniors and seniors, are the ones who voted.



This question asked survey respondents to rate Dickinson's housing options availability on a scale of one to ten, with one being not enough and five being completely enough. I used a univariate bar graph to summarize the results, which shows that the majority of respondents are unsatisfied with the housing options offered by Dickinson. 50% of participants rated housing options as a one or two. Less than 5% of respondents rated 5, that Dickinson has entirely enough housing options. Based on the results, additional housing options are in high demand from Dickinson students. If I were to change the graph, I would most likely combine some of the rating options, so the results are more definitive. Additionally, I would format the question to ask participants to rate Dickinson housing option availability on a Likert Scale of 1-5, with 1 being very dissatisfied, 2 being dissatisfied, 3 being unsure, 4 being satisfied, and 5 being very satisfied. This reformatting would clarify the question by providing a definition for each rating.



This question asked respondents if they would be interested in paying less for housing if amenities such as a private bathroom, the option to have a single, or a kitchen was not guaranteed. I decided to create a bivariate graph to investigate the relationship between how respondents answered and their gender. I predicted that individuals who identify as female, non-binary, or chose not to disclose their gender would choose to pay more for housing in order to get guaranteed amenities. A private bathroom and a single dorm provide much desired peace and privacy, something female and more private individuals typically seek out.

The graph shows 100% of non-binary participants and those who did not wish to disclose their gender answered yes, they would pay less for housing if amenities were not promised. This statistic is not as significant as it may seem, however, as we did not get a large sample size of those who identify as non-binary or did not want to disclose their gender. These two groups of participants only account for only 3% of our sample. Male respondents appeared to be indifferent, with an even 50% split between yes and no. Finally, only 18% of females who responded to our survey voted they would not pay less for housing if amenities weren't guaranteed.

These results were unexpected and surprised me. I predicted women would be more likely to want these amenities for the added privacy and space. However, the results show that most respondents would prefer to save money and not have the additional benefits. This shows that the majority of our survey participants are more financially motivated than by material benefits.

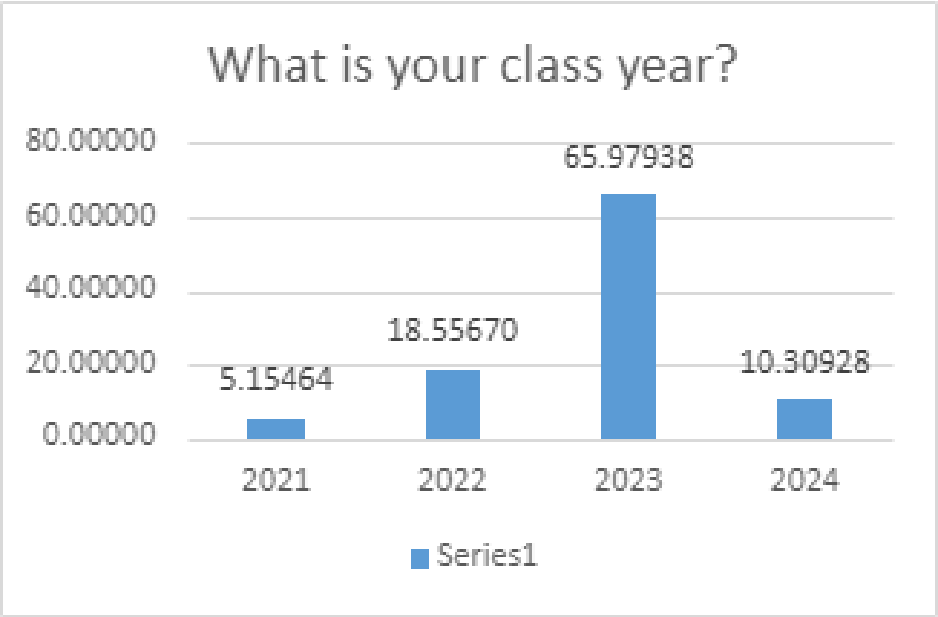


Figure 1 displays the class years of the respondents of the survey. Based on the charts provided, the Class of 2023 had the most respondents. This could potentially be connected to most group members belonging to the class of 2023 and the various groups we sent the survey to.

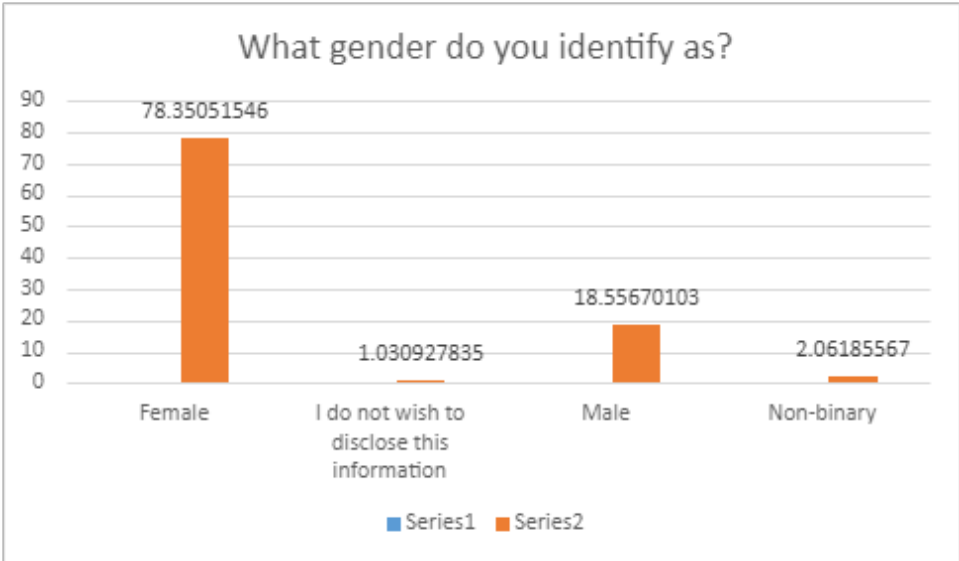


Figure 2 displays the gender identity that respondents identify as. Based on the chart, most respondents identified as female, while others were either male, non-binary, and one person choose not to disclose this information. The amount of female respondents can possibly be connected to the female student ratio that is currently present within the Dickinson community.

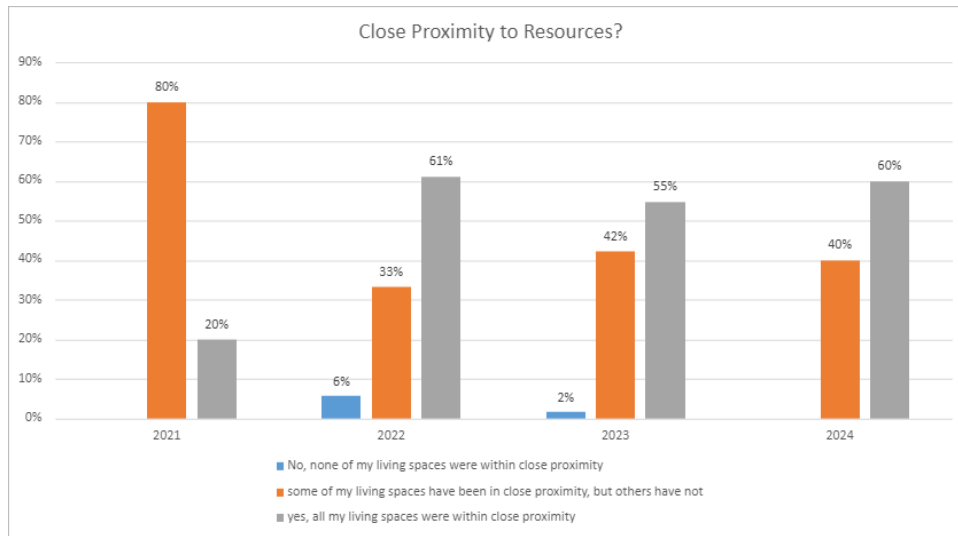


Figure 3 is answering and showing the data in response to the question, “What effect does class year have on proximity on campus?” For respondents that belong to the class of 2021, 80% of respondents have shared that they lived in spaces that were in close proximity to resources while 20% have shared that all of their living spaces have been close to campus resources. This is also similar to the class of 2024, but the major difference is that 60% of respondents from the class of 2024 have lived in proximity to campus resources. 40% of respondents from the Class of 2024 have lived close to some of the campus resources and this can possibly be connected to the placement of most first-year buildings on Dickinson’s campus. Compared to upperclassmen housing which can trickle into town. There were only respondents who reported not living in proximity to campus resources in the Class of 2022 and 2023. 2% of the class of 2023 and 6% of the class of 2022. Based on the given responses, there are at least one or more campus resources in close proximity to living spaces for all class years, but the graph shows that depending on the year there are more in comparison to others.