

Mercury Report on Response Rate Academic Year 2011-2012



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	2011-2012			
	Fall 11		Winter 12	
COURSE DATA¹				
Courses evaluated	2,457		2,596	
Total number of submissions	58,373		51,294	
Overall Faculty response rate	51% ²	↑ ³	47% ²	↑
Overall university-wide response rate (including Continuing Studies)	52% ²	↑	49% ²	↑
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Cumulative number of instructors who have accessed the online permission form	2,289		2,560	
Cumulative number of instructors who have granted permission to disseminate results	1,464 ⁴ (64%)		1,639 (64%)	
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Students involved	31,464		29,663	
Students who had more than one evaluation	84%		85%	
Students who completed at least one evaluation	58%	↔	55%	↑
Students who completed no evaluations	42%		45%	
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Academic units involved	87		86	
Units with increased response rate (vs. 09-10)	29		31	
Units with decreased response rate (vs. 09-10)	12		17	
Units with response rate within ±1%	12		11	
Units with ≥ 70% average response rate	3	↓	1	↓
Units with 50% - 69% average response rate	28	↔	20	↔
<i>Units with 41% - 49% average response rate</i>	19		31	
<i>Units with < 40% average response rate</i>	6		11	

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: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{ courses}$.

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 2011-2012¹

Faculty	Fall 2011			Winter 2012		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	189	49%	↓ ³	183	44%	↔
Arts	491	54%	↑	576	48%	↑
Dentistry	<10	n/a ⁴	n/a	14	64%	↑
Education	250	50%	↔	258	48%	↑
Engineering	236	47%	↑	244	43%	↔
Law	87	45%	↑	85	47%	↓
Desautels Faculty of Management	186	51%	↔	176	51%	↑
Medicine	174	52%	↑	191	50%	↑
Schulich School of Music	117	50%	↑	118	49%	↑
Religious Studies	31	44%	↓	34	51%	↔
Science	327	50%	↑	336	45%	↑
Faculty Response Rate	2,092	51%⁵	↑	2,215	47%⁵	↑
School of Continuing Studies	365	60%	↑	381	57%	↑
University-wide Response Rate	2,457	52%⁵	↑	2,596	49%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 per course basis: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{courses}$.

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: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{courses}$.

2. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY ACADEMIC UNIT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012¹

Academic unit	Fall 2011			Winter 2012		
	# 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	15	46% ⁴	↓ ⁵	15	48% ⁴	↓
Bioresource Engineering	44	45%	↑	33	34%	↓
Dietetics & Human Nutrition	19	35%	↓	22	29%	↓
Farm Mgmt & Technology Program	31	45%	↓	30	48%	↑
Food Science & Agr-Chemistry	15	50%	↑	17	44%	↑
McGill School of Environment	11	64% ⁴	↑	12	62% ⁴	↑
Natural Resource Sciences	24	61%	↔	19	50%	↑
Parasitology	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Plant Science	14	56%	↑	17	49%	↑
Arts (24)						
Anthropology	23	52%	↑	19	39%	↔
Art History & Communication Std	29	50%	↑	29	43%	↔
Arts - Dean's Office	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
East Asian Studies	10	65%	↑	32	48%	↑
Economics	40	46%	↔	38	41%	↔
English	54	54%	↓	60	59% ⁴	↑
French Language Centre	17	46%	↓	39	40%	↓
French Language & Literature	24	73%	↑	23	65%	↑
German Studies	<10	n/a	-	14	52%	↓
Hispanic Studies	11	60%	↑	26	57%	↑
History and Classical Studies	70	47%	↔	70	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	-	18	44%	↔

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: Σ courses / # 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	<10	n/a ¹	-	17	49%	↑
Jewish Studies	<10	n/a	-	17	40%	↓
Linguistics	18	64%	↔	15	57%	↔
Philosophy	31	52%	↔	27	38%	↓
Political Science	43	59%	↔	49	52%	↑
Russian & Slavic Studies	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Social Work	28	63% ²	↑	31	57% ²	↑
Sociology	27	60%	↑	22	47%	↑
Continuing Studies (6)						
Career & Professional Develop	142	49% ²	↑	166	49% ²	↑
Fac. Partnerships & Summer Studies	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Language & Intercultural Comm.	162	74%	new	161	69%	new
Languages, Literatures, Cultures	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
McGill Writing Centre	31	52%	new	25	45%	new
Translation & Written Comm.	26	39%	new	27	40%	new
Dentistry (1)						
	n/a	n/a	-	14	64%	↑
Education (4)						
Educational & Counselling Psych	85	58% ²	↑	82	61% ²	↑
Information Studies	20	63% ²	↑	22	63% ²	↔
Integrated Studies in Ed	100	50% ²	↓	107	46% ²	↔
Kinesiology and Physical Ed	45	31%	↑	47	20%	↓
Engineering (8)						
Architecture	44	39% ²	↑	40	49% ²	↑
Chemical Engineering	20	45%	↑	22	33%	↓
Civil Engineering	29	61%	↑	36	45%	↓
Electrical & Computer Eng	61	44%	↑	55	38%	↑
Engineering - Dean's Office	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Mechanical Engineering	47	51%	↓	45	46%	↔
Mining, Metals & Materials Eng	21	43%	↓	27	34%	↓
Urban Planning	10	62%	↑	14	57%	↓
Law (1)						
	87	45% ²	↑	85	47% ²	↓
Management (1)						
	186	51%	↔	176	51%	↑

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	10	34%	↔	15	35%	↑
Biomedical Engineering	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Biomedical Ethics Unit	<10	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	
Comm Sciences & Disorders	12	65% ²	↑	14	52% ²	↓
Epidemiology And Biostatistics	17	85%	↑	15	80%	↑
Family Medicine	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Human Genetics	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Medicine	17	43%	↔	14	49%	↑
Microbiology & Immunology	<10	n/a	-	10	42%	n/a
Neurology & Neurosurgery	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Nursing	35	45% ²	↓	32	54% ²	↑
Occupational Health	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Pathology	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Physical & Occupational Therapy	24	45%	↔	30	46%	↑
Physiology	12	45%	↑	17	35%	↑
Psychiatry	<10	n/a	-	<10	n/a	-
Music (2)						
Music Research	117	50% ²	↑	118	49% ²	↑
Performance	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	
Religious Studies (1)	31	44% ²	↓	34	51% ²	↔
Science (10)						
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	<10	n/a	-	11	60%	↑
Biology	27	47%	↑	29	43%	↓
Chemistry	71	42%	↔	78	42%	↑
Computer Science	36	55%	↓	40	47%	↓
Earth & Planetary Sciences	19	39%	↓	19	35%	↓
Geography	24	69%	↔	23	52%	↑
Mathematics and Statistics	70	51%	↑	62	47%	↑
Physics	33	51%	↑	34	42%	↑
Psychology	34	47%	↑	35	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 2011¹

- 2,457 courses evaluated
- 74% (n=1,818) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.
- 0.4% (n=12) of the courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Fall 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	12	n/a	n/a
5 - 11	min 5	58%	455	233	222
12 - 30	40%	55%	983	733	250
31 - 100	35%	48%	773	625	148
101 - 200	30%	43%	181	166	15
201+	25%	39%	65	61	4
		52%	2,457	1,818	639

3B. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE FOR WINTER 2012¹

- 2,596 courses evaluated
- 64% (n=1,670) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.
- 0.9% (n=24) of the courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Winter 2012					
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	24	n/a	n/a
5 - 11	min 5	55%	568	264	304
12 - 30	40%	51%	1,071	735	336
31 - 100	35%	43%	732	501	231
101 - 200	30%	36%	168	123	45
201+	25%	32%	57	47	10
		49%	2,596	1,670	926

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: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{courses}$.

4A. NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012¹

	Fall 2011	Winter 2012	Total 2011-2012
Unique instructors evaluated	1,953	2,028	2,524

4B. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON RANK TITLE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012¹

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

Rank Title	Fall 2011			Winter 2012		
	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
<i>Course Lecturer</i>	605	58%	↑ ³	687	54%	↔
<i>Faculty Lecturer</i>	283	49%		317	44%	↑
<i>Adjunct Professor</i>	59	44%		71	44%	↑
Assistant Professor	289	54%		311	51%	↑
Assistant Professor-Spec Category	9	58%		14	32%	↓
Associate Professor	727	49%	↑	751	43%	↑
Professor	499	49%	↑	463	43%	↑
Dean/Director	10	43%	↓	7	35%	↓

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: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{courses}$.

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 2011/WINTER 2012 (CUMULATIVE)¹

	Fall 2011		Winter 2012	
Change in total number of instructors who accessed online permission form	+ 244		+271	
Cumulative total	2,289		2,560	
Granted permission	1,464	64%	1,639	64%
Denied permission	590	26%	672	26%
Didn't answer, not eligible (left blank)	235	10%	249	10%

5B. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012

	Fall 2011 (n=31,464)	Winter 2012 (n=29,663)
# of students who completed at least 1 evaluation	18,299 (58%)	16,253 (55%)
# of students who did not complete any evaluations	13,165 (42%)	13,410 (45%)

5C. STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012²

	Fall 2011	Winter 2012
# declined course evaluations (opt-outs)	1,845	2,116
# declined primary course evaluations³	1,228	1,355
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	97	82
Arts	223	205
Dentistry	n/a ⁴	n/a ⁴
Education	65	78
Engineering	78	190
Law	54	44
Desautels Faculty of Management	88	77
Medicine	58	102
Schulich School of Music	104	134
Religious Studies	20	25
Science	389	364
School of Continuing Studies	52	53

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.

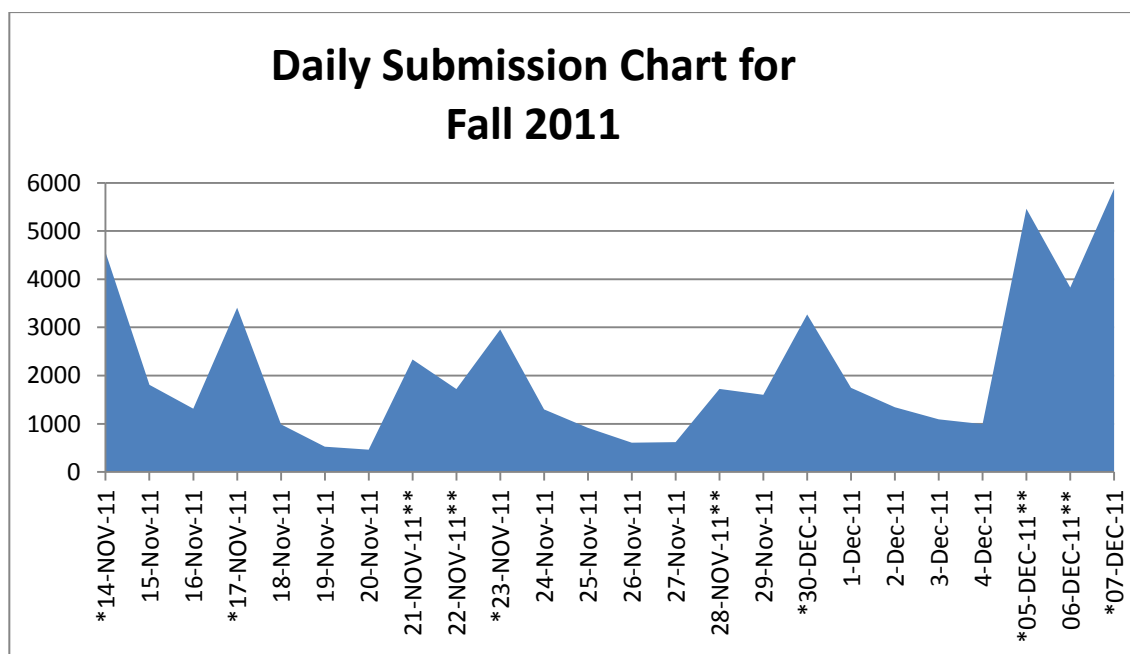
³ Primary course evaluations only.

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 2011

1. Responses submitted during the main evaluation period¹

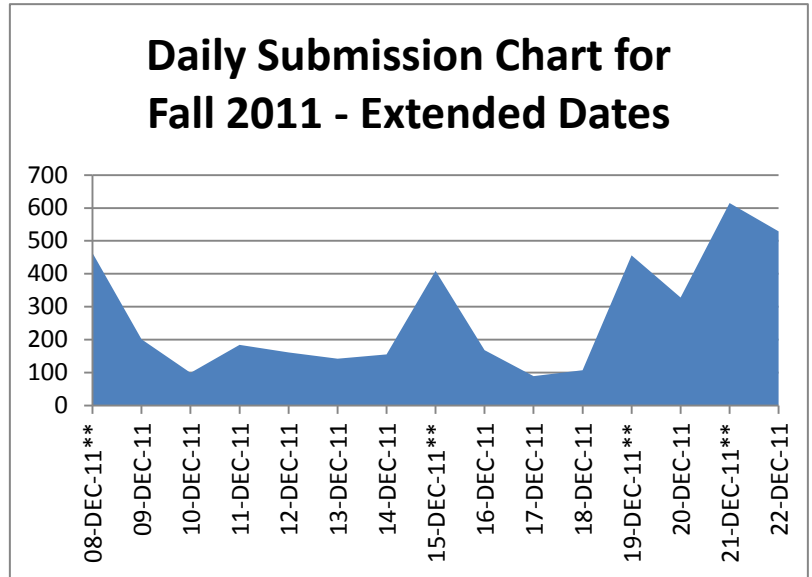
	Date	# of Submissions		Date	# of Submissions
Day 1	*14-NOV-11	4,555	Day 13	26-Nov-11	607
Day 2	15-Nov-11	1,808	Day 14	27-Nov-11	619
Day 3	16-Nov-11	1,313	Day 15	28-NOV-11**	1,723
Day 4	*17-NOV-11	3,409	Day 16	29-Nov-11	1,601
Day 5	18-Nov-11	988	Day 17	*30-DEC-11	3,269
Day 6	19-Nov-11	524	Day 18	1-Dec-11	1,746
Day 7	20-Nov-11	462	Day 19	2-Dec-11	1,343
Day 8	21-NOV-11**	2,334	Day 20	3-Dec-11	1,092
Day 9	22-NOV-11**	1,720	Day 21	4-Dec-11	992
Day 10	*23-NOV-11	2,957	Day 22	*05-DEC-11**	5,463
Day 11	24-Nov-11	1,298	Day 23	06-DEC-11**	3,828
Day 12	25-Nov-11	915	Day 24	*07-DEC-11	5,879
Total					50,445
*regular system email reminders					
** extended dates system email 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 period¹

	Date	# of Submissions
Day 1	08-DEC-11**	463
Day 2	09-DEC-11	201
Day 3	10-DEC-11	99
Day 4	11-DEC-11	184
Day 5	12-DEC-11	161
Day 6	13-DEC-11	142
Day 7	14-DEC-11	155
Day 8	15-DEC-11**	409
Day 9	16-DEC-11	168
Day 10	17-DEC-11	89
Day 11	18-DEC-11	107
Day 12	19-DEC-11**	456
Day 13	20-DEC-11	328
Day 14	21-DEC-11**	615
Day 15	22-DEC-11	529
Total		4,106
*regular system email reminders		
** extended dates system email reminders		
***System downtime (scheduled)		

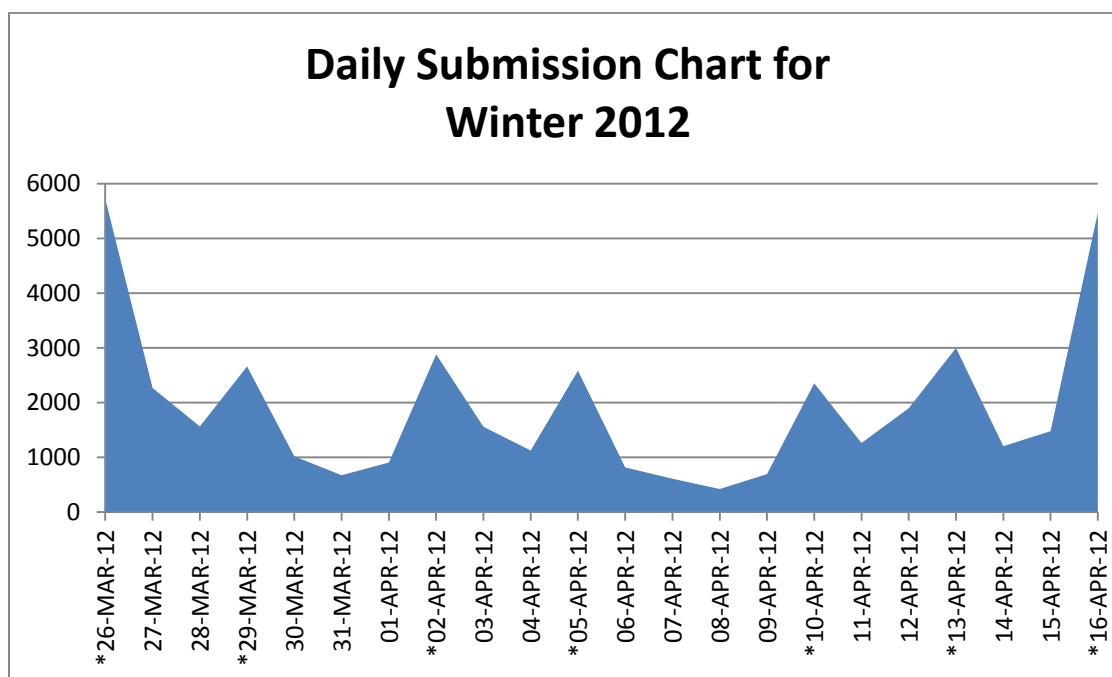


¹The units were: Faculty of Religious Studies; Department of Integrated Studies in Education and School of Information Studies, Faculty of Education; Animal Science, Dietetics & Human Nutrition, Natural Resource Sciences and the Institute of Parasitology, Faculty of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.

6B. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR WINTER 2012

1. Responses submitted during the main evaluation period¹

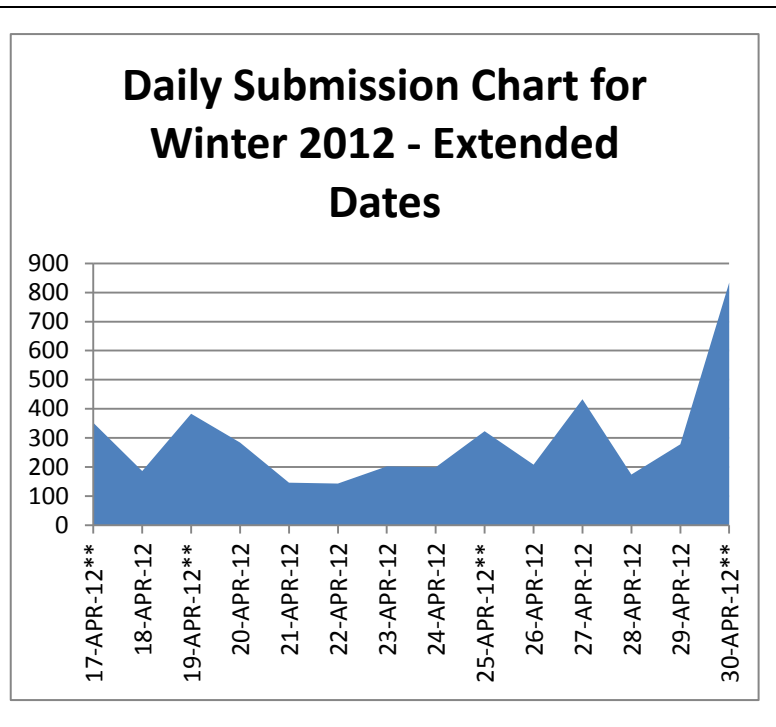
	Date	# of Submissions		Date	# of Submissions
Day 1	*26-MAR-12**	5,716	Day 12	06-APR-12	818
Day 2	27-MAR-12	2,269	Day 13	07-APR-12	611
Day 3	28-MAR-12	1,566	Day 14	08-APR-12	423
Day 4	*29-MAR-12**	2,662	Day 15	09-APR-12	695
Day 5	30-MAR-12	1,019	Day 16	*10-APR-12**	2,354
Day 6	31-MAR-12	675	Day 17	11-APR-12	1,263
Day 7	01-APR-12	907	Day 18	12-APR-12	1,899
Day 8	*02-APR-12**	2,882	Day 19	*13-APR-12**	2,999
Day 9	03-APR-12	1,560	Day 20	14-APR-12	1,205
Day 10	04-APR-12	1,127	Day 21	15-APR-12	1,480
Day 11	*05-APR-12**	2,584	Day 22	*16-APR-12**	5,471
Total					42,185
*regular system email reminders					
** extended dates system email 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 period¹

	Date	# of Submissions
Day 1	17-APR-12**	352
Day 2	18-APR-12	186
Day 3	19-APR-12**	383
Day 4	20-APR-12	284
Day 5	21-APR-12	146
Day 6	22-APR-12	143
Day 7	23-APR-12	202
Day 8	24-APR-12	199
Day 9	25-APR-12**	323
Day 10	26-APR-12	208
Day 11	27-APR-12	433
Day 12	28-APR-12	174
Day 13	29-APR-12	278
Day 14	30-APR-12**	834
Total		4,145
*regular system email reminders		
** extended dates system email reminders		
***System downtime (scheduled)		



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.

6C. DISTRIBUTION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR THE EXTENDED DATES PERIOD 2011-2012

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 2011 submissions	8,423 (67%)	4,106 (33%)	12,529
Winter 2012 submissions	7,999 (66%)	4,145 (34%)	12,144

7. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012¹

Type of course	Fall 2011			Winter 2012		
	# of evaluations	Avg. response rate ²		# of evaluations	Avg. response rate ²	
Laboratory	92	38%	↑ ³	85	35%	↑
Lecture	2,040	53%	↑	2,134	49%	↑
Seminar	231	56%	↑	238	52%	↑
Studio	112	38%	↓	43	45%	↑
Tutorial	10	46%	↑	16	46%	↑

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.

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.