

Overall satisfaction

Completed in April 2013, the *2013 CUSC Survey of First-Year Students* focused on undergraduate university students who started at the University of Regina during the 2012–2013 academic year. The survey was distributed to more than 41,000 students at 35 universities across Canada. In total, 15,218 undergraduate students from across Canada completed the survey, including 668 from the University of Regina.

This report focuses on the University of Regina’s students, comparing them to students nationally and to students attending institutions comparable to the University of Regina. Where possible, this report also compares results with the 2010, 2007, and 2004 CUSC surveys of first-year students. Unless stated otherwise, all differences reported are not statistically significant.

This final report examines students’ overall university experience as measured by their satisfaction with their decision to attend their university, the concern their university has shown them, the extent to which their university has met their expectations, and the likelihood that these first-year students will return in the subsequent year.

Satisfaction with decision to attend their university

Table 1 shows that over 9 in 10 University of Regina student respondents agree that they are *satisfied with their decision to attend this university*. This includes about 40% who strongly agree. These results are on par with those nationally and at comparable universities.

Although the University of Regina has seen an increase in the proportion of students who strongly agree in 2010 and 2013 compared to previous years, there has been a small but consistent increase in the proportion of students who disagree (either strongly disagree or disagree). In 2004, just 3% disagreed (including none who strongly disagreed), which has increased to 7% in 2013 (with 2% who strongly disagree).

	National (n = 14,550)	Comparable universities (n = 6,205)	University of Regina			
			2013 (n = 668)	2010 (n = 612)	2007 (n = 460)	2004 (n = 265)
Strongly agree	45%	44%	40%	45%	34%	29%
Agree	48%	48%	53%	50%	61%	67%
Disagree	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%	3%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	-

Satisfaction with concern shown for students as individuals

Table 2 shows that approximately 3 in 4 University of Regina students agree that they are *satisfied with the concern shown to them as individuals*, including 29% who strongly agree. Over time, there has been an increase in the proportion of students who strongly agree with this statement at the University of Regina, up from 11% in 2004 to 29% in 2013. The 2013 results mirror those among students at other universities.

Table 2: Satisfaction with concern shown for students as individuals

	National (n = 14,550)	Comparable universities (n = 6,205)	University of Regina			
			2013 (n = 668)	2010 (n = 612)	2007 (n = 460)	2004 (n = 265)
Strongly agree	30%	30%	29%	29%	17%	11%
Agree	46%	48%	48%	48%	60%	64%
Disagree	17%	16%	17%	17%	18%	20%
Strongly disagree	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%

Meeting expectations

Overall, 21% of University of Regina students say the university has *exceeded their expectations*. This proportion has also increased over time from 12% in 2004. This has mostly been due to a decrease in the proportion of students who say the University of Regina met their expectations, as the proportion of students who say it *fell short* of their expectations has remained around 1 in 10 students over the past 10 years.

Compared to students nationally (24%) and at similar universities (28%), University of Regina students are slightly less likely to say their expectations were exceeded. They are also slightly less likely to say their expectations fell short compared to students nationally (13%) and at comparable universities (13%).

Table 3: How university has fulfilled students' expectations

	National (n = 14,550)	Comparable universities (n = 6,205)	University of Regina			
			2013 (n = 668)	2010 (n = 612)	2007 (n = 460)	2004 (n = 265)
Exceeded	24%	28%	21%	21%	15%	12%
Met	63%	59%	68%	71%	75%	76%
Fallen short	13%	13%	10%	8%	10%	12%

Intention to return to this university

Table 4 shows students' intention to return to their university for the following academic year. In 2013, 79% of University of Regina students definitely plan on returning for the 2013–2014 academic year, while 6% say they definitely do not plan on returning. The remaining 16% were undecided at the time of the survey. Compared to 2010, the results show a decline in the proportion of students who definitely planned on returning and an increase in those who did not plan on returning.

University of Regina students are also less likely than students nationally (87%) and at comparable universities (90%) to say they definitely plan on returning the following year.

Table 4: Students intention to return to their university for following academic year

	National (n = 14,550)	Comparable universities (n = 6,205)	University of Regina	
			2013 (n = 668)	2010 (n = 612)
Intend to return	87%	90%	79%	85%
Unsure	10%	9%	16%	13%
Do not intend to return	3%	2%	6%	2%

About CUSC

The 2013 CUSC survey is the 19th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 14th study in which the University of Regina has participated. Since 1996, the survey has run in a three-year cycle, with different student populations targeted each year: all undergraduates, first-year undergraduates, or graduating students.

This study focuses on undergraduate university students who started in the Fall 2012 term and compares results to previous first-year surveys conducted in 2010, 2007, and 2004. The survey was distributed to more than 41,000 students at 35 universities across Canada. In total, 15,218 undergraduate students from across Canada completed the survey, yielding an overall response rate of 37.0%. Participating students from the University of Regina numbered 668, which represents a 49.2% 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 2013, twelve Group 2 universities participated in the survey. Along with the University of Regina, they included Brock, Carleton, Lakehead, Ryerson, Simon Fraser, Thompson Rivers, Moncton, New Brunswick (Fredericton), Victoria, Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier. This reflects a higher number of participating Group 2 institutions as compared to earlier surveys of graduating students.

In this report, the University of Regina is not included in either the *National* category (all three Groups) or the *Comparable Universities* category (Group 2 institutions).

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.

Weighting

In order to compensate for the discrepancies between the population of first-year students among participating institutions and the sample population, the combined (national and comparator) data in this report have been weighted.

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.