

An Overview of the Undergraduate Alumni Survey 2021

Jan 2022



Summary

Overall Satisfaction and Employment

- Strong levels of satisfaction with the program and student experience.
- Most of undergraduates (83%) are currently employed, more than half (67%) say their current position is related to their field of study.

Skills Development

- Experience at uOttawa (including in-class and out-of-class activities) contributed to students' learning and development in many aspects.
- No obvious change in acquiring knowledge.
- Noticeable decrease in critical and analytical thinking and demonstration of creativity.
- Slight decline in applying and developing knowledge; communication skills; teamwork, autonomy and leadership skills; learning skills; personal growth.

Career Development Resources

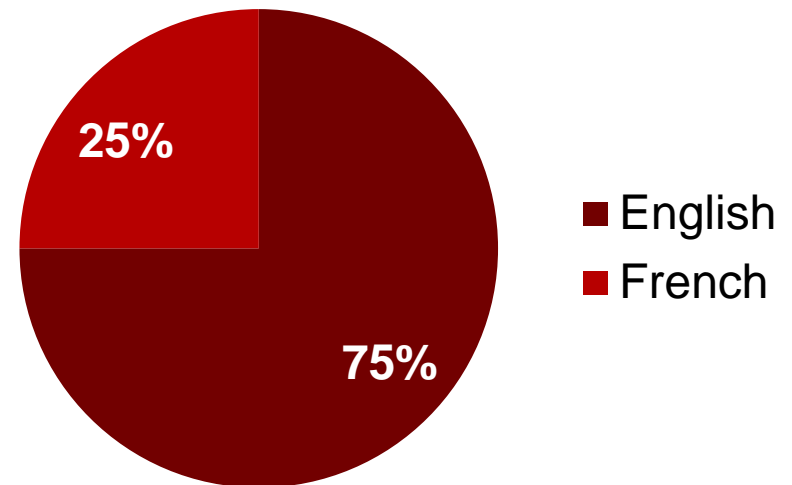
- The services provided by the Career Development Center have an excellent performance in terms of satisfaction. However, awareness still appears to be the biggest barrier to the utilization of services.

Methodology: Undergraduate Alumni Survey

The Undergraduate Alumni Survey is conducted biennially among all recent graduates of undergraduate programs. The 2021 UAS was directed to graduates from 2019 and 2020.

In 2021, 1,675 out of 13,227 graduates participated in the survey, for an overall response rate of 12,7%. The response rate is similar to previous iterations of the UAS.

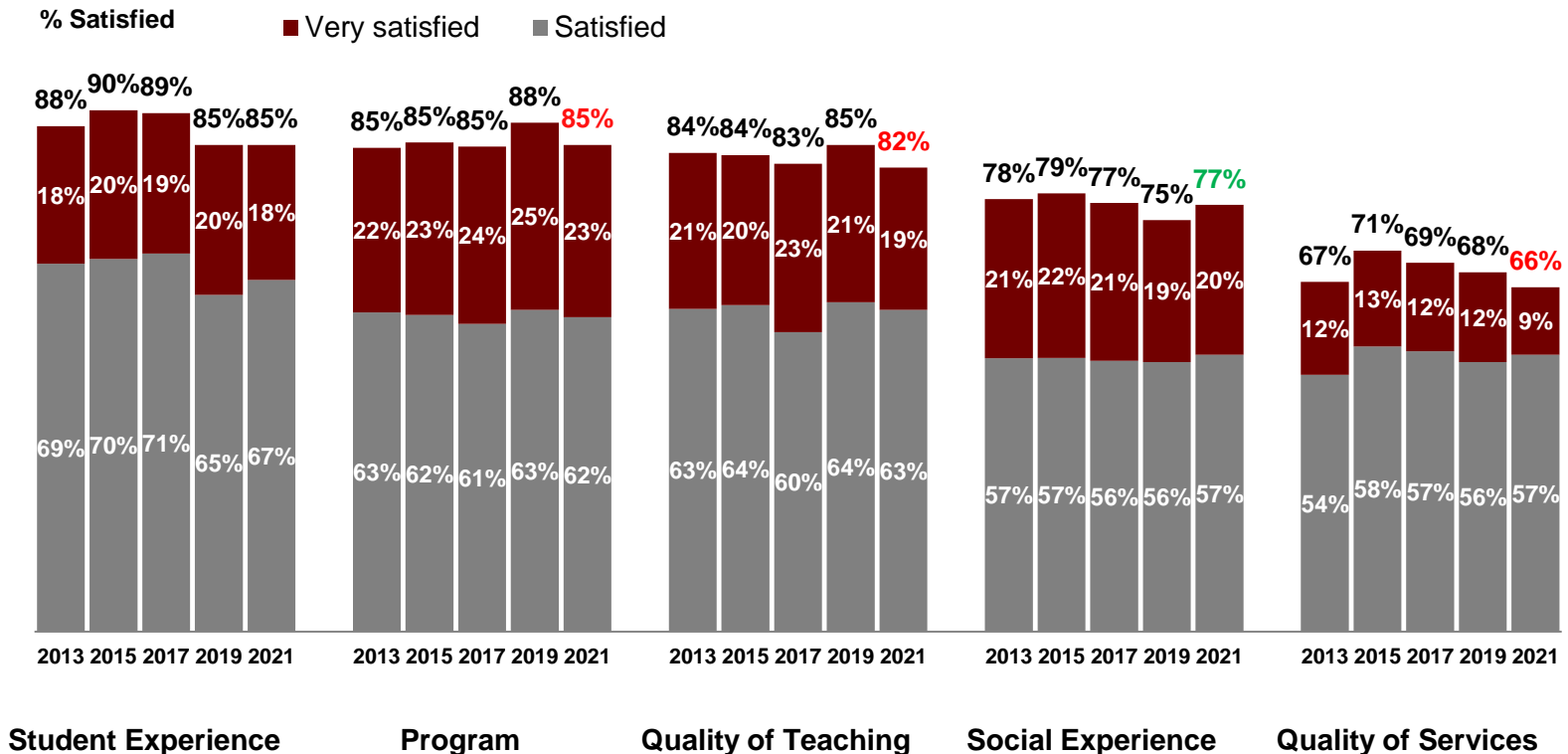
The survey was answered in English by 75% of respondents, 25% responded in French, reflecting the linguistic balance of the graduates. Partially completed surveys are included in the results and in the response rate; the number of respondents is therefore likely to vary from one question to the next.



This report includes tracking data from 2021, 2019, 2017, 2015 and 2013 where available.

Strong levels of satisfaction with program and student experience

Overall satisfaction levels with program, quality of teaching and quality of services down slightly among 2019 and 2020 graduates compared to previous years; no change in perceived student experience at uO.



After graduation...

49%
(-2%) of respondents enrolled in an additional program of study
39% at uOttawa.

83%
(+4%) are currently employed, a majority of which (78%) are in a full-time position.

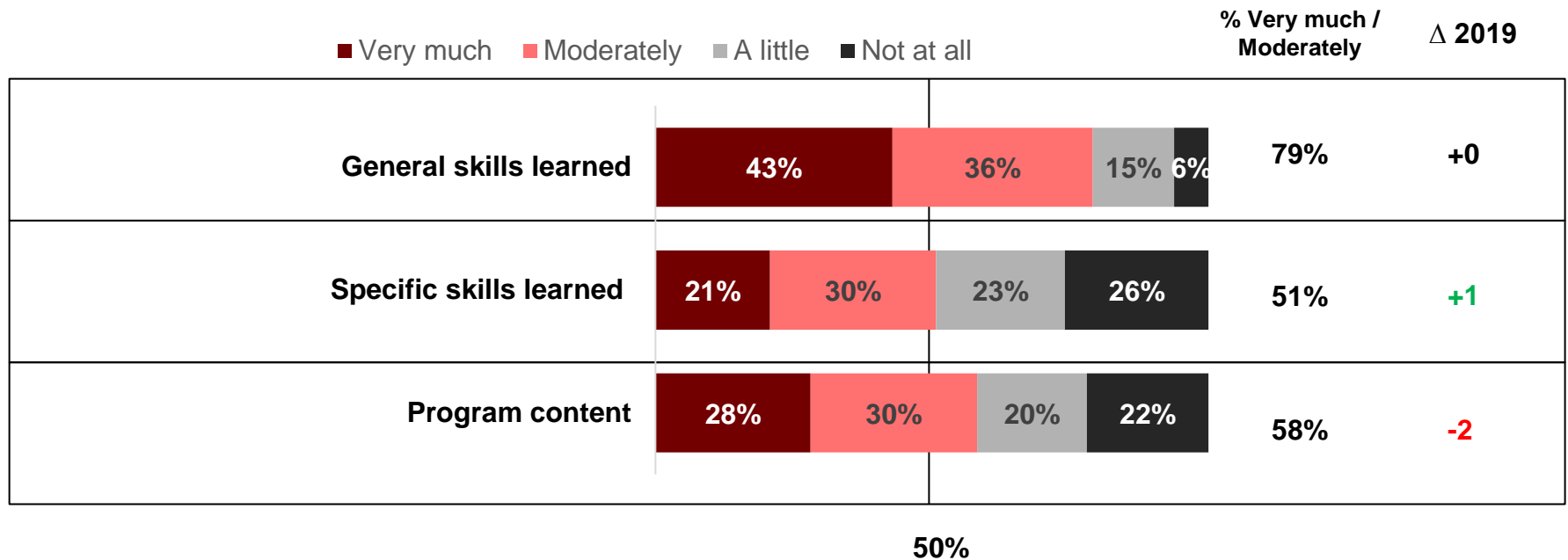
Among those currently employed,

67% say their current position is moderately or very much related to their field of study, same as 2019.

General skills that were acquired during the program of studies continue to be seen as more relevant to their current position.

Decrease in relevance of program content from 2019 to 2021

Do the following aspects of your program of studies at the University of Ottawa seem relevant to your current position?



CONTRIBUTION TO LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Contributing to Learning and Development: No obvious change in acquiring knowledge

Experience at uOttawa contributed a lot to your learning and development in **Acquiring knowledge**

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	Δ 2019
A thorough comprehension of the core concepts and principles taught in your program	44%	44%	45%	44%	41%	-3%
A broad knowledge base	34%	35%	37%	38%	34%	-4%
Preparation for further studies	26%	25%	26%	27%	27%	0%
Understanding of the limits of the knowledge acquired	23%	24%	24%	24%	25%	+1%
Work-related knowledge and skills	20%	20%	20%	20%	19%	-1%

Contributing to Learning and Development: Slight decline in applying and developing knowledge

Experience at uOttawa contributed a lot to your learning and development in ***Applying and developing knowledge***

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	Δ 2019
Using academic publications and other primary data sources	41%	43%	43%	45%	44%	-1%
Undertaking research	31%	34%	37%	35%	32%	-3%
Judging the value of information	32%	34%	35%	39%	35%	-4%
Planning and completing projects	31%	34%	33%	34%	31%	-3%
Using current technologies in my field of study	22%	24%	24%	22%	20%	-2%
Using qualitative methods	21%	22%	22%	23%	21%	-2%
Using quantitative methods	20%	20%	21%	20%	21%	+1%

Contributing to Learning and Development: Noticeable decrease in critical and analytical thinking and demonstration of creativity

Experience at uOttawa contributed a lot to your learning and development in ***Critical and analytical thinking; problem solving and learning skills***

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	Δ 2019
Critical and analytical thinking	41%	45%	46%	51%	45%	-6%
Defining and solving problems	33%	38%	38%	41%	37%	-4%
Demonstrating creativity	21%	24%	23%	26%	20%	-6%
Acquiring effective study and learning skills	31%	37%	37%	36%	35%	-1%
Identifying training needs	19%	22%	22%	21%	21%	0%

Contributing to Learning and Development: Slight drop in communication skills

Experience at uOttawa contributed a lot to your learning and development in **Communication skills; Teamwork, Autonomy and Leadership skills**

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	Δ 2019
Writing clearly and effectively	40%	42%	41%	45%	42%	-3%
Crafting convincing arguments	28%	29%	30%	31%	28%	-3%
Speaking clearly and effectively	29%	30%	30%	32%	30%	-2%
Working independently	48%	53%	55%	57%	57%	0%
Making decisions	31%	31%	34%	32%	33%	+1%
Working effectively with others	28%	29%	30%	30%	28%	-2%
Exercising leadership	24%	24%	25%	24%	22%	-2%

Contributing to Learning and Development: slight decline from 2019 in metrics related to personal growth

Experience at uOttawa contributed a lot to your learning and development in ***Personal growth***

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	Δ 2019
Developing sensitivity and tolerance towards different views, cultures and ways of life	34%	39%	40%	40%	38%	-2%
Achieving personal growth	34%	40%	39%	39%	35%	-4%
Developing integrity and a code of ethics	28%	32%	33%	31%	30%	-1%
Building self-confidence	30%	33%	31%	30%	28%	-2%
Developing social responsibility	25%	31%	30%	29%	28%	-1%

CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Reported use of resources and overall satisfaction is up

Use of resources provided by uOttawa Career Development Centre				Satisfaction	
		Δ 2019	% Very /Somewhat satisfied	Δ 2019	
Virtual and on-campus career fairs	46%	+1%	68%	+8%	
Career development advisors/career mentors from the Career Development Centre / Career Corner	39%	+6%	73%	-2%	
E-resources on writing a resumé	39%	-	63%	-	
Virtual and on-campus employer presentations	35%	+2%	72%	+7%	
Career Development Centre / Career Corner mentors to get feedback on my resumé	32%	+2%	60%	+3%	
E-resources on job-search resources	32%	+4%	71%	+5%	
The online tool "What can I do with my studies?"	30%	+3%	72%	+5%	
Virtual and on-campus workshops	30%	+5%	61%	+11%	
The career development guide available online	28%	+4%	59%	+11%	
E-resources on job-interview techniques	25%	+3%	70%	+5%	
Mock job interviews with a mentor at the Career Development Centre / Career Corner	22%	+3%	72%	+7%	
Job-search meetings with a specialist at the Career Development Centre / Career Corner	21%	+4%	61%	+9%	
The Career Development Program for International Students	12%	-	59%	-	
The Altitude Program	11%	+3%	66%	+17%	

Awareness appears to be the biggest barrier to usage of UOttawa Career Development Centre

Resources sorted high to low by level of use

% Never heard of it

