

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The 2024 *Graduating Student Survey* marks the 30th cooperative study undertaken by the Canadian University Survey Consortium/Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires (CUSC-CCREU). Over 12,000 students from 38 universities across Canada participated in the survey.

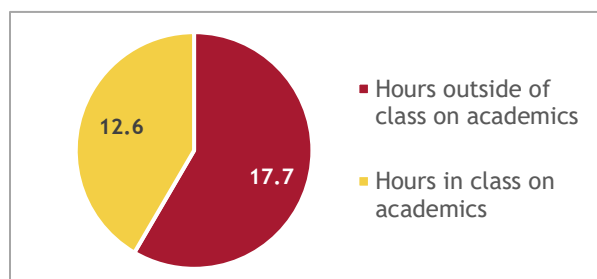
Profile of graduating students

- The majority of graduating students tend to be studying full-time, Canadian citizens, single, female, living separately from their parents/family, non-visible minorities, 22-24 years old, and have an A- to A+ average.
- Around one third of students report having a disability, with mental health conditions being the most common.
- Just 13% of graduating students are first-generation students – that is, neither parent has had any post-secondary education.
- Slightly more than half of graduating students have had some work or learning program experience.
- Over one third have experienced a delay completing their program, most often because required courses were not available.

Activities

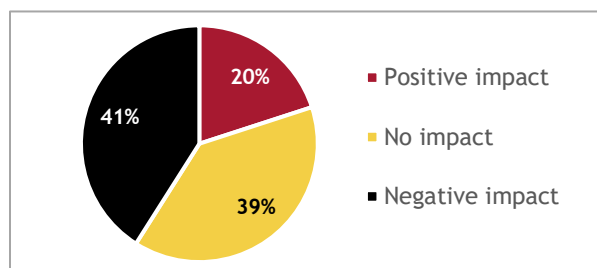
One fifth of students volunteer at least occasionally, on or off campus, for an average of nearly five hours per week.

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



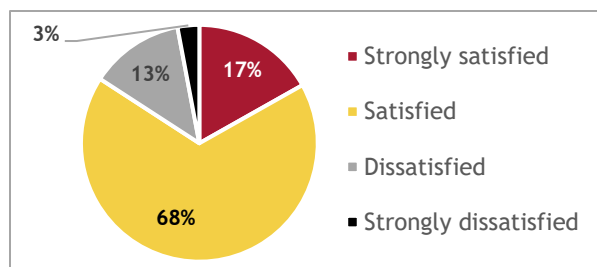
Employment

Over 6 in 10 graduating students are employed in their final year, working about 20 hours a week. Among those who are employed, about twice as many say that their employment has had a negative rather than a positive impact on their academic performance.



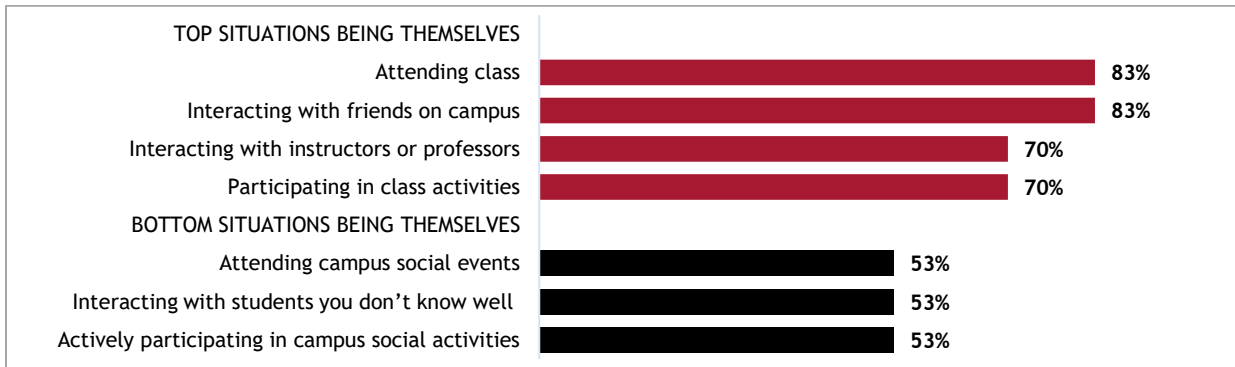
Professors and staff

- Students reported having had positive experiences with professors, as only two areas received less than 70% agreement – *professors provide prompt feedback on academic work* (69%) and *take a personal interest in academic progress* (56%).
- Students say it is most important for professors to *communicate well in their teaching* (44% rated as most important).
- 67% of students said they *were given the chance to evaluate the quality of teaching* in all their courses.
- Over 8 in 10 agreed that they are *generally satisfied with the quality of teaching they received*, including 17% who strongly agreed.



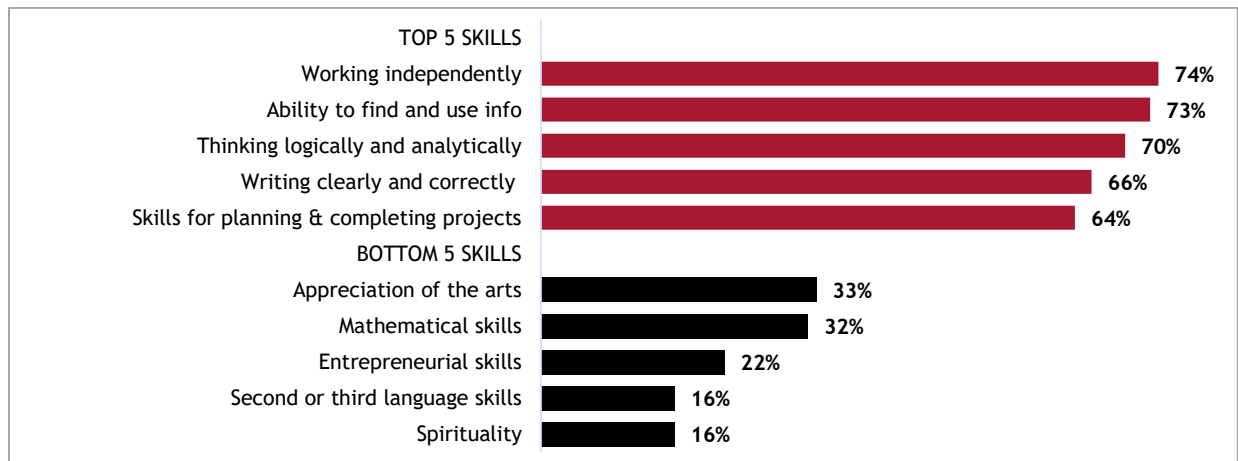
Inclusivity

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



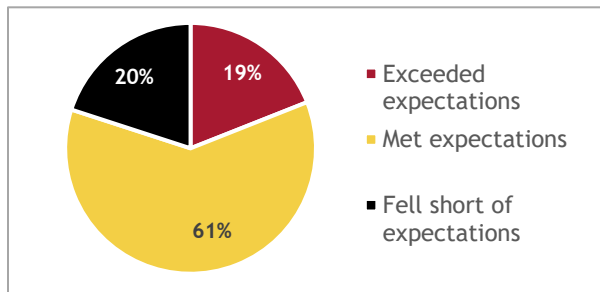
Growth and development

Students were asked to rate the extent to which their university contributed to their growth and development in 30 areas. The top and bottom skills (contributing much or very much) according to students' ratings are shown below.



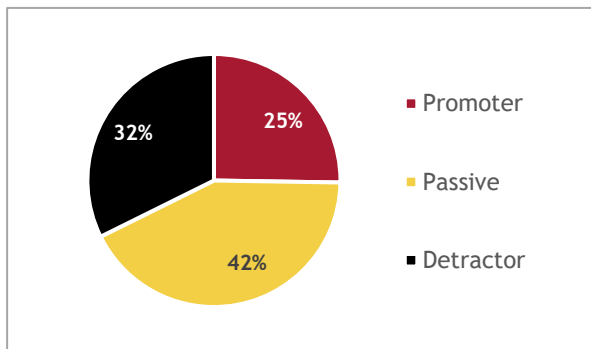
Expectations and experience

The majority of graduating students say that their university experiences *met their expectations*, while about equal numbers say their experiences *exceeded* or *fell short* of their expectations.



Overall evaluation of student experiences

- Over 8 in 10 are satisfied with the *overall quality of education at their university*, 6 in 10 agree they *received good value for money at their university*, and slightly less than 6 in 10 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 -7 (25% promoters minus 32% detractors).

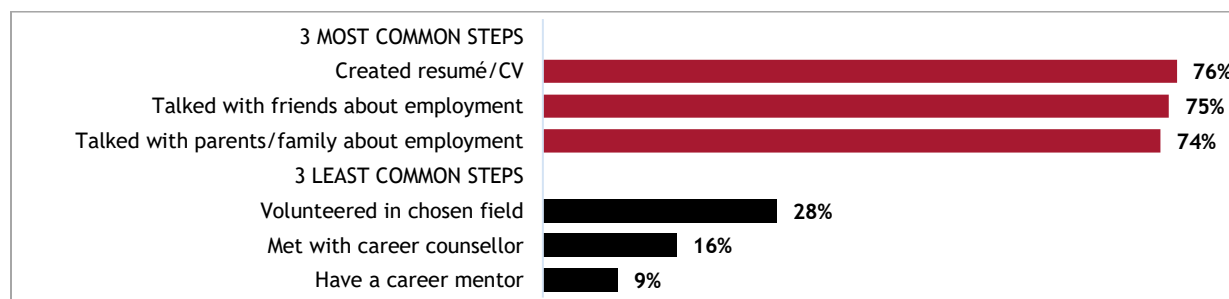


Indigenous education experiences

- Over half of graduating students agree that *Indigenous course content has enriched their university experience* and more than one third say the same about *participation in Indigenous activities or events*.

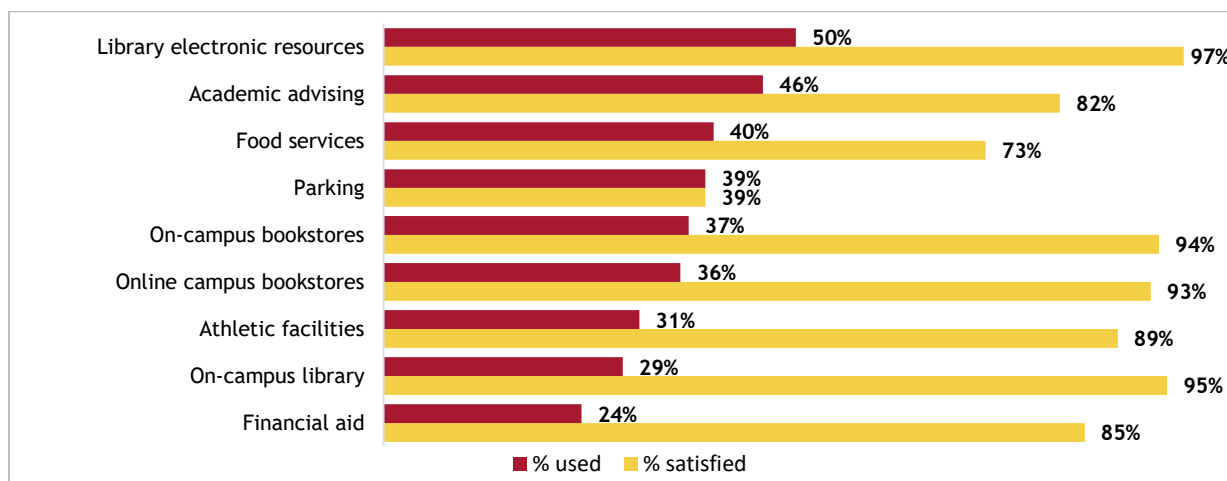
Educational and employment goals

- More graduating students intend to apply to a *graduate school* (39%) than a *professional program* (22%).
- Over one third of graduating students have a specific career in mind. Despite many having a career (or two) in mind, just 25% said they know their career options very well.
- Almost all graduating students have taken at least one step to prepare for employment or their career after graduation. The most and least common employment preparation steps are shown below.



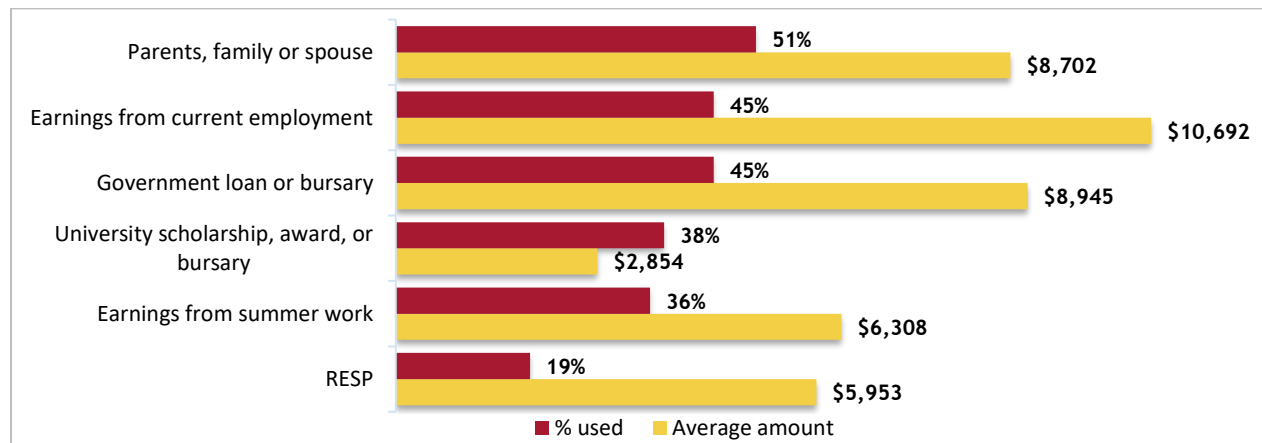
Satisfaction with facilities and services

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



Finances

- Ninety-three percent of graduating students have at least one credit card, carrying a balance of just under \$1,400.
- Forty-five percent of graduating students report having debt, most commonly *government student loans*. The average debt among all students is just under \$13,000 but more than doubles to almost \$29,000 when only those reporting debt are considered.
- Students required over \$19,000 to finance their current year of education, most commonly relying on *parents, family or spouse, current employment, and government loans*.



Post-graduation

- Just over two thirds of graduating students expect to take further education within the next five years, most often pursuing *graduate school*, with one fifth planning to continue their education at their current university.
- Over one third of students have post-graduation work arranged, with most expecting to work in full-time, permanent positions. The expected median salary for these jobs is \$48,000. About 6 in 10 say their desired job requires a degree, which includes 42% who say it requires their specific degree.
- Nearly 9 in 10 students who have post-graduation employment arranged are satisfied with the employment they have arranged.

Equity, diversity, and accessibility

- Among all respondents, 91% identified as either a man or woman only, while 2% identified as a man or woman and at least one other gender identity, and 2% identified as at least one identity other than man or woman.
- Overall, 67% of respondents identified as heterosexual/straight only, while 2% identified as heterosexual and at least one other sexuality, and 22% identified as a sexuality other than heterosexual/straight (mostly commonly bisexual).