



## Profile of Middle-Years Students

The 2023 *Middle-Years Student Survey* marks the 29th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 24<sup>th</sup> study in which the University of Regina has participated. The survey was distributed from January to April 2023 to close to 54,000 students at 29 universities across Canada. In total, 11,585 (21.5% response rate) middle-years university students completed the survey, including 982 (32.7%) from the University of Regina.

This report focuses on the University of Regina's middle-years students who had earned between 25 and 101 credit hours at the time of the survey, comparing them to students nationally and to students attending institutions comparable to the University of Regina (see final page for a listing of universities and definitions of middle-years students). Where possible, this report also compares results with the 2020, 2017, and 2014 CUSC surveys of middle-years students.

This first report in a series of six explores the demographic profile, living arrangements, method of transportation and academic profile of middle-years students who completed the survey.

### Demographic profile

The table on the following page presents a demographic profile of responding middle-years students for the University of Regina, comparing it to the profile of students nationally and at comparable universities. Results show:

- The average middle-years University of Regina student is older, about 24.2 years of age, than students nationally (22.6) and at comparable universities (21.8).
- Among responding University of Regina middle-years students, almost 7 in 10 are female. This tends to be equal to the proportion reported at institutions nationally (68%), and higher than at comparable universities (64%). Experience suggests that female students are more likely to respond to surveys. Women made up 62% U of R undergraduates in 2022-2023.
- University of Regina students are much more likely to report that they are of Indigenous ancestry (20%), compared to students nationally (6%) and at comparable universities (5%).
- Fewer University of Regina students self-report being a member of a visible minority (31%) compared to students nationally (39%) and from comparable universities (42%). However, there is a statistically significant increase in the proportion of students who self-identify as being a member of a visible minority at the University of Regina (15% in 2008, 19% in 2011, 20% in 2014, 23% in 2017, and 26% in 2020).

- The proportion of U of R students who reported a disability increased from 8% in 2011 to 17% in 2014, 22% in 2017, 28% in 2020, and 38% in 2023. In 2023, 22% of the total reported cases of disability were mental health issues, which is lower than the 24% at comparable universities and the 25% reported nationally.

Profile of responding middle-years students	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina			
	2023 (n=11,585)	2023 (n=4,800)	2023 (n=982)	2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)
Average age	22.6	21.8	<b>24.2</b>	23.7	23.7	23.3
Female	68%	64%	<b>68%</b>	67%	69%	68%
Disability	40%	38%	<b>38%</b>	28%	22%	17%
Visible minority	39%	42%	<b>31%</b>	26%	23%	20%
Indigenous	6%	5%	<b>20%</b>	15%	14%	12%
International student	11%	12%	<b>8%</b>	8%	8%	8%

## Living Arrangements

The table below shows that middle-years University of Regina students often have different living arrangements than their peers at other universities in Canada.

- 41% of University of Regina students live with their parents during their middle-years. This proportion is slightly higher than nationally (40%) and at comparable universities (38%). The difference is driven by the fact that more students nationally (43%) and at comparable universities (47%) live in rented housing off-campus during their middle-years than University of Regina (40%) students. However, a higher percentage of U of R students live in personally owned homes, perhaps reflecting their higher average age.
- Among those not living on campus, 15% of University of Regina students said they would choose to live on campus if given the opportunity. This proportion slightly decreased from 16% in 2014, hence the percentage of University of Regina students who would choose to live on campus if given the opportunity is significantly lower than students nationally (22%), and at comparable universities (25%).

Living arrangements	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina			
	2023 (n=11,585)	2023 (n=4,800)	2023 (n=982)	2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)
<b>Current living arrangements</b>						
In rented housing off-campus	43%	47%	<b>40%</b>	39%	39%	41%
With parents, guardians, or relatives	40%	38%	<b>41%</b>	42%	38%	37%
In on-campus housing	8%	7%	<b>6%</b>	7%	8%	8%
In personally owned home	7%	5%	<b>11%</b>	10%	12%	10%
Other	2%	1%	<b>3%</b>	2%	3%	4%
<b>Preference to live on campus if given the choice</b>						
Yes	22%	25%	<b>15%</b>	15%	15%	16%

## Academic Profile

Academic Profile	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina			
	2023 (n=11,585)	2023 (n=4,800)	2023 (n=982)	2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)
Full time	86%	82%	<b>91%</b>	90%	89%	89%
Transferred from other institution	21%	22%	<b>17%</b>	17%	22%	20%
Chosen a major or discipline	91%	90%	<b>90%</b>	90%	90%	92%
Interrupted studies for one or more terms	22%	21%	<b>27%</b>	25%	28%	27%

- At the University of Regina, about 91% of middle-years students are studying full-time, a higher proportion than students nationally (86%) and those attending comparable universities (82%).
- Given that these are middle-years students, it is not surprising that the vast majority of students began studying at their university in the past three years. At the U of R, 6 in 10 students said they began studying in 2020 or later, with similar numbers reported at comparable universities and nationally (7 in 10 at both).
- Close to 1 in 5 (17%) students said they have transferred to the University of Regina from another post-secondary institution, compared to 21% nationally and 22% at comparable universities.
- By their middle years, almost all students (90%) said they have chosen a major or discipline, and a little over 1 in 4 (27%) students said they have interrupted their studies at the University of Regina for one or more terms, compared to 22% nationally and 21% at comparable universities.

## Transportation

At the University of Regina, the most common method of getting to and from campus is driving, whether alone (60%) or with others (10%). Students nationally (36%) and at comparable universities (40%) are much more likely than students at the University of Regina (15%) to rely on public transportation.

Methods of transportation	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina			
	2023 (n=11,585)	2023 (n=4,800)	2023 (n=982)	2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)
Public Transportation	36%	40%	<b>15%</b>	19%	14%	12%
Vehicle (alone)	35%	30%	<b>60%</b>	61%	59%	60%
Walk	14%	17%	<b>6%</b>	8%	11%	13%
Vehicle (with others)	7%	7%	<b>10%</b>	9%	11%	11%
Bicycle	<1%	1%	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<1%	<1%	<1%
Other	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>	<1%	<1%	1%
Don't attend campus	5%	4%	<b>7%</b>	3%	4%	2%

## About CUSC

The 2023 CUSC survey is the 29<sup>th</sup> cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 2023 survey was directed to middle-years students and compares results to previous surveys conducted in 2020, 2017, and 2014. The survey involved 29 participating universities and over 11,500 students from across Canada, yielding an overall response rate of 21.5%. Participating students from the University of Regina numbered 982, which represents a 32.7% rate of response.

## University comparisons

For comparison purposes, CUSC categorizes the participating universities into two 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.

The University of Regina is included in Group 2. In 2023, nine Group 2 universities participated in the survey. Along with the University of Regina, they included Brock, Carleton, Lakehead, Simon Fraser, Thompson Rivers, New Brunswick (Fredericton), Victoria, 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](http://www.cusc-ccreu.ca).**