

Overview

This survey ran from September 20 to 26, 2021, on the Perks platform. It reached 1507 unique respondents, representing 63% of the active users during that time period. We have used this survey's data in student-facing materials and in this year's campaign to educate instructors about pronouns. It also plays a role in our ongoing advocacy to improve how the University recognizes and records students' gender.

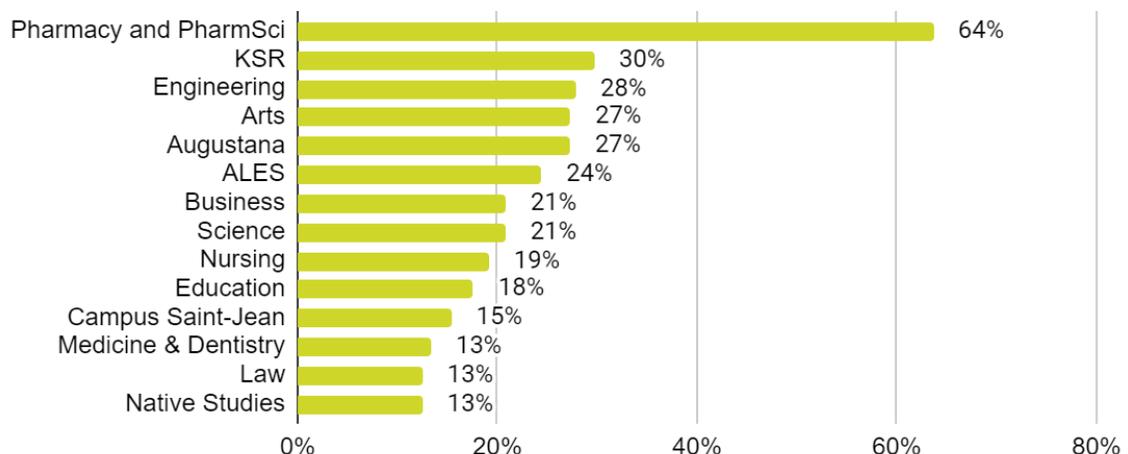
The survey title referenced gender-neutral pronouns, so we expected (and found) a degree of self-selection bias. After compensating for that bias using correlation with known statistics, we estimate that at least 1 in 10 UAlberta students use gender-neutral pronouns, either exclusively or non-exclusively (i.e. 'he/him/they/them' would be just as valid as 'they/them').

"Had you heard about gender neutral pronouns before today?"

96% of respondents said yes. Two faculties (Business and KSR) were slightly less likely to know about gender-neutral pronouns (91.6% and 92.2% respectively), but this variation was not statistically significant.

"Did you hear about gender neutral pronouns from your prof at the start of your classes this term for the UASU Pronoun initiative?"

24% of respondents said yes (for at least one of their instructors). There was significant variation by faculty. As with all faculty breakdowns, take the numbers for the smallest faculties with a grain of salt.



"Do you personally use gender neutral pronouns?"

15% of respondents answered yes, with significant variation across faculties (including, stunningly, 19.6% of the 194 Engineering respondents).

We believe the 15% number is high due to self-selection bias (that is, students who use gender-neutral pronouns are more likely to take a survey about gender-neutral pronouns). However, we believe we can at least partially correct for this bias.

In a later question, 22% identified as LGBTQ2S+. By comparison, the [UASU 2020 Annual Survey](#) and [a recent Gallup poll of Gen Z Americans](#) both find ~17% of respondents identifying as LGBTQ2S+, suggesting that LGBTQ2S+ students are roughly 30% overrepresented in this pronoun survey — a strong turnout. While LGBTQ2S+ identity and gender-neutral pronoun usage do NOT map one-to-one, as seen in the workup for the next question, we are choosing to assume a roughly comparable level of overrepresentation. That would imply around 10-12% of UAlberta students use gender-neutral pronouns, around 1 in 10.

The least likely faculties to use gender-neutral pronouns were Education (9% of respondents), KSR (6% of respondents), and Law (6% of respondents).

We also saw significant variation by year of study:

- 1st year: 13%
- 2nd year: 16%
- 3rd year: 17%
- 4th year: 15%
- 5th year or higher: 10%

"Are you a member of the LGBTQ2S+ community?"

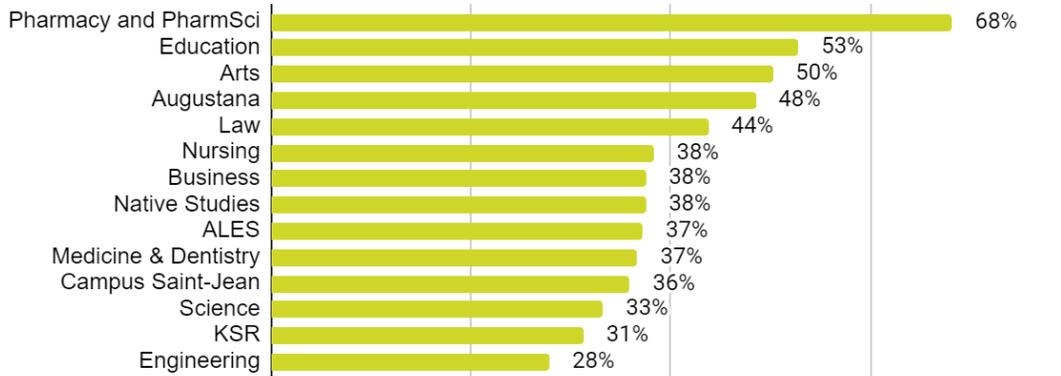
Again, 22% of respondents self-identified as part of the LGBTQ2S+ community, which is roughly a 30% overrepresentation. Some faculties were especially well represented here (ALES, 26%; Arts, 36%; CSJ; 35%; Augustana, 30%; Law, 37%) while others were not (Pharmacy, 14%; KSR, 11%; Engineering, 13%; Business, 11%).

Comparing this to the previous question, we see the following:

- Only 44% of respondents who use gender-neutral pronouns consider themselves part of the LGBTQ2S+ community. (Another 7% prefer not to say.)
- Only 30% of respondents who consider themselves part of the LGBTQ2S+ community use gender-neutral pronouns.

"Have you been asked by your profs or fellow students which pronouns you prefer to use?"

40% of respondents answered yes, with high variation across faculties. Again, FoPPS (Pharmacy) led the pack; again, Engineering and KSR lagged behind.



"Have you added your pronouns (gender neutral or otherwise) to any of your social media profiles, email signatures, etc?"

63% of respondents who DO use gender-neutral pronouns have added their pronouns to profiles/signatures/etc. So have 39% of respondents who do NOT use gender-neutral pronouns.

In some faculties, respondents who DO use gender-neutral pronouns are especially likely or unlikely to add their pronouns to profiles/signatures/etc. We removed all faculties where 5 or fewer respondents use gender-neutral pronouns.

