



McGill

Mercury Report on Response Rates

Academic Year 2014 - 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	Fall 2014			Winter 2015		
COURSE DATA						
Courses evaluated ¹	2493			2558		
Total number of submissions	52,808			40,360		
Total number of declined submissions	1106			1150		
Overall Faculty response rate ²	47%	↓ ³		43%	↓	
Overall University-wide response rate ² <i>(including School of Continuing Studies)</i>	48%	↓		45%	↓	
INSTRUCTOR DATA						
Instructors teaching course being evaluated	1588			1652		
Cumulative number of instructors who have accessed the online permission form	2633			3002		
Cumulative number of instructors who have granted permission to disseminate results ⁴	1677	64%	↔	1,886	63%	↔
STUDENT DATA						
Students enrolled in courses being evaluated	31,999	↓		29,891	↓	
Students who completed at least one evaluation	58%	↔		54%	↓	
Students who completed no evaluations	42%	↔		46%	↑	
ACADEMIC UNIT DATA						
Academic units involved	82			84		
Units following the default period	65			63		
Units following the condensed period option	17			21		
Units not reported (<10 courses evaluated)	24			23		
Units with increased response rate (vs. 13-14)	25			22		
Units with decreased response rate (vs. 13-14)	25			32		
Units with response rate within ±1%	8			7		
Units with ≥ 70% average response rate	3	↑		0	↓	
Units with 50% - 69% average response rate	20	↑		16	↓	
Units with 41% - 49% average response rate	22	↓		22	↓	
Units with ≤ 40% average response rate	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: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{ courses}$.

³ Relative to 2013-2014, 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

Faculty	Fall 2014			Winter 2015		
	# of courses evaluated ¹	Avg. response rate		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	167	43%	↔	172	37%	↔
Arts ⁴	520	52%	↔	599	46%	↓
Dentistry ⁵	<10	N/A	-	15	62%	↑
Education ⁴	226	42%	↓	221	40%	↓
Engineering	246	43%	↔	246	38%	↓
Law	84	39%	↓	88	38%	↓
Desautels Faculty of Management	207	47%	↑	180	46%	↑
Medicine	180	54%	↑	212	52%	↑
Schulich School of Music	109	37%	↓	108	31%	↓
Religious Studies	32	41%	↓	30	38%	↓
Science	332	46%	↓	321	44%	↓
Faculty-wide Response Rate²	2111	47%	↓	2192	43%	↓
School of Continuing Studies	382	58%	↔	366	57%	↔
University-wide Response Rate²	2493	48%	↓	2558	45%	↓

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 2013-2014 data, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change.

⁴ The School of Information Studies left the Faculty of Education and became part of the Faculty of Arts as of Fall 2014.

⁵ The response rate is not reported for an academic unit when fewer than 10 courses are evaluated.

2. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BY ACADEMIC UNIT

Academic Units	Fall 2014			Winter 2015		
	# 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	<10	N/A	-	15	38%	↓
Bioresource Engineering	41	41%	↑	34	40%	↑
Dietetics & Human Nutrition ⁶	23	31%	↑	23	20%	↔
Farm Mgmt & Technology Program	26	37%	↓	25	24%	↓
Food Science & Agr. Chemistry	15	38%	↓	19	36%	↓
McGill School of Environment	11	47%	↓	<10	N/A	-
Natural Resource Sciences	18	48%	↑	20	48%	↑
Parasitology	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Plant Science	13	53%	↑	12	42%	↑
Total (11 units)	167	43%	↔	172	37%	↔
Arts						
Anthropology ⁶	23	46%	↓	25	39%	↓
Art History & Communications ⁶	26	52%	↓	22	45%	↓
Arts - Dean's Office	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
East Asian Studies ⁷	12	57%	↑	27	43%	↓
Economics ⁶	44	37%	↔	41	35%	↑
English	56	56%	↓	58	49%	↓
French Language & Literature	23	67%	↔	25	53%	↓
French Language Centre	23	52%	↑	35	47%	↑
History and Classical Studies ⁶	61	40%	↔	70	40%	↔
Information Studies	21	70%	↑	24	58%	↑
Inst for Gender, Sex & Fem St	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Inst for the St 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 ⁶	10	54%	↓	20	53%	↓
Jewish Studies	<10	N/A	-	16	40%	↓
Languages,Literatures,Cultures ⁷	46	58%	↔	61	50%	↑
Linguistics ⁶	15	54%	↓	12	59%	↑
Philosophy	26	42%	↓	23	44%	↑
Political Science ⁶	41	53%	↔	42	45%	↔
Social Work	33	65%	↑	33	58%	↓
Sociology ⁶	29	53%	↑	34	45%	↔
Total (22 units)	520	52%	↔	599	46%	↓

Dentistry⁶							
Dentistry ⁶	<10	N/A	-	15	62%	↑	
Total (1 unit)	<10	N/A	-	15	62%	↑	
Education							
Educational & Counselling Psychology	79	49%	↔	78	47%	↓	
Integrated Studies in Education	111	42%	↓	106	40%	↓	
Kinesiology and Physical Education	36	27%	↓	37	24%	↓	
Total (3 units)	226	42%	↓	221	40%	↓	
Engineering							
Architecture	39	48%	↑	35	31%	↓	
Bioengineering	N/A	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Chemical Engineering	23	39%	↓	20	35%	↑	
Civil Engineering ⁷	36	45%	↔	35	40%	↑	
Electrical & Computer Engineering	53	40%	↑	57	41%	↓	
Engineering - Dean's Office	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Mechanical Engineering ⁷	46	48%	↑	49	33%	↓	
Mining, Metals & Materials Engineering	31	35%	↑	27	34%	↓	
Urban Planning	10	57%	↑	12	66%	↑	
Total (9 units)	246	43%	↔	246	38%	↓	
Law⁶							
Law ⁶	84	39%	↓	88	38%	↓	
Total (1 unit)	84	39%	↓	88	38%	↓	
Management⁶							
Management ⁶	207	47%	↑	180	46%	↑	
Total (1 unit)	207	47%	↑	180	46%	↑	
Medicine							
Anatomy and Cell Biology	<10	N/A	-	12	34%	↔	
Biochemistry	10	35%	↑	12	35%	↓	
Biomedical Engineering	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Communication Sciences & Disorders	12	75%	↑	14	58%	↑	
Epidemiology And Biostatistics	17	73%	↓	21	66%	↓	
Family Medicine	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Human Genetics	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Ingram School of Nursing	31	55%	↑	31	46%	↔	
Medicine	15	47%	↑	17	48%	↑	
Microbiology & Immunology	10	42%	↑	<10	N/A	-	
Neurology & Neurosurgery	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Neuroscience, Integrated Pgm	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Occupational Health	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Pathology ⁶	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	<10	N/A	-	10	55%	↓	
Physical & Occupational Therapy	30	47%	↓	33	67%	↑	
Physiology	14	44%	↑	19	39%	↑	
Psychiatry	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Social Studies of Medicine	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-	
Total (19 units)	180	54%	↑	212	52%	↑	

Music						
Music Research	109	37%	↓	108	31%	↓
Performance	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	-
Total (2 units)	109	37%	↓	108	31%	↓
Religious Studies						
Religious Studies	32	41%	↓	30	38%	↓
Total (1 unit)	32	41%	↓	30	38%	↓
Science						
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	11	64%	↑	14	62%	↑
Biology ⁶	32	43%	↓	29	45%	↑
Chemistry	78	40%	↓	71	41%	↑
Computer Science	34	45%	↓	33	44%	↓
Earth & Planetary Sciences	18	46%	↓	18	42%	↓
Geography	30	62%	↑	26	54%	↓
Mathematics and Statistics ⁶	68	44%	↓	58	41%	↓
Physics	32	52%	↓	34	46%	↓
Psychology ⁶	28	41%	↔	36	37%	↓
Redpath Museum	N/A	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Science	<10	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	-
Total (11 units)	332	46%	↓	321	44%	↓
School of Continuing Studies						
Career & Professional Develop	153	47%	↓	155	51%	↓
Fac. Partnerships & Summer Studies	N/A	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Language & Intercultural Communication	167	68%	↓	158	66%	↔
McGill Writing Centre ⁶	41	58%	↑	31	49%	↑
Translation & Written Communication	20	52%	↑	21	45%	↓
Total (5 units)	382	58%	↔	366	57%	↔

3. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON EVALUATION PERIOD

Evaluation period	Fall 2014		Winter 2015	
	# of courses evaluated ⁸	Avg. response rate ⁹	#of courses evaluated ⁸	Avg. response rate ⁹
Default Period (to end of exams)	1751	49%	1658	46%
Condensed Period (to end of classes)	742	45%	900	42%

⁶ This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period) in Fall 2014 and Winter 2015.

⁷ This unit followed the condensed period (closing before the beginning of exam period) in Winter 2015 only.

⁸ 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.

⁹ The Response Rate averages are calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{ courses}$.

4. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON CLASS SIZE

Fall 2014

- 2,493 courses evaluated.¹
- 65% (n=1,610) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold, which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.

Fall 2014					
Class size	2008 Policy threshold	Avg. response rate ²	# of courses evaluated	# of courses achieved threshold	# of courses below threshold
5 - 11	minimum 5 responses	56%	466	223	243
12 - 30	40%	52%	997	694	303
31 - 100	35%	42%	752	469	283
101 - 200	30%	38%	207	159	48
201+	25%	35%	71	65	6
			2493	1610 (65%)	883 (35%)

Winter 2015

- 2,558 courses evaluated.¹
- 60% (n=1,541) of courses evaluated met the dissemination threshold, which is a minimum of five responses and a sliding response rate based on class size.

Winter 2015					
Class size	2008 Policy threshold	Avg. response rate ²	# of courses evaluated	# of courses achieved threshold	# of courses below threshold
5 - 11	minimum 5 responses	50%	531	332	199
12 - 30	40%	50%	1038	677	361
31 - 100	35%	39%	748	395	353
101 - 200	30%	33%	187	98	89
201+	25%	30%	54	39	15
			2558	1541 (60%)	1017 (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 class size is calculated on a per course basis: $\sum \text{courses} / \# \text{courses}$.

5. AVERAGE RESPONSE RATE BASED ON THE TYPE OF COURSE

Type of course	Fall 2014			Winter 2015		
	# of courses evaluated ¹	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate ²	
Laboratory	69	34%	↓ ³	74	36%	↔
Lecture	2073	48%	↓	2092	46%	↓
Seminar	218	57%	↔	252	46%	↓
Studio	38	36%	↓	38	30%	↓
Tutorial	10	42%	↑	N/A	N/A	-

6. NUMBER OF UNIQUE INSTRUCTORS EVALUATED

	Fall 2014	Winter 2015	Total
Unique instructors evaluated	1588	1652	2243

7. 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.

Rank Title	Fall 2014			Winter 2015		
	# of courses evaluated ¹	Avg. response rate ²		# of courses evaluated	Avg. response rate	
<i>Course Lecturer</i>	460	52%	↓ ³	504	49%	↓
<i>Faculty Lecturer</i>	182	44%	↓	208	41%	↓
<i>Adjunct Professor</i>	22	43%	↑	24	42%	↔
Assistant Professor	145	52%	↓	204	47%	↓
Assistant Professor-Spec Category	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-
Associate Professor	587	45%	↓	595	43%	↓
Professor	332	45%	↓	298	40%	↓
Dean/Director	<10	N/A	-	<10	N/A	-

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 2013-2014, the arrows (↑ ↓) indicate a change of greater than ±1% while ↔ represents a 0 to ±1% change

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

	Fall 2014		Winter 2015	
Granted permission ¹	1677	64%	1886	63%
Denied permission	769	29%	916	30%
Didn't answer, not eligible (left blank)	187	7%	200	7%
Cumulative total	2633		3002	

9. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED EVALUATIONS

	Fall 2014 <i>(n=31,999)</i>		Winter 2015 <i>(n=29,891)</i>	
# of students who had more than one evaluation	27931	87%	25899	87%
# of students who completed at least one evaluation	18512	58%	16256	54%
# of students who did not complete any evaluations	13487	42%	13635	46%

10. STUDENTS WHO DECLINED EVALUATIONS^{2,3}

	Fall 2014	Winter 2015
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	60	72
Arts	204	234
Dentistry	<10 ⁴	16
Education	48	73
Engineering	176	137
Law	34	26
Desautels Faculty of Management	78	66
Medicine	57	77
Schulich School of Music	60	41
Religious Studies	16	19
Science	340	356
School of Continuing Studies	32	33
# declined primary course evaluations	1106	1150

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.

11. DISTRIBUTION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR EVALUATION PERIODS

	Condensed Period (to end of classes)	Default Period (to end of exams)	Total
Fall 2014	41766 (79%)	11042 (21%)	52808
Winter 2015	32116 (80%)	8244 (20%)	40360

12. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR FALL 2014

Responses submitted during evaluation periods

	Date	# of Submissions	
Condensed period (to end of classes)¹			
Day 1	11/12/2014	5786	DC
Day 2*	11/13/2014	2626	TA
Day 3	11/14/2014	981	
Day 4	11/15/2014	834	
Day 5	11/16/2014	910	
Day 6	11/17/2014	1100	
Day 7	11/18/2014	1366	
Day 8	11/19/2014	1031	
Day 9	11/20/2014	1966	C
Day 10	11/21/2014	786	
Day 11	11/22/2014	459	
Day 12	11/23/2014	562	WS
Day 13	11/24/2014	2659	D
Day 14	11/25/2014	1424	
Day 15	11/26/2014	1143	
Day 16	11/27/2014	1119	
Day 17	11/28/2014	958	
Day 18	11/29/2014	520	
Day 19	11/30/2014	679	
Day 20	12/1/2014	1370	
Day 21	12/2/2014	2466	C
Day 22	12/3/2014	2630	D
Day 23	12/4/2014	2717	
Day 24	12/5/2014	1383	
Day 25	12/6/2014	1061	
Day 26	12/7/2014	3230	CW
	Condensed total	41766	

	Date	# of Submissions	
Default period (to end of exams)²			
Day 27	12/8/2014	401	
Day 28	12/9/2014	446	
Day 29	12/10/2014	539	
Day 30	12/11/2014	1184	D
Day 31	12/12/2014	461	
Day 32	12/13/2014	396	
Day 33	12/14/2014	415	W
Day 34	12/15/2014	468	
Day 35	12/16/2014	1075	D
Day 36	12/17/2014	717	
Day 37	12/18/2014	708	
Day 38	12/19/2014	740	
Day 39	12/20/2014	768	
Day 40	12/21/2014	2724	DTS
	Default Total	11042	
	Grand Total	52808	

D = system email reminder for default period
C = system email reminder for condensed period
T = twitter announcement
A = McGill app announcement
W = what's new for students
S = system downtime

¹ The condensed evaluation period ends the day before the final examination period begins. Seventeen units were following this period. See units following this period: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tls/teaching/course-evaluations/resources/period>.

² The default course evaluation period is the same across the University and applies to courses that follow the regular term calendar. It ends two days after the final examination period ends.

13. DAILY SUBMISSION CHART FOR WINTER 2015

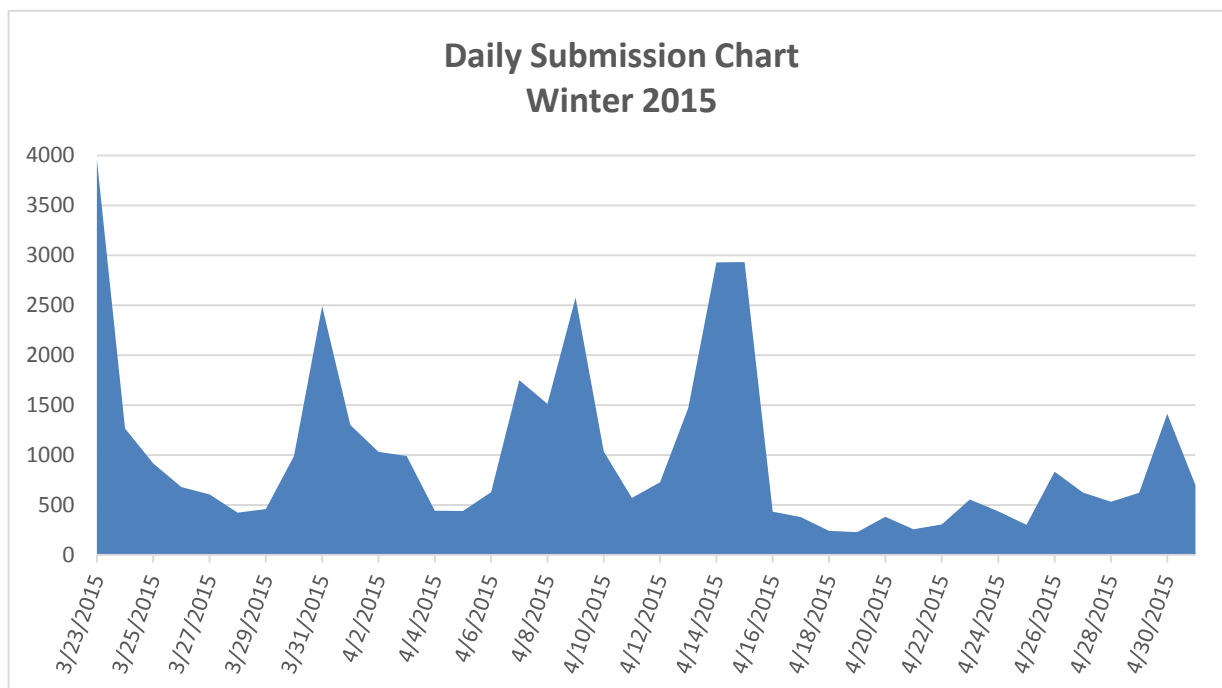
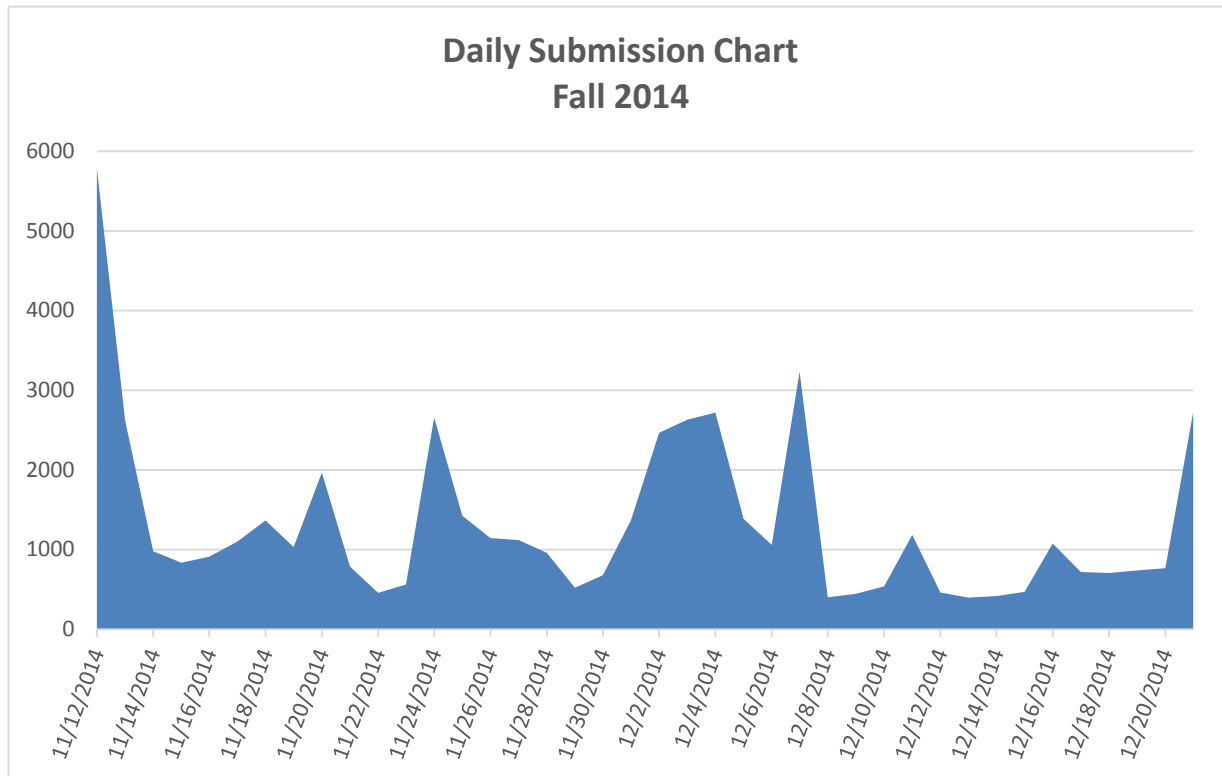
Responses submitted during evaluation periods

	Date	# of Submissions			Date	# of Submissions	
Condensed period (to end of classes)¹				Default period (to end of exams)²			
Day 1	3/23/2015	3957	DCT	Day 25	4/16/2015	434	
Day 2	3/24/2015	1267		Day 26	4/17/2015	379	
Day 3	3/25/2015	916		Day 27	4/18/2015	239	
Day 4	3/26/2015	679		Day 28	4/19/2015	229	W
Day 5	3/27/2015	606		Day 29	4/20/2015	382	
Day 6	3/28/2015	423		Day 30	4/21/2015	255	
Day 7	3/29/2015	457	W	Day 31	4/22/2015	306	T
Day 8	3/30/2015	989		Day 32	4/23/2015	556	D
Day 9	3/31/2015	2489	DC	Day 33	4/24/2015	437	
Day 10	4/1/2015	1301		Day 34	4/25/2015	302	
Day 11	4/2/2015	1031		Day 35	4/26/2015	832	W
Day 12	4/3/2015	989		Day 36	4/27/2015	626	
Day 13	4/4/2015	443		Day 37	4/28/2015	533	
Day 14	4/5/2015	439	WS	Day 38	4/29/2015	623	
Day 15	4/6/2015	628		Day 39	4/30/2015	1412	D
Day 16	4/7/2015	1748	D	Day 40	5/1/2015	699	T
Day 17	4/8/2015	1511			Default Total	8244	
Day 18	4/9/2015	2576	C		Grand Total	40360	
Day 19	4/10/2015	1036					
Day 20	4/11/2015	571					
Day 21	4/12/2015	728	W				
Day 22	4/13/2015	1471					
Day 23	4/14/2015	2930	C				
Day 24	4/15/2015	2931	DA				
	Condensed total	32116					

D = system email reminder for default period
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¹ The condensed evaluation period ends the day before the final examination period begins. Twenty-one units were following this period. See units following this period: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tls/teaching/course-evaluations/resources/period>.

² The default course evaluation period is the same across the University and applies to courses that follow the regular term calendar. It ends two days after the final examination period ends.



14. 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 evaluations,
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.