

# REPORT ON MERCURY PARTICIPATION

ACADEMIC YEAR  
**2022 - 2023**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	FALL 2022		WINTER 2023	
COURSE DATA				
Courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	2,415		2,485	
Total number of submissions	36,671		31,470	
Total number of declined submissions	590		462	
Overall Faculty response rate <sup>2</sup>	35%	↑	32%	↑
Overall University-wide response rate <sup>2</sup> (including School of Continuing Studies)	35%	↑	33%	↑
INSTRUCTOR DATA				
Instructors teaching courses being evaluated	2,091		2,071	
Granted permission	1,613		1,598	
Denied permission	651	↓	623	↓
STUDENT DATA				
Students enrolled in courses being evaluated	31,277	↓	28,812	↓
Students who completed at least one evaluation	47%	↑	42%	↑
Students who completed no evaluations	53%	↓	58%	↓
Academic units involved	92		92	
Units following the default period	70		71	
Units following the condensed period option	22		21	
Units with ≥ 70% average response rate	2	↑	1	↓
Units with 50% - 69% average response rate	10	↑	9	↑
Units with 41% - 49% average response rate	19	↑	15	↑
Units with ≤ 40% average response rate	61	↓	66	↓

<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 2022			WINTER 2023		
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	147	36%	↑	140	32%	↑
Arts	624	37%	↑	646	35%	↑
Dentistry <sup>3</sup>	NR	NR	–	NR	NR	–
Education	188	32%	↔ <sup>4</sup>	207	29%	↓
Engineering	230	29%	↓	246	26%	↓
Law	61	31%	↑	77	32%	↑
Desautels Faculty of Management	240	42%	↓	224	39%	↓
Medicine	312	42%	↑	328	38%	↑
Schulich School of Music	99	23%	↑	96	27%	↑
Science	309	27%	↓	300	28%	↑
<b>Faculty-wide Response Rate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>↑</b>
School of Continuing Studies	194	42%	↓	176	45%	↑
<b>University-wide Response Rate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,415</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>2,485</b>	<b>33%</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:  $\Sigma \text{ courses} / \# \text{ courses}$ .

<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 2021-2022 data, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1.0% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1.0% change

## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY ACADEMIC UNIT

Academic Units	FALL 2022			WINTER 2023		
	# 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	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Animal Science	<10	NR	-	11	36%	↑
Bioresource Engineering	25	31%	↓	28	25%	↑
Farm Mgmt & Technology Program	35	35%	↓	23	33%	↑
Food Science & Agr.Chemistry	15	36%	↓	13	43%	↑
Human Nutrition <sup>1</sup>	23	29%	↑	14	16%	↓
Natural Resource Sciences	18	44%	↑	14	33%	↓
Parasitology	10	44%	↑	10	31%	↑
Plant Science	10	37%	↑	14	35%	↑
<b>Total (9 units)</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>Arts</b>						
Anthropology <sup>1</sup>	26	42%	↑	31	39%	↑
Art History & Communications <sup>1</sup>	20	29%	↑	21	37%	↑
Arts - Dean's Office	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
East Asian Studies <sup>1</sup>	25	36%	↑	29	32%	↓
Economics <sup>1</sup>	44	30%	↔	44	27%	↑
English	38	34%	↓	43	38%	↑
French Language & Literature	23	42%	↑	20	24%	↓
French Language Centre	25	39%	↓	42	39%	↓
History and Classical Studies <sup>1</sup>	58	31%	↑	56	30%	↑
Information Studies	18	42%	↓	20	36%	↓
Inst for Gender, Sex & Fem St	<10	NR	-	<10	NR	-
Inst for the St of Development	10	40%	↑	10	38%	↑
Institute for Study of Canada	10	43%	↑	<10	NR	-
Islamic Studies	12	33%	↔	17	30%	↓
Jewish Studies	15	38%	↑	14	40%	↑
Languages, Literatures, Cultures <sup>1</sup>	63	39%	↑	65	39%	↑
Linguistics	13	29%	↓	13	39%	↑
McGill Writing Centre	36	64%	↑	29	65%	↑
Philosophy	29	30%	↓	23	29%	↑
Political Science <sup>1</sup>	51	35%	↔	45	32%	↑
Religious Studies	30	36%	↑	26	26%	↓

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



School of Public Policy	12	35%	↓	18	22%	↓
Social Work	30	40%	↑	36	41%	↑
Sociology <sup>2</sup>	28	30%	↑	29	26%	↑
<b>Total (25 units)</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>↑</b>

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<sup>2</sup> This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period).



## REPORT ON MERCURY PARTICIPATION 2022–2023

<b>Dentistry<sup>4</sup></b>						
Dentistry <sup>4</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>
<b>Education</b>						
Educational&Counselling Psych	65	33%	↓	58	40%	↓
Integrated Studies in Ed	100	33%	↑	105	30%	↑
Kinesiology and Physical Ed	23	25%	↑	44	15%	↑
<b>Total (3 units)</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>↔</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>↓</b>
<b>Engineering</b>						
Architecture	31	20%	↓	27	20%	↓
Bioengineering	17	28%	↑	34	17%	↓
Biological & Biomedical Engr	<10	NR	–	<10	19%	–
Chemical Engineering	29	26%	↑	24	29%	↑
Civil Engineering <sup>3</sup>	24	41%	↑	35	31%	↑
Electrical & Computer Engr	45	29%	↓	45	27%	↓
Engineering - Dean's Office <sup>3</sup>	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Institute for Aerospace Eng	N/A	N/A	–	<10	NR	–
Mechanical Engineering <sup>3</sup>	37	30%	↔	35	22%	↓
Mining & Materials Engineering	23	32%	↑	20	37%	↑
Trottier Inst Sust,Eng & Design	<10	NR	–	<10	29%	–
Urban Planning <sup>3</sup>	11	41%	↑	11	41%	↓
<b>Total (12 units)</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>↓</b>
<b>Law</b>						
Air and Space Law	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Comparative Law	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Law	55	29%	↑	73	31%	
<b>Total (1 unit)</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>Management<sup>3</sup></b>						
Management <sup>3</sup>	240	42%	↓	224	39%	↓
<b>Total (1 unit)</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>↓</b>
<b>Medicine</b>						
Anatomy and Cell Biology	<10	NR	–	11	36%	↑
Biochemistry	<10	NR	–	10	37%	↑
Biomedical Engineering	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Commun Sciences & Disorders	13	48%	↑	14	42%	↑
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	27	57%	↓	24	58%	↓
Family Medicine	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Gerald Bronfman Dept Oncology	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Human Genetics	11	33%	↑	10	18%	↓
Ingram School of Nursing	93	35%	↑	90	30%	↑

<sup>3</sup> This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period).

<sup>4</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)



Medical Physics Unit	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Medicine	15	38%	↑	21	36%	↓
Microbiology & Immunology	13	18%	↓	17	24%	↓
Neurology and Neurosurgery	10	59%	↑	<10	NR	–
Neuroscience, Integrated Pgm	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Occupational Health	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Pathology <sup>5</sup>	<10	NR	–	10	51%	↑
Pharmacology and Therapeutics <sup>4</sup>	12	38%	↑	49	47%	↑
Phys and Occ Therapy <sup>5</sup>	42	55%	↑	18	25%	↓
Physiology	17	28%	↑	<10	NR	–
Psychiatry	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Social Studies of Medicine	N/A	N/A	–	N/A	N/A	–
Surgery	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
<b>Total (21 units)</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>38%</b>	
<b>Music</b>						
Music Research	99	23%	↑	96	27%	↑
Performance	NR	NR	–	NR	NR	–
<b>Total (2 units)</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>Science</b>						
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Bieler School of Environment	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Biology	43	20%	↓	49	19%	↓
Chemistry	34	27%	↓	39	31%	↑
Computer Science	40	21%	↓	37	21%	↓
Earth & Planetary Sciences	14	34%	↑	16	42%	↑
Geography	23	35%	↓	18	33%	↑
Mathematics and Statistics <sup>5</sup>	67	29%	↑	55	27%	↓
Physics	33	27%	↓	33	36%	↑
Psychology <sup>5</sup>	37	24%	↑	39	22%	↓
Redpath Museum	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Quantitative Life Sciences	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Science	N/A	N/A	–	<10	NR	–
<b>Total (11 units)</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>School of Continuing Studies</b>						
Adaptive & Integrated Learning	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
Administration & Governance	43	41%	↑	44	43%	↑
Global & Strategic Comm.	78	39%	↑	79	44%	↑
Management & Entrepreneurship	23	56%	↑	16	61%	↑
Technology & Innovation	38	42%	↑	32	45%	↑
Translation	<10	NR	–	<10	NR	–
<b>Total (6 units)</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>↓</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>↑</b>

<sup>5</sup> This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period).



## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON EVALUATION PERIOD

Evaluation period	FALL 2022		WINTER 2023	
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate
Default Period (to end of exams)	1,511	34%	1,569	33%
Condensed Period (to end of classes)	904	37%	916	33%

<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 2022

- 2,415 courses evaluated.<sup>1</sup>
- 36% (n=869) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold, which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.

FALL 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	40%	404	109	295
12 - 30	40%	37%	972	378	594
31 - 100	35%	34%	780	292	488
101 - 200	30%	26%	176	48	128
201+	25%	27%	83	42	41
			2,415	869	1,546

### WINTER 2023

- 2,485 courses evaluated.<sup>1</sup>
- 30% (n=748) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold, which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.

WINTER 2023					
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	39%	502	126	376
12 - 30	40%	35%	958	321	637
31 - 100	35%	31%	802	261	541
101 - 200	30%	22%	158	22	136
201+	25%	22%	65	18	47
			2,485	748	1,737

<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:  $\Sigma \text{ courses} / \# \text{ courses}$ .

## AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE

Type of course	FALL 2022			WINTER 2023		
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2,3</sup>		# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate	
Laboratory	93	28%	↑	101	23%	↑
Lecture	1,941	36%	↑	1,935	35%	↑
Seminar	207	38%	↑	228	35%	↑
Studio	27	25%	↑	30	25%	↑

## NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED

	FALL 2022	WINTER 2023	Total
Unique instructors evaluated	2,091	2,071	4,162

## 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 2022			WINTER 2023		
	# of courses evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Avg. response rate <sup>2</sup>		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
<i>Course Lecturer</i>	349	37%	↓	320	34%	↓
<i>Faculty Lecturer</i>	202	36%	↑	209	36%	↑
<i>Adjunct Professor</i>	41	32%	↑	37	34%	↓
<b>Assistant Professor</b>	303	41%	↓	350	41%	↑
<b>Associate Professor</b>	646	33%	↔	660	32%	↑
<b>Professor</b>	611	32%	↑	636	32%	↑
<b>Dean/Director</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 is calculated on a per course basis:  $\Sigma \text{ courses} / \# \text{ courses}$ .

<sup>3</sup> Relative to 2021-2022, 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 2022		WINTER 2023	
Granted permission <sup>1</sup>	1,308	58%	1,328	60%
Denied permission	650	29%	623	28%
Didn't answer, not eligible (left blank)	305	13%	270	12%
Cumulative total	2,263		2,201	

## STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS

	FALL 2022 (n=36,671)		WINTER 2023 (n=31,470)	
# of students who had more than one course evaluation to complete	28,039		25,705	
# of students who completed at least <b>one</b> evaluation	15,058	47%	13,452	42%
# of students who did not complete <b>any</b> evaluations	17,267	53%	18,873	58%

## STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS<sup>2,3</sup>

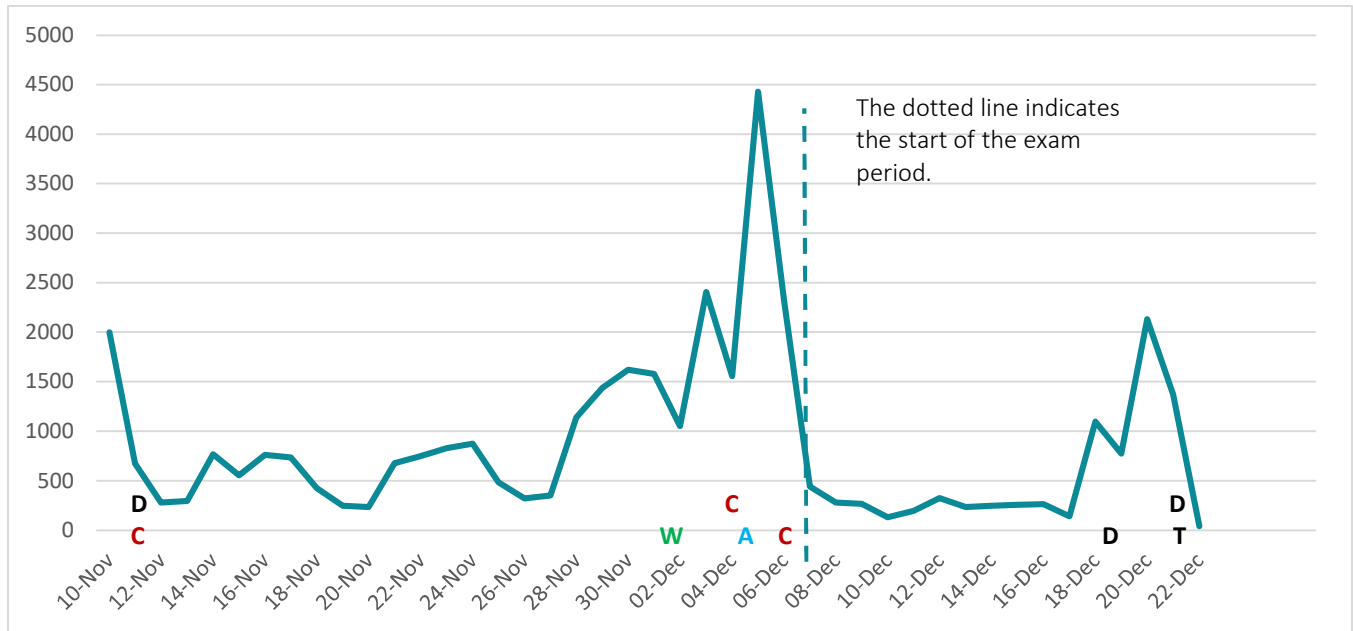
	FALL 2022	WINTER 2023
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	20	14
Arts	61	72
Dentistry	NR	NR
Education	13	10
Engineering	45	45
Law	2	1
Desautels Faculty of Management	19	13
Medicine	89	61
Schulich School of Music	8	16
Science	322	215
School of Continuing Studies	11	10
<b>Total # declined primary course evaluations</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>462</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.

<sup>3</sup> The number of declined evaluations for an academic unit is not reported when there are fewer than 10 declined evaluations.

## DAILY SUBMISSION GRAPH FOR FALL 2022



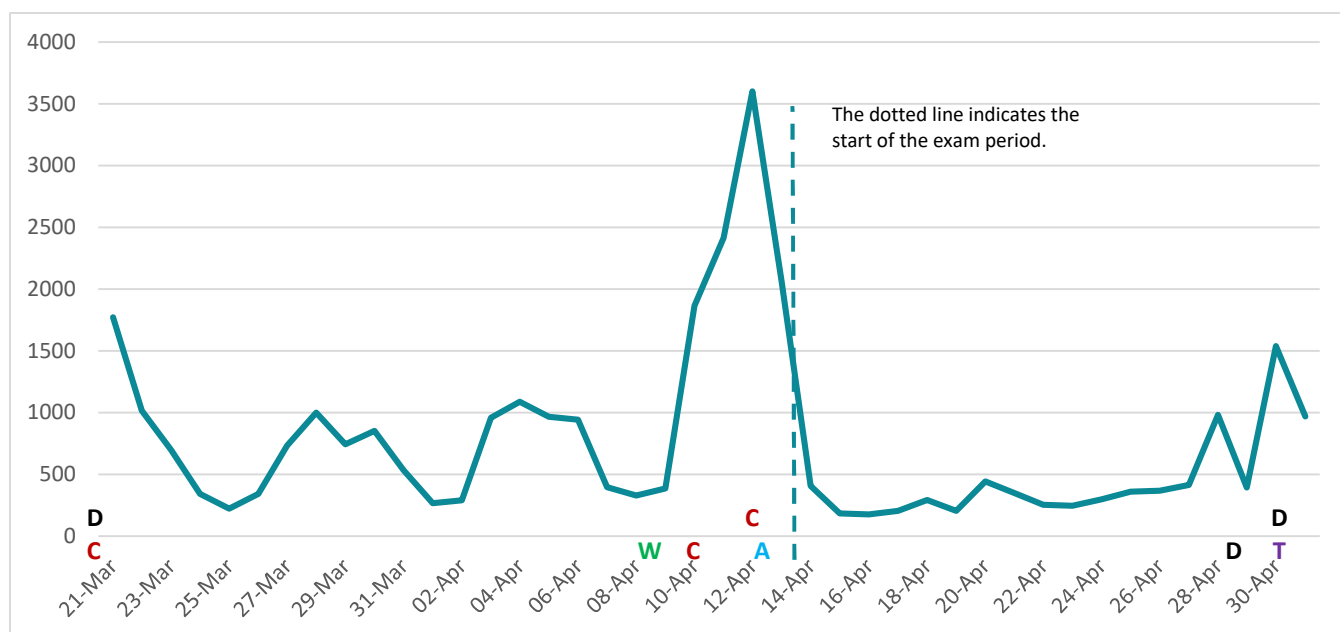
Before exam period total: 28,784

During and after exam period total: 8,184

Grand total: 36,968

**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 2023



Before exam period total: 23,816

During and after exam period total: 8,096

Grand total: 31,885

**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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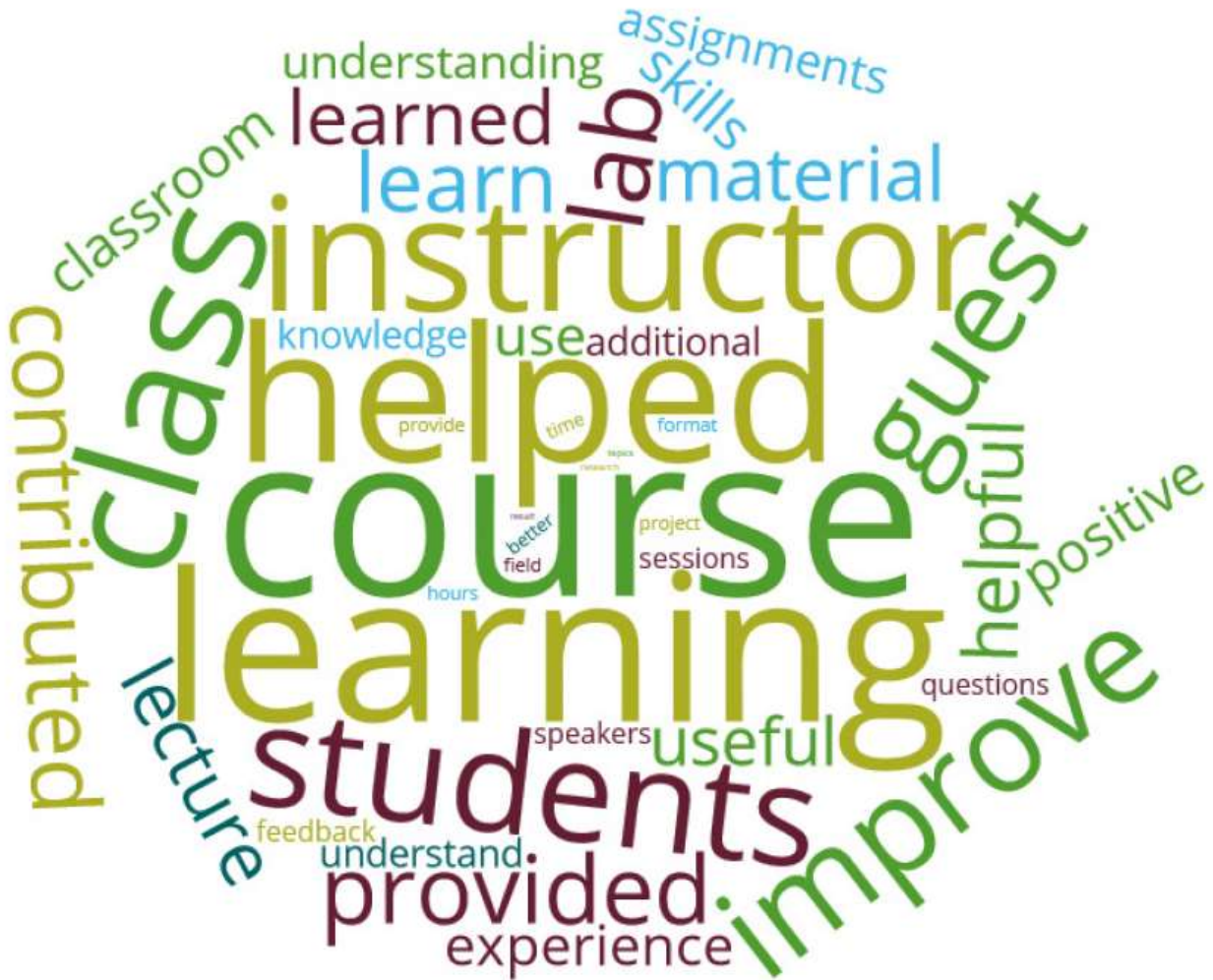
<sup>1</sup> In 2022-2023, **68,141** course evaluations were submitted.

## INSTRUCTOR-ADDED QUESTIONS

	FALL 2022	WINTER 2023
Number of instructors who added questions	210	303
Number of courses for which questions were added	95	145
Number of comment box only questions	86	165
Number of multiple choice with comment box questions	208	299
Number of multiple choice with no comment box questions	21	37
<b>Total number of questions added</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>501</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 complete a webform to request that their response be deleted. Since 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 2022	WINTER 2023
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 2022-2023 <sup>1</sup>
Number of instructor/Teaching Assistant requests submitted between June 1, 2018, and May 31, 2019	0
Number of instructor/Teaching Assistant requests approved	0

<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.

