What is the CUSC survey?
The Canadian University Survey Consortium (CUSC) is a group of Canadian universities working cooperatively to gain a better understanding of the Canadian undergraduate student population. The CUSC survey runs once a year in the winter term and operates on a three year cycle, alternating between first year students, middle-years students, and graduating students. Middle-year students were last surveyed in 2014.

What is the purpose of this survey?
To collect feedback from middle-year undergraduate students at the U of S in order to better understand students’ experiences, goals, development and satisfaction with their university.

Who participated in this survey?
Students from universities across Canada participated. For the U of S, a random sample of 1,500 first-year students were invited to participate. Of this sample, 362 completed the questionnaire representing a response rate of 24.1%.

For more information, please visit usask.ca/ipa or contact Institutional Planning and Assessment at: ipa_assessment@usask.ca

Canadian University Survey Consortium (CUSC) 2017: Middle-Year Student Survey

Profile of University of Saskatchewan middle-year students

- Respondents tended to be Canadian citizens (88%), female (64%), and, on average, were 24 years old. One in five identified as a member of a visible minority (22%), while 9% self-identified as Aboriginal.
- Of these students, 21% self-reported as having a disability.
- Only 10% were first-generation students (i.e., neither parent had any post-secondary education).
- Almost all of the respondents (92%) were registered in courses full-time.
- Over half (54%) of respondents rented housing off-campus, while 30% lived with parents, guardians or relatives. Roughly one in ten (9%) lived in their personally-owned home while only 4% lived in on-campus housing.

Financing education

- Most students said they relied on parents, family or spouse (59%) as well as earnings from summer work (55%) and current employment (55%) to fund their education. The other notable sources of financing were government loans or bursaries (38%) and university scholarships, financial awards or bursaries (36%). On average, most students relied on three sources of funding for financing their education.
- 49% of students (59% for the peer group) stated that they did not have any repayable debt. The average amount for those who did carry debt was $33,612 which was $6376 more than the peer group.
- Over half (55%) of respondents were employed, with 15% working on campus. An additional 17% were not working, but were seeking employment. Of the students who were employed, 83% reported working less than 20 hours per week. Among all employed students, 41% felt their employment negatively impacted their academic performance, whereas 25% felt that it positively impacted performance.
- Despite the costs of university, 78% agreed that they have the financial resources to complete their program and that a university degree is worth the cost (66%).

1 Peer group: CUSC defines peer groups according to degree programs that are offered. Universities in the same group as the U of S included Dalhousie and McGill.
Satisfaction with facilities and services

- The top three general services used by middle-years students were: on-campus book store (78%), library electronic resources (78%) and food services (67%). The three least used services were: computing services help desk (17%) facilities for student associations (14%) and university residences (5%).

- More than 87% were satisfied or very satisfied with the general facilities and services with the exception of on-campus bookstore (85%) university residences (63%) and parking (39%).

- The most commonly used academic service was academic advising (62%) of which 85% were satisfied or very satisfied with that service.

- Use of special services ranged from 18% for employment services to 3% for the use of services for international students. The U of S has the highest participation in services for First Nations students (5% vs. 1% in peer group) and 100% reported satisfaction with these services.

Educational experiences

- Respondents agreed or strongly agreed (87%) that they were satisfied with the quality of teaching they received.

- The majority of middle-years students said their experiences have either met (66%) or exceeded their expectations (19%), while 17% said their experiences fell short of expectations.

- Roughly 9 in 10 students agreed that most of their courses are interesting (89%), that they are in the right program (87%) and that their course load is manageable (88%). The percentages in the peer group were 85%, 83% and 88% respectively.

University’s contribution to students’ growth and development

- **Communication skills:** The U of S contributed most to students’ ability for writing clearly and correctly (67%) and speaking to small groups (65%). The least contribution was to developing second or third language skills (14%).

- **Analytical and learning skills:** Students indicated the U of S contributed most to their ability to find and use information (75%) and thinking logically and analytically (73%), and least to mathematical skills (33%).

- **Working skills:** 74% reported the U of S contributed to their ability to work independently, while the item with the least agreement was that the university contributed to developing entrepreneurial skills (25%).

- **Life skills:** 62% indicated the U of S has contributed to their ability to interact with people from different backgrounds and deal successfully with obstacles to achieve an objective. On the lower end, 15% said the university has contributed to their spirituality.

- Slightly more than two-thirds of students (68%) were satisfied with the concern shown by the university for them as an individual, of which 8% were very satisfied.

For more information, visit [www.usask.ca/ipa](http://www.usask.ca/ipa)
Goal and Career Development

- Almost all (99%) students said they had selected their major or discipline, although nearly half (48%) have changed their major or program of study at some point.
- Almost two-thirds of students intended to apply to either graduate school (31%) or a professional program (32%).
- One in five of middle-years students (21%) had a specific career in mind and 30% had several possible careers in mind for when they graduate. Most students (70%) felt they know their career options either very well or fairly well.
- Students reported having taken initial steps to prepare for employment such as gathering information from talking with parents/family (78%) or talking with friends (77%). Among more concrete behaviours, 67% have created a resumé or CV, 37% have worked in their chosen field of employment and 35% have volunteered in their chosen field of employment.

Overall satisfaction

- Almost 9 in 10 students (88%) agreed they were satisfied with their decision to attend the U of S, including 19% who were very satisfied.
- On a whole, the students surveyed felt as if they belong at the U of S (86%), which was 6% higher than the peer group.
- Almost all students (92%) agreed they would recommend the U of S to others (89% for the peer group).
- Overall, 78% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of the education they received at the U of S.