

Educational Needs Assessment Report - Labrador Institute

High School Students and Comprehensive Arts and Science Transfer: College-University Students

A project of the Labrador Institute carried out with the assistance of the Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning (CIAP), Memorial University

July 2013

Introduction

The Labrador Institute is Memorial University's presence in Labrador. Currently, it consists of one staff member in Labrador City, one in North West River, six other staff members and two associated faculty members. With the projected expansion of the Labrador Institute, there will soon be additional faculty members living in Labrador with the commitment to teach university courses.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to begin to identify the post-secondary education needs within Labrador and inform the Labrador Institute of the efforts it can pursue in order to support these needs.

Methodology

Paper questionnaires were distributed to Level III students in 12 high schools in Labrador in November and December of 2012. A total of 165 high school students completed the survey, which included 159 grade 12 students, representing approximately 50% of the grade 12 population across these 12 schools. While the proportion of students responding from each school was generally representative of the distribution of students in the population, it should be noted that proportionately fewer students from Menihek High School responded to the survey (18% of survey respondents, compared to 37% of grade 12 population), and Mealy Mountain Collegiate was slightly over represented (37% of survey respondents compared to 28% of population).

Paper questionnaires were distributed to students enrolled in the Comprehensive Arts and Science (CAS) Transfer Program at Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador West in March of 2013. A total of 20 CAS students completed the survey, which represents approximately 50% of students enrolled at these locations. Although the proportion of CAS respondents is moderately high, care should be taken when interpreting these results due to the low number of absolute respondents.

Completed surveys were sent back to CIAP for analysis and reporting.

Synopsis of Findings

High School Survey

- The majority of students had some knowledge of the St. John's Campus and, to a lesser extent, Grenfell Campus. Most students had very little knowledge about the Marine Institute, both locations of the Labrador Institute and Distance Education offered by Memorial.
- Over 90% of students said they plan on pursuing further education after completing high school.
- University and College, respectively, were the most common choices for post-secondary education.
- Almost half of the students said they are considering attending Memorial University in the future while another 20% were unsure.
- Of the students who said they are not considering attending Memorial in the future, over half said they are interested in a college instead and over 40% said Memorial does not offer their program of interest.
- For those who plan to attend Memorial, many (60%) would like to attend the St. John's campus, while 14% said they did not know where they would like to go and 12% indicated they would like to attend Grenfell.
- Approximately 20% of respondents said they are considering the CAS program. Of those students, just under 50% wanted to study subjects in Science, while Engineering was the next most popular choice (27%).
- Approximately half of the students indicated they would not be interested in attending the Labrador Institute if a full second year of courses was offered; a quarter of respondents said they would, and the other quarter was not sure.
- Of those students who would attend the Labrador Institute if a second year of courses was offered, their top three subjects to study were Engineering, Arts and Science.
- Out of all of the students who want to do post-secondary education, Science, Engineering and Arts were the most common program choices at 35%, 32% and 21% respectively.
- The majority of students (76%) would prefer courses that took place during the day.
- The option of second year courses at the Labrador Institute in Social Cultural Studies or Environmental Studies was not of interest for 42% of students; 26% of students would be interested in Environmental studies and 19% in Social Cultural Studies.
- In terms of other programs of choice, if offered in Labrador, frequently selected were Skilled Trades or Technical Institute programs (13%) or Psychology (11%).
- If there were more full degree programs offered through distance education, 26% of respondents said it would benefit them. A slightly higher number of students (37%) said it would not, while the others were unsure.
- Slightly more females (56%) than males (44%) completed the survey, (gender breakdown of Grade 12 students is approximately 50:50.)
- The majority of students (96%) were in grade 12 and most (86%) were 17 years old.

- While just half the respondents said they had achieved a year end average greater than 80% the previous year, 51% expect a year end average greater than 80%.
- Half the respondents were from either Happy Valley-Goose Bay (34%) or Labrador City (16%).

CAS Survey

- Of the various locations that Memorial offers courses, students said they knew quite a lot about the St. John's Campus and the Labrador Institute in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Most students knew a moderate amount about the Grenfell Campus and the Labrador Institute in Labrador City, while they knew very little about the Marine Institute or Distance Education.
- Most students choose the CAS program for its location (95%) and affordability (65%).
- Half of the students plan on attending Memorial University in the Fall 2013 semester and almost all have chosen the St. John's campus.
- Of the 30% of students who are not planning to attend Memorial in the Fall, these students most frequently said they are interested in another university and they are unsure if Memorial is the right place for them.
- 60% of students said they would be interested in staying at the Labrador Institute if a full second-year of courses was offered.
- Most students are interested in studying Arts (60%) or Science (45%).
- Almost all would prefer classes on-campus during the day.
- Regarding the two options for a second year of study, a majority of respondents (60%) were interested in the Social Cultural Studies program while only 15% would choose Environmental Studies and 30% said neither program would interest them.
- Several students indicated that second year courses in Science would be of interest.
- If more full degree programs were offered through distance education, 35% of respondents said they would avail of it, whereas 40% said they would not.
- Nearly all (85%) of the respondents to this survey were female, and over half of the students were 18 years old.
- Most students (75%) said they expect their overall average for the end of term to be between 70% and 79%.
- Virtually all these students said they had an overall average of 70% to 89% in high school.
- Over half of the respondents listed Happy Valley-Goose Bay as their home town, and 25% said Labrador City.
- For additional comments, some students suggested more course selection in the program while others noted they did not want to stay in Labrador for a second year.

High School Student Survey Results

Question 1: Memorial University offers courses and programs through different locations in the province. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = 'nothing at all' and 5 = 'a great deal', how much do you know about the following locations?

	N	1	2	3	4	5
St. John's Campus	158	14%	9%	25%	29%	23%
Grenfell Campus (Corner Brook)	152	28%	20%	21%	19%	11%
Marine Institute (St. John's)	153	33%	24%	23%	12%	8%
Labrador Institute (Happy Valley-Goose Bay)	155	34%	17%	26%	12%	11%
Labrador Institute (Labrador City)	150	49%	19%	15%	9%	9%
Off-campus/Distance Education (online)	151	52%	22%	15%	5%	6%

Question 2: After high school do you plan to pursue further education?

	N	%
Yes	153	94%
Don't know	6	4%
No*	4	3%
Total	163	

**These respondents did not specify a reason why they are not planning to pursue further education.*

Question 3: What type of further education are you planning to pursue?

	N	%
University	87	57%
College	58	38%
Other post-secondary	4	3%
Other	4	3%
Total	153	

Question 4: Are you considering attending Memorial University?

	N	%
Yes	73	47%
No	49	31%
Don't know	34	22%
Total	156	

If NO, please tell us the reason(s) why you are not considering Memorial University. (n = 44)	
I am interested in a college	57%
Memorial does not offer a program that interests me	41%
I am interested in another university	25%
I do not think I will have the required grades to be accepted to Memorial	23%
Location	18%
I am not sure if Memorial is the right university for me	11%
I do not think Memorial will meet my education needs	9%
Other	9%
I do not know enough about Memorial	7%
Financial reasons	7%

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 5: Which location of Memorial University would you plan to attend?		
	N	%
St. John's Campus	62	60%
Don't know	15	14%
Grenfell Campus (Corner Brook)	12	12%
I plan to do first year university courses at College of the North Atlantic and transfer to a Memorial campus in my second year.	6	6%
Marine Institute (St. John's)	6	6%
I plan to do first year university courses at College of the North Atlantic and transfer to another university in my second year.	3	3%
Off-campus/Distance Education	0	-
Total	104	

Question 6: Is the location you chose in Question 5 your preferred choice?		
	N	%
Yes	81	77%
Don't know	16	15%
No	8	8%
Total	105	

If NO, which location would you <u>most</u> like to attend? (n = 6)		
Response to Question 5	Response to Question 6	Explanation
St. John's Campus	St. John's Campus	No response
St. John's Campus	Don't know	I plan to go to McMaster.
St. John's Campus	Grenfell Campus	Because it's closer to my home town, but the BA course I would like isn't offered there.
St. John's Campus	Grenfell Campus	Smaller, more personal, less of a jump from high school in a small town.
St. John's Campus	No response	No response
I plan to do first year university courses at College of the North Atlantic and transfer to another university in my second year.	St. John's	No response
I plan to do first year university courses at College of the North Atlantic and transfer to another university in my second year.	Don't know	Because I'm not sure about what I am capable of doing yet.
Don't know	No response	No response

Question 7: Currently, students can complete first-year university courses in Arts and Science at the College of the North Atlantic in Labrador and then transfer to the Corner Brook or St. John's campus of Memorial University. Are you considering this option?

	N	%
No	100	64%
Yes	33	21%
Don't know	23	15%
Total	156	

If YES, what subjects are you <u>most</u> interested in studying? (n = 33)	
Science	48%
Engineering	27%
Music	18%
Arts	15%
Education	15%
Business	15%
Nursing	15%
Human Kinetics and Recreation	15%
Social Work	12%
Other	12%
<i>Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.</i>	

Question 8: If a full year of second-year courses were offered at the Labrador Institute, would this be of interest to you?

	N	%
No	71	46%
Yes	44	28%
Don't know	41	26%
Total	156	

If YES, what subjects are you <u>most</u> interested in studying? (n = 44)	
Engineering	50%
Arts	44%
Science	34%
Education	18%
Human Kinetics and Recreation	16%
Business	14%
Music	11%
Nursing	9%
Social Work	7%
Skilled Trades/Technical Institute	7%
Pharmacy	5%
Don't know	5%
Other	5%

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 9: What subjects/programs are you most interested in studying? (n = 155)

Science	35%
Engineering	32%
Arts	21%
Business	15%
Social Work	15%
Education	14%
Human Kinetics	12%
Music	12%
Nursing	9%
Skilled Trades/Technical Institute	8%
Don't know	5%
Other	8%

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 10: What type of university courses would interest you?

	N	%
On-campus during the day	112	76%
No preference	22	15%
Don't know	11	7%
On-campus during the evening	2	2%
Online courses	0	-
Total	148	

Question 11: There are two programs of study being considered to offer second-year courses at the Labrador Institute, with a transfer to the Grenfell campus after second year. They are Social Cultural Studies and Environmental Studies. Which program(s) would interest you?

	Out of those that answered yes to Question 8			
	N	%	N	%
Social Cultural Studies	31	19%	11	25%
Environmental Studies	41	26%	15	34%
Neither	67	42%	17	39%
Don't know	21	13%	4	9%
Total	154		44	

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 12: Are there any other programs in which you would be interested in taking first or second year courses if offered in Labrador? (n = 80)

	Out of those that answered yes to Question 8 (n = 22)	
Skilled Trade/Technical Institute	13%	14%
Science – Psychology	11%	18%
Other	9%	5%
Science – Biology	6%	14%
Engineering	4%	9%
Education	3%	9%
Nursing	3%	
Science – Biochemistry	3%	5%
Science – Chemistry	3%	
Arts – Law and Society	1%	
Arts – Linguistics	1%	5%
Arts – Philosophy	1%	
Arts – Religious Studies	1%	
Business	1%	
Fine Arts	1%	

Human Kinetics and Recreation	1%	5%
Music	1%	
Pharmacy	1%	5%
Science	1%	
Science – Computer Science	1%	
Don't know/Not applicable	55%	36%
<i>Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.</i>		

Question 13: If there were more full degree programs offered through distance education, would this be of benefit to you?

	N	%
No	57	37%
Don't know	57	37%
Yes	39	26%
Total	153	

Question 14: Please indicate your gender:

	N	%
Female	93	56%
Male	72	44%
Total	165	

Question 15: What grade are you in now?

	N	%
10	3	2%
11	2	1%
12	159	96%
13	1	1%
Total	165	

Question 16: What is your age?

	N	%
15	1	1%
16	8	5%
17	141	86%
18	13	8%
19	2	1%
Total	165	

Question 17: What do you expect your overall average to be at the end of this year?		
	N	%
90-100%	12	7%
80-89%	71	44%
70-79%	57	35%
60-69%	19	12%
50-59%	3	2%
Less than 50%	0	-
Total	162	

Question 18: What was your overall average in June 2012 (last year)?		
	N	%
90-100%	15	9%
80-89%	56	35%
70-79%	54	34%
60-69%	27	17%
50-59%	7	4%
Less than 50%	0	-
Total	159	

Question 19: What is the name of your school?		
	N	%
Mealy Mountain Collegiate	60	37%
Menihek High School	29	18%
Labrador Straights Academy	14	9%
Eric G. Lambert School	13	8%
Henry Gordon Academy	9	6%
St. Mary's All Grade	9	6%
Northern Lights Academy	8	5%
Bayside Academy	6	4%
Amos Comenius Memorial School	5	3%
William Gillett Academy	5	3%
Other	6	4%
Total	164	

Question 20: What is the name of your home town?

	N	%
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	56	34%
Labrador City	26	16%
Churchill Falls	13	8%
Cartwright	9	5%
Mary's Harbour	9	5%
Rigolet	8	5%
Forteau	6	4%
Port Hope Simpson	6	4%
Hopedale	5	3%
L'Anse au Loup	5	3%
Sheshatshiu	5	3%
Charlottetown	4	2%
Other	12	10%
Total	164	

Anything else you would like to add? (n = 6)

Students were invited to provide additional comments if they wished and only a very small number did. There were two people each who said they were not interested in pursuing education in Labrador, that there should be more course offerings in Labrador, or that they already had plans to attend university next year.

Comprehensive Arts and Science Transfer: College-University Student Survey Results

Question 1: Memorial University offers courses and programs through different locations in the province. How much do you know about the following locations, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = 'nothing at all' and 5 = 'a great deal'.

	N	1	2	3	4	5
St. John's Campus	19	-	11%	21%	42%	26%
Grenfell Campus (Corner Brook)	19	5%	26%	53%	5%	11%
Marine Institute (St. John's)	19	32%	53%	11%	5%	-
Labrador Institute (Happy Valley-Goose Bay)	19	11%	11%	11%	47%	21%
Labrador Institute (Labrador City)	20	10%	25%	30%	10%	25%
Off-campus/Distance Education (online)	19	42%	21%	21%	11%	5%

Question 2: What were your two main reasons for choosing the Comprehensive Arts and Science (CAS) program for your first year of post-secondary study? (n = 20)

	N	%
Location	19	95%
Financial/affordability	13	65%
To obtain the prerequisites necessary to be accepted into a program at another university	2	10%
Campus size	1	5%
Courses offered	1	5%
Friends/family attended	1	5%
To take courses while I was on the waiting list to get another post-secondary institution	1	5%
Other	1	5%

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 3: Do you plan to attend Memorial University in the Fall 2013 semester?

	N	%
Yes	11	55%
No	6	30%
Don't know	3	15%
Total	20	

If No, please tell us the reason(s) why you are not considering Memorial University for the Fall 2013 semester: (n = 6)

	N	%
I am interested in another university	4	67%
I am not sure if Memorial is the right university for me	3	50%
Other	3	50%
Memorial does not offer a program that interests me	0	-
Location	0	-
I do not think I will have the required grades to be accepted to Memorial	0	-
I am interested in a college	0	-
I do not think Memorial will meet my education needs	0	-
I do not know enough about Memorial	0	-
Financial reasons	0	-

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 4: Which location of Memorial University do you plan to attend?

	N	%
St. John's Campus	12	92%
Grenfell Campus (Corner Brook)	1	8%
Marine Institute (St. John's)	0	-
Off-campus/Distance Education	0	-
Don't know	0	-
Total	13	

Question 5: Is the location you choose in Question 4 your preferred choice?

	N	%
Yes	11	84%
No*	1	8%
Don't know	1	8%
Total	13	

**The student who said 'No' to Question 5 would prefer to attend the Labrador Institute in Happy Valley-Goose Bay because they have a home there and their partner is employed there.*

Question 6: If a full year of second-year courses were offered at the Labrador Institute, would this be of interest to you?

	N	%
Yes	12	60%
No	6	30%
Don't know	2	10%
Total	20	

Question 7: What subjects/programs are you most interested in studying? (n = 20)

	N	%
Arts	12	60%
Science	9	45%
Business	5	25%
Education	5	25%
Human Kinetics	5	25%
Pharmacy	4	20%
Other	4	20%
Nursing	2	10%
Music	1	5%
Social Work	1	5%
Engineering	0	-
Don't know	0	-

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 8: What type of university courses would interest you?

	N	%
On-campus during the day	19	95%
No preference	1	5%
On-campus during the evening	0	-
Online courses	0	-
Don't know	0	-
Total	20	

Question 9: There are two programs of study (Social Cultural Studies and Environmental Studies) being considered to offer second-year courses at the Labrador Institute, with a transfer to the Grenfell campus after the second year. Please indicate which program(s) would interest you. (n = 20)

	N	%
Social Cultural Studies	12	60%
Neither	6	30%
Environmental Studies	3	15%
Don't know	0	-

Note: Since students could offer more than one response, percentages refer to the proportion of respondents who chose each response and therefore total more than 100%.

Question 10: Are there any other programs in which you would be interested in taking second year courses if offered in Labrador? (n = 6)

Of the six respondents, three are interested in studying subjects in Science while the other three would like to study Business, Dietetics or Nursing.

Question 11: If there were more full degree programs offered through distance education, would this be of benefit to you?

	N	%
Yes	7	35%
No	8	40%
Don't know	5	25%
Total	20	

Question 12: Please indicate your gender:

	N	%
Female	17	85%
Male	3	15%
Total	20	

Question 13: What is your age?

	N	%
18	11	55%
19	7	35%
≥ 20	2	10%
Total	20	

Question 14: What do you expect your overall average to be at the end of this academic term?

	N	%
90 – 100%	2	10%
80 – 89%	0	-
70 – 79%	15	75%
60 – 69%	3	15%
50 – 59%	0	-
Less than 50%	0	-
Total	20	

Question 15: What was your overall high school average?

	N	%
90 – 100%	2	10%
80 – 89%	10	50%
70 – 79%	8	40%
60 – 69%	0	-
50 – 59%	0	-
Less than 50%	0	-
Total	20	

Question 16: What is the name of your home town?

	N	%
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	11	55%
Labrador City	5	25%
Other	4	20%
Total	20	

Is there anything else you would like to add? (n = 5)

Of the five respondents, two suggest more course selection at the Labrador Institute, another two do not want to stay in Labrador for a second year and one would like to stay in Labrador for a longer period of time.