

Short Stay/Early Leavers Student Outcomes 2009

SSEL Detailed Survey Results: Simon Fraser University

Survey Background

1 Response frequencies and rates:		SFU		SYSTEM	
Gross Frame	1,180	100.0%	15,008	100.0%	
Respondents	425	36.0%	5,036	33.6%	

2 Institution type		SFU		SYSTEM	
Colleges and Institutes	0	0.0%	2,251	44.7%	
Research Universities	425	100.0%	1,370	27.2%	
Special Purpose/Teaching Universities	0	0.0%	1,415	28.1%	

3 Type of program		SFU		SYSTEM	
Certificate	14	3.3%	1,319	26.2%	
Diploma	0	0.0%	1,297	25.8%	
Associate Degree	0	0.0%	482	9.6%	
Bachelors Degree	260	61.2%	1,547	30.7%	
Other	53	12.5%	100	2.0%	
None	98	23.1%	291	5.8%	

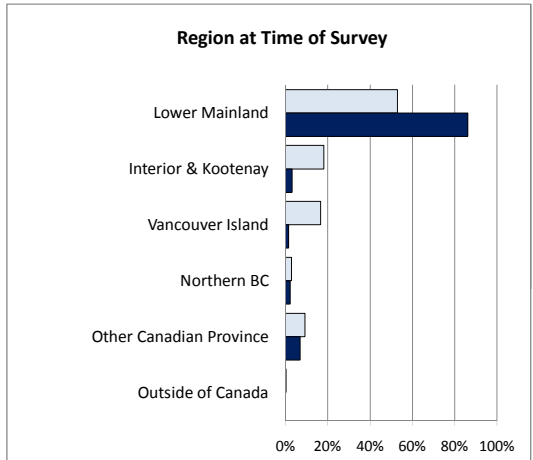
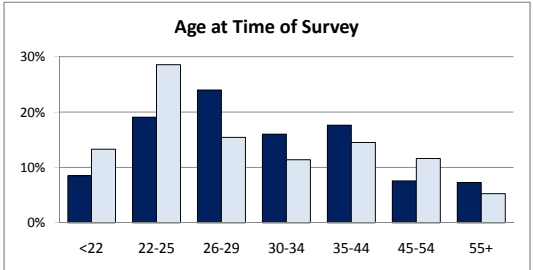
4 Age at time of survey		SFU		SYSTEM	
<22	36	8.5%	668	13.3%	
22-25	81	19.1%	1,434	28.5%	
26-29	102	24.0%	775	15.4%	
30-34	68	16.0%	572	11.4%	
35-44	75	17.6%	728	14.5%	
45-54	32	7.5%	583	11.6%	
55+	31	7.3%	264	5.3%	

5 Gender		SFU		SYSTEM	
Male	154	36.2%	2,023	40.2%	
Female	271	63.8%	3,005	59.8%	

6 Self-identified as Aboriginal person		SFU		SYSTEM	
	25	5.9%	355	7.1%	

7 Region at time of survey		SFU		SYSTEM	
Lower Mainland	352	86.3%	2,540	52.9%	
Interior & Kootenay	13	3.2%	872	18.2%	
Vancouver Island	6	1.5%	799	16.7%	
Northern BC	9	2.2%	137	2.9%	
Other Canadian Province	28	6.9%	440	9.2%	
Outside of Canada	0	0.0%	9	0.2%	

Please note: in some cases, low cells have been suppressed to ensure protection of privacy in accordance with the Stats Act.

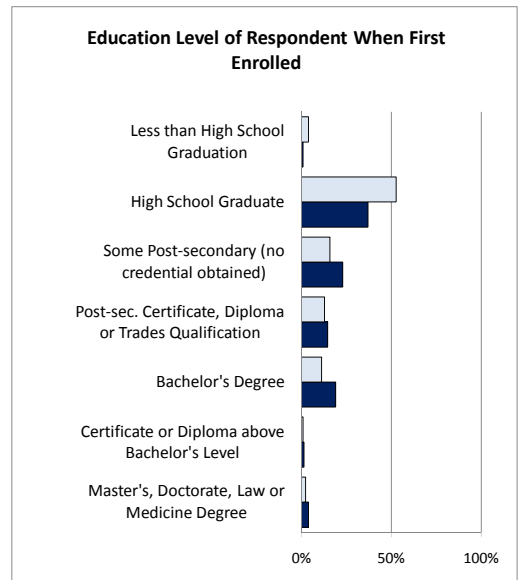


Educational Background

8 Education level of respondent when first enrolled		SFU		SYSTEM	
Less than High School Graduation	4	0.9%	201	4.0%	
High School Graduate	157	36.9%	2,653	52.7%	
Some Post-Secondary (no credential obtained)	98	23.1%	801	15.9%	
Post-sec. Certificate, Diploma, or Trades Qualification	62	14.6%	645	12.8%	
Bachelor's Degree	81	19.1%	569	11.3%	
Certificate or Diploma above Bachelor's Level	6	1.4%	44	0.9%	
Master's, Doctorate, Law or Medicine Degree	17	4.0%	118	2.3%	

9 Education level of most highly educated parent		SFU		SYSTEM	
Less than High School Graduation	43	10.3%	482	10.1%	
High School Graduate	88	21.2%	1,094	22.8%	
Some Post-Secondary (no credential obtained)	35	8.4%	384	8.0%	
Post-sec. Certificate, Diploma, or Trades Qualification	50	12.0%	893	18.7%	
Bachelor's Degree	100	24.0%	1,057	22.1%	
Certificate or Diploma above Bachelor's Level	7	1.7%	147	3.1%	
Master's, Doctorate, Law or Medicine Degree	93	22.4%	731	15.3%	

10 Took remedial courses while enrolled to strengthen skills in math, writing, or reading		SFU		SYSTEM	
Yes	44	10.4%	736	14.7%	
No	379	89.6%	4,265	85.3%	



Commitment to Studies

11	When first enrolled, how clear were your reasons for enrolling?	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Very clear	267	63.0%	2,973	59.4%
	Somewhat clear	108	25.5%	1,522	30.4%
	Not very clear	38	9.0%	406	8.1%
	Not at all clear	11	2.6%	105	2.1%

12	Main educational or career goals when first enrolled *	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Complete a credential at this institution	280	67.8%	2,605	53.6%
	Prepare to transfer to another institution	18	4.4%	375	7.7%
	Qualify to enter a program in another field	36	8.7%	343	7.1%
	Improve existing job skills	25	6.1%	674	13.9%
	Learn new job skills (including for self-employment)	45	10.9%	940	19.3%
	Decide on a career/change careers	88	21.3%	1,064	21.9%
	Personal interest	68	16.5%	801	16.5%
	Improve basic skills (reading/writing or math skills)	7	1.7%	176	3.6%
	Other	7	1.7%	30	0.6%

* Percentage of respondents who cited this goal. Multiple responses were allowed.

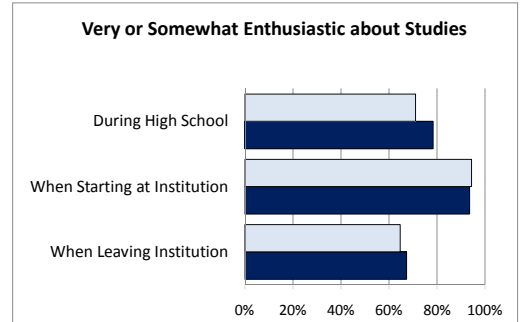
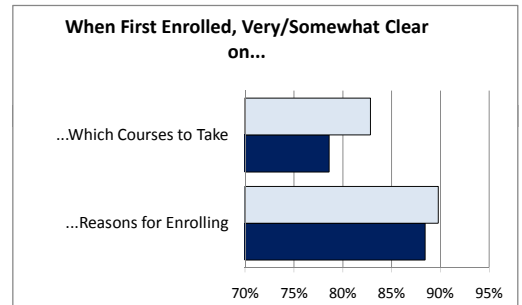
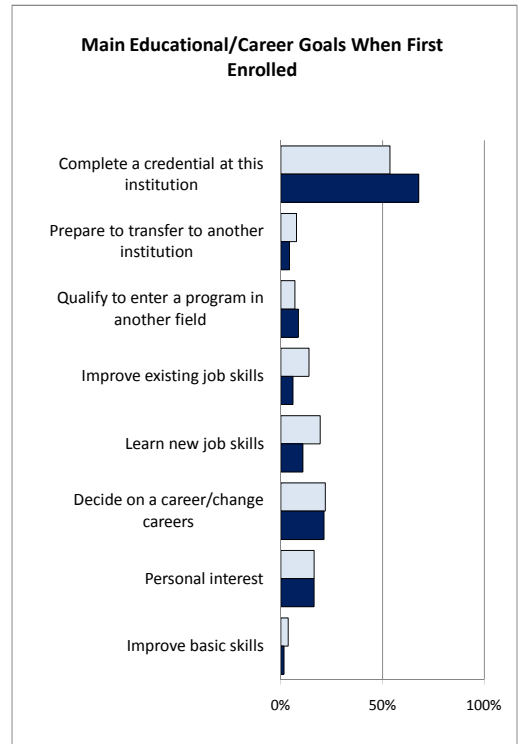
13	Level of enthusiasm for studies during high school	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Very enthusiastic	156	37.1%	1,251	25.2%
	Somewhat enthusiastic	173	41.2%	2,279	45.9%
	Not very enthusiastic	58	13.8%	948	19.1%
	Not at all enthusiastic	33	7.9%	492	9.9%

14	Level of encouragement from family and friends to become student at institution	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Strongly encouraged	136	32.6%	1,792	36.6%
	Mildly encouraged	100	24.0%	1,160	23.7%
	Neither encouraged nor discouraged	170	40.8%	1,840	37.6%
	Mildly discouraged	7	1.7%	72	1.5%
	Strongly discouraged	4	1.0%	27	0.6%

15	When first enrolled, how clear were you about which courses to take?	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Very clear	197	46.4%	2,744	54.6%
	Somewhat clear	137	32.2%	1,415	28.2%
	Not very clear	67	15.8%	650	12.9%
	Not at all clear	24	5.6%	213	4.2%

16	How enthusiastic were you about your studies when you first started at the institution?	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Very enthusiastic	271	63.8%	3,092	61.5%
	Somewhat enthusiastic	127	29.9%	1,652	32.9%
	Not very enthusiastic	24	5.6%	228	4.5%
	Not at all enthusiastic	3	0.7%	54	1.1%

17	How enthusiastic were you about your studies when you left the institution?	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Very enthusiastic	138	32.7%	1,566	31.6%
	Somewhat enthusiastic	146	34.6%	1,638	33.0%
	Not very enthusiastic	79	18.7%	1,036	20.9%
	Not at all enthusiastic	59	14.0%	717	14.5%



Institution Choice

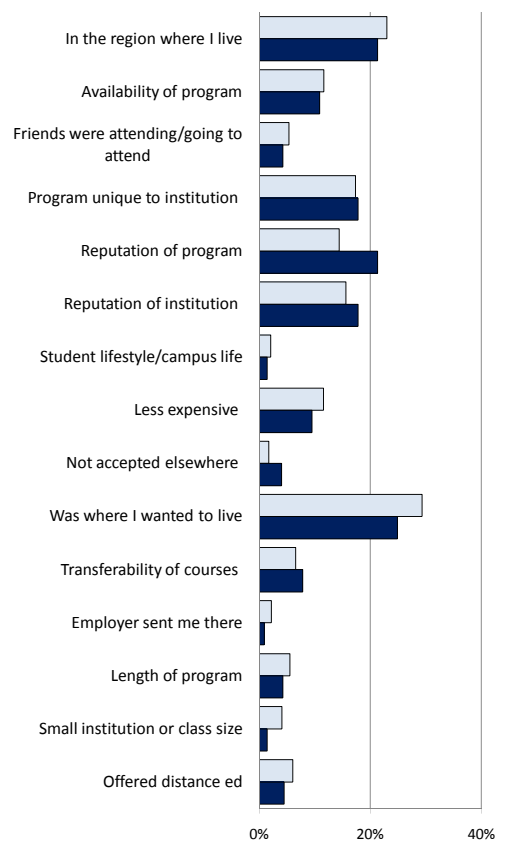
18 Relocated from home community to attend institution		SFU		SYSTEM	
Yes		88	20.7%	1,226	24.8%
No		337	79.3%	3,726	75.2%

19 Institution was first choice		SFU		SYSTEM	
Yes		315	76.1%	3,848	78.7%

20 Reasons for choosing to attend institution*		SFU		SYSTEM	
It is in the region where I live, so I didn't have to move		90	21.3%	1,148	23.0%
Availability of program/no waitlist/space available		46	10.9%	581	11.6%
Friends were attending, or were going to attend		18	4.3%	269	5.4%
Program unique to this institution		75	17.8%	866	17.3%
Reputation of program		90	21.3%	720	14.4%
Reputation of institution		75	17.8%	781	15.6%
Student lifestyle/campus life		6	1.4%	104	2.1%
Less expensive		40	9.5%	579	11.6%
I was not accepted elsewhere		17	4.0%	87	1.7%
Location of the institution (where I wanted to live)		105	24.9%	1,466	29.3%
Transferability of program or courses		33	7.8%	327	6.5%
Employer sent me there		4	0.9%	109	2.2%
Length of program/convenient schedule		18	4.3%	277	5.5%
Small institution or class size		6	1.4%	203	4.1%
Offered online /distance ed/ correspondence courses		19	4.5%	303	6.1%
Other		11	2.6%	88	1.8%

* Percentage of respondents who cited this reason. Multiple responses were allowed.

Reasons for Choosing to Attend Institution



Quality of Educational Experience

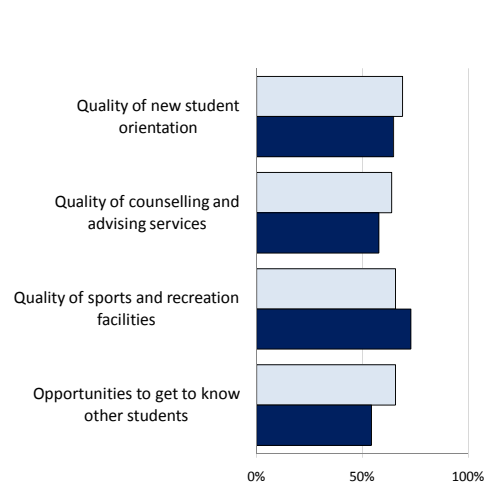
21 Quality of new student orientation		SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good		75	27.5%	908	26.3%
Good		102	37.4%	1,474	42.7%
Adequate		63	23.1%	766	22.2%
Poor		25	9.2%	208	6.0%
Very poor		8	2.9%	100	2.9%

22 Quality of counselling and advising services		SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good		69	21.1%	953	26.8%
Good		120	36.7%	1,314	37.0%
Adequate		83	25.4%	798	22.5%
Poor		37	11.3%	315	8.9%
Very poor		18	5.5%	172	4.8%

23 Quality of sports and recreation facilities		SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good		49	23.2%	444	22.7%
Good		105	49.8%	840	43.0%
Adequate		47	22.3%	415	21.2%
Poor		5	2.4%	170	8.7%
Very poor		5	2.4%	86	4.4%

24 Opportunities to get to know other students		SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good		73	20.6%	1,119	27.0%
Good		120	33.8%	1,599	38.6%
Adequate		106	29.9%	974	23.5%
Poor		42	11.8%	333	8.0%
Very poor		14	3.9%	116	2.8%

Rating the Institution: Good or Very Good



Quality of Educational Experience (cont'd)

25 Availability of instructors for course help outside of class	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good	100	24.4%	1,547	33.1%
Good	168	41.1%	1,812	38.8%
Adequate	104	25.4%	910	19.5%
Poor	32	7.8%	289	6.2%
Very poor	5	1.2%	117	2.5%

26 Helpfulness of instructors outside of class	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good	103	25.6%	1,602	34.6%
Good	172	42.7%	1,782	38.5%
Adequate	96	23.8%	871	18.8%
Poor	27	6.7%	253	5.5%
Very poor	5	1.2%	117	2.5%

27 Quality of instruction	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good	109	25.9%	1,667	33.8%
Good	204	48.5%	2,120	43.0%
Adequate	95	22.6%	834	16.9%
Poor	7	1.7%	215	4.4%
Very poor	6	1.4%	98	2.0%

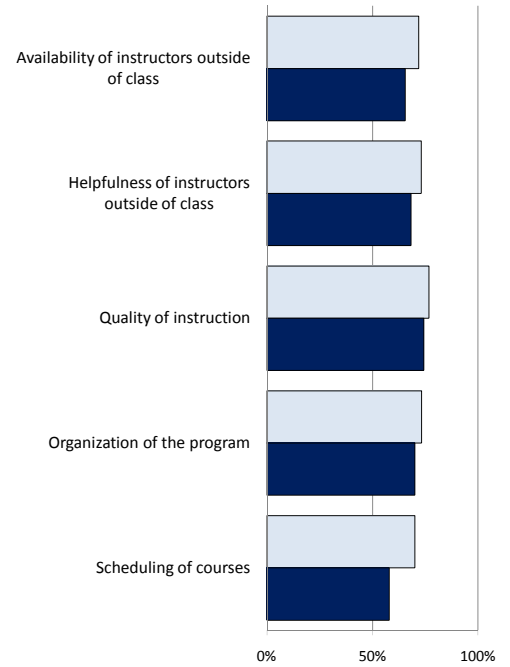
28 Organization of the program	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good	98	23.3%	1,380	28.2%
Good	197	46.8%	2,201	45.0%
Adequate	100	23.8%	921	18.8%
Poor	18	4.3%	258	5.3%
Very poor	8	1.9%	127	2.6%

29 Scheduling of courses	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very good	73	17.5%	1,165	23.9%
Good	169	40.4%	2,251	46.2%
Adequate	114	27.3%	1,026	21.1%
Poor	45	10.8%	310	6.4%
Very poor	17	4.1%	117	2.4%

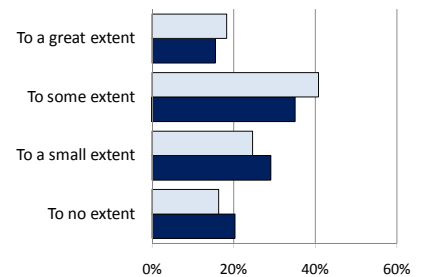
30 Percentage of courses that were entirely online or by distance	SFU		SYSTEM	
0% of courses	221	53.4%	3,707	75.9%
1% - 24% of courses	120	29.0%	499	10.2%
25% - 49% of courses	25	6.0%	104	2.1%
50% - 74% of courses	20	4.8%	75	1.5%
75% - 99% of courses	6	1.4%	66	1.4%
100% of courses	22	5.3%	433	8.9%

31 Respondents felt a sense of belonging while at institution...	SFU		SYSTEM	
To a great extent	65	15.5%	881	18.2%
To some extent	147	35.1%	1,971	40.8%
To a small extent	122	29.1%	1,191	24.7%
To no extent	85	20.3%	788	16.3%

Rating the Program: Good or Very Good

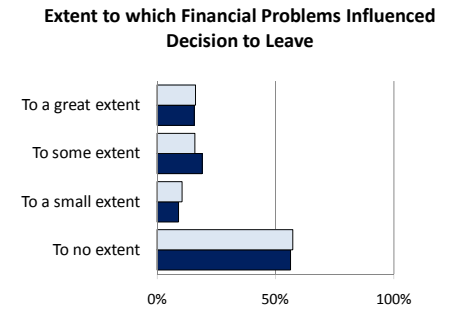


Respondent Felt Sense of Belonging while at Institution



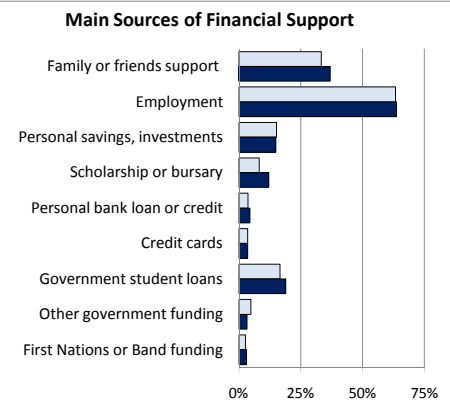
Student Financial Assistance

32 Extent to which financial problems influenced decision to leave institution	SFU		SYSTEM	
To a great extent	66	15.7%	803	16.2%
To some extent	80	19.0%	792	15.9%
To a small extent	38	9.0%	523	10.5%
To no extent	237	56.3%	2,849	57.4%



33 Government student loans	SFU		SYSTEM	
Received gov't student loans while attending institution	112	26.4%	1,147	22.9%
While attending, had gov't student loans to repay from previous studies	52	19.8%	378	17.5%
When leaving, total amount of gov't student loan debt*	\$15,000		\$11,000	

* Median

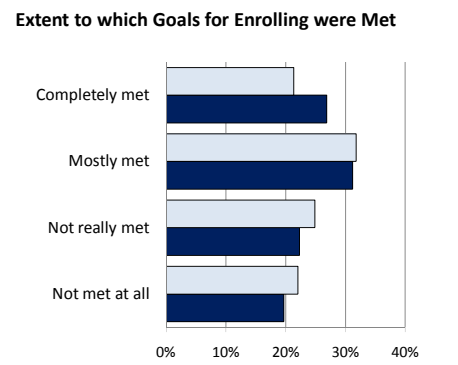


34 Main sources of financial support while studying *	SFU		SYSTEM	
Family or friends support	156	37.0%	1,663	33.3%
Employment	269	63.7%	3,164	63.3%
Personal savings, investments, RESPs	63	14.9%	759	15.2%
Scholarship or bursary (government or non-government)	51	12.1%	410	8.2%
Personal bank loan or line of credit	19	4.5%	182	3.6%
Credit cards	15	3.6%	178	3.6%
Government student loans	80	19.0%	833	16.7%
Other government funding	14	3.3%	240	4.8%
First Nations or Band funding	13	3.1%	131	2.6%
Other	~	~	6	0.1%

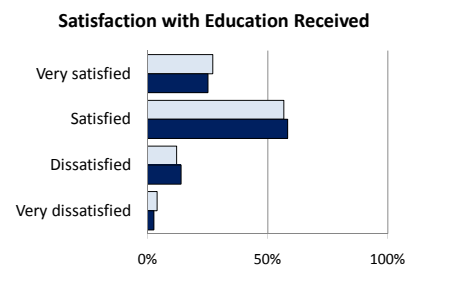
* Percentage of respondents who cited this source. Multiple responses were allowed.

Educational Outcomes

35 Extent to which goals for enrolling were met	SFU		SYSTEM	
Completely met	112	26.9%	1,049	21.3%
Mostly met	130	31.2%	1,564	31.8%
Not really met	93	22.3%	1,223	24.9%
Not met at all	82	19.7%	1,083	22.0%



36 Level of difficulty of courses	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very easy	11	2.6%	149	3.0%
Easy	54	12.8%	633	12.7%
Neither difficult nor easy	209	49.6%	2,437	48.9%
Difficult	132	31.4%	1,520	30.5%
Very difficult	15	3.6%	242	4.9%



37 How satisfied are you with the education you received from the institution?	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very satisfied	105	25.2%	1,335	27.2%
Satisfied	243	58.3%	2,787	56.7%
Dissatisfied	58	13.9%	596	12.1%
Very dissatisfied	11	2.6%	196	4.0%

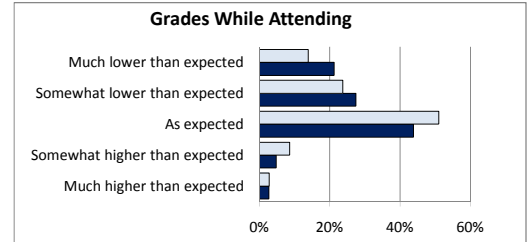
38 Stayed at institution as long as originally planned	SFU		SYSTEM	
Yes	165	39.0%	1,712	34.2%
No	240	56.7%	3,011	60.2%
Didn't have a plan	18	4.3%	279	5.6%

Departure

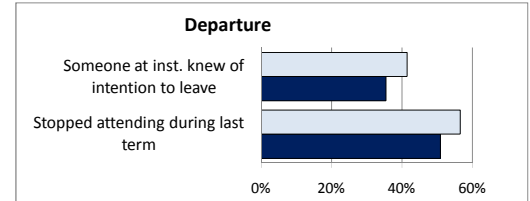
39 Grades while attending	SFU		SYSTEM	
Much higher than expected	4	2.7%	56	2.8%
Somewhat higher than expected	7	4.8%	171	8.6%
As expected	64	43.8%	1,012	51.0%
Somewhat lower than expected	40	27.4%	471	23.7%
Much lower than expected	31	21.2%	276	13.9%

Note: Questions on this page were only asked of respondents who either did not stay at the institution as long as they originally planned or who did not meet their original goals for enrolling. Those who stayed as long as originally planned or completely or mostly met their original goals were excluded.

40 While enrolled, stopped attending or doing coursework before the end of last term	SFU		SYSTEM	
Yes	78	51.0%	1,153	56.6%
No	75	49.0%	884	43.4%

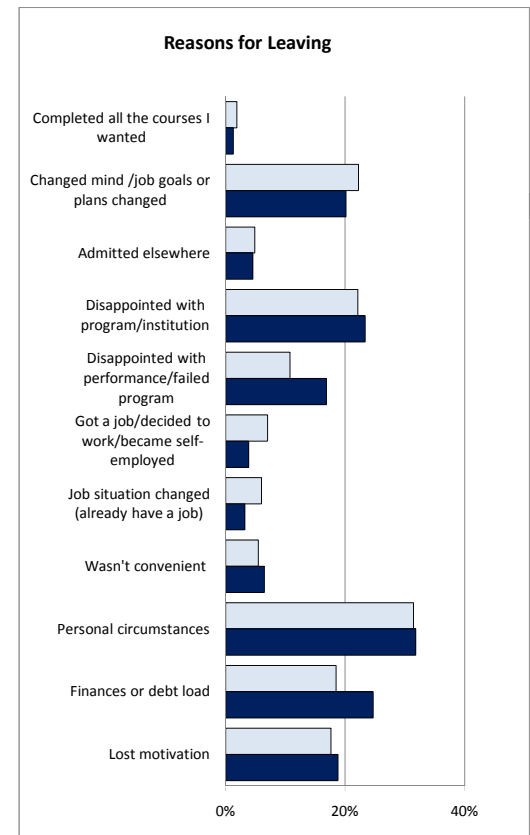


41 Someone (e.g., an instructor or administrator) at institution knew of intention to leave	SFU		SYSTEM	
Yes	27	35.5%	459	41.5%
No	49	64.5%	647	58.5%



42 Main reason for leaving *	SFU		SYSTEM	
Completed all the courses I wanted	~	~	39	1.9%
Changed mind /job goals or plans changed	31	20.1%	459	22.2%
Transferred to/qualified for admission elsewhere	7	4.5%	101	4.9%
Disappointed with program/institution	36	23.4%	457	22.1%
Disappointed with own performance/failed program	26	16.9%	223	10.8%
Got a job/decided to work/became self-employed	6	3.9%	145	7.0%
Job situation changed (already have a job)	5	3.2%	124	6.0%
Wasn't convenient (e.g., transportation, scheduling)	10	6.5%	113	5.5%
Personal circumstances (e.g., health, family)	49	31.8%	650	31.5%
Finances or debt load	38	24.7%	382	18.5%
Lost motivation	29	18.8%	364	17.6%
Other	~	~	30	1.5%

* Percentage of respondents who gave this reason. Multiple responses were allowed.



43 How satisfied are you with your decision to leave institution when you did?	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very satisfied	44	29.5%	542	27.4%
Satisfied	39	26.2%	719	36.4%
Dissatisfied	44	29.5%	483	24.4%
Very dissatisfied	22	14.8%	233	11.8%

44 Factors that may have increased length of stay at institution *	SFU		SYSTEM	
Greater choice of courses	56	38.4%	807	41.3%
Better quality instruction	58	38.7%	820	41.3%
More relevant coursework	66	44.6%	869	44.1%
Less difficult courses	32	21.8%	374	18.9%
More assistance from faculty and staff	62	41.6%	775	39.2%
Better equipment	18	12.5%	405	20.9%
Better financial support	84	55.6%	897	45.0%
More interactions or friendships with other students	63	42.0%	576	29.1%
More remedial courses available	32	21.5%	400	20.5%
Not having to work at a job while studying	80	52.3%	959	48.2%
Better access to housing	33	22.4%	405	20.4%
Better transportation to/from campus	50	33.3%	508	25.4%

* Percentage of respondents who cited this factor. Multiple responses were allowed.

Subsequent Education

45 Have taken further education or training since leaving institution	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Yes	196	47.0%	2,020	41.0%
No	221	53.0%	2,901	59.0%

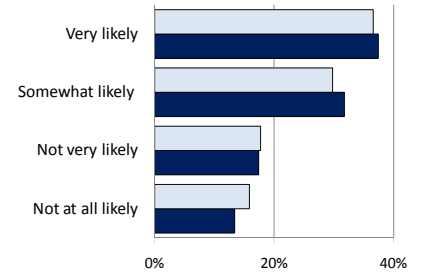
46 Taking further education or training at time of survey	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
No	303	72.8%	3,757	76.5%
Yes, in BC	68	16.3%	662	13.5%
Yes, outside of BC	45	10.8%	495	10.1%

47 Relatedness of further studies to studies at institution	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Very related	57	28.1%	681	32.3%
Somewhat related	62	30.5%	603	28.6%
Not very related	34	16.7%	244	11.6%
Not at all related	50	24.6%	580	27.5%

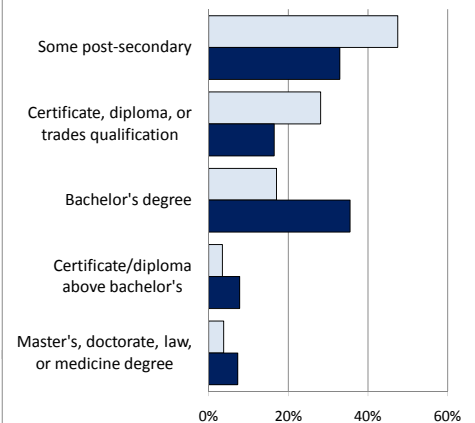
48 Likelihood of enrolling in a post-secondary institution in the next two years	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Very likely	112	37.5%	1,356	36.6%
Somewhat likely	95	31.8%	1,104	29.8%
Not very likely	52	17.4%	657	17.7%
Not at all likely	40	13.4%	588	15.9%

49 Highest level of education at time of survey	SFU		SYSTEM	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Some post-secondary (no credential obtained)	140	32.9%	2,363	47.5%
Post-secondary certificate, diploma, or trades qualification	70	16.5%	1,397	28.1%
Bachelor's degree	151	35.5%	849	17.1%
Certificate or diploma above bachelor's level	33	7.8%	173	3.5%
Master's, doctorate, law, or medicine degree	31	7.3%	190	3.8%

Likelihood of Enrolling in Post-Secondary in the Next Two Years

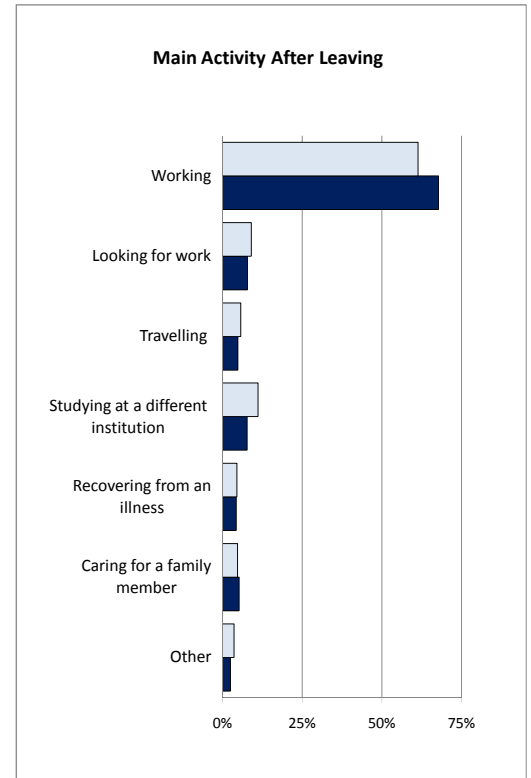


Highest Level of Education at Time of Survey



Subsequent Employment

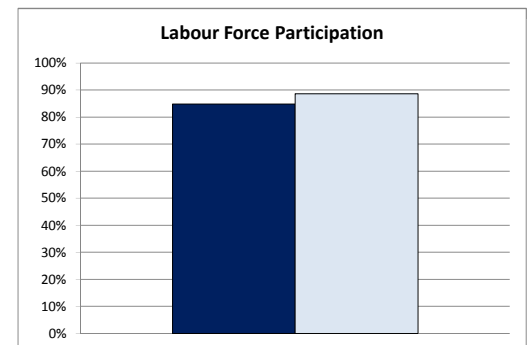
50 Main activity in first four months after leaving institution	SFU		SYSTEM	
Working	259	61.4%	3,381	67.8%
Looking for work	38	9.0%	388	7.8%
Travelling	24	5.7%	239	4.8%
Studying at a different institution	47	11.1%	385	7.7%
Recovering from an illness	19	4.5%	212	4.3%
Caring for a family member	20	4.7%	258	5.2%
Other	15	3.6%	122	2.4%



51 Of those whose main activity was "working"...	SFU		SYSTEM	
Had this employment while at institution	144	56.3%	1,976	59.2%
Obtained this employment after leaving institution	112	43.8%	1,361	40.8%

52 Relatedness of this employment to career path	SFU		SYSTEM	
Very related	95	37.7%	1,301	39.7%
Somewhat related	37	14.7%	489	14.9%
Not very related	27	10.7%	304	9.3%
Not at all related	93	36.9%	1,185	36.1%

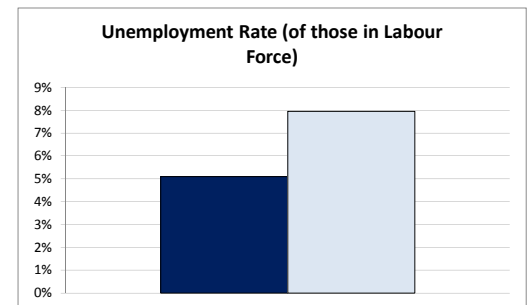
53 Labour force status	SFU		SYSTEM	
In Labour Force	353	84.9%	4,399	88.6%
Not in Labour Force	63	15.1%	568	11.4%



54 Of those not in the labour force, main reason for not seeking work	SFU		SYSTEM	
Studying	24	40.7%	161	30.1%
Poor prospect of suitable employment	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Personal circumstances (e.g., health, family)	18	30.5%	229	42.9%
Doing other things	7	11.9%	46	8.6%
Waiting for replies from employers/expecting job	~	~	13	2.4%
Other	8	13.6%	85	15.9%

55 Employment *	SFU		SYSTEM	
Employed	335	80.5%	4,049	81.5%
Unemployed	18	5.1%	350	8.0%

* Employment rate is calculated as the number employed divided by the number of respondents who provided valid answers to the employment questions. Unemployment rate is the number unemployed divided by all those in the labour force.



56 Of those unemployed, main reason	SFU		SYSTEM	
Can't find a job/no jobs available	8	38.1%	148	42.7%
Salary too low in jobs available	~	~	4	1.2%
Temporarily laid off/seasonal work	~	~	22	6.3%
Temporarily between jobs/expecting job soon	~	~	45	13.0%
Need more education/training	~	~	14	4.0%
Unable to obtain required licence, trade certificate or union membership	~	~	4	1.2%
Studying	~	~	19	5.5%
Permanently laid off	4	19.0%	52	15.0%
Other	4	19.0%	39	11.2%