



SIAST

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2003 Canadian College Student Survey

***Prepared by:
SIAST Planning, Research and Development Division
Institutional Research and Analysis Office***

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Background

The Canadian College Student Survey Consortium (CCSSC) is an association of colleges and the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF). The CMSF contracted Prairie Research Associates (PRA) Inc. to conduct the 2003 Canadian College Student Survey that provides national level data on the personal and academic profiles, access, time use, and educational financing for Canadian college students at participating institutions, of which SIAST is one. This is the second year in which the survey has been conducted. The first survey, conducted by R. A. Maletest & Associates Ltd. in the spring of 2002, was completed and a review of the results was presented to the Dean of Students in January 2003.

The goal of the 2003 survey was to determine the challenges faced by Canadian college students, particularly in regard to the issues or barriers around access and affordability that are of concern to post-secondary educational institutes such as SIAST (of which existing data is limited). The CCSSC has released two reports to SIAST: a summary report of national results and an institutional report specific to SIAST students. This document will review the 2003 Canadian College Student survey data, summarize the pertinent findings, and compare the results of this year's data to last year where information is available.

Methodology

The findings provided in this report were obtained from the data presented by Prairie Research Associates Inc. who surveyed 447 students across the four campuses at SIAST, and 9,912 students nationwide from 27 colleges, in 2003. The institutional sample size for SIAST decreased slightly this year (497 SIAST students were surveyed in 2002, out of a total of 6,215 students from 16 Colleges). The SIAST population sample represents 5% [8% in 2002] of the total sample survey population for all colleges.

Each institution was responsible for administering the 38-question survey, and was provided with a guideline for selecting a representative, random selection of participants from the institution's various campuses, programs, and classes. Large colleges, such as SIAST, were asked to achieve a goal of 450 completed surveys which would provide most institutions with a theoretical error of +/-4.5% (19 times out of 20).

It is important to note that the survey data is only representative of the student populations at the colleges participating in the survey, and the statistical validity of the survey results varies for sample strata such as institution, program and demographic strata. At the institutional level, the 447 student sample size achieved is to provide SIAST with a ± 4.4 margin of error, with a 95% level of confidence (19 times out of 20).

2003 Canadian College Student Institutional Survey Highlights

The following section provides the key highlights of the SIAST institutional report for the 2003 Canadian College Student Survey. Relative to the students surveyed in all participating Canadian colleges, SIAST has a higher proportion of students who:

- Are in access or upgrading programs (Basic Education) (27% SIAST students; 9% All College Students – ACS);
- Are in programming under one year in duration (32% SIAST; 13% ACS);
- Expect to complete their program of studies within one year (45% SIAST; 25% ACS);
- Are more mature, 20 years of age or older (79% SIAST; 60% ACS);
- Have self-identified as people who are Aboriginal (21% SIAST; 10% ACS), or have a disability (13% SIAST; 6% ACS);
- Have dependents that require financial aid and reside with the student (40% SIAST; 22% ACS);
- Have dependents under twelve years of age (39% SIAST; 16% ACS);
- Have a lower level of secondary education attainment (34% SIAST; 10% ACS did not acquire a high school diploma or equivalent);
- Were not involved in any academic activities in the twelve month period prior to enrolment (55% SIAST; 28% ACS);

- Were working, primarily full-time (48% SIAST; 34% ACS), or caring for their family (9% SIAST; 3% ACS) during the twelve month period prior to enrolment;
- Spend more time attending class (particularly over 20 hours) (69% SIAST; 52% ACS), and less time completing academic work outside class;
- Are not employed while attending school (68% SIAST; 45% ACS), and therefore do not have a monthly work income;
- Spend more time continuing to look after family responsibilities (25% SIAST; 14% ACS spend more than 20 hours per week);
- Rely more on personal loans (21% SIAST; 14% ACS), with a larger proportion of SIAST students carrying personal loan amounts over \$4,000, (16% SIAST; 6% ACS);
- Make use of student loans (33% SIAST; 30% ACS), with a larger proportion of SIAST students obtaining student loans over \$7,000 (15% SIAST; 8% ACS);
- Receive fewer government grants or bursaries (10% SIAST; 20% ACS), and academic scholarships (8% SIAST; 12% ACS);
- Have higher tuition fees - above \$2,500 annually on average (60% SIAST; 44% ACS); OR,
- Do not have tuition or other mandatory fees (24% SIAST; 5% ACS), or make expenditures for books, education related equipment and supplies (17% SIAST; 4% ACS);
- No longer live with their parents (79% SIAST; 52% ACS), and currently reside in off-campus rental accommodations (60% SIAST; 35% ACS);
- Have a permanent home 100-499 km away from the campus they currently attend (29% SIAST; 15% ACS);
- Pay monthly accommodation costs (78% SIAST; 60% ACS), generally an amount up to \$1,000;
- Pay for basic living expenses such as transportation (71% SIAST; 65% ACS), and utilities (50% SIAST; 44% ACS) (an amount up to \$200 for each expense);
- Pay for daycare expenses (18% SIAST; 8% ACS);
- Have accumulated debt at a higher level - over \$5,000 (40% SIAST; 28% ACS) and make debt payments;
- Anticipate a higher level of future debt, over \$10,000 (35% SIAST; 29% ACS);
- Are more likely to seek employment upon completion of studies (63% SIAST; 48% ACS), and are very confident they will obtain a job in their field of study (58% SIAST; 45% ACS);
- If pursuing continuing education upon completion of current studies, are slightly more interested to enrol in a college program rather than a university program (16% SIAST; 11% ACS).

Comparison of 2002 and 2003 Canadian College Student Survey Findings

Overall, the responses provided by participating students of the 2003 Canadian College Student Survey are very similar to those provided by 2002 college student participants (2002 comparative data was limited). Some of the shifts in opinions and practices between the SIAST students and all college students surveyed include:

- A 4% increase in the proportion of SIAST students enrolled in access/upgrading programming, compared to a 1% decrease of all college students;
- A decline in the proportion of married students, for both SIAST and all colleges (decrease of 6%-7%);
- An increase in the proportion of SIAST students that have identified themselves as Aboriginal (4% increase) or disabled (3% increase), versus a decrease in the proportion of all college students who have similarly self-identified (2% decreases respectively);
- A 5% decrease in the proportion of SIAST students that have a permanent home less than 25 km away, countered by a 6% increase in the percent of SIAST students whose permanent home is 25 to 99 km from the campus they attend. This is compared to a 2% increase of all college students with a permanent home less than 25 km from campus, and a 2% increase in those 25-49 km away;
- A 5% decrease in the percent of SIAST and all college students that live off-campus in rental accommodations;
- A 2% increase in the proportion of SIAST students that live with their parents (the other 3% shift from off-campus rental accommodations was to 'other' forms of accommodation), which is slightly less than the 5% increase in all college students living with parents;
- A minimal 1% decrease in the proportion of SIAST students that plan on seeking employment after program completion, compared to a 9% decrease for all college students;
- A 2% increase in the proportion of SIAST students planning to enrol in a university program after completion of current studies, compared to an 11% increase in all college students (the proportion of students interested in another college program remained the same for both groups).

2003 Canadian College Student Survey Main Findings

This section contains a summary of the main findings from the 2003 SIAST College Student Survey. The results of SIAST student responses are provided, with a comparison to the responses of students surveyed from all participating colleges. Where information is available, the results of the 2002 study will be presented in square [] brackets for the reader's comparative purposes (2002 comparative data was limited). Notable highlights from the college-wide survey report on a national and/or program basis are interspersed throughout this section. Select associated tables are presented in the Appendix.

Academic profile

The majority of SIAST students (97%) and all college students (94%) surveyed are full-time students. The majority of SIAST students (63%) reported being enrolled in career or technical programs, as did 56% of all college students. The proportion of students reporting enrolment in an access or upgrading program at SIAST is considerably higher at 27% [23%] than the all college student average of 9% [10%].¹

The proportion of students surveyed who are in programming under one year in duration at SIAST campuses is 32%, which is 19% higher than the all college student average. There is a higher percentage of all college students enrolled in programs lasting over three years in duration (30%), largely because very few programs at SIAST exceed three years (8% of SIAST students).

At the time of the survey, approximately 80% of SIAST students had been in a program for less than two years, including over half (55%) who had yet to complete their first year. The all college results were slightly lower, with only 71% students reporting they were in a program less than two years, and 47% with less than one year completed.

Overall, SIAST students anticipate they will complete their respective programs earlier than all college students surveyed. Over three quarters of SIAST students (76%) expect to complete their program within two years, with 45% finishing within one year. Just over half of all college students (57%) expect to complete their program within one year, with only one quarter (25%) finishing within one year.

Personal profile

Gender

Over half of SIAST and all college students surveyed are female (56% and 58% respectively). This figure is similar to actual equity student statistics for 2002-2003, which reports that 53.2% of SIAST certificate/diploma students are female, as well as 58.6% of Basic Education students.

Age

SIAST has a relatively more mature student body. Only one-fifth of SIAST students surveyed (21%) [21%] reported they are 19 years of age or younger, compared to 40% [31%] of all college students. Conversely, SIAST has a larger proportion of students in each of the age cohorts over 20 years of age, relative to all colleges combined. This may be attributed to the higher access or upgrading program enrolment at SIAST. The average age for all college students in access or upgrading programs is reported to be 27 years, with one-third of students aged 30 years or older. Another contributing factor may be that many individuals worked prior to enrolling at SIAST.

Equity Group

With respect to education equity, over one-fifth of SIAST students surveyed officially self-identified themselves as Aboriginal 21% [17%], while only one-tenth of all college students 10% [12%] indicated they were Aboriginal. The proportion of SIAST students that self-identified themselves as having a disability is up slightly from 2002. As with the aboriginal status, the proportion of SIAST students that had identified themselves as disabled (13%) [10%] is twice that of all college students (6%) [8%]. (Refer to Table 1 of Appendix)

¹ Note: At the time the survey was conducted, based on SIAST's Banner student reporting system, the actual proportion of all career or technical program students attending SIAST was calculated as 42%, and the actual proportion of access/upgrading (basic education) students was 19%.

Marital Status

There is a slightly higher proportion of SIAST students who are married or have a long-term partner. Twenty-nine percent of SIAST students (29%) [35%] indicated they are married or with a long-term partner, compared to 22% [29%] of all college students. The proportion of married students is lower this year for both SIAST and all college students.

Dependents

A significant proportion (40%) of the SIAST students surveyed have a dependent that requires financial aid or support and resides with the student. This is considerably higher than the 22% reported by all college students surveyed. Once again, this could be attributed to the larger proportion of SIAST students who are more mature in an access or upgrading program. The all college student findings reported that students in access or upgrading programs are most likely to have any dependents (51%), with the majority of the dependents being children (45%). There are a larger proportion of SIAST students with child dependents under twelve years of age (39%), compared to students from all colleges (16%). (Refer to Table 2 of Appendix)

Living arrangements

The current living arrangements of SIAST students are quite different when compared to that of all college students. Only 21% [19%] of SIAST students still reside with their parents, compared to nearly one half of all college students (48%) [43]. A majority of the SIAST students surveyed live in off-campus rental accommodations (60%) [65%], as compared to 35% [40%] of all college students surveyed.

Location of permanent home

As with the majority of all college students (51%) [49.2%], a significant proportion of SIAST students (45%) [50%] have a permanent home less than 25 km from the college they attend. It is interesting to note that the proportion of SIAST students living 100 to 499 kilometers away from home (29%) [30%] is nearly double the ratio when compared to the overall college survey average (15%) [15%]. (Refer to Table 1 of Appendix)

The majority of students attending SIAST campuses (96%) are from locations in Saskatchewan. As a side note, the *Geographic Distribution of 2002-03 Applications to SIAST* report found that approximately one-third of students apply from the city in which the campus is located. The findings are as follows: 32% overall, 35% (Saskatoon), 18% (Moose Jaw), 36% (Regina), and 30% (Prince Albert).

The National Outlook – Academic and Personal Student Profiles

The national results revealed definite relationships between specific programs and regions and the various characteristics of Canadian college students.

The Ontario and Atlantic Canada regions have the highest percentage of students enrolled in career or technical programming (82% and 79% respectively), while the Atlantic and Western Canadian regions have the largest proportion of students enrolled in access or upgrading programs (17% and 18% respectively). Quebec and British Columbia and Territories regions have the highest proportion of students enrolled in university preparation programs (44% and 41% respectively).

On a regional basis, Quebec has the youngest student population (75% are 19 years or younger), while Atlantic Canada has the oldest student population (79% were 20 years or older). With respect to programs, university preparation programs have the greatest proportion of students who are 19 years of age or younger (66%), while access and upgrading programs have the largest proportion of students who are 20 years of age or older (78%).

Not surprisingly, given their youthfulness, more students in university preparation programs reside with their parents (67%) than do students from other programs (30-47%). This is particularly the case in relation to access and upgrading programs, whose students are older (78% are 20 years or older) and more likely to live in off-campus rental accommodations (42%) or own their own home (18%).

College students in Atlantic Canada and Western Canada (the regions with high proportions of mature students and/or students in access/upgrading programming) are the least likely to live with their parents, the most likely to live in off-campus rental accommodations (47% and 41% respectively) or own their own residence (18% and 15%), and the most likely to have dependents (59% and 52%). Quebec, on the other hand, (the region with the highest proportion of younger students and/or students in university preparation courses) has students who are the most likely to live with their parents (65%), and the least likely to have dependents (7%).

Nationally, access and upgrading programs have the largest proportion of students who self-reported being aboriginal (31%), as compared to career or technical programs (8%) or university preparation programs (6%). British Columbia/Territories and Western Canada were the regions with the greatest proportion of students identifying themselves as Aboriginal.

Prior academic attainment/activities

Highest level of secondary education

Just over three-quarters of SIAST students surveyed (76%) have acquired a high school diploma or equivalent as their highest form of secondary education, prior to enrolment at SIAST, compared to 90% of all college students. This figure is not surprising, as 27% of SIAST students surveyed are enrolled in Basic Education programming and hence have not completed grade twelve. (Refer to Table 3 of Appendix)

Post-secondary education levels prior to enrolment

Post-secondary attendance prior to their current enrolment at college was similar for SIAST and all college students surveyed.

- Over half of the SIAST students surveyed (57%) had no post-secondary education, which is similar to the proportion of all college students (60%) with no post-secondary education.
- One quarter of SIAST students (25%) had some college/university credits completed prior to enrolment, compared to 20% of all college students.
- There are a slightly higher proportion of college students (5%) who had obtained an undergraduate degree compared to SIAST students (2%). (Refer to Table 4 of Appendix)

Academic activities in the twelve months prior to enrolment

In the twelve month period prior to enrolment, the majority of SIAST students surveyed (55%) were not involved in any academic activities, while less than one third of all college students (28%) were also not involved.

Prior to enrolment, all college students were more likely to have attended high school full-time (29% compared to 18% of SIAST students) or college full-time (30% compared to 11% of SIAST students).

However, a larger percent of SIAST students attended university (11%) relative to all college students (6%), prior to enrolling in college.

Parent's level of education

A higher percent of SIAST students surveyed reported that their fathers did not have a high school diploma (32%) relative to the fathers of all college students (22%). The SIAST students surveyed also have a lower proportion of fathers with post-secondary education at the college/technical institute (11% compared to 17% for all colleges), or university level (13% compared to 23% for all colleges).

The education level obtained by SIAST students' mothers is relatively similar, with SIAST students having a greater proportion of mothers with a high school diploma or less, and a lower proportion of mothers with a university education.

Prior non-academic activities

Over two thirds of SIAST and all college students (67% respectively) reported they were working during the twelve months prior to enrolment in college. However, there was a higher proportion of all SIAST students working full-time (48%) [48%] than all college students (34%) [39%], prior to enrolment. There was also a higher proportion of SIAST students acting as full-time homemakers or caring for family members (9%), relative to all college students (3%).

Use of time

In terms of time spent on current education-related activities, SIAST students spend more time in class than their college counterparts. Over two thirds of SIAST students surveyed (69%) spend more than 20 hours in the classroom as compared to 52% of all college students. This may account for the slightly higher proportion of SIAST students (19% compared to 15% college-wide) who never or rarely do academic work outside of class, and the somewhat lower proportion that complete more than 11 hours of homework (26% compared to 33% college-wide).

The SIAST students surveyed spend slightly less time commuting to school than all college students. Over one-quarter of SIAST students (28%) never or rarely commute to school, compared to 22% of all college students. An equal proportion of SIAST and all college students (52% respectively) spend up to 5 hours a week commuting between their current residence and school. (Refer to Table 7 of Appendix.)

Over two thirds of SIAST students (68% compared to 45% college-wide) are not employed while attending school, and a smaller proportion work for pay over 11 hours a week (17%), compared to all college students (34%).

Similarly, SIAST students are less likely to work during the summer months or other school related breaks than their other college counterparts. Over one-quarter of SIAST students (29%) did not work for pay during these periods, over the past year. Only 15% of all college students did not work for pay over the summer/scheduled school breaks, while nearly three quarters (71%) worked over 21 hours on average weekly (compared to 57% of SIAST students).

SIAST students reported spending relatively more time looking after family responsibilities. One quarter (25%) of SIAST students stated they spend over 20 hours on family responsibilities, compared to only 14% of all college students. This may also account why there is a smaller proportion of SIAST students who work while attending school.

Financing college education

The ability to finance post-secondary education is a critical issue for the majority of students. At one time or another, 12% of both SIAST students and all college students reported that they have had to discontinue studies due to a lack of money. Over the course of the current year of studies, the common types of income SIAST students have drawn upon or received include personal savings, funds from parents, student loans, and personal loans.

Work income

Only 31% of SIAST students reported receiving a monthly work income, with 15% receiving income between \$201 to \$750 each month. Conversely, over half of all college students (58%) indicated they receive some form of work income, with 31% receiving wages of \$201 to \$750 per month. (Refer to Table 5 of Appendix)

This is not surprising, as approximately two thirds of SIAST students reported they are not employed during the course of their current studies.

Loans

The majority of SIAST students do not rely on personal bank (79%) or government student loans (67%).

However, relative to all college students, the SIAST students surveyed are more dependent upon obtaining funds from personal and student loans. Twenty-one percent (21%) of SIAST students used personal loan income, compared to 14% of all college students. SIAST students also reported a relatively higher amount of personal loan income over \$4,000 (16% compared to 6% for all college students).

One-third of SIAST students (33%) receive money from student loans, which is slightly higher than 30% of all college students. Similarly, the proportion of SIAST students with student loans over \$7,000 (15%) is relatively higher than all college students (8%).

Personal or family income

A significant proportion of SIAST students rely on personal savings (40%) and income support from parents (38%). However, there is an even larger proportion of all college students who have personal savings (55%) and receive income support from their parents (53%).

Overall, personal savings amounts and parental support generally amount to \$4,000.

- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of SIAST students have personally saved up to \$4,000, compared to 51% of all college students.
- Thirty-one percent (31%) of SIAST students receive up to \$4,000 in support from their parents, compared to 42% of all college students.

Income support from spouses or other family sources is limited for all students.

Scholarships, grants or bursaries

SIAST students were, on the whole, less dependent on academic scholarships and government student grants and bursaries than those students found in the survey average. The scholarship, grant, or bursary amounts received are typically less than \$4,000 (7% of SIAST students, and 16% of all college students receive some amount up to \$4,000). Such is the case in both survey years (2003 and 2002).

- Eight percent (8%) of SIAST students have been awarded academic scholarships for their current year of study, compared to 12% of all college students;
- Only 10% of SIAST students reported receiving government grant/bursary money, compared to 20% of all college students.

Other government support

An equal proportion of SIAST students are recipients of employment insurance benefits or social/income assistance (7% respectively). A similar proportion of all college students receive employment insurance (8%). Conversely, all college students surveyed are less dependent on social/income assistance, with only 3% accessing this support. Recipient amounts vary.

Government income support for people of Aboriginal or government disability is even more limited.

Expenditures

Academic-related expenses

In terms of annual academic-related expenses, a higher proportion of SIAST students surveyed have no tuition or other mandatory fees or do not make expenditures for books, and education-related equipment and supplies

- Nearly one-quarter of SIAST students (24%) have no tuition or other mandatory fees, compared to only 5% of all college students.

- Nearly one-fifth of SIAST students (17%) do not buy books, or education-related equipment and supplies, while only 4% of all college students do not incur these expenses.

These ratios may be due to the higher proportion of Basic Education and Aboriginal students that attend SIAST relative to all colleges, and who may receive provincial training allowances or other funding.

The average tuition fee for a full-time SIAST student completing a one-year program is \$2,400. The CCSS survey results reported a higher proportion of SIAST students have tuition and mandatory fees above \$2,500, relative to all college students. This indicates respondents may have included additional fees into this category.

- Only 14% of SIAST students have tuition and mandatory fees less than \$2,500, compared to over half of all college students (51%).
- Conversely, approximately 60% of SIAST students reported having tuition and other mandatory fees above \$2,500, while only 44% of all college students reported the same.

Those SIAST and all college students who spend money on books, education-related equipment and supplies primarily spend less than \$2,500 (75% of SIAST students, and 90% of all college students). (Refer to Table 6 of Appendix)

Accommodation and basic living expenses

A greater proportion of SIAST students surveyed reported to be paying more rent than all college students.

- Nearly one-quarter of all college students (23%) [20%] do not pay any monthly accommodation expenses, compared to only 7% [5%] of SIAST students (fewer SIAST students live with their parents).
- Over three-quarters of SIAST students (78%) pay monthly accommodation costs of up to \$1,000, while less than two-thirds of all college students (60%) incur such costs.

Similarly, the students surveyed from all colleges are less likely required to spend for other basic living expenses, such as food, transportation, and utilities.

- Eleven percent (11%) of all college students do not pay for their food, compared to only 4% of SIAST students. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of SIAST students and 56% of all college students pay an amount up to \$200 per month for food.
- Thirteen percent (13%) of all college students do not pay for transportation, compared to 8% of SIAST students. Seventy-one percent (71%) of SIAST students pay up to \$200 in transportation monthly, compared to 65% of all college students.
- Over one-third (35%) of all college students do not pay for utilities, compared to 19% of SIAST students. Fifty percent of SIAST students incur utility expenses up to \$200, compared to 44% for all college students.

The lower accommodation and basic living expenses of all college students may be explained by the larger proportion of those who still reside with their parents relative to students attending SIAST.

There are several other living expenses that are common to both SIAST and all college students.

- One half of SIAST students and 42% of all college students also pay an amount up to \$200 on medical expenses monthly.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of SIAST students spend an amount up to \$200 on clothes, as do 81% of all college students.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) of both SIAST students and all colleges spend up to \$200 for entertainment each month.

Other expenses

A higher proportion of SIAST students (over 18%) have some daycare costs relative to all college students (approximately 8%). This trend is likely due to the fact that SIAST students have a higher proportion of dependents under the age of twelve.

Although the majority of both SIAST and all college students do not put money toward savings, all college students are slightly more likely to make contributions to their savings (approximately 23% have some form of savings compared to 18% of SIAST students).

With regard to debt payments, SIAST students are slightly more likely to make current payments toward their outstanding debt. Well over half of SIAST students (59%) spend some amount of money on debt payments, compared to 48% of all college peers, with the majority of students spending an amount up to \$200 per month.

Debt

Nearly half of SIAST and all college students have moderate to high concerns regarding the level of debt they will have to incur to obtain their education, whether they will have enough funding to complete their education, and their ability to repay the debt within a reasonable timeframe.

SIAST students are slightly more concerned about these issues than their college counterparts:

- 47% of all SIAST students surveyed are moderately to very concerned about the level of debt they will incur, compared to 45% college-wide;
- 50% are moderately to very concerned that they will have enough funding to complete their education, compared to 46% of all college students; and,
- 43% are moderately to very concerned that they will have the ability to repay the debt within a reasonable time frame, compared to 40% college-wide.

Overall, a greater proportion of SIAST students has accumulated debt, and has a high level of debt between \$10,001 to \$20,000.

- Forty-two percent (42%) of SIAST students have no accumulated debt, compared to 50% overall;
- Eighteen percent (18%) of SIAST students have between \$5,001 and \$10,000 of accumulated debt, compared to 22% of all college students.
- Thirty-seven percent (37%) of SIAST students have between \$10,001 and \$20,000 of accumulated debt, compared to 24% of all college students.
- Only 3% of SIAST and all college students have accumulated debt over \$20,000 respectively.

Similarly, a greater proportion of SIAST students (35%) anticipate they will have future education-related debt over \$10,000, relative to their peers at all colleges (29%).

- Thirty-six percent (36%) of SIAST students do not anticipate having any future debt, compared to 40% overall;
- Twenty-eight (28%) of SIAST students anticipate future debt of \$10,000 or less, compared to 31% overall
- Nineteen percent (19%) of SIAST students anticipate future debt between \$10,001 and \$20,000, compared to 16%;
- Sixteen percent (16%) of SIAST students anticipate future debt over \$20,000, compared to 13% overall.

Activities after graduation

The survey results identified that, upon graduating from their current program, SIAST students are more likely to seek employment than all college students surveyed. Nearly two-thirds of SIAST students (63% [64%]) intend to seek employment after the completion of their program, as opposed to less than half (48% [57%]) of all college students.

A higher proportion of SIAST students (58%) [56%] were very confident that they would obtain a job in their field of study after program completion, as compared to 45% [46%] of all college students.

For those students who were interested in continuing their education upon graduation from their current program, SIAST students were more likely to attend college as opposed to university. The proportion of SIAST students interested in pursuing another college program is slightly higher at 16% [16%], as compared to 11% [11%] for the overall student population. With respect to university programming, the survey revealed that only 13% [11%] of SIAST students wish to pursue a university program, as compared to one-third of all college students (33%) [24%].

Upon graduating, other activities such as working at one's current job/business or starting a business were of less interest to both SIAST graduates and the overall student population. Such findings were similar for both years.

The National Outlook – After Graduation: Students enrolled in career or technical programs were more likely to seek employment following the completion of their current studies (63%). The majority of access/upgrading students indicated they would be continuing their education after graduation by enrolling in another college program (54%), while three-quarters of students in university preparation courses would continue on to take another university program.

Summary

Understanding the personal and academic profile of SIAST students and student income levels provides SIAST with an opportunity to assess current initiatives and identify and adjust programming to better reflect the needs of its learners². The statistical findings within the Canadian College Student Survey reports can assist decision-makers with foreseeing any potential barriers to entry, be it related to income support, living accommodations, working while in school, the need to support a family, and distance traveled to school, any of which could ultimately have an impact upon a student enrolling in college and succeeding.

The 2003 Canadian College Student survey revealed that SIAST students have some unique characteristics which may influence their ability to access and afford post-secondary education.

SIAST has an increasing Aboriginal student population which may have program implications in terms of cultural issues, language barriers, counseling services, employment equity hiring, and employer recruitment of graduates (regarding the latter, the hiring of Aboriginal graduates is lower (at 86%) than for non-Aboriginal graduates (at 92%) according to the *2002 SIAST Graduate Employment Report*).

Although the majority of SIAST students are enrolled in career or technical programs, a significant proportion of students surveyed have a lower level of secondary education attainment and are either accessing Basic Education programming to top up their learning to prepare them for additional college/university programming, or pursuing shorter training programs under one year in duration. The majority of these students are over 19 years of age, and over one half are students who have been out of school for more than 12 months. Nearly one half of students worked full-time in the twelve months prior to enrolment, while approximately one fifth cared for family members/homemaking.

There are a larger proportion of SIAST students that do not have tuition and other mandatory fees, or pay for books and educational-related equipment and supplies, relative to all college students. However, those SIAST students who reported education expenses indicated they incur higher combined fees for tuition, books and other mandatory fees, and have a higher level of accumulated debt. Moreover, they anticipate a higher level of future accumulated debt than all college students. As fewer SIAST students live with their parents relative to all college students, and have a permanent home located over 25 kilometers from campus, they incur higher accommodation, utilities, and other basic living costs. In addition, more than one-third of SIAST students have dependents under the age of twelve that require financial aid and reside with them.

The majority of students does not work while attending SIAST, and utilize personal savings or money from parents to help finance their education. They also rely more on personal and student loans for income. Some of the factors that may affect SIAST students' willingness and ability to work for income while attending school may be the greater amount of time they spend in class compared to all college students, or the fact that many have dependents or other family responsibilities to look after.

² Studies such as the surveys presented herewith, which deal with access issues, have been reported to some degree before. A recently released report by Frenette (2003), had reported that barriers (such as cost and distance to a college) do inhibit a student from attending a post-secondary education in Canada. The findings show that added costs will deter students from pursuing a university or college education while students who live beyond commuting distance from a college are 37 % less likely to attend than those who live close-by. Moreover, the report's findings indicate that college attendance is lower for students who reside beyond commuting distance from a college regardless of their family income situation and is particularly more acute (i.e., has a greater negative effect) amongst students from low income families.

The above trends are of significance particularly when looking at access barriers to SIAST such as affordable and available housing, childcare, transportation, and other costs. Access to educational funding (student loans/grants/scholarships) will become an increasingly important factor in determining whether students can enrol in SIAST training programs.

Appendix³

Table 1: SIAST and All College Student Profiles – SIAST – 2002 and 2003 survey years

Characteristics	2002	2003	2002	2003
	SIAST (n=497)	SIAST (n=447)	All colleges (n=6,215)	All colleges (n=9,912)
Gender				
Female	56.5%	56%	53.9%	58%
Male	43.5%	44%	46.1%	42%
Age				
19 and under	21.0%	21%	31.2%	40%
20 to 24	38.3%	43%	39.3%	37%
25 to 29	19.1%	16%	11.8%	10%
30 to 39	14.9%	14%	10.5%	9%
40 or over	6.7%	6%	7.2%	5%
Average age		24.9		22.9
Marital status				
Married or with long-term partner	34.6%	29%	28.6%	22%
Single (including divorced/separated)	65.4%	71%	71.4%	78%
Distance of college/institute from permanent home				
Less than 25 km	49.7%	45%	49.2%	51%
25 to 49 km	5.3%	8%	18.1%	16%
50 to 99 km	8.5%	12%	9.6%	10%
100 to 499 km	30.4%	29%	15.0%	15%
500 km or more	6.1%	5%	8.1%	9%
Current Residence				
Parents/guardians/relatives	18.9%	21%	43.0%	48%
On-campus housing	0%	0%	5.2%	5%
Off-campus rented accommodation	65.4%	60%	39.7%	35%
Personally owned home	14.6%	15%	11.3%	10%
Other (shelter, group home, etc.)	0.8%	3%	0.8%	2%
Primary language				
English	96.7%	98%	80.9%	70%
French	0.2%	<1%	14.2%	23%
Other	3.1%	<1%	4.9%	6%
Aboriginal person (self-identified)				
No	83.2%	79%	88.2%	90%
Yes	16.8%	21%	11.8%	10%
Visible Minority (other than Aboriginal) – (self-identified)				
No	90.5%	92%	89.1%	90%
Yes	9.5%	8%	10.9%	10%
Disability (mental, physical, learning) – self identified				
No	89.9%	87%	91.8%	94%
Yes	10.1%	13%	8.2%	6%

³ **Source for Tables:**

Prairie Research Associates Inc (2003). *Institutional Report: 2003 Canadian College Student Survey*. July 30, 2003
R. A Malatest & associates Ltd. (2002). *Canadian College Student Survey Institutional Report*. September, 2002

Table 2: Dependents		
	SIAST (n=447)	All colleges (n=9,912)
Any dependent	40%	22%
Any children	36%	17%
Type of dependent		
- Children five years and younger	22%	9%
- Children six to eleven	17%	7%
- Children twelve years and older	13%	7%
- Adults with disabilities*	3%	3%
- Adults (other than with disabilities)*	7%	6%
*A dependent is defined as an individual who requires your financial aid or support and who resides with you. Note: The 'no responses' have been removed; therefore the number of respondents fluctuates for each question. The reported n-size represents the total number of students surveyed.		

Table 3: Highest level of secondary education completed prior to enrolment		
	SIAST (n=444)	All colleges (n=9,776)
Less than grade 9	6%	2%
Some high school credits completed	18%	7%
High school diploma or equivalent	76%	90%
Note: Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.		

Table 4: Post-secondary education prior to enrolment		
	SIAST (n=431)	All colleges (n=9,392)
No post-secondary education	57%	60%
Vocational certificate	4%	5%
Apprenticeship training partially completed	2%	2%
Apprenticeship classroom training hours completed	1%	1%
Journey-person certification	1%	1%
Some college/university credits completed	25%	20%
Certificate or diploma (college/university)	12%	11%
Undergraduate university degree	2%	5%
Post graduate or advanced diploma (college/university)	1%	2%
Graduate degree (Masters/PhD)	<1%	<1%
Note: Respondents could provide more than one answer; responses may sum to more than 100%.		

Table 5: Sources of regular monthly income		
	SIAST (n=436)	All colleges (n=9,729)
Work income		
\$0	69%	42%
\$1 to \$200	9%	14%
\$201 to \$750	16%	31%
\$751 or more	6%	13%
Grant/scholarship		
\$0	62%	80%
\$1 to \$200	4%	4%
\$201 to \$750	13%	8%
\$751 or more	21%	8%
Employment insurance		
\$0	92%	88%
\$1 to \$200	3%	5%
\$201 to \$750	3%	3%
\$751 or more	3%	4%
Social/income assistance		
\$0	92%	95%
\$1 to \$200	1%	1%
\$201 to \$750	3%	2%
\$751 or more	4%	2%

Table 6: Annual academic-related expenses		
	SIAST (n=447)	All colleges (n=9,912)
Tuition and mandatory fees		
\$0	24%	5%
\$1 to \$2,500	14%	51%
\$2,501 to \$5,000	50%	32%
\$5,001 to \$7,500	9%	7%
\$7,501 to \$10,000	1%	3%
\$10,001 to \$15,000	<1%	2%
Over \$15,000	<1%	<1%
Books, education-related equipment and supplies		
\$0	17%	4%
\$1 to \$2,500	75%	90%
\$2,501 to \$5,000	6%	5%
\$5,001 to \$7,500	1%	1%
\$7,501 to \$10,000	<1%	<1%
\$10,001 to \$15,000	-	<1%
Over \$15,000	<1%	<1%

Note: The 'no responses' have been removed; therefore the number of respondents fluctuates for each question. The reported n-size represents the total number of students surveyed.

Table 7: Amount of time spent on education-related activities (per week)		
	SIAST (n=446)	All colleges (n=9,883)
Attending class		
Never or rarely	8%	6%
Up to 5 hours	6%	5%
6 to 10 hours	8%	8%
11 to 20 hours	10%	29%
More than 20 hours	69%	52%
Academic work outside of class		
Never or rarely	19%	15%
Up to 5 hours	24%	24%
6 to 10 hours	30%	28%
11 to 20 hours	16%	21%
More than 20 hours	10%	12%
Commuting to school		
Never or rarely	28%	22%
Up to 5 hours	52%	52%
6 to 10 hours	15%	18%
11 to 20 hours	4%	6%
More than 20 hours	1%	2%
Student government/student clubs		
Never or rarely	87%	90%
Up to 5 hours	10%	8%
6 to 10 hours	1%	1%
11 to 20 hours	1%	<1%
More than 20 hours	-	<1%

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