AMS Academic Experience Survey
Purpose and Methodology

- Academic Experience Survey (AES) is an annual survey conducted by the Office of the AMS VP Academic and University Affairs in order to support our data-driven advocacy, as well as shape our advocacy priorities.
Respondent Profile

Highlights

Over half of the undergraduate respondents are members of the Faculties of Arts and Science.

One in six undergraduate respondents are the first in their family to attend post-secondary education.

15% of respondents identify as a member of the LGBTQ2PA+ community on UBC campus. This has increased as part of a trend since 2016.

1,684 undergraduate students

486 graduate students
Respondent Profile - Highlights

Gender
- Woman/Female: 54.0%
- Man/Male: 42.0%
- Non-binary/Gender queer: 2.0%

Location
- Lower Mainland: 59.8%
- Out of the Lower: 25.6%
- International: 14.6%
Out of all respondents, **2 in 5 individuals** report to have taken a reduced course load, whether for **personal or financial reasons or due to commute**.

Respondents were more than **2x** as likely to **disagree** than agree with the statement, **“the University cares more about what students think about the cost of education”**.

Of respondents, **30%** share they are **not in a hurry to complete their undergraduate degree**.

Of respondents, **58%** share they **expect to take more than 4 years to complete their degree**.

Of undergraduate respondents, **42%** report reducing their course load as **one of the core reasons for extending their program**.
Preparation for Post-Graduation

of undergraduate respondents share they are interested in continuing education after undergraduate completion.

of undergraduate and graduate respondents agree with the statement, “I have been able to achieve my academic goals and standards I set for myself at UBC”.
How many students feel prepared to enter the workforce after graduation?
With the statement “I expect to feel prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation”, 58% of undergraduate respondents shared that they agree with this statement (17% strongly agree), while 77% of graduate respondents agree with this statement (32% strongly agree).
Career Support

Useful Services for Undergraduates

❖ Resume and CV workshops (78%)
❖ CareersOnline (76%)
❖ In-person Advising (72%)

Useful Services for Graduates

❖ Resume and CV workshops (37%)
❖ Linkedin workshops (75%)

Overall, in these past two years, both undergraduates and graduate students have shown significant increases in awareness of career support services tested.
Student Finances
Financial Support, Debt, Food Insecurity, Financial Literacy and Hardship
How many students face financial hardship due to housing costs?
Housing & Food Affordability

Just under half of undergraduates agree that the cost of housing has caused them to live further away from campus than they would like and experience financial hardship related to the cost of housing.

More than 2 in 5 students (undergraduate & graduate) have been concerned about their ability to feed themselves in the past year, including one in five who experience this challenge at least monthly.
The majority (58%) of undergraduate respondents agree that they can manage their finances overall. In the past year, there has been a significant decline in the proportion of graduate students who agree that overall they can manage their finances from 2019 (70%) to 2020 (62%).

27% of undergraduate students and 30% of graduate students state that if they had an unexpected financial emergency, I would know how to access emergency funding.
How many undergraduates have bought a textbook that they rarely use?
Nearly all undergraduates have bought a textbook they barely use.

90%

Of students report participating in activities to avoid purchasing textbooks, which is a significant amount more than last year.

52%

33% of undergraduate respondents estimate that they spent 600$ or more on textbooks & other course material (and 20% spent over $1000).

Average Amount Spent: $884
Campus Community, Safety, Belonging, and Discrimination
What percentage of students face discrimination frequently or often?
Discrimination at UBC

One in ten respondents report experiencing discrimination frequently or often.

Overall, a fraction of students who belong to minority groups (predominantly on basis of ethnicity, gender, and age) continue to suffer from covert or overt discrimination on UBCV campus.

Women, non-binary students, LGBTQ+ students, South Asian students, and those over 25 years old are dominant victims of discrimination.
Sense of Belonging

- 59% of undergraduate students feel a sense of belonging on campus.
- 57% of graduate students feel a sense of belonging on campus.

Safety

- 84% of undergraduate students feel safe on campus at night.
- 88% of undergraduate students believe that participating in on-campus activities increase a sense of belonging on campus.
- 66% of undergraduate students feel like their wellbeing is supported at UBC.

- Men continue to be significantly more likely to feel safe on campus at night (85% of respondents) than women (62%) or non-binary people (71%)
- Younger students are more likely to feel a sense of belonging on campus.
Mental Health and Wellbeing
## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Students with Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>One in four undergraduate respondents report having one or more disabilities, a significant increase over this past year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Mental Health is the most common disability reported, at 19%.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### One in three respondents reporting a disability are registered with the Centre for Accessibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Of respondents choosing to not register for disability support with the Centre for Accessibility perceive the service as being “too inconvenient”.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Of respondents report not having a disability, a significant decrease in this past year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trigger Warning:
Sexual Assault and Misconduct Statistics
Sexual Assault and Misconduct

Two in five graduate respondents and half of undergraduate respondents report continued concern about the prevalence of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct at UBC.

One in five respondents report having experienced sexual misconduct or assault during their time as a UBC student. 8% of respondents report this was by a UBC community member.

Women are significantly more likely to have experienced sexual assault or misconduct than men.

Respondents are more likely to disagree than agree with the following statement,

“UBC students know how to respond appropriately if they witnessed one of these incidents”.

Disagreement with the following statement has increased over the past few years.

“UBC does a good job of clearly communicating resources and supports for survivors of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct”.
Perceptions of the AMS

Half of students agree that the AMS does a good job representing equity and inclusion as well as mental health and wellbeing interests to the faculty and administration.

27% of undergraduates and 35% of graduate students say that AMS does a good job of representing students’ financial interests to the administration and faculty.

27% of undergraduates and 36% of graduates agree with “I trust the AMS to spend my money wisely.”

Half of students are aware of the services offered by the AMS and how to access them.
How many students take more than an hour to commute?
21%
Since 2015, there has been a small but significant increase in the proportion of undergraduates who travel more than an hour to campus.

Just under half of undergraduates report having a commute of 30 minutes or more to campus, including one in five who travel for more than an hour.
Next Steps

The report is currently being finalized and undergoing consultation before being published to council.

- Sent to Advocacy Committee for Approval
- Final Draft - Sept 23

You can view the report by contacting me. Raw data and a breakdown of results not included or the 2020 Insights West Report are available by request
- Feedback can be directed to vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca

Thank you!