

Examining the University of Regina First-Year Student Experience Overall Satisfaction

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 first-year students from across Canada completed the survey, including 657 from the University of Regina.

These reports focus on the responses from University of Regina’s 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.

This sixth and 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 this university

At the national level, 92% of first-year students are satisfied with *their decision to attend their university*, including 25% who are very satisfied. At comparable universities, 91% of first-year students are satisfied with *their decision to attend their university*, including 23% who are very satisfied, compared to 88% at the University of Regina, including 13% who are very satisfied.

Satisfaction with decision to attend this university (1)	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina			
			2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)	2010 (n=612)	2007 (n=460)
Very satisfied	25%	23%	13%	40%	45%	34%
Satisfied	67%	68%	75%	53%	50%	61%
Dissatisfied	7%	7%	9%	5%	4%	4%
Very dissatisfied	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%

(1) In 2007, 2010 and 2013, the statement was: “I am satisfied with my decision to attend this university”, with responses of: strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. In 2016, the question was: “How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your decision to attend this university”, with the levels of satisfaction indicated in the above table.

Satisfaction with concern shown by the university for students as an individual

Overall, almost 3 in 4 first-year students said they are satisfied with the *concern shown by the university for them as an individual*. However, only 6% at the national level said they are very satisfied, compared to 3% at the University of Regina and 5% at comparable universities. Among the approximately 1 in 4 who are dissatisfied, 5% at the national level said they are very dissatisfied, compared to 4% at the University of Regina and 4% at comparable universities.

Satisfaction with concern shown by the university for students as an individual	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina			
			2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)	2010 (n=612)	2007 (n=460)
Very satisfied	6%	5%	3%	29%	29%	17%
Satisfied	69%	70%	73%	48%	48%	60%
Dissatisfied	21%	21%	21%	17%	17%	20%
Very dissatisfied	5%	4%	4%	6%	5%	5%

Meeting expectations

At the national level, when asked to summarize their overall experiences to date, first-year students are more likely to say their university experiences exceeded (23%) rather than fell short (13%) of their expectations. At the University of Regina, first-year students are more likely to say that their university experiences fell short (16%) rather than exceeded their expectations (11%).

Meeting expectations	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina			
			2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)	2010 (n=612)	2007 (n=460)
Exceeded	23%	22%	11%	21%	21%	15%
Met	64%	63%	73%	68%	71%	75%
Fell short	13%	15%	16%	10%	8%	10%

Recommend university to others

At the national level, 95% of first-year students would *recommend their university to others*, compared to 92% at the University of Regina and 94% at comparable universities.

Recommend university to others	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina (n=657)
Would recommend	95%	94%	92%
Would not recommend	5%	6%	8%

Intention to return to this university

At the national level, 91% of first-year students *plan to come back to their university next year*, compared to 85% at the University of Regina and 92% at comparable universities. Slightly fewer *plan to complete their degree* at the university they are currently attending, while a smaller percentage *plan to transfer to another university next year, or plan on going to college/CEGEP next year*.

Perceptions of persistence	National (n=14,886)	Comparable universities (n=6,176)	University of Regina (n=657)
I plan to come back to this university next year	91%	92%	85%
I plan to complete my degree at this university	82%	84%	74%
I plan to transfer to another university next year	9%	10%	11%
I plan to go to college/CEGEP next year	5%	6%	8%

Note: Responses of 'Don't know' are not shown in the table but are included in the calculations.

About CUSC

The 2016 CUSC survey is the 22nd cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 17th 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.