

Goal Development

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 24th 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 fourth report in a series of six explores the goal development and perception of professors of middle-years students who completed the survey.

Goal Development

By their middle years at the University of Regina, 90% of students said they have chosen a major or discipline, compared to 91% nationally and 90% at comparable universities. After completing their undergraduate studies at the University of Regina, students’ plans include the following:

- ▶ About 33% *intend to apply to graduate school*, while 36% are unsure.
- ▶ About 31% *intend to apply to a professional program*, while 27% are unsure.

Post-graduation plans	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)
Apply to graduate school						
Yes	34%	33%	33%	30%	27%	24%
No	28%	27%	31%	31%	33%	36%
Unsure	39%	40%	36%	39%	40%	40%
Apply to professional program						
Yes	27%	25%	31%	28%	22%	23%
No	44%	45%	42%	45%	50%	50%
Unsure	29%	29%	27%	27%	28%	26%

Given that these are University of Regina middle-years students, it is not surprising that many have not formed concrete career plans. Results show the following:

Career plans	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)
Description of career plans						
I have a specific career in mind	32%	29%	41%	42%	23%	46%
I have several possible careers in mind	35%	36%	35%	34%	23%	32%
I have some general ideas but I need to clarify them	23%	25%	17%	17%	45%	20%
I am unsure, but I want to develop a career plan	9%	10%	6%	7%	8%	n/a
I am not thinking about a career at this stage of my studies	2%	2%	1%	<1 %	2%	2%
How well students know career options						
Very well	20%	19%	26%	23%	22%	28%
Fairly well	48%	48%	47%	50%	48%	45%
Only a little	28%	29%	24%	22%	26%	24%
Not at all	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%

Overall, 91% of middle-years students at the University of Regina have taken at least one step to prepare for employment or their career after graduation. Most commonly, preparation might be considered casual — that is, they have *talked with parents or family about employment or their career* (67%), *talked with friends about employment or their career* (65%), or *talked with professors about employment or their career* (33%). Of the more concrete steps taken, 45% have *created a resume, CV, e-portfolio or online profile*, while 21% have *volunteered in their chosen field of employment*, and 33% have *worked in their chosen field of employment*. University of Regina students have less likely volunteered in their chosen field of employment and more likely have *worked in their chosen field of employment* than their peers across Canada.

Steps taken to prepare for employment or career after graduation	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)
Talked with parents/family about employment/career	74%	75%	67%	74%	73%	74%
Talked with friends about employment/career	73%	74%	65%	73%	69%	74%
Created a resume, CV, e-portfolio or online profile	56%	59%	45%	49%	47%	50%
Talked with professors about employment/career	35%	32%	33%	42%	36%	44%
Worked in chosen field of employment	30%	29%	33%	35%	33%	40%
Volunteered in chosen field of employment	25%	23%	21%	32%	35%	37%
Attended an employment fair	21%	22%	23%	33%	34%	41%
Met with a career counsellor	16%	16%	14%	22%	25%	24%
I have a career mentor	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
None	6%	6%	9%	7%	6%	5%

Note: Respondents could provide more than one answer. Therefore, columns will not sum to 100%.

Perception of professors

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

At the high end, more than 9 in 10 middle-years students at the U of R agreed with the following:

Most of my professors seem knowledgeable in their fields (32% strongly agreed)

Most of my professors treat students the same regardless of gender (43% strongly agreed)

Most of my professors treat students the same regardless of race (43% strongly agreed)

At the lower end, less than 7 in 10 middle-years students agreed with the following:

Most of my professors provide prompt feedback on my academic work (11% strongly agreed)

Most of my professors take a personal interest in my academic progress (11% strongly agreed)

Results are shown in the following table:

Perception of professors (% agree or strongly agree)	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)
Seem knowledgeable in their fields	96%	95%	94%	94%	95%	96%
Treat students the same regardless of gender*	95%	95%	94%	94%	95%	95%
Treat students the same regardless of race*	94%	95%	91%	92%	92%	93%
Are reasonably accessible outside of class	89%	88%	84%	88%	89%	91%
Encourage students to participate in class discussions	87%	86%	88%	89%	89%	89%
Communicate well in their teaching	83%	81%	81%	82%	81%	83%
Are well-organized in their teaching	82%	81%	81%	82%	81%	84%
Are consistent in their grading	81%	80%	80%	80%	80%	83%
Look out for students' interests*	80%	79%	76%	80%	81%	80%
Are intellectually stimulating in their teaching	75%	73%	76%	77%	77%	77%
Provide useful feedback on academic work	75%	72%	73%	75%	71%	73%
Provide prompt feedback on academic work	69%	67%	68%	68%	66%	70%
Take a personal interest in academic progress	54%	51%	54%	57%	67%	68%

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

At the U of R, almost all students said they *were given the chance to evaluate the quality of teaching in their courses*, including 67% who said they were able to evaluate the teaching in all their courses.

Ability to evaluate teaching	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)
All courses	65%	66%	67%	66%	60%	59%
Most courses	21%	22%	20%	18%	26%	27%
Some courses	11%	10%	10%	11%	12%	12%
No courses	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	1%

Note: This question included an option for students to say "Not applicable" and those responses have been removed from the calculations.

Among middle-years students at the University of Regina, about 78% agreed that they are *generally satisfied with the quality of teaching they received*, including 11% who strongly agreed.

Satisfaction with the quality of teaching	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)
Strongly agree	14%	12%	11%	13%	10%	11%
Agree	69%	70%	67%	68%	74%	73%
Disagree	14%	16%	17%	15%	13%	12%
Strongly disagree	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%

Difference by university grades. As students' university grades decrease, they are less likely to strongly agree that *generally, they are satisfied with the quality of teaching they received*:

At the national level, about 19% of those with an average university grade of A- or higher strongly agreed, compared with 12% of those with a B-, B, or B+ average and just 9% of those with a C-, C, or C+ average.

At comparable universities, about 16% of those with an average university grade of A- or higher strongly agreed, compared with 10% of those with a B-, B, or B+ average and only 8% of those with a C-, C, or C+ average.

At the University of Regina, about 14% of those with an average university grade of A- or higher strongly agreed, compared with 11% of those with a B-, B, or B+ average and also 11% of those with a C-, C, or C+ average.

Satisfaction with concern shown by university

Nationally, less than 7 in 10 middle-years students say they are satisfied with the *concern shown by the university for them as an individual*, although just 7% are very satisfied. Among the 36% who are dissatisfied, just 9% are very dissatisfied.

Satisfaction with the concern shown by university	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)
Very satisfied	7%	6%	6%	4%	6%	4%
Satisfied	57%	56%	54%	60%	62%	62%
Dissatisfied	27%	28%	31%	27%	24%	25%
Very dissatisfied	9%	10%	9%	9%	8%	9%

About CUSC

The 2023 CUSC survey is the 29th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 24th 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.