

# 2020-21 Student Engagement Survey Results Institutional Research and Analysis

#### Introduction

The Institutional Research and Analysis (IR&A) unit at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Sask Polytech) annually surveys its current students in certificate, diploma, and degree programs to understand their experience and levels of engagement at Sask Polytech. Students are asked to evaluate their learning experience, admission and orientation processes, student support and services, campus facilities, and quality of interactions with other students, faculty, and administration staff.

In the 2020-21 academic year, questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic were added to the survey questionnaire to examine potential negative impact of the pandemic and students' satisfaction with the services and support provided by Sask Polytech to help them cope with challenges during the pandemic. A question about students' sense of belonging at Sask Polytech was also added as part of the overall assessment of student experience.

In 2020-21, 6,205 students were invited to participate in the survey between February and May 2021. In total, 3,576 responded to the questionnaire. The response rate was 58%.

The margin of error at the institution level is +/- 1.07 percent at a 95% confidence level. Results at program levels may not be statistically reliable due to small sample sizes. Caution is needed when interpreting those results.

# About the Report

This report presents the full results from the 2020-21 survey. Three years' trended results (2018-19 to 2020-21) are provided in the last three dashboards where questions remain unchanged to allow comparing the results year over year.

The numbers in this report have been rounded to zero decimal place. As a result, the sums of percentages may not equal to 100% in some charts.

Questions where multiple responses were allowed have been noted on individual dashboards. The sums of percentages for these questions may be more than 100%.

To view the findings of the survey for a specific program or subcategory, select school, program, credential, campus, and other desired categories from the filters on the "Report Filters" tab. Click the reset button to remove all filters and show overall institution results. On each result page of the report, click the home icon on the top right corner to go back to the report filter page to make changes to the filters.



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# 2020-21 Student Engagement Survey Results Institutional Research and Analysis

# Institutional Highlights

- In 2020-21, the average age of students surveyed was 25.75. The proportions of **female** students, **international** students, **indigenous** students, students with **disability** were 51%, 24%, 11% and 7% respectively. Nine in ten (91%) lived in Saskatchewan at the time of the survey.
- A strong majority (88%) remained satisfied with their program overall, down slightly from previous two years' results (90%). Most students (82%) felt like they belong at Sask Polytech.
- Nine in ten programs (91%) incorporated **online components**, up significantly from previous two years (77% in 2018-19 and 84% in 2019-20).
- Perceptions on **program contribution** remained very positive. Nine in ten (87%) students were satisfied with the **quality of instruction** received at Sask Polytech, down slightly from previous two years (90%). Commonly cited reasons for dissatisfaction with quality of instruction were questionable quality of instructor, lack of support and communication, and online learning difficulties.
- Admission and orientation were most effective in making students aware of their roles and responsibilities (97% agree or strongly agree) and setting up admission requirement at the right levels so that students admitted were prepared to succeed (92%). They were less effective in orienting students through their program and introducing them to services and support available on campus.
- Instructors were very capable to use examples or illustrations to explain course materials (94% agree or strongly agree) and to explain learning outcomes, requirements and how students would be evaluated (92%). Perceptions on instructors were less positive in terms of providing prompt feedback on tests, assignments, or work in progress.
- Overall satisfaction with **campus facilities** remained strong and a strong majority (93%) continued to feel safe and secure on campus. However, perceptions on the appropriateness of specific types of facilities dropped consistently from 2019-20, particularly regarding computer lab spaces, common spaces, study spaces, library resources, and web-based services.

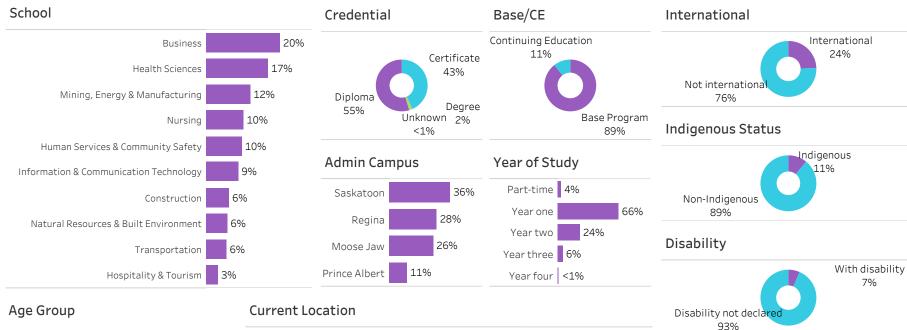
- Perceptions on **student support** varied. A large majority believed there was support for students to succeed academically (88%) or there was support for students' overall well-being (81%). Fewer believed there was support for helping manage non-academic responsibilities (65%) or opportunities to be involved socially with fellow students (67%). Perceptions on student support became less positive compared to 2019-20.
- Two in ten had left (5%) or seriously considered leaving (14%) Sask Polytech for at least one term or for an extended period. Being unsatisfied with program quality, weak academic performance and financial difficulties were most common reasons for the **interruption**. When asked what Sask Polytech could have done to better support their stay, one third (33%) of students who had experienced interruption mentioned better quality teachers and/or instruction.
- Students were asked to evaluate the negative impact of COVID-19 on their academic learning, well-being, finance, and employment. Seven in ten (71%) believed the pandemic at least to some extent negatively impacted their ability to succeed as a student. Perceived negative impact of COVID-19 on classroom-based learning such as lectures and seminars were more prevalent than that on labs, shops, or work-integrated learning.
- Roughly two thirds (67%) indicated the pandemic at least to some extent negatively impacted their personal health and well-being and just under six in ten (57%) indicated negative impact of COVID-19 on their financial situation. One third (32%) were not sure about the impact on their future employment.
- Most students believed they were receiving adequate information (80%) from Sask Polytech about how COVID-19 may impact them as students and were satisfied (77%) with the services and support provided to help them cope with challenges during the pandemic.

School: All | Program: All

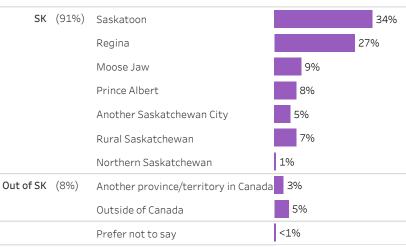
Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

Indigenous: All | International: All



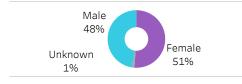


#### Average age: 25.75 19 and Under 20% 20 to 24 37% 25 to 29 19% 10% 30 to 34 35 to 39 40 to 44 4% 45 to 49 2% 50 to 54 1% 55 to 59 < 1% 60 and Over <1% Unknown <1%

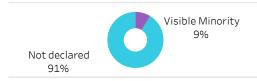




#### Gender



## Visible Minority





School: All | Program: All

Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

Indigenous: All | International: All



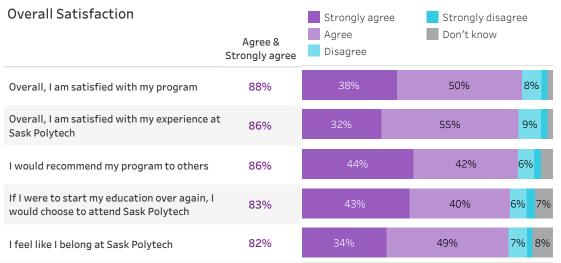
20%

17%

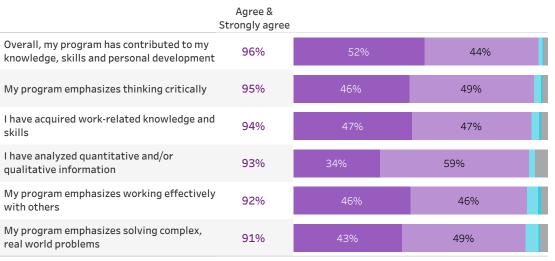
15%

8%

8%



#### **Program Benefit**



#### Satisfaction with Quality of Instruction Very satisfied Dissatisfied Don't Know Satisfied Very dissatisfied Satisfied & 8% 87% 52% Very satisfied Reason for Dissatisfaction with Instruction (Coded themes from verbatim comments, responses could be associated with multiple themes) Not knowledgeable/questionable quality 34% instructors 25% Lack of support/instruction/have to self learn

instructors

Other

Lack of (timely) communication with

Inconsistent quality of instructors

Lack of practical/hands-on learning

Online learning difficulties





School: All | Program: All

Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

Indigenous: All | International: All

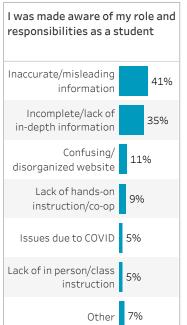


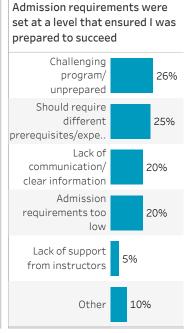
#### Assessment of Admission and Orientation

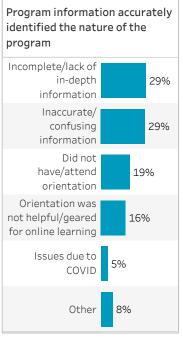
	Agree & Strongly agree	Disagree Do	on't know	
I was made aware of my role and responsibilities as a student	97%	46%	51%	
Admission requirements were set at a level that ensured I was prepared to succeed in the program	92%	39%	54%	
Program information accurately identified the nature of the program	90%	33%	57%	6%
The program's orientation was effective in orienting me through the program	89%	35%	54%	6%
The welcoming event was effective in introducing me to the services and supports available on campu	s 85%	34%	51%	7% 6%

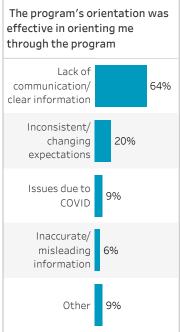
#### Reason for Dissagreement with Statement

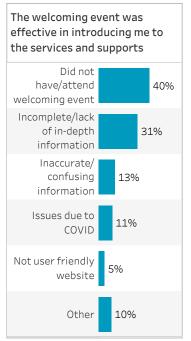
(Coded themes from verbatim comments, responses could be associated with multiple themes)











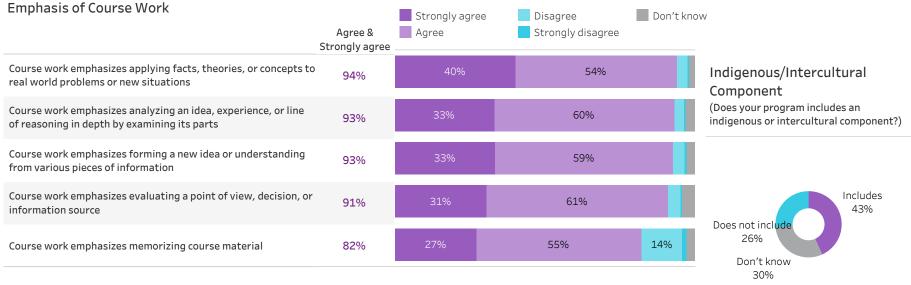


School: All | Program: All

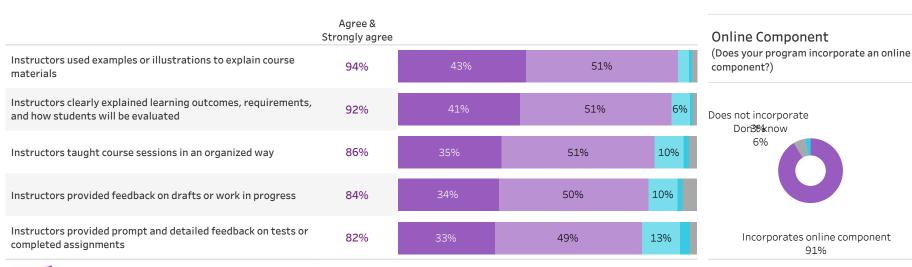
Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

Indigenous: All | International: All





#### Course Instructor





School: All | Program: All

Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

Indigenous: All | International: All

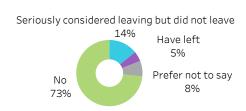


# Learning Experience

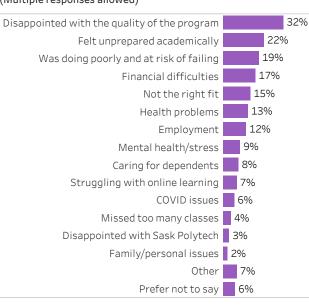
Learning Experience		Strongly agree	Disagree	Don't know
	Agree & Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	
Program online materials are relevant	92%	33%	58%	5%
The program incorporates a wide range of learning activities	91%	39%	51%	7%
Program equipment is appropriate for learning required skills	90%	36%	54%	5%
I receive the grades I expected based on my understanding of the program material	89%	32%	58%	7%
Program learning materials (textbooks, handouts) are relevant	88%	32%	56%	8%
I find my program to be academically challenging	83%	33%	51%	12%
There is sufficient equipment for use in the program	83%	33%	50%	10% 4%
The pace of learning is manageable	79%	24%	55%	15%

#### **Program Interruption**

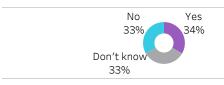
(In the past, have you ever left or seriously considered leaving Sask Polytech for at least one term or for an extended period?)



#### Reason for Leaving/Considering Leaving (Multiple responses allowed)



#### Sask Polytech Can Do Better to Support Your Stay



# What Sask Polytech Can Do to Support Your Stay

(Coded themes from verbatim comments, responses could be associated with multiple themes)





School: All | Program: All

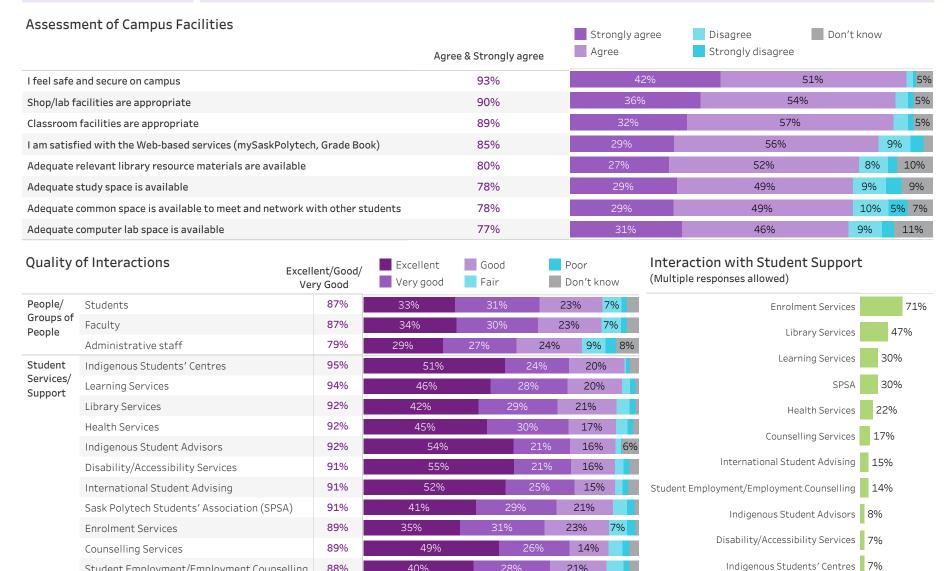
Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

88%

40%

Indigenous: All | International: All







Student Employment/Employment Counselling

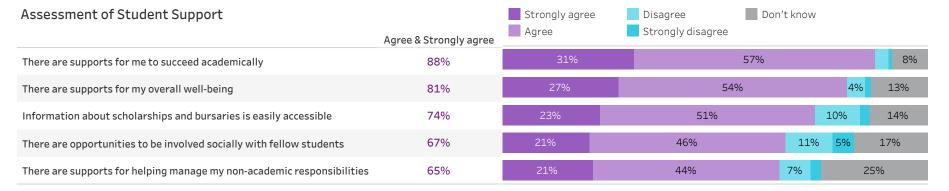
21%

School: All | Program: All

Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

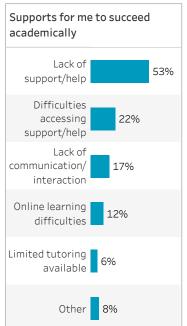
Indigenous: All | International: All

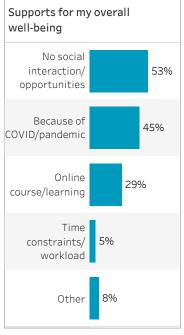


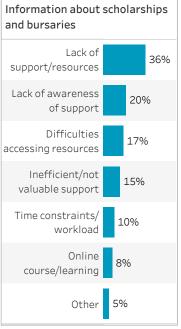


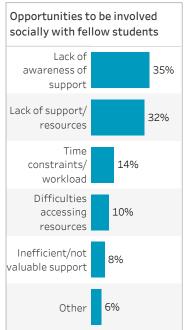
#### Reason for Disagreement with Statement

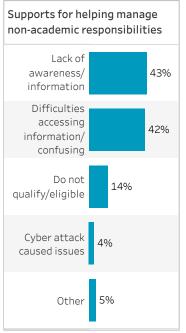
(Coded themes from verbatim comments, responses could be associated with multiple themes)













School: All | Program: All

Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

Indigenous: All | International: All

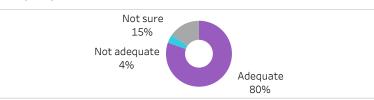


Not at all

## Impact of COVID-19

		Very much, Quite a bit & Some	Quite a bit		Not s				
Academic	Your ability to succeed as a student	71%	21%	23%	27%	)	15	% 12	2%
learning	Classroom-based learning including lectures and seminars	78%	40%		22%	169	%	7% 10%	6
	Labs, shops and other learning experiences that require you to visit a campus	71%	38%		19%	14%	8%	12%	9%
	Work-integrated learning (practicums, clinical etc.)	62%	30%	17%	15%	9%	13%	16	5%
Well-being	Your personal health and well-being	67%	25%	20%	21%		12%	19%	
Finance	Your ability to pay for tuition and/or living expenses	57%	22%	16%	19%	13%		27%	
Employment	Your ability to find a job after graduation	45%	19%	13% 12%	7% 16	%		32%	

# Adequacy of Information Received



#### Reason for Inadequacy of Information

(Coded themes from verbatim comments, responses could be associated with multiple themes)

	% of Total	Number of Respondents
Lack of communication/no information	42%	42
Not specific/just general information provided	30%	30
Not timely information/last minute	18%	18
Other	10%	10
Grand Total	100%	99

# Satisfaction with Services/Support Provided

Very much Some



# Reason for Dissatisfaction with Services/Support

(Coded themes from verbatim comments, responses could be associated with multiple themes)

	% of Total	Number of Respondents
Lack of support/help	31%	40
Lack of communication/information	21%	27
Difficulties accessing support/services	19%	25
Reduce tuition/fees for learning online/no ac	16%	21
Lack of awareness of services/support	13%	17
Online learning difficulties	5%	7
Other	7%	9
Grand Total	100%	129



2018-19: 2.782 2019-20: 3,150 2020-21: 3,576 School: All | Program: All

Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

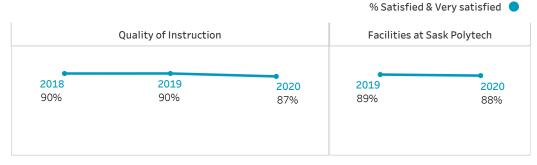
Indigenous: All | International: All



#### **Overall Assessment**



## Satisfaction with Quality of Instruction and Facilities



#### **Program Componenet**



#### **Program Contribution**





% Agree & Strongly agree

# Trended Results - Admission, Orientation, Learning Experience and Student Support

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Number of Respondents

2018-19: 2,782 2019-20: 3,150 2020-21: 3,576 School: All | Program: All

Credential: All | Admin Campus: All | Base/CE: All

Indigenous: All | International: All



#### Admission and Orientation

% Agree & Strongly agree



I was made aware of my role and responsibilities as a student		a level that ensure	ements were set at d I was prepared to the program		ation accurately ure of the program	effective in orient program and	orientation was ing me through the explaining the of the program	The welcoming event was effective i introducing me to the services and support available on campus		
2019 96%	2020 97%	91%	92%	89%	90%	89%	89%	85%	85%	

# **Learning Experience**

	n online re relevant	incorpora range of	rogram ates a wide f learning vities		quipment is riate for quired skills	expected b understan	he grades I ased on my ding of the material		learning are relevant	acader	ogram to be mically enging	equipment		The pace of manag		
<b>2019</b> 90%	2020 92%	94%	91%	93%	90%	89%	89%	86%	88%	85%	83%	89%	83%	81%	79%	

# **Student Support and Services**

There are supports for me academically		There are s	supports for well-being	my overall	Information about scholarships and bursaries is easily accessible i			There are opportunities to be involved socially with fellow students			There are supports for helping manage my non-academic responsibilities		
2018 2019 91% 89%	2020 88%	85%	83%	81%	75%	73%	74%	84%	83%	67%	69%	69%	65%



# Trended Results - Course Work, Instructor and Campus Facility

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**Number of Respondents** 

2018-19: 2,782 2019-20: 3,150 2020-21: 3,576 School: All | Program: All

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# **Emphasis of Course Work**

% Agree & Strongly agree

Course work emphasizes applying facts, theories, or concepts to rea world problems or new situations  2018 2019 2020 95% 94% 94%		epts to real	' '		of reasoning	new idea	rk emphasize or understan pieces of info	ding from		emphasizes of view, decis ormation sou	ion, or	Course work	emphasizes ourse materi	memorizing al	
			92%	93%	93%	91%	92%	93%	90%	91%	91%	87%	87%	82%	

#### Instructor

Instructors used examples or illustrations to explain course materials	Instructors clearly explained learning outcomes, requirements, and how students will be evaluated	Instructors taught course sessions in an organized way	Instructors provided feedback on drafts or work in progress	Instructors provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments
2018 2019 2020 95% 95% 94%	90% 92% 92%	86% 88% 86%	87% 86% 84%	84% 84% 82%

# **Campus Facility**

I feel safe and secure on campus		Shop/lab facilities are appropriate		Classroom facilities are appropriate		Weh-hased services		Adequate relevant library resource materials are available		Adequate study space is available		Adequate common space is available to meet and network with other students		Adequate co space is a		
	2019 93%	2020 93%	92%	90%	92%	89%	93%	85%	89%	80%	87%	78%	87%	78%	89%	77%

