

Orientation, Registration and Transition to university

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 23rd 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 third report in a series of six examines students' experiences with orientation, registration, and transition to university.

Orientation

About 50% of first-year students participated in orientation at universities across Canada and at comparable universities, compared to 56% at the University of Regina. The proportion of students who participated in an orientation program before or after arriving on campus decreased considerably all across the nation from 2019 to 2022, perhaps due to the shift in the delivery of classes caused by the pandemic. Results are shown in the table below:

Orientation	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina			
	2022 (n=15,157)	2022 (n=5,644)	2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)	2013 (n=668)
Participated in an orientation program before or after arriving on campus	50%	50%	56%	75%	82%	74%

Among those who participated in orientation at universities across Canada and at comparable universities, most seemed to be satisfied with aspects related to orientation, being most satisfied with orientation making them *feel welcome at their university* (89% and 87% respectively) and least satisfied with orientation *helping their personal and social transition to university* (76% and 75% respectively). For U of R students, the most satisfying aspect of orientation was that it *provided information about student services* (92%), followed by *feeling welcome at the university* (88%). Same as other institutions nationally and at comparable universities, the least satisfying aspect of orientation was *helping your personal and social transition to university* (73%).

Results are shown in the following table:

Satisfaction with orientation (% very or somewhat satisfied)	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina		
	2022 (n=7,521)	2022 (n=3,852)	2022 (n=170)	2019 (n=332)	2016 (n=538)
Feeling welcome at the university	89%	87%	88%	91%	94%
Providing information about student services	86%	86%	92%	85%	84%
Providing information about campus life	84%	83%	81%	83%	82%
Helping you understand the university's academic expectations	81%	80%	87%	81%	87%
Building your confidence	78%	77%	77%	79%	75%
Helping your personal and social transition to university	76%	75%	73%	77%	81%

* Only those who participated in an orientation program were asked how satisfied they were.

Registration

At the national level, students seemed to be satisfied with registration, including 84% who were very or somewhat satisfied with *getting into all the courses they wanted* and 79% very or somewhat satisfied with the *process of registering for their courses*. At the University of Regina, 85% of first-year students said that they were very or somewhat satisfied with *getting into all the courses they wanted* and 83% said they were very or somewhat satisfied with the *process of registering for their courses*, as shown in the table below:

Satisfaction with registration (% very or somewhat satisfied)	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina		
	2022 (n=15,157)	2022 (n=5,644)	2022 (n=488)	2019 (n=444)	2016 (n=657)
Getting to all the courses you wanted	84%	84%	85%	81%	89%
Process of registering for courses	79%	78%	83%	82%	89%

Transition to university

First-year students rated their success in transitioning to university through 18 aspects of university life. Students found success in many aspects, with more than 6 in 10 students saying they have had “some” or “very much” success. Nationally, the two areas where students have found less success are *making friends* (59%), *finding suitable housing* (51%) and *becoming involved in campus activities* (40%). This last aspect does not come as a surprise due to the restrictions for on campus activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For University of Regina students, the three areas where they have found “some” or “very much” success are *finding information about academic integrity* (93%), *understanding the course material* (91%), and *performing well in written assignments* (89%).

The table below shows the proportion that rated their success as “some” or “very much” success (top two ratings on a four-point scale), with answers from those who said “no basis for opinion” removed:

Success transitioning to university (% some or very much)	National	Comparable universities	University of Regina		
	2022 (n=varies)	2022 (n=varies)	2022 (n=varies)	2019 (n=varies)	2016 (n=varies)
Understanding the course material	92%	91%	91%	94%	95%
Finding information about academic integrity	92%	92%	93%	88%	91%
Choosing a program of study	89%	89%	85%	89%	88%
Meeting academic demands	89%	88%	88%	87%	90%
Performing well in written assignments	88%	88%	89%	87%	88%
Finding your way around campus	86%	82%	80%	95%	95%
Commuting to campus	81%	78%	79%	87%	84%
Managing your time	75%	75%	73%	77%	73%
Managing your finances	75%	74%	72%	72%	73%
Feeling like I belong to this university	74%	73%	74%	79%	N/A
Dealing with new living arrangements	72%	72%	60%	75%	77%
Performing well in courses that require math	72%	71%	74%	76%	69%
Getting academic advice	67%	66%	76%	72%	75%
Using the library	64%	58%	53%	64%	71%
Finding career information	64%	65%	66%	64%	63%
Making friends	59%	60%	56%	67%	66%
Finding suitable housing	51%	62%	64%	79%	80%
Becoming involved in campus activities	40%	41%	34%	45%	36%

Results on the national level show that as students’ grades increase, students are more likely to report having “some” or “very much” success transitioning to the following: *meeting academic demands, performing well in courses that require math, understanding course material, and managing their time.*

About CUSC

The 2022 CUSC survey is the 28th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian University Survey Consortium / Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires* (CUSC/CCREU) and the 23rd 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.