

Mercury Report on Response Rate Academic Year 2009-2010



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	2009-2010			
	Fall 09		Winter 10	
COURSE DATA¹				
Courses evaluated	2,371		2,506	
Total number of submissions	47,569		38,966	
Overall Faculty response rate	47% ²	↑ ³	43% ²	↔
Overall university-wide response rate (including Cont Ed)	48% ²	↑	44% ²	↔
Cumulative number of instructors who have accessed the online permission form	1,195		1,387	
Cumulative number of instructors who have granted permission to disseminate results	790 ⁴ (66%)		896 (65%)	
Students involved	29,423		28,154	
Students who had more than one evaluation	85%		85%	
Students who completed at least one evaluation	55%		50%	
Students who completed no evaluations	45%		50%	
Departments/Units involved	78		81	
Departments with increased response rate (vs. 08-09)	45		30	
Departments with decreased response rate (vs. 08-09)	22		31	
Departments with response rate within ±1%	11		20	
Departments with >= 70% average response rate	8	↑	3	↓
Departments with 50% - 69% average response rate	34	↑	22	↔
<i>Departments with 41% - 49% average response rate</i>	19		23	
<i>Departments with < 40% average response rate</i>	17		33	

¹ Primary course evaluations only. This report does not include courses with enrolment of less than 5. The Music Performance department has not been included in this report due to the unique nature of their courses. Also, in the winter 2010 term there was a problem with questionnaire creation for the Dept. of Chemical Engineering; it was therefore not included.

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

³ Relative to 2008-2009, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

⁴ As of February 1, 2010, permission could be granted to disseminate results on a course by course basis.

1. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY FACULTY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010¹

Faculty	Fall 2009			Winter 2010		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	174	50%	↑ ³	170	46%	↑
Arts	505	50%	↑	630	46%	↑
Dentistry	4	50%	↑	23	27%	↔
Education	229	48%	↓	233	44%	↔
Engineering	253	37%	↓	230	38%	↔
Law	83	37%	↔	83	41%	↑
Desautels Faculty of Management	208	51%	↑	179	47%	↔
Medicine	153	51%	↑	183	48%	↔
Schulich School of Music	108	35%	↑	104	35%	↑
Religious Studies	28	50%	↑	35	44%	↑
Science	321	47%	↔	314	48%	↑
Faculty Response Rate	2,066	47%⁴	↑	2,184	43%⁴	↔
Centre for Continuing Education	305	57%	↑	322	55%	↑
University-wide Response Rate	2,371	48%⁴	↑	2,506	44%⁴	↔

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² The Faculty averages are calculated on a per department basis: $\sum \text{dept } \bar{x} / \# \text{ depts}$

³ Relative to 2008-2009, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

⁴ The Faculty Response Rate and University-wide Response Rate averages are calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{course } \bar{x} / \# \text{ courses}$

2. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY DEPARTMENT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 09-10¹

Department	Fall 2009			Winter 2010		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
Agri and Env. Sciences (10)						
Agricultural & Env.Sc.-Dean	2	44%	new	2	53%	new
Agricultural Economics	4	51%	↓ ³	6	39%	↔
Animal Science	14	51%	↔	17	43%	↑
Bioresource Engineering	34	32%	↑	24	33%	↑
Dietetics & Human Nutrition	24	37%	↓	21	36%	↑
Farm Mgmt & Technology Program	28	66%	↑	27	40%	↑
Food Science & Agr-Chemistry	15	45%	↔	16	44%	↑
Natural Resource Sciences	21	57%	↑	23	60%	↑
Parasitology	7	67%	↑	11	54%	↑
Plant Science	14	52%	↑	13	55%	↓
McGill School of Environment	11	54%	↔	10	51%	↓
Arts (21)						
Anthropology	20	47%	↓	30	41%	↔
Art History & Communication Std	27	42%	↑	27	42%	↑
Arts - Dean's Office	30	42%	↑	27	33%	↔
East Asian Studies	13	53%	↑	26	53%	↑
Economics	43	42%	↓	39	38%	↓
English	55	53%	↔	66	48%	↔
English & French Language Centre	31	51%	↑	53	46%	↔
French Language & Literature	26	63%	↓	25	61%	↔
German Studies	11	54%	↑	15	52%	↔
Hispanic Studies	13	61%	↓	24	47%	↓
History	50	43%	↑	80	35%	↔
Institute for Study of Canada	8	54%	↑	7	43%	↑
Islamic Studies	8	65%	↑	18	49%	↓
Italian Studies	13	76%	↑	18	53%	↓
Jewish Studies	10	39%	↑	19	39%	↑
Linguistics	15	68%	↑	14	56%	↑

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² The average response rate by department is calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{course } \bar{x} / \# \text{ courses}$

³ Relative to 2008-2009, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

Philosophy	33	43%	↑	31	42%	↑
Political Science	37	52%	↑	45	49%	↑
Russian & Slavic Studies	9	50%	↔	11	41%	↑
Social Work	26	57%	↑	27	48%	↓
Sociology	27	48%	↑	28	41%	↓
Continuing Education (5)						
Career And Management Studies	139	37%	↑	145	37%	↓
English Language Programs	101	80%	↑	104	74%	↓
French Language Programs	35	81%	↑	34	83%	↑
Translation Studies	28	48%	↔	35	51%	↑
General Studies	2	38%	↑	4	28%	↔
Dentistry (1)						
	4	50%	↑	23	27%	↔
Education (4)						
Educational & Counselling Psych	63	54%	↓	74	49%	↔
Information Studies	19	61%	↓	18	56%	↓
Integrated Studies in Ed	114	47%	↓	102	42%	↓
Kinesiology and Physical Ed	33	32%	↓	39	28%	↓
Engineering (8)						
Architecture	45	27%	↓	44	30%	↔
Chemical Engineering	19	41%	↓	N/A	N/A	
Civil Engineering	33	38%	↓	29	40%	↓
Electrical & Computer Eng	70	33%	↓	74	29%	↓
Engineering - Dean's Office	4	36%	↓	3	23%	↓
Mechanical Engineering	44	41%	↓	42	46%	↓
Mining, Metals & Materials Eng	25	44%	↔	26	37%	↑
Urban Planning	13	53%	↑	12	60%	↔
Law (1)						
	83	37%	↑	83	41%	↑
Management (1)						
	208	51%	↑	179	47%	↔
Medicine (18)						
Anatomy and Cell Biology	6	35%	↓	12	25%	↓
Biochemistry	9	30%	↔	8	27%	↔
Bioethics Unit	N/A	N/A		1	80%	New
Biomedical Engineering	4	89%	↑	5	48%	↔
Comm Sciences & Disorders	13	61%	↑	13	44%	↓
Epidemiology And Biostatistics	14	79%	↑	13	52%	↓

Human Genetics	2	78%	↑	2	69%	↓
Medicine	14	34%	↓	15	43%	↑
Microbiology & Immunology	8	45%	↑	10	38%	↓
Neurology & Neurosurgery	4	80%	↑	5	66%	↑
Nursing	34	45%	↓	29	43%	↓
Occupational Health	7	67%	↑	8	58%	↑
Pathology	N/A	N/A		1	21%	↓
Pharmacology And Therapeutics	6	51%	↑	7	51%	↑
Physical & Occupational Therapy	18	53%	↑	27	51%	↓
Physiology	14	35%	↑	19	40%	↑
Psychiatry	N/A	N/A		8	54%	↓
Music (2)						
Music Research	108	35%	↑	104	35%	↓
Performance	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	
Religious Studies (1)	28	50%	↑	35	44%	↑
Science (10)						
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	10	48%	↑	12	42%	↓
Biology	35	51%	↑	23	48%	↑
Chemistry	73	39%	↓	70	39%	↓
Computer Science	31	56%	↑	40	49%	↑
Earth & Planetary Sciences	14	51%	↔	16	49%	↑
Geography	27	64%	↔	26	62%	↑
Mathematics and Statistics	63	40%	↓	58	38%	↔
Physics	32	53%	↑	30	49%	↔
Psychology	34	46%	↑	35	34%	↓
Redpath Museum	2	77%	↓	4	68%	↑

3A. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE FOR FALL 2009¹

- 2,371 courses evaluated
- 65% (n=1,534) of courses evaluated met dissemination threshold which is minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.
- 5% (n=136) of courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Fall 2009					
Class size	2008 Policy threshold	Avg. response rate ²	# of courses evaluated	# of courses achieved threshold	# of courses below threshold
1 - 4	N/A	N/A	136	N/A	N/A
5 - 11	min 5	50%	435	187	248
12 - 30	40%	50%	979	645	334
31 - 100	35%	44%	728	500	228
101 - 200	30%	41%	167	145	22
201+	25%	39%	62	57	5
		48%	2,371	1,534	837

3B. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE FOR WINTER 2010¹

- 2,506 courses evaluated
- 56% (n=1,402) of courses evaluated met dissemination threshold which is minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.
- 6% (n=170) of courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Winter 2010					
Class size	2008 Policy threshold	Avg. response rate ²	# of courses evaluated	# of courses achieved threshold	# of courses below threshold
1 - 4	N/A	N/A	170	N/A	N/A
5 - 11	min 5	47%	543	191	352
12 - 30	40%	48%	1,066	674	392
31 - 100	35%	39%	687	400	287
101 - 200	30%	34%	159	101	58
201+	25%	31%	51	36	15
		45%	2,506	1,402	1,104

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

4A. NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010

	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Total 2009-2010
Unique instructors evaluated	1,835	1,944	2,521

4B. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON RANK TITLE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010¹

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

Rank Title	Fall 2009			Winter 2010		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
<i>Course Lecturer</i>	450	55%	↑ ³	418	54%	↑
<i>Faculty Lecturer</i>	233	49%	↑	285	43%	↓
<i>Adjunct Professor</i>	39	34%	↓	53	33%	↑
Assistant Professor	232	56%	↑	286	50%	↔
<i>Assistant Professor-NTT</i>	23	38%	↑	37	40%	↑
Assistant Professor-Spec Category	11	50%	↓	9	59%	↑
Associate Professor	445	49%	↔	514	41%	↔
<i>Associate Professor-NTT</i>	10	44%	↑	26	35%	↑
Professor	408	44%	↓	367	41%	↓
Dean/Director	4	53%	↑	3	68%	↑

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² The average response rate by rank is calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{course } \bar{x} / \# \text{ courses}$

³ Relative to 2008-2009, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

5A. INSTRUCTORS WHO GRANTED/DENIED PERMISSION FOR DISSEMINATION AS OF FALL 2009/WINTER 2010 (CUMULATIVE)¹

	Fall 2009		Winter 2010	
Change in total number of instructors who accessed online permission form	+ 82		+ 192	
Cumulative total	1195		1387	
Granted permission	790	66%	896	65%
Denied permission	268	22%	327	23%
Didn't answer, not eligible (left blank)	138	12%	164	12%

5B. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010

	Fall 2009 (n=29,423)	Winter 2010 (n=28,154)
# of students who completed at least 1 evaluation	16,271 (55%)	14,156 (50%)
# of students who did not complete any evaluations	13,152 (45%)	13,998 (50%)

5C. STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010²

	Fall 2009	Winter 2010
# declined course evaluations (opt-outs)	909	1429
# declined primary course evaluations³	626	1085
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	34	54
Arts	125	231
Dentistry	0	1
Education	45	92
Engineering	89	136
Law	22	25
Desautels Faculty of Management	43	42
Medicine	40	89
Schulich School of Music	19	29
Religious Studies	6	31
Science	185	324
Centre for Continuing Education	18	31

¹ As of February 1, 2010, permission could be granted to disseminate results on a course by course basis.

² Students may now “opt-out” of evaluations for one or more courses 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.

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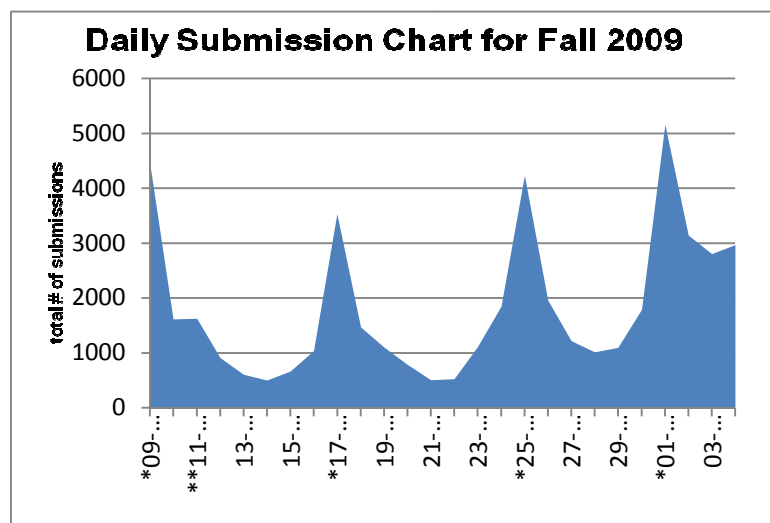
6A. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR FALL 2009

Note: Responses submitted during the main evaluation period¹

	Date	# of Submissions
DAY 1	*09-NOV-09	4456
DAY 2	10-NOV-09	1613
DAY 3	**11-NOV-09	1624
DAY 4	12-NOV-09	904
DAY 5	13-NOV-09	604
DAY 6	14-NOV-09	498
DAY 7	15-NOV-09	657
DAY 8	**16-NOV-09	1031
DAY 9	*17-NOV-09	3531
DAY 10	18-NOV-09	1463
DAY 11	19-NOV-09	1097
DAY 12	20-NOV-09	783
DAY 13	21-NOV-09	500
DAY 14	22-NOV-09	518
DAY 15	23-NOV-09	1103
DAY 16	**24-NOV-09	1844
DAY 17	*25-NOV-09	4231
DAY 18	26-NOV-09	1957
DAY 19	27-NOV-09	1212
DAY 20	28-NOV-09	1009
DAY 21	29-NOV-09	1093
DAY 22	30-NOV-09	1785
DAY 23	*01-DEC-09	5158
DAY 24	**02-DEC-09	3136
DAY 25	03-DEC-09	2801
DAY 26	04-DEC-09	2961
		47,569

*system email reminders

**myCourses reminders

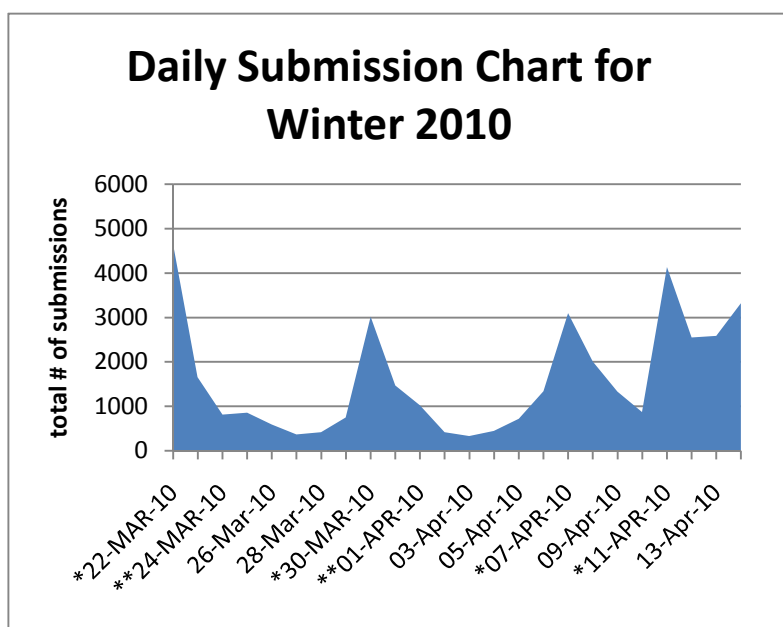


¹ The main course evaluation period is the same across the University and applies to courses that follow the regular term calendar.

6B. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR WINTER 2010

Note: Responses submitted during the main evaluation period¹

	Date	# of Submissions
DAY 1	*22-MAR-10	4682
DAY 2	23-MAR-10	1664
DAY 3	**24-MAR-10	822
DAY 4	25-MAR-10	864
DAY 5	26-MAR-10	598
DAY 6	27-MAR-10	373
DAY 7	28-MAR-10	423
DAY 8	29-MAR-10	754
DAY 9	*30-MAR-10	3023
DAY 10	31-MAR-10	1477
DAY 11	**01-APR-10	1030
DAY 12	02-APR-10	429
DAY 13	03-APR-10	340
DAY 14	04-APR-10	458
DAY 15	05-APR-10	731
DAY 16	**06-APR-10	1344
DAY 17	*07-APR-10	3104
DAY 18	08-APR-10	2013
DAY 19	09-APR-10	1343
DAY 20	10-APR-10	878
DAY 21	*11-APR-10	4138
DAY 22	**12-APR-10	2555
DAY 23	13-APR-10	2595
DAY 24	14-APR-10	3328
		38,966



*system email reminders

**myCourses reminders

¹ The main course evaluation period is same across the University and applies to courses that follow the regular term calendar.

7. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010¹

Type of course	Fall 2009			Winter 2010		
	# of evaluations	Avg. response rate ²		# of evaluations	Avg. response rate ²	
Laboratory	85	34%	↓ ³	78	33%	↑
Lecture	1938	49%	↑	2061	45%	↑
Seminar	225	49%	↑	256	46%	↔
Studio	47	32%	↑	38	32%	↑
Tutorial	7	21%	↔	5	27%	↓

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

With the University-wide implementation of [Mercury](#), the online course evaluation system, in January 2008, we 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 of minimizing the consumption of material resources that are embedded in the [McGill Sustainability Policy](#).

*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 about that.
- If we calculate that the 96,000 submissions 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 would have required 3 pieces of paper for 576,000 sheets of paper.
 - 1/3 of the 576,000 sheets (the questionnaires) could definitely not be reused = **192,000**;

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² The average response rate by type of course is calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{course } \bar{x} / \# \text{ courses}$

³ Relative to 2008-2009, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

- 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.