The Undergraduate Student Survey has been conducted at Simon Fraser University every fall semester since 1992 (except in 2002.) This annual survey provides essential feedback on the academic experiences and concerns of our undergraduate students. This year’s survey focused on course availability, and the new undergraduate curriculum regulations requiring students to complete writing intensive, quantitative, and breadth courses in order to graduate. Highlights of the survey results are presented here, and a full report is available on the Office of Analytical Studies’ web-site: http://www.sfu.ca/analytical-studies/ugss/2006/ugss2006report.html.

This year’s survey was administered online, and all SFU undergraduate students were invited to participate. A total of 3,418 students participated, yielding an overall response rate of 16.5%. Statistics provided in this summary and in the full report are estimates based on survey respondents.

Course Availability
- This fall, 75% of respondents were able to register for the NUMBER of courses they wanted.
- 52% registered in all of the SPECIFIC courses they wanted.
  - Students were unable to register in desired courses due to: full classes (74%), conflicting class times (58%), and conflicting exam times (14%).
- 56% are taking LONGER than expected to complete their credential
  - This is primarily due to: full courses (21%), courses not offered in the desired semester (15%), and students reducing their course load (14%)
- Trends indicate that course availability has become generally more problematic over the past ten years.

![Trends in Course Availability and Prolonged Degree Completion](image)

Note: Survey not administered in Fall 2002.
Curriculum

- Response to the new undergraduate curriculum regulations are generally positive.
- 63% of respondents who have taken designated 'Writing-Intensive' (W) classes feel that these courses have helped develop their writing skills.
- 73% of 'Quantitative' (Q) class participants feel that these courses have helped to develop their problem-solving and critical evaluation skills.
- 66% of ‘Breadth’ (B) class participants feel that these courses have helped them to assess their own values.
- Compared to students who have not taken ‘W/Q/B’ classes, students who have taken designated classes are more likely to value the skills that the classes promote, and also to feel more confident in their own abilities.
- Many students noted that the requirements are confusing, and recommend simplification of the regulations, especially with respect to the Breadth requirements.

General Academic Experience

- Students were asked to discuss any concerns they may have with regard to their academic experience at SFU. A summary, analysis, and listing of a random sample of the replies is included in the full report.
- The top three concerns of respondents this year are:
  - course availability (28%),
  - instructors (13%),
  - and course content and work load (13%).