

# REPORT ON MERCURY PARTICIPATION

ACADEMIC YEAR  
**2021 - 2022**

# CONTENTS

CONTENTS..... 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... 3

AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY FACULTY ..... 4

AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY ACADEMIC UNIT ..... 5

AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON EVALUATION PERIOD ..... 8

AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE ..... 9

AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE ..... 10

NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED ..... 10

AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON RANK TITLE ..... 10

INSTRUCTORS WHO GRANTED/DENIED PERMISSION FOR DISSEMINATION..... 11

STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS ..... 11

STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS<sup>2,3</sup> ..... 11

DAILY SUBMISSION GRAPH FOR FALL 2021 ..... 12

DAILY SUBMISSION GRAPH FOR WINTER 2022 ..... 13

ESTIMATE OF PAPER SAVINGS WITH THE ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION SYSTEM..... 14

INSTRUCTOR-ADDED QUESTIONS..... 15

DELETIONS OF COURSE EVALUATION DATA ..... 16

STUDENT DELETIONS..... 16

EQUITY..... 16

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	FALL 2021		WINTER 2022	
<b>COURSE DATA</b>				
Courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	2,586		2,574	
Total number of submissions	35,324		29,737	
Total number of declined submissions	447		410	
Overall Faculty response rate <sup>2</sup>	32%	↓	30%	↔
Overall University-wide response rate <sup>2</sup> (including School of Continuing Studies)	33%	↓	31%	↑
<b>INSTRUCTOR DATA</b>				
Instructors teaching courses being evaluated	2,063		1,953	
Granted permission	1,622		1,375	
Denied permission	684	↑	641	↓
<b>STUDENT DATA</b>				
Students enrolled in courses being evaluated	31,622	↓	29,309	↓
Students who completed at least one evaluation	44%	↓	39%	↓
Students who completed no evaluations	56%	↑	61%	↑
<b>ACADEMIC UNITS DATA</b>				
Academic units involved	90		90	
Units following the default period	65		67	
Units following the condensed period option	21		20	
Units with ≥ 70% average response rate	1	↔	2	↑
Units with 50% - 69% average response rate	6	↓	6	↓
Units with 41% - 49% average response rate	17	↑	9	↑
Units with ≤ 40% average response rate	66	↑	73	↑

<sup>1</sup> The Mercury system allows multiple questionnaires to be associated with a single course (e.g., a lecture course with a lab component). The first questionnaire is the primary course evaluation. Only primary course evaluations are reported. This report does not include courses with enrolment of fewer than five students. The Department of Music Performance and the Faculty of Dentistry have not been included in this report.

<sup>2</sup> The Faculty Response Rate and University-wide Response Rate averages are calculated on a per course basis:  $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{ courses}$ .

## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY FACULTY

Faculty	FALL 2021			WINTER 2022		
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	135	35%	↓	132	26%	↔
Arts	621	33%	↓	627	31%	↑
Dentistry	NR	NR	-	NR	NR	-
Education	203	32%	↓	196	30%	↓
Engineering	253	30%	↓	256	28%	↔
Law	64	27%	↑	76	29%	↑
Desautels Faculty of Management	235	45%	↑	219	41%	↑
Medicine	285	35%	↓	316	32%	↓
Schulich School of Music	204	19%	↓	183	20%	↓
Science	327	28%	↓	298	27%	↔
<b>Faculty-wide Response Rate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2365</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>2343</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>↔</b>
School of Continuing Studies	221	47%	↓	231	44%	↓
<b>University-wide Response Rate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2586</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>2574</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>↓</b>

<sup>1</sup> Primary course evaluations only. This report does not include courses with enrolment of fewer than five students.

<sup>2</sup> The Faculty-wide Response Rate and University-wide Response Rate averages are calculated on a per course basis:  $\Sigma$  courses / # courses.

<sup>3</sup> The Department of Music Performance and the Faculty of Dentistry have not been included in this report. This is indicated with "Not reported" (NR).

<sup>4</sup> Relative to 2020-2021 data, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than  $\pm 1.0\%$  while ↔ represents a 0 to  $\pm 1.0\%$  change.

## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY ACADEMIC UNIT

Academic Units	FALL 2021			Winter 2022		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
<b>Agricultural &amp; Env. Sciences</b>						
Agricultural & Env.Sc.-Dean	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	-
Agricultural Economics	N/A	N/A	-	<10	NR	-
Animal Science	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Bioresource Engineering	25	36%	↑	25	23%	↓
Farm Mgmt & Technology Program	28	43%	↑	25	19%	↓
Food Science & Agr.Chemistry	12	39%	↑	12	36%	↔
Human Nutrition <sup>4</sup>	24	24%	↓	15	19%	↓
Natural Resource Sciences	17	35%	↓	15	36%	↓
Parasitology	<10	NR	-	10	28%	↑
Plant Science	<10	NR	-	17	28%	↓
<b>Total (10 units)</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>↓</b>
<b>Arts</b>						
Anthropology <sup>1</sup>	22	29%	↓	26	23%	↓
Art History & Communications <sup>1</sup>	23	27%	↓	23	28%	↑
Arts - Dean's Office	<10	NR	-	N/A	N/A	-
East Asian Studies <sup>1</sup>	34	34%	↓	34	33%	↑
Economics <sup>1</sup>	44	30%	↓	50	26%	↑
English	53	38%	↑	52	35%	↓
French Language & Literature	22	30%	↓	18	42%	↑
French Language Centre	27	52%	↑	44	43%	↑
History and Classical Studies <sup>1</sup>	67	29%	↓	57	27%	↓
Information Studies	18	44%	↓	17	38%	↓
Inst for Gender, Sex & Fem St	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Inst for the St of Development	10	35%	↑	<10	NR	-
Institute for Study of Canada	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Islamic Studies	23	33%	-	18	33%	↑
Jewish Studies	11	34%	↓	11	35%	↑
Languages, Literatures, Cultures <sup>1</sup>	59	32%	↓	63	31%	↓
Linguistics	19	31%	↓	19	32%	↓
McGill Writing Centre <sup>1</sup>	48	61%	↑	37	54%	↓
Philosophy	22	32%	↓	23	28%	↓
Political Science <sup>1</sup>	42	35%	↓	45	30%	↑
Religious Studies	34	28%	↑	27	29%	↓
School of Public Policy	13	49%	↑	11	39%	-
Social Work	32	30%	↓	36	21%	↓
Sociology <sup>1</sup>	30	26%	↓	30	25%	↑
<b>Total (25 units)</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>↑</b>

<sup>1</sup> This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period).

Dentistry <sup>1</sup>						
Dentistry <sup>1</sup>	NR	NR	-	NR	NR	-
<b>Total (1 unit)</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>-</b>
Education						
Educational&Counselling Psych	68	41%	↓	66	41%	↑
Integrated Studies in Ed	109	30%	↑	103	27%	↑
Kinesiology and Physical Ed	26	17%	↓	27	13%	↓
<b>Total (3 units)</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>↓</b>
Engineering						
Architecture	30	34%	↑	27	30%	↑
Bioengineering	23	22%	↔	31	23%	↑
Biological & Biomedical Engr	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Chemical Engineering	31	17%	↓	24	24%	↑
Civil Engineering <sup>1</sup>	27	36%	↓	39	25%	↓
Electrical & Computer Engr	48	37%	↑	44	31%	↓
Engineering - Dean's Office <sup>1</sup>	<10	NR	-	<10	15%	-
Institute for Aerospace Eng	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	-
Medical Physics Unit	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	-
Mechanical Engineering <sup>1</sup>	44	30%	↔	44	28%	↓
Mining & Materials Engineering	22	22%	↑	25	23%	↓
Trottier Inst Sust,Eng & Design	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Urban Planning <sup>1</sup>	15	39%	↓	10	62%	↑
<b>Total (13 units)</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>↓</b>
Law						
Air and Space Law	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Comparative Law	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Law	58	24%	↑	71	28%	↑
<b>Total (3 unit)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>↑</b>
Management <sup>1</sup>						
Management <sup>1</sup>	235	45%	↔	219	41%	↑
<b>Total (1 unit)</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>↔</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>↑</b>
Medicine						
Anatomy and Cell Biology	<10	NR	-	11	29%	↑
Biochemistry	<10	NR	-	12	25%	↓
Biomedical Engineering	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Commun Sciences & Disorders	14	44%	↓	14	30%	↓
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	28	66%	↑	20	60%	↑
Family Medicine	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Gerald Bronfman Dept Oncology	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Human Genetics	<10	NR	-	11	24%	-
Ingram School of Nursing	80	27%	↓	81	22%	↓
Medical Physics Unit	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Medicine	16	31%	↓	22	39%	↓

<sup>1</sup> This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period).



**REPORT ON MERCURY PARTICIPATION 2021–2022**

Microbiology & Immunology	11	22%	↓	12	27%	↑
Neurology and Neurosurgery	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Neuroscience, Integrated Pgm	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Occupational Health	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Pathology <sup>1</sup>	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Pharmacology and Therapeutics <sup>1</sup>	10	13%	↓	11	31%	↓
Phys and Occ Therapy <sup>1</sup>	36	42%	↓	57	33%	↓
Physiology	22	23%	↓	18	24%	↑
Psychiatry	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Social Studies of Medicine	N/A	N/A	-	<10	NR	-
Surgery	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
<b>Total (22 units)</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>↓</b>
<b>Music</b>						
Music Research	108	22%	↓	97	26%	↑
<b>Total (1 units)</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>Science</b>						
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	10	43%	↓	11	50%	↑
Bieler School of Environment	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Biology	42	25%	↓	42	25%	↓
Chemistry	44	28%	↓	40	23%	↓
Computer Science	41	27%	↑	35	23%	↓
Earth & Planetary Sciences	16	28%	↓	16	21%	↓
Geography	19	39%	↑	17	30%	↓
Mathematics and Statistics <sup>1</sup>	65	28%	↑	55	29%	↑
Physics	34	31%	↓	29	32%	↓
Psychology <sup>1</sup>	48	21%	↓	42	24%	↑
Quantitative Life Sciences	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Redpath Museum	N/A	N/A	-	<10	NR	-
Science	N/A	N/A	-	<10	NR	-
<b>Total (13 units)</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>↔</b>
<b>School of Continuing Studies</b>						
Career & Professional Develop	102	40%	↓	125	40%	↑
Language & Intercultural Comm.	63	47%	↓	60	49%	↓
Translation <sup>1</sup>	8	41%	↓	<10	NR	-
<b>Total (3 units)</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>↓</b>

<sup>1</sup> This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period).

## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON EVALUATION PERIOD

Evaluation period	FALL 2021		WINTER 2022	
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate
Default Period (to end of exams)	1,606	32%	1,609	30%
Condensed Period (to end of classes)	954	35%	905	32%

<sup>1</sup> Primary course evaluations only. This report does not include courses with enrolment of fewer than five students. The Department of Music Performance and the Faculty of Dentistry have not been included in this report. This is indicated with "Not reported" (NR).

<sup>2</sup> The Response Rate averages are calculated on a per course basis:  $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{ courses}$ .



## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE

### Fall 2021

- 2586 courses evaluated.<sup>1</sup>
- 33% (n=826) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold, which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.

FALL 2021					
Class size	2008 Policy threshold	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>	# of courses evaluated	# of courses achieved threshold	# of courses below threshold
5 – 11	min. 5 responses	35%	488	101	387
12 – 30	40%	36%	1,001	376	625
31 – 100	35%	32%	820	279	541
101 – 200	30%	24%	178	38	140
201+	25%	24%	99	32	67
			<b>2,586</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>1,760</b>

### WINTER 2022

- 2574 courses evaluated.<sup>1</sup>
- 31% (n=657) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold, which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.

WINTER 2022					
Class size	2008 Policy threshold	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>	# of courses evaluated	# of courses achieved threshold	# of courses below threshold
5 - 11	min. 5 responses	35%	540	120	420
12 - 30	40%	33%	992	303	689
31 - 100	35%	28%	819	195	624
101 - 200	30%	23%	147	24	123
201+	25%	20%	76	15	61
			<b>2,574</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>1,917</b>

<sup>1</sup> Primary course evaluations only. This report does not include courses with enrolment of fewer than five students. The Department of Music Performance and the Faculty of Dentistry have not been included in this report.

<sup>2</sup> The average response rate by class size is calculated on a per course basis:  $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{courses}$ .

## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE

Type of course	FALL 2021			WINTER 2022		
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2,3</sup>		# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate	
Laboratory	99	20%	↓	101	20%	↓
Lecture	2,002	35%	↓	1,971	33%	↔
Seminar	235	34%	↓	240	33%	↓
Studio	91	19%	↓	88	15%	↓

## NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED

	FALL 2021	WINTER 2022	Total
Unique instructors evaluated	2,063	1,953	4,016

## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON RANK TITLE

Note: Rank titles in **bold** are tenure track faculty and those in *italics* are non-tenure track faculty.

Rank Title	FALL 2021			WINTER 2022		
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
<i>Course Lecturer</i>	379	38%	↓	329	36%	↓
<i>Faculty Lecturer</i>	161	35%	↓	175	31%	↑
<i>Adjunct Professor</i>	42	30%	↓	45	37%	↑
Assistant Professor	302	43%	↓	322	31%	↓
Associate Professor	738	33%	↓	657	31%	↑
Professor	640	29%	↓	569	31%	↑
Dean/Director	-	-		-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Primary course evaluations only. This report does not include courses with enrolment of fewer than five students. The Department of Music Performance and the Faculty of Dentistry have not been included in this report.

<sup>2</sup> The average response rate is calculated on a per course basis:  $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{courses}$ .

<sup>3</sup> Relative to 2020-2021, the arrows ( ↑ ↓ ) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1.0% change

## INSTRUCTORS WHO GRANTED/DENIED PERMISSION FOR DISSEMINATION

	FALL 2021		WINTER 2022	
Granted permission <sup>1</sup>	1,622	62%	1,375	65%
Denied permission	684	26%	641	30%
Didn't Answer, not eligible (left blank)	296	12%	112	5%
Cumulative Total	2,602	-	2,128	-

## STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS

	FALL 2021 (n=31622)		WINTER 2022 (n=29309)	
# of students who had more than one course evaluation to complete	21,811		20,951	
# of students who completed at least <b>one</b> evaluation	14,358	44%	12,586	39%
# of students who did not complete <b>any</b> evaluations	17,967	56%	19,739	66%

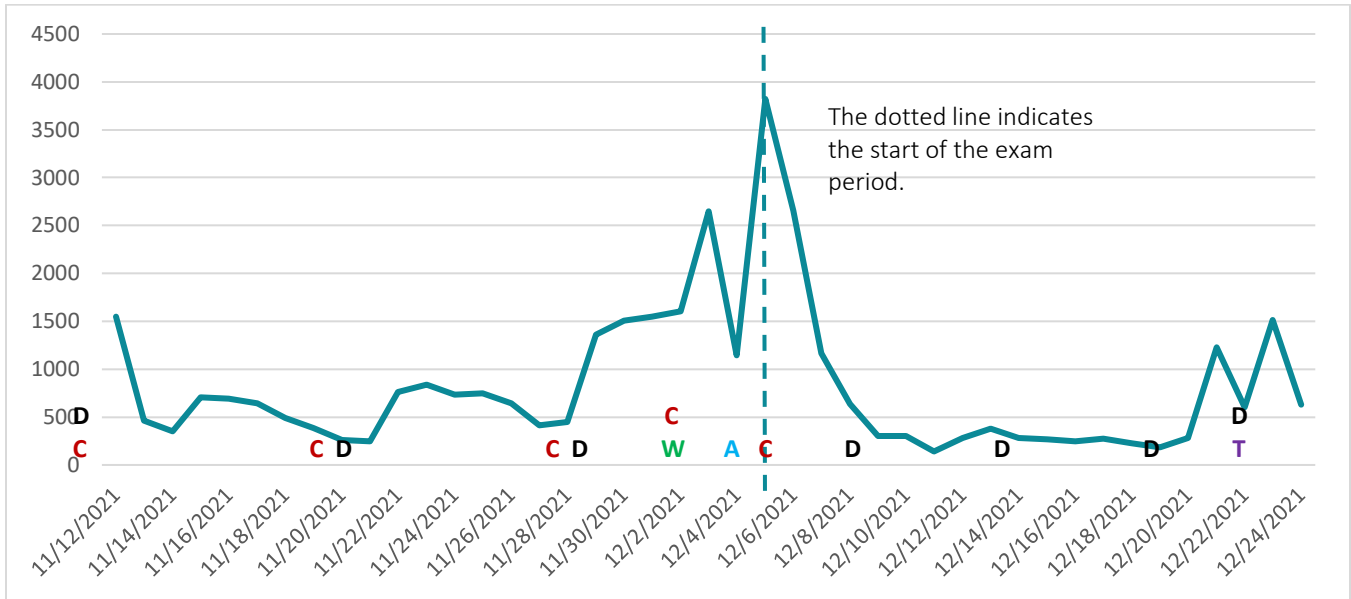
## STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS<sup>2</sup>

	FALL 2021	WINTER 2022
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	23	6
Arts	89	55
Dentistry	N/A	N/A
Education	3	14
Engineering	43	24
Law	6	5
Desautels Faculty of Management	7	6
Medicine	26	68
Schulich School of Music	18	5
Science	201	218
School of Continuing Studies	8	9
<b>Total # declined primary course evaluations</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>410</b>

<sup>1</sup> As of February 1, 2010, permission could be granted to disseminate results on a course-by-course basis.

<sup>2</sup> Students may opt out of evaluations for one or more course(s) by clicking the "Decline Course Evaluation" button for a specific course. They then no longer receive reminders; they may also provide comments as to why they do not wish to complete the questionnaire for that course.

## DAILY SUBMISSION GRAPH FOR FALL 2021



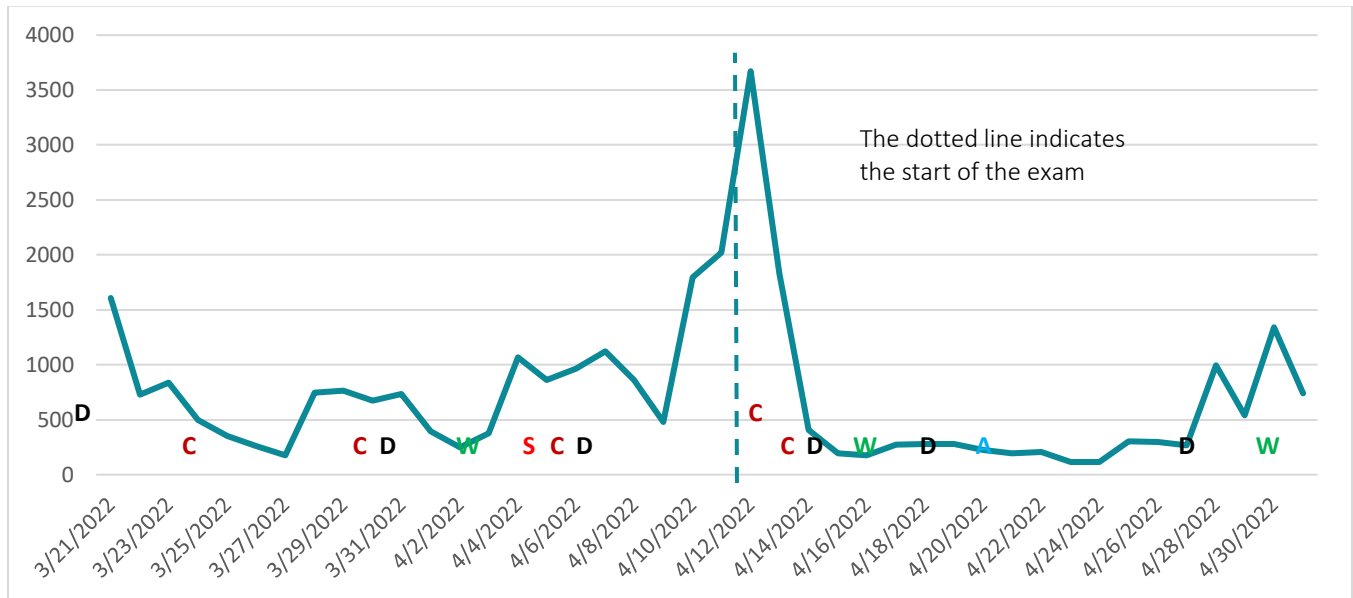
Before exam period total: 22,217

During and after exam period total: 8,961

Grand total: 31,178

**D** = system email reminder for default period  
**C** = system email reminder for condensed period  
**T** = twitter announcement  
**A** = McGill app announcement  
**W** = what's new for students

## DAILY SUBMISSION GRAPH FOR WINTER 2022



Before exam period total: 13,674  
 During and after exam period total: 15,831  
 Grand total: 29,505

**D** = system email reminder for default period  
**C** = system email reminder for condensed period  
**T** = twitter announcement  
**A** = McGill app announcement  
**W** = what's new for students

## ESTIMATE OF PAPER SAVINGS WITH THE ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION SYSTEM

With the University-wide implementation of [Mercury](#), the online course evaluation system, in September 2006, McGill eliminated the annual requirement for the approximately **96 boxes of paper (480,000 sheets)\*** that were previously used to prepare course evaluation packets. The data collection system is now entirely paperless. As well, all course evaluation results are provided online. This initiative is consistent with the principles that are embedded in the [McGill Sustainability Policy](#) of minimizing the consumption of material resources.

### \*Estimate of paper use before the online system:

- In the paper system, submission packets had to be prepared for every *potential* submission, not just those actually submitted.
  - The questionnaire sheets could not be reused as they were prepared each term.
  - Unused computer readable sheets and blank comments sheets *may* have been recovered for redistribution, but we have no data on that.
- If we calculate that the 96,000 submissions<sup>1</sup> in 2009-2010 represent an approximately 50% response rate, 192,000 paper submissions would have been prepared previously; since individual academic units prepared the evaluation packets, we do not know the exact number.
  - Each submission at 3 sheets of paper x 192,000 submissions = 576,000 sheets of paper.
  - 1/3 of the 576,000 sheets (the questionnaires) could definitely not be reused = **192,000**.
  - Of the remaining 384,000, half would have been used for submissions and comments = **192,000**.
  - Of the remaining 192,000 unused computer-readable and blank comments sheets, assume that 50% were recovered, leaving **96,000** sheets.
  - The total number of sheets of paper used would be on the order of 192,000 (questionnaires) + 192,000 (submissions) + 96,000 (non-recovered unused paper) = 480,000 sheets of paper.
- At 500 sheets per ream of paper, that equals **960 reams of paper**.
- At 10 reams per box, that equals **96 boxes of paper** a year.

### Note:

The above estimate is conservative due to:

1. not counting additional paper required for TA evaluation,
2. not counting additional paper required for the approximately 950 multi-instructor courses each year, and
3. not counting paper used in retyping student comments to preserve anonymity.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2021-2022, 42,762 course evaluations were submitted.



## INSTRUCTOR-ADDED QUESTIONS

	FALL 2021	WINTER 2022
Number of instructors who added questions	379	354
Number of courses for which questions were added	189	185
Number of comment box only questions	147	122
Number of multiple choice with comment box questions	361	29
Number of multiple choice with no comment box questions	43	29
<b>Total number of questions added</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>447</b>

Word Cloud generated from instructor-added questions:



## DELETIONS OF COURSE EVALUATION DATA

### STUDENT DELETIONS

Course evaluation data can be deleted when a student makes a mistake, such as responding “strongly disagree” instead of “strongly agree.” In such cases, students can fill out a webform to request that their response be deleted. Because course evaluations are completely anonymous, Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) requires information such as the date and time submitted, and where possible, a sample of the written comments to identify the submission. If, based on the information provided by the student, TLS is able to identify the response, the entire submission (numerical responses and comments) is deleted from the evaluation. The student is not able to resubmit the evaluation.

	FALL 2021	WINTER 2022
Number of student requests submitted	0	0
Number of student requests approved	0	0

### EQUITY

TLS and the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity have developed a protocol for addressing comments in Mercury end-of-course evaluations that are determined to be hateful or discriminatory on the basis of attributes such as gender, sexual or gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability. For more information on this protocol, visit [www.mcgill.ca/mercury/about/equity](http://www.mcgill.ca/mercury/about/equity).

	Academic Year 2021-2022 <sup>1</sup>
Number of instructor/Teaching Assistant requests submitted between June 1, 2018, and May 31, 2019	2
Number of instructor/Teaching Assistant requests approved	2

<sup>1</sup> The protocol on deleting course evaluation submissions on equity grounds is retroactive and therefore applies to any course evaluation conducted through Mercury regardless of the term in which the course took place.

