

## Examining the University of Regina Student Experience Profile of First-Year Students

Completed in Spring 2016, the *2016 CUSC First-Year Student Survey* focused on undergraduate university students who started during the 2015 – 2016 academic year. The survey was distributed to almost 58,000 students at 34 universities across Canada. In total, 14,886 students from across Canada completed the survey, including 657 from the University of Regina.

This report focuses on the University of Regina's first-year students, comparing them to students nationally and to students attending institutions comparable to the University of Regina (see final page for a listing). Where possible, this report also compares results with the 2013, 2010, and 2007 CUSC surveys of first-year students. Unless stated otherwise, all differences reported are not statistically significant.

This first report in a series of six explores the demographic profile, living arrangements and current employment of first-year students who completed the survey.

### Demographic profile

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

- ▶ The average age of first-year students across the country, at comparable universities, and at the University of Regina is about 18 years.
- ▶ Among University of Regina first-year students, around 7 in 10 are female. This tends to be higher than the proportion reported among institutions nationally (66%) and at comparable institutions (63%).
- ▶ Nationally and at comparable universities, 22% of first-year students self-identify as having a disability, compared to 21% at the University of Regina. The most common disability reported by students is a mental health issue, (12% nationally and at the University of Regina, and 13% at comparable universities).
- ▶ University of Regina students are much more likely to report that they are of Aboriginal ancestry (10% at the University of Regina versus 3% nationally and at comparable universities).
- ▶ Far fewer University of Regina students self-report being a member of a visible minority (19%) compared to students nationally (40%) and from comparable universities (46%). 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 7% in 2007 to 18% in 2013 and 19% in 2016).
- ▶ The proportion of University of Regina students who reported a disability increased from 7% in 2013 to 21% in 2016. In 2013, 12 students out of 48 who had some sort of disability said they had a mental health problem (25%). In 2016, 79 students out of 135 who self identified as having a disability said they had a mental health problem (59%). Thus, 77% of the increase in reported disabilities is attributable to the increase in reported mental health problems. Results at the University of Regina are very similar to the national results.

Profile of responding first-year students	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina			
			2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)	2010 (n=612)	2007 (n=460)
Average age	18.6	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.2	18.0
Female	66%	63%	7%	73%	67%	67%
Disability	22%	22%	21%	7%	6%	5%
Visible minority	40%	46%	19%	18%	11%	7%
Aboriginal	3%	3%	10%	7%	7%	4%
International student	7%	4%	3%	3%	--	--

## Living Arrangements

The table below shows that first-year University of Regina students often have different living arrangements than first-year students at other universities in Canada.

- ▶ Given that most first-year students stay close to home to study, it is not surprising that 54% of University of Regina students live with their parents during their first year. However, this proportion is higher than the proportion nationally (43%) and at comparable universities (39%). The difference is largely driven by the fact that more students nationally (40%) and at comparable universities (48%) live on-campus during their first year than University of Regina (27%) students.
- ▶ Among those not living on campus, 21% of University of Regina students said they would choose to live on campus if given the opportunity. Even though this proportion has ranged from 18% to 24% over the last nine years, the percentage of University of Regina students who would choose to live on campus if given the opportunity (21%) is significantly lower than students nationally (33%), and at comparable universities (41%).

Living arrangements	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina			
			2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)	2010 (n=612)	2007 (n=460)
<b>Current living arrangements</b>						
Live with parents	43%	39%	54%	56%	57%	56%
Live on campus	40%	48%	27%	28%	22%	24%
Live in rented housing	15%	11%	16%	15%	18%	20%
Own home	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	<1%
<b>Preference to live on campus if given the choice</b>						
Yes	33%	41%	21%	20%	24%	18%

## Current Employment

Although statistically not significant, University of Regina students (40%) are more likely to be employed than students nationally (34%) and much more likely than at comparable universities (29%). Among those who are currently employed, results show that the typical student across Canada and at the University of Regina works about 14 hours per week. About 43% at the national level said their employment has a negative impact on their academic performance, compared to 45% at the University of Regina, and 42% at comparable universities. Results are shown in the following table:

Current employment	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina			
			2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)	2010 (n=612)	2007 (n=460)
<b>Currently employed</b>						
Yes, both on and off campus	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Yes, on campus	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%
Yes, off campus	30%	25%	37%	40%	47%	40%
No, but seeking work	29%	32%	23%	19%	19%	12%
No, not seeking work	37%	39%	36%	39%	31%	39%
<b>Number of hours worked per week</b>						
10 or less	43%	46%	35%	33%	27 %	29%
11 to 20 hours	43%	43%	53%	53%	52 %	46%
Over 20 hours	15%	11%	12%	14%	21 %	25%
Average	14.1%	13.3%	14.3%	14.9%	16.4%	17.1%
<b>Impact of employment on academic performance <sup>(1)</sup></b>						
Very positive	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	
Somewhat positive	10%	10%	9%	13%	10%	
No impact	45%	46%	43%	63%	55%	
Somewhat negative	39%	38%	41%	19%	28%	
Very negative	4%	4%	4%	2%	3%	

(1) In 2010 and 2013, the question was: What impact has your current non-co-op related employment on your academic performance? In 2016, the question was: What impact has this employment had on your academic performance?

**About CUSC**

The 2016 CUSC survey is the 22<sup>nd</sup> cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 17<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 Students survey was changed to a survey of middle-year 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).

This study focuses on first-year students and compares results to previous surveys conducted in 2013, 2010, and 2007. The survey involved 34 participating universities and almost 15,000 students from across Canada, yielding an overall response rate of 25.7%. Participating students from the University of Regina numbered 657, which represents a 43.8% 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 2016, 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. 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).**