

2022 ENVIRONMENTAL
SCAN

Student and Graduate Profiles



COLLEGES ONTARIO | COLLÈGES ONTARIO

Student and Graduate Profiles

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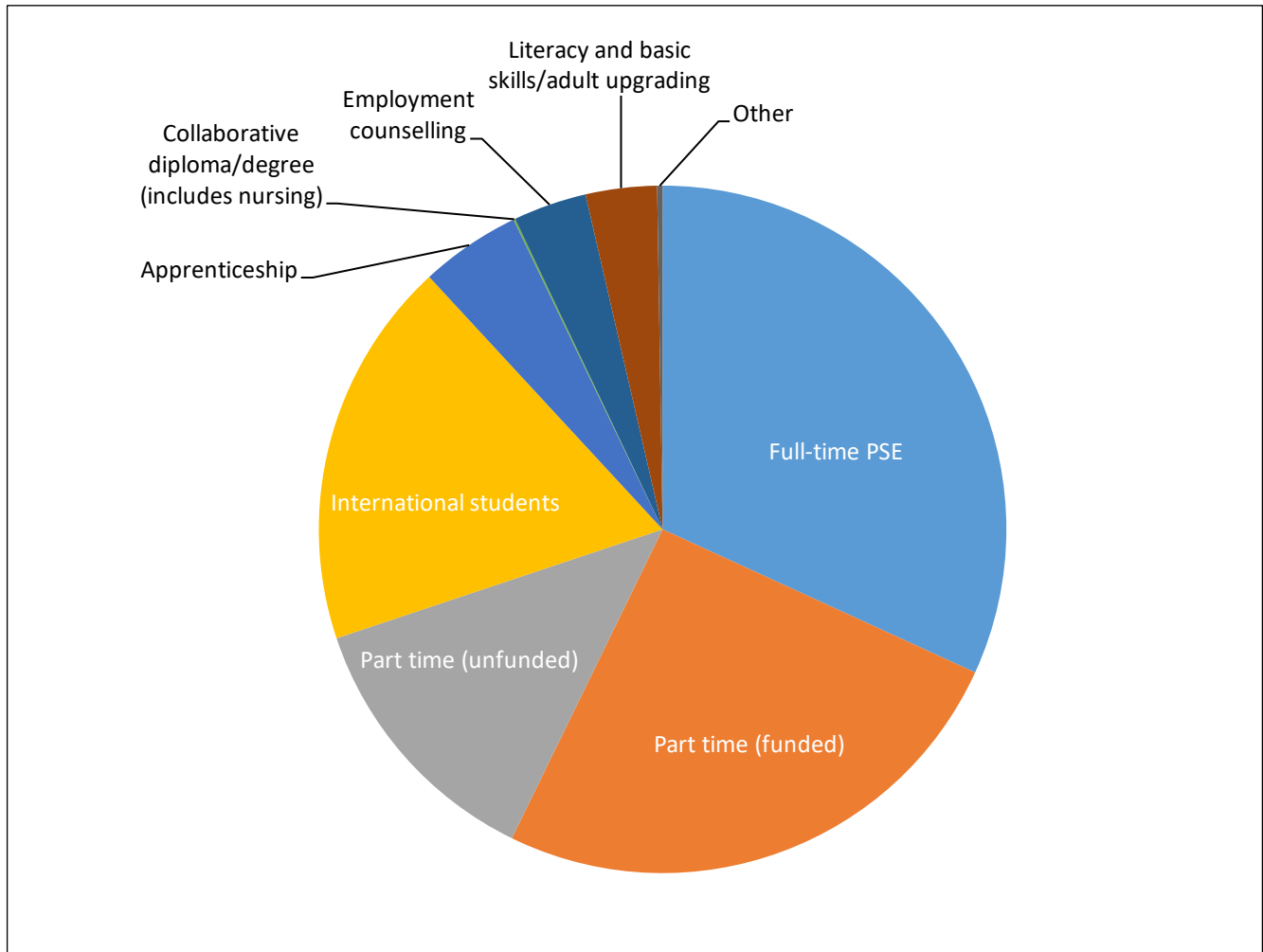
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1 HIGHLIGHTS

- The global pandemic presented many challenges for colleges, college students and for graduates entering the labour market.
- These challenges likely resulted in some students altering their learning goals and entry to college. As well, graduates entered a job market where many employers had shut down or were only offering minimal services. The impact on students and graduates is reflected in some of the data in this report.
- Each year, there are approximately 500,000 students and clients in Ontario's public colleges. More than 260,000 are full-time post-secondary students.
- There were over 192,000 distinct applicants for the 2021-22 academic year.
- Fifty-two per cent of new fall 2021 entrants to Ontario post-secondary institutions enrolled in a college.
- In 2020-21, total funded, full-time equivalent (FTE) post-secondary enrolment in the colleges was 199,043 (including full-time, part-time and tuition-short programs).
- More than 100,000 international students were studying at Ontario's colleges in fall 2021.
- Colleges delivered 82 per cent of apprenticeship in-school training in 2020-21.
- Colleges reported more than 125,000 post-secondary graduates in 2019-20.
- Seventy-seven per cent of graduates in the labour force were working six months after graduation.

2 COLLEGE ACTIVITY

Figure 1. Relative distribution of learners and clients served by Ontario's colleges



Sources: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities; Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development; OCAS; College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading.



- Ontario's colleges serve a diverse population of 500,000 learners. In addition to traditional post-secondary education (PSE), colleges offer many other types of programs and courses, including apprenticeship training, continuing education courses, collaborative programs with universities and literacy and basic skills programs.

3 NUMBERS OF ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICANTS, STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

3.1 Applicants

Table 1. Per cent of college applicants* direct from secondary school vs. non-direct, by year

Year	Direct		Non-direct		Total
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
2012-13	67,714	34.5%	128,656	65.5%	196,370
2013-14	69,256	34.6%	130,742	65.4%	199,998
2014-15	68,384	34.7%	128,639	65.3%	197,023
2015-16	62,488	32.1%	132,440	67.9%	194,928
2016-17	54,450	28.5%	136,909	71.5%	191,359
2017-18	52,971	26.9%	143,827	73.1%	196,798
2018-19	49,903	25.0%	149,409	75.0%	199,306
2019-20	50,053	26.1%	141,909	73.9%	191,962
2020-21**	44,313	21.4%	162,739	78.6%	207,052
2021-22**	43,757	22.7%	148,634	77.3%	192,391

*Distinct applicants across fall/winter/spring.

**Preliminary numbers as of May 2022.

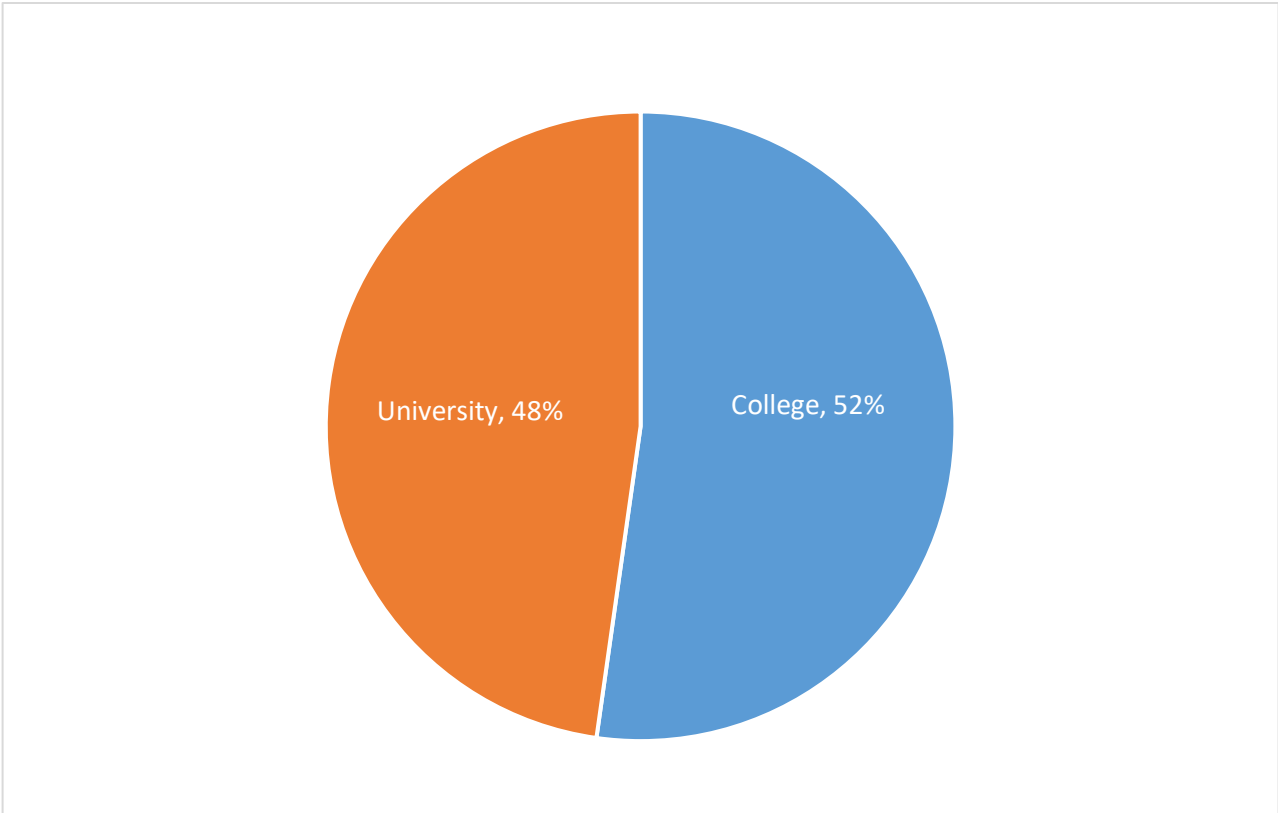
Direct: Applicants applying directly from high school (for OCAS applicant data, this category includes school board-run adult day schools).

Non-direct: Applicants not applying directly after high school.

Source: OCAS.



Figure 2. New fall 2021 Ontario post-secondary entrants by sector



Note: University and college data include first-year, full-time domestic head counts for fall 2021. Significant numbers of students also enrol in colleges during the winter and spring intake periods, not shown in the above figure. New full-time apprentices at colleges are included with the college data. Sources: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities; Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development; OCAS.

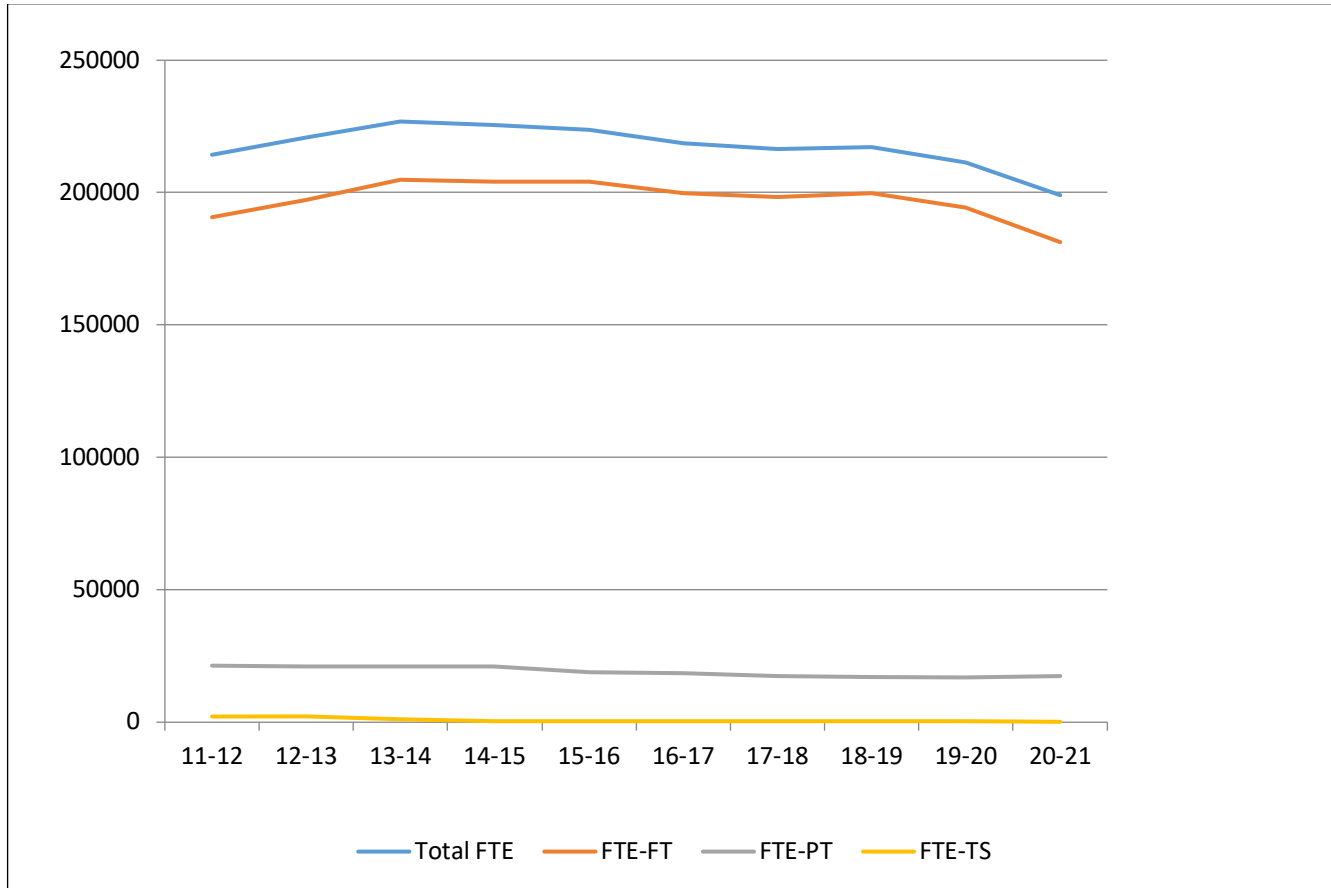


- A majority of new fall 2021 entrants to post-secondary education in Ontario enrolled in a college.

3.2 Students

Post-secondary-funded enrolment

Figure 3. Funded college enrolments as FTEs* from 2011-12 to 2020-21



*FTE = full-time equivalent; FT - full time; PT = part time; TS = tuition short (programs typically less than 52 weeks in duration).

Note that funded students do not comprise the total college population.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



Table 2. Total funded FTE enrolment by college, 2020-21

College	2020-21 FTE
Algonquin	18,412
Boréal	1,224
Cambrian	3,174
Canadore	2,454
Centennial	11,124
Conestoga	10,536
Confederation	2,314
Durham	11,157
Fanshawe	13,479
Fleming	4,476
George Brown	17,844
Georgian	8,078
Humber	20,739
La Cité	3,727
Lambton	2,211
Loyalist	2,253
Mohawk	10,739
Niagara	6,268
Northern	755
Sault	1,395
Seneca	20,012
Sheridan	15,290
St. Clair	6,933
St. Lawrence	4,450
Total	199,043

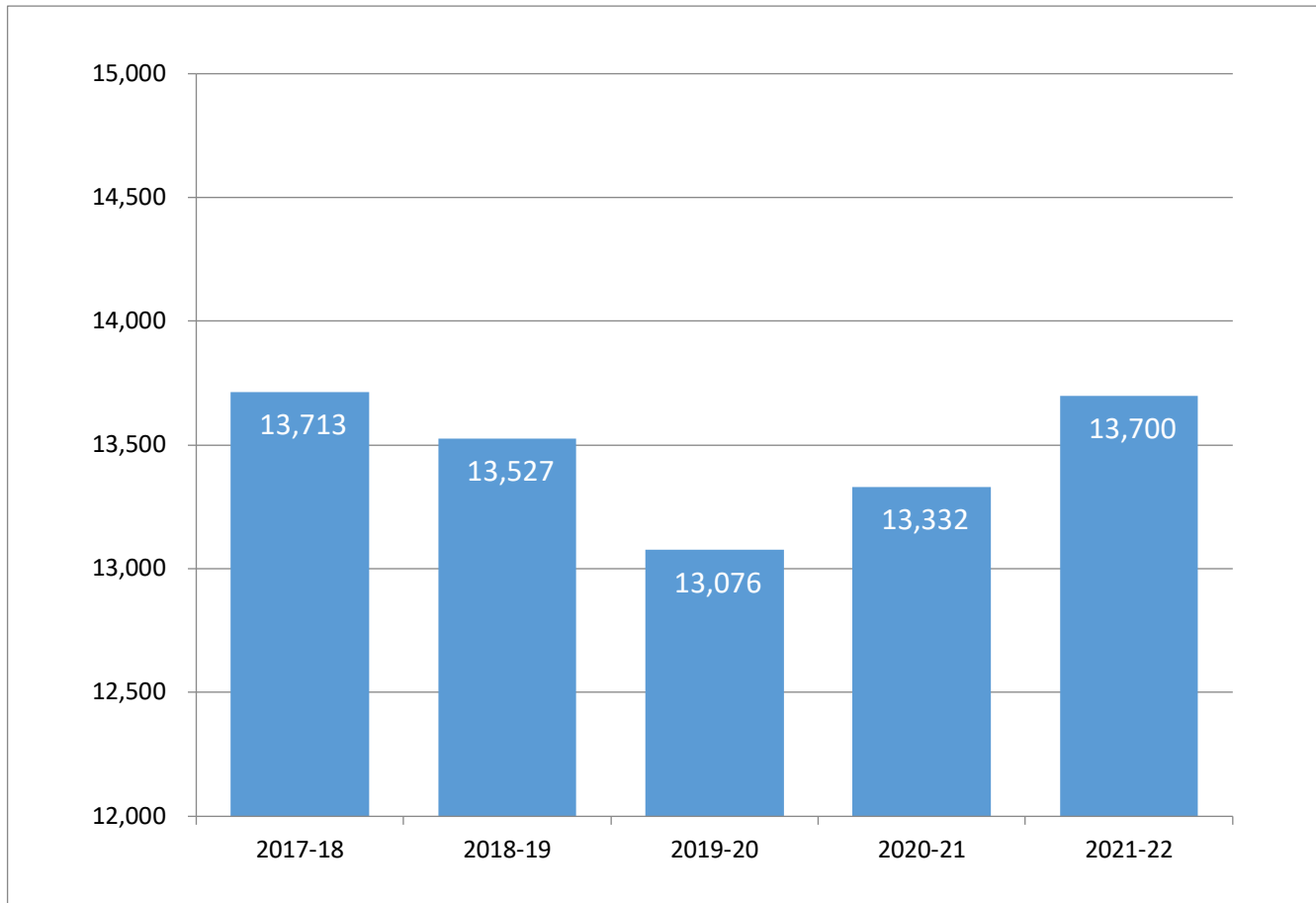
Note that funded students do not comprise the total college population.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



Nursing students

Figure 4. Full-time nursing enrolment* by year



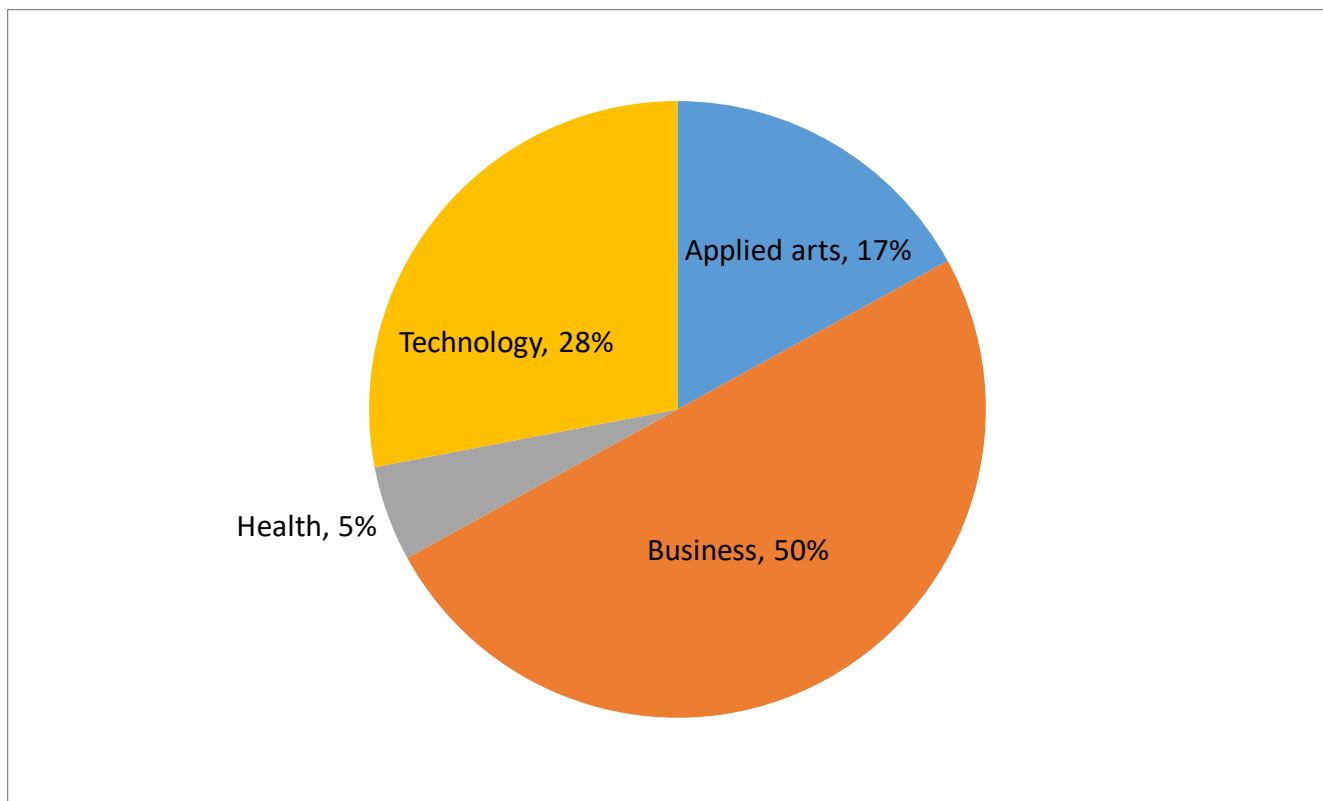
*Includes full-time students in stand-alone college programs and college-university collaborative programs.
Excludes enrolment in stand-alone university programs.
Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



- Ontario nursing programs have traditionally been offered through college-university partnerships and enrolment was counted separately from post-secondary-funded FTEs. However, the Ontario government announced a policy change in 2020 that allows colleges to offer independent nursing degree programs.

International students

Figure 5. International student enrolment by program category



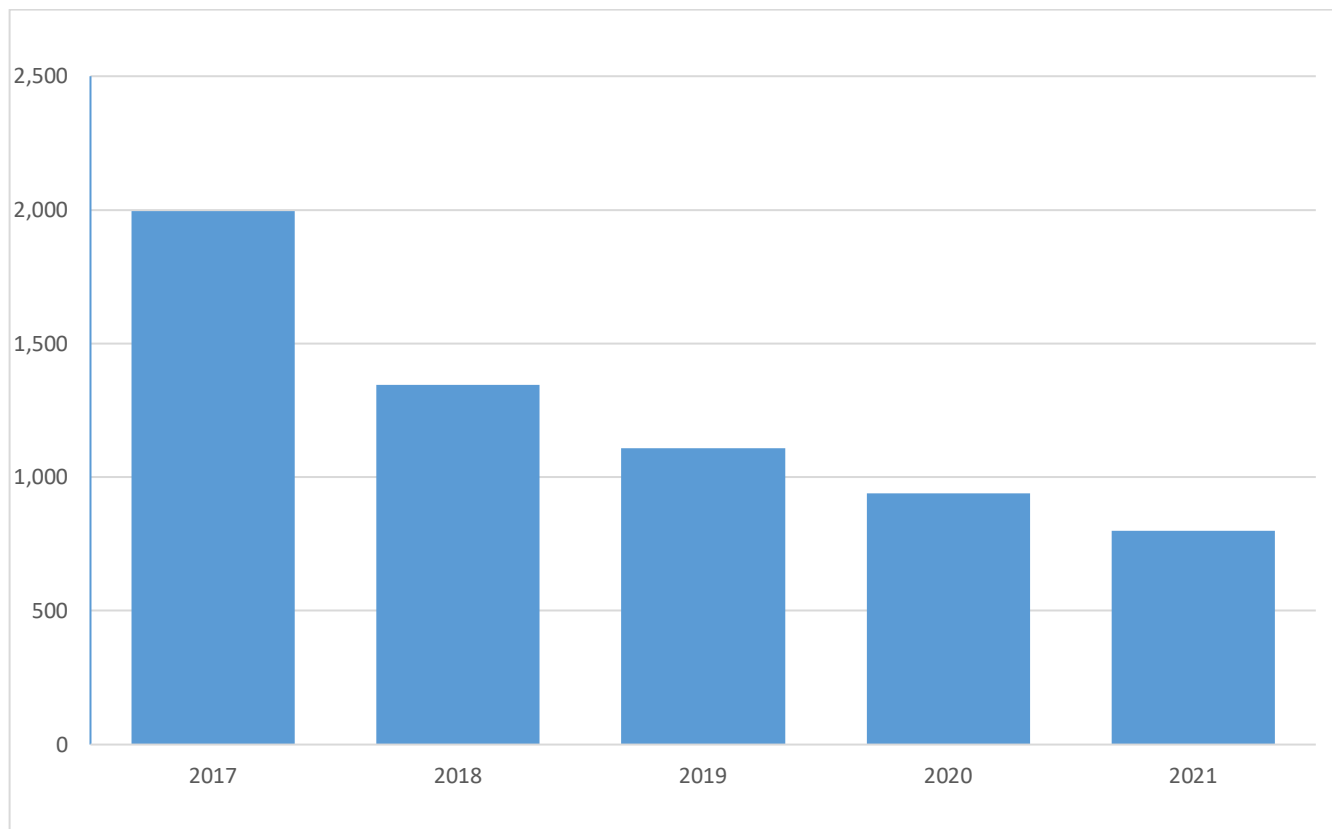
Source: OCAS, November enrolment count.



- More than 100,000 international students enrolled at colleges in 2021-22.

Second Career students

Figure 6. College Second Career enrolment

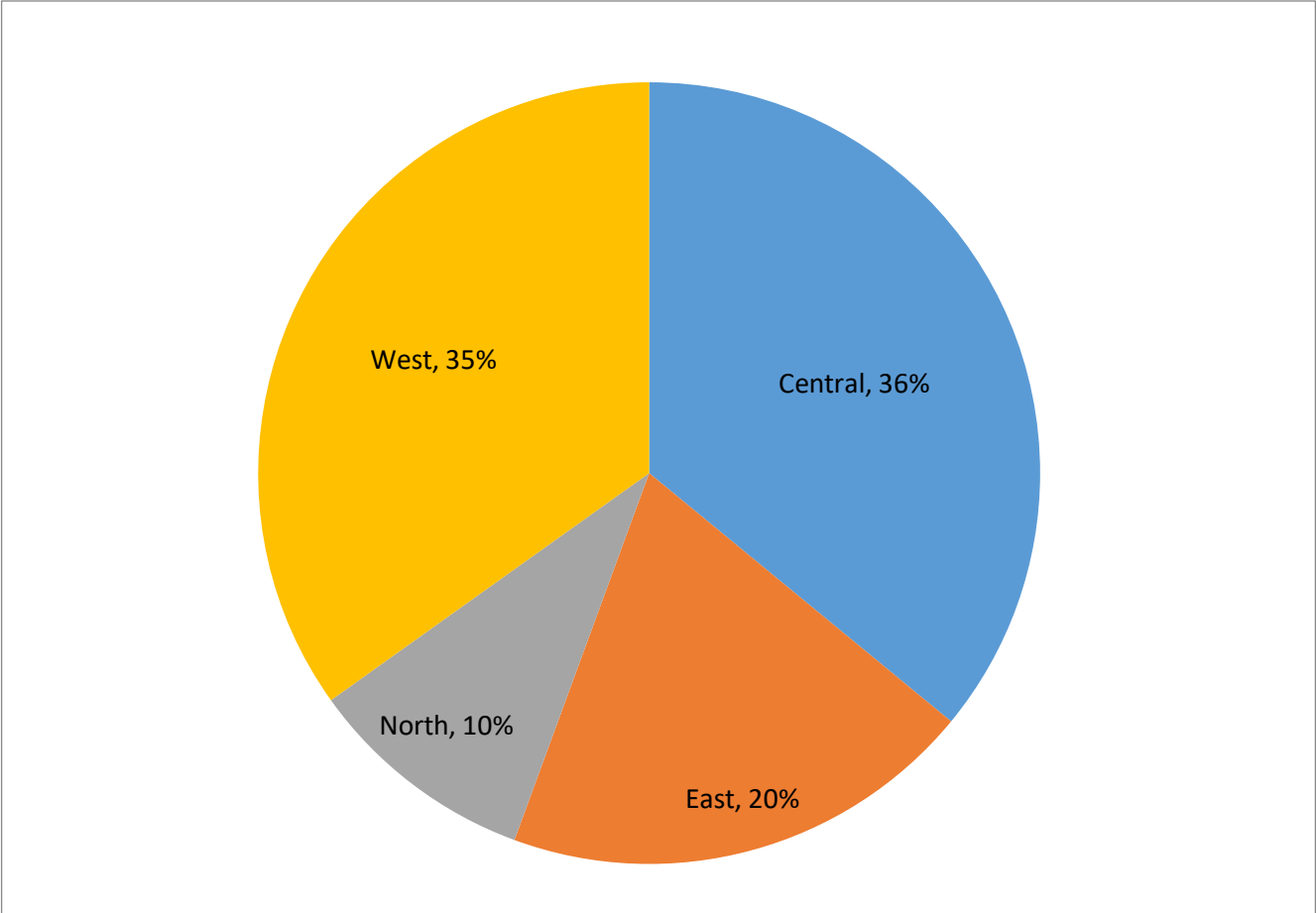


November enrolment count.
Source: OCAS.



- In 2008, the Ontario government introduced the Second Career program to provide retraining opportunities to adults who were laid off during the recession. The program provides funding for adults to pursue post-secondary training at public or private colleges.
- The program was updated in 2022 to become Better Jobs Ontario. The eligibility for the program has been updated to include individuals facing challenges to stable employment. This includes gig workers, young people and people on social assistance.
- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, 23 per cent of Second Career clients received training at a public college. The average age of Second Career clients was 41 years, with an almost equal distribution of males and females.
- Clients pursue a range of career options. Currently, the top occupations pursued are as truck drivers, heavy equipment operators, medical administrative assistants, computer network technicians, and accounting clerks.

Figure 7. Relative distribution of Second Career clients by provincial region



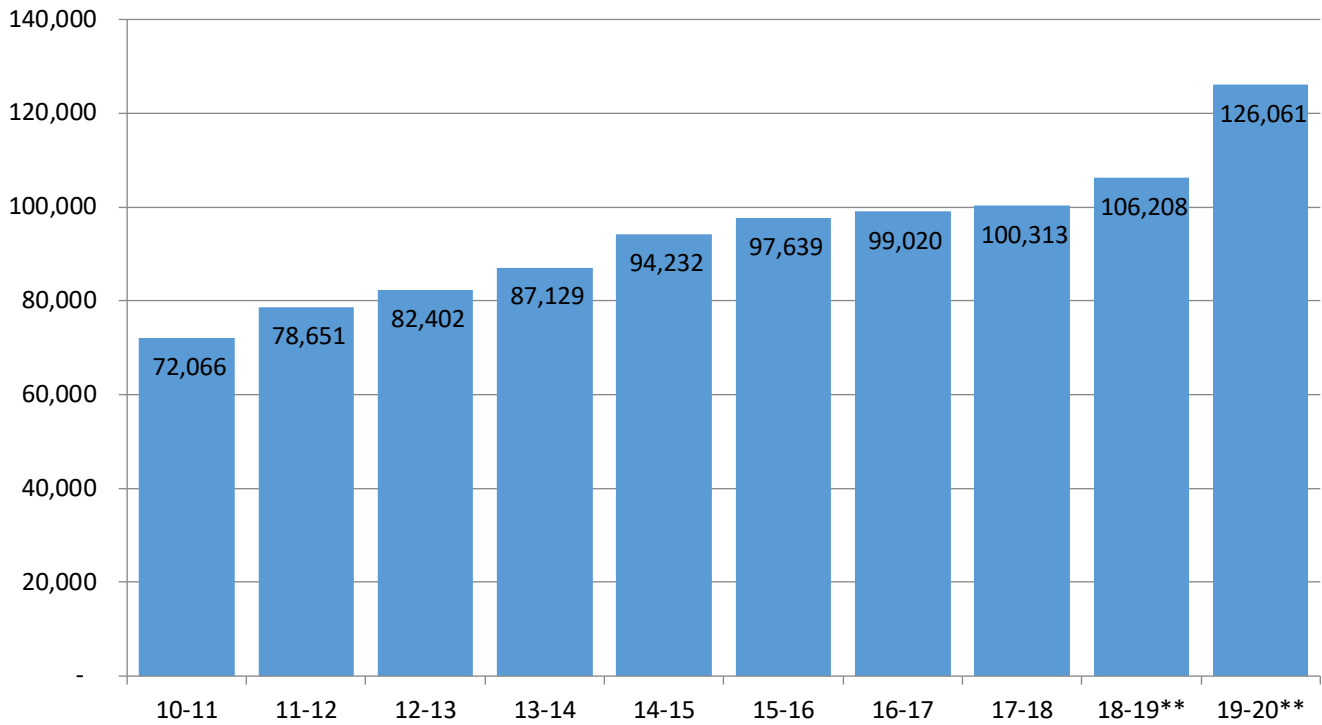
Source: Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.



- As shown in Figure 7, the relative distribution of these clients across provincial regions generally reflects local population densities.
- Since the program’s inception, colleges have trained over 45,000 Second Career students.

3.3 Graduates

Figure 8. Ontario college graduates by year 2010-11 to 2019-20*



*Reporting year (actual year of graduation is the academic year prior to the reporting year).

**Preliminary estimates.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



4 DOMESTIC LEARNER DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Table 4. College applicants

	Per cent
Gender	
Female	57%
Male	42%
Other gender identity	<1%
Average applicant age	
	25 years
Applicant region	
Central Ontario	8%
Eastern Ontario	13%
Golden Horseshoe (excluding Toronto)	36%
Northern Ontario	5%
Southwestern Ontario	20%
Toronto	19%
Status in Canada	
Canadian citizen	87%
Immigrant or refugee	13%

Sources: OCAS.



Table 5. College students

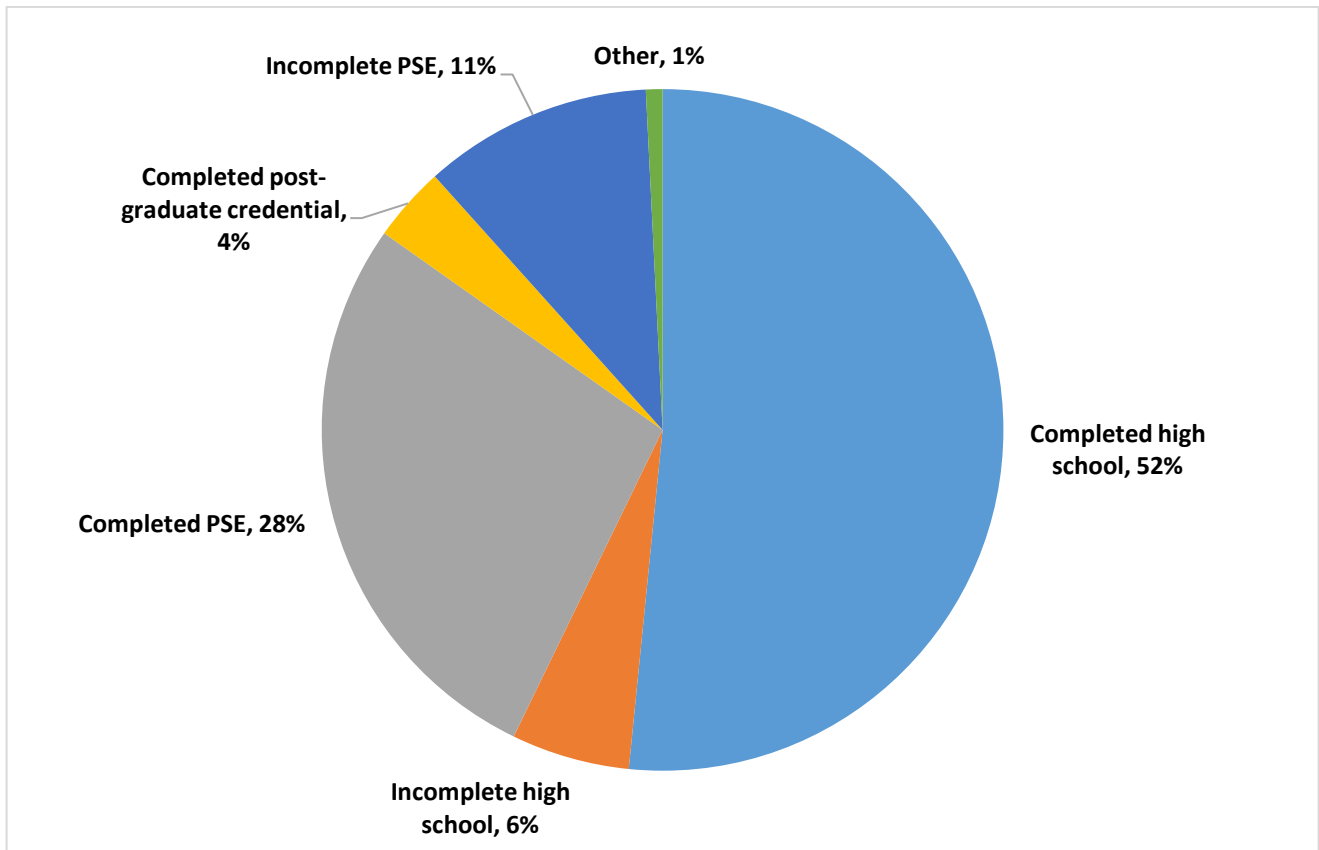
	Percent
Gender	
Female	55%
Male	45%
Other gender identity	<1%
Age	
<21 years	50%
21-25 years	26%
26-30 years	10%
31-35 years	5%
>35 years	8%
First-generation status*	
	28%
First language	
English	87%
French	3%
Other	10%

*Percentage of students whose parents never attended a post-secondary institution.
Source: OCAS.



4.1 Level of education

Figure 9. Pathways to college



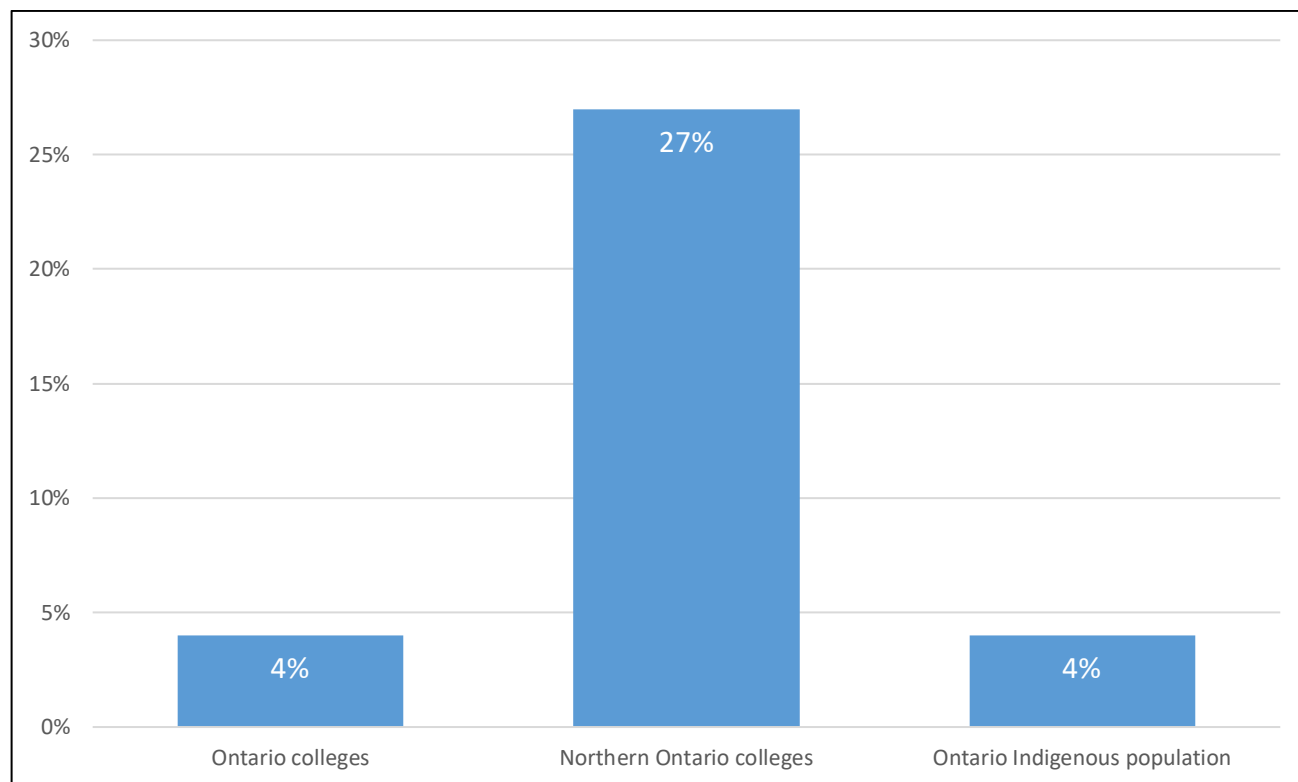
Source: 2021 OCAS Applicant Survey



- According to a 2021 survey by OCAS, most college applicants completed their high school education before enrolling in their programs. Another 42 per cent had some previous post-secondary education, including a significant number (18 per cent) of applicants who completed a university undergraduate or graduate degree.

4.2 Indigenous identity

Figure 10. Proportion of college students identifying as Indigenous



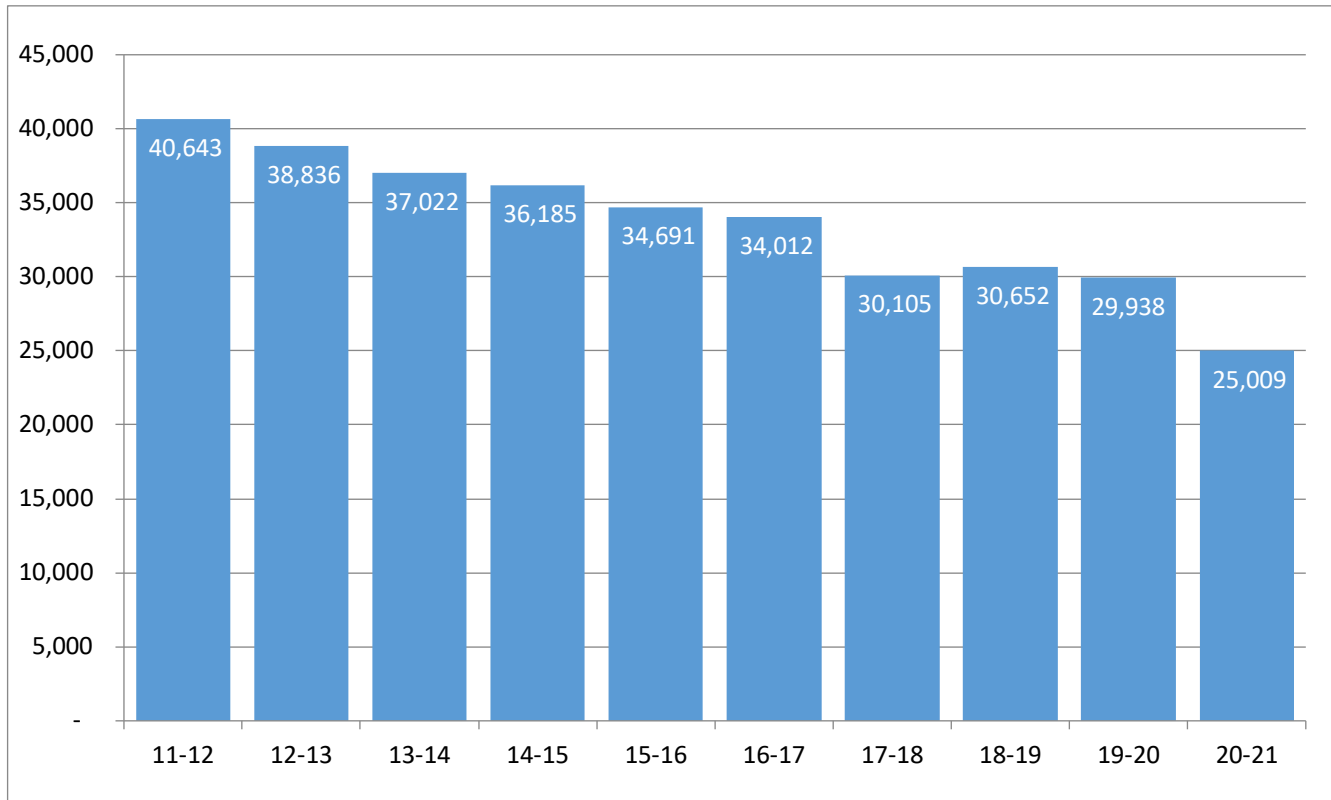
Sources: OCAS, 2016 census.



- Approximately four per cent of Ontario college students self-identify as Indigenous, a high proportion of whom study at a northern college.

5 APPRENTICES

Figure 11. Total new apprenticeship starts at colleges by year

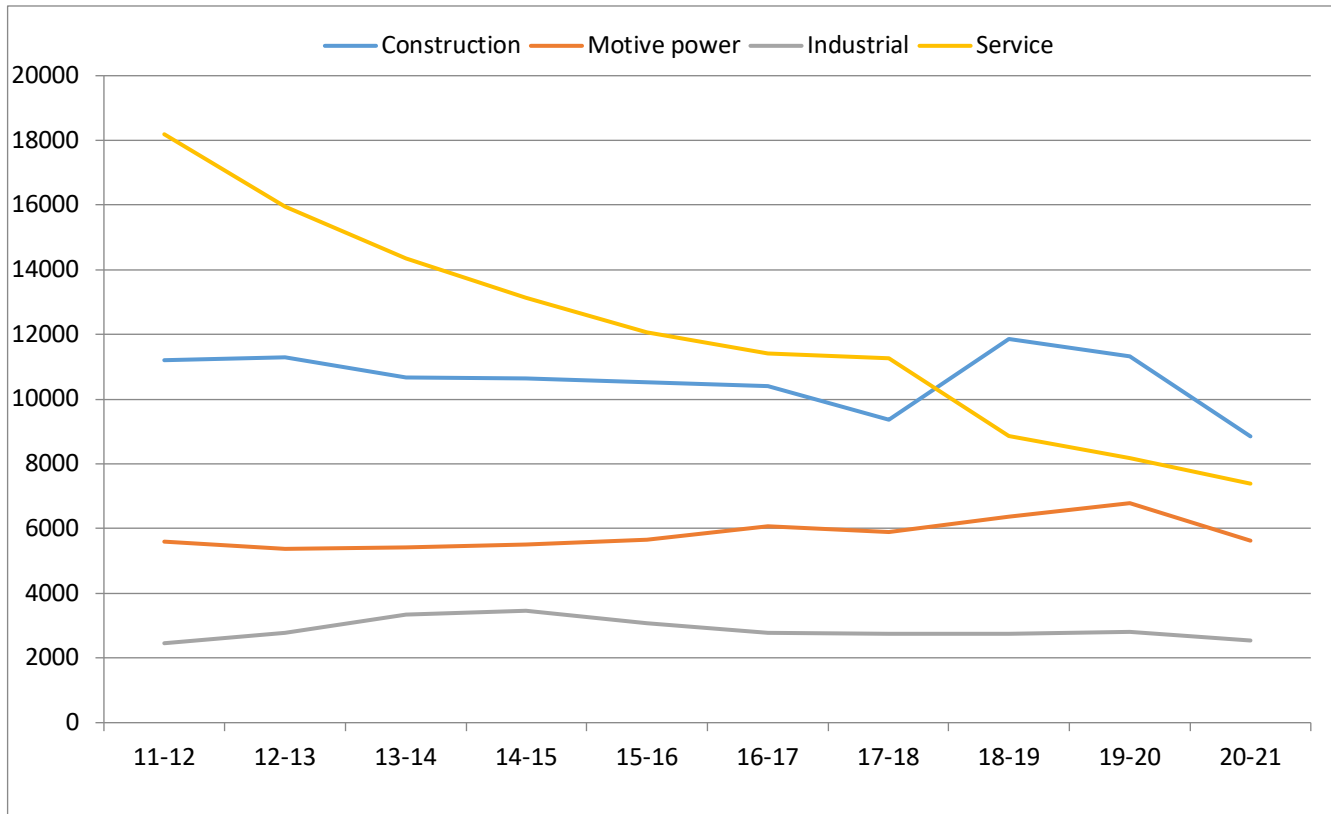


Source: Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.



- In 2020-21, colleges provided 82 per cent of the province’s in-class apprenticeship training.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and previous changes in government policy have led to a decrease in apprenticeship enrolment, particularly in the service sector.

Figure 12. New apprenticeship starts* at colleges by sector and year

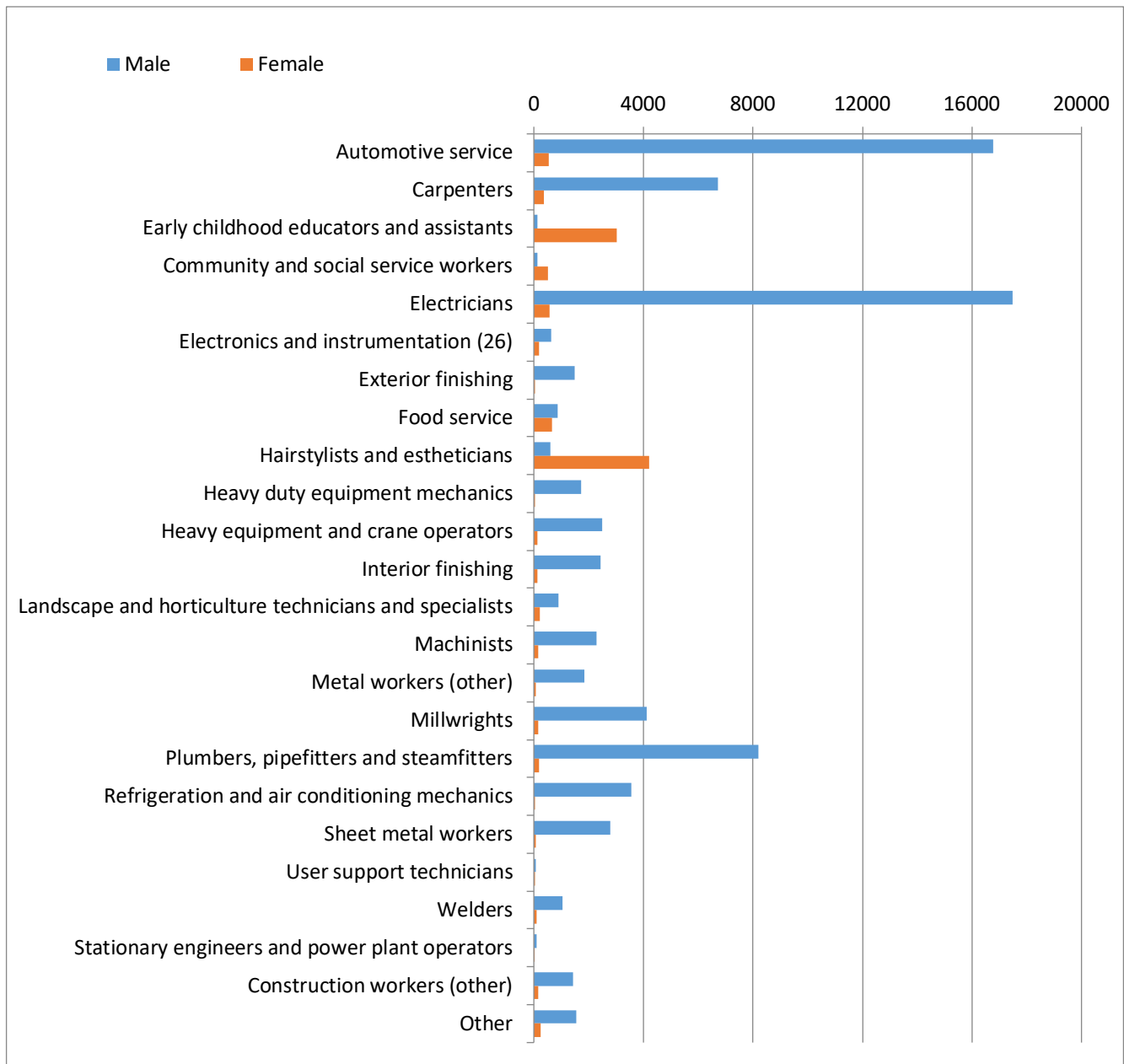


*Includes full- and part-time apprentices. Excludes starts in exam preparation.
 Source: Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.



- Reflecting the needs of Ontario’s economy, the distribution of new apprenticeship seats varies by sector.

Figure 13. Distribution of Ontario registered apprentices by gender (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada; Table 37-10-0023-01.



- Detailed information on the gender of registered apprentices is available from Statistics Canada. In Ontario, women are under-represented in many trades and comprise 13 per cent of the total registered apprentice population.

6 CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS

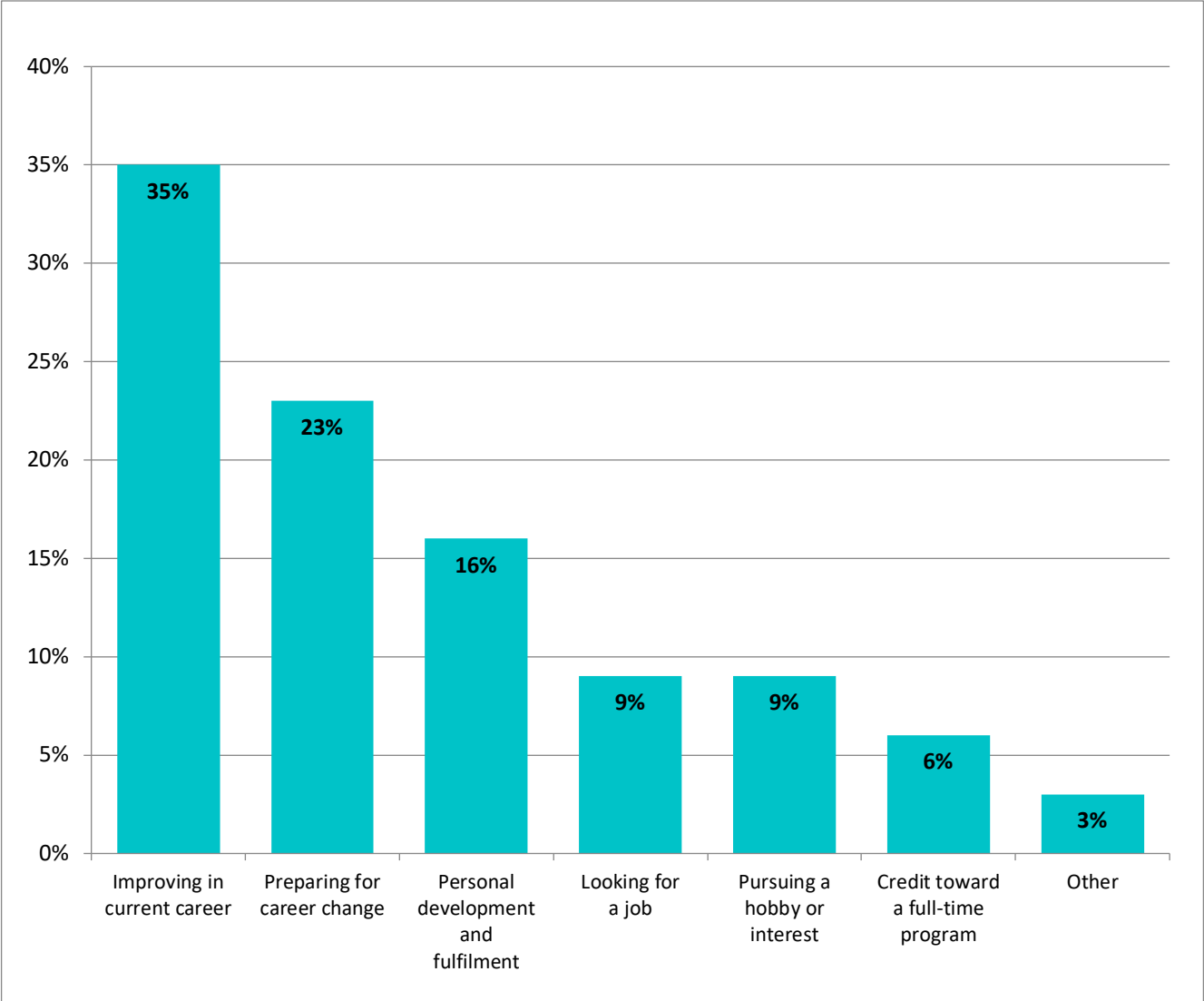
Table 6. Background characteristics of college continuing education students (2018)

Gender	In class	Online	Total
Female	62%	78%	67%
Male	36%	20%	31%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	2%
Age			
<20	3%	2%	2%
20-24	11%	9%	10%
25-29	18%	15%	17%
30-34	17%	15%	16%
35-44	24%	29%	26%
45-54	17%	22%	19%
55-64	8%	7%	8%
65+	3%	1%	2%
First language			
English	61%	78%	66%
French	2%	4%	3%
Other	37%	17%	31%
Immigrant status			
Recent immigrant (last 10 years)	25%	12%	21%
Previous education			
High school or less	21%	21%	21%
College certificate	9%	10%	9%
College diploma	23%	28%	24%
University degree	48%	41%	46%
First-generation status			
Neither parents nor sibling attended PSE	33%	47%	37%
Employment status			
Full time	62%	62%	62%
Part time	19%	21%	20%
Unemployed	9%	7%	8%
Homemaker	3%	5%	4%
Retired	4%	1%	3%
Other	4%	3%	4%

Sources: 2018 continuing education survey (CCI Research Inc.).



Figure 14. Main reason for taking a continuing education course

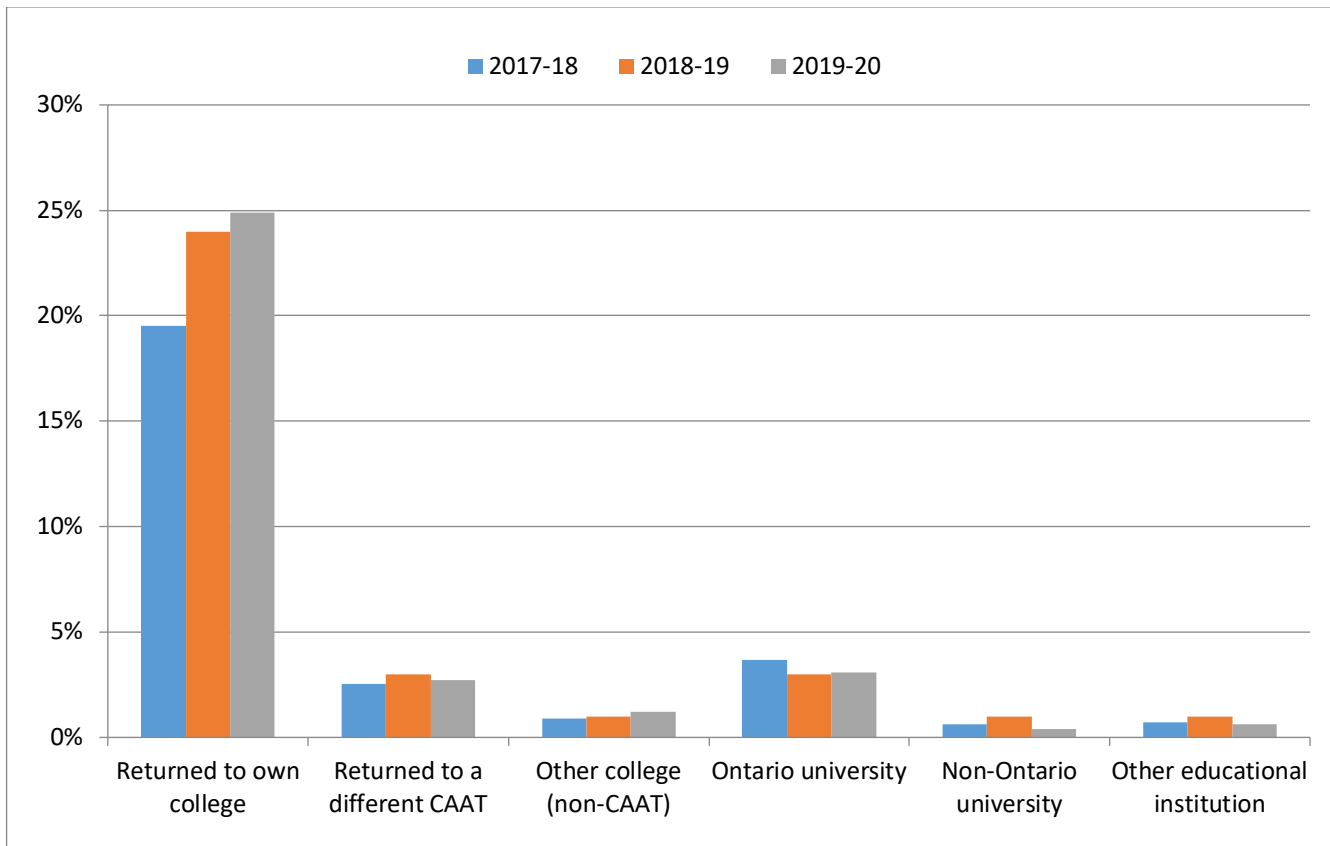


Source: 2018 continuing education survey (CCI Research Inc.)



7 GRADUATES

Figure 15. Further education of college graduates* (within six months of graduation)



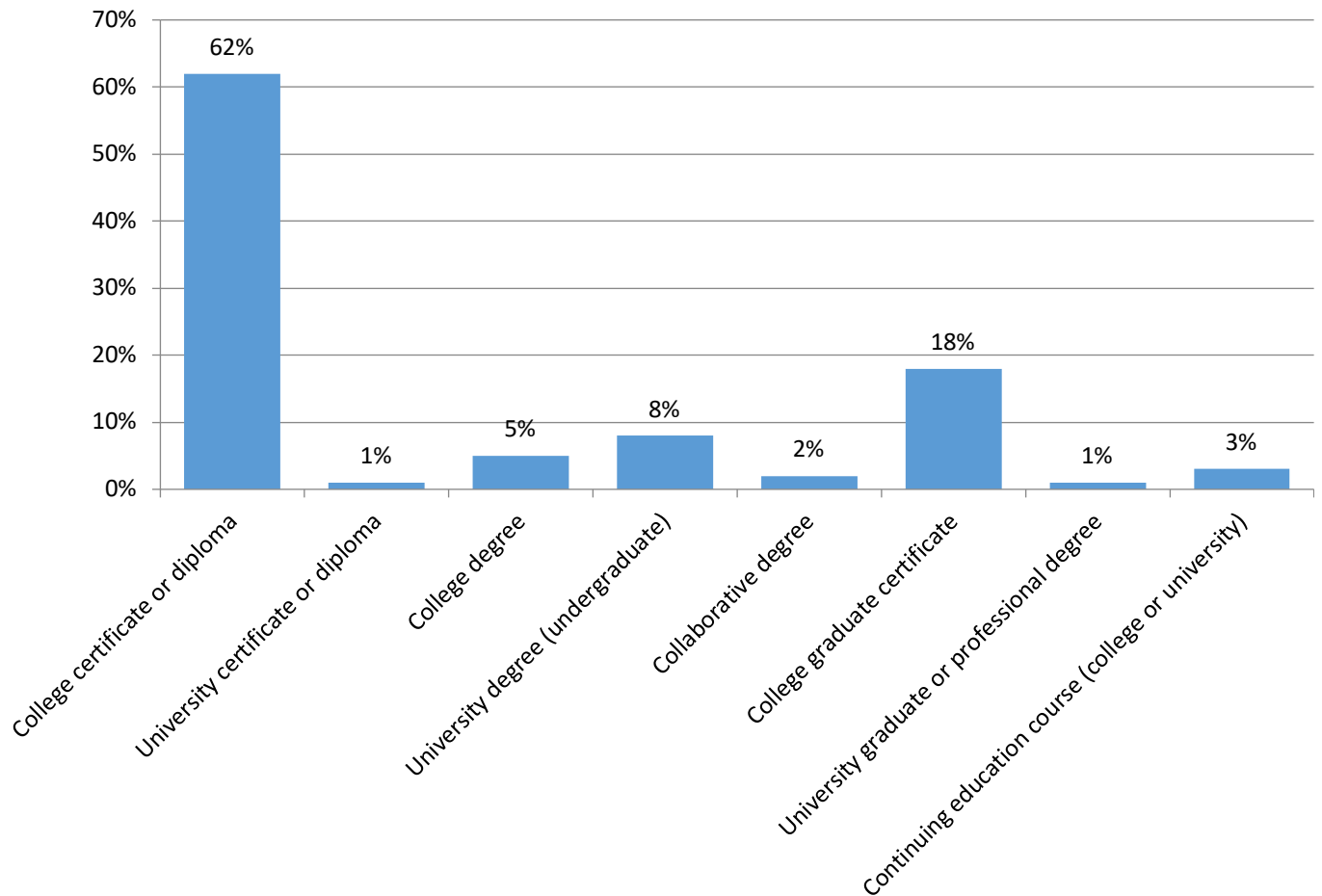
*Includes those studying full or part time.

Source: Graduate satisfaction surveys (Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities).



- Thirty-three per cent of 2019-20 graduates chose to further their education immediately (i.e., within six months) after graduation.
- The percentages vary slightly from year to year but returning to their college of graduation continues to be the most popular choice for graduates.

Figure 16. Further education credential choices of college graduates (within six months of graduating)



Source: 2020-21 Graduate satisfaction survey (Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities).



- Of the college graduates who continued their education immediately after graduation, 62 per cent enrolled in a college certificate or diploma program. Undergraduate degrees (college or university) were chosen by 15 per cent of college graduates and an additional 19 per cent pursued a post-graduate program.

8 PERCEPTIONS

8.1 Graduates

Many details regarding graduates' experiences are available from the survey of graduate outcomes conducted each year by the provincial government. Some of the highlights from the most recent survey include:

- Ninety-four per cent of graduates would recommend their colleges to someone else and 88 per cent of graduates would recommend their specific programs.
- Eighty-four per cent of college graduates were very satisfied/satisfied with the overall quality of instruction, that the course material in their programs was up to date and that the equipment was up to date.
- Eighty-three per cent of graduates were very satisfied/satisfied with the course content.

Table 7. Graduate and employer beliefs about the importance of the following skills and abilities for the graduate’s current position and their satisfaction with graduate’s educational preparation

	Importance (extremely important/ important)		Satisfaction (very satisfied/satisfied)	
	Graduate- rated	Employer- rated	Graduate- rated	Employer- rated
A. Specific job-related knowledge	88%	89%	78%	84%
B. Specific job-related skills	88%	90%	78%	87%
C. Oral communication	94%	98%	85%	92%
D. Written communications	84%	83%	83%	87%
E. Comprehension	91%	95%	85%	91%
F. Math skills	60%	58%	67%	74%
G. Computer skills	77%	72%	77%	86%
H. Critical thinking	90%	91%	84%	85%
I. Problem solving	94%	95%	85%	86%
J. Research and analysis	67%	56%	76%	69%
K. Teamwork	93%	97%	86%	95%
L. Organization and planning	92%	91%	84%	86%
M. Time management	95%	96%	84%	87%
N. Quality of work	95%	99%	85%	92%
O. Productivity	94%	97%	84%	91%
P. Creative and innovative	75%	71%	76%	77%
Q. Adaptable	92%	95%	84%	93%
R. Responsible	96%	98%	87%	94%

Source: 2020-21 Graduate satisfaction survey (Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities).



- Graduates and employers display very high agreement in their ratings of the relative importance and satisfaction of each of these components to the work the graduates are doing.

9 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table 8. Key performance indicators 2011-12 to 2020-21*

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Graduate employment rate (%)	83.0	83.6	83.4	84.0	83.6	83.0	85.7	86.2	85.5	77.0
Graduation rate (%)	65.0	64.9	65.5	66.1	66.7	66.6	66.8	67.2	66.4	65.9
Graduate satisfaction rate (%)										
Very satisfied/satisfied	78.9	80.0	80.1	80.0	80.3	78.8	79.5	79.9	78.9	78.0
Neither	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.6	11.9	13.1	13.0	13.2	13.3	14.8
Very dissatisfied/dissatisfied	9.6	8.8	8.6	8.4	7.9	8.1	7.5	6.9	7.8	7.2
Employer satisfaction rate (%)										
Very satisfied/satisfied	92.8	93.4	92.2	88.1	91.4	91.2	92.5	89.6	91.1	90.6
Neither	4.9	4.3	5.0	9.2	5.6	5.8	5.1	7.2	7.0	7.2
Very dissatisfied/dissatisfied	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.2	2.0	2.2

*Reporting year

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



- There are four key performance indicators (KPIs) for colleges: the graduate satisfaction rate, the employer satisfaction rate, the graduate employment rate and the graduation rate.
- Graduation rates are reported by the colleges while surveys were used to collect all other information. Independent research firms collect the survey data on behalf of the colleges and the ministry.

10 NOTES ON DATA SOURCES

Data shown in this chapter were derived from the following sources:

- **Applicants:** OCAS application data and responses to the annual applicant survey.
- **Students:** Enrolment and demographic data were obtained from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and OCAS enrolment reports.
- **Apprentices:** Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.
- **Continuing education students:** Continuing education surveys conducted by CCI Research Inc. on behalf of the colleges.
- **Graduates and employers:** The graduate and employer satisfaction/outcomes survey and the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities' employment profile website provide data for college graduates six months after graduation.