

# Examining the UR Student Experience

## Activities and Commitment to Completion

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 third report in a series of six explores the involvement in campus and volunteer activities, the study patterns, and the commitment to completion of middle-years students who completed the survey.

### Activities

At the University of Regina, participation (often or very often) ranged from 6% who *participated in student government* to 11% who *participated in student clubs and attended campus social events*. 41% of the students at least occasionally *attended campus cultural events*.

Student involvement in campus activities at the national level ranged from 7% who often or very often *participated in student government* to 20% who *participated in student clubs* (9% very often). 58% of the students at least occasionally *attended campus social events*.

At comparable universities, participation ranged from 6% who *participated in student government* to 19% who *participated in student clubs*. 58% of the students at least occasionally *attended campus social events*.

Results are shown in the following table:

Involvement in campus activities (% often or very often)	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)
Participated in student clubs	20%	19%	11%	13%	14%	11%
Participated in on-campus student recreational and sport programs	14%	15%	10%	15%	18%	16%
Attended campus social events	13%	12%	11%	9%	10%	14%
Attended public lectures and guest speakers on campus	9%	9%	9%	7%	8%	21%
Attended home games of university athletic teams	8%	7%	8%	10%	9%	9%
Attended campus cultural events	8%	8%	10%	8%	9%	16%
Participated in student government	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%	7%

U of R middle-years students more likely *participated in community service or volunteer activities* off-campus than on-campus, although an important proportion of students (22%) said they participated in both.

During an average week, middle-years students at the University of Regina spent about 3.4 hours on average engaged in community service or volunteer activities, similar to students nationally (3.5 hours per week, on average) and at comparable universities (3.3 hours per week, on average).

Involvement in community service/volunteer activities (% often or very often)	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)
Participated in on/off-campus community service/volunteer activities	23%	21%	22%	24%	25%	24%
Participated in off-campus community service/volunteer activities	16%	15%	18%	19%	20%	18%
Participated in on-campus community service/volunteer activities	12%	11%	10%	10%	13%	9%
Average hours (those who participated)	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.7

## Study Patterns

On average, middle-years students at the University of Regina reported spending about 28.5 hours on their academic work, split between time spent in classes and labs (13.2 hours per week, on average) and outside of classes and labs (15.3 hours per week, on average).

Nationally and at comparable universities, 43% of middle-years students who responded to the survey said they spent 10 hours or fewer per week on academic work outside of classes and labs, compared to 48% at the U of R.

Study patterns	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 number of hours spent in scheduled classes and labs	14.6	13.8	13.2	14.2	14.2	13.0
Average number of hours spent on academic work outside of classes and labs	16.3	16.3	15.3	15.8	14.6	13.4

On average, the lower the student's university grade, the less time they spent on academic activities outside of class.

Average grades and academic activities outside of class	National (n=20,449)	Comparable universities (n=5,582)	University of Regina	
			2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)
Overall average grade:				
A (includes A+, A and A-)	18.5	18.7	19.1	19.7
B (includes B+, B and B-)	15.6	15.8	15.2	15.1
C (includes C+, C and C-)	14.2	14.3	13.6	14.4

## Commitment to Completion

Many middle-years students at the University of Regina (87%) agree that they *plan to come back to this university next year*, compared to 89% both at the national level and at comparable universities.

Results on whether University of Regina students *plan to complete their degree at this university* are similar to whether they plan to return next year (89%), which is slightly lower than students nationally and at comparable universities (92% both).

About 6 in 10 middle-years students at the University of Regina agree that they *have the financial resources to complete their program*, including 19% who strongly agree. Conversely, about 3 in 10 disagree that they have the financial resources, including 10% who strongly disagree.

About 6 in 10 middle-years students who responded to the survey nationally agree that *a university degree is worth the cost*, including 19% who strongly agreed. About 1 in 3 disagrees, including 9% who strongly disagree. Results are shown in the following table:

Commitment to Completion	National (n=20,449)	Comparable universities (n=5,582)	University of Regina		
			2020 (n=1,158)	2017 (n=1,065)	2014 (n=941)
<b>Plan to comeback to this university next year</b>					
Strongly agree	57%	55%	46%	49%	52%
Agree	32%	34%	41%	39%	36%
Disagree	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Don't know	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%
<b>Plan to complete my degree at this university</b>					
Strongly agree	63%	61%	54%	55%	60%
Agree	29%	31%	35%	34%	28%
Disagree	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Don't know	5%	5%	7%	7%	8%
<b>I have the financial resources to complete my program</b>					
Strongly agree	23%	23%	19%	20%	20%
Agree	45%	45%	45%	43%	46%
Disagree	18%	17%	17%	21%	18%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	10%	9%	9%
Don't know	7%	7%	8%	6%	6%
<b>A university degree is worth the cost</b>					
Strongly agree	19%	18%	16%	22%	26%
Agree	39%	38%	39%	37%	36%
Disagree	22%	24%	22%	19%	18%
Strongly disagree	9%	9%	10%	10%	9%
Don't know	11%	11%	12%	12%	10%

## 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.