

Profile of Middle-Years Students

The *2020 Middle-Years Student Survey* marks the 26th cooperative study undertaken by the Canadian University Survey Consortium/*Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC-CCREU) and the 21st study in which the University of Regina has participated. The survey was distributed to over 71,000 students at 29 universities across Canada. In total, 20,449 middle-years university students completed the survey, including 1,158 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 2017, 2014, and 2011 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 years of age, than students nationally (22) and at comparable universities (22).
- ▶ Among responding University of Regina middle-years students, almost 7 in 10 are female. This tends to be slightly higher than the proportion reported at comparable universities (63%) and equal to institutions nationally (67%). Experience suggests that female students are more likely to respond to surveys. Women made up 60% U of R undergraduates in 2019-2020.
- ▶ University of Regina students are much more likely to report that they are of Indigenous ancestry, (15% at the University of Regina versus 6% nationally and 5% at comparable universities).
- ▶ Far fewer University of Regina students self-report being a member of a visible minority (26%) 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 (up from 15% in 2008 to 20% in 2014 and 23% in 2017).

- ▶ The proportion of University of Regina students who reported a disability increased from 8% in 2011 to 17% in 2014, 22% in 2017, and 28% in 2020. In 2017, a total of 310 cases of disability were reported, of which 43% were mental health issues. In 2020, 38% of the total reported cases of disability were mental health issues, which is equal to the cases at comparable universities and slightly lower than the 39% reported nationally.

Profile of responding students	National (n=20,449)	Comparable universities (n=5,582)	University of Regina			
			2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)	2011 (n=434)
Average age	22.1	21.9	23.7	23.7	23.3	23.6
Female	67%	63%	67%	69%	68%	66%
Disability	30%	31%	28%	22%	17%	8 %
Visible minority	39%	42%	26%	23%	20%	19%
Indigenous	6%	5%	15%	14%	12%	10%
International student	9%	12%	8%	8%	8%	8%

Only 8% of the U of R 2020 respondents were international students whereas international students made up 17% of U of R undergraduates in 2019-2020.

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.

- ▶ 42% of University of Regina students live with their parents during their middle-years. This proportion is slightly higher than nationally (38%) and at comparable universities (37%). The difference is driven by the fact that more students nationally (47%) and at comparable universities (51%) live in rented housing off-campus during their middle-years than University of Regina (39%) 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 (23%).

Living arrangements	National (n=20,449)	Comparable universities (n=5,582)	University of Regina			
			2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)	2011 (n=434)
Current living arrangements						
In rented housing off-campus	47%	51%	39%	39%	41%	32%
With parents, guardians, or relatives	38%	37%	42%	38%	37%	43%
In on-campus housing	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%	13%
In personally owned home	6%	6%	10%	12%	10%	11%
Other	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%
Preference to live on campus if given the choice						
Yes	22%	23%	15%	15%	16%	

Academic profile

Academic Profile	National (n=20,449)	Comparable universities (n=5,582)	University of Regina		
			2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)
Full time	86%	77%	90%	89%	89%
Transferred from other institution	20%	24%	17%	22%	20%
Chosen a major or discipline	92%	91%	90%	90%	92%
Interrupted studies for one or more terms	21%	23%	25%	28%	27%

- ▶ At the University of Regina, about 90% of middle-years students are studying full-time, a higher proportion than students nationally (86%) and those attending comparable universities (77%).
- ▶ 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, close to 7 in 10 began studying in 2017 or later, with similar numbers reported at comparable universities (8 in 10) and nationally (7 in 10).
- ▶ Close to 1 in 5 (17%) students said they have transferred to the University of Regina from another post-secondary institution, compared to 20% nationally and 24% at comparable universities.
- ▶ By their middle years, almost all students (90%) said they have chosen a major or discipline, and 1 in 4 (25%) students said they have interrupted their studies at the University of Regina for one or more terms, compared to 21% nationally and 23% at comparable universities.

Transportation

At the University of Regina, the most common method of getting to and from campus is driving, whether alone (61%) or with others (9%). Students nationally (42%) and at comparable universities (41%) are much more likely than University of Regina students (19%) to rely on public transportation.

Methods of transportation	National (n=20,449)	Comparable universities (n=5,582)	University of Regina			
			2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)	2011 (n=434)
Public Transportation	42%	41%	19%	14%	12%	8%
Vehicle (alone)	30%	28%	61%	59%	60%	46%
Walk	17%	19%	8%	11%	13%	28%
Vehicle (with others)	7%	6%	9%	11%	11%	17%
Bicycle	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%
Other	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	
Don't attend campus	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	

About CUSC

The 2020 CUSC survey is the 26th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 21st 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 undergraduate 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 2020 survey was directed to middle-years students; this report compares results to the previous surveys conducted in 2017, 2014, and 2011. The 2020 survey involved 29 participating universities and over 20,000 students from across Canada, yielding an overall response rate of 28.5%. Participating students from the University of Regina numbered 1,158, which represents a 38.6% 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 2020, seven Group 2 universities participated in the survey. Along with the University of Regina, they included Carleton, Lakehead, Simon Fraser, Thompson Rivers, Victoria, and Wilfred Laurier.

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. Unless stated otherwise, all differences reported are not statistically significant.

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.