

## Financing Education, Debt, and Employment

The *2020 Middle-Years Student Survey* marks the 26<sup>th</sup> cooperative study undertaken by the Canadian University Survey Consortium/*Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC-CCREU) and the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 second report in a series of six explores the sources of financing, the employment, and the debt from financing post-secondary education of middle-years students who completed the survey.

### Employment

- ▶ University of Regina students (65%) are more likely to be employed than students nationally (56%) and at comparable universities (54%). The proportion of UR students who reported to be employed in 2020 is the highest since 2011 (63%).
- ▶ Of those who reported current employment, the typical U of R middle-years students works on average 18.3 hours per week, which is higher than the 16.7 hours per week reported by students nationally and the 17.2 hours per week reported by students at comparable universities.
- ▶ As students advance in their studies, they are more likely to be employed. The proportion of University of Regina students who reported being employed increased from 47% in 2019 (first-year students) to 65% in 2020. In 2018, 56% of graduating students who responded to the survey said they were working.
- ▶ Nationally, the proportion of students who reported being employed increased from 36% in 2019 to 56% in 2020. In 2018, 60% of graduating students who responded to the survey said they were working.
- ▶ At comparable universities, the proportion of students who reported being employed increased from 31% in 2019 to 54% in 2020. In 2018, 57% of graduating students who responded to the survey said they were working.

- ▶ About 48% at the national level and at comparable universities said their employment has a negative impact on their academic performance, compared to 45% at the University of Regina.

Results are shown in the following table:

Current employment	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)
<b>Currently employed</b>						
Yes, both on and off campus	3%	2%	4%	2%	3%	4%
Yes, on campus	8%	7%	6%	4%	5%	6%
Yes, off campus	45%	45%	55%	52%	51%	53%
No, but seeking work	18%	19%	17%	16%	15%	13%
No, not seeking work	26%	26%	18%	26%	26%	25%
<b>Number of hours worked per week</b>						
10 or less	35%	34%	29%	30%	22%	23%
11 to 20 hours	41%	41%	42%	39%	46%	42%
Over 20 hours	24%	25%	29%	31%	32%	35%
Average	16.7	17.2	18.3	18.3	19.6	20.1
<b>Impact of employment on academic performance (1)</b>						
Very positive	4%	5%	4%	7%	5%	13%
Somewhat positive	12%	12%	12%	13%	15%	19%
No impact	36%	36%	37%	34%	30%	31%
Somewhat negative	44%	44%	41%	43%	48%	34%
Very negative	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%

(1) In 2011, the question was: What impact has *your current non-co-op related employment* had on your academic performance?

In 2020, 2017, and 2014, the question was: What impact has *this employment* had on your academic performance?

## Debt from financing post-secondary education

Students were asked to identify the repayable debt they have incurred from financing their university education, which was defined as money students had acquired to help finance their education that they owe and will have to pay back.

Nationally, 43% of middle-years students who responded to the survey said they have acquired repayable debt to finance their university education, compared to 41% at the University of Regina and 37% at comparable universities.

Debt from financing post-secondary education	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)
Any debt	43%	37%	41%	44%	45%	52%
Government student loans	38%	32%	32%	31%	30%	25%
Loans from parents/family	11%	10%	11%	15%	16%	23%
Loans from financial institutions	8%	7%	13%	18%	16%	16%
Debt from other sources	4%	4%	8%	8%	9%	10%

## Sources of financing

Students were asked to indicate which of 11 different sources they were using to fund their current year of university education. The most common source for University of Regina middle-years students is *parents, family, or spouse* (52%), with many also using earnings from *current employment* (44%) or *summer work* (40%). The proportion who use *government loans or bursaries* (42%) is higher than the proportion who reported having *debt from government student loans* (32%). Results are shown in the following table:

Sources of financing	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)
Parents, family, or spouse	58%	62%	52%	60%	57%	60%
Earnings from summer work	45%	42%	40%	42%	46%	41%
Earnings from current employment*	43%	42%	44%	45%	47%	40%
Government loan or bursary	45%	39%	42%	36%	32%	21%
University scholarship, financial award, or bursary	37%	33%	26%	32%	27%	21%
Register Education Savings Plan	23%	23%	16%	14%	11%	8%
Loans from financial institution	7%	6%	11%	15%	14%	13%
Co-op, internship, and other practical experiences related to program	6%	8%	3%	4%	5%	8%
Investment income	5%	5%	4%	2%	4%	4%
Other	4%	4%	9%	9%	11%	10%

Note: Students could report more than one source of financing.

\*On campus and off campus.

Most students don't just rely on one source to finance their education. In fact, the average number of sources reported is close to three across Canada, with 7 in 10 University of Regina middle-years students relying on two or more sources.

At the University of Regina, middle-years students required \$15,481 on average to finance their current year of education, which is lower than the \$17,012 required by students nationally, and the \$17,141 required by students at comparable universities.

Sources of financing	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)
One	24%	27%	29%	25%	26%	29%
Two	24%	24%	26%	25%	26%	19%
Three	24%	24%	23%	26%	25%	20%
Four or more	28%	26%	22%	24%	24%	32%
Average number of sources	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7
Average amount required	\$17,012	\$17,141	\$15,481	\$17,526	\$17,113	\$10,434

## About CUSC

The 2020 CUSC survey is the 26<sup>th</sup> cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 21<sup>st</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 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.