

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators



Enrolments 2022-23

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators: Enrolments 2022-23

In academic year 2022-23, a record number of students were enrolled in credential programs at Saskatchewan's public post-secondary institutions. Increases took place at most credential levels, except for enrolments in Bachelor's degree and Doctoral degree programs, both of which declined by less than two per cent. Enrolments of international students increased significantly, in 2022-23, compared to the previous academic year; however, Indigenous student enrolments declined by 150 students (two per cent) over this same period.

While focusing primarily on annual enrolment, which accounts for all students enrolled during an academic year, the report also presents enrolment data for the latest fall semester, which gives a forward-looking indication of what can be expected in the next academic year. Overall, fall enrolment increased by eight per cent in 2023 compared to 2022, suggesting that next year's 2023-24 total will constitute another record high for Saskatchewan post-secondary enrollment.

Since 2016, Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education have been working together to develop and implement the Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project to collect, analyze, and report sector-wide post-secondary data. The project is led by the province's four public credential-granting institutions – Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), Saskatchewan Polytechnic, University of Regina, and University of Saskatchewan. Reports from the project cover all students enrolled in credentialed programming (i.e. Degree, Diploma, or Certificate programs) through the province's public post-secondary institutions. While the majority of students take their classes on the main campuses of these four institutions, this data also includes students taking SIIT, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, or university programming offered at Saskatchewan's federated and regional colleges, and at Dumont Technical Institute.

Reporting Notes

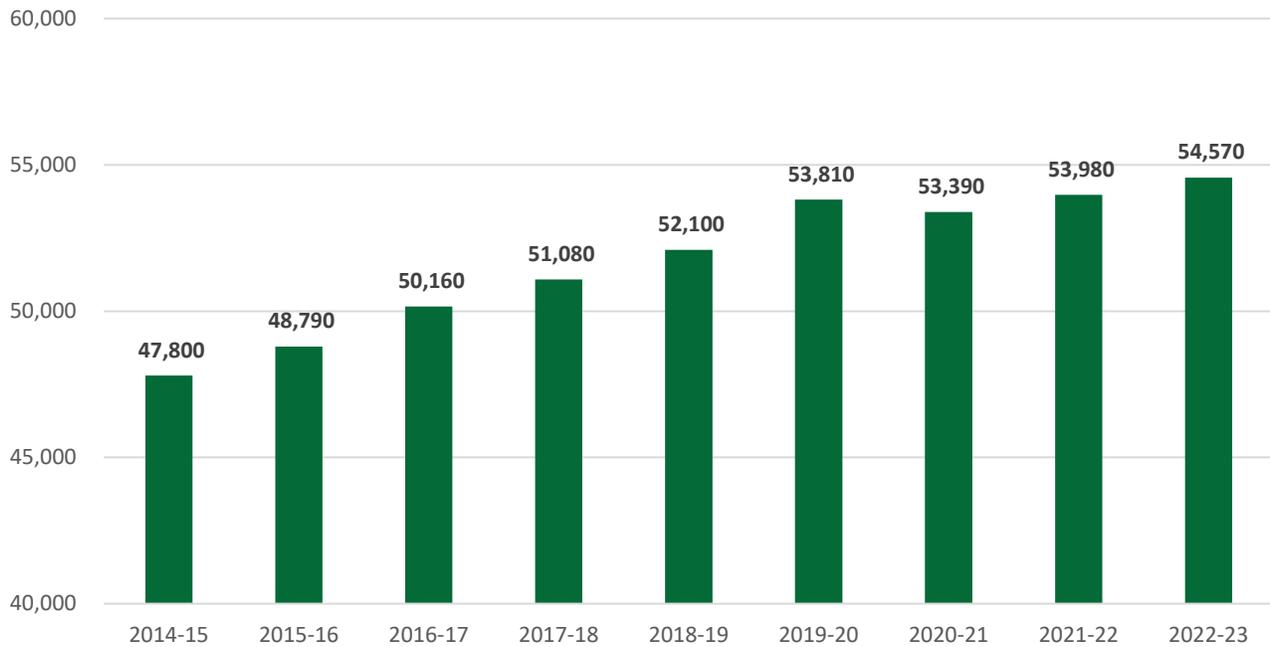
Readers should be aware of the following notes regarding this report:

- All enrolment numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. In this report, there are some cases where the rounding of different subgroups of data causes the subgroups to not add up to the total number of credentials (e.g., Figure 3 totals to 54,580, rather than 54,570).
- Unless otherwise stated, enrolment figures represent an annual headcount of students, the number of distinct students enrolled in an academic year in instructional activity that counts as credit towards an approved credential.
- Enrolment data for these reports are collected from institutions annually for the previous five academic years. This allows for any retroactive changes to student records at the institutions to be reflected in the sector-level reports. For this reason, figures for the 2018-19 to 2021-22 period may differ slightly from what has been reported in previous years.

Total Enrolments

In the 2022-23 academic year, there were 54,570 students enrolled in credentialed post-secondary programs through Saskatchewan’s public institutions. This represents a one per cent increase from the previous year and is the highest total ever recorded in the province. Over the past nine years (between 2014-15 and 2022-23), the total number of post-secondary students has grown by over 14 per cent.

Figure 1
Total Annual Enrolments, 2014-15 to 2022-23

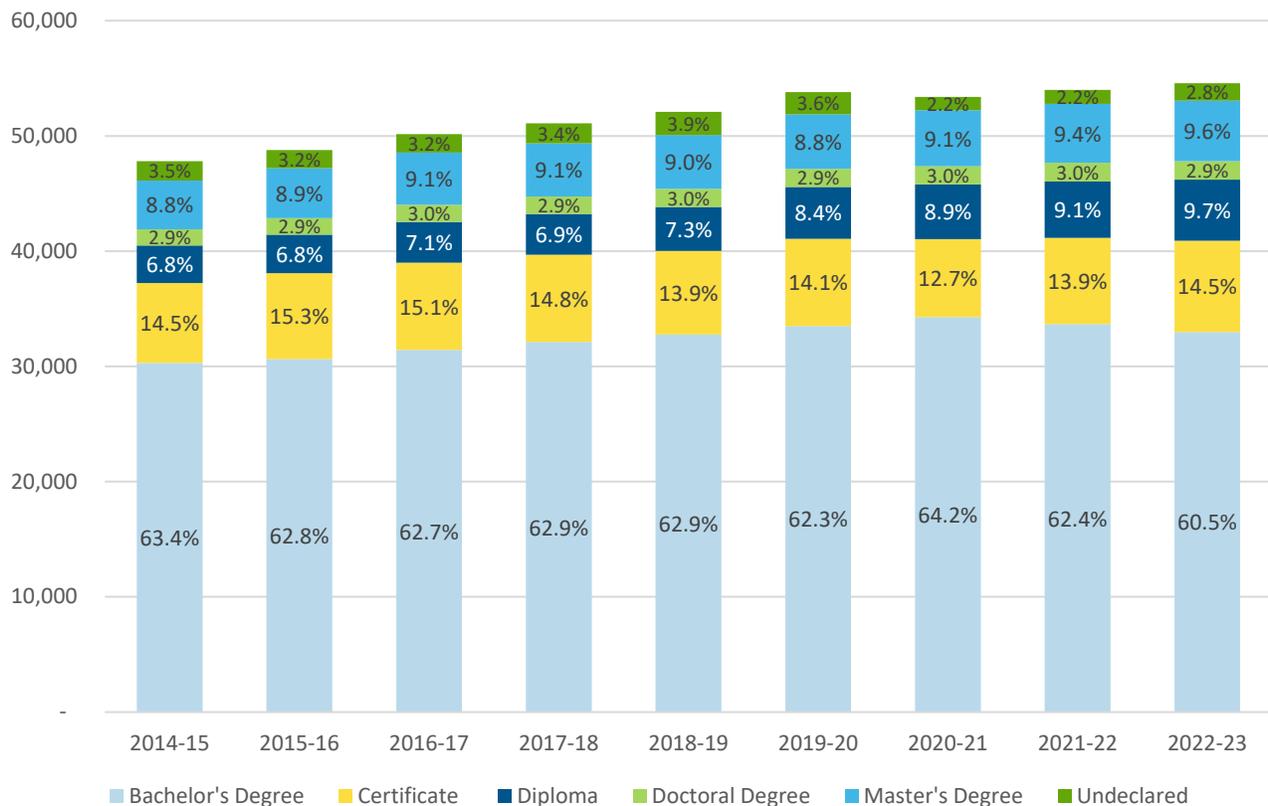


Credential Types

The majority of these students are enrolled in Bachelor’s Degree programs (over 60 per cent), followed by Certificate programs, Diploma programs, Master’s Degrees, Doctoral Degrees, and Undeclared students¹. While this breakdown has not changed dramatically over the past nine years, increasing percentages of students are taking Diploma and Master’s Degree programs, while a smaller proportion of students are now taking Bachelor’s Degree programs.

Figure 2

Total Annual Enrolments by Credential Type, 2014-15 to 2022-23

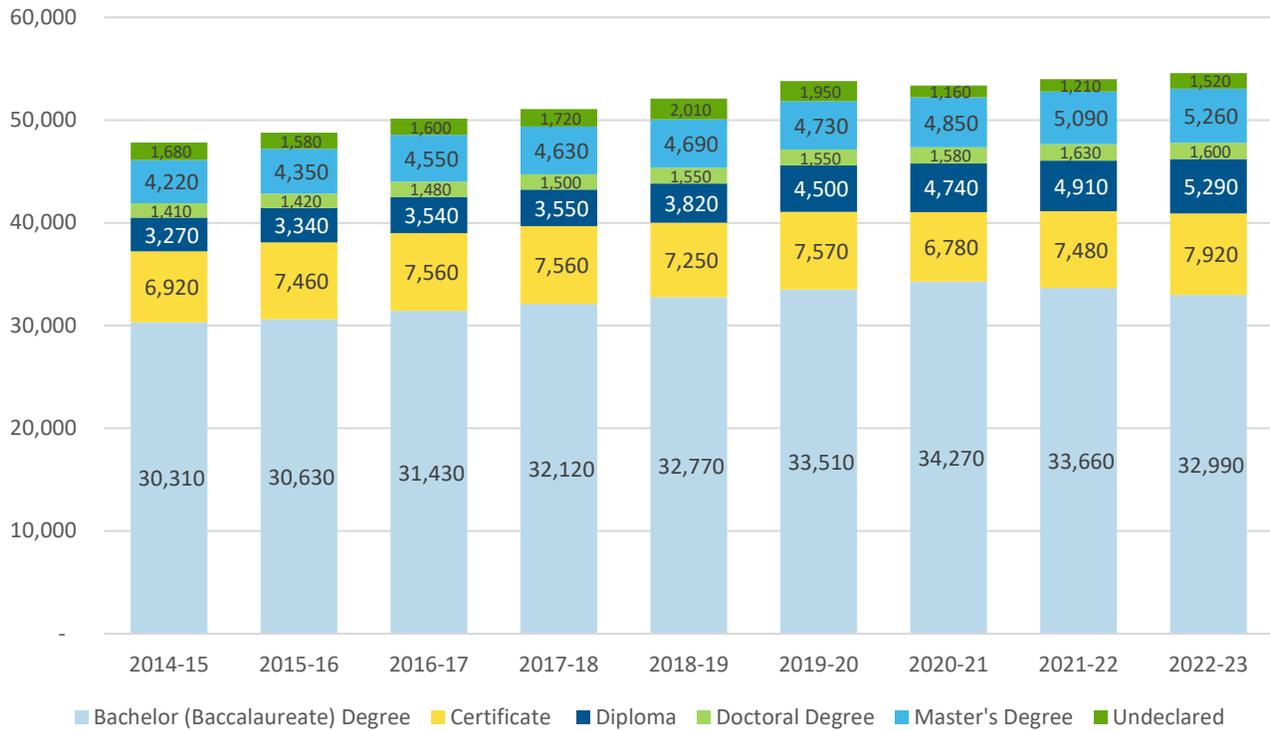


The number of students taking Certificate programs had declined significantly in 2020-21, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past two academic years, however, those numbers have increased significantly and now exceed pre-pandemic levels. Diploma and Master’s Degree student enrolments also increased between 2021-22 and 2022-23, while the numbers of Bachelor’s Degree and Doctoral Degree students declined, each by approximately two per cent.

¹ Undeclared students are those who are registered in one or more credit courses at a university, but have not yet declared their intended degree, diploma, or certificate program at the institution.

Figure 3

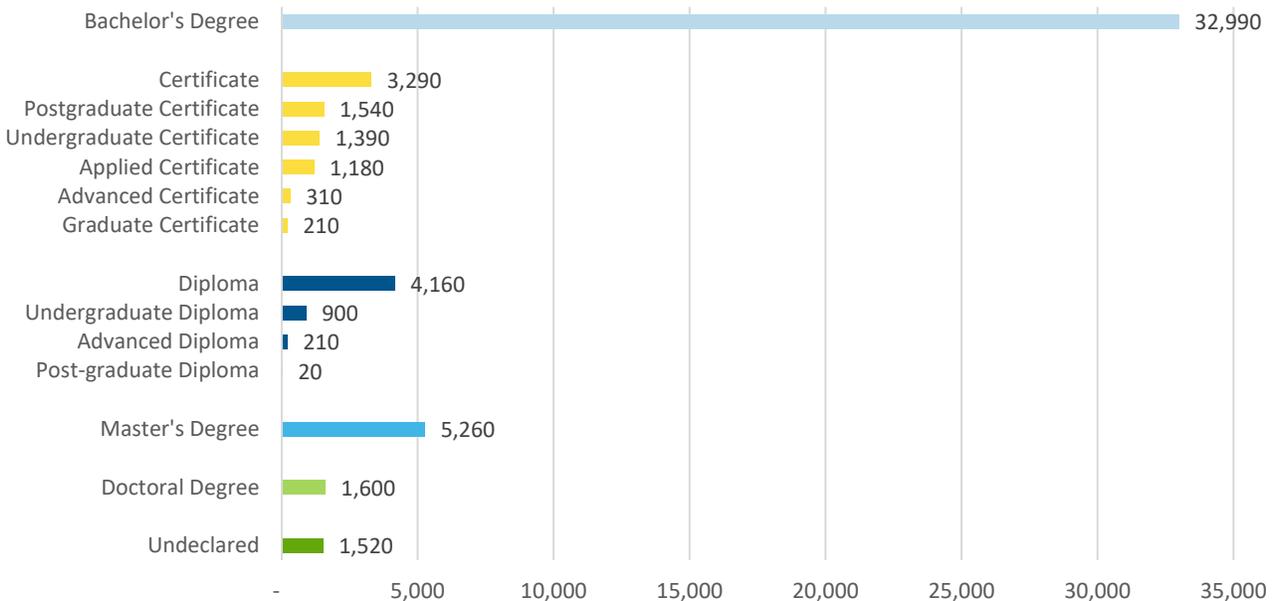
Total Annual Enrolments by Credential Type, 2014-15 to 2022-23



Various certificate and diploma programs are offered by Saskatchewan’s institutions, including those at the undergraduate, graduate, advanced, and post-graduate levels, as well as Applied Certificates.

Figure 4

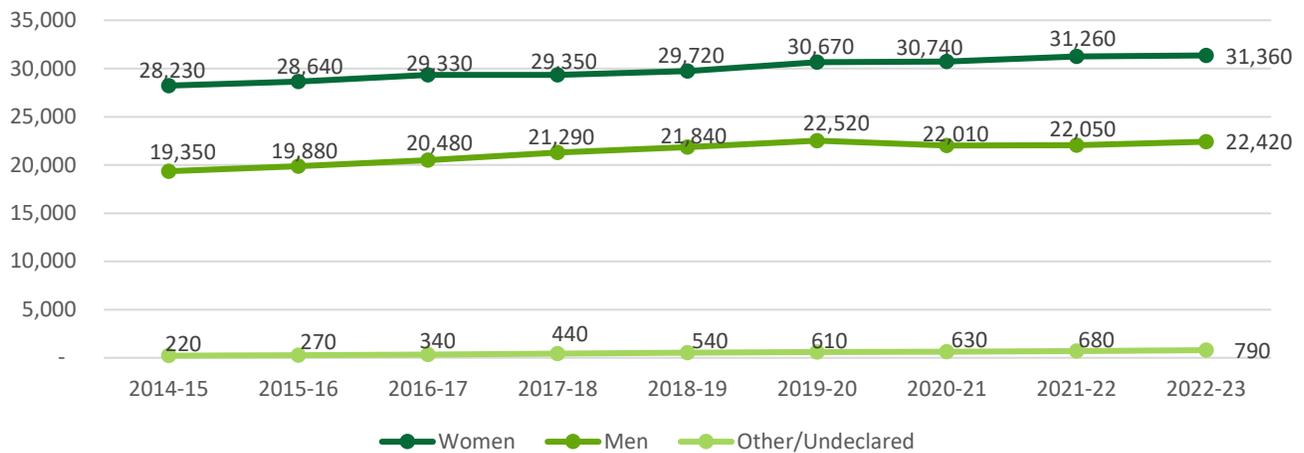
Total Annual Enrolments by Detailed Credential Type, 2022-23



Gender

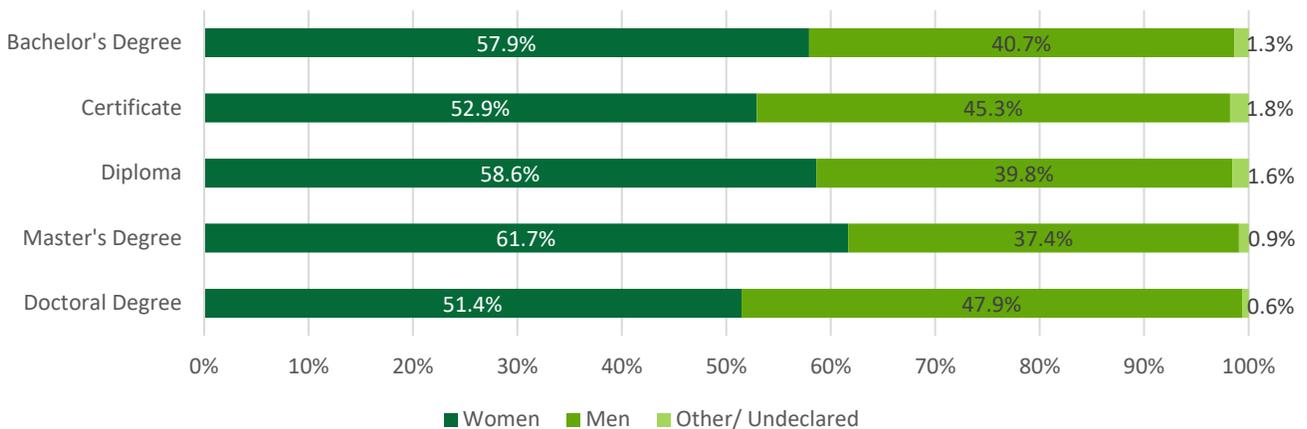
There are significantly more women than men enrolled in post-secondary education in Saskatchewan, though the gap has been consistent over the last decade. In 2014-15, approximately 59 per cent of students were women, and 41 per cent were men, while in 2022-23, 58 per cent were women, and 41 per cent were men. One change that has occurred is a significant increase in the number of students who do not identify as either women or men. Though the overall numbers remain small, enrolments among this group have more than tripled since 2014-15 and now represent over one per cent of the student body.

Figure 5
Total Annual Enrolments by Gender, 2014-15 to 2022-23



Women outnumber men at all credential levels, most significantly at the Master's Degree level (62 per cent women), and least significantly at the Doctoral Degree level (51 per cent women). Since 2014-15, typically men were the majority of students only at the Doctoral level, but this has changed since 2021-22, with slightly more women Doctoral students than men.

Figure 6
Total Annual Enrolments by Credential Type and Gender, 2022-23



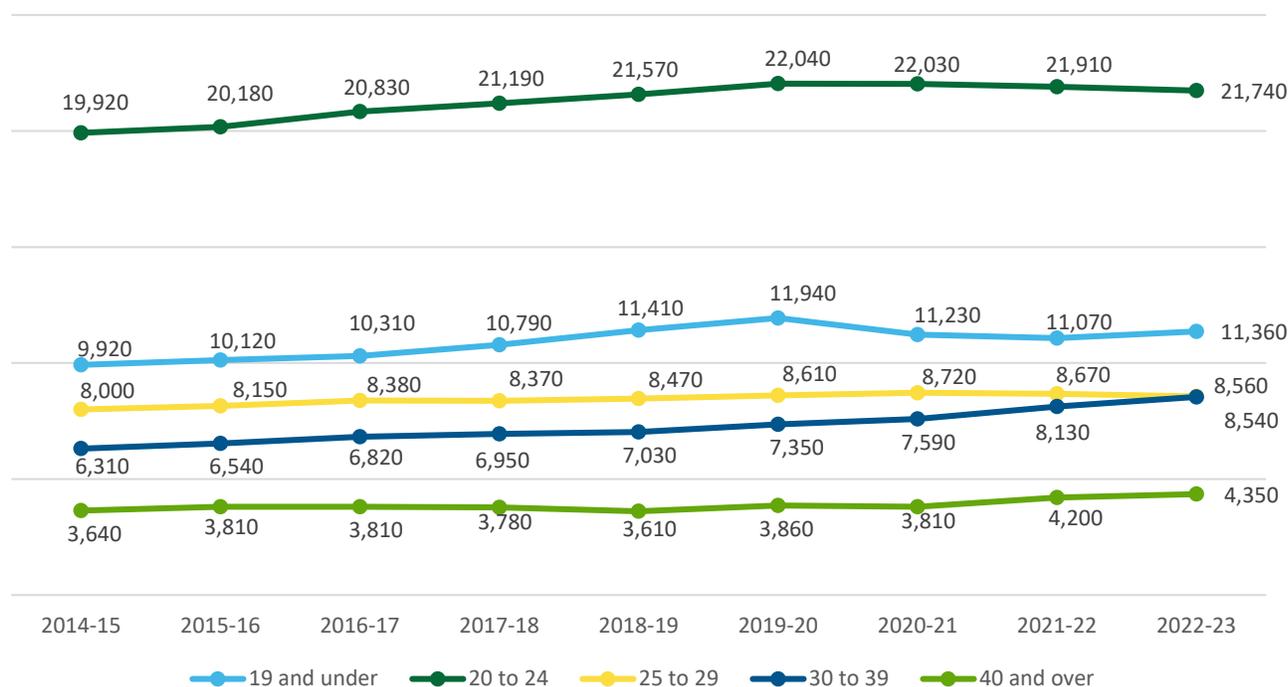
Age

In Saskatchewan, the majority of post-secondary students (around 60 per cent) are young adults aged 24 years and under, though in recent years there has been enrolment growth among students aged 30 and over, particularly those between the ages of 30-39.

In the years since the onset of COVID-19, two noticeable trends have emerged: a decline in students aged 19 and under, which has been offset by an increase of students aged 30 and over. The decline of students aged 19 years and under was most pronounced in the two academic years following the onset of COVID (a decrease of seven per cent between 2019-20 and 2021 - 22); the numbers rebounded somewhat, in 2022-23 (a three per cent annual increase), though still well below 2019-20. Enrolments of students aged 30 and over have grown consistently, over the last three years, increasing by 15 per cent between 2019-20 and 2022-23.

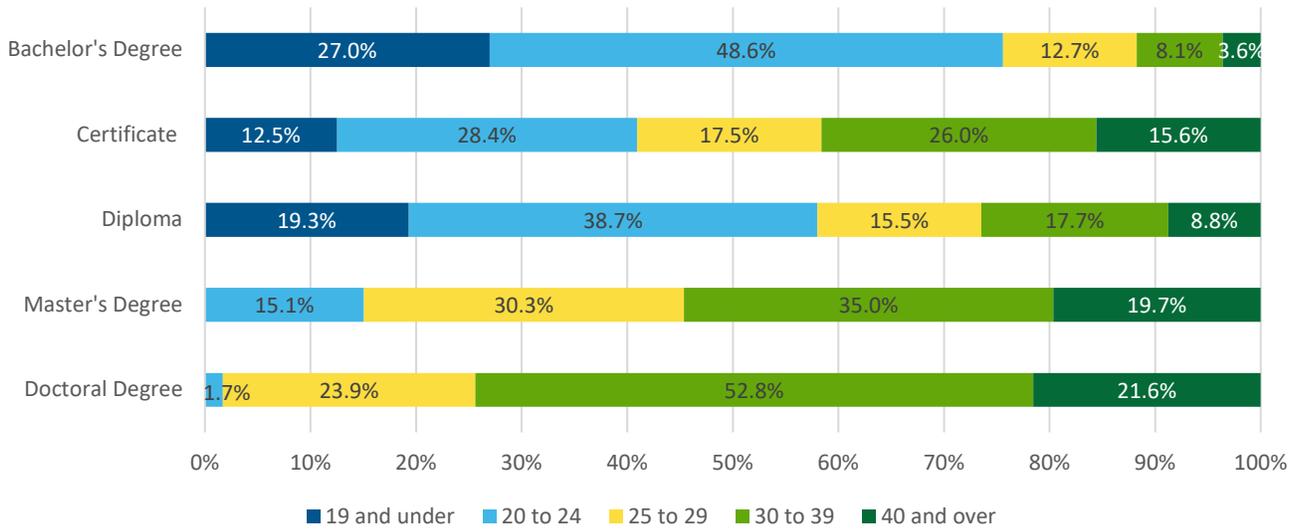
Figure 7

Total Annual Enrolments by Age Group, 2014-15 to 2022-2023



By credential type, in 2022-23, Bachelor's Degree students are on average the youngest post-secondary students (over 75 per cent were under the age of 25), while Doctoral Degree students were the oldest (nearly 75 per cent were 30 years or older). Certificate students (typically one-year programs) tended to be older than Diploma students (typically two-year programs), which may suggest that the former programs are more attractive to older students who are already in the workforce and looking to re-skill or up-skill later in life.

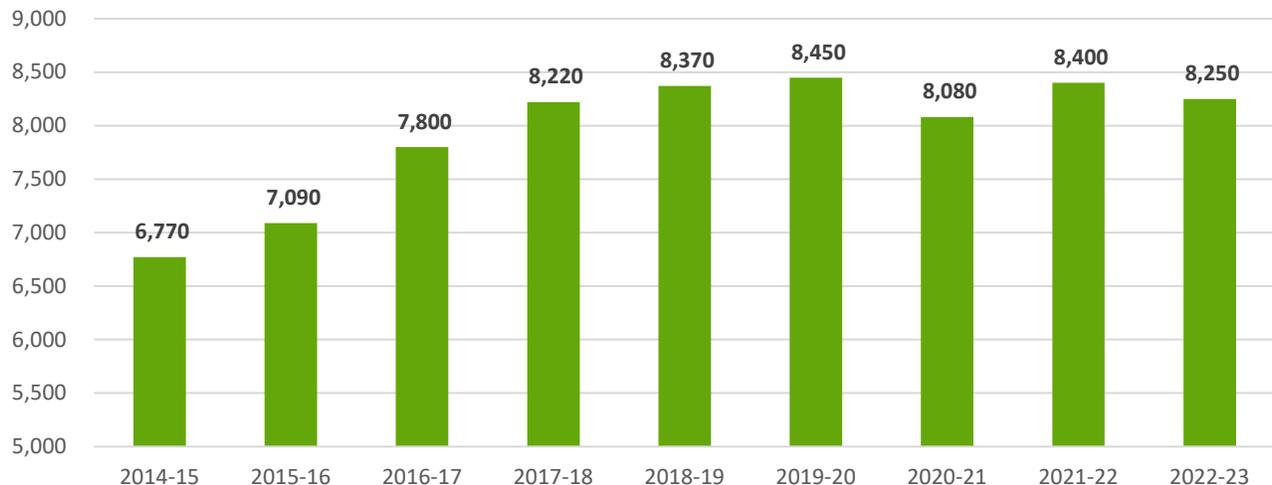
Figure 8
Enrolments by Credential Type and Age Group, 2022-2023



Indigenous Students

In 2022-23, there were 8,250 students enrolled in credential programs at Saskatchewan's public post-secondary institutions who self-declared as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit, representing 15 per cent of the Saskatchewan student body. Over the last nine years, the number of Indigenous students has grown by 22 per cent. However, almost all of this growth took place between 2014 -15 and 2019-20. In academic year 2020-21, Indigenous enrolment decreased by four per cent in just one year which is believed to have been a result of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Enrolments have improved in the two academic years since, but they have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

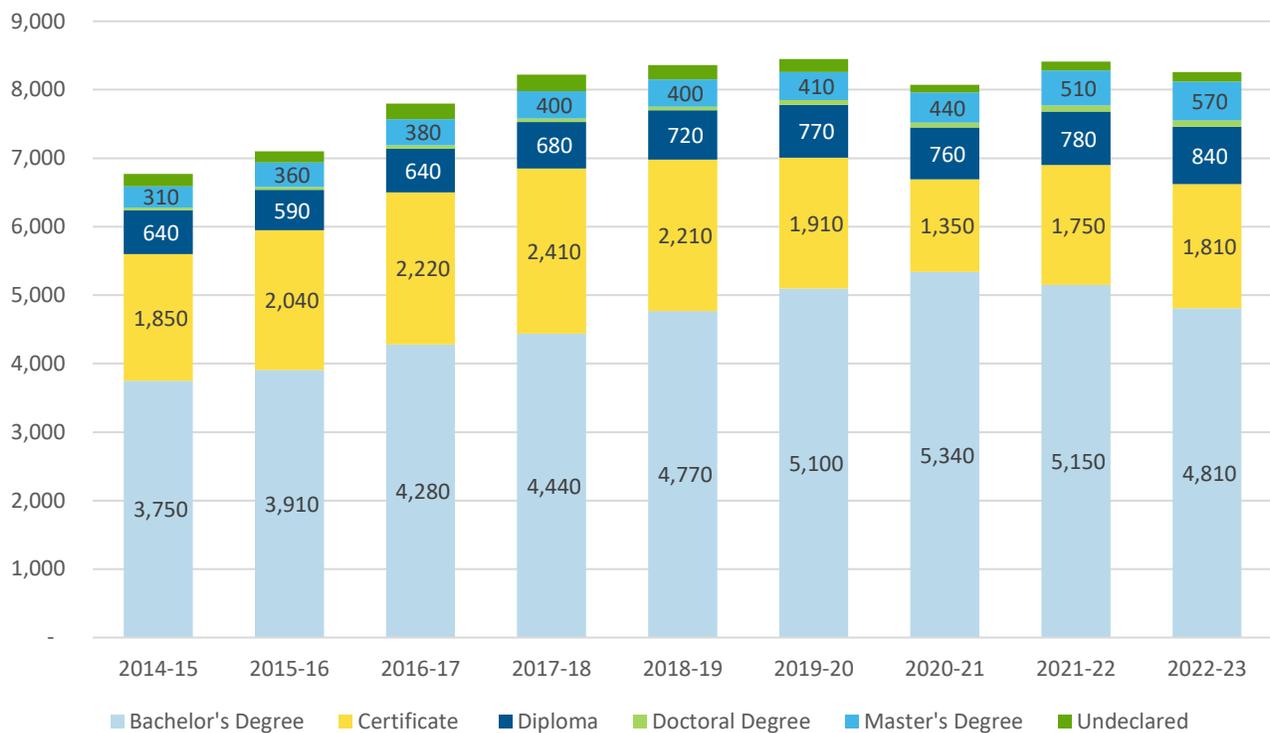
Figure 9
Indigenous Student Enrolments, 2014-15 to 2022-23



Since 2014-15, enrolment increases have occurred at every credential level for Indigenous students, except for Certificates, which decreased by 40 students (two per cent) over this period². The number of Indigenous students enrolled in Master’s Degree programs has increased by 84 per cent, Diploma programs by 31 per cent, and Bachelor’s Degree programs by 28 per cent. The number of students enrolled in Doctoral programs has more than doubled, though the numbers are small (40 students in 2014-15 and 90 in 2022-23).

While long-term enrolment trends since 2014-15 have largely been positive, since 2019-20, the province has struggled to attract and retain Indigenous students at certain credential levels. Indigenous enrolments in Certificate and Bachelor’s Degree programs have decreased in recent years, by five per cent and six per cent respectively between 2019-20 and 2022-23. Growth has been seen at the other levels over this period – an increase of nine per cent in Diploma programs, 29 per cent in Doctoral programs, and 39 per cent in Master’s programs. However, there are fewer students studying at these levels, and the growth in those three credential types represents an increase of only 250 students, compared to a loss of 390 students at the Bachelor’s and Certificate levels since 2019-20.

Figure 10
Indigenous Student Enrolments, by Credential Type, 2014-15 to 2022-23



In 2022-23, two-thirds of Indigenous students were First Nations, one-third were Métis, and a very small percentage were Inuit.

² The number of Undeclared students has also decreased since 2014-15, by 22 per cent, but these represent just a small fraction of total Indigenous students, between one and three per cent per year.

Figure 11

Indigenous Student Enrolments, by Student Group, 2014-15 to 2022-23



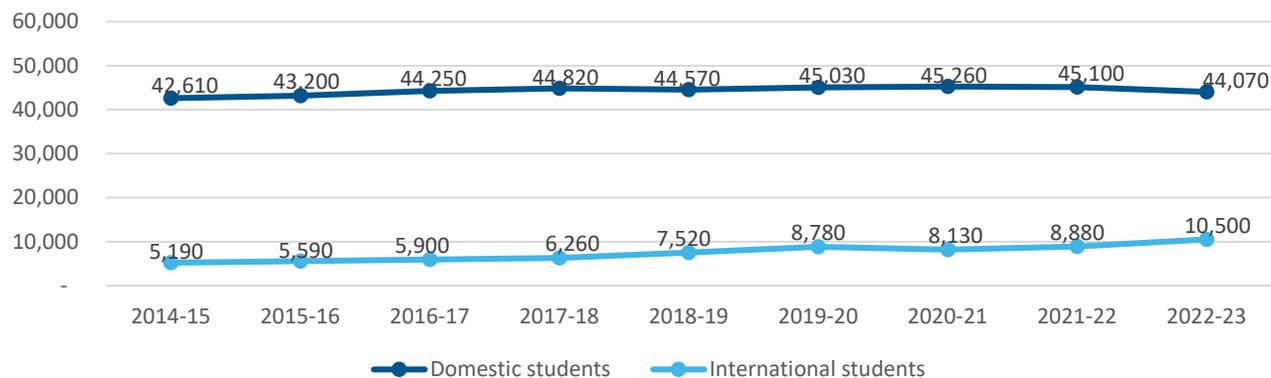
Domestic and International Students

Between 2014-15 and 2022-23, the number of international students studying in Saskatchewan more than doubled to an all-time high of 10,500 in the latest academic year. In 2020-21, there was a significant drop in the number of international students, owing to travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Enrolments fully rebounded, in 2021-22, to pre-COVID levels and grew by another 1,620 students (an 18 per cent increase) in 2022-23, the largest one-year increase the province has seen.

While international student enrolments have increased significantly since 2014-15, enrolments of domestic students have been largely static, fluctuating minimally and increasing by just three per cent over the same nine-year period. Over the last five years, between 2018-19 and 2022-23, domestic enrolments have decreased by one per cent.

Figure 12

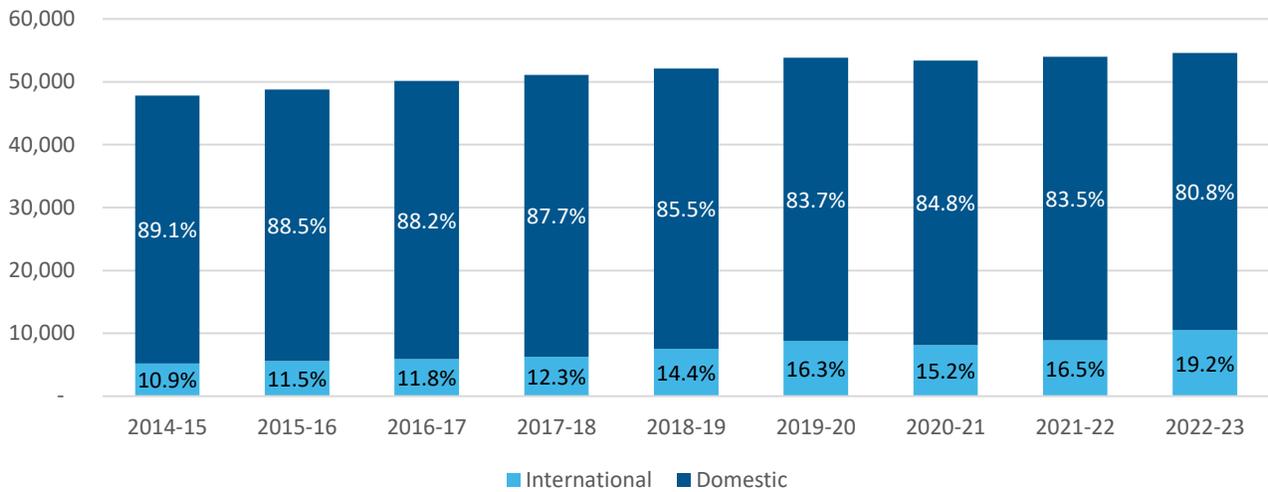
Domestic and International Student Enrolments, 2014-15 to 2022-23



In 2014-15, international students represented just under 11 per cent of all students in the sector, which climbed to over 19 per cent in 2022-23.

Figure 13

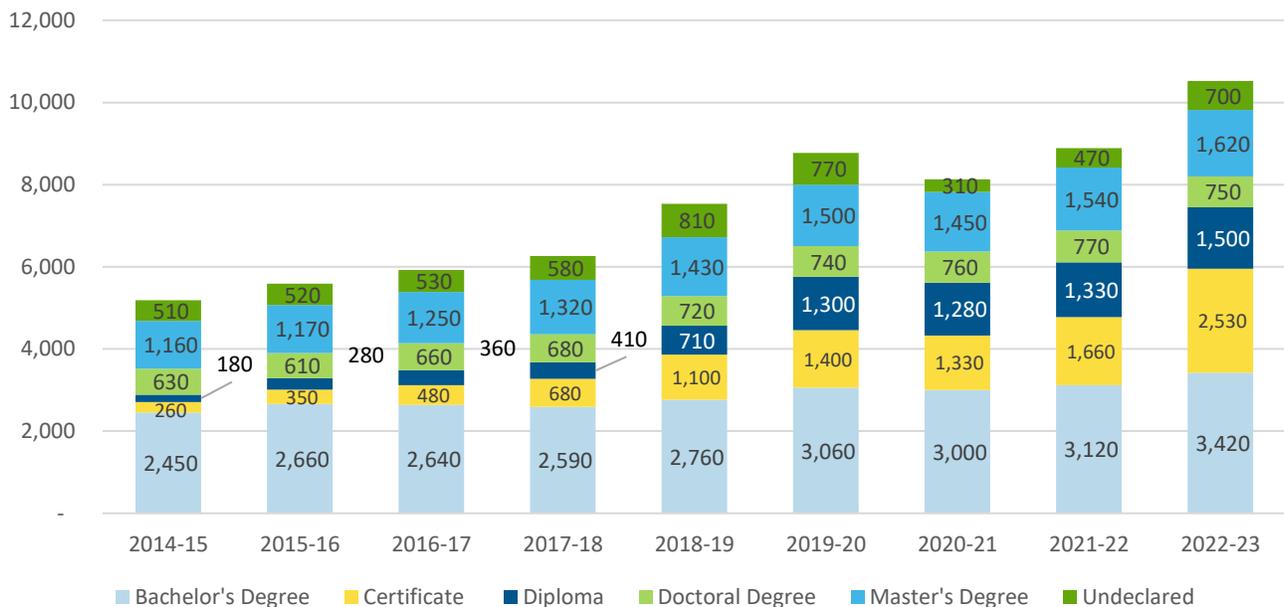
Total Annual Enrolments by International Status, 2014-15 to 2022-23



Among international students, growth has occurred at all levels of study, but by far the largest increases have been at the Certificate and Diploma levels. In 2022-23, there were 10 times as many international students in Certificate programs and eight times as many in Diploma programs as in 2014-15. At the degree levels, international students in Bachelor’s and Master’s programs increased by 40 per cent each, and those in Doctoral programs by 19 per cent over this same nine year period.

Figure 14

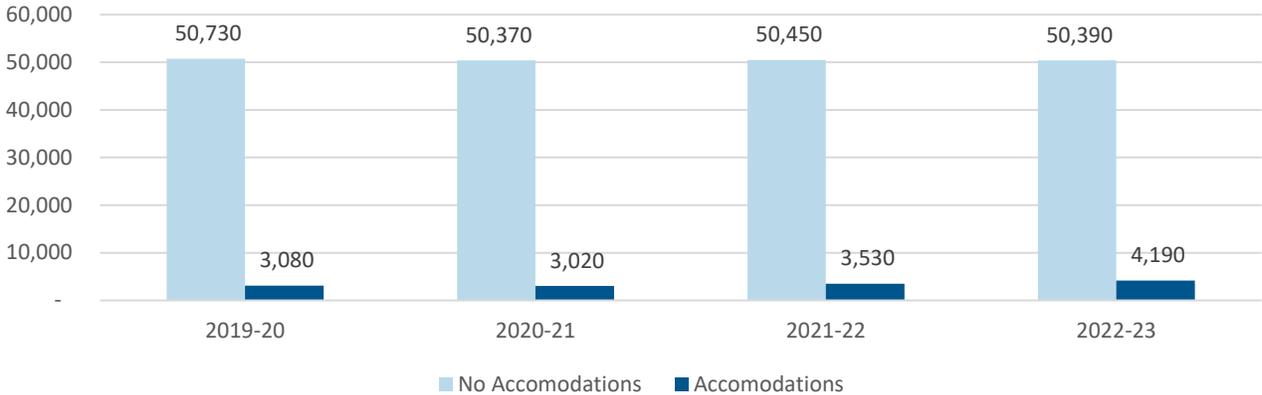
International Student Enrolments, by Credential Type, 2014-15 to 2022-23



Students with Disabilities

In 2022-23, 4,190 Saskatchewan post-secondary students were granted an academic accommodation for a disability³, up from 3,530 students in 2021-22, an increase of 19 per cent, and an increase of 36 per cent since 2019-20. The percentage of students granted an accommodation for a disability has also increased, from 5.7 per cent of the student body in 2019-20, to 7.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Figure 15
Enrolments of Students Granted Accommodation for a Disability, 2019-20 to 2022-23



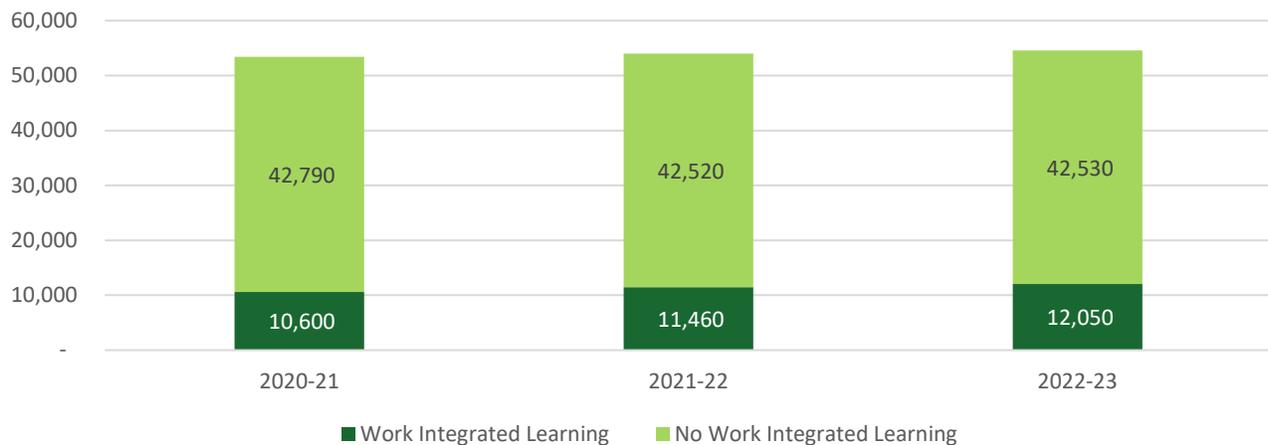
³ This data does not provide a count of the total number of students with disabilities in the sector, as only those students who required an academic accommodation for their disability are accounted for. Common accommodations include notetaking services, audio-recorded lectures, enlarged print materials, extensions for assignments, extended time for exams, quiet space for exams, and the use of a reader or scribe for exams.

Work-Integrated Learning

In 2022-23, 12,050 Saskatchewan post-secondary students (22 per cent) were enrolled in at least one for-credit course with a work-integrated learning component, including Co-op, Work Experience, Clinical/Practicum, and Internship placements⁴. The number of students enrolled in at least one of these four types of work-integrated learning courses has increased by 14 per cent between 2020-21 and 2022-23.

Figure 16

Enrolments of Students taking Work-Integrated Learning courses, 2020-21 to 2022-23



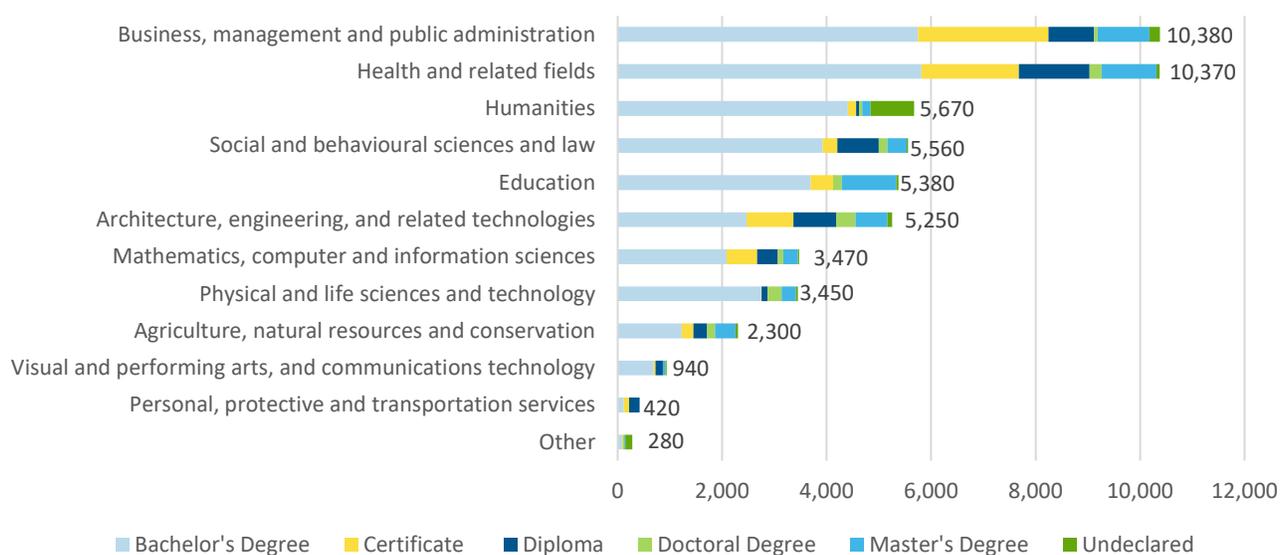
⁴ Work-integrated learning is a model and process of education which formally and intentionally integrates a student's academic studies within a workplace or practice setting. The ministry and institutions recognize that numerous other educational experiences also fit this definition of work-integrated learning, including field experience, land-based learning, community service learning, and others, but due to present data collection limitations, the enrolment numbers presented here are limited to those students in Co-op, Work Experience, Clinical/Practicum, and Internship programs.

Areas of Study

In 2022-23, the most popular areas of study for Saskatchewan post-secondary students were those of Business, Management and Public Administration (10,380 students); Health and Related Fields (10,370); Humanities (5,670); and, Social and Behavioural Sciences, and Law (5,560). Together these four groups comprise 60 per cent of all enrolments⁵.

Figure 17

Total Annual Enrolments by Primary Grouping and Credential Type, 2022-23



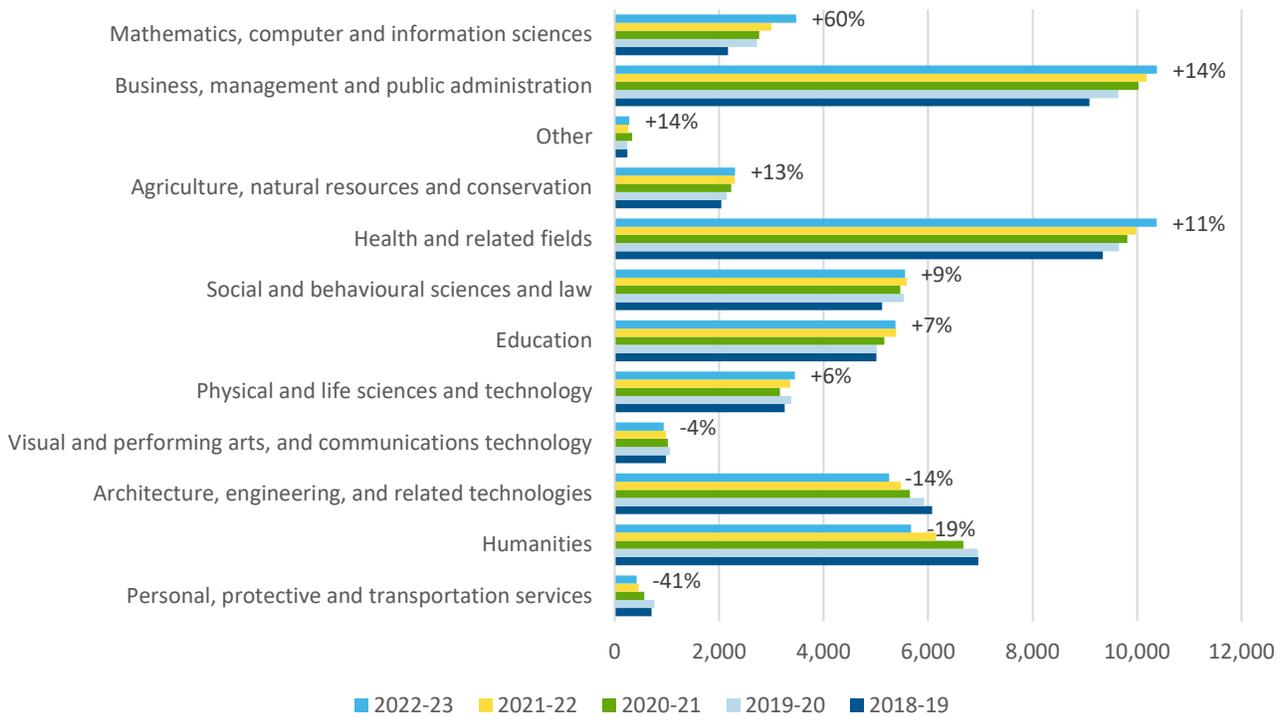
Over the past five years, the fastest growing areas of study in Saskatchewan (by percentage) have been those of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences (60 per cent increase); Business, Management and Public Administration (14 per cent increase); Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation (13 per cent increase); and, Health and Related Fields (11 per cent increase).

In terms of total number of students, the most significant increases have occurred in the areas of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences, and Business, Management and Public Administration, both of which have added 1,300 students since 2018-19. Health and Related Fields have also increased by over 1,000 students in the last five years, growing from 9,340 students in 2018-19 to 10,370 students in 2022-23.

⁵ Area of study categories are derived from Statistics Canada's Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP Canada 2016) – Primary groupings. Data for this section includes students enrolled in credentialed programs at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, University of Regina, and University of Saskatchewan.

Figure 18

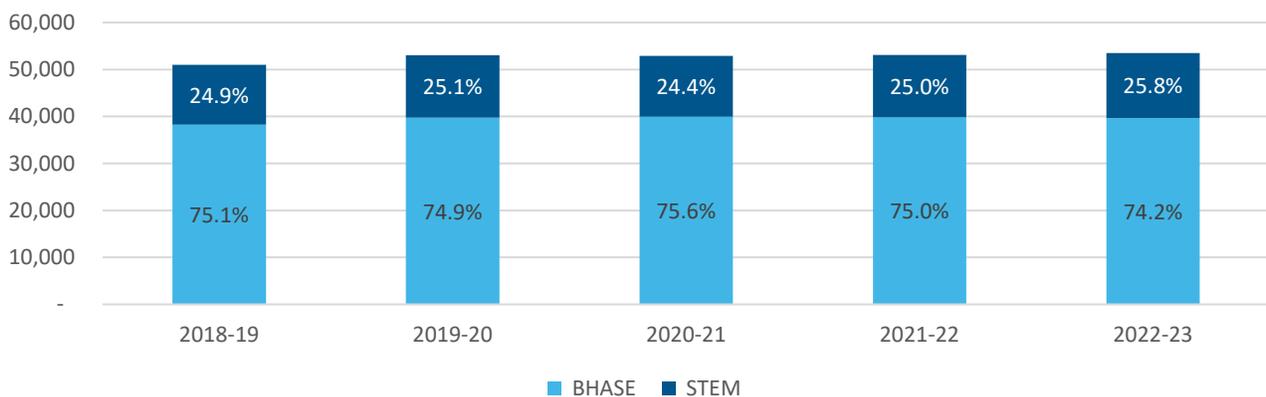
Total Annual Enrolments by Primary Grouping, 2018-19 to 2022-23



In 2022-23, just over one-quarter of students were enrolled in programs in the STEM fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and Computer Sciences, with the remainder enrolled in the BHASE fields of Business, Humanities, Health, Arts, Social Science, and Education. The composition of total enrolments in Saskatchewan by STEM and BHASE fields has remained largely unchanged between 2018-19 and 2022-23, with a slightly larger proportion of students now taking STEM programs.

Figure 19

Total Annual Enrolments by STEM and BHASE Fields, 2018-19 to 2022-23

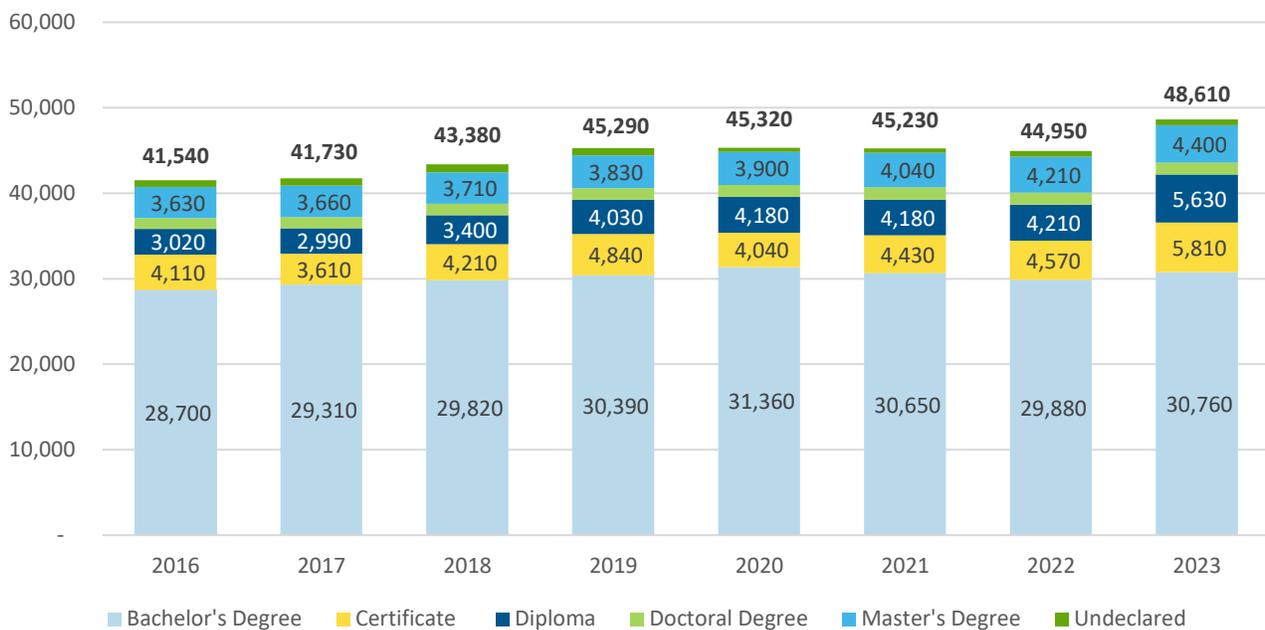


Fall 2023 Enrolments

Reports by the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Indicators Project focus primarily on annual enrolment, which accounts for all students in credentialed post-secondary education in an academic year, the most recent being 2022-23. The project also collects enrolment data for each fall semester, which provides an early indicator of enrolment trends at the beginning of the current academic year.

In Fall 2023, there were 48,610 students enrolled in credentialed programming at Saskatchewan’s public post-secondary institutions, a significant increase of over 8 per cent compared to Fall 2022. Year-over-year, enrolments at all credential levels increased, except for students in Doctoral programs which decreased by just 20 students. Fall enrolments in Diploma programs increased by 34 per cent, Certificates by 27 per cent, Master’s by five per cent, and Bachelor’s Degrees by three per cent.

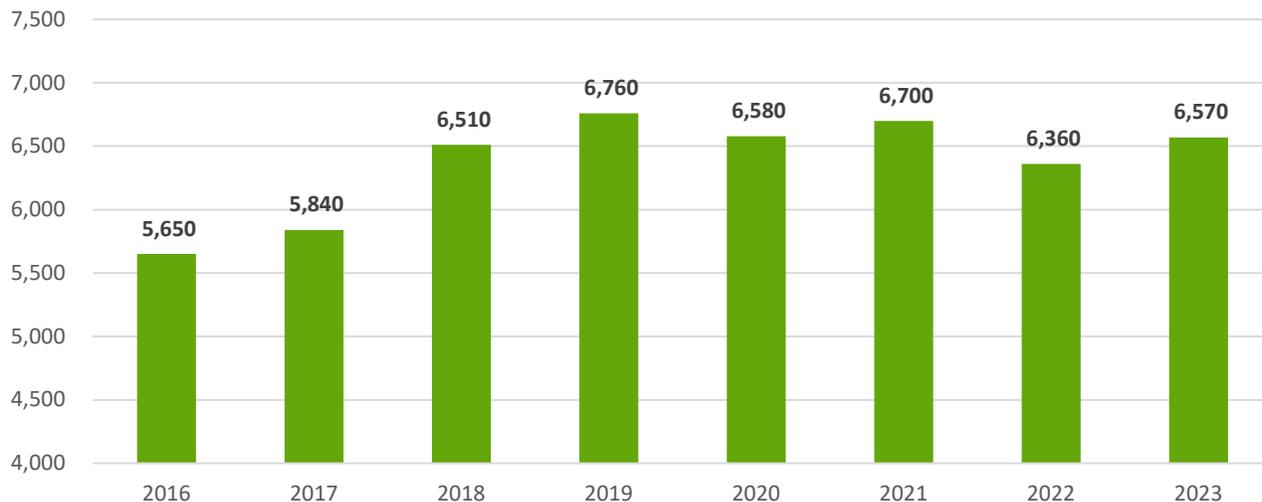
Figure 20
Fall Semester Enrolments by Credential Type, 2016 to 2023



In Fall 2022, Indigenous enrolments declined considerably compared to the year before, and as a result, annual enrolment in 2022-23 (discussed on page 9 above) also decreased compared to the previous academic year. In Fall 2023, Indigenous student numbers rebounded somewhat, a year-over-year increase of three per cent. This suggests that next year’s 2023-24 academic year enrolments will increase modestly as well, though still not to the levels seen prior to COVID-19.

Figure 21

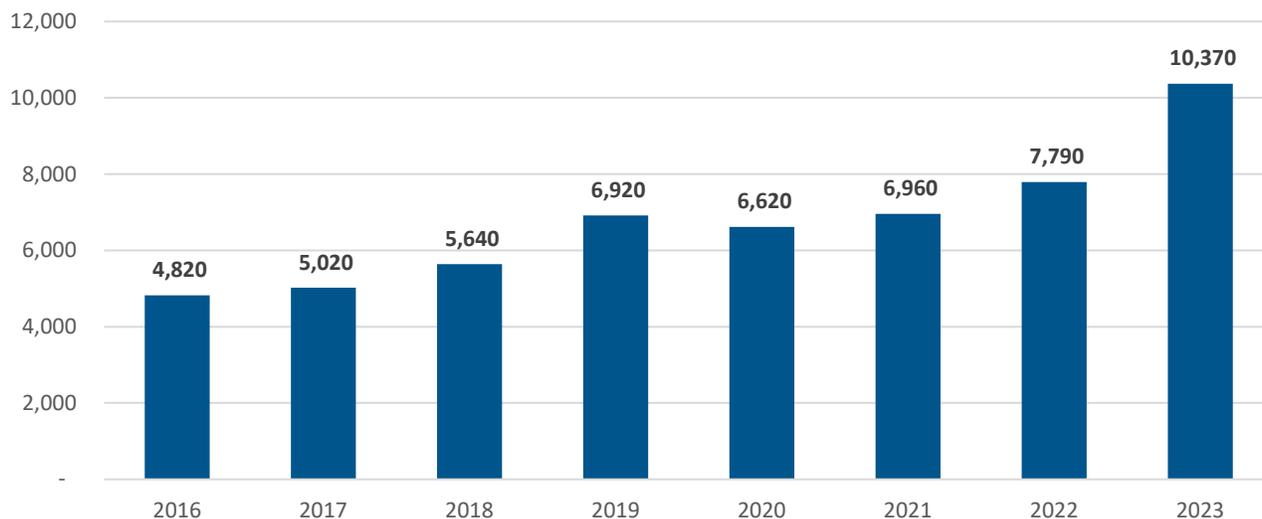
Indigenous Student Fall Semester Enrolments, 2016 to 2023



Fall 2023 data show record enrolments of international students and a complete recovery from the COVID-induced 2020 enrolment decline for this student group. Fall enrolments have increased by 33 per cent over the previous year, by 57 per cent since Fall 2020, and more than doubled since Fall 2016.

Figure 22

International Student Fall Semester Enrolments, 2016 to 2023



The Ministry of Advanced Education and post-secondary institutions will continue to closely monitor enrolment trends, particularly for Indigenous students, as the post-pandemic recovery is less clear for this student group than for others. The next Indicators Project report will focus on credentials awarded (Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates) and will be released in Spring 2024.

Table 1*Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project – Annual Enrolment Data*

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total Annual Enrolment	52,100	53,810	53,390	53,980	54,570
Bachelor's Degree	32,770	33,510	34,270	33,660	32,990
Certificate	7,250	7,570	6,780	7,480	7,920
Diploma	3,820	4,500	4,740	4,910	5,290
Doctoral Degree	1,550	1,550	1,580	1,630	1,600
Master's Degree	4,690	4,730	4,850	5,090	5,260
Undeclared	2,010	1,950	1,160	1,210	1,520
Women	29,720	30,670	30,740	31,260	31,360
Men	21,840	22,520	22,010	22,050	22,420
Indigenous	8,370	8,450	8,080	8,400	8,250
First Nations	5,670	5,650	5,390	5,600	5,490
Métis	2,540	2,650	2,630	2,770	2,720
International	7,520	8,780	8,130	8,880	10,500
Granted Accommodations	-	3,080	3,020	3,530	4,190
BHASE	38,290	39,740	39,960	39,830	39,710
STEM	12,710	13,300	12,910	13,290	13,770