

## Profile of First-Year Students

The 2022 *First-Year Student Survey* marks the 28th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> study in which the University of Regina has participated. The survey was distributed to close to 49,000 students at 44 universities across Canada. In total, 15,157 (30.9%) first-year university students completed the survey, including 488 (37.7%) 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 2019, 2016, and 2013 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 U of R students, comparing those to the profile of students nationally and at comparable universities. Results show:

- ▶ The average age of first-year students at the University of Regina is about 18 years, compared to 19.4 nationally, and 18.3 at comparable universities.
- ▶ Among University of Regina first-year students, 74% are female. This tends to be higher than the proportion reported among institutions nationally (65%) and at comparable institutions (62%).
- ▶ Nationally, 31% of first-year students self-identify as having a disability, compared to 32% at the University of Regina and 28% at comparable universities. The proportion of U of R students who reported having a disability increased from 7% in 2013 to 25% in 2019, and 32% in 2022.
- ▶ Of those who self-identified as having a disability, 64% nationally, 62% at the U of R and 63% at comparable universities reported having mental health issues.
- ▶ University of Regina students are much more likely to report that they are of Indigenous ancestry, 9% versus 4% nationally and 3% at comparable universities.
- ▶ Fewer U of R students self-reported being a member of a visible minority (32%) compared to students nationally (44%) and from those at comparable universities (51%). 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, 19% in 2016, 28% in 2019, and 32% in 2022).

Profile of responding first-year students	National (n=15,157)	Comparable universities (n=5,644)	University of Regina			
			2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)
Average age	19.4	18.3	18.0	17.9	18.0	18.1
Female	65%	62%	74%	72%	71%	73%
Disability	31%	28%	32%	25%	21%	7%
Visible minority	44%	51%	32%	28%	19%	18%
Indigenous	4%	3%	9%	9%	10%	7%
International student	9%	9%	7%	6%	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 69% of University of Regina students live with their parents during their first year. This proportion is higher than the proportion nationally (49%) and at comparable universities (50%). The difference is largely driven by the fact that more students nationally (30%) and at comparable universities (34%) live on-campus during their first year, compared to University of Regina (12%) students.
- ▶ Among those not living on campus, 23% of University of Regina students said they would choose to live on campus if given the opportunity. Even though this proportion has ranged from 20% to 30% over the last twelve years, the percentage of University of Regina students who would choose to live on campus if given the opportunity is lower than students nationally (30%), and at comparable universities (37%).

Living arrangements	National (n=15,157)	Comparable universities (n=5,644)	University of Regina			
			2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)
<b>Current living arrangements</b>						
Live with parents	49%	50%	69%	57%	54%	56%
Live on campus	30%	34%	12%	21%	27%	28%
Live in rented housing	15%	14%	15%	19%	16%	15%
Own home	5%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
<b>Preference to live on campus if given the choice</b>						
Yes	30%	37%	23%	30%	21%	20%

## Current Employment

University of Regina students (49%) are more likely to be employed than students nationally (39%) and much more likely than at comparable universities (35%). Among those who are currently employed, results show that the typical student across Canada works an average of 17 hours per week, while those at the University of Regina work close to 16 hours per week. About 42% at the national level said their employment has a negative impact on their academic performance, compared to 40% at comparable universities, and 38% at the University of Regina. Results are shown in the following table:

Current employment	National (n=15,157)	Comparable universities (n=5,644)	University of Regina			
			2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)
<b>Currently employed</b>						
Yes, both on and off campus	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Yes, on campus	2%	2%	<1%	2%	2%	2%
Yes, off campus	36%	32%	47%	37%	40%	47%
No, but seeking work	29%	31%	27%	23%	19%	19%
No, not seeking work	32%	34%	24%	36%	39%	31%
<b>Number of hours worked per week</b>						
10 or less	32%	36%	34%	35%	33%	27%
11 to 20 hours	46%	49%	50%	53%	53%	52%
Over 20 hours	22%	15%	16%	12%	14%	21%
Average	17.0	14.9	15.6	14.3	14.9	16.4
<b>Impact of employment on academic performance (1)</b>						
Very positive	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Somewhat positive	9%	9%	14%	9%	13%	10%
No impact	46%	48%	45%	43%	63%	55%
Somewhat negative	38%	37%	34%	41%	19%	28%
Very negative	4%	3%	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, 2019 and 2022 the question was: What impact has this employment had on your academic performance?

## About CUSC

The 2022 CUSC survey is the 28<sup>th</sup> cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 23<sup>rd</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 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 2022 survey was directed to first-year students and compares results to previous surveys conducted in 2019, 2016, and 2013. The survey involved 44 participating universities and over 15,000 students from across Canada, yielding an overall response rate of 30.9%. Participating students from the University of Regina numbered 488, which represents a 37.7% 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 2022, twelve Group 2 universities participated in the survey. Along with the University of Regina, they included Brock, Carleton, Lakehead, Simon Fraser, Thompson Rivers, Toronto Metropolitan University, 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).**