

Survey of 1998 Summer Session UVic Undergraduate Students

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**University of Victoria
Office of Institutional Analysis
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not been systematically examined at UVic, despite the importance of summer session in the University's overall enrolment mix.

	Summer Headcount as % of Summer	Summer FTE as % of Summer	Summer Headcount as % of Wi2	Summer FTE as % of Summer
Business	8%	5%	5%	12%
Education	8.9%	10%	7%	13%
Engineering	14%	13%	2%	2%
Fine Arts	4%	4%	3%	7%
Human & Soc Devt	10%	10%	6%	5%
Humanities	11.9%	12%	8.3%	8.8%
Law	2%	2%	20%	11.9%
Science	13%	11.0%	6%	7%
Social Sciences	0%	2%	3%	11.9%
University	10%	10%	4.3%	12%

Source: Institutional Analysis, RegStats Report

In the summer of 1998, the Office of Institutional Analysis conducted a survey of 1998 summer session undergraduate students. The survey had two primary objectives. The first was to provide a general descriptive summary of summer student characteristics and behaviours, in order to inform the design of academic and non-academic services offered during summer session. This summary is

approved the project on May 29. A random sample of 1500 undergraduate summer session students was drawn from the student records system on June 1. The questionnaire, an explanatory cover letter, and a postage-paid return envelope were mailed to the sampled students on June 8. The 458 responses received by July 24 were analyzed. The cover letter, questionnaire and fieldwork details are attached as Appendix 1,2 and 3 respectively.

Part Two: A Descriptive Summary of Summer Student Characteristics and Behaviours

(a) Enrolment Behaviour (see Table One)

- Summer student enrolments represent about 12% of the university's annualized FTE total; this figure varies by Faculty from a low of 7% in Fine Arts and Science, to a high of 25% in HSD. On a headcount basis, summer session represents about 41% of the university's peak winter session (November 1) enrolment; by Faculty, this figure varies from 26% (Fine Arts) to 66% (HSD).
- The survey responses by Faculty and year of study correspond closely to summer session headcount data available from the student records system. The majority of survey responses originate in HSD (19%), Social Sciences (17%), Science (14%), Humanities (13%), and Engineering (11%). By year of study, 4th year students represent 40% of summer session students, 3rd year students 30%, and second year students 13%.
- About half of all summer session students register in one (30%) or two (22%) courses; only 17% register in five or more courses. As a result, part-time rather than full-time students dominate summer session.
- One-fifth of summer session students are enrolled in a UVic co-operative education program.
- One-quarter of summer students are registered in one or more distance education or ISS courses, and are located in Victoria (63%), Vancouver (16%), and other locations throughout BC and Canada. 12% are registered only in distance education or ISS courses.
- 88 percent are registered in one or more "regular instruction" classes, almost exclusively at the Gordon Head campus (94%).

(b) Previous Study Patterns (see Table Two)

- The vast majority of 1998 summer session students have previously been enrolled at UVic. Almost 40% were registered in summer 1997; 25% in summer sessions prior to 1997; and 86% in the winter 1997/98 session. Only 5% started their UVic studies in summer 1998.
- Slightly more than half of all 1998 summer students were previously students at another post-secondary institution, primarily Camosun College (25%), other BC colleges (37%), UBC/SFU (15%), and other universities (25%).
- The majority of summer students are "mid-credential": only 17% have completed a university degree, and only 21% have completed a college diploma.

(c) Future Study Plans and Expectations (see Table Three)

- Most summer students expect to continue studying at UVic (79% in winter 1998/99 and 30% in summer 1999); this represents a significantly higher level of involvement than that expected at other institutions (where 11% expect to enrol within the next two years).
- The majority intend to earn a baccalaureate degree (85%); almost all expect the degree to be awarded by UVic. Target dates for completing degrees and other credentials lie within the summer 1998 session (12%), within the next year (38%), within the next two years (28%), and further than two years into the future (23%).
- Students plan academic specializations in numerous areas that tend to match their current Faculty enrolment patterns. Key specializations include Nursing (10%), Social Work (8%), Computer Science and Psychology (each at 6%), and Biology (5%).

(d) Student Employment (see Table Four)

- Immediately prior to summer session, the majority of summer session students were studying full-time (67%) or part-time (24%). Only 8% were not students in April 1998. As a result, the total employment rate is relatively low at 61%: 17% of students were employed full-time, 34% were employed part-time, and 10% were employed on a co-op work term. 13% of students were unemployed but searching for employment in April 1998, while about one-fourth were not employed and were not looking for work.
- Less than one-half of employed students report any form of employer support for their educational activities. 7% indicate employer contributions to tuition, 38% report employer provided time off to study/attend classes, and 9% indicate impending salary increase or promotion on completion of their course/program.
- Summer students are employed in a variety of occupations, most of which are in the service, manual labour, clerical and technical categories. The largest single occupational categories are retail (15%), nursing (13%), server (7%), and scientific research (5%).

(e) Reasons for Enrolling in Summer Session (see Table Five)

- Survey respondents provided a range of explanations for their summer session enrolment. Their open-ended (written-in) responses were classified as being related to their co-op program of study (14%), their desire to accelerate their pace of study (37%), their interest in reducing or “leveling” their winter and summer study load (11%), the unavailability or unsuitable scheduling of courses in the winter session (11%), and the requirements or specific aspects of their program of study (10%). In other words, over 80% of students provided reasons of an academic nature. In contrast, only 7% of students provided reasons related to employment/study scheduling, and only 10% provided personal explanations.
- Respondents also indicated whether or not several statements provided on the questionnaire accurately described their reasons for summer study. Over half (52%) stated that they registered in courses throughout the year, and that both summer and winter session enrolment was normal. Almost 40% enrolled in order to wrap up their degree in summer 1998. About one-fourth indicated that the courses in which they were registered were not offered at any other time. One-fourth stated that their work schedule was appropriate for summer session enrolment. And one-fourth claimed that summer session enrolment was a natural part of their co-op program study/work schedule. Other explanations generated much lower agreement, including the availability of distance education courses, the plan to transfer credits to another institution, the desire and

ratio of 2:1. The main suggestions for additional course offerings were for upper level Social Sciences (15%), upper level Science (10%), lower level Science (9%), upper level Humanities and lower level Humanities (each at 7%).

(g) Satisfaction With Summer Course Scheduling (see Table Seven)

- Students were asked their preferred course format/duration, the time of day/week they would prefer to attend classes, and the summer month(s) in which they would prefer classes. In addition, they were asked the percentage of their summer classes that fell into their preferred format/duration, preferred time of day/week and preferred month(s), and whether they might have registered in more classes had they been offered in the preferred format/duration, the preferred time of day/week and the preferred month(s).
- With respect to course format and duration, preference for course formats is spread more or less evenly across distance/ISS courses, 3-4 week courses, 6-7 week courses and 12-13 week courses. Week-long immersion courses were the preferred format for only 6% of students. 17% of students had no preference as to course format. About three-fifths of

- 46% of all respondents provided a variety of written-in comments at the end of the questionnaire. The primary topics for their responses were course availability (18%), immersion/intensive courses (15%), and course scheduling (12%).

Part Three: Issues and Strategies for Increasing Summer Session Enrolment

(a) Introduction

The survey data provide insight into some of the factors affecting summer session enrolment levels, and some of the potential university strategies/responses affecting summer enrolment. The following points are intended to stimulate discussion only, and do not constitute recommendations for action.

(b) Determinants of, and Possible Approaches to Summer Session Enrolment Levels

- The majority of current summer session students have an ongoing relationship with UVic outside of summer session. Eighty-six percent of 1998 summer session students were enrolled in UVic's 1997/98 winter session; 69% were enrolled in one or more winter sessions prior to 1997/98. Only 5% were first-time students in summer 1998. Furthermore, 79% consider it very likely they will attend UVic during the 1998/99 winter session. In other words, only a minority of summer students attends UVic exclusively during summer session; for most students, summer session represents one component of a year-long or multi-year UVic study plan. The primary base for summer session enrolment in the immediate term, then, must be UVic's own students. Development of a pool of students that "visits" UVic primarily or exclusively during the summer would presumably take somewhat longer, at least to the extent that it is currently a virtually untapped market.
- A minority of current summer session students maintains its involvement with other post-secondary institutions. While about half of UVic's summer students have previously attended another post-secondary institution, only 12% did so during summer 1997, and only 13% did so

a moderate, though not considerable latent demand for courses of the appropriate format, duration and schedule. It is not clear whether the largely untapped pool of “visitor” students has similar course delivery and scheduling preferences.

- Recruitment of more students to summer session will require that summer session information be available earlier and that it be more widely available. This is particularly true for students who are not already associated with UVic.
- Current summer session students live primarily within the local Victoria region. Only 16% of summer session students relocated in order to attend UVic. Most students study part-time during summer, and would be unlikely to relocate to Victoria to do so. Even most distance education and ISS students live within the Victoria region (in part because about half of them are also registered in one or more campus-based courses as well). Attempts to recruit summer session students from further afield would imply (a) the need to expand distance education, off-campus and ISS offerings, and (b) increased competition from other providers both up-Island and on the Mainland. A significant cluster of distance education students is located with the Faculty of Human and Social Development. These students tend to have lower courseloads than campus students, and they tend to be part-time learners and were employed full- or part-time prior to summer session. It is likely that developing additional clusters of distance education students would require a program and professional focus similar to that implied by the HSD distance students.

Table One:

1998 Summer Session Enrolment Behaviour

Faculty in Which Student is Enrolled		Registered in One or More Distance Education Courses	24.2 %
Business	5.5 %	Location of Students Enrolled in Distance Education Courses	
Education	9.7	Victoria	63.0 %
Engineering	10.8	other Vancouver Island	2.8
Fine Arts	5.3	Vancouver	15.7
H&SD	19.8	other Southern BC	6.5
Humanities	12.6	Northern BC	4.6
Law	2.4	other Canada	7.4
Science	14.3		
Social Sciences	17.4		
don't know	2.2		
Year of Study		Registered in One or More "Regular Instruction" Courses	87.6 %
Year 1	4.6 %	Location of "Regular Instruction" Courses	
Year 2	13.4	Gordon Head campus	94.0 %
Year 3	29.6	other Victoria	0.7
Year 4	40.1	other Vancouver Island	0.5
Year 5/6 (Education)	5.7	Vancouver	1.7
unclassified/don't know	6.6	other	3.1
Summer Session Courseload			
one course	29.6 %		
two courses	21.5		
three courses	17.3		
four courses	14.6		
five or more courses	17.0		
Enrolled in Co-op Program	20.4 %		

Table Two:

Previous Study Patterns at UVic and Other Post-Secondary Institutions

Periods of Registration at UVic

summer 1997	39.4 %
summer 1996 or earlier	24.5
summer(s)	

Institution(s) Previously Attended

UBC	7.7 %
SFU	6.9
another university	25.2

Table Three:

Future Study Plans and Expectations

Future Enrolment Intentions: "Very Likely" to Enrol at

UVic for winter 1998/99	78.6 %
UVic for summer 1999	29.5
another post-secondary institution within next two years	10.6

Credential Goal from Current Studies

university courses only	4.6 %
diploma/certificate	5.3
associate degree	0.9
baccalaureate degree	85.1
professional certification (almost all PDP)	8.8
other	3.1

(multiple response question; cell counts exceed 100%)

Institution Most Likely to Award Expected Credential

UVic	94.0 %
UBC	2.0
another university	2.4
another institution	1.6

Target Date for Expected Credential

summer 1998	12.1 %
next academic year	37.7
within 2 academic years	27.6
more than 2 years	22.5

Expected Area of Academic Specialization

Humanities		10.6 %
English	3.2	
History	2.1	
other	5.3	
Social Sciences		19.7
Psychology	6.4	
Geography	4.4	
Economics	3.4	
other	5.5	
Science		12.4
Biology	5.0	
Biochem.	2.5	
Physics	2.1	
other	2.8	
Education		6.8
Engineering		11.3
CompSci	6.4	
other	4.9	
Fine Arts		5.9
H&SD		23.4
Nursing	10.1	
SocWork	7.6	
CYC	3.4	
other	2.3	
Law		1.8
Business		6.2
Other/don't know		1.8

Table Four:

Employment Situation of 1998 Summer Session Students

Education/Employment Situation (April 1998)		Occupations of Employed Students	
full-time student	67.4 %	service/manual	27.4 %
employed full-time	2.7	retail	15.2
employed co-op	9.5	server	6.8
employed part-time	21.9	janitorial	3.4
unempl/looking	10.9	other	2.0
unempl/not looking	22.4	clerical/technical	12.7
part-time student	24.2	recr/sports	4.6
employed full-time	10.2	clerical	3.8
employed co-op	0.0	other	4.3
employed part-time	10.6	education	6.7
unempl/looking	1.3	teacher	4.2
unempl/not looking	2.0	other	2.5
not a student	8.4	medical	16.1
employed full-time	4.2	nurse	13.1
employed co-op	0.0	other	3.0
employed part-time	1.8	"helping" professions	12.2
unempl/looking	1.1	child care	3.8
unempl/not looking	1.3	social services	3.4
		home support	3.0
		other	2.0
Employer Support for Education		arts	1.3
employer pays/contributes to tuition	7.2 %	business	5.9
employer provides time off	37.7	scientific	14.3

Table Five:**Motivation for Enrolling in 1998 Summer Session****Unprompted, Written-In Response**

co-op program related		13.6 %
summer is normal part of co-op program schedule	10.7	
other	2.9	
workload related		10.9
reduce/level load in winter session	7.3	
catch up on missed courses	3.1	
other	0.5	
accelerated study related		37.2
want to graduate more quickly/on time	27.8	
want to get courses out of the way	8.9	
other	0.5	
course related		11.1
course(s) full/not available/badly timetabled in winter	7.3	
other	3.8	
schedule related		7.2
summer fits better with work schedule	4.7	
other	2.5	
program related		10.0
program requires summer enrolment	4.9	
transferring credits to another institution	2.0	
other	3.1	
personal reasons		10.0

"Yes" Responses to Statements Provided

Courses are not offered at any other time	27.5 %
Distance education courses are only offered during summer	6.6
Work schedule fits better with summer courses	23.1
Wanted to wrap up degree this summer	37.9
Register in courses throughout the year	52.1
Summer is natural part of co-op program schedule	24.9
Intend to transfer credits to another institution	3.8
Just started university; wanted to get head start on studies	5.7
Enrolled in exchange program requiring summer course enrolment	0.0
Couldn't find employment so took summer courses instead	12.6

Table Six:**Satisfaction with Summer Course Offerings****Satisfaction with Course Availability**

all desired courses were offered	43.2 %
most desired courses were offered	15.1
some desired courses were offered	28.4
no desired courses were offered	3.3

Additional Course Offerings that Would Have Been of Interest

(44% of students provided suggestions for additional course offerings)

by Faculty:

Social Sciences	24.9 %
Science	22.7
Humanities	20.1
H&SD	9.6
Fine Arts	7.4
other Faculties	15.3

by level:

upper level	47.2
lower level	23.6
general/unspecified level	23.6
other	5.6

by level and Faculty:

upper level Social Sciences	14.8
upper level Science	10.0
lower level Science	8.7
upper level Humanities	7.4
lower level Humanities	7.0
upper level H&SD	6.6
unspecified Humanities	5.2
lower level Social Science	4.8
all other responses	35.5

Would Students Have Registered in More Courses if Additional Appropriate Courses Had Been Offered

definitely	41.7 %
probably	22.0
don't know	10.8
probably not	16.6
definitely not	8.9

Table Seven:

Table Eight:**Information About Summer Session****Student Satisfaction with Summer Session Information**

completely satisfied	35.5 %
somewhat satisfied	33.6
neutral	19.0
somewhat dissatisfied	9.9
completely dissatisfied	2.0

Student Suggestions for Improved Information About Summer Session

(30% of students provided suggestions for improved information)

earlier distribution of calendar, T-Reg guide, other course information	33.6 %
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Table Nine:**Miscellaneous Responses****Age of Student**

19 or less	7.9 %
20 to 24	47.4
25 to 29	16.4
30 to 34	5.3
35 to 39	6.1
40 or more	16.9

Gender of Student**Areas of General Final Comments**

course availability	18.2 %
class size	2.9
course schedule	12.4
immersion/intensive courses	14.8
distance/ISS courses	2.9
practicum courses	1.4
other course format issues	5.3
workload	0.5
course content	1.0



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Appendix Two: Questionnaire
University of Victoria
1998 Summer Session Student Survey

1. The first set of questions deals with your studies at UVic.
Were you registered in any UVic courses during any of the following sessions?

	yes	no
summer 1997 (May 1997 – Aug. 1997)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
winter 97/98 (Sept. 1997 – Apr. 1998)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
summer session(s) in 1996 or earlier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
winter session(s) in 1996/97 or earlier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How likely is it that you will register for any UVic courses in either of the following sessions?

	very likely	likely	uncertain	unlikely	very unlikely
winter 98/99 (Sept. 98-Apr. 99)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
summer 1999 (May 99-Aug. 99)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. What faculty are you registered in?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine Arts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human and Social Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Humanities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Law
<input type="checkbox"/>	Science
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Sciences
<input type="checkbox"/>	don't know

4. Are you a UVic co-op student?

yes

10. Which of the following best describes the credential you are currently working toward? (Check all that apply.)

- completing courses only
- diploma or certificate
- associate degree
- bachelor's degree
- professional certification (please specify):

other

11. From which institution do you expect this credential to be awarded?

- University of Victoria
- University of British Columbia

21. The remaining questions ask about your opinion of summer session course availability, scheduling, and university services. Overall, how satisfied are you with the range/selection of UVic's summer course offerings?

- all the courses I wanted to take were offered (skip to Q #24)
- most courses I wanted to take were offered
- some courses I wanted to take were offered
- none of the courses I wanted to take were offered

22. What additional courses that UVic might have offered this summer would have interested you? (Write the actual courses/numbers or a general description of the courses.)

23. Do you think you would have registered in more UVic summer courses if more courses that met your needs had been offered?

- yes, definitely
- yes, probably
- don't know
- no, probably not
- no, definitely not

24. Summer session courses are offered in a variety of formats. Generally speaking, which one of the following formats best meets your needs?

- distance education or self-directed study courses with no regular class/meeting times

34. Please suggest ways in which UVic could improve the information it provides to potential summer students.

35. Finally, we would like to ask a few questions so we can compare responses across different groups of students. What is your current age?

- 19 or less
- 20 to 24
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 or more

36. Are you

- female
- male

37. Did you move in order to attend summer session at UVic?

- yes
- no

38. Please feel free to add any comments about your 1998 summer session experience.

Thank you very much for participating in this research. Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed business reply envelope by Wednesday, July 15.

Appendix Three: Sampling and Fieldwork

Date sample drawn	June 1
Undergraduate headcount population at June 1, 1998	4943
Gross sample size drawn	1500
Sampling rate	.303
Maillot date	June 8
Returns resulting from incorrect/incomplete addresses	77
Net sample size	1423
Cutoff date for responses	July 24
Usable questionnaires returned	458
Response rate	.322