

PROGRAM EVALUATION

An annual evaluation helps Bass Connections leadership strengthen the program and better understand its impact on students, faculty, and the societal issues addressed through the projects. All data reported below is based on survey respondent data. The average response rate across all survey populations is 37%.



Highlights from the 2017-2018 Survey

TOP FIVE AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT REPORTED BY UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Communicating with a team
2. Working with team members from diverse areas of knowledge
3. Comfort working with faculty
4. Organizing and managing projects
5. Demonstrating leadership on a team

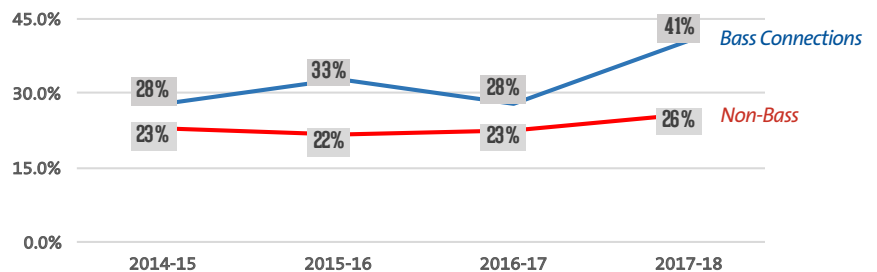
GRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Ability to connect my academic experiences to broader social issues
2. Working with team members from diverse areas of knowledge
3. Communicating with a team
4. Research skills
5. Solving complex problems

Spurring Undergraduate Research

Many Bass Connections students take their research further, completing a thesis related to their team experience or becoming inspired to pursue research in new area. Among the graduating class of 2018, **41% of students who had participated in Bass Connections completed a thesis**, compared to 26% of the total senior class.

THESIS COMPLETION RATES



Integrating Teaching and Research for Faculty

Faculty report benefiting from the opportunity to mentor students while furthering their own research. Team leaders also emphasized the value of interdisciplinary collaboration, learning from other faculty members' areas of expertise to enrich their understanding of the topic.

Leaders noted a wide range of outcomes, including peer-reviewed publications; external grant applications seeded by their team's research; data collection; conference presentations; public policy reports and recommendations; various prototypes and products; educational materials and trainings for community groups; and scientific models, formulas, and algorithms.

Bass Connections has been transformative. It has provided a mechanism for the Duke community to work on important and interesting projects through a format/vision that is innovative and beneficial to the entire Duke and broader community.

FACULTY MEMBER

The opportunity to study a global health issue through chemistry promised to unite my own disciplines in a meaningful way. My teammates with backgrounds in biology and psychology helped build a better understanding of mercury's flow through the food chain and how human behavior and motivations shape dietary habits. The close collaboration across disciplines has been a formative experience.

JOSHUA GRUBBS '18

Project team: *Environmental Epidemiology in Latin America*

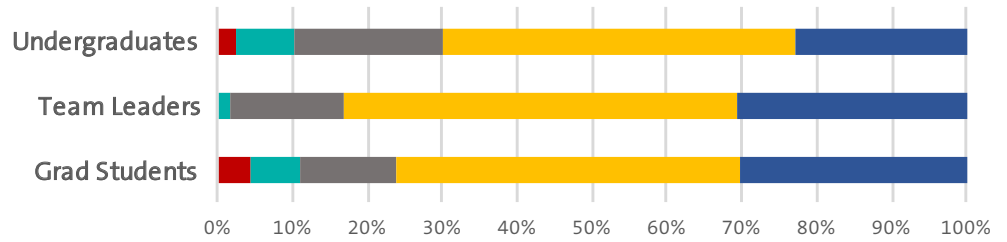
Honors thesis: *Evaluation of a Dietary Intervention for Chronic Methylmercury Exposure among Communities in Madre de Dios, Peru*



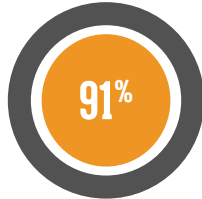
Satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied are you with your Bass Connections team experience?

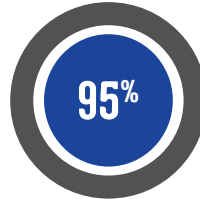
Not at all satisfied
Slightly satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Very satisfied
Extremely satisfied



100% of team leaders would recommend the program to a colleague



91% of graduate students would recommend the program to a friend



95% of undergraduate students would recommend the program to a friend

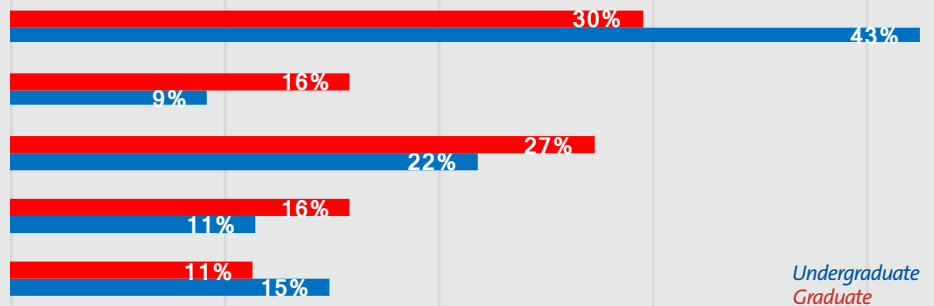
85% of undergraduates said that Bass Connections provided something unique to their learning experience at Duke by “a great deal” (40%) or “quite a bit” (45%).

Understanding What's Most Valuable

Bass Connections is a multifaceted program. This year's evaluation sought to better understand what students value most about the program.

Bass Connections includes many facets. Which of these attributes have you found most meaningful?

- All of these things work together in a meaningful way that is hard to separate
- The opportunity to work across levels (i.e., with faculty and other student levels)
- The opportunity to conduct research in an applied setting
- The opportunity to work across disciplines
- The opportunity to conduct research in a team-based environment



It was a fantastic opportunity to work in a group setting and develop leadership skills. Bass Connections exemplifies what Duke does so well: providing opportunities for students to work collaboratively across disciplines and levels of experience and education.

GRADUATE STUDENT

Bass Connections allowed me to explore my two passions in music and medicine in a well-integrated research project. I loved working on a small team with people I had never met before and learning to bond and work collaboratively.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

