

Mercury Report on Response Rate Academic Year 2010-2011



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	2010-2011			
	Fall 10		Winter 11	
COURSE DATA¹				
Courses evaluated	2,480		2,594	
Total number of submissions (main evaluation period)	50,173		42,184	
Overall Faculty response rate	49% ²	↑ ³	45% ²	↑
Overall university-wide response rate (including Continuing Education)	50% ²	↑	46% ²	↑
Instructors				
Cumulative number of instructors who have accessed the online permission form	1,916		2,167	
Cumulative number of instructors who have granted permission to disseminate results	1,206 ⁴ (63%)		1,385 (64%)	
Students				
Students involved	30,511		28,995	
Students who had more than one evaluation	85%		85%	
Students who completed at least one evaluation	57%	↑	53%	↑
Students who completed no evaluations	43%		47%	
Academic Units				
Academic units involved	83		86	
Units with increased response rate (vs. 09-10)	32		36	
Units with decreased response rate (vs. 09-10)	32		31	
Units with response rate within ±1%	19		19	
Units with ≥ 70% average response rate	8	↔	7	↑
Units with 50% - 69% average response rate	28	↓	21	↔
<i>Units with 41% - 49% average response rate</i>	34		34	
<i>Units with < 40% average response rate</i>	13		23	

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.

² The Faculty Response Rate and University-wide Response Rate averages are calculated on a per course basis:

$$\frac{\sum \text{course}}{\# \text{ courses}}$$

³ Relative to 2009-2010, 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 2010-2011¹

Faculty	Fall 2010			Winter 2011		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	182	53%	↑ ³	181	43%	↓
Arts	502	51%	↔	604	46%	↔
Dentistry	<10	n/a ⁴	n/a	22	35%	↑
Education	251	50%	↑	242	46%	↑
Engineering	245	43%	↑	254	42%	↑
Law	87	41%	↑	87	53%	↑
Desautels Faculty of Management	193	51%	↔	193	47%	↔
Medicine	156	50%	↔	193	46%	↓
Schulich School of Music	112	46%	↑	103	35%	↔
Religious Studies	33	48%	↓	32	51%	↑
Science	323	48%	↔	336	42%	↓
Faculty Response Rate	2,085	49%⁵	↑	2,237	45%⁵	↑
Centre for Continuing Education	395	56%	↔	357	54%	↔
University-wide Response Rate	2,480	50%⁵	↑	2,594	46%⁵	↑

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.

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

³ Relative to 2009-2010, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

⁴ The response rate is not reported for an academic unit when fewer than 10 courses are evaluated.

⁵ The Faculty Response Rate and University-wide Response Rate averages are calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{course} / \# \text{ courses}$

2. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY ACADEMIC UNIT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 10-11¹

Academic unit	Fall 2010			Winter 2011		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
Agri and Env. Sciences (11)						
Agricultural & Env.Sc.-Dean	<10	n/a ³	-	<10	n/a	-
Agricultural Economics	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Animal Science	13	51% ⁴	↔ ⁵ ₅	18	53% ⁴	↑
Bioresource Engineering	36	42%	↑	30	39%	↑
Dietetics & Human Nutrition	23	49% ⁴	↑	20	32%	↓
Farm Mgmt & Technology Program	31	63%	↓	28	36%	↓
Food Science & Agr-Chemistry	13	52%	↑	26	40%	↓
McGill School of Environment	12	54%	↔	11	54%	↑
Natural Resource Sciences	23	60% ⁴	↑	25	47%	↓
Parasitology	<10	n/a ⁴	-	10	54%	↔
Plant Science	17	49%	↓	16	46%	↓
Arts (24)						
Anthropology	26	47%	↔	25	40%	↔
Art History & Communication Std	27	48%	↑	26	43%	↔
Arts - Dean's Office	23	39%	↓	20	30%	↓
East Asian Studies	26	49%	↓	26	46%	↓
Economics	43	45%	↑	45	41%	↑
English	56	48%	↓	63	52%	↑
English & French Language Centre	52	48%	↓	47	42%	↑
French Language & Literature	22	71%	↑	27	59%	↓
German Studies	12	56%	↑	13	62%	↑
Hispanic Studies	15	51%	↓	22	51%	↑
History and Classical Studies	54	46%	↑	71	41%	↑
Institute for Gender, Sex & Fem. St.	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Institute for the St. of Development	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Inst. of Public Life of Arts & Ideas	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Institute for Study of Canada	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Islamic Studies	<10	n/a	-	17	45%	↓

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.

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

³ The response rate is not reported for an academic unit when fewer than 10 courses are evaluated.

⁴ This unit followed the extended dates option (closing last day of exam period) for this term.

⁵ Relative to 2009-2010, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

Italian Studies	15	55%	↓	17	41%	↓
Jewish Studies	14	45%	↑	15	44%	↑
Linguistics	16	65%	↓	15	57%	↔
Philosophy	30	51%	↑	31	45%	↑
Political Science	41	58%	↑	45	45%	↓
Russian & Slavic Studies	10	54%	↑	<10	n/a ¹	-
Social Work	27	55%	↓	26	49%	↔
Sociology	29	54%	↑	28	47%	↑
Continuing Education (6)						
Career And Management Studies	138	43%	↑	154	41%	↑
English Language Programs	117	73%	↓	39	85%	↑
French Language Programs	42	77%	↓	116	71%	↓
General Studies	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
McGill Writing Centre	n/a	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Translation Studies	38	48%	↔	39	41%	↓
Dentistry (1)						
	n/a	n/a	-	22	35%	↑
Education (4)						
Educational & Counselling Psych	84	55%	↔	74	52%	↑
Information Studies	21	61% ²	↔	24	63% ²	↑
Integrated Studies in Ed	103	55% ²	↑	102	47% ²	↑
Kinesiology and Physical Ed	43	25%	↓	42	23%	↓
Engineering (8)						
Architecture	46	37%	↑	46	39%	↑
Chemical Engineering	18	42%	↔	19	41%	N/A
Civil Engineering	37	36%	↓	42	48%	↑
Electrical & Computer Eng	56	38%	↑	61	34%	↑
Engineering - Dean's Office	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Mechanical Engineering	44	62%	↑	45	45%	↔
Mining, Metals & Materials Eng	24	45%	↔	25	37%	↔
Urban Planning	16	47%	↓	13	72%	↑
Law (1)						
	87	41%	↑	87	53% ²	↑
Management (1)						
	193	51%	↔	183	47%	↔

¹ The response rate is not reported for an academic unit when fewer than 10 courses are evaluated.

² This unit followed the extended dates option (closing last day of exam period) for this term.

Medicine (18)						
Anatomy and Cell Biology	<10	n/a ¹	-	<10	n/a	-
Biochemistry	11	34%	↑	17	33%	↑
Biomedical Engineering	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Biomedical Ethics Unit	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Comm Sciences & Disorders	10	58%	↓	13	76%	↑
Epidemiology And Biostatistics	16	78%	↔	11	73%	↑
Family Medicine	n/a	n/a		<10	n/a	-
Human Genetics	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Medicine	14	42%	↑	14	38%	↓
Microbiology & Immunology	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Neurology & Neurosurgery	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Nursing	27	47%	↑	28	44%	↔
Occupational Health	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Pathology	n/a	n/a		<10	n/a	-
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Physical & Occupational Therapy	24	46%	↓	39	44%	↓
Physiology	13	39%	↑	19	30%	↓
Psychiatry	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Music (2)						
Music Research	112	46%	↑	103	35%	↔
Performance	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	
Religious Studies (1)	33	48% ²	↓	32	51% ²	↑
Science (10)						
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	12	49%	↔	15	39%	↑
Biology	31	45%	↓	28	49%	↔
Chemistry	73	41%	↑	70	34%	↓
Computer Science	36	60%	↑	33	50%	↔
Earth & Planetary Sciences	15	46%	↓	18	41%	↓
Geography	27	71%	↑	31	50%	↓
Mathematics and Statistics	65	47%	↑	61	44%	↑
Physics	33	42%	↓	33	37%	↓
Psychology	31	45%	↔	43	44%	↑
Redpath Museum	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-

¹ The response rate is not reported for an academic unit when fewer than 10 courses are evaluated.

² This unit followed the extended dates option (closing last day of exam period) for this term.

3A. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE FOR FALL 2010¹

- 2,480 courses evaluated
- 69% (n=1,716) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.
- 4% (n=112) of the courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Fall 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	112	n/a	n/a
5 - 11	min 5	57%	451	210	241
12 - 30	40%	52%	1036	728	308
31 - 100	35%	46%	755	568	187
101 - 200	30%	42%	179	156	23
201+	25%	40%	59	54	5
		50%	2,480	1,716	764

3B. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE FOR WINTER 2011¹

- 2,594 courses evaluated
- 58% (n=1,494) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.
- 6% (n=160) of the courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Winter 2011					
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	160	n/a	n/a
5 - 11	min 5	51%	565	212	353
12 - 30	40%	49%	1,098	676	422
31 - 100	35%	41%	712	448	264
101 - 200	30%	36%	164	113	51
201+	25%	32%	55	45	10
		46%	2,594	1,494	1,100

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.

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

4A. NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011

	Fall 2010	Winter 2011	Total 2010-2011
Unique instructors evaluated	1,894	2,004	2,594

4B. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON RANK TITLE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011¹

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

Rank Title	Fall 2010			Winter 2011		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
<i>Course Lecturer</i>	562	56%	↔ ³	520	54%	↔
<i>Faculty Lecturer</i>	340	50%	↔	342	42%	↔
<i>Adjunct Professor</i>	60	40%	↑	63	42%	↑
Assistant Professor	357	53%	↓	312	49%	↔
Assistant Professor-Spec Category	11	46%	↓	14	46%	↓
Associate Professor	699	47%	↓	751	43%	↑
Professor	516	46%	↑	468	39%	↓
Dean/Director	10	47%	↓	9	40%	↓

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.

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

³ Relative to 2009-2010, 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 2010/WINTER 2011 (CUMULATIVE)¹

	Fall 2010		Winter 2011	
Change in total number of instructors who accessed online permission form	+ 529		+ 251	
Cumulative total	1,916		2,167	
Granted permission	1,206	63%	1,385	64%
Denied permission	490	26%	553	26%
Didn't answer, not eligible (left blank)	220	11%	229	10%

5B. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011

	Fall 2010 (n=30,511)	Winter 2011 (n=28,995)
# of students who completed at least 1 evaluation	17,526 (57%)	15,297 (53%)
# of students who did not complete any evaluations	12,985 (43%)	13,698 (47%)

5C. STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011²

	Fall 2010	Winter 2011
# declined course evaluations (opt-outs)	1,396	1,980
# declined primary course evaluations³	1,040	1,326
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	67	91
Arts	266	270
Dentistry	n/a ⁴	n/a ⁴
Education	64	73
Engineering	203	318
Law	38	66
Desautels Faculty of Management	50	66
Medicine	44	139
Schulich School of Music	49	62
Religious Studies	21	25
Science	562	819
Centre for Continuing Education	32	48

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

² Students may “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.

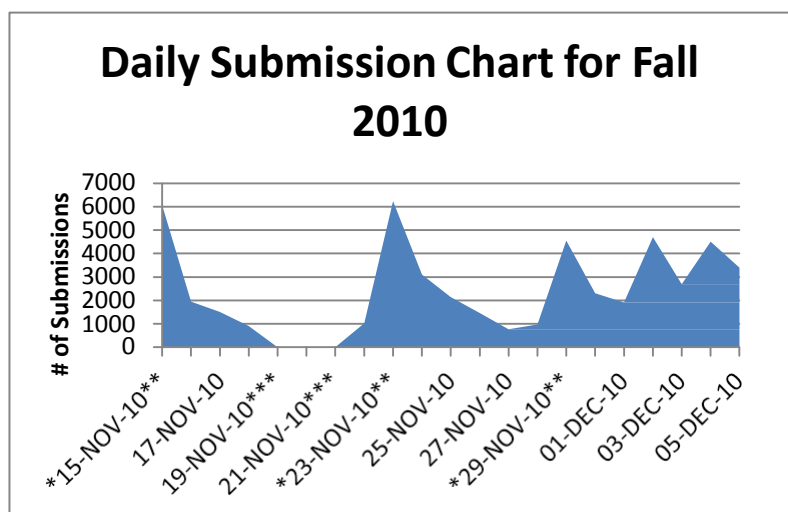
³ Primary course evaluations only.

⁴ The number of declined evaluations for an academic unit is not reported when there are fewer than 10 declined evaluations.

6A. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR FALL 2010

1. Responses submitted during the main evaluation period¹

	Date	# of Submissions
Day 1	*15-NOV-10**	6067
Day 2	16-NOV-10	1945
Day 3	17-NOV-10	1504
Day 4	18-NOV-10***	903
Day 5	19-NOV-10***	0
Day 6	20-NOV-10***	0
Day 7	21-NOV-10***	3
Day 8	22-NOV-10	1021
Day 9	*23-NOV-10**	6235
Day 10	24-NOV-10	3099
Day 11	25-NOV-10	2137
Day 12	26-NOV-10	1461
Day 13	27-NOV-10	766
Day 14	28-NOV-10	972
Day 15	*29-NOV-10**	4551
Day 16	30-NOV-10	2303
Day 17	01-DEC-10	1911
Day 18	*02-DEC-10**	4700
Day 19	03-DEC-10	2688
Day 20	*04-DEC-10	4509
Day 21	05-DEC-10	3398
	Total	50,173
*system email reminders		
**myCourses reminders		
***System downtime (scheduled)		

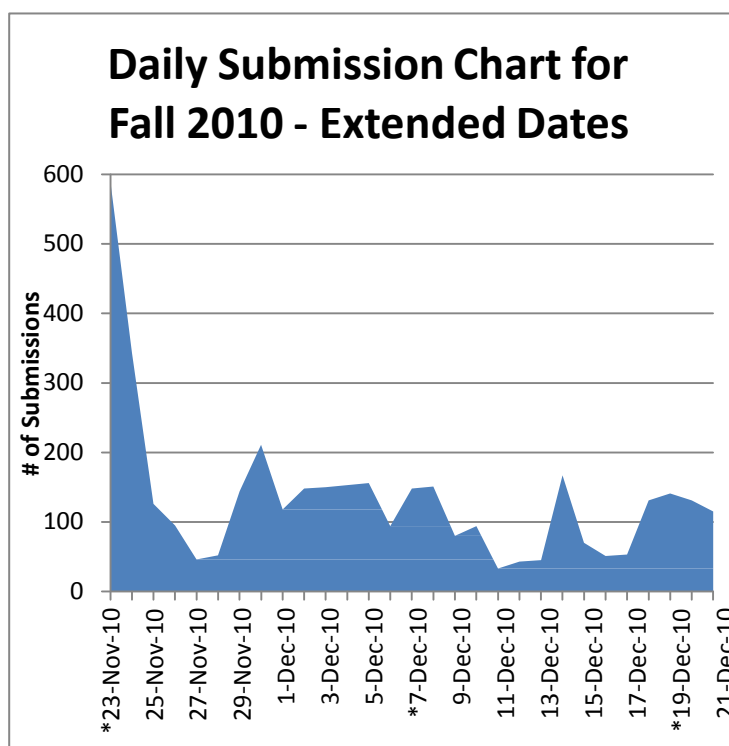


¹ The main course evaluation period is the same across the University and applies to courses that follow the regular term calendar. It ends the day before the examination period starts.

2. Responses submitted during the extended dates evaluation period

In May 2010, TLS received approval from Senate to allow course evaluations to extend through the examination period for courses in seven units¹ for the Fall 2010 term as a trial. This allowed all evaluation methods, including final exams, to be considered as part of the teaching experience as well as permitted students to complete evaluations at a time when they are less pressured by impending end-of-term deadlines. The course evaluation period for these units was from November 23 to December 21; the examination period began on December 6th.

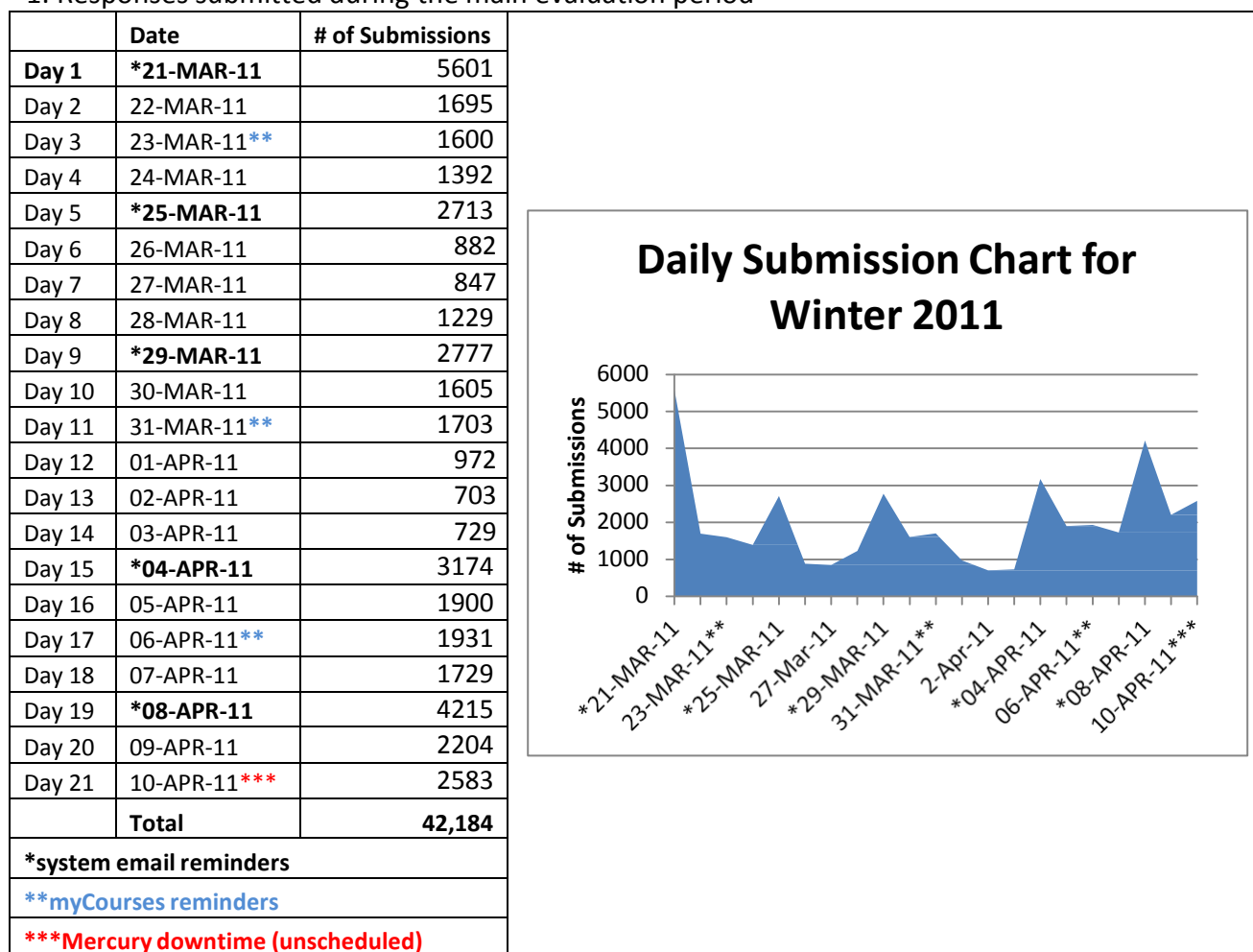
	Date	# of Submissions
Day 1	*23-Nov-10**	590
Day 2	*24-Nov-10	343
Day 3	25-Nov-10	126
Day 4	26-Nov-10	95
Day 5	27-Nov-10	46
Day 6	28-Nov-10	52
Day 7	29-Nov-10**	144
Day 8	*30-Nov-10	211
Day 9	1-Dec-10	118
Day 10	2-Dec-10**	148
Day 11	3-Dec-10	150
Day 12	4-Dec-10	153
Day 13	5-Dec-10	156
Day 14	6-Dec-10	94
Day 15	*7-Dec-10	148
Day 16	*8-Dec-10	151
Day 17	9-Dec-10	80
Day 18	10-Dec-10	94
Day 19	11-Dec-10	33
Day 20	12-Dec-10	43
Day 21	13-Dec-10	45
Day 22	*14-Dec-10	167
Day 23	15-Dec-10	70
Day 24	16-Dec-10	51
Day 25	17-Dec-10	53
Day 26	*18-Dec-10	131
Day 27	*19-Dec-10	141
Day 28	20-Dec-10	131
Day 29	21-Dec-10	115
	Total	3,735
*system email reminders		
**myCourses reminders		



¹ The units were: Faculty of Religious Studies; Department of Integrated Studies in Education and School of Information Studies, Faculty of Education; Animal Science, Dietetics & Human Nutrition, Natural Resource Sciences and the Institute of Parasitology, Faculty of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.

6B. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR WINTER 2011

1: Responses submitted during the main evaluation period¹



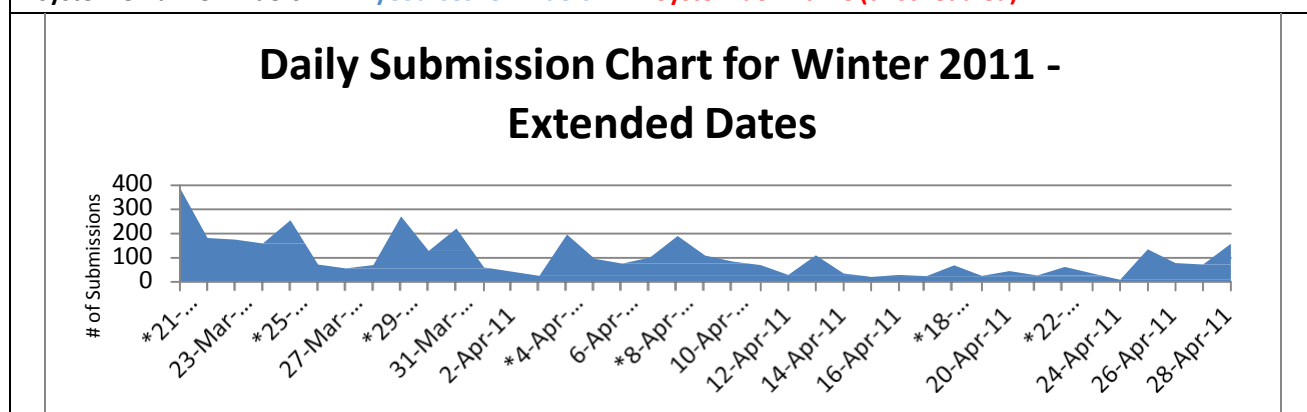
¹ The main course evaluation period is same across the University and applies to courses that follow the regular term calendar. It ends the day before the examination period starts.

2. Responses submitted during the extended dates evaluation period

Following the successful pilot in Fall 2010, Senate approved a revised policy which made the extended dates option available for any unit that wished to, given approval of the Dean. Five units chose this option for the winter term.¹ The course evaluation period for these units was from March 21 to April 28; the examination period began on April 11th.

	Date	# of Submissions		Date	# of Submissions
Day 1	*21-Mar-2011	390	Day 21	10-Apr-2011***	84
Day 2	22-Mar-11	182	Day 22	11-Apr-11	70
Day 3	23-Mar-2011**	175	Day 23	12-Apr-11	29
Day 4	24-Mar-11	159	Day 24	*13-Apr-2011	110
Day 5	*25-Mar-2011	255	Day 25	14-Apr-11	35
Day 6	26-Mar-11	72	Day 26	15-Apr-11	21
Day 7	27-Mar-11	56	Day 27	16-Apr-11	29
Day 8	28-Mar-11	70	Day 28	17-Apr-11	24
Day 9	*29-Mar-2011	271	Day 29	*18-Apr-2011	69
Day 10	30-Mar-11	128	Day 30	19-Apr-11	25
Day 11	31-Mar-2011**	221	Day 31	20-Apr-11	45
Day 12	1-Apr-11	60	Day 32	21-Apr-11	27
Day 13	2-Apr-11	43	Day 33	*22-Apr-2011	62
Day 14	3-Apr-11	25	Day 34	23-Apr-11	35
Day 15	*4-Apr-2011	196	Day 35	24-Apr-11	9
Day 16	5-Apr-11	96	Day 36	*25-Apr-2011	135
Day 17	6-Apr-2011**	76	Day 37	26-Apr-11	78
Day 18	7-Apr-11	101	Day 38	27-Apr-11	72
Day 19	*8-Apr-2011	190	Day 39	28-Apr-11	158
Day 20	9-Apr-11	109		Total	3,992

*system email reminders **myCourses reminders ***System downtime (unscheduled)



¹ The units were: Faculty of Religious Studies; Faculty of Law; Department of Integrated Studies in Education and School of Information Studies, Faculty of Education; Animal Science, Faculty of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.

6C. DISTRIBUTION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR THE EXTENDED DATES PERIOD 2010-2011

The pattern of responses by date was reviewed to assess when students completed their evaluations. In both the Fall and Winter semesters a significant percentage of students completed their evaluations after the end of courses, thereby taking advantage of the extended dates.

	Regular period	Extended dates	Total
Fall 2010 submissions	2,188 (59%)	1,547 (41%)	3,735
Winter 2011 submissions	2,959 (74%)	1,033 (26%)	3,992

7. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011¹

Type of course	Fall 2010			Winter 2011		
	# of evaluations	Avg. response rate ²		# of evaluations	Avg. response rate ²	
Laboratory	89	36%	↑ ³	84	31%	↓
Lecture	2053	51%	↑	2118	46%	↔
Seminar	206	53%	↑	273	49%	↑
Studio	43	42%	↑	104	29%	↓
Tutorial	23	33%	↑	16	32%	↑

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.

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

³ Relative to 2009-2010, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

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**;
 - 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.