

Overview

This survey ran October 14-17 on the UASU Perks platform. It reached 955 respondents, an 85% response rate based on the number of unique Perks users who logged in during that time period and saw the survey. We consider this survey highly reliable, though of course cross-tabulating through smaller faculties introduces uncertainty. The UASU ran a similar survey starting in December 2018 (n=363), and several questions are directly comparable. Summarized findings from the 2022 survey:

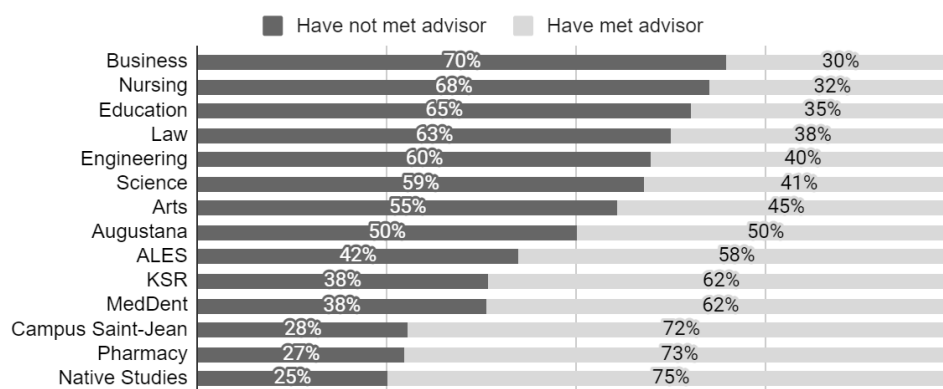
- Whether respondents had met with an academic advisor varied radically by faculty (e.g. Business, Nursing, Education high and CSJ, Pharmacy, Native Studies low).
- Reasons for not meeting an academic advisor:
 - No need: 44%
 - No time: 33%
 - Found answers online: 31%
 - Don't know how to get in touch with one: 30% (an actual improvement over 2018)
 - Planned my degree myself: 28%
 - Turned to peers: 28%
 - Difficult/time-consuming to arrange appointments: 25%
 - Did not know they exist: 11%
- Top reasons for meeting an academic advisor:
 - Degree requirements: 57% (down from 72% in 2018)
 - Course scheduling and related issues: 57% (down from 77% in 2018)
 - Transferring programs: 30%
 - Academic standing: 16%
 - Financial/mental health/other support: 12%
- Value on a 5-point scale: 56% in top two brackets, 18% in bottom two brackets, average response 3.5, stable since 2018.
 - Faculties of concern: Business, Pharmacy, Science
 - Most positive faculties: Engineering, KSR
- Feeling welcome on a 5-point scale: 64% in top two brackets, 12% in bottom two brackets, average response 3.8, stable since 2018.
 - Faculties of concern: Business, Pharmacy, Science
 - Most positive faculties: Engineering, KSR
- Top sources of academic advice other than advisors:
 - Peers: 74%
 - Older students: 53% (down from 66% in 2018)
 - Online calendar: 51%, increasing sharply by year of study
 - Family: 47%, decreasing sharply by year of study
 - Instructors: 32% (down from 45% in 2018), increasing sharply by year of study

"In your time at the University of Alberta, have you ever met with an academic advisor?"

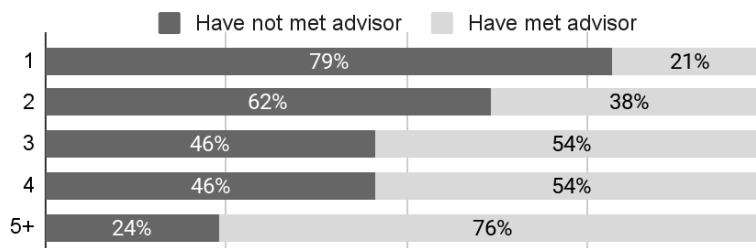
- Yes: 44%
- No: 56%

Note that in the December 2018 survey, 74% answered 'yes' to this question. Some of the difference may be due to self-selection bias around the previous survey's newsletter-based delivery. However, it would also stand to reason that COVID-19 disruption, layoffs, and restructuring would have played a role.

Results varied radically by faculty.

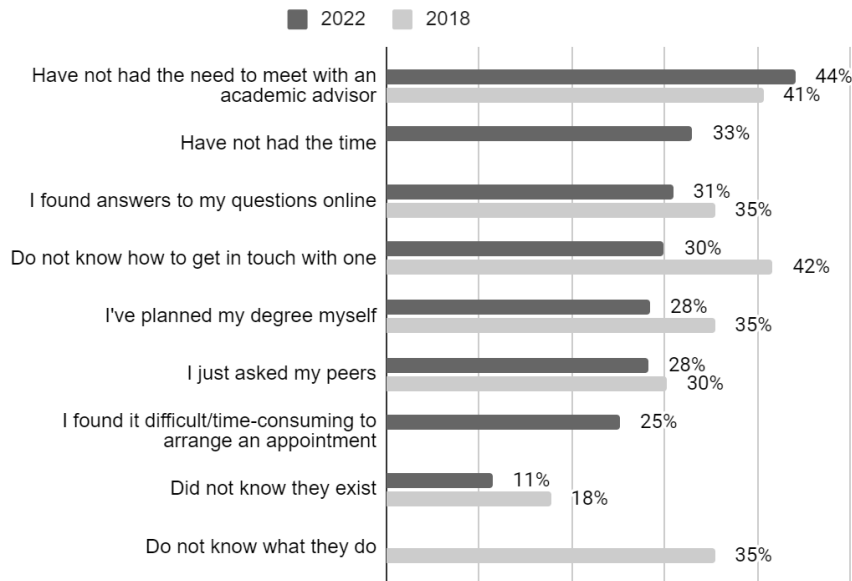


We note a natural progression by year of study, with the caveat that it seems students starting their fourth year are just as likely to have met with an advisor as students starting their third year. This suggests that students are less likely to meet with advisors during their third year.



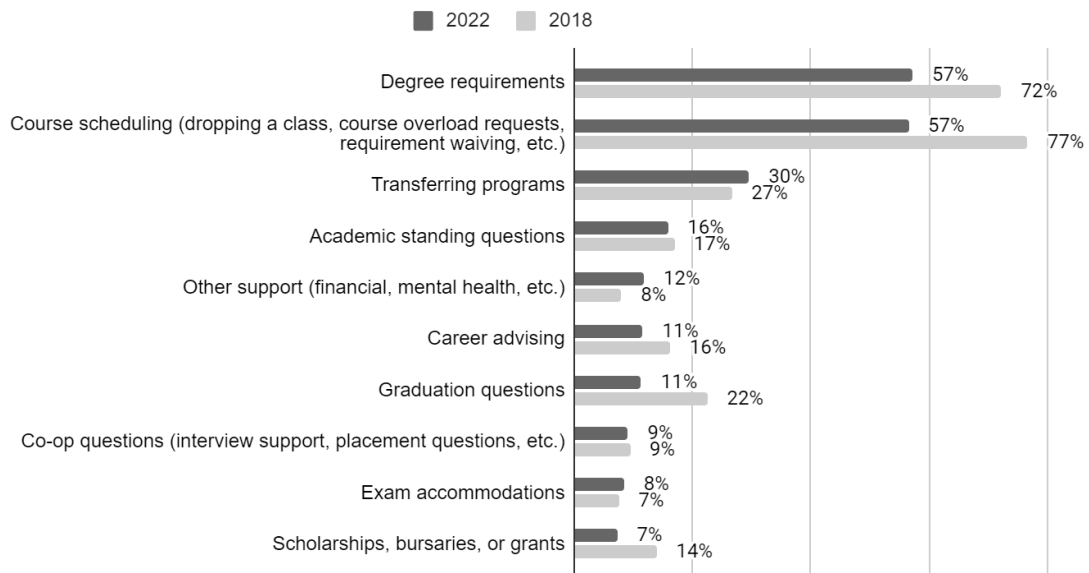
"If you haven't met one, can you tell us why you haven't met an academic advisor yet? (Check all that apply)"

This question partially repeated the question asked in 2018, and produced similar results. One important addition is that, in the 2022 survey, one quarter of those who had not met with an advisor cited difficulty arranging an appointment as a factor.



'Difficult/time-consuming to arrange an appointment' responses were highest in Augustana, Science, and Business. 'Do not know how to get in touch with one' responses were highest in CSJ, ALES, Arts, and Education. However, students in all faculties noted these problems.

"If you saw an academic advisor, why?"



While course scheduling and degree requirements remained the top responses between 2018 and 2022, each saw a significant decrease, as did graduation questions. This may be a positive sign related to website content and procedural changes over the past four years.

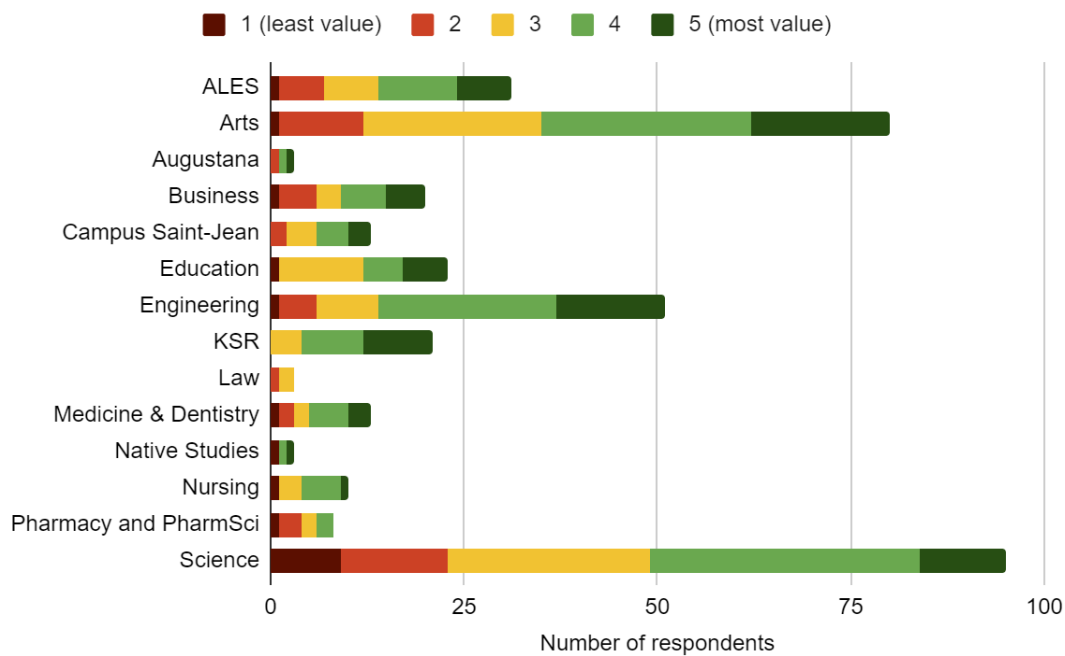
'Degree requirements' respondents were most common in KSR (76%), Medicine and Dentistry (69%), and Law (67%).

'Other support (financial, mental health, etc.)' respondents were most common in ALES (16%), Medicine and Dentistry (23%), Nursing (23%), and Pharmacy (22%). Note that, [in another recent survey](#), ALES and Nursing students also reported high rates of seeking University/campus mental health services several times in the past year.

"How much value did you find in speaking with your advisor?"

- 5 (most value): 20%
- 4: 36%
- 3: 25%
- 2: 13%
- 1 (least value): 5%

The average response was 3.5, identical to the same question's results in the 2018 survey. Value is stable.

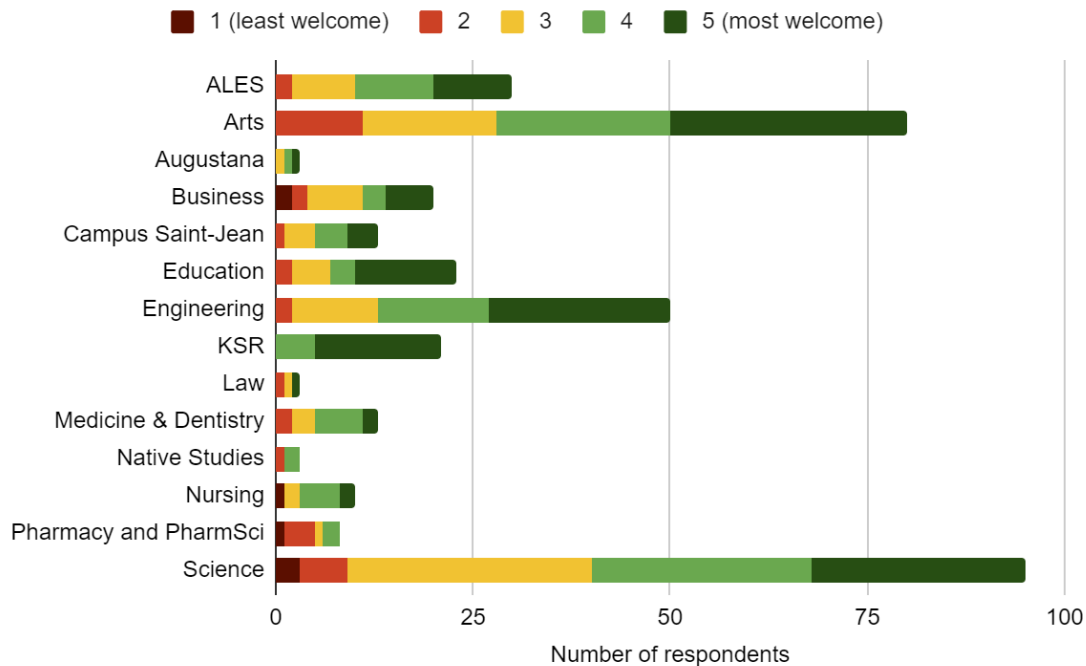


By proportion (highest percentage of the two lowest-value categories), faculties of concern included Business (30%) and Pharmacy (50%), and Science's high rate of '1 (least value)' responses is also of concern. The most positive experiences appeared to centre on Engineering and KSR.

"How welcome did you feel when meeting with the academic advisor?"

- 5 (most welcome): 35%
- 4: 29%
- 3: 25%
- 2: 9%
- 1 (least welcome): 3%

The average response was 3.8, slightly higher than the 2018 survey's results (3.6). Sense of welcomeness is stable.

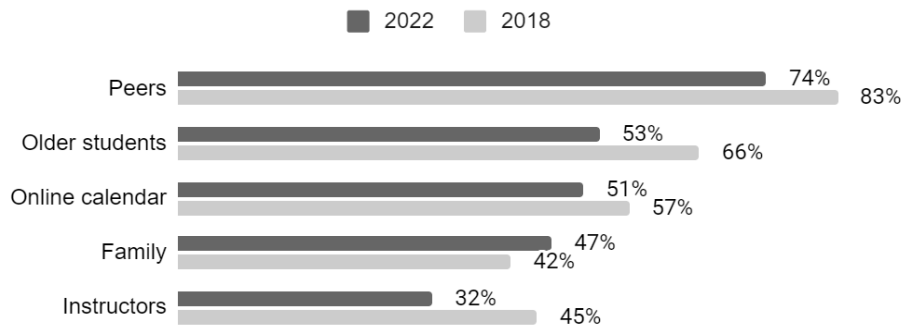


Again, Business, Science, and Pharmacy emerged as faculties of concern. Positive experiences were widespread, but Engineering and KSR stood out again.

The responses to this question correlated fairly well with the previous question, though a good portion of respondents felt reasonably welcome while still gleaning low value from the experience.

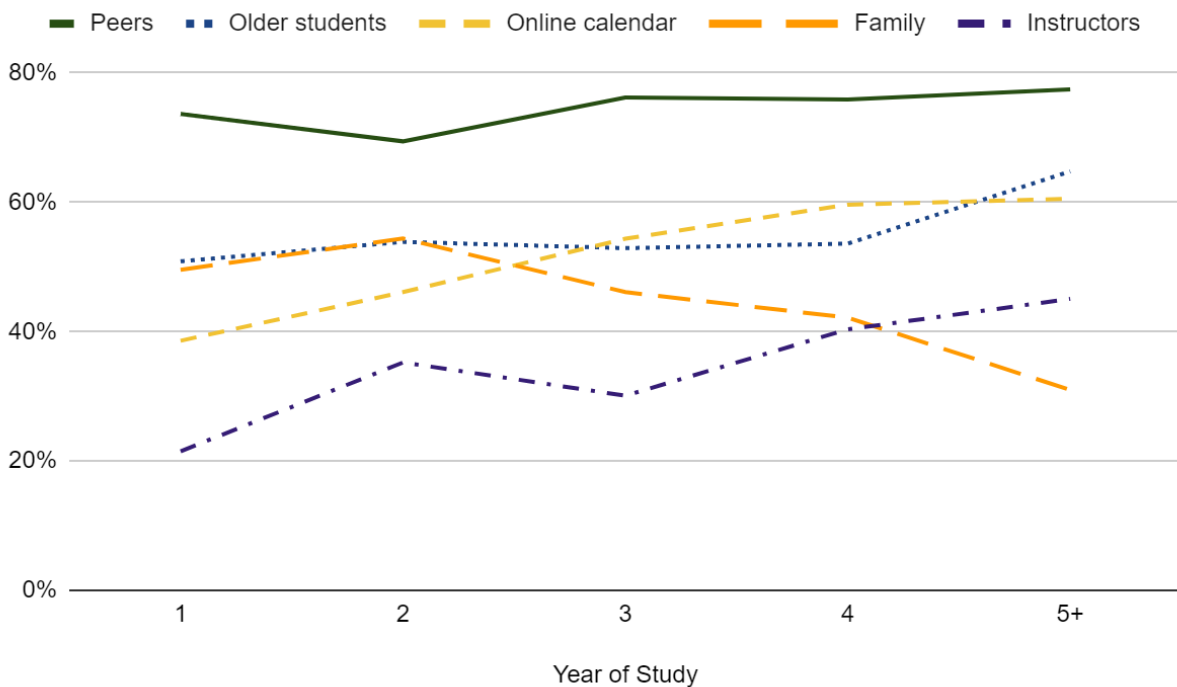
	1 (least welcome)	2	3	4	5 (most welcome)
5 (most value)			7	6	73
4	1	4	26	75	47
3		10	49	27	19
2	3	18	18	11	8
1 (least value)	7	6	6	3	1

"What sources of academic advice have you consulted, other than an advisor? (Choose all that apply.)"



While results are broadly consistent with the 2018 survey, students appear significantly less likely to turn to older students and instructors for academic advice.

Sources consulted varied widely by year of study. In very broad terms, online calendar and instructors tended to become more popular choices, family tended to become a less popular choice, and peers and older students stayed largely stable. As one point of note, first-year students were very unlikely to report having spoken with instructors for academic advice.



Likelihood of turning to an instructor was fairly stable across faculties, except in Business (14%), Pharmacy (0%), Nursing (44%), and Medicine and Dentistry (52%).