

Annual Report for 2022-23

Ministry of Advanced Education

Letters of Transmittal



*The Honourable
Gordon S. Wyant, K.C.
Minister of Advanced Education*

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Advanced Education for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. This report details the ministry's support for the post-secondary education sector, and its collaboration with government partners to ensure that all students receive high-quality, accessible education.

Significant work continued around understanding the impact of government's multi-year funding investment to support stability and predictability in post-secondary institutional budget planning. The ministry continued to support students with grants and loans to access post-secondary education and contribute to Saskatchewan's labour market.

Advanced Education worked closely with health sector partners to expand opportunities for Saskatchewan students in health programs in support of the Health Human Resources Action Plan. The actions taken allow the ministry to continue to help address the need for health care providers and support the goals of the [Saskatchewan Growth Plan](#).

We are proud to promote the wide range of high-quality training opportunities available to Saskatchewan residents at our exceptional post-secondary institutions and encourage graduates to stay and build rewarding careers in our great province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, K.C.
Minister of Advanced Education



Denise Macza
Deputy Minister of
Advanced Education

The Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, K.C.
Minister of Advanced Education

Dear Minister:

I am honoured to submit the Ministry of Advanced Education's annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

The ministry is committed to a post-secondary education system that is accessible, responsive, sustainable, accountable and provides high-quality education. We are focused on meeting the needs of all students. This involves supporting both individual development and achievement, and the broader needs of Saskatchewan's labour force and growing economy.

The Annual Report includes an accurate and complete accounting of ministry revenues and expenses.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Denise Macza', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Denise Macza
Deputy Minister of Advanced Education

Ministry Overview

This annual report for the Ministry of Advanced Education presents results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. It provides results of publicly committed strategies, key actions and performance measures identified in the [Ministry of Advanced Education Business Plan for 2022-23](#). It also reflects progress toward commitments from government for 2022-23, the [Saskatchewan Growth Plan](#) and speeches from the throne.

The annual report demonstrates the ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public.

Mandate Statement

The ministry is responsible for the post-secondary education sector that supports a growing Saskatchewan and that leads to a higher quality of life. The ministry places a high priority on meeting the needs of students by ensuring that our post-secondary sector is accessible, responsive, sustainable, accountable and provides quality education. Working with our post-secondary institutions, the ministry is focused on providing opportunities for all students, especially First Nations and Métis peoples, to prepare them to live, work and learn in Saskatchewan.

Mission Statement

The ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high-quality advanced education and training system that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan's people and economy.

About Us

The Ministry of Advanced Education's employees work mainly from the ministry's Regina office. The total full-time equivalent staff count for the ministry in 2022-23 was 113.3.

To achieve its mission and strategic priorities, the ministry is divided into the Deputy Minister's Office and two divisions:

1. The Corporate and Student Services Division provides internal, sector and student support and services. The division includes the following branches: Business Systems and Information Management, Corporate Finance, and Student and Support Services. The ministry's Senior Indigenous Advisor is also included in this division.
2. The Strategy and Sector Relations Division oversees sector-wide planning, deployment of new initiatives, and day-to-day relations with post-secondary institutions. It ensures alignment between the post-secondary education sector and government priorities that include key labour market needs. The division includes the following branches: Sector Management and Relations, International Education and Jurisdictional Initiatives, and Strategy, Planning and Sector Engagement.

The Strategic Communications Branch reports directly to the Deputy Minister and handles all the ministry's internal and external communication functions.

Post-Secondary Education in Saskatchewan

The Government of Saskatchewan provides a variety of financial supports to students and graduates, as well as leadership and funding to post-secondary institutions to ensure they are responsive to labour market needs, accountable and effectively governed.

Post-secondary programs and services are delivered through partnerships with a diverse group of [institutions and organizations](#). The ministry ensures strategic alignment and effective two-way information sharing between the ministry and:

- The University of Saskatchewan (USask);
- The University of Regina (U of R);
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Sask Polytech);
- Federated and affiliated colleges;
 - o Briercrest College and Seminary;
 - o Champion College;
 - o College of Emmanuel and St. Chad;
 - o Horizon College and Seminary;
 - o Luther College;
 - o Lutheran Theological Seminary;
 - o St. Andrew's College;
 - o St. Peter's College;
 - o St. Thomas More College; and
 - o The First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv);
- Regional colleges;
 - o Carlton Trail College;
 - o Northlands College;
 - o Great Plains College;
 - o Lakeland College;
 - o Cumberland College;
 - o Parkland College;
 - o North West College; and
 - o Southeast College;
- Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT); and
- Gabriel Dumont Institute [(GDI), including Dumont Technical Institute (DTI)].

The ministry registers and monitors private vocational schools to ensure compliance with legislation to protect student interests. In addition, the ministry provides secretariat support to the [Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board \(SHEQAB\)](#), which oversees a quality assurance process to ensure degree programs meet quality standards.

The ministry also negotiates and maintains agreements with other provinces to support Saskatchewan students in specialized post-secondary education programs that are not delivered in the province. The ministry builds collaborative partnerships to support the effective delivery of programs and services for students and graduates in Saskatchewan, and is committed to continuous sector improvement through research, analysis, evaluation and policy development.

Legislation and regulations under the responsibility of the Minister of Advanced Education can be found in the appendix.

Progress on Goal 1: Students Succeed in Post-Secondary Education

The ministry is focused on supporting and developing programs and services to help students succeed in post-secondary education. This goal aligns with government direction from the [Saskatchewan Growth Plan 2020-2030](#) that aims to improve student outcomes by building the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to succeed in the labour market.

Three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – accessible, responsive and accountable – are aligned with this goal. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector:

- Offers qualified people the opportunity to attend and succeed – **Accessible**.
- Meets the needs of students, communities and the economy – **Responsive**.
- Achieves expected outcomes and is transparent – **Accountable**.



Strategy

Provide supports to promote student success.

Key Actions

- Invested in supports to ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable to students.
 - Funded a range of financial supports including student loans, grants, and scholarships.
 - In 2022-23, a total of 20,287 repayable [loans](#) were issued to Saskatchewan students with a value of \$82.9 million.
 - A total of 19,176 students were provided with \$17.2 million in non-repayable grants.
 - The [Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship](#) supported eligible Saskatchewan post-secondary students with the greatest financial need. The scholarship was awarded to 12,496 students for a total of \$8.7 million.
 - The [Scholarship of Honour](#) supports members of the Canadian Forces in designated military operations. The scholarship is also available to family members (spouse and children) of fallen or disabled members. This year, the scholarship was awarded to 9 recipients totalling \$45,000.
 - Approximately 10,073 [Graduate Retention Program](#) certificates worth a maximum tax credit of \$104.3 million were issued. The program has benefited 81,864 graduates since inception.

- A total of \$3 million was allocated to the [Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship](#) program. Since the start of the program in 2011-12, over \$40 million in provincial funding has been used to award 41,270 scholarships.
- Supports provided to students through the [Queen Elizabeth II Scholarships](#) and [French-language Scholarships](#) totalled \$181,850.
- A total of \$380,902 was paid to 149 nurses and nurse practitioners as part of the [Saskatchewan Student Loan Forgiveness for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners Program](#).
- In 2022-23, a total of \$39,000 was provided to USask, U of R and Sask Polytech to fund Open Education Resources (OER) Pressbooks platforms. These platforms are being utilized by faculty and students to access resources. To date, 78 OER projects have been completed or are in progress.
- Continued to support the work of the Healthy Campus Saskatchewan community of practice and its network of post-secondary partners as they advance student mental health and wellbeing.
 - Healthy Campus Saskatchewan continued its work on supporting 22 post-secondary institutions in implementing the National Standard for Mental Health and Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students, ensuring broad access to mental health training supports, and supporting the community of practice with resources and webinars.
 - Healthy Campus Saskatchewan also supported 20 post-secondary institutions to participate in the 2023 Canadian Campus Wellbeing Survey, an increase from 17 who participated in 2021.
- Supported students' access to seamless learner pathways and transitions.
 - Worked with the [Saskatchewan Transfer Credit and Learner Pathways Council](#), a partnership between government and post-secondary institutions, to encourage increased accessibility, mobility and academic success for students.
 - The number of Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions utilizing the Alberta Learner Pathway System increased to four (U of R, Sask Polytech, SIIT and Lakeland College). This interprovincial partnership, which provides access to the Learner Pathway System, creates more opportunities for member institutions to develop credit transfer agreements to support students who want or require academic mobility options between Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions, the two provinces and beyond.
 - Created smoother transitions for [international students](#) to work and live in Saskatchewan.
 - Worked with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training to explore specific pathways for international students to work and live in Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Foster an inclusive post-secondary sector where a diversity of students (including youth, lifelong learners, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, international students and persons with disabilities) can enroll and succeed.

Key Actions

- Increased the enrolment and educational attainment of Indigenous students.
 - Provided targeted funding for SIIT's Student Support Services Model and to Sask Polytech's Indigenous Student Success Strategy.
 - The ministry provided targeted funding of \$360,000 to SIIT to deliver the Student Support Services Model to assist students from recruitment to employment. The provincial government has provided this annual funding since 2014-15.

- Targeted funding of \$581,000 was provided to Sask Polytech to support its *Miyo Wahkohtowin: Indigenous Student Success Strategy* aimed at addressing barriers to student completion. The provincial government has supported this initiative since 2011-12.
- o Provided targeted funding for GDI's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program.
 - This year, the ministry provided approximately \$3.7 million for the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program.
- o The ministry committed to provide targeted funding for FNUiv's Dene Teacher Education Program (DTEP) from 2022 to 2026, in partnership with the U of R, Clearwater River Dene Nation and Northern Lights School Division.
 - This year, the ministry provided \$61,000 to deliver the second cohort of DTEP. This supported 22 students who were enrolled in the program.
 - Funding of \$255,000, which represents 50 per cent of the total program cost, will be provided over the course of the four-year program.
- o Led planning and delivery of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) 2022 Symposium on Indigenizing Education.
 - The symposium brought together government officials, educators, Elders, students and administrators from across Canada to speak on the topics of Indigenizing and decolonizing education. This event was hosted at FNUiv.
- Supported the enrolment and educational attainment of [students with disabilities](#).
 - o Administered the [Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Disabilities](#) program (formerly known as the Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities program).
 - The ministry continued to administer the Saskatchewan Grant for Services and Equipment to support students with disabilities to purchase specialized education-related services and assistive equipment.
 - This year, Saskatchewan and Canada expanded access to disability supports by broadening eligibility for support beyond only those students with persistent or prolonged disabilities. As a result, the number of students accessing this grant increased by 114 or 13 per cent.
- Increased the enrolment and diversification of [international students](#) in Saskatchewan.
 - o Built intercultural expertise and capacity.
 - Under the ministry's [International Education Practitioners Program](#), international education training is provided to Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector to ensure a consistent level of understanding and knowledge of international engagement.
 - As of January 2023, 25 practitioners have completed Level 1, 22 practitioners have completed Level 2 and 11 practitioners have completed Level 3 of the International Education Practitioners Program.
 - The [Saskatchewan Student Ambassador Program](#) supported both inbound and outbound students to become global citizens, equipped them to promote Saskatchewan as a destination for business and study and supported their future careers and personal lives.
 - As of March 2023, 227 inbound/outbound ambassadors from 17 countries have been trained.
 - The [Saskatchewan Agent Training Program](#) provided training to international recruitment agents who work with the post-secondary education sector to ensure prospective students

received high-quality service and are supported with consistent Saskatchewan-based instruction and resources.

- As of January 2023, 112 agents from 25 countries have been trained through this program.
- o Established a coordinated marketing strategy to increase awareness of Saskatchewan as a high-quality destination of choice.
 - As the province looked to strengthen its presence worldwide, the ministry led a post-secondary delegation to Mexico which strengthened partnerships with key institution and government partners.
 - The province participated in virtual and in-person student recruitment fairs and international education events to promote [Study in Saskatchewan](#). Through these events, the ministry provided a provincial perspective to the post-secondary education landscape at an international level.
 - The province provided funding to the U of R to host the only “Discovery Camp” in Canada in 2022. Over 50 international students from the Asia Pacific region participated in the virtual and in-person programs. The Discovery Camp promoted Saskatchewan and increased partnerships with post-secondary institutions around the world.
- Expanded opportunities for Saskatchewan students and educators to participate in study and work abroad experiences.
 - o The ministry coordinated a provincial delegation to attend a technology conference organized by the state of Yucatan in Mexico. The ministry also provided funding that facilitated the attendance of two students, two researchers and four institution staff members.

Strategy

Provide programs, services and technology that evolve in response to client needs.

Key Actions

- Worked with the regional colleges, GDI and DTI to better serve the needs of students through an enterprise resource planning and student information technology solution.
 - o In 2022-23, components of the project that were developed included finance, human resource and payroll modules.
- Modernized the service delivery of student financial aid through the 21st Century Learner Initiative, which will improve services for post-secondary learners and drive successful outcomes.
 - o As part of the 21st Century Learner Initiative, the ministry worked on the redesign of its financial service delivery model to better support post-secondary students. Upon completion in 2024, the 21st Century Learner Support System will provide services to post-secondary students in a more convenient, simple and flexible way from any device, anywhere, anytime.
- Obtained client input and feedback to inform continuous improvement of the 21st Century Learner Initiative.
 - o The ministry tested the new 21st Century Learner Support System using a diverse group of students who were enrolled at post-secondary institutions across Saskatchewan.
 - Most respondents found the new online application process to be an improvement when compared to the old process. The feedback received will be used to continuously improve the new online application process.

Performance Measure Results:

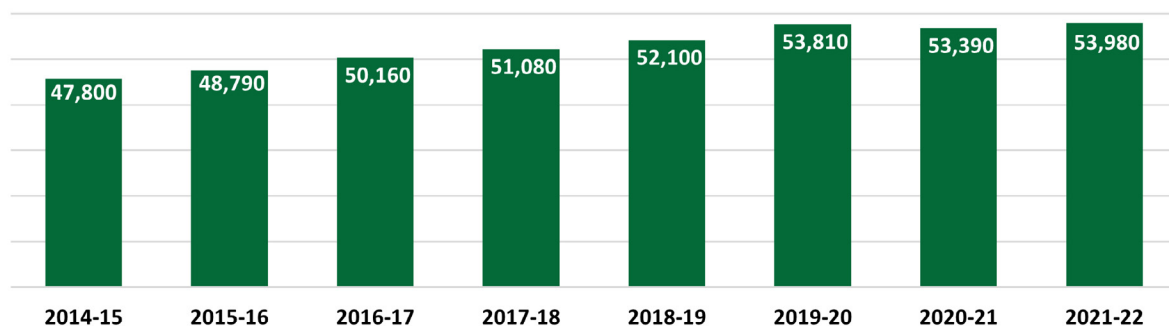
Annual Number of Students in Credentialed Programs

Enrolment indicators demonstrate sector capacity and uptake. This annual student head count data is used to monitor trends and inform planning for the sector.

Total Student Enrolment in Credentialed Programs

- After recording a decrease in 2020-21, the number of students that were enrolled in credentialed programs across Saskatchewan institutions recovered in 2021-22 and exceeded pre-pandemic levels. Between 2014-15 and 2021-22 total enrolments increased by 13 per cent.

Saskatchewan Annual Student Enrolment in Credentialed Programs



Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#)

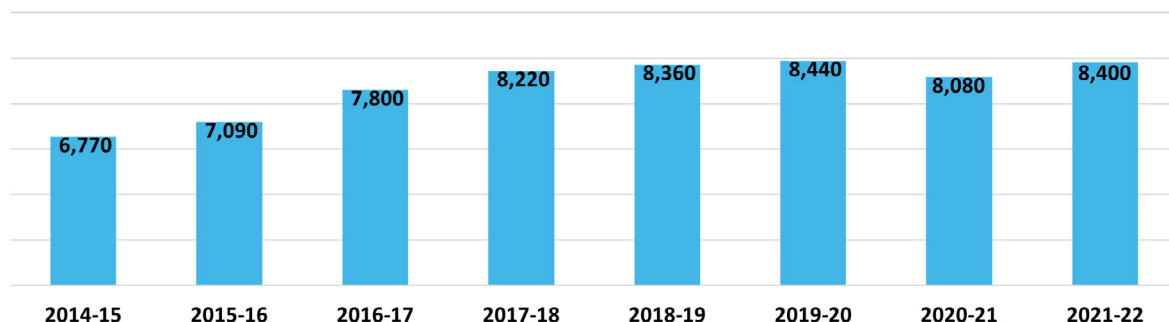
Note: Data from the [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#) is limited to students enrolled in credentialed programming (i.e. degree, diploma, or certificate programs) through Sask Polytech, U of R, USask and SIIT. While the majority of these students take their classes at the main campuses of these institutions, this data also includes students taking university, Sask Polytech, or SIIT programming offered at Saskatchewan's federated and regional colleges, DTI, colleges in Canada's northern territories, and across the country and abroad through online platforms. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Annual Indigenous Student Enrolment

The target is to increase enrolment by 50 per cent by 2024-25 (baseline year is 2014-15).

- The number of Indigenous students that were enrolled in credentialed programs at post-secondary institutions has increased by 24 per cent since 2014-15. Enrolments dropped in 2020-21 but recovered in 2021-22 and have nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Annual Indigenous Student Enrolment in Credentialed Programs



Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#)

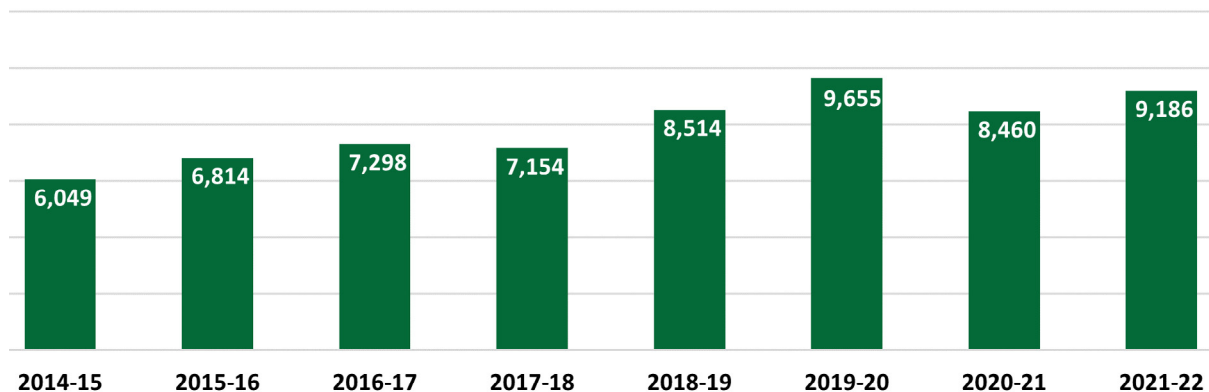
Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Annual International Student Enrolment

For International students, the target is to increase the source countries from which international students are recruited.

- The number of international students studying in Saskatchewan has increased by 52 per cent since 2014-15. Similar to overall and Indigenous student enrolments, international student numbers declined in 2020-21 and they too have rebounded, though not yet to pre-COVID levels.

Annual International Student Enrolment



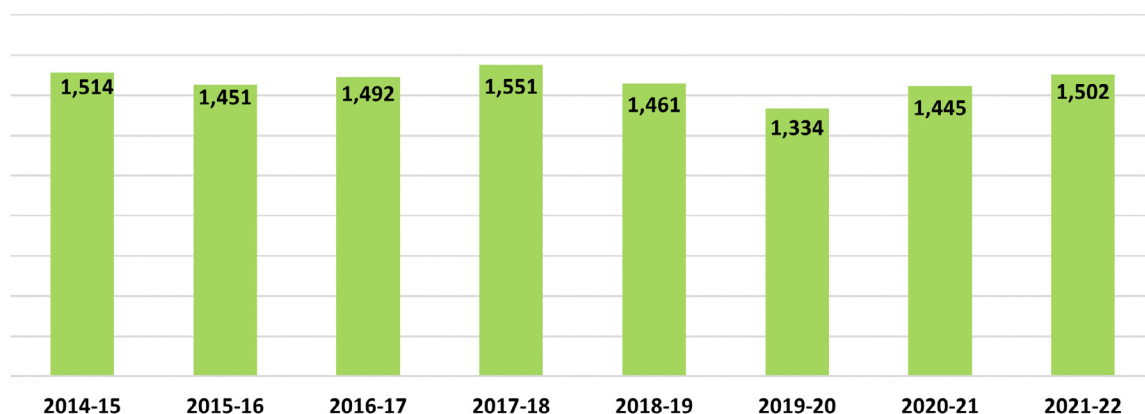
Source: Advanced Education administrative data

Private Vocational School Enrolment

Private vocational schools, also known as career colleges, offer vocational courses and programs in Saskatchewan to prepare students for employment in a specific occupation such as business, health services, fashion, esthetics, hairstyling, and more. These schools are privately owned and operated but must be registered with the Ministry of Advanced Education and have approval for the programs they offer.

- The number of students enrolled at Saskatchewan's private vocational schools has been virtually unchanged compared to 2014-15. Enrolments increased by four per cent between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Private Vocational School Enrolment (Category 1 Schools)



Source: Advanced Education administrative data

Note: Category 1 schools offer vocational training to paying students

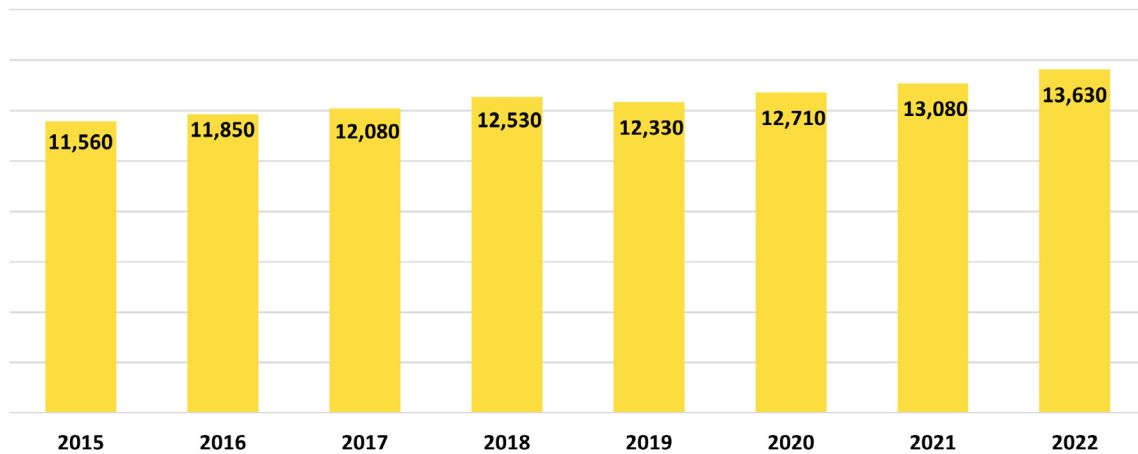
Number of Credentials Awarded

The number of credentials awarded demonstrates student outcomes. This data is used to monitor trends, inform planning and support sector responsiveness.

Number of Credentials Awarded

- The number of credentials (degrees, diplomas or certificates) awarded in Saskatchewan has increased by 18 per cent since 2015.

Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded in Saskatchewan

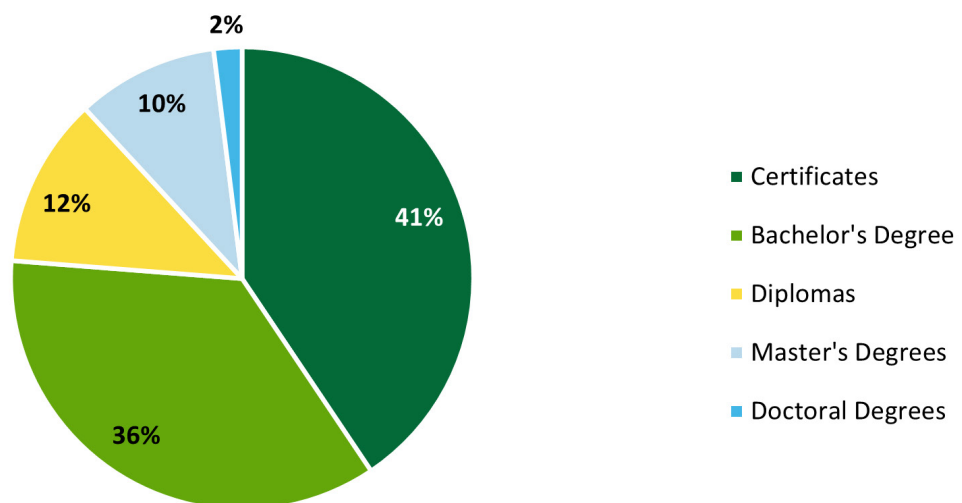


Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#)

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

- The largest proportion of credentials awarded is Certificates, followed closely by Bachelor's Degrees.

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded in 2022



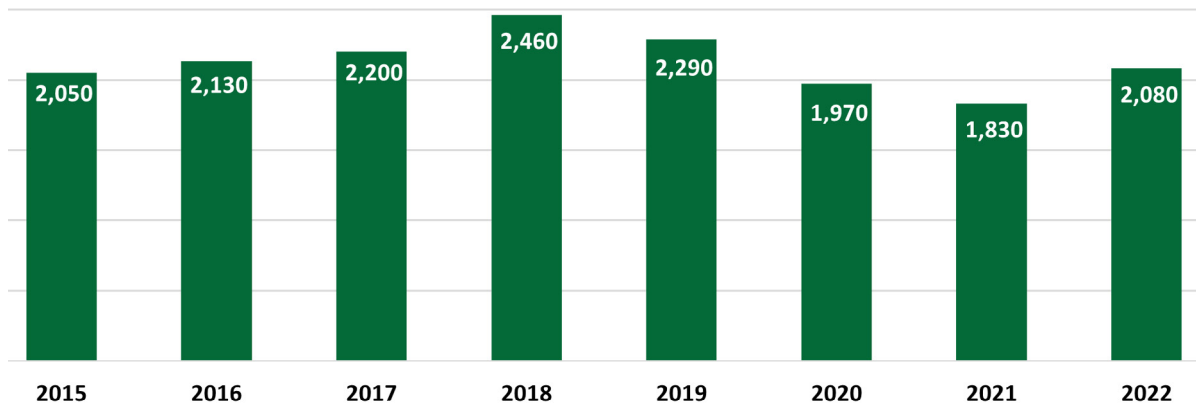
Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#)

Credentials Awarded to Indigenous Graduates

By 2025, the target is for a 25 per cent increase in the number of Indigenous students receiving credentials (baseline year is 2015).

- The number of credentials awarded to Indigenous graduates has increased by just one per cent in 2022 compared to 2015 but increased by 14 per cent between 2021 and 2022.

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded to Indigenous Graduates



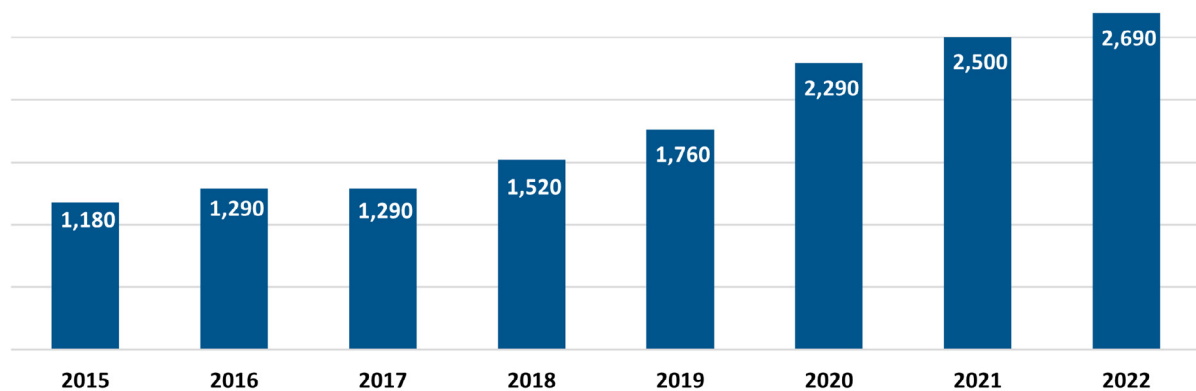
Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#)

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Credentials Awarded to International Students

The number of credentials awarded to international graduates more than doubled since 2015 and increased by eight per cent between 2021 and 2022.

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded to International Graduates



Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#)

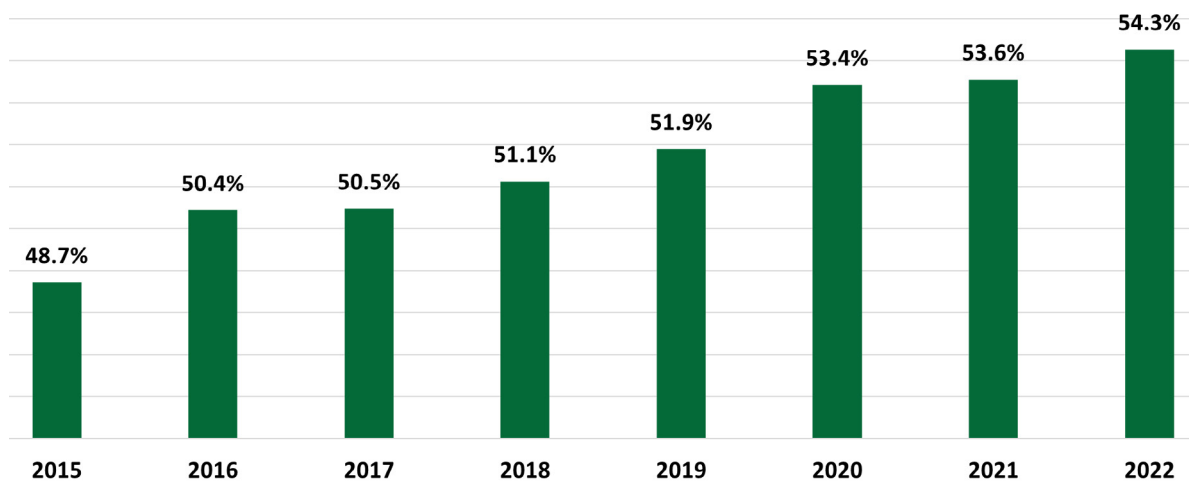
Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of Population Aged 15 Years and Over

This measure changes slowly over time. The 2022-23 target was a one percentage point annual increase in the number of Saskatchewan residents, 15 years and over, who have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or university degree. The long-term target is to match the national percentage of population with post-secondary education.

- Overall, post-secondary attainment of the Saskatchewan population over 15 years of age has increased from 48.7 per cent in 2015 to 54.3 per cent in 2022.
- Over half (54.3 per cent) of Saskatchewan's population aged 15 and over has completed a post-secondary program compared to 61 per cent nationally. Although the annual target noted above was not met, there was an increase of 0.7 percentage points overall.

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Attainment Rates, 15 years and Older, 2015-2022



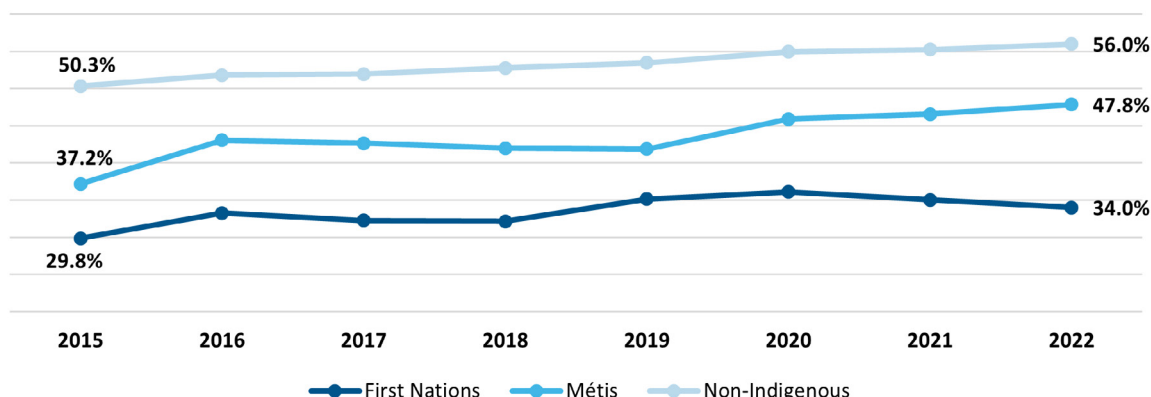
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Educational Attainment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Populations Aged 15 Years and Over by Credential

Educational attainment measures change slowly over time. The long-term target is to match the attainment rate of the Indigenous population with the attainment rate of the overall Saskatchewan population.

- The post-secondary attainment of First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan has increased over the past eight years. The proportion of First Nations people with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree rose from 29.8 per cent in 2015 to 34 per cent in 2022. Post-secondary attainment for Métis people rose from 37.2 per cent in 2015 to 47.8 per cent in 2022.
- The non-Indigenous population continued to have a higher rate of post-secondary educational attainment than First Nations and Métis populations.

Rate of Educational Attainment of First Nations, Métis and Non-Indigenous Populations, 15 Years and Over, 2015-2022



Source: Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey custom tabulation, estimates by Indigenous identity, educational attainment, age group, sex, Canada, province, annual average.

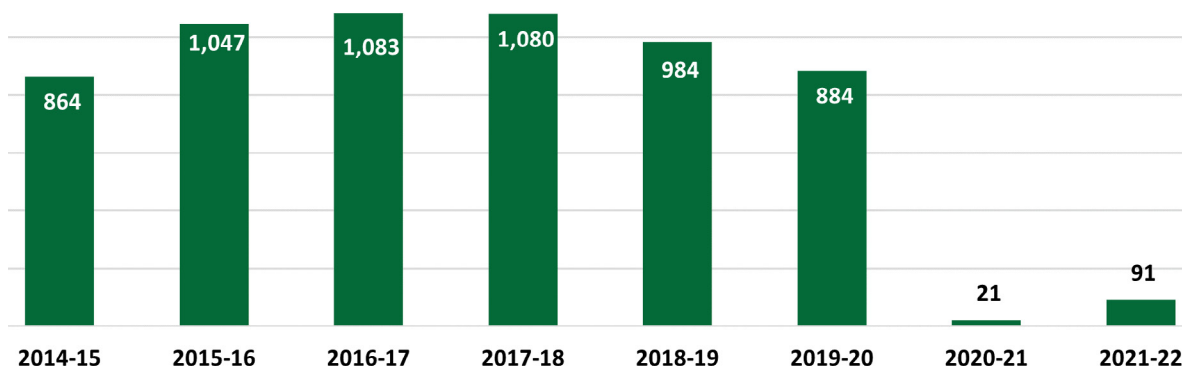
Note: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey includes information for off-reserve First Nations people only. The survey measures Indigenous populations based on self-identification with at least one Indigenous group (First Nations, Métis or Inuit). The non-Indigenous population reported above includes individuals that did not identify with an Indigenous group. The educational attainment of the non-Indigenous population is based on a larger sample size; and therefore, has a higher degree of statistical reliability than that for First Nations and Métis populations.

Number of Saskatchewan Students Studying Abroad

This measures the number of Saskatchewan post-secondary education students studying abroad during the academic year. The target was to increase the number of students participating in the study abroad program annually.

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic which restricted travel abroad, the number of Saskatchewan students who participated in the study abroad program decreased significantly in 2020-21. The small number of students who participated in 2020-21 were limited to taking virtual study abroad programs offered by some Saskatchewan institutions.
- Travel restrictions remained in place in 2021-22 which continued to limit study abroad opportunities. The number of students participating in study abroad programs (including both virtual and in-person) increased in 2021-22, but remains far below pre-pandemic levels.

Saskatchewan Students Studying Abroad



Source: Advanced Education administrative data

Progress on Goal 2: Meet the Post-secondary Education Needs of the Province

The ministry is focused on providing learning opportunities and environments that meet the needs of students and the province's labour force. This goal supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030](#), through the development of an agile and integrated education and training system that is responsive to economic opportunities for businesses and prepares people for careers in Saskatchewan

In addition, there is alignment with three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – responsive, high quality and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector:

- Meets the needs of students, communities and the economy – **Responsive**.
- Meets required standards and maintains public confidence in the programs and services provided – **High Quality**.
- Achieves expected outcomes and is transparent – **Accountable**.



Strategy

Support post-secondary institutions to provide education, training and research to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's economy and communities.

Key Actions:

- Encouraged post-secondary institutions to engage in education and research that generates innovative ideas and technologies to support Saskatchewan's future economic development.
 - The ministry continued to work in collaboration with Innovation Saskatchewan to engage and support post-secondary institutions in their research and development functions.
- Supported training programs that align with the economy and labour market trends.
 - The ministry worked with sector and industry partners to address the shortage of veterinary professionals in Western Canada.
 - This year, \$11.9 million was invested in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for 20 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine seats for Saskatchewan students.
 - The ministry also provided \$145,000 in operating funding to Saskatchewan Polytechnic for a second cohort of students in the new distance-delivery veterinary technology program.

- The [Saskatchewan Loan Forgiveness for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technologists Program](#) was launched in January 2022 to support retention of graduates in Saskatchewan following their studies. Since inception, a total of \$12,000 was paid to five recipients.
- o Worked with sector partners to advance the recognition and utility of [micro-credentials](#) across the post-secondary education sector in support of lifelong learning and the labour market.
 - Micro-credentials were offered to students through the U of R Continuing Education Centre, DTI (in partnership with Sask Polytech), Southeast College, North West College, FNUUniv and Sask Polytech's Surge program.
 - The Ministry also chaired a CMEC Micro-credentials Working Group, which meets regularly to share and discuss Canadian and international developments in micro-credentials. In 2022, the Working Group's mandate was extended to March 2024.
- o Provided financial support for Mitacs research internships, which equip Saskatchewan undergraduate students and postdoctoral fellows with work experience in Saskatchewan businesses.
 - The ministry provided approximately \$1.2 million to Mitacs, a national non-profit and development organization dedicated to driving innovation in Canada. This funding supported additional internships in existing Mitacs programming and the development of new programs for the province.
 - Mitacs Accelerate and Globalink are existing programs which leverage provincial, federal and industry funds to connect Saskatchewan and international interns who have research and technological expertise with Saskatchewan companies and post-secondary institutions. Funding this year enabled 235 students to participate in these internships.
 - New programs introduced this year included:
 - o The Indigenous Pathways Initiative – Mitacs collaborated with Indigenous businesses and organizations by matching them with interns and resources to achieve their innovation goals. Funding for this initiative enabled 15 Indigenous students to participate.
 - o Mitacs Elevate – paired postdoctoral researchers with industry partners. Funding for this initiative supported 10 internships.
 - o Business Strategy Internships – matched 25 interns to innovative projects designed to help an organization thrive.
 - o Globalink Graduate Fellowships – five former Globalink Research Interns returned to Canada for full master's, PhD programs or postdoctoral fellowships.
- o Facilitated partnerships between employers, the post-secondary education sector, and community organizations to support and promote work-integrated learning opportunities for students.
 - Post-secondary institutions continued to offer a wide range of work-integrated and experiential learning opportunities, including cooperative education programs, cultural events, practicums, internships, field experiences, clinical learning, community service learning, volunteer service, work placements, job shadowing, cultural camps and other experiential learning components.
 - The ministry consulted with the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority and post-secondary partners to ensure sufficient clinical placement opportunities were provided to learners within health training programs, including meeting the clinical needs of health-related seat expansions.

- o Supported health human resource planning through the expansion of registered nursing, psychiatric nursing and nurse practitioner training, to ensure the post-secondary education sector is meeting the training needs of the provincial health care sector.
 - The government invested approximately \$6.4 million in operating and capital funding to help support a 150-seat expansion in registered nursing, nurse practitioner and registered psychiatric nursing programs in the province. As of January 2023, 138 of the 150 expanded seats were filled.
 - In addition to the nursing expansion, in January 2023, government invested approximately \$5.5 million in capital funding to support a 550-seat expansion in 18 high-demand health training programs.
 - The ministry supported [international recruitment efforts in the Philippines](#) by working with Sask Polytechnic to expand its Registered Nursing Bridging Program for Internationally Educated Nurses. The first cohort of nurses began the bridging program in November 2022.
 - The ministry continued to work with the Ministries of Health, SaskBuilds and Procurement, Immigration and Career Training, post-secondary education sector partners and the Saskatchewan Health Authority to identify future actions to support the training pillar of the province's [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#).
- Improved connections between post-secondary international education and the economy.
 - o Enhanced inter-ministry relationships and global engagement opportunities.
 - The province coordinated three international missions in Mexico, Germany and the Philippines involving the post-secondary education sector to leverage institutions' engagement with targeted markets for students.
 - o Developed new pathways for relationship development.
 - The province signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in May 2022, with USask, U of R, Sask Polytech, and the regional colleges, to join the [SaskAlliance on International Education](#). The aim of the SaskAlliance is to promote cooperation between the institutions and the ministry to further Saskatchewan's goals in this sector.
 - Worked with the Ministries of Immigration and Career Training, and Trade and Export Development to create pathways for increased engagements with post-secondary institutions.
 - o Established international partnerships that focus on specific areas of research.
 - Worked with the Ministry of Trade and Export Development to facilitate connections between post-secondary partners and institutions in India and Saskatchewan. These connections helped to promote international partnerships in research areas that were of strategic importance to Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Strengthen program quality and responsiveness to Saskatchewan's economic and social needs.

Key Actions

- Examined ministry legislation, regulations and policies to ensure alignment with program and sector needs.

- o To ensure a consistent level of oversight and accountability across Saskatchewan's diverse post-secondary education sector, [The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021](#), which was introduced during the fall 2021 legislative session, came into force in June 2022.
- Ensured all new degree programs met Saskatchewan's labour market and quality standards according to [The Degree Authorization Act](#).
 - o The Minister received and reviewed one request for a new degree program. The review process was supported by the [Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board](#) to ensure quality assurance standards.
- Ensured private vocational schools delivered quality programs that met the needs of students and Saskatchewan's labour market.
 - o Private vocational schools in Saskatchewan are regulated by the ministry to protect the interests of students. The Private Vocational School Regulations, 2022 were modernized and updated in May 2022 to better support the success of students, school operators and industry.
 - o The ministry undertook the development of a new online system, Private Vocational School Registry, to create efficiencies, improve regulation, and provide support to private vocational schools. This new system will reduce red tape, enhance governance and enable online data submissions from the schools to the ministry.
- Monitored post-secondary institutions' compliance with all legislative, regulatory and policy requirements.
 - o The [Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board](#) monitored all 13 provincially authorized degree programs to ensure quality standards continue to be met and that the terms and conditions of authorization are maintained.

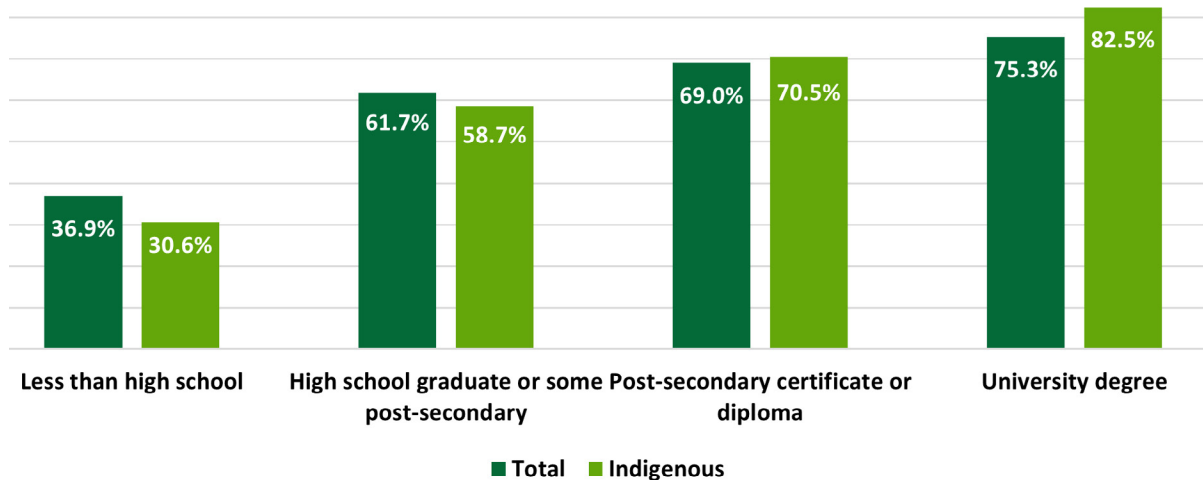
Performance Measure Results:

Employment Rate by Credential

This measure changes slowly over time and is reflective of the economy and labour market. It measures the Saskatchewan employment rate by educational attainment (highest level of education earned). The 2022-23 target was for Saskatchewan's employment rate to remain higher than the national average.

- Higher rates of employment are associated with higher levels of educational attainment.
- The annual target was met. Saskatchewan's overall 2022 employment rate was 63.5 per cent, while the national average was 61.5 per cent.
- The chart below demonstrates the critical impact education has on employment outcomes. As the educational attainment rate of individuals increases, so does their employment rate.
- Research indicates people with higher levels of education are more likely to have higher wages, higher rates of employment, shorter periods of unemployment and better health. Education is a key component of productivity growth which results in a higher standard of living and supports the government's goal of growth and opportunity.
- At lower levels of education there is an employment rate gap between the Indigenous population and the overall population of Saskatchewan, but this gap is entirely closed with higher levels of education. Among those with a post-secondary credential, Indigenous people have the same or better rates of employment compared to the total population.

Saskatchewan Employment Rate by Educational Attainment, 15 years and over, 2022



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Quality of Educational Experience

This measure demonstrates levels of graduate satisfaction with the overall quality of their educational experience. It is collected every five years in the ministry's [Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

- The most recent Graduate Outcomes Survey was conducted between October 2021 and January 2022. It surveyed individuals who successfully completed a post-secondary education program and received a formal credential including a degree, diploma, certificate or achieved journeyperson status within the 2019 calendar year (July 2019 to June 2020 for private vocational schools).
- The data showed high satisfaction levels amongst Saskatchewan graduates.
 - o 91 per cent of graduates indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of their educational experience.
- Graduates also indicated high levels of satisfaction (satisfied or very satisfied) with a range of components in their post-secondary experience:
 - o quality of teaching in their program (89 per cent);
 - o program's content (90 per cent);
 - o location of their program (92 per cent);
 - o program delivery (89 per cent);
 - o quality of the buildings (87 per cent); and
 - o lab, technology, or equipment (79 per cent).

Relatedness of Program to Current Job

This measure demonstrates the relatedness of the post-secondary program to the current job for recent graduates. It is collected every five years in the ministry's [Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

- Eighty-six per cent of graduates were employed at the time of the survey. Among graduates who were employed, 80 per cent worked in a field that they considered to be at least somewhat related to their program.

Progress on Goal 3: Saskatchewan's Post-Secondary Sector is Accountable and Sustainable

This ministry goal supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030](#) by keeping finances strong, building a sustainable province and improving outcomes.

This goal aligns with two of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – sustainable and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector:

- Operates within available resources – **Sustainable**.
- Achieves expected outcomes and is transparent – **Accountable**.



Strategy

Ensure the post-secondary education sector demonstrates accountability for public investments.

Key Actions

- Supported the [multi-year funding strategy](#) for the post-secondary education sector to ensure institutions were able to meet the challenges of the pandemic and improve their long-term financial sustainability.
 - This marked the second year of the ministry's operating funding agreement with post-secondary institutions. This four-year agreement provides consistent funding to the sector along with enhanced accountability requirements.
 - As part of the multi-year funding commitment, the ministry provided the final instalment of a two-year \$60 million investment (\$30 million in 2021-22 and \$30 million in 2022-23) to post-secondary institutions.
 - Post-secondary institutions submitted bi-annual accountability reports outlining how they allocated their portion of government's investment to support the long-term sustainability of the sector.
 - As of the January 2023 accountability reports, post-secondary institutions are implementing a combined total of 134 initiatives. Of those initiatives, 44 per cent focus on revenue generating activities, 22 per cent on COVID-19 recovery and transition, 15 per cent on expense reduction, 10 per cent on academic and administrative innovations, and 9 per cent on efficiencies through collaboration.
- Continued implementation of the post-secondary education sector performance framework to demonstrate institutional accountability and progress toward meeting government priorities.

- o The ministry worked closely with post-secondary institutions to build a performance framework to demonstrate the sector's progress on government priorities. Institutions continued to report data on selected indicators and self-assess progress on priorities annually.
- Streamlined and enhanced reporting from post-secondary education institutions.
 - o In response to feedback received from institutions, the ministry reduced the performance framework reporting requirement to once annually. This new reporting requirement is aligned with the availability of year end institutional data.
- Monitored post-secondary institutions' financial forecasts to mitigate potential adverse financial results.
 - o Post-secondary institutions continued to submit quarterly fiscal forecasts to report variances from budget. This supported the ongoing monitoring of the financial impact of lower enrolments for much of the post-secondary education sector in Saskatchewan and across Canada.
- Worked with post-secondary institutions to develop and annually update capital plans to inform government investments in infrastructure.
 - o Government invested approximately \$38 million in post-secondary infrastructure to ensure institutions continue to meet the needs of students. This included:
 - \$24.6 million for preventative maintenance and renewal projects across post-secondary institutions to ensure safe environments for faculty and students;
 - \$5.4 million for equipment, planning and design of construction projects to provide additional health care training seats as part of the [Health Human Resource Action Plan](#);
 - \$4 million for planning Sask Polytech Saskatoon Campus Renewal Project. This project is being undertaken to meet growing student and labour market demands;
 - \$2.6 million for nursing program expansion at the U of R and Sask Polytech;
 - \$1 million for renovation of the dental clinic building at USask to meet accreditation requirements and maximize space functionality; and
 - \$200,000 to support an assessment of structural issue of the auditorium and classroom at Great Plains College's Swift Current Campus.
- Maintained and enhanced the [Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#) to ensure consistent, comparable, sector-wide data is collected and available to inform planning, monitoring and reporting.
 - o The [Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#) is a joint initiative between the ministry and post-secondary institutions to collect and report consistent and comparable data from post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan. Reports on enrolments at post-secondary institutions, credentials awarded, and the financial sustainability of the sector are published annually on [Saskatchewan.ca](#).
 - o All available enrolment and credentials awarded data are also published on [Saskatchewan's Dashboard](#), with breakdowns by total students, Indigenous students, and international students.

Strategy

Encourage Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions to collaborate and demonstrate efficiencies to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the post-secondary education sector.

Key Actions

- Promoted collaboration among post-secondary institutions to implement sector-wide initiatives.
 - o Cumberland College and Parkland College, which have been operating as a coalition since 2019 with a shared CEO and Board of Governors, submitted a proposal to government to merge into one college effective July 1, 2023. Government approved this proposal in January 2023.
 - o The Post-Secondary Cybersecurity Committee, comprised of senior leaders and information technology professionals from across the sector, continued to focus on collaborating and coordinated support efforts to strengthen the cyber resiliency of Saskatchewan's post-secondary education sector.
- Supported improvement and innovation efforts across the post-secondary education sector.
 - o Improvement and innovation work continued as the ministry and sector strives to be efficient, streamlined and adaptable.

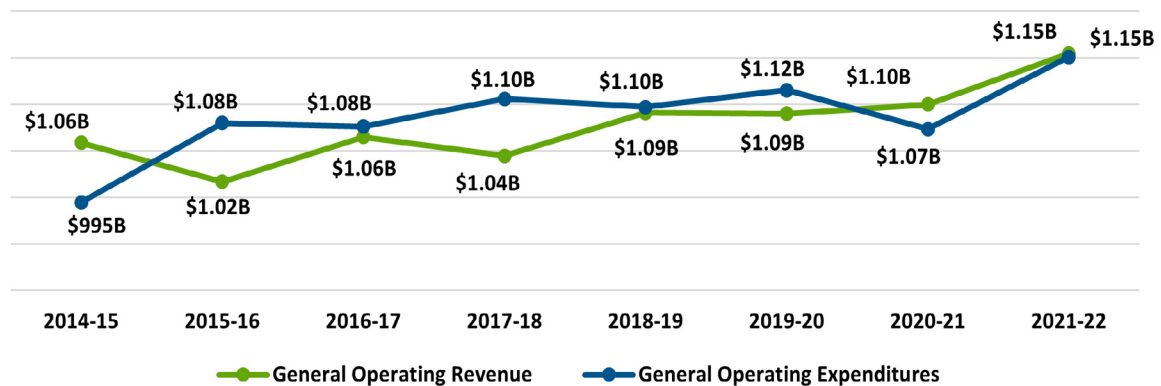
Performance Measure Results:

Expenditure to Revenue Comparison

The expenditures to revenue comparison demonstrates efficiency and long-term sustainability. It is used to inform planning for the sector, to compare with other jurisdictions and review trends.

- Between 2015-16 and 2019-20 operating expenditures exceeded revenues in Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector. In 2020-21, an increase in operating revenues and a decrease in expenditures saw revenues exceed expenditures for the first time in six years. In 2021-22 both revenues and expenditures significantly increased, by 11 per cent and 14 per cent respectively, and now stand at about the same level overall.

Post-secondary Institutions Operating Revenue and Expenditures, 2014-15 to 2021-22



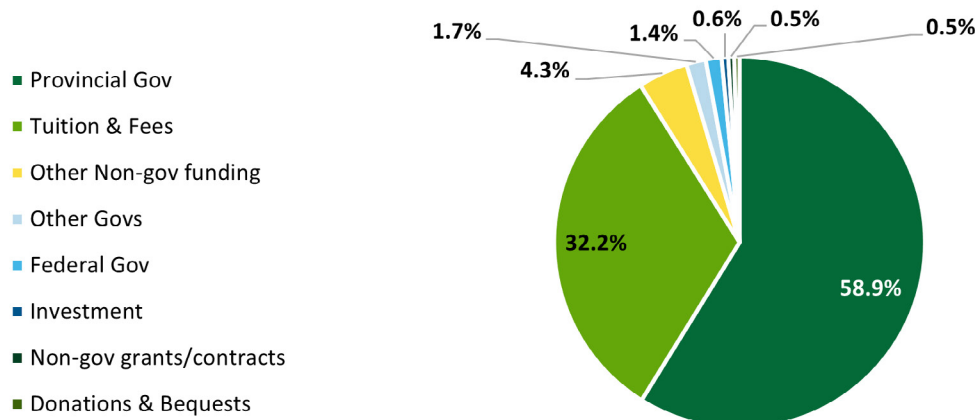
Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#). The data is drawn from financial information submitted by Sask Polytech, U of R, USask, Luther College, Campion College, FNUUniv of Canada, St. Thomas More College, and St. Peter's College.

Reliance on Revenue Source Comparison

Measures the composition of the sector's revenue sources and provides a measure for assessing the sustainability of the sector if the proportion or distribution of revenue sources changes.

- Over 60 per cent of operating revenue came from government sources* in 2021-22, while the remainder is derived from non-government revenue sources.

Post-secondary Operating Revenue and Expenditures, 2021-22

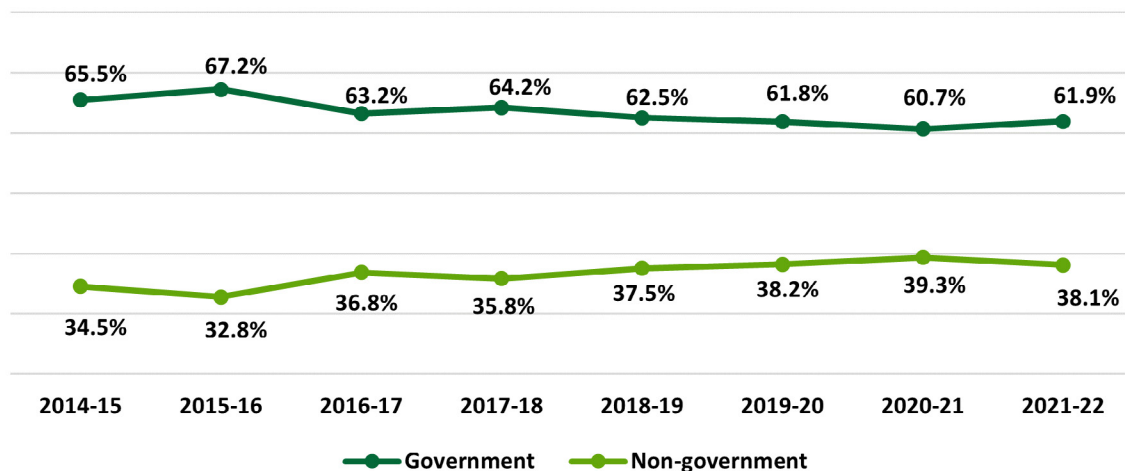


Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#). The data is drawn from financial information submitted by Sask Polytech, U of R, USask, Luther College, Campion College, FNUiv of Canada, St. Thomas More College, and St. Peter's College.

* The "Other Governments category includes municipal governments, other provincial governments in Canada, and foreign governments

- Between 2014-15 and 2021-22, government funding decreased as a percentage of total operating revenue by 3.6 percentage points

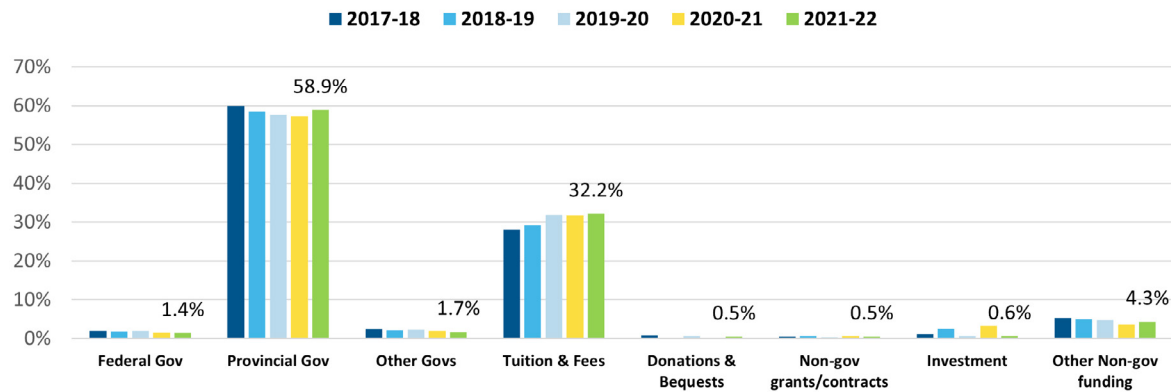
Post-secondary Institutions Total Operating Revenue by Source



Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#). The data is drawn from financial information submitted by Sask Polytech, U of R, USask, Luther College, Campion College, FNUiv of Canada, St. Thomas More College, and St. Peter's College.

- Over the past five years, the most significant shifts within the broader government / non-government categories have been a slight decrease in provincial government funding as a percentage of total operating revenue (1 percentage point decrease) and an increase in revenue from tuition and fees (from 28 per cent of total operating revenue to 32.2 per cent.)

Operating Revenue Sources of Saskatchewan Public Post-Secondary Institutions



Source: [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#). The data is drawn from financial information submitted by Sask Polytech, U of R, USask, Luther College, Campion College, FNUUniv of Canada, St. Thomas More College, and St. Peter's College.

Financial Summary

In 2022-23, the Ministry of Advanced Education had expenses of \$750.8 million, an increase of \$10.4 million from the Budget Estimate of \$740.3 million. Higher expenditures resulted from an expansion of healthcare training, student support utilization and interest rate pressures and French language program funding provided to Saskatchewan institutions. These increases were partially offset by capitalization of the completed portion of the new student financial assistance information technology asset, currently under development, combined with various internal savings.

Expense Summary

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Explanations are provided for all variances that are \$500,000 or greater.

Expense Actuals

	Previous Fiscal Actuals (000s)	2022-23 Budget (000s)	2022-23 Actual (000s)	2022-23 Variance (000s)	Notes
Central Management and Services (AE01)					
Minister's Salary	51	53	53	0	
Executive Management	1,675	1,803	1,545	(258)	
Central Services	7,349	11,249	9,284	(1,965)	1
Accommodation Services	3,572	3,569	3,501	(68)	
Central Management and Services Total	12,647	16,674	14,383	(2,291)	
Post-Secondary Education (AE02)					
Operational Support	3,389	3,409	3,034	(375)	
Universities, Federated & Affiliated Colleges	447,030	445,921	448,699	2,778	2
Technical Institutes	164,674	168,516	169,242	726	3
Regional Colleges	33,420	35,255	35,224	(31)	
Post-Secondary Capital Transfers	28,400	30,965	37,996	7,031	4
Post-Secondary Education Total	676,913	684,066	694,195	10,129	
Student Supports (AE03)					
Operational Support	1,587	1,580	2,390	810	5
Saskatchewan Student Aid Fund	29,000	27,000	30,500	3,500	6
Scholarships	12,924	10,620	11,852	1,232	7
Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings	591				
Student Supports Total	44,102	39,200	44,742	5,542	
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	733,662	739,940	753,320	13,380	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(780)	0	(2,550)	(2,550)	8
Capital Asset Amortization	139	400	0	(400)	
TOTAL EXPENSE	733,021	740,340	750,770	10,430	

Special Warrants

- Special Warrant funding of \$14.375 million was approved in February 2023 to expand health care training programs, address student support program funding pressures and to leverage additional federal funding to support French language programming at Saskatchewan institutions.

Notes

1. The savings in Central Services is a result of delays related to the development of a new student financial assistance information technology system combined with reduced salary and administrative spending.
2. The majority of the increase was a result of additional funding provided by the federal government through the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction 2019-20 to 2022-23 to support French language programming at Saskatchewan institutions.
3. The increase is mainly due to supporting the training and licensing of Internationally Educated Healthcare Workers.
4. The increase is a result of expanding the Nursing Simulation Lab at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and providing additional capital funding for various projects to expand health care training seats.
5. The increase is related to the administration and cancelation costs associated with the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings program.
6. The increase in the Saskatchewan Student Aid Fund is due to rising interest rates and a growing number of students participating in the Student Loan Program.
7. The increase in Scholarships is due to an increased number of students eligible for the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship.
8. Capitalization of the completed portion of the new student financial assistance information technology system was not budgeted.

Revenue Summary

The majority of the revenue for Advanced Education is directly tied to agreements with the federal government. All revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

For 2022-23, actual revenue was \$2.3 million, a decrease of \$0.3 million from the \$2.6 million budget. The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted revenues. Explanations are provided for all variances that are \$100,000 or greater.

Revenue	2022-23 Budget (000s)	2022-23 Actual (000s)	2022-23 Variance (000s)	Notes
Privileges, Licenses and Permits				
Admin/Application/Inspection Fees	150	25	(125)	1
Property and Building Rentals	110	109	(1)	
Subtotal	260	134	(126)	
Sales, Services and Service Fees				
Other Registration Fees	16	22	6	
Freedom of Information Request	-	2	2	
Subtotal	16	24	8	
Federal-Provincial Cost Sharing Programs	1,850	1,937	87	
Subtotal	1,850	1,937	87	
Other Revenue				
Casual Revenue	445	261	(184)	2
Cash Refunds of Previous Year's Expenditures	5	1	(4)	
Change in Previous Years' Estimates	-	(86)	(86)	
Salary Overpayment Refunds	-	3	3	
Subtotal	450	179	(271)	
TOTAL REVENUE	2,576	2,274	(302)	

Notes

1. The decrease is a result of fewer submissions for degree authorization and quality assurance reviews than originally budgeted.
2. The decrease is mainly the result of a change to how Innovation Saskatchewan's pension and benefit costs were recorded by the ministry.

Additional financial information can be found in the Government of Saskatchewan Public Accounts located at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/893>

For More Information

For additional information on the ministry or if you have any questions or comments, we invite you to call 1-800-597-8278 or contact:

Ministry of Advanced Education
1120 - 2010 12th Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 0M3

The Ministry of Advanced Education produces three annual reports:

- The Ministry of Advanced Education Annual Report 2022-23
- The Student Aid Fund Annual Report 2022-23
- The Training Completion Fund Financial Statements 2022-23

To obtain more information about the programs and services contained in this annual report or to view other annual reports, visit our website at [saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca).

Appendix

Legislation and Regulations under the Responsibility of the Minister of Advanced Education

The Degree Authorization Act

- *The Degree Authorization Regulations*

The Education Act, 1995

- But only with respect to subsection 3(1) which is jointly assigned to the Minister of Advanced Education, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Immigration and Career Training

The Graduate Retention Program Act

- *The Graduate Retention Program Regulations*
- *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Regulations*

The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2022

- *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Regulations, 2022*
- Jointly assigned to the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of Immigration and Career Training.
- *The Training Program Regulations, 2020* are assigned to the Minister of Immigration and Career Training only.

The Private Vocational Schools Regulation Act, 1995

- *The Private Vocational Schools Regulations, 2022*

The Regional Colleges Act

- *The Regional Colleges Regulations*
- *The Regional Colleges Program Designation Regulations*
- *The Regional Colleges Programs and Services Regulations, 1997*

The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act

- *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Regulations*

The Saskatchewan Applied Science and Technologist and Technicians Act

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act

The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act

- *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Regulations*

The Student Assistance and Student Aid Fund Act, 1985

- *The Saskatchewan Student Direct Loans Regulations*
- *The Lender-financed Saskatchewan Student Loans Regulations*
- *The Student Assistance and Student Aid Fund Regulations, 2001*

The University of Regina Act

The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995

Under ***The Executive Government Administration Act***, Advanced Education is responsible for the following regulations:

- *The Ministry of Advanced Education Regulations, 2020*
- *The Saskatchewan-China Exchange of Scholars Regulations*
- *The Skills Training Benefit Regulations*
 - o Jointly assigned to the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of Immigration and Career Training
- *The Training Allowance Regulations*
 - o Jointly assigned to the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of Immigration and Career Training