

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The 2023 *Middle-Years Student Survey* marks the 29<sup>th</sup> cooperative study undertaken by the Canadian University Survey Consortium/Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires (CUSC-CCREU). The survey involved 29 universities and almost 12,000 students from across Canada.

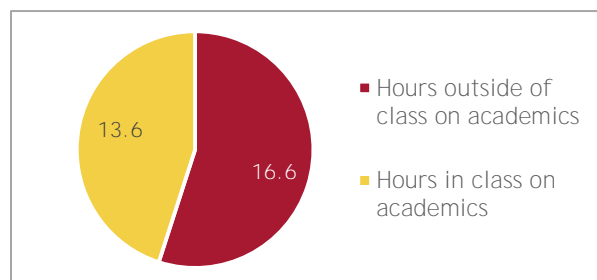
### Profile of middle-years students

- The majority of middle-years students tend to be studying full-time, Canadian citizens, single, female, living separate from their parents/family, non-visible minority, 23 years old, and have a B- to B+ average.
- About two fifths of students report having a disability or impairment, with mental health conditions being the most common.
- Just 13% of middle-years students are first-generation students – that is, neither parent has had any post-secondary education.

### Activities

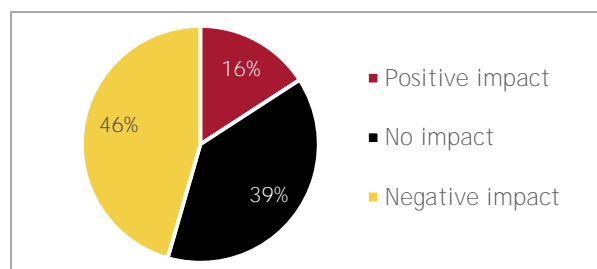
About 16% of students volunteer on or off campus for an average of three to four hours per week.

On average, students spend about 30 hours per week on their studies, with slightly more hours spent outside of class than in class.



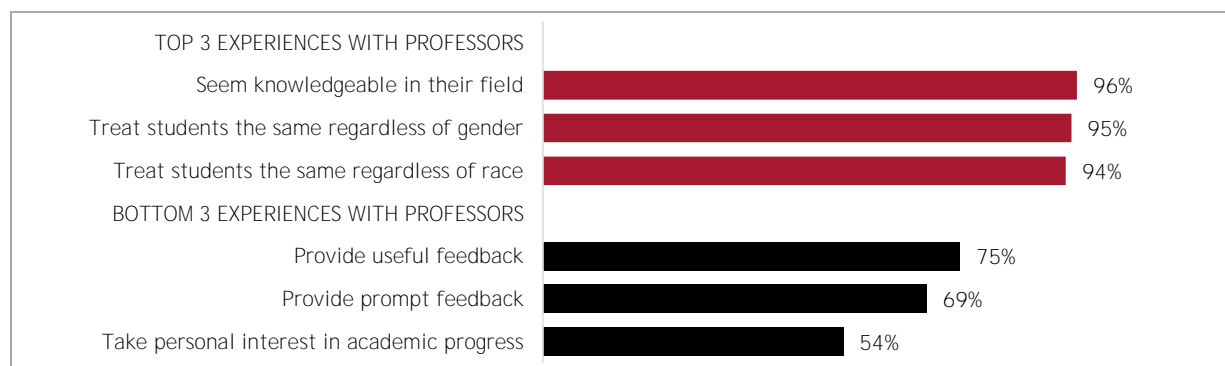
### Employment

Fifty-eight percent of middle-years students are employed, working about 18 hours a week. Among those who are employed, almost three times as many say that their employment has had a negative rather than positive impact on their academic performance.



### Professors and staff

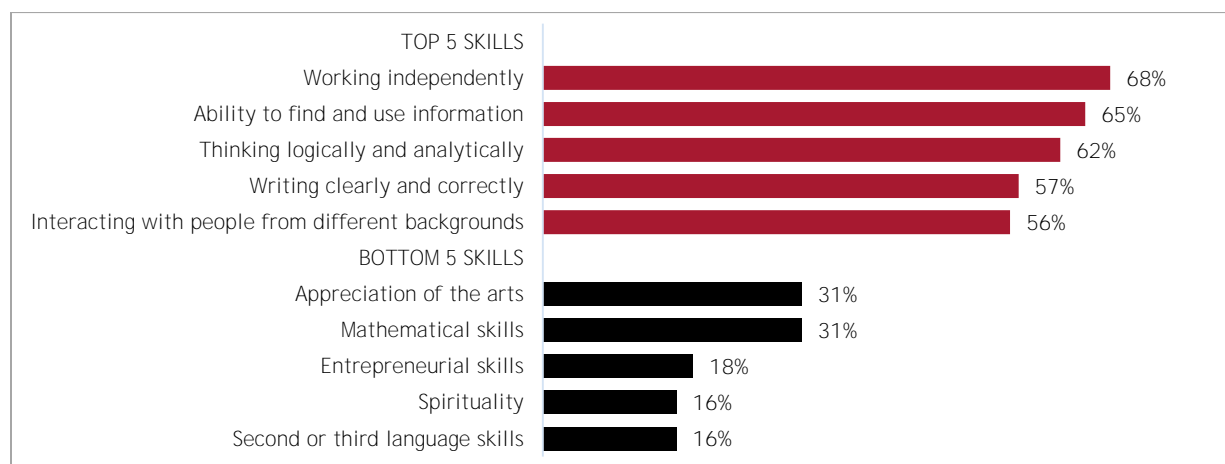
- Students reported having had positive experiences with professors, as only two out of 13 areas received less than 70% agreement – *professors provide prompt feedback on academic work* (69%) and *professors taking a personal interest in their academic progress* (54%).



- In addition, students say it is most important for professors to *communicate well in their teaching* (41% rated in their top three areas).
- Sixty-five percent of students said they *were given the chance to evaluate the quality of teaching in their courses* for all of their courses.
- Over 8 in 10 agreed that they are *generally satisfied with the quality of teaching they received*, including 14% who strongly agreed.

### Growth and development

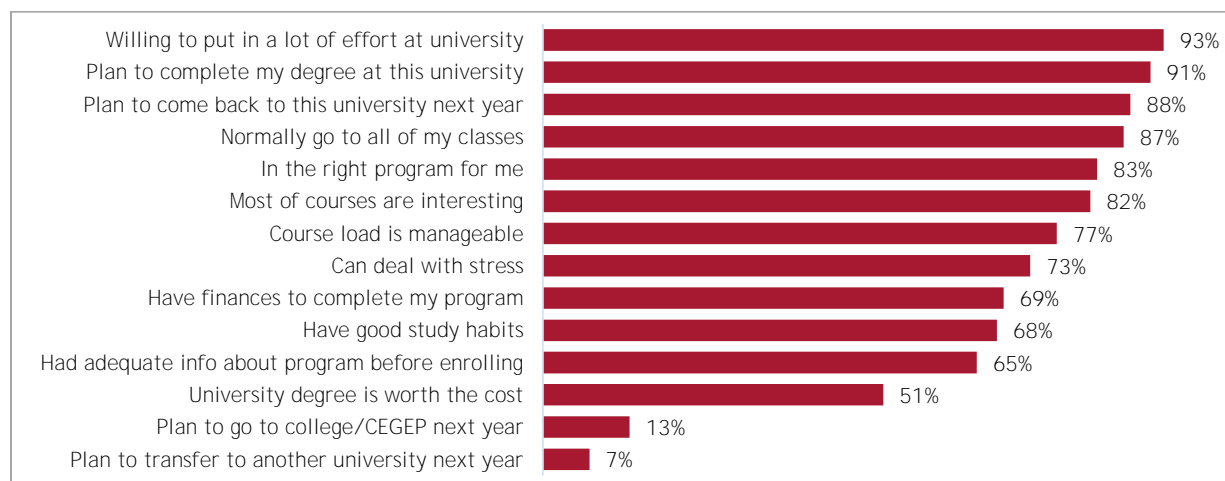
Students were asked to rate the extent to which their university experience contributed to 30 skills. The top and bottom skills that contributed much or very much to their growth and development are shown below.



Among the 30 areas, students were asked to rank the top three most important areas to which their university should be contributing and ranked *skills and knowledge for employment* (28%) highest.

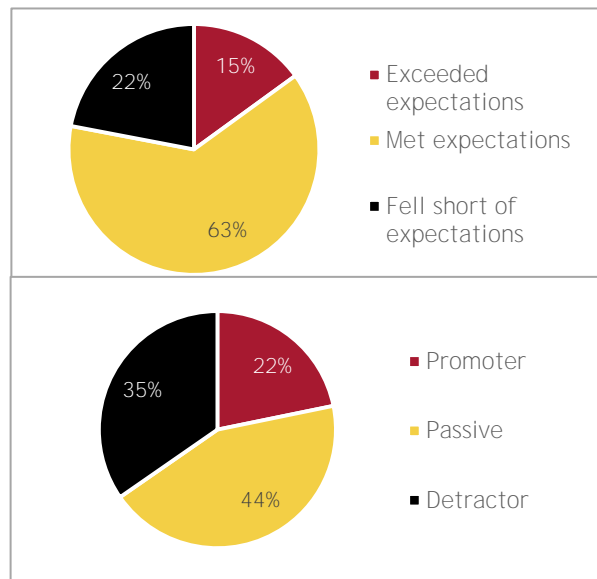
### Commitment to completion

**Several measures were used to gauge students' commitment to completing their programs at their universities, and agreement with each statement is shown below.**



### Expectations and experience

The majority of middle-years students say that their university *met their expectations*, while fewer say it *exceeded* and *fell short*.



### Overall evaluation of student experiences

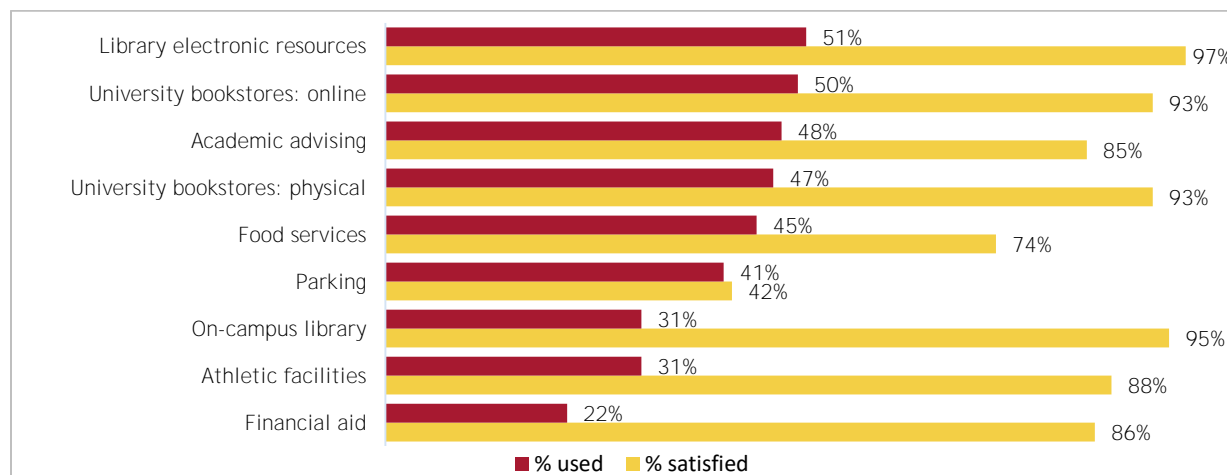
- Slightly less than nine in ten are satisfied with *their decision to attend their university* and two thirds are satisfied with the *concern shown by the university for them as an individual*.
- Using the Net Promoter Score calculation, where detractors (rating of 0 to 6) are subtracted from promoters (rating of 9 or 10), participating universities have a score of -13 (22% promoters minus 35% detractors).

### Goal development

- Ninety-one percent of middle-years students said they had selected their major or discipline.
- Middle-years students are more likely to intend to apply to a *graduate school* (34%) than a *professional program* (27%).
- Thirty-two percent of middle-years students have a specific career in mind. Despite many having a career (or two) in mind, just 20% said they know their career options very well.
- Almost all middle-years students have taken at least one step to prepare for employment or their career after graduation; most commonly, these were steps that might be considered casual – that is, *talking with parents, family, friends, or professors about employment*.

### Satisfaction with facilities and services

Satisfaction with facilities and services used by at least 20% of students are shown below.



## Finances

- Eighty-three percent have at least one credit card, carrying a balance of just over \$1,000.
- Thirty-seven percent of middle-years students have incurred debt related to their program, most commonly *government student loans*. The average debt among all students is almost \$8,000, but this more than doubles when only those reporting debt are considered.
- Students required over \$17,000 to finance their current year of education, most commonly relying on *parents, family or spouse, employment (summer or current), university scholarship, awards, or bursaries, and government loans*.

## Equity, diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility (EDIA) module

- Among all respondents, 90% identified as either a man or woman only, while 3% identified as a man or woman and at least one other gender identity, and 4% identified as at least one-identity other than man or woman.
- Overall, 62% of respondents identified as heterosexual/straight only, while 2% identified as heterosexual and at least one other sexuality, and 27% identified as a sexuality other than heterosexual/straight (mostly commonly bisexual).

The graph below shows the most and least common situations students say they feel at least quite a bit comfortable being themselves.

