

The First of Three Reports

THE 2011-12 SURVEY OF 2009-10 SASKATCHEWAN POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES

The Ministry of Advanced Education, along with the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science & Technology (SIASST), Saskatchewan Apprenticeship & Trade Certification Commission (SATCC), Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), and private vocational schools conducted a survey of all 2009–10 post-secondary graduates in 2012.

The summary provided here draws heavily from the full report produced for the Ministry by Prairie Research Associates (PRA), and is tailored specifically to highlight respondents from the University of Regina. Those specific respondents are undergraduate and graduate students who completed their last degree program in 2009-10.

The research provides information on several key areas, including graduates’

- level of satisfaction with their education;
- sources of financing for their education;
- level of education-related debt;
- pre- and post-graduate mobility;
- education and employment outcomes.

Survey Sample and Outcomes

The total number of 2009–10 graduates identified by Saskatchewan institutions was 11,874. Included in this number were 1,025 University of Regina respondents (including students enrolled at Luther College, Campion College and First Nations University of Canada) who received either an undergraduate or graduate degree from a program they completed in 2009-10. University of Saskatchewan respondents also included graduates from second-entry professional programs such as medicine, veterinary medicine and law.

Table 1: Completions, completion rate, and theoretical error rate by institution				
	Sample size	Completed surveys	Completion rate	Theoretical error rate
University of Saskatchewan	3,960	1,782	45.0%	±1.3%
SIASST	3,434	1,338	39.0%	±1.6%
University of Regina	2,117	1,025	48.4%	±1.6%
SATCC	1,190	473	39.7%	±2.7%
Private vocational schools	946	300	31.7%	±3.9%
SIIT	227	60	26.4%	±9.3%
Overall	11,874	4,978	41.9%	±0.8%

University of Regina respondents represented roughly 20% of the overall sample and had the highest completion rate of all the institutions included in the survey (48.4%).

Profile of University of Regina Graduates

University of Regina respondents are predominantly female (65%). This compares to approximately 60% for the survey as a whole. The ratio of female to male respondents from the University of Regina was higher than the University of Saskatchewan (60%), SIAST (60%) and SIIT (63%).

The typical respondent was about 29 years of age around the time of graduation, although almost 6 in 10 graduated between the ages of 23 and 29 years of age.¹

Table 1: Profile of graduates by institution

	Institution (n = 4,978)					
	U of R	U of S	SIAST	SIIT	SATCC	Private Vocational
Gender						
Female	65%	60%	60%	63%	12%	73%
Male	35%	40%	40%	37%	88%	27%
Age						
22 and younger	10%	1%	37%	18%	6%	46%
23 to 24	29%	30%	12%	7%	21%	11%
25 to 29	29%	38%	14%	13%	33%	18%
30 to 39	18%	18%	17%	22%	25%	9%
40 and older	13%	12%	18%	38%	14%	15%
Average age	29.3 years	29.3 years	29.0 years	34.7 years	30.2 years	27.7 years
Marital status						
Single	61%	64%	61%	58%	46%	68%
Married, common-law, or living with partner	36%	33%	35%	33%	51%	27%
Separated, widowed, or divorced	3%	2%	4%	8%	3%	4%
Dependents						
Responsible for dependents	26%	22%	34%	65%	46%	27%
Average (those with dependents)	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.1	2.1
Aboriginal status						
Aboriginal	9%	6%	11%	85%	6%	14%
Visible minority (excluding Aboriginal)						
Yes	14%	10%	9%	44%	4%	9%
Citizenship						
Canadian citizen	92%	93%	97%	93%	98%	97%
Landed immigrant / permanent resident	3%	4%	2%	5%	1%	2%
All others	5%	3%	1%	2%	<1%	-
Disability						
Yes	3%	3%	6%	7%	2%	4%

Note: Bolded percentages indicate a statistically significant difference between institutions.

Although the average age of University of Regina respondents was comparable to that of University of Saskatchewan respondents, it is interesting to note the University of Regina had a higher proportion of

¹ Age was calculated as of December 31, 2010.

respondents who completed their degree program by the age of 22 or younger (10%) compared to the University of Saskatchewan (1%).

The majority of respondents, or 6 in 10, were single at the time they completed their programs in 2009–10.

Overall, about 1 in 4 respondents report being a member of a visible minority. This includes about 1 in 10 who self-identify as being Aboriginal.

The vast majority of respondents report being Canadian citizens, while 3% hold landed immigrant or permanent resident status and 5% are studying on a student visa.

Education Prior to Program

Those who graduated from the University of Regina (66%) and the University of Saskatchewan (64%) are statistically most likely to have started their university program in the same year that they completed their K to 12 studies. This compares with 5 in 10 for all graduates included in the survey.

There is also some difference by institution (although this is not statistically significant), as University of Saskatchewan (43%) and University of Regina (41%) respondents were most likely to have previous post-secondary education.

Table 2: Profile of first-generation graduates	
	2009-10 first-generation graduates (n = 4,978)
Overall	26%
Institution	
University of Regina	23%
University of Saskatchewan	19%
SIAS	32%
SIIT	53%
SATCC	36%
Private vocational schools	26%
Aboriginal	
Yes	38%
No	25%
Age	
22 and younger	22%
23 to 24	19%
25 to 29	21%
30 to 39	27%
40 and older	49%
<i>Note: Bolded percentages indicate a statistically significant difference between groups.</i>	

As shown in above table, 23% of University of Regina respondents can be described as first generation students based on having reported that neither their mother or father, or equivalent guardian, had any post-secondary experience. While 26% of all survey respondents described themselves as first generation, the rate varied widely among individual institutions, from a low of 19% among University of Saskatchewan respondents to a high of 53% among SIIT respondents. Aboriginal respondents were much more likely to describe themselves as first generation (38%) than were non-Aboriginal respondents (25%).

Criteria for statistical significance

Large sample sizes may inflate measures of statistical significance and may lead to false conclusions about the strength of association. The chi-square measure of association, in particular, is susceptible to this possibility. Therefore, the standards for designating whether a relationship is statistically significant were increased. The benchmarks shown in the table below must be met for us to term an association *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.

In this report, ANOVA is used to determine differences on questions with a ratio scale; that is, questions where a score of 0 has real meaning. One example is questions where respondents report income or wages. Though ANOVA is not as susceptible to inflated measures of statistical significance with large sample sizes, the larger sample size still warrants a more robust measure of significance. For an ANOVA to be deemed statistically significant, the alpha-level of the associated F-test must be below .001.

Throughout this document, any differences reported meet these criteria, unless otherwise stated.

Criteria for statistical significance	
Test	Level for significance
Alpha level(α)	<.001
Phi coefficient or Cramer's V	.150 or higher

In this -- the first of three reports -- the survey methodology and response rates were examined as well as some of the demographic characteristics of University of Regina respondents.