

## 2013 Survey of First-Year University Students

This survey is being completed by first-year university students at a number of Canadian universities so that we may learn more about our new students and help them make a more successful transition to university. This includes both in and out of class experience. If you cannot finish the survey in one sitting, you can close the survey and return to it using the link in the email we sent you. It will return you to the last page that you were on. All of your responses are confidential.

[At bottom of each page: If you have any problems, please contact Nicholas borodenko of PRA Inc. at cusc@pra.ca]

### YOUR DECISION TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY

1. How important were the following reasons in your decision to attend university?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important
a. To prepare for a specific job or career	1	2	3
b. To get a good general education	1	2	3
c. To develop a broad base of skills	1	2	3
d. To prepare for graduate/professional school	1	2	3
e. To increase my knowledge in an academic field	1	2	3
f. To get a good job	1	2	3
h. To meet parental expectations	1	2	3
i. To make new friends	1	2	3
j. Other reasons (please specify): _____	1	2	3

2. Which was the single most important reason in your decision to attend university?

[ONLY SHOW THOSE IN ARE RATED 2 AND 3 IN Q; IF ALL IN Q1=1, SHOW ALL. SINGLE SELECT]

a. To prepare for a specific job or career
b. To get a good general education
c. To develop a broad base of skills
d. To prepare for graduate/professional school
e. To increase my knowledge in an academic field
f. To get a good job
h. To meet parental expectations
i. To make new friends
j. Other reasons (please specify): _____

3. Did you apply for admission to more than one university?

Yes..... 1  
 No ..... 0 => Q4

3a. How many in total did you apply to? \_\_\_\_\_ [2 -99]  
 3b. How many outside of your home province? \_\_\_\_\_ [0 – 99. Must = or < 3a]

4. Did you also apply to a college (other than a CEGEP)?

Yes..... 1  
 No ..... 0

5. Was <UNIVERSITY NAME> your first choice?

Yes..... 1 => Q7  
 No ..... 0

6. What university was your first choice?

\_\_\_\_\_ 66

**YOUR DECISION TO ATTEND <UNIVERSITY NAME>**

7. How important were the following reasons in your choosing <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important
a. Wanted to live close to home	1	2	3
b. Wanted to live away from home	1	2	3
c. Offered financial assistance/scholarships	1	2	3
d. Quality of academic programs	1	2	3
e. Specific career-related program	1	2	3
f. University has a good reputation	1	2	3
g. Size of university	1	2	3
j. Size of city/town	1	2	3
k. Availability of on-campus residence	1	2	3
l. Tuition fees	1	2	3
m. Parents/relatives wanted me to enroll here	1	2	3
o. Friends attending here	1	2	3
q. Availability of public transportation	1	2	3
r. Co-op program, internship, and other practical experiences	1	2	3
s. Opportunities for international work/study abroad	1	2	3
u. Athletic/varsity sports	1	2	3
w. Physical appearance of the campus	1	2	3
x. Other important reasons (please list)	1	2	3

8. Which was the single most important reason in your decision to attend <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

[ONLY SHOW THOSE THAT ARE RATED 2 AND 3 IN Q7; IF ALL IN Q7=1, SHOW ALL. SINGLE SELECT]

a. Wanted to live close to home
b. Wanted to live away from home
c. Offered financial assistance/scholarships
d. Quality of academic programs
e. Specific career-related program
f. University has a good reputation
g. Size of university
j. Size of city/town
k. Availability of on-campus residence
l. Tuition fees
m. Parents/relatives wanted me to enroll here
o. Friends attending here
q. Availability of public transportation
r. Co-op program, internship, and other practical experiences
s. Opportunities for international work/study abroad
u. Athletic/varsity sports
w. Physical appearance of the campus
x. Other important reasons _____

9. How important were each of the following sources of information when you considered choosing <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Not applicable
a. Visit by a university representative to my high school or CEGEP	1	2	3	7
b. Viewbooks, brochures or pamphlets	1	2	3	7
c. Campus visit / open house	1	2	3	7
d. Recruitment fairs	1	2	3	7
e. Meeting with university recruitment / admissions staff on the campus	1	2	3	7
f. Contact from faculty / staff of the university (e.g., phone calls, emails, letters, online, etc.)	1	2	3	7
g. Contact from students of the university	1	2	3	7
i. University website	1	2	3	7
j. Contact from university athletic coaches	1	2	3	7
k. Maclean's university rankings	1	2	3	7
l. The Globe and Mail's Canadian University Report	1	2	3	7
n. Advice from high school counsellors or teachers	1	2	3	7
o. Word of mouth	1	2	3	7
m. Other (please specify)	1	2	3	7

10. Which one of these sources of information had the single most influence on your decision to attend <UNIVERSITY NAME>? [SHOW THOSE RATED 2 OR 3 IN Q9. IF ALL=1, SHOW ALL. SINGLE SELECT.]

a. Visit by a university representative to my high school or CEGEP
b. Viewbooks, brochures or pamphlets
c. Campus visit / open house
d. Recruitment fairs
e. Meeting with university recruitment / admissions staff on the campus
f. Contact from faculty / staff of the university (e.g., phone calls, emails, letters, online, etc.)
g. Contact from students of the university
i. University website
j. Contact from university athletic coaches
k. Maclean's university rankings
l. The Globe and Mail's Canadian University Report
n. Advice from high school counsellors or teachers
o. Word of mouth
m. Other (please specify)

11. Universities often advertise to make potential students aware of their institution. Do you recall seeing, hearing, or reading any advertising about <UNIVERSITY NAME> before you came here? Select all that apply.

- No ..... 0
- Yes, TV ad ..... 1
- Yes, radio ad ..... 2
- Yes, billboard ..... 3
- Yes, newspaper ad ..... 4
- Yes, online advertising ..... 5
- Yes, other (please specify) ..... 66

12. Did you receive any direct contact from <UNIVERSITY NAME> while still in high school or CEGEP?

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 0 => Q13

12a. In which grade(s) did you receive any direct contact? Select all that apply.

- Grade 9 or earlier ..... 1
- Grade 10 ..... 2
- Grade 11 ..... 3
- Grade 12 ..... 4
- CEGEP ..... 5

13. How satisfied were you with the way <UNIVERSITY NAME> handled your application for admission?

- Very satisfied ..... 4 => Q14a
- Somewhat satisfied ..... 3 => Q14a
- Somewhat dissatisfied ..... 2
- Very dissatisfied ..... 1

13a. Please explain why you were dissatisfied with how <UNIVERSITY NAME> handled your application for admission.  
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**YOUR CHOICE OF PROGRAM**

14a. Before or while first registering, did you receive advice or help about your program or course selection from <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 0 => Q16a

14b. Who or what office provided you with help or advice?  
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15. Overall, how satisfied were you with the help you received from <UNIVERSITY NAME> in deciding on your program and course selection?

- Very satisfied ..... 4 => Q16a
- Somewhat satisfied ..... 3 => Q16a
- Somewhat dissatisfied ..... 2
- Very dissatisfied ..... 1

15a. Please explain why you were dissatisfied with help you received from this university in deciding on your program and course selection.  
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**YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH REGISTRATION**

16a. Have you had experience with these methods of registering for courses at <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

	Yes	No
a. On-line	1	0
b. By phone	1	0
c. In person	1	0
d. By mail	1	0
e. Other (please specify) _____	1	0

16b. How satisfied are you with this method of registering for courses?  
 [ONLY SHOW THOSE SELECTED YES IN Q16a]

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
a. On-line	1	2	3	4
b. By phone	1	2	3	4
c. In person	1	2	3	4
d. By mail	1	2	3	4
e. Other _____	1	2	3	4

16c. Please explain why you are dissatisfied with registering [INSERT Q16b IF = 1 OR 2] at <UNIVERSITY NAME>.  
 [REPEAT FOR EACH METHOD IN Q16b THAT IS 2 OR 1]

\_\_\_\_\_ 66

17. Thinking about all the courses in which you wanted to register this year, how satisfied were you with getting into these courses?

- Very satisfied ..... 4
- Somewhat satisfied ..... 3
- Somewhat dissatisfied ..... 2
- Very dissatisfied ..... 1

**YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH ORIENTATION**

18. Did you participate in an orientation program before or after arriving on campus last fall?

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 0 => Q20

19. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of the orientation?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know
a. Feeling welcome at the university	1	2	3	4	8
b. Helping you understand the university's academic expectations	1	2	3	4	8
c. Helping your personal and social transition to university	1	2	3	4	8
d. Providing information about campus life	1	2	3	4	8
e. Providing information about student services	1	2	3	4	8
f. Building your confidence	1	2	3	4	8
g. Other (please specify):	1	2	3	4	8

**ADJUSTING TO UNIVERSITY**

20. How much success have you had in adjusting to the following at university?

	None	Very little	Some	Very much	Not applicable
<b>Academic</b>					
a. Meeting academic demands	1	2	3	4	7
f. Choosing a program of studies to meet my objectives	1	2	3	4	7
g. Getting academic advice	1	2	3	4	7
h. Performing adequately in written assignments	1	2	3	4	7
i. Performing adequately in courses requiring mathematical skills	1	2	3	4	7
j. Understanding content and information presented in courses	1	2	3	4	7
n. Finding help with questions or problems	1	2	3	4	7
<b>Personal</b>					
b. Making new friends with other students	1	2	3	4	7
c. Becoming involved in campus activities	1	2	3	4	7
d. New living arrangements	1	2	3	4	7
k. Feeling as if I belong at university	1	2	3	4	7
o. Organizing my time to complete academic work	1	2	3	4	7
<b>Practical</b>					
e. Finding suitable and affordable housing	1	2	3	4	7
l. Finding my way around the campus	1	2	3	4	7
m. Using the library	1	2	3	4	7
p. Finding useful information and resources on careers and occupations	1	2	3	4	7

**YOUR EXPERIENCE AT <UNIVERSITY NAME>**

21. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know
a. Average size of your classes	1	2	3	4	8
b. Instructional facilities (e.g., classrooms, labs, equipment)	1	2	3	4	8
c. Personal safety on campus	1	2	3	4	8
d. Concern shown by the university for you as an individual	1	2	3	4	8
e. General condition of buildings and grounds	1	2	3	4	8
f. Study space	1	2	3	4	8
g. Your university's commitment to environmental sustainability	1	2	3	4	8
h. Social and informal meeting places	1	2	3	4	8

22. a. Please indicate whether you have used each of the following services at <UNIVERSITY NAME>.

	Yes	No
a. Library facilities	1	0
c. Athletic facilities	1	0
d. Other recreational facilities	1	0
e. University residences	1	0
f. Parking facilities	1	0
g. University-based social activities	1	0
h. Campus bookstores	1	0
i. Employment services	1	0
j. Services for students with disabilities	1	0
k. International student services	1	0
l. Personal counselling services	1	0
m. Study skills or learning support services	1	0
n. Campus medical services	1	0
o. Food services	1	0
p. Services for co-op program, internship, and other practical experiences related to your program	1	0
q. Academic advising	1	0
r. Tutoring services	1	0
s. Facilities for student associations, clubs, etc.	1	0
t. Services for students needing financial aid	1	0
u. Services for First Nations students	1	0
v. Career counselling services	1	0
w. On-campus Wi-Fi	1	0
x. Online course management systems (e.g., Blackboard, Saki, Moodle, webCT, etc.)	1	0
y. University email	1	0
z. Computer support services (e.g., help desk)	1	0

22b. Rate your level of satisfaction with the service. [RECALL THOSE ANSWERED YES IN Q22A]

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
a. Library facilities	1	2	3	4
c. Athletic facilities	1	2	3	4
d. Other recreational facilities	1	2	3	4
e. University residences	1	2	3	4
f. Parking facilities	1	2	3	4
g. University-based social activities	1	2	3	4
h. Campus bookstores	1	2	3	4
i. Employment services	1	2	3	4
j. Services for students with disabilities	1	2	3	4
k. International student services	1	2	3	4
l. Personal counselling services	1	2	3	4
m. Study skills or learning support services	1	2	3	4
n. Campus medical services	1	2	3	4
o. Food services	1	2	3	4
p. Services for co-op program, internship, and other practical experiences related to your program	1	2	3	4
q. Academic advising	1	2	3	4
r. Tutoring services	1	2	3	4
s. Facilities for student associations, clubs, etc.	1	2	3	4
t. Services for students needing financial aid	1	2	3	4
u. Services for First Nations students	1	2	3	4
v. Career counselling services	1	2	3	4
w. On-campus Wi-Fi	1	2	3	4
x. Online course management systems (e.g., Blackboard, Saki, Moodle, webCT, etc.)	1	2	3	4
y. University email	1	2	3	4
z. Computer support services (e.g., help desk)	1	2	3	4

23. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of these statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a. Most of my professors encourage students to participate in class discussions	1	2	3	4
b. At this university, professors treat students as individuals, not just numbers	1	2	3	4
c. Most of my professors are reasonably accessible outside of class to help students	1	2	3	4
d. Generally, I am satisfied with the quality of teaching I have received	1	2	3	4
e. I am satisfied with my decision to attend this university	1	2	3	4

29a. Has your experience at <UNIVERSITY NAME> met, exceeded, or fallen short of your expectation?

Met..... 3  
 Exceeded..... 2  
 Fallen short..... 1

Please take this opportunity to comment fully about your overall university experience. Your remarks will provide valuable information to the institution.

58. What aspects of your experience at university have been most negative? How could we have helped or done a better job?  
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57. Looking back on your experiences as a first-year student, what aspects of your experience at university have been most positive?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 66

59. Do you intend to return to <UNIVERSITY NAME> to continue your studies in the 2013-14 academic year?

Yes..... 1  
 No..... 0  
 Not sure/undecided..... 9

**ACADEMIC PROFILE**

24. What average grade do you expect to have at the end of your first year at university?

If your university uses a grade-point system, please select the letter grade equivalent that best reflects your grade point average.  
 If your university uses percentage grades, please use this guide to select the approximate letter grade equivalent of your percentage grade.

Percentage	Equivalent for survey response
85% - 100%	A or A+
80% - 84.99%	A-
76% - 79.99%	B+
70% - 75.99%	B
66% - 69.99%	C+
60% - 65.99%	C
50% - 59.99%	D

A or A+.....	7
A-.....	6
B+.....	5
B.....	4
C+.....	3
C.....	2
D.....	1

25. What was your overall average grade in high school (or CEGEP)?

A or A+.....	7
A-.....	6
B+.....	5
B.....	4
C+.....	3
C.....	2
D.....	1

26. In what year did you graduate from high school or CEGEP?

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ [PULL DOWN YEAR 1935-2013]  
 Did not graduate ..... 0

27. When you registered last fall, were you taking a full course load?

Yes.....	1
No.....	0

28. Are you currently taking a full course load?

Yes.....	1
No.....	0

30. In what degree program are you registered? For example: B.A., B.Sc., B.S.W., B. Com., B.Ed., etc.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.).....	1
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.).....	2
Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.).....	3
Bachelor of Commerce (B. Com.).....	4
Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.).....	5
Mixed degree (e.g., B.A. & B.Sc.).....	6
Other (please specify).....	66

**FINANCING YOUR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

60. Did you receive a scholarship, financial award, or bursary from <UNIVERSITY NAME> for the 2012-13 academic year?

- Yes..... 1
- No ..... 0 => Q36

35. Would you have been able to attend university without financial assistance from <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

- Yes..... 1
- No ..... 0

36. Excluding work related to a co-op program, are you employed during the current academic term?

- Yes, both on and off-campus ..... 5
- Yes, off campus ..... 4
- Yes, on campus ..... 3
- No, and I am not seeking work ..... 2 => SKIP TO Q43
- No, but I am seeking work ..... 1 => SKIP TO Q43

37. Excluding work related to a co-op program, on average, how many hours are you employed per week?

AVERAGE HOURS/WEEK: \_\_\_\_\_ [.5 to 100]

38. What impact has your current non-co-op related employment had on your academic performance? (Please rate the impact by checking one rating)

**Impact of employment on academic performance**

Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neither positive or negative	Somewhat positive	Very positive
0	1	2	3	4

**Please tell us about yourself**

43. Are you...

- Male ..... 1
- Female..... 2
- Other..... 3

44. How old were you on September 1, 2012? \_\_\_\_\_ [14 to 99]

45. What language did you first learn in childhood and still understand?

- English..... 1
- French..... 2
- Other..... 3

46. What is your primary language of instruction?

- English..... 1
- French..... 2
- Other..... 3

47. Where was your permanent home before you came to <UNIVERSITY NAME>?

British Columbia.....	1
Alberta .....	2
Saskatchewan .....	3
Manitoba .....	4
Ontario.....	5
Quebec .....	6
Nova Scotia .....	7
Prince Edward Island.....	8
New Brunswick .....	9
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	10
Nunavut .....	11
North West Territories.....	12
Yukon.....	13
Other (please specify).....	66

48. What is the population of the community in which you lived before starting university?

Lived on a farm/ranch .....	1
Less than 5,000 .....	2
5,000 to 9,999.....	3
10,000 to 49,999.....	4
50,000 to 99,999.....	5
100,000 to 299,999.....	6
300,000 to 499,999.....	7
500,000 or more .....	8

49. Where are you currently living?

With parents, guardians, or relatives .....	1
In on-campus housing (residence, dormitory, etc.) .....	2 => Q51
In housing rented off-campus, sharing costs with others such as roommates.....	3
In housing rented off-campus, paying all costs yourself .....	4
In a home that you personally own .....	5
Other (please specify).....	66

50. Would you choose to live on-campus if given a chance?

Yes.....	1
No .....	0
Don't know.....	8

51. Are you a(n)...?

Canadian citizen .....	1
Permanent resident .....	2
International student .....	3

52. Are you... Click all that apply.

Aboriginal (e.g., status, non-status, Métis, Inuit).....	1
Arab (e.g., Saudi, Egyptian, etc.).....	2
Black.....	3
Chinese.....	4
Filipino .....	5
Japanese .....	7
Korean .....	8
Latin American.....	9
South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.).....	11
Southeast Asian (e.g., Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.) .....	12
West Asian (e.g., Afghan, Iranian, etc.) .....	13
White.....	14
Other (please specify).....	66

61. [IF Q52 = 1] Which of the following describes your Aboriginal background? Select all that apply.

- First Nation status ..... 1
- First Nation non-status ..... 2
- Métis ..... 3
- Inuit ..... 4
- Other ..... 5

55. Do you have a disability? Select all that apply.

- None ..... 0
- Mobility ..... 1
- Hearing ..... 2
- Speech ..... 3
- Partial sight or blind ..... 4
- Learning ..... 5
- Head injury ..... 6
- Other physical disability ..... 7
- Mental health ..... 8
- Other (please specify) ..... 66

56. What is the highest level of education your mother and father completed?

	<b>Mother</b>	<b>Father</b>
Less than high school	1	1
High school graduate	2	2
Some college, CEGEP or technical school (no certificate or diploma)	3	3
College, CEGEP or technical school graduate	4	4
Some university (no degree or diploma)	5	5
University graduate (e.g., B.A., B.Sc.)	6	6
Professional degree (e.g., Medicine, Law)	7	7
Graduate degree (e.g., Master's, Ph.D.)	8	8
Other Mother (please specify) _____	66	66
Other Father (please specify) _____	66	66
Don't know	88	88

That is the end of the survey. Thank you very much for your help.

If your university is offering a prize for participating, you have been automatically entered in the draw by completing the survey.