

The Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS)

In the winter of 2025, Carleton University is participating in CGPSS along with other Ontario universities that have graduate programs. This is the seventh time that Carleton has administered this survey. The first administration of this survey at Carleton was in 2007.

All graduate students enrolled in fall 2024, and at the time the sample was taken (late-January 2025) have been emailed an invitation to participate in this online survey.

Why is it important for you to fill out a CGPSS survey?

- Carleton University administration takes results from surveys like this very seriously, so this is your opportunity to have your opinions heard.
- Carleton has been participating in large undergraduate surveys (e.g. the National Survey of Student Engagement) for some time, but a comparable survey for graduate students is relatively new.
- Given that other Ontario universities are participating, we'll be able to compare Carleton results to a provincial average, to find out how we're doing in relation to our counterparts.
- The survey will help us understand whether graduate studies are experienced differently by various demographic groups.

This is your chance to help improve graduate studies at Carleton. We hope to achieve a high response rate in order to ensure that our results are statistically significant. It's in all our best interests to be able to make meaningful observations and conclusions based on these results.

If you have any questions about CGPSS and other surveys in which Carleton participates, please contact the Office of Institutional Research and Planning at surveys@carleton.ca.

CGPSS Background and Survey Content

GPSS was first administered to American graduate students in 1999. An informal consortium of American universities, with the assistance of the Higher Education Data Service (HEDS), began administering the survey in order to assess the quality of graduate education experiences. In 2004 the survey research unit at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) assumed responsibility for survey administration. Using a 'Canadianized' version of the survey instrument, 10 Canadian universities participated in GPSS in 2005. What is now referred to as CGPSS is a modified version of GPSS which focuses on issues relevant to Canadian graduate studies.

Survey sections include:

- Educational status
- General satisfaction
- Professional skills development
- Research experience
- Financial support
- University resources and student life
- Demographic items
- Presentations and publications
- Advisor and Thesis/Dissertation/Research paper