Suggested talking points:

Questions for undergraduates to ask:

- Is taking time off before grad school a good idea? What was your experience?
- Are there specific things that make a strong applicant?
- What was the best advice you got when you were applying?
- What would you have done differently?
- How many schools did you apply to?
- How long is your program on average?
- What is the interviewing process like?
- What careers are out there for graduates?
- What do you want to do with your degree?
- What kind of support is available to graduate students?
- What kind of interaction do you have with professors?
- What kind of interaction do you have with your peers?
- What is it like being a woman/minority in your program/department/field?
- Do you think you made the right decision?
- If you had to pick one, what is the most important thing you think everyone should know before applying to graduate school?
- How did you initially become interested in your field?
- What was your undergraduate major/minor?
- Did you do research as an undergraduate? If so, how did you initially become involved?
- How do I become involved with research as an undergraduate here at Dartmouth?
- How should I go about initially contacting professors/labs I’d like to work with as a graduate student?
- How can I set myself apart from all the other applicants to competitive graduate programs?
- Once I determine the type(s) of graduate program(s) I want to apply to, how do I start deciding what schools/programs/labs would be the best fit?
- How much weight should I put on each of the following when choosing graduate programs:
  - School/program reputation
  - The advisors/principal investigators available to work with at the school
  - Funding
  - Geographic location
  - Overall culture of the school/program/department
  - Size of the school/program/department
- As a graduate student, how much free time do you have? Are you able to still pursue interests and hobbies outside of academia?
- If I choose to take time off before graduate school, what types of jobs/activities should I consider pursuing during this time? Does taking time off make me less or more competitive?
- How do I balance graduate school with my personal life (e.g. family, romantic relationships, etc.)?
- In general, what is your favorite and least favorite part(s) of being a graduate student?

For graduates to ask:

- Where would you like be in 5, 10, 20 years?
- What is the path that ultimately led you to consider graduate school?
- What do you consider to be your strengths and weaknesses?