

Expectations, Educational Experience and Goal Development

The 2022 *First-Year Student Survey* marks the 28th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 23rd study in which the University of Regina has participated. The survey was distributed to close to 49,000 students at 44 universities across Canada. In total, 15,157 (30.9%) first-year university students completed the survey, including 488 (37.7%) from the University of Regina.

This report focuses on the University of Regina's first-year students, comparing them to students nationally and to students attending institutions comparable to the University of Regina (see final page for a listing). Where possible, this report also compares results with the 2019, 2016, and 2013 CUSC surveys of first-year students. Unless stated otherwise, all differences reported are not statistically significant.

This fourth report in a series of six explores the expectations and experience as well as the educational experiences and goal development of first-year students who completed the survey.

Expectations and Experience

First-year students rated 15 experiences as to whether they exceeded, met, or fell below their expectations. The average was calculated based on ratings of *much less than expected* (1), *less than expected* (2), *about what expected* (3), *more than expected* (4), and *much more than expected* (5). Results are shown in the table below:

Mean ratings of experiences compared to expectations	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina		
	2022 (n=15,157)	2022 (n=5,644)	2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)
The time you have to put into your coursework	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6
Cost of going to university	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.6
How academically demanding your courses are	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5
Debt you might have to take on to complete your program	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.5
Intellectual stimulation	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Availability of help and advising from the university	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
Amount of writing in your academic work	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3
Contact with your professors in the classroom	3.2	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.9
Contact with your professors outside of the classroom	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.8
Doing coursework in groups	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.2
Using math in your academic work	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8
Amount you participate in class discussions	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9
Ease of making friends	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.7
Ease of getting involved in campus social activities	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.5
Your course grades	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8

At the University of Regina, students are more likely to say that academic challenges, such as *time to put into their coursework* and *how academically demanding their courses are*, along with cost-related aspects such as *cost of going to university* are more or much more than expected. *Making friends* and *getting involved in campus social activities* were more difficult than our students expected. The table on the following page presents all results:

Ratings of experiences compared to expectations	University of Regina (n=444)		
	Less/much less than I expected	About what I expected	More/much more than I expected
Cost of going to university	5%	42%	53%
How academically demanding your courses are	7%	42%	51%
The time you have to put into your coursework	9%	31%	60%
Amount of writing in your academic work	10%	44%	46%
Intellectual stimulation	10%	62%	28%
Debt you might have to take on to complete your program	15%	45%	40%
Availability of help and advising from the university	20%	50%	30%
Amount you participate in class discussions	23%	52%	25%
Contact with your professors in the classroom	26%	50%	24%
Contact with your professors outside of the classroom	31%	49%	20%
Using math in your academic work	32%	48%	20%
Doing coursework in groups	38%	37%	26%
Your course grades*	42%	39%	18%
Ease of getting involved in campus social activities	44%	42%	14%
Ease of making friends	45%	36%	18%

* This question was asked using a scale from "much lower than expected" to "much higher than expected".

Educational Experiences

Students rated their levels of agreement with a series of statements about their professors. Most students reported having had positive experiences with university faculty.

Most students agreed with the following statements:

- ▶ *Most of my professors treat students the same regardless of race*
- ▶ *Most of my professors treat students the same regardless of gender*
- ▶ *Most of my professors seem knowledgeable in their fields*
- ▶ *Most of my professors are reasonably accessible outside of class*

Students are less likely to agree with the following statements:

- ▶ *Most of my professors provide useful feedback on my academic work*
- ▶ *Most of my professors provide prompt feedback on my academic work*
- ▶ *Most of my professors take a personal interest in my academic progress*

See the table on the following page for all results:

Perception of Professors (% agree or strongly agree)	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina		
	2022 (n=15,157)	2022 (n=5,644)	2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)
Treat students the same regardless of gender*	97%	97%	96%	96%	98%
Treat students the same regardless of race*	97%	97%	96%	95%	96%
Seem knowledgeable in their fields	95%	95%	95%	97%	98%
Are reasonably accessible outside of class	84%	84%	82%	88%	92%
Are well-organized in their teaching	80%	80%	86%	84%	88%
Are consistent in their grading	81%	79%	82%	81%	84%
Communicate well in their teaching	79%	78%	86%	82%	85%
Encourage students to participate in class discussions	81%	80%	84%	83%	89%
Look out for students' interests*	79%	77%	80%	77%	82%
Are intellectually stimulating in their teaching	75%	75%	80%	78%	82%
Provide useful feedback on academic work	71%	68%	73%	71%	75%
Provide prompt feedback on academic work	66%	63%	70%	71%	72%
Take a personal interest in academic progress	49%	46%	50%	52%	66%

* These questions included an option for students to say 'No basis for opinion' and those responses have been removed from the calculations.

Goal Development

The table below presents several career-related actions that first-year students have taken. Results show:

- ▶ Across Canada, about 7 in 10 first-year students know their career options very well or fairly well.
- ▶ Nationally, 76% of respondents said they had selected their major or discipline, compared to 69% at the University of Regina and 75% at comparable universities.
- ▶ University of Regina first-year students are more likely to have a specific career in mind (39%), compared to their peers at the national level (32%) and at comparable universities (30%).
- ▶ At this early point in their university studies, students at the University of Regina seem to be more interested in applying to a *professional program* (34%) than their peers nationally (26%) and at comparable universities (25%).
- ▶ Close to 8 in 10 University of Regina first-year students have talked with parents/family about employment/career after graduation.

Goal Development	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina		
	2022 (n=15,157)	2022 (n=5,644)	2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)
Has chosen a major or discipline	76%	75%	69%	76%	77%
Has a specific career in mind	32%	30%	39%	43%	47%
Has several possible careers in mind	31%	31%	25%	28%	28%
Plans to apply to professional program	26%	25%	34%	32%	34%
Plans to apply to graduate school	30%	28%	29%	25%	24%
Knows career options very well or fairly well	69%	70%	65%	69%	68%
Talked with parents/family about employment/career after graduation	74%	76%	76%	82%	78%

About CUSC

The 2022 CUSC survey is the 28th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 23rd study in which the University of Regina has participated. Prior to 2014, the surveys ran in a three-year cycle, targeting first year, graduating, and all students in separate years. In 2014, the All Undergraduate student survey was changed to a survey of Middle-Years students (i.e., students in the second or third year of a four-year program, second year of a three-year program, or second to fourth year of a five-year program, or, as in the case of the University of Regina, students who have earned between 25 and 101 credits).

The 2022 survey was directed to first-year students and compares results to previous surveys conducted in 2019, 2016, and 2013. The survey involved 44 participating universities and over 15,000 students from across Canada, yielding an overall response rate of 30.9%. Participating students from the University of Regina numbered 488, which represents a 37.7% rate of response.

University comparisons

For comparison purposes, CUSC categorizes the participating universities into three groups:

- ▶ Group 1 consists of universities that offer primarily undergraduate studies and have smaller student populations.
- ▶ Group 2 consists of universities that offer both undergraduate and graduate studies and tend to be of medium size in terms of student population.
- ▶ Group 3 consists of universities that offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees, with most having professional schools as well. These tend to be the largest institutions in terms of student population.

The University of Regina is included in Group 2. In 2022, twelve Group 2 universities participated in the survey. Along with the University of Regina, they included Brock, Carleton, Lakehead, Simon Fraser, Thompson Rivers, Toronto Metropolitan University, Moncton, New Brunswick (Fredericton), Victoria, Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier. Because different universities participate each year, differences in results among similar surveys from earlier years may result from the inclusion of different universities rather than changes over time.

Statistically significant differences

In order to term an association as statistically significant, the Pearson's chi-square must have probability of a type 1 error of less than .001 and either the Phi coefficient or Cramer's V must have a value of .150 or greater.

Non-response

Non-responses have not been included in the analysis. Therefore, throughout this report, unless explicitly stated as a subpopulation, overall results do not include those who did not respond to a particular question. However, for questions where "don't know" is a valid response, overall results include those who selected "don't know" to a particular question.

Note: Tables in this report might not add up to one hundred percent due to rounding errors and/or because some categories (such as "Other") are not reflected in the table.

For more information about CUSC/CCREU, visit the website at www.cusc-ccreu.ca.