



McGill

Mercury Report on Response Rate

Academic Year 2013 - 2014

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	Fall 2013			Winter 2014		
COURSE DATA						
Courses evaluated ¹	2,402			2,480		
Total number of submissions	54,613			45, 254		
Total number of declined submissions	1,944			1,765		
Overall Faculty response rate ²	47%	↓ ³		45%	↓	
Overall University-wide response rate ² (including School of Continuing Studies)	49%	↓		47%	↓	
INSTRUCTOR DATA						
Instructors teaching course being evaluated	1,552			1, 580		
Cumulative number of instructors who have accessed the online permission form	2,295			2,382		
Cumulative number of instructors who have granted permission to disseminate results ⁴	1,595	64%	↑	1,652	64%	↔
STUDENT DATA						
Students enrolled in courses being evaluated	32,007	↑		30,070	↑	
Students who completed at least one evaluation	58%	↔		56%	↑	
Students who completed no evaluations	42%	↔		44%	↓	
ACADEMIC UNIT DATA						
Academic units involved	80			82		
Units following the extended dates option	32			32		
Units with increased response rate (vs. 12-13)	23			20		
Units with decreased response rate (vs. 12-13)	32			37		
Units with response rate within ±1%	2			3		
Units not reported (<10 courses evaluated)	25			24		
Units with >= 70% average response rate	2	↓		1	↓	
Units with 50% - 69% average response rate	18	↓		17	↓	
Units with 41% - 49% average response rate	26	↓		27	↔	
Units with = < 40% average response rate	10	↔		15	↑	

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 2011-2012, 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

	Fall 2013			Winter 2014		
Faculty	# of courses evaluated ¹	Avg. response rate		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	178	42%	↔	174	37%	↓
Arts	517	51%	↔	576	48%	↓
Dentistry ⁴	<10	N/A	–	10	47%	↓
Education	250	47%	↓	232	46%	↑
Engineering	187	44%	↓	202	40%	↓
Law	84	45%	↓	92	47%	↑
Desautels Faculty of Management	206	46%	↑	176	42%	↓
Medicine	177	52%	↑	200	49%	↑
Schulich School of Music	113	45%	↓	109	43%	↓
Religious Studies	31	47%	↑	34	41%	↓
Science	306	50%	↓	324	46%	↓
Faculty-wide Response Rate²	2056	48%	↓	2129	45%	↓
School of Continuing Studies	346	58%	↓	351	58%	↓
University-wide Response Rate²	2402	49%	↓	2480	47%	↓

¹ Primary course evaluations only. This report does not include courses with enrolment of less than five. The Music Performance Department has not been included in this report due to the unique nature of their courses.

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

³ Relative to 2011-2012 data, 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.

2. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY ACADEMIC UNIT

	Fall 2013			Winter 2014		
Academic Units	# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
Agricultural & Env. Sciences						
Agricultural & Env. Sc. - Dean	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Agricultural Economics	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Animal Science ⁵	8	43%	–	15	46%	↑
Bioresource Engineering	45	37%	↔	35	36%	↓
Dietetics & Human Nutrition	21	28%	↓	26	20%	↓
Farm Mgmt & Technology Program	26	45%	↑	24	30%	↓
Food Science & Agr. Chemistry ⁵	19	45%	↑	17	38%	↑
McGill School of Environment ⁵	12	55%	↓	11	59%	↓
Natural Resource Sciences	21	43%	↓	15	43%	↔
Parasitology	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Plant Science	13	44%	↓	15	40%	↓
Total (11 units)	178	42%	↔	174	37%	↓
Arts						
Anthropology ⁵	24	56%	↑	26	48%	↑
Art History & Communication Studies	27	59%	↑	21	50%	↓
Arts - Dean's Office	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
East Asian Studies ⁵	15	52%	↓	31	60%	↑
Economics	40	36%	↓	46	31%	↓
English ⁵	66	61%	↑	59	57%	↑
French Language & Literature ⁵	22	67%	↓	23	68%	↑
French Language Centre	22	44%	↑	37	41%	↑
History and Classical Studies	53	41%	↓	65	41%	↓
Institute for Gender, Sex & Fem. Std. ⁵	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Institute for the Std. of Development	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Inst Public Life-Arts & Ideas	N/A	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Institute for Study of Canada	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Islamic Studies	<10	N/A	–	19	60%	↓
Jewish Studies ⁵	11	29%	↓	15	48%	↑
Languages, Literatures, Cultures	56	58%	↑	63	49%	↓
Linguistics	15	66%	↑	13	47%	↓
Philosophy	28	44%	↓	26	38%	↓
Political Science	42	52%	↑	41	46%	↓
Social Work ⁵	30	59%	↓	30	60%	↓
Sociology	33	40%	↓	29	44%	↓
Total (20 units)	517	51%	↔	576	48%	↓

Dentistry						
Dentistry	<10	N/A	-	10	47%	↓
Total (1 unit)	<10	N/A	-	10	47%	↓
Education⁵						
Educational & Counselling Psychology	84	49%	↓	69	56%	↑
Information Studies	19	59%	↓	22	54%	↓
Integrated Studies in Education	120	45%	↓	109	42%	↓
Kinesiology and Physical Education	27	38%	↑	32	30%	↑
Total (4 units)	250	47%	↓	232	46%	↑
Engineering						
Architecture ⁵	36	47%	↓	27	43%	↔
Bioengineering	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Chemical Engineering	11	43%	↑	14	32%	↓
Civil Engineering	32	44%	↓	38	38%	↓
Electrical & Computer Engineering ⁵	48	38%	↓	54	47%	↑
Engineering - Dean's Office	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Mechanical Engineering	46	44%	↓	43	34%	↓
Mining, Metals & Materials Engineering	29	31%	↓	<10	N/A	-
Urban Planning	14	50%	↑	11	49%	↓
Total (8 units)	187	44%	↓	202	40%	↓
Law⁵						
Law	84	45%	↓	92	47%	↑
Total (1 unit)	84	45%	↓	92	47%	↑
Management						
Management	206	46%	↑	176	42%	↓
Total (1 unit)	206	46%	↑	176	42%	↓
Medicine						
Anatomy and Cell Biology	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Biochemistry	12	27%	↓	17	37%	↑
Biomedical Engineering	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Biomedical Ethics Unit	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Communication Sciences & Disorders ⁵	12	65%	↓	13	51%	↓
Epidemiology And Biostatistics ⁵	15	82%	↓	15	77%	↑
Family Medicine	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Human Genetics	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Ingram School of Nursing ⁵	35	51%	↑	33	46%	↓
Medicine	14	43%	↑	19	38%	↑
Microbiology & Immunology ⁵	10	28%	↓	10	41%	↑
Neurology & Neurosurgery	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Neuroscience, Integrated Pgm	N/A	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Occupational Health ⁵	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Pathology	N/A	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Pharmacology & Therapeutics ⁵	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Physical & Occupational Therapy ⁵	33	51%	↑	37	56%	↑

Physiology	12	40%	↑	15	36%	↓
Psychiatry	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Total (18 units)	177	52%	↑	200	49%	↑
Music⁵						
Music Research	113	45%	↓	109	43%	↓
Performance	N/A	N/A	–	N/A	N/A	–
Total (2 units)	113	45%	↓	109	43%	↓
Religious Studies⁵						
Religious Studies	31	47%	↑	34	41%	↓
Total (1 unit)	31	47%	↑	34	41%	↓
Science						
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	<10	N/A	–	13	52%	↓
Biology	27	48%	↑	22	44%	↓
Chemistry ⁵	51	47%	↑	66	38%	↓
Computer Science ⁵	34	53%	↓	39	51%	↓
Earth & Planetary Sciences	17	49%	↑	22	44%	↑
Geography ⁵	32	60%	↓	24	61%	↓
Mathematics and Statistics	70	49%	↔	57	42%	↓
Physics ⁵	32	53%	↓	34	58%	↑
Psychology	30	41%	↓	43	41%	↑
Redpath Museum	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Science	<10	N/A	–	N/A	N/A	–
Total (10 units)	306	50%	↓	324	46%	↓
School of Continuing Studies						
Career & Professional Develop ⁵	153	49%	↓	166	54%	↔
Fac. Partnerships & Summer Studies	<10	N/A	–	<10	N/A	–
Language & Intercultural Communication	144	73%	↑	141	67%	↓
McGill Writing Centre	28	47%	↑	24	41%	↓
Translation & Written Communication	20	44%	↓	19	47%	↓
Total (5 units)	346	58%	↓	351	58%	↓

⁵ This unit followed the extended dates period (closing last day of exam period).

3. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE

Fall 2013

- 2,402 courses evaluated.¹
- 69% (n=1,646) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.
- 5% (n=121) of the courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Fall 2013					
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	121	N/A	N/A
5 - 11	min 5	55%	461	212	246
12 - 30	40%	54%	954	696	258
31 - 100	35%	43%	813	532	281
101 - 200	30%	38%	198	146	52
201+	25%	36%	67	60	7
			2402	1646	844

Winter 2014

- 2,480 courses evaluated.¹
- 59% (n=1,463) 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=148) of the courses evaluated had an enrolment of one to four students and are therefore not eligible for dissemination to the McGill community.

Winter 2014					
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	148	N/A	N/A
5 - 11	min 5	55%	494	228	266
12 - 30	40%	49%	1052	671	381
31 - 100	35%	41%	710	415	295
101 - 200	30%	35%	172	109	63
201+	25%	30%	52	40	12
			2480	1463	1017

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

4. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE

	Fall 2013			Winter 2014		
Type of course	# of courses evaluated ¹	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
Laboratory	52	38%	↑ ³	64	37%	↑
Lecture	2060	50%	↓	2030	47%	↓
Seminar	233	57%	↑	243	51%	↑
Studio	38	41%	↓	40	36%	↓
Tutorial	19	35%	↔	14	33%	↔

5. NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED

	Fall 2013	Winter 2014	Total
Unique instructors evaluated	1552	1580	2129

6. 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.

	Fall 2013			Winter 2014		
Rank Title	# of instructors evaluated ¹	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluate	Avg. response rate	
<i>Course Lecturer</i>	357	55%	↓	384	54%	↑
<i>Faculty Lecturer</i>	97	47%	↓	105	46%	↔
<i>Adjunct Professor</i>	22	37%	↓	22	42%	↓
Assistant Professor	125	54%	↓	142	55%	↑
Assistant Professor-Spec Category	4	70%	↑	3	49%	↓
Associate Professor	374	48%	↔	369	47%	↑
Professor	228	47%	↓	205	45%	↑
Dean/Director	3	43%	↓	3	55%	↑

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 is calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{ courses}$.

³ Relative to 2011-2012, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change

7. INSTRUCTORS WHO GRANTED/DENIED PERMISSION FOR DISSEMINATION AS (CUMULATIVE)

	Fall 2013		Winter 2014	
Granted permission ¹	1595	64%	1652	64%
Denied permission	700	28%	730	28%
Didn't answer, not eligible (left blank)	173	7%	181	7%
Cumulative total	2468		2563	

8. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS

	Fall 2013 (n=32,007)		Winter 2014 (n=30,070)	
# of students who had more than one evaluation	27845	87%	25878	86%
# of students who completed at least one evaluation	18554	58%	16712	56%
# of students who did not complete any evaluations	13453	42%	13358	44%

9. STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS

	Fall 2013		Winter 2014	
# declined course evaluations (opt-outs)²	1944		1765	
# declined primary course evaluations³	1153		1171	
	Primary	All	Primary	All
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	88	88	80	82
Arts	215	215	227	227
Dentistry	0	0	0	0
Education	56	100	50	88
Engineering	158	394	138	358
Law	20	20	39	39
Desautels Faculty of Management	62	62	67	67
Medicine	78	116	88	119
Schulich School of Music	79	79	92	92
Religious Studies	17	17	31	31
Science	354	827	326	624
School of Continuing Studies	26	26	32	33

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.

10. DISTRIBUTION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR EVALUATION PERIODS

	Regular period	Extended period	Total
Fall 2013	47020	7593	54613
Winter 2014	37134	8120	45254

11. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR FALL 2013

Responses submitted during evaluation periods

	Date	# of Submissions
Regular period¹		
Day 2	11/12/13	4276
Day 3	11/13/13	1896
Day 4	11/14/13	1495
Day 5	11/15/13	1009
Day 6	11/16/13	701
Day 7	11/17/13	731
Day 8	11/18/13	1211
Day 9	11/19/13	1091
Day 10	11/20/13	982
Day 11	11/21/13	2213
Day 12	11/22/13	952
Day 13	11/23/13	536
Day 14	11/24/13	860
Day 15	11/25/13	1419
Day 16	11/26/13	2359
Day 17	11/27/13	2622
Day 18	11/28/13	2825
Day 19	11/29/13	2024
Day 20	11/30/13	1170
Day 21	12/01/13	3034
Day 22	12/02/13	2315
Day 23	12/03/13	2571
Day 24	12/04/13	5031
	Regular Total	47020

	Date	# of Submissions
Extended period²		
Day 25	12/05/13	838
Day 26	12/06/13	426
Day 27	12/07/13	262
Day 28	12/08/13	255
Day 29	12/09/13	330
Day 30	12/10/13	287
Day 31	12/11/13	207
Day 32	12/12/13	225
Day 33	12/13/13	312
Day 34	12/14/13	241
Day 35	12/15/13	1012
Day 36	12/16/13	581
Day 37	12/17/13	760
Day 38	12/18/13	1857
	Extended Total	7593
	Grand Total	54613

system email reminder

myCourses text email

twitter announcement

system downtime

¹ The regular 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 The extended evaluation period ends on the last day of the examination period. Twenty-seven units were following this period: See participating units: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tls/teaching/course-evaluations/resources/period>

12. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR WINTER 2014

Responses submitted during evaluation periods

	Date	# of Submissions
Regular period¹		
Day 1	03/24/14	5060
Day 2	03/25/14	1819
Day 3	03/26/14	1386
Day 4	03/27/14	1333
Day 5	03/28/14	823
Day 6	03/29/14	621
Day 7	03/30/14	604
Day 8	03/31/14	1296
Day 9	04/01/14	2169
Day 10	04/02/14	2378
Day 11	04/03/14	1502
Day 12	04/04/14	1028
Day 13	04/05/14	717
Day 14	04/06/14	750
Day 15	04/07/14	1677
Day 16	04/08/14	1848
Day 17	04/09/14	3756
Day 18	04/10/14	2769
Day 19	04/11/14	5598
	Regular Total	37134

	Date	# of Submissions
Extended period²		
Day 20	04/12/14	400
Day 21	04/13/14	363
Day 22	04/14/14	304
Day 23	04/15/14	342
Day 24	04/16/14	612
Day 25	04/17/14	328
Day 26	04/18/14	277
Day 27	04/19/14	168
Day 28	04/20/14	125
Day 29	04/21/14	201
Day 30	04/22/14	664
Day 31	04/23/14	345
Day 32	04/24/14	292
Day 33	04/25/14	264
Day 34	04/26/14	785
Day 35	04/27/14	653
Day 36	04/28/14	641
Day 37	04/29/14	1356
	Extended Total	8120
	Grand Total	45254

*system email reminder

**myCourses text email

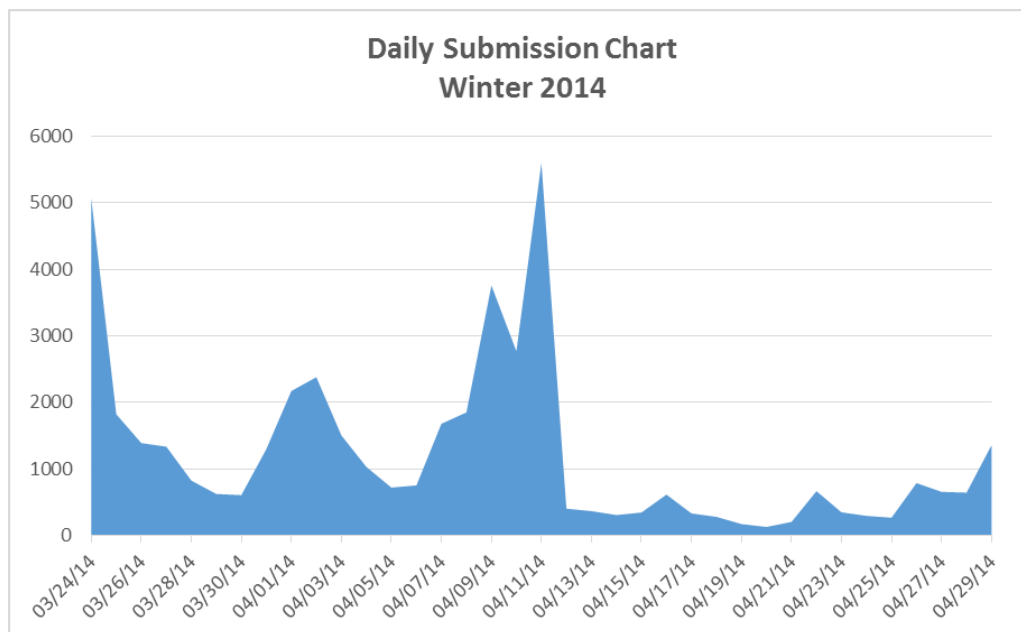
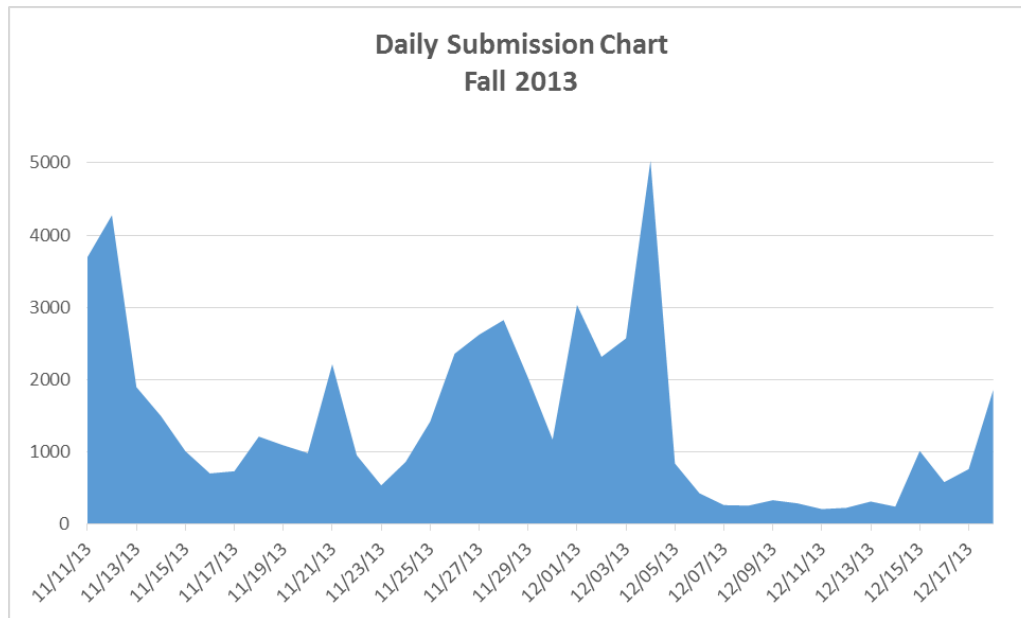
***twitter announcement

****what's new for students

*****system downtime (scheduled)

¹ The regular 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 The extended evaluation period ends on the last day of the examination period. Twenty-seven units were following this period. See participating units: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tls/teaching/course-evaluations/resources/period>



13. 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, 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.