

Canadian University Survey Consortium Consortium canadien de recherche sur les étudiants universitaires

2025 Survey of First Year Students

updated December 04, 2024

This survey is being completed by first-year students at more than 45 Canadian post-secondary institutions. We want to learn more about our new students to help them make a successful transition to post-secondary.

If you cannot finish the survey in one sitting, you can close it and return to it using the link in the email we sent you. You will be returned to the page you were on when you closed. All of your responses are confidential.

shading	description
No shading	Question only in the First Year survey
	Question in all 3 surveys
	Question in the First Year Survey and the Middle Years Survey

Motivatio	on				
How impor	rtant were each of the following possible reaso	ns in your de	cision to go to	post-seconda	ary?
		Not	Somewhat		Very
		important	important	Important	important
motiv1	To prepare for a specific job or career				
motiv2	To satisfy my intellectual curiosity				
motiv3	To earn more money than if I didn't go				
motiv5	I am more likely to get a job with a credential				
motiv6	The satisfaction of doing challenging academic work				
motiv7	To apply what I will learn to make a positive difference in society or my community				
motiv8	I didn't have anything better to do				
motiv10	To meet my family's expectations				
motiv12	Most of my friends are going				
motiv14	The chance to participate in varsity athletics				
motiv15	To explore whether post-secondary is right for me				
motiv16 motivtxt	Other reason (please specify)				

Applications

Very dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very satisfied

APP6 How easy was it to understand the admissions criteria for the programs you considered applying to?

Very difficult

Difficult

Easy

Very easy

Selectio	n				
How imp	ortant were each of the following in your decis	ion to choose	e <institution r<="" td=""><td>name>?</td><td></td></institution>	name>?	
		Not	Somewhat		Very
		important	important	Important	important
sel1	I wanted to live close to home				
sel2	I wanted to live away from home				
sel3	It offered a place in residence				
sel4	Cost of post-secondary institution residence				
sel5	Cost of tuition and fees				
sel6	It has the program I want to take				
sel7	The program I want has a co-op, practicum or other work experience				
sel8	The program I want offers study/work experience abroad				
sel9	The academic reputation of the post- secondary institution				
sel10	It has a good reputation for campus life				
sel11	It offered a scholarship				
sel12	It offered other financial assistance				
sel13	The size of the post-secondary institution suits me				
sel14	The city/town it's in				
sel15	Availability of public transportation				
sel16	It's where my friends are going				
sel17	It's where my family wanted me to go				
sel18	The chance to participate in varsity athletics				
sel19	Other reason (please specify)				
seltxt					
seltop	Which one was the most important to you? _				
-	s identified in the post-secondary institution's s	•	-	/ visa student	s will be
	d to vsel1; other students will be branched to So				
How imp	ortant were each of the following in your decis			name>?) / m
		Not important	Somewhat	Important	Very
vsel1	Academic reputation of Canadian	<u>'</u>	important	Important	important
ASCIT	universities in general		Ц	Ц	
vsel2	Cost of tuition and fees for international students				
vsel3	Friends or family recommended it	П	П		П

vsel4	I thought it would be a welcoming environment					
vsel5	Obtaining a visa for Canada was easier t for other countries	han				
vsel7	Potential to immigrate to Canada					
vsel8	Potential to work in Canada after I gradu	uate				
vsel9	Opportunity to work while I study					
vsel6	Other reason (please specify)					
vseltxt						
Sources	of information					
	portant were each of the following source:	s of inform	nation in	your decision	to study at <i< td=""><td>nstitution</td></i<>	nstitution
name>?	J			•	,	
			Not	Somewhat		Very
		_imp	ortant	important	Important	important
inf1	Visit by a post-secondary institution					
	representative to your high school or CEGEP					
inf2	The post-secondary institution's web sit	:e				
inf3	The post-secondary institution's Facebo site	ok				
inf4	The post-secondary institution's other social media (e.g., Twitter, Tumblr, etc.)					
inf5	Printed post-secondary institution brochure, pamphlet or viewbook					
inf6	Visit to campus for an open house		П	П	П	
inf7	Other visit to campus					
inf8	Contact with admissions staff on campu	S				
inf9	Contact with professors					
Inf10	Contact with post-secondary institution athletic coaches					
inf11	High school/CEGEP counsellors or teach	ers				
inf12	Students attending the post-secondary					
	institution					
inf13	Friends					
inf14	Parents					
inf20	Other (please specify)					
inftxt						
Expecta	tions and experience					
	t you have been at <institution name=""> for I in these areas?</institution>	a while, h	ow does	your experie	nce compare t	o what you
		Much less than I expected	Less th I expec	what	l than I	Much more than I expected
exp1	Cost of going to post-secondary					
exp2	Debt you might have to take on to complete your program					

exp3	How academically demanding your					
exp4	courses are The time you have to put into your coursework (e.g. studying,	С				
exp15	assignments) Availability of help and advising from the post-secondary institution	Г				
Transiti	on to post-secondary					
How mu	ch success have you had adjusting to <institutio< td=""><td>n name> in</td><td>the follow</td><td>ving areas</td><td>?</td><td>Ni - I</td></institutio<>	n name> in	the follow	ving areas	?	Ni - I
		None	Very little	Some	Very much	No basis for opinion
tran1	Meeting academic demands					
tran2	Choosing a program of study					
tran3	Getting academic advice					
tran4	Performing well in written assignments					
tran5	Performing well in courses that require math					
tran6	Understanding the course material					
tran7	Managing your finances					
tran8	Managing your time					
tran9	Making friends					
tran10	Becoming involved in campus activities					
tran11	Finding suitable housing					
tran12	Dealing with new living arrangements					
tran13	Finding your way around campus					
tran14	Using the library					
tran15	Finding career information					
tran16	Commuting to campus					
tran17	Feeling like I belong at this post-secondary institution					
tran18	Finding information about academic integrity (plagiarism, proper citation, etc.)	/ 🗆				
[tran2 is s	kipped for SAIT]					
_	1 If you needed to talk to someone regarding m	nental healt	h concern	s, such as	anxiety or	
	ess, how easy do you think it would be to find s					
"Someone (friends/st	e" includes anyone on campus, including menta	l health pro	fessionals	s, professo	rs, and pee	ers
-	ery difficult					
	fficult					
	asy					
	ery easy					

INTVIEW1 Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

Don't know

		Strongly			Strongly	Don't
		disagree	Disagree	Agree	agree	know
INTVIEW1	are reasonably accessible outside of class					
INTVIEW2	take a personal interest in my academic progress					
INTVIEW3	encourage students to participate in class discussions					

Commi	tment to completion					
Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.						
		Strongly			Strongly	Don't
		disagree	Disagree	Agree	agree	know
cmt1	I have the financial resources to complete my program					
cmt2	I had adequate information about my					
	program from the post-secondary					
	institution before I enrolled	_	_	_	_	_
cmt3	I am in the right program for me					
cmt4	Most of my courses are interesting					
cmt5	My course load is manageable					
cmt6	I normally go to all of my classes					
cmt7	I am willing to put a lot of effort into being successful at post-secondary institution					
cmt8	I can deal with stress					
cmt9	I have good study habits					
cmt10	I plan to come back to this post-secondary					
144	institution next year	_	_		_	_
cmt11	I plan to transfer to another post- secondary institution next year					
cmt12	I plan to go to college/CEGEP next year				П	
cmt13	I plan to complete my credential at this					
	post-secondary institution	_	_	_	_	_
cmt14	A post-secondary credential is worth the					
	cost					
Goal de	evelopment					
goal5	Which of the following best describes you	r career pla	ns?			
	☐ I have a specific career in mind					
	☐ I have several possible careers in mind					
	☐ I have some general ideas but I need to	clarify the	m			
	☐ I am unsure, but I want to develop a ca	•				
	☐ I am not thinking about a career at this		y studies			
1.0						
goal6	How well do you know the career options	your progra	am or intend	ed progra	m could ope	n for
	you?	ula 🗆 Na	4 - 4 - 11			
	☐ Very well ☐ Fairly well ☐ Only a li	ttie 🗆 No	t at all			
Please i	ndicate what steps, if any, you have taken to p	repare for e	employment	/your care	er after grad	duation.
Please c	hoose all that apply.					
goal7	☐ Talked with professors about employm	nent/career				
goal8	\qed Talked with parents/family about emp	loyment/ca	reer			
goal9	☐ Talked with friends about employment	:/career				
goal10	$\ \square$ Created resume, CV, e-portfolio, or on	line profile (e.g., LinkedI	n)		
goal12	☐ Attended an employment fair					
goal13	☐ Met with a career counsellor					
goal14	☐ Worked in my chosen field of employn	nent				

goal	15 Uolunteered in my chosen f	field of e	mployment	İ			
goal	16 ☐ I have a career mentor	☐ I have a career mentor					
goal	17 ☐ None of the above						
Serv	ices						
Please	indicate which of the following service	es you h	ave used si	nce last Septe	mber and how	satisfied y	ou are
with th	ne ones you have used.						
				Sa	itisfaction if se	ervice used	
				Very			Very
		Used		Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
srv1	Services for Indigenous students	Used	srv1sat	•	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	•
srv1 srv2	Services for Indigenous students Services for international students		srv1sat srv2sat	dissatisfied			Satisfied
	-			dissatisfied			Satisfied
srv2	Services for international students		srv2sat	dissatisfied			Satisfied
srv2	Services for international students Services for students with		srv2sat	dissatisfied			Satisfied
srv2 srv3	Services for international students Services for students with disabilities		srv2sat srv3sat	dissatisfied			Satisfied
srv2 srv3 srv6	Services for international students Services for students with disabilities Employment services		srv2sat srv3sat srv6sat	dissatisfied			Satisfied
srv2 srv3 srv6 srv7	Services for international students Services for students with disabilities Employment services Career counselling		srv2sat srv3sat srv6sat srv7sat	dissatisfied			Satisfied

srv11sat

srv12sat

srv13sat

srv14sat

srv15sat

srv11 Study skills and learning supports

srv14 Advising for students who need

srv13 Post-secondary institution

srv12 Writing skills

srv15 Financial aid

residences

financial aid

Academi	ic history
hist1	In what year did you begin your post-secondary studies? Year:
hist2	In what year did you first enrol at <institution name="">? Year:</institution>
hist3	Have you transferred to <institution name=""> from another post-secondary institution?</institution>
	□ Yes □ No
Mobi2	Which institution were you attending prior to transferring to [UCODE.TEXT]? If you have been a student at more than one institution prior to attending [UCODE.TEXT], please provide the
	name of the last institution you attended before transferring to [UCODE.TEXT]. Alberta University of the Arts
	Ambrose University Athabasca University
	Bow Valley College
	Burman University
	Concordia University of Edmonton
	Grande Prairie Regional College
	MacEwan University
	Keyano College
	The King's University
	Lakeland College
	Lethbridge College
	Medicine Hat College
	Mount Royal University NorQuest College
	Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
	Northern Lakes College
	Olds College
	Portage College
	Red Deer College
	Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
	St. Mary's University
	University of Alberta
	University of Calgary
	University of Lethbridge
	Other (please specify)
Mobi3	Did you expect to receive transfer credit?
	Yes
Mobi4	No How much transfer credit
1010014	Were you expecting:
	0
	1-8
	9-18
	19-24
	25-30
	31-36
	37-42
	43-48
	49-54
	55-60
Mobi5	How much transfer credit
-	Did you receive:

0

	1-8 9-18 19-24 25-30 31-36 37-42 43-48 49-54 55-60
Mobi6	How satisfied were you with the transfer credit process? Very dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very satisfied
hist4	Please choose the letter grade that best reflects your overall average grade:
	☐ A (includes A+, A and A-)
	☐ B (includes B+, B and B-)
	☐ C (includes C+, C and C-) ☐ D
	□ 0
starting yo Select all to Ye Ye Ye Ye Ye Ye Ye Ye	s, due to illness s, for financial reasons s, to have/raise children s, to upgrade high school marks s, for employment s, for other family reasons s, to travel s, for other reasons (please specify)
	employment
work1	Excluding work related to a co-op program are you employed during the current academic term? □ Yes, off campus
	☐ Yes, on campus
	☐ Yes, both off campus and on campus
	□ No, but I am looking for work
	☐ No, and I am not looking for work
[If work1:	= "Yes" branch to work2, otherwise branch to Finances fin1]
work2 work3	On average, how many hours per week are you employed in this work? What impact has this employment had on your academic performance? Very negative Somewhat negative No impact Somewhat positive
	□ Very positive

Work4 What are your main reasons for getting a job during your studies in Alberta? (Select up to three)

To pay tuition fees

For additional spending money

To prepare for career/build resume

To meet people/experience Canadian culture

To help with English language skills

Part of my academic program (e.g., co-op, internship)

To improve my chances of immigrating to Canada

Don't know

_							
_		n	2	n	r	Δ	c
г	ı	ш	а	n	L	C	м

The follow	ring questions about credit cards are used to better understand the ways in which students help
pay for an	d finance their education. The information collected is confidential.
fin4	Did you receive a scholarship, financial award or bursary from <institution name=""> for the 2024</institution>

fin5 Would you have been able to attend <institution name> without financial assistance from

<institution name>? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Living ar	rangements	
live2	Would you prefer to live in on-campus housing if you had the choice?	
	☐ Yes ☐ No	
live3	What is your marital status?	
	□ Single	
	☐ Married or living with my partner	
	☐ In a relationship other than married or living with my partner	
	☐ I prefer not to answer	
live4	Do you have children? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
[If live4 = "Yes" branch to live5, otherwise branch to Transportation to campus section]		
live5	How many up to age 5?	
live6	How many age 5 to 11?	
live7	How many 12 or older?	

Housing (optional survey module)

NEW1. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Not appli- cable
hous1a	I am able to afford rent and utilities at my current residence						
hous1b	My current living situation is adequate for my academic needs						
hous1c	My current housing situation is a physically safe environment						
shous1d	I am concerned that I may be forced to move against my will in the next twelve months						

- 2. Using the numbers 1, 2 and 3, please rank your top three preferences for living accommodations for the 2025/26 academic year regardless of where you currently live.
- 1- First preference
- 2 Second preference
- 3 Third preference

hous2a	Living in a post-secondary residence in your own room
hous2b	Living in a post-secondary residence in a shared room
hous2c	Living in a post-secondary residence in a suite (apartment style with shared kitchen and
	individual bedrooms)
hous2d	Living with parents, family members, or other relatives off campus
hous2e	Living alone off campus in a rented apartment/ unit
hous2f	Living with roommates off campus in a rented apartment/ unit
hous2g	Living with a partner or spouse off campus
hous2h	Living in a house or condo which I own
hous2i	Other (please specify)
hous2txt	

If hous2a or hous2b or hous2c is selected as first choice, branch to hous3, hous6 and hous7

If hous2d or hous2e or hous2f or hous2g or hous2h is selected as first choice, branch to hous4, hous5, hous6 and hous7

If hous2i is selected as first choice, branch to hous6 and hous7

hous21 _____ hous22 ____ hous23 ____

3. Using the numbers 1, 2 and 3, please rank your top three reasons for wanting to live in a university residence for the 2025/26 academic year?			
1- First re	ason		
2 - Second			
3 - Third r			
hous3a	Cost		
hous3b	Lack of availability of off campus housing		
hous3c	Difficulty searching for off campus housing		
	, , ,		
hous3d	Convenience of living on campus		
hous3e	Student life activities		
hous3f	Quality of housing options		
hous3g	Difficulty commuting to campus		
hous3h	Other friends are living on campus		
hous3i	Availability of on campus food/ dining options		
hous3j	Length of lease (e.g., 8-month commitment instead of 12 months)		
hous3k	Physically safe environment		
hous3l	Other (please specify)		
	hous32 hous33		
	1104302 1104300		
4. Using the numbers 1, 2 and 3, please rank your top three reasons for wanting to live off campus for the 2025/26 academic year?			
1- First re	ason		
2 - Second			
3 - Third r			
hous4a	Cost		
hous4b	Lack of availability of on campus residence/ housing		
hous4c	Convenience of living close to other amenities and/or employment		
hous4d	Other friends are living off campus		
hous4e	Length of lease (e.g., 12-month commitment instead of 8 months)		
hous4f	Fewer rules (e.g., noise, guests, behaviour)		
hous4g	Physically safe environment		
hous4h	Other (please specify)		
hous4txt			
hous41 _	hous42 hous43		
	would you anticipate paying (amount per month that would be your share) for off campus housing for		
-	26 academic year?		
	und to the nearest dollar.		
hous5a			
hous5b			
	your share for heat, water, electricity, internet, etc.)		
6. How co	oncerned are you about being able to secure housing for the 2025/ 26 academic year?		
hous6 □ Not at all concerned □ Somewhat concerned □ Concerned □ Very concerned			
If <>Not at all concerned, branch to hous?			
	Why are you concerned about housing for next year? Select all that apply.		
hous6a	Difficult to find suitable housing		
hous6b	Affordability		
	·		
hous6c	Quality		
hous6d	Distance from campus		

hous6e hous6f hous6g hous6txt	Accessible to persons with disabilities Amenities (e.g., communal kitchen, social roon Other (please specify)	ms, layout)			
7. When hous7	are you hoping to finalize arrangements for hous ☐ I have already secured housing for 2025/26 ☐ At some point during summer 2025 ☐	i □ Pr	•	semester	
Disabilit	ies/ Impairments				
	ave any of the following disabilities/ impairments	s? Select a	all that apply.		
dis11	☐ I do not have a disability/ impairment		How often are your daily activities limited by this disability/ impairment? Sometimes Often Always		
dis1	☐ Mobility/ Dexterity	disf1			
dis2	☐ Hearing	disf2			
dis3	☐ Speech	disf3			
dis4	☐ Vision (e.g., blindness, low vision)	disf4			
dis5	☐ Learning/ Memory (e.g., learning disability)	disf5			
dis7	☐ Other physical disability	disf7			
dis8	☐ Neurodivergence (e.g., autism spectrum, attention deficit disorder)	disf8			
dis9	☐ Mental health condition	disf9			
dis12	☐ Chronic conditions (e.g., Multiple Sclerosis, Crohn's, Autoimmune)	disf12			
dis10 distxt	☐ Other (please specify)	disf10			
dis13	☐ I prefer not to answer				
Parents'	education				
What is th	ne highest level of education your parent(s)/guan	rdian(s) ha	ve completed? meduc Parent/Guardian1	•	duc Juardian2
Less than high school					
High school graduate					
Some college, CEGEP or technical school (no certificate or diploma)					
College, CEGEP or technical school graduate					
Some post-secondary (no degree or diploma)					
Undergraduate post-secondary degree (e.g. BA, BSc, etc.)					
Professional degree (e.g. law, medicine, etc.)]
Graduate degree (e.g. Master's, PhD)					
Other Parent/Guardian 1 (please specify) meductxt					
Other Parent/Guardian 2 (please specify) peductxt Don't know/ Not applicable				Г	_

Ethnicity	
Which of	the following groups best describe your ethnic or cultural background?
Please sel	ect all that apply.
eth1	☐ Indigenous person of Canada (First Nations status, First Nations non-status, Inuit/ Inuk,
	Metis, etc.)
eth15	☐ Indigenous person from outside of Canada (Australian Aborigine, New Zealand Maori, etc.)
eth16	☐ Middle Eastern (Arab, Egyptian, Israeli, Palestinian, Syrian, Turkish, etc.)
eth3	☐ Black (African, African American, Afro-Brazilian, African British, African Canadian, Afro-
-+1-0	Caribbean, Afro-Latine, other African descent, etc.)
eth8	☐ Latin American (Central America, Mexico, South America, etc.)
eth17	☐ East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, etc.)
eth9	South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
eth10	☐ Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Filipino, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.)
eth11	☐ West Asian (Afghan, Iranian, etc.)
eth12	☐ White/ Caucasian (Eastern European, Southern European, Western European, etc.)
eth13	☐ Other (please specify)
ethtxt	
eth14	☐ I prefer not to answer
fit eth is	checked branch to ab1, otherwise branch to Gender identity section]
Which of	the following describes your Indigenous background? Select all that apply.
ab1	☐ First Nations status
ab2	☐ First Nations non-status
ab3	□ Métis
ab4	□ Inuit/ Inuk
ab5	□ Other
ab6	☐ I prefer not to answer
	- I prefer not to unswer
Gender i	dentity
	ect the gender identity/ identities with which you identify. Select all that apply.
gendi1	☐ Woman (includes cis woman, trans woman, and everyone else who identifies as a woman)
gendi2	☐ Man (includes cis man, trans man, and everyone else who identifies as a man)
gendi3	☐ Gender non-conforming
gendi4	□ Non-binary
gendi5	Agender
gendi6	□ Questioning
gendi7	□ Trans
gendi8	☐ Two Spirit
gendi9	☐ Another gender identity (please specify):
gendi10	☐ I prefer not to answer

Sexual orientation Please select the sexual orientation(s) with which you identify. Select all that apply. sexo1 ☐ Asexual sexo2 ☐ Bisexual sexo3 ☐ Gay sexo4 ☐ Heterosexual/ straight sexo5 ☐ Lesbian sexo6 ☐ Pansexual sexo7 ☐ Queer sexo8 □ Questioning sexo9 ☐ Two Spirit sexo10 ☐ Another sexual orientation (please specify): _____ sexo11 ☐ I prefer not to answer **Comments** Please take this opportunity to comment fully about your overall post-secondary experience. Your remarks will provide valuable information to the institution. negativ Looking back on your experiences as a student, what aspects of your experience at <institution name> have been most negative? How could we have helped or done a better job? Comments (specify) ☐ Don't know Looking back on your experiences as a student, what aspects of your experience at <institution positiv name> have been most positive?

☐ Don't know

Comments (specify)