

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators



Credentials 2021

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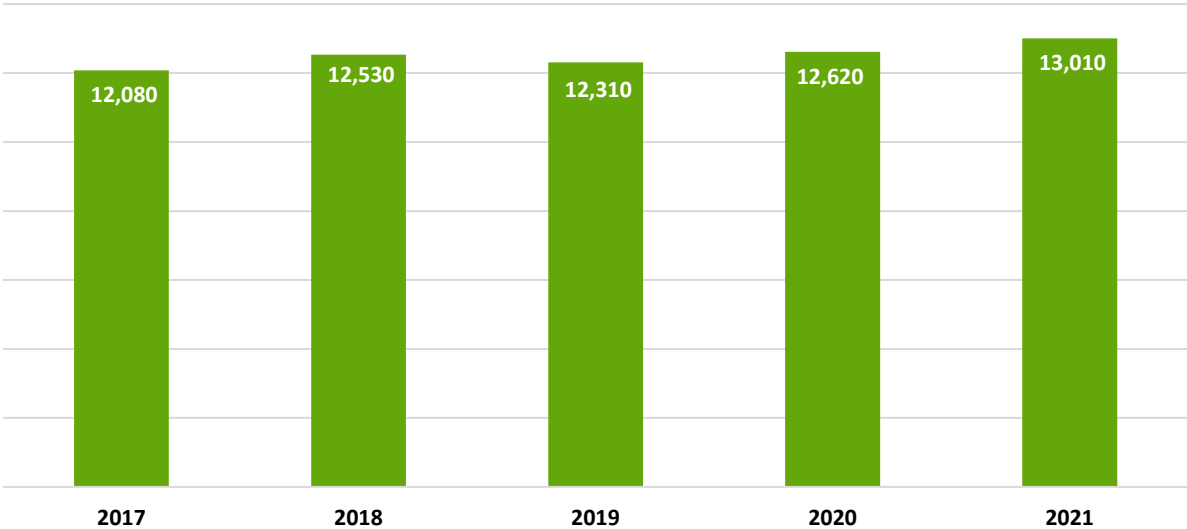
In 2021, a record number of post-secondary credentials (Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates) were awarded to Saskatchewan graduates, exceeding 13,000 for the first time. Increases have taken place at most credential levels, as well as among international graduates. However, for the third year in a row, the number of credentials awarded to Indigenous graduates has declined.

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 (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.

Total Credentials

In 2021, there were 13,010¹ post-secondary credentials awarded to graduates by Saskatchewan’s public institutions, representing a 3.1 per cent increase over 2020. Since 2017, the number of credentials awarded has increased by 7.7 per cent.

Figure 1
Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded in Saskatchewan, 2017-2021



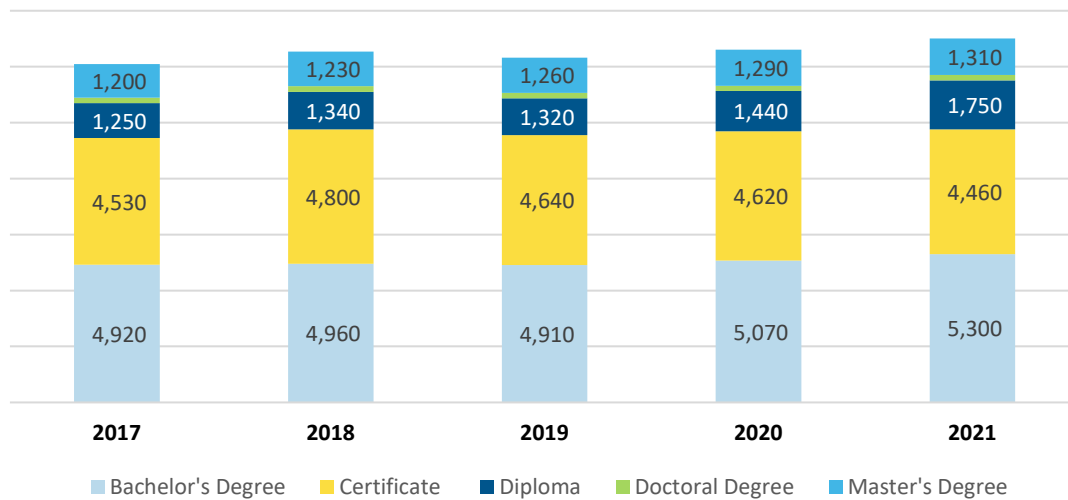
¹ All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Credential Types

The most awarded credentials, historically and in 2021, are Bachelor's Degrees and Certificates. In 2021, 40.7 per cent of all credentials awarded were Bachelor's Degrees, followed by Certificates (34.3 per cent), Diplomas (13.5 per cent), Master's Degrees (10.1 per cent) and Doctoral Degrees (1.5 per cent). Over the past five years, the numbers awarded for most credential types have increased, with the most significant growth coming from Diplomas, which have increased by 40 per cent since 2017, followed by Master's Degrees (9.2 per cent increase), and Bachelor's Degrees (7.7 per cent). Only Certificates declined over the last five years, by 1.5 per cent, while Doctoral Degrees are unchanged.

Figure 2

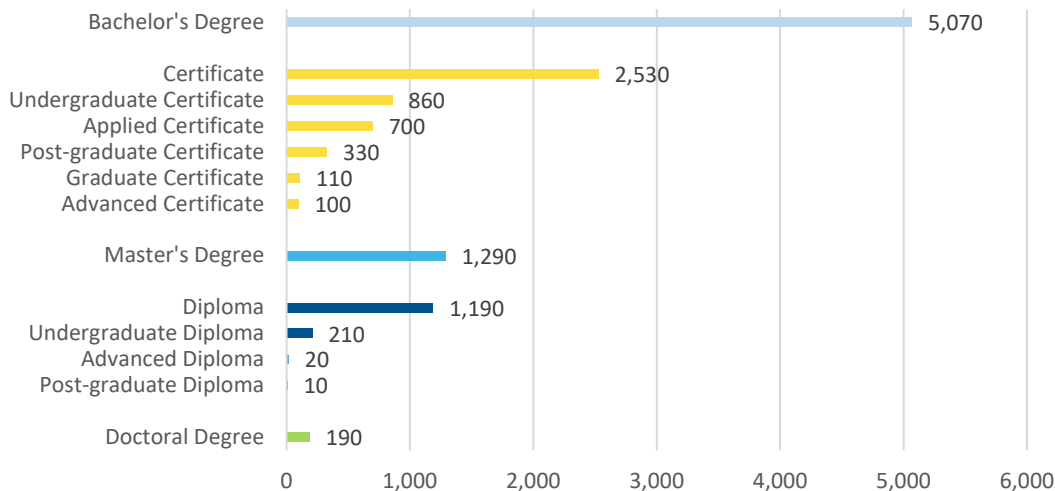
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded, by Type, 2017-2021



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 3

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded, by Detailed Type, 2021

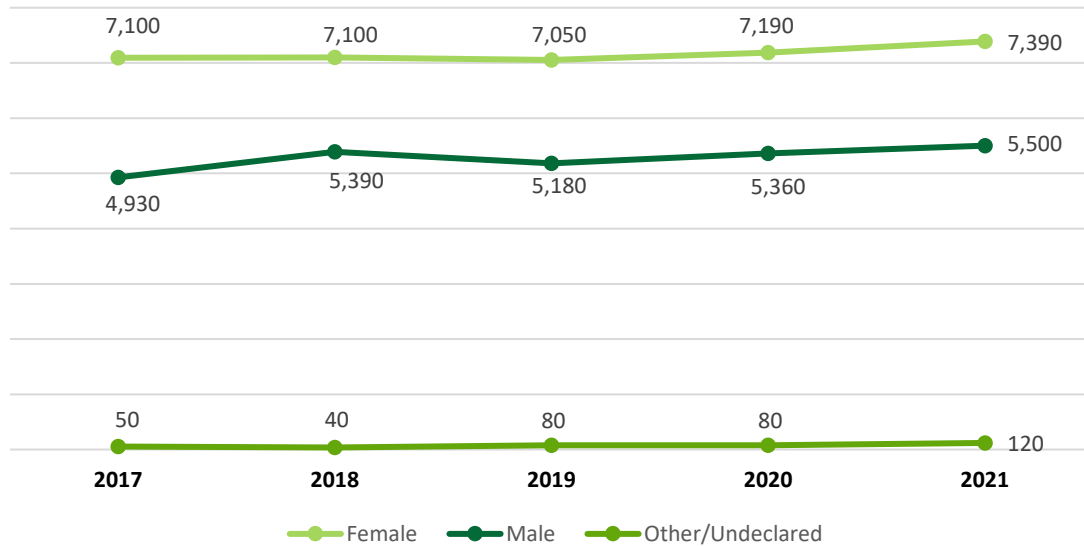


Gender

In 2021, 56.8 per cent of credentials were awarded to female graduates, 42.2 per cent to male graduates and 0.9 per cent to graduates who did not identify as either male or female.

Figure 4

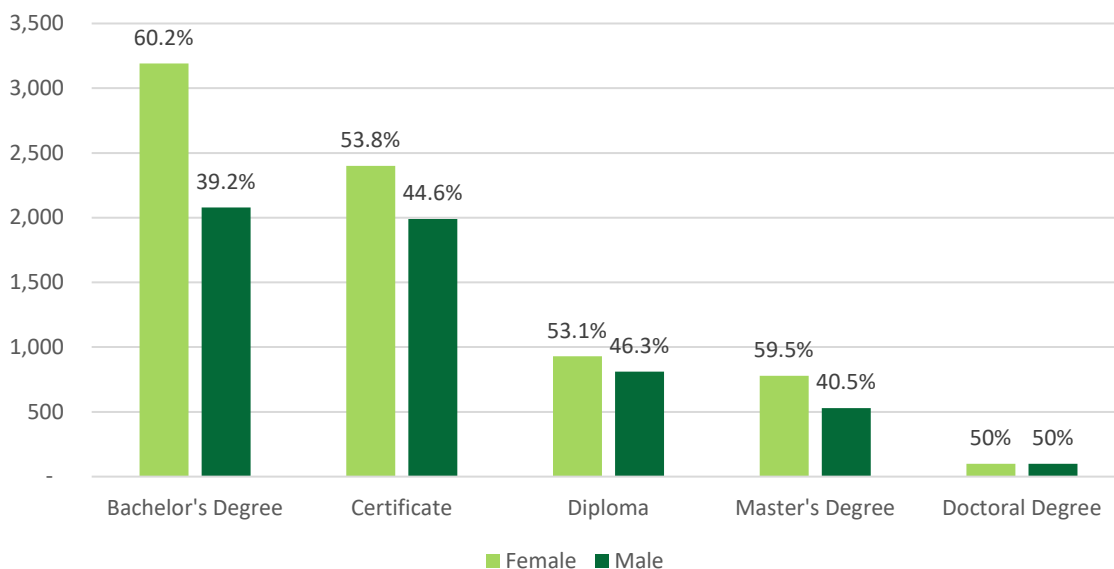
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded by Gender, 2017-2021



Female graduates outnumbered male graduates in 2021 at every credential level except for Doctoral Degrees, with the greatest disparity being at the Bachelor's level, where over 60 per cent of graduates were female.

Figure 5

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded, by Type and Gender, 2021

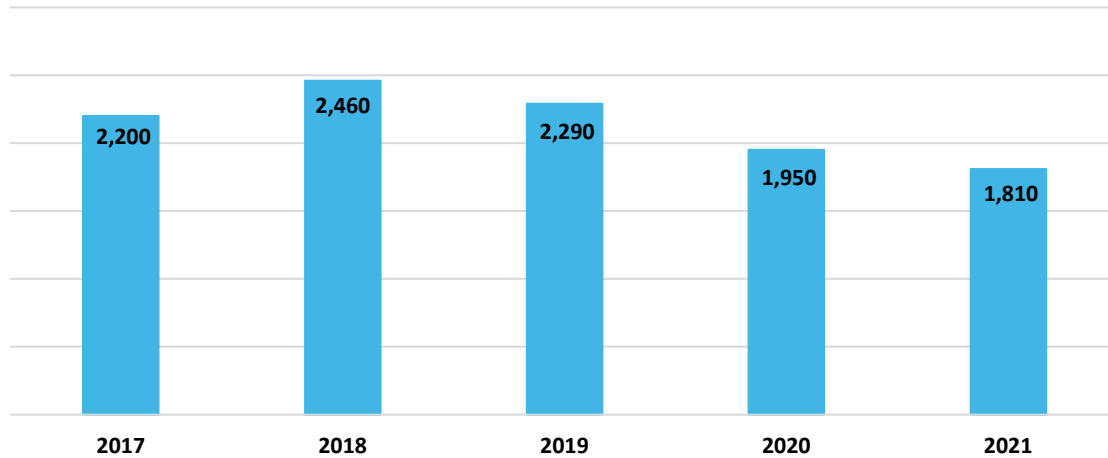


Indigenous Graduates

In 2021, there were 1,810 credentials awarded to graduates who self-declared as First Nations, Métis or Inuit. Between 2017 and 2021 Saskatchewan has experienced a 17.7 per cent decrease in the number of Indigenous students graduating from public post-secondary institutions.

Figure 6

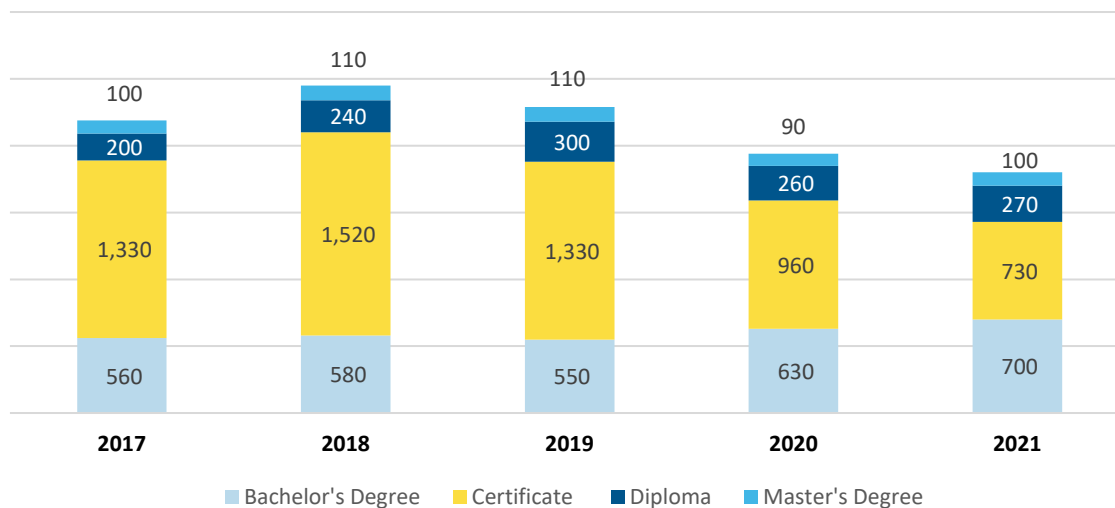
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded to Indigenous Graduates, 2017-2021



This decrease has persisted over the past three years, driven most significantly by a decrease in Certificates awarded, which in 2021 was less than half the number awarded in 2018. The COVID-19 pandemic also disproportionately affected Indigenous students, which led to a significant decrease in credentials awarded in 2020 and 2021. However, significant increases in credentials awarded to Indigenous graduates over the last five years have occurred at the Diploma (35.0 per cent increase) and Bachelor's Degree (25.0 per cent increase) levels².

Figure 7

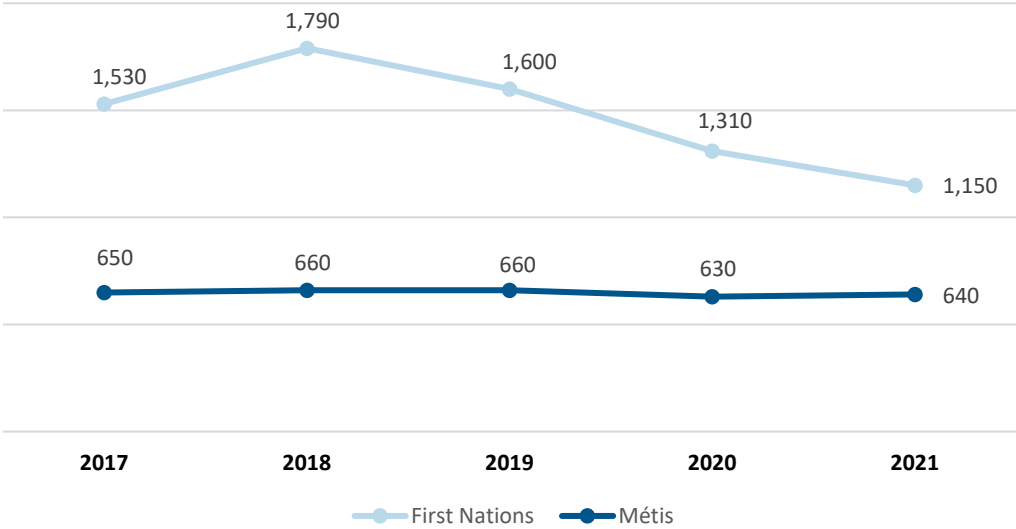
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded to Indigenous Graduates, by Type, 2017-2021



² Less than 10 Doctoral Degrees were awarded to Indigenous graduates in 2020, which have not been reported due to privacy concerns.

Since 2017, the number of Métis graduates has decreased by 2.1 per cent to 640 in 2021, while the number of First Nations graduates has decreased by 24.6 per cent to 1,150 in 2021³.

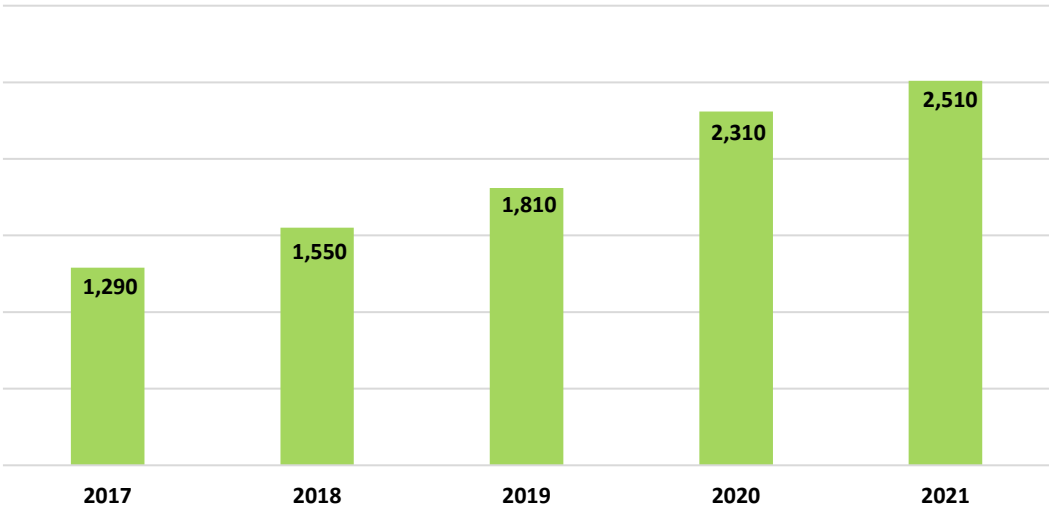
Figure 8
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded to Indigenous Graduates, 2017-2021



International Students

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of credentials awarded to international graduates increased by 200 graduates, an 8.7 per cent annual increase. Credentials awarded to international students in Saskatchewan have grown significantly over the past five years, by 1,220 graduates or 94.6 per cent since 2017.

Figure 9
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded to international Graduates, 2017-2021



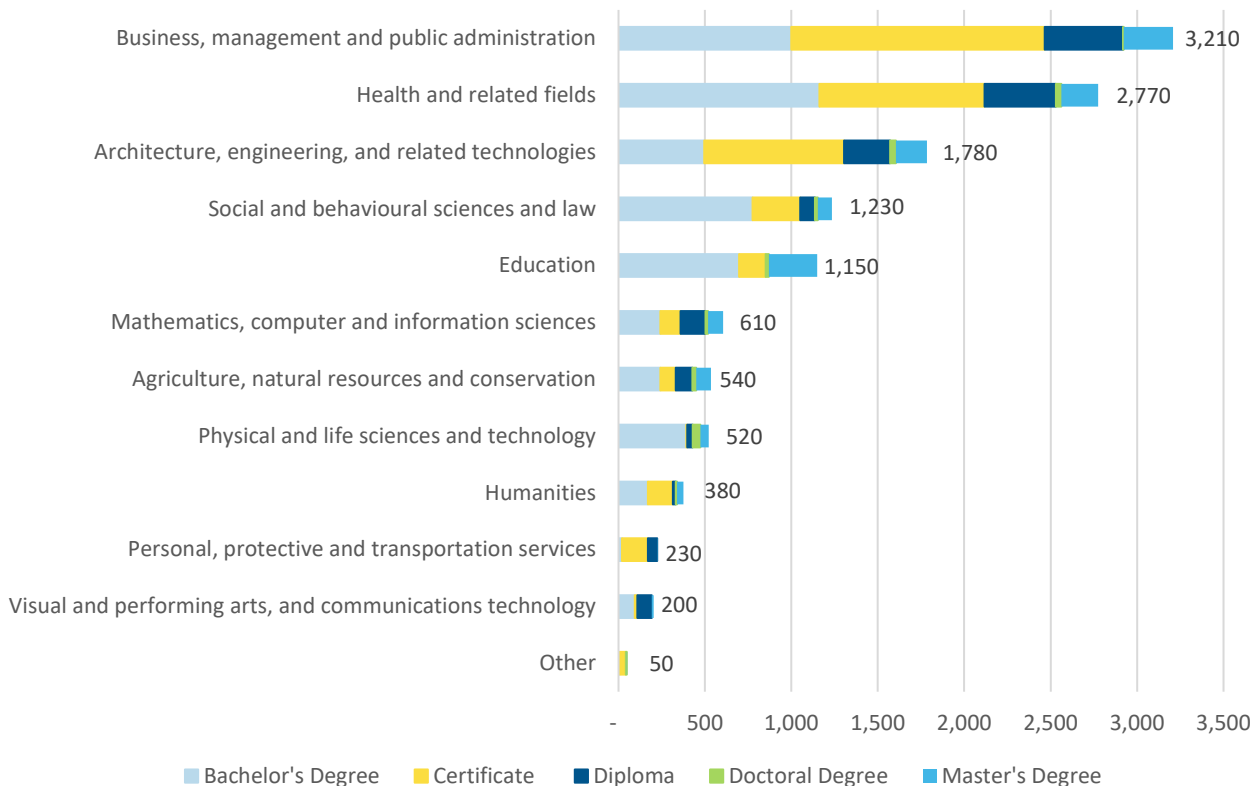
³ Historically there have been a small number of Inuit graduates each year in Saskatchewan, many of whom took university programs offered in Canada’s far north. In 2020, the number of Inuit graduates fell below 10 and have not been reported due to privacy concerns.

Areas of Study

In 2021, the most awarded credentials by Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions were in the areas of Business, Management and Public Administration; Health and Related Fields; Architecture, Engineering, and Related Fields; Social and Behavioural Sciences and Law; and, Education, all of which had over 1,000 graduates⁴. Together these five groups comprised over 80 per cent of all credentials awarded in Saskatchewan.

Figure 10

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded, by Area of Study and Type, 2021

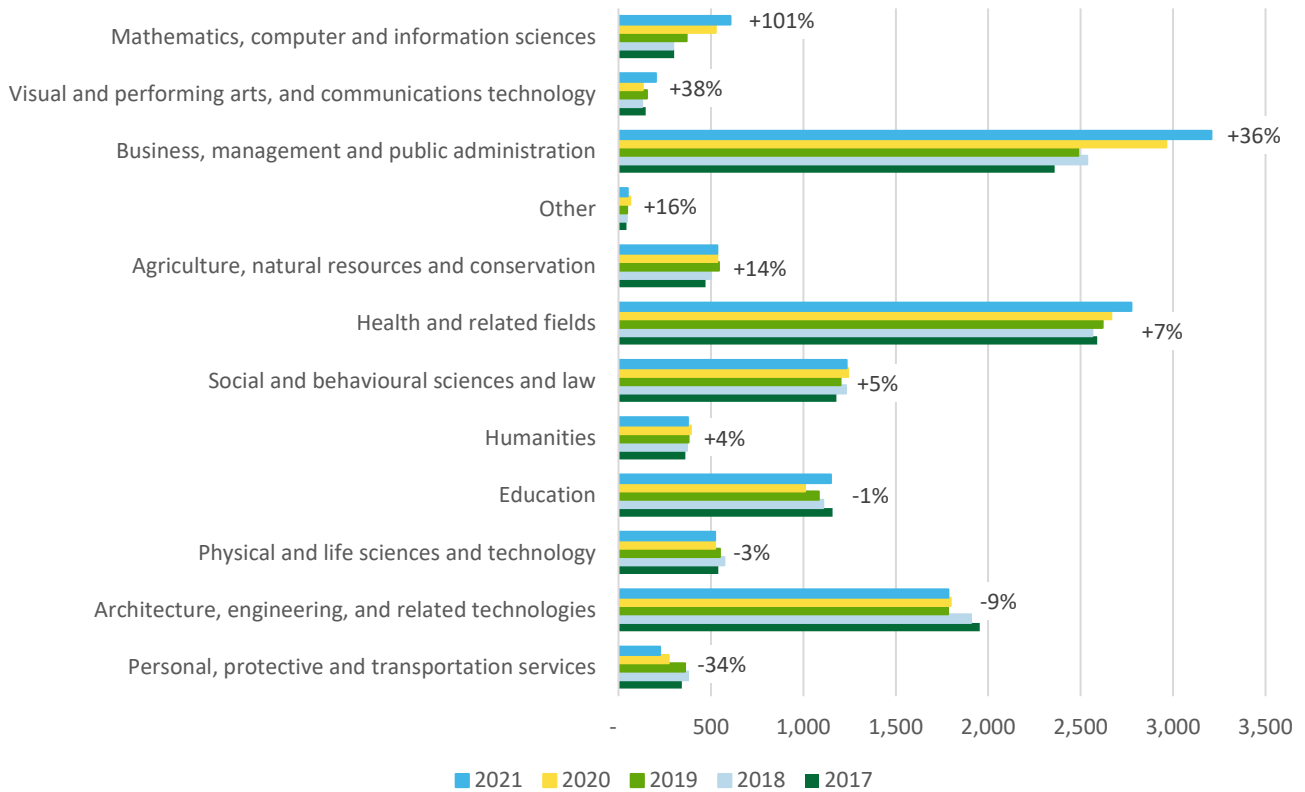


Over the past five years, the fastest growing areas for graduates in Saskatchewan have been those of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences; Visual and Performing Arts, and Communications Technology; and Business, Management and Public Administration. Over the same period, several areas have seen decreasing credentials awarded, including Personal, Protective and Transportation Services; Architecture, engineering, and related technologies; and Physical and life sciences and technology.

⁴ 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 who graduated from credentialed programs at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan.

Figure 11

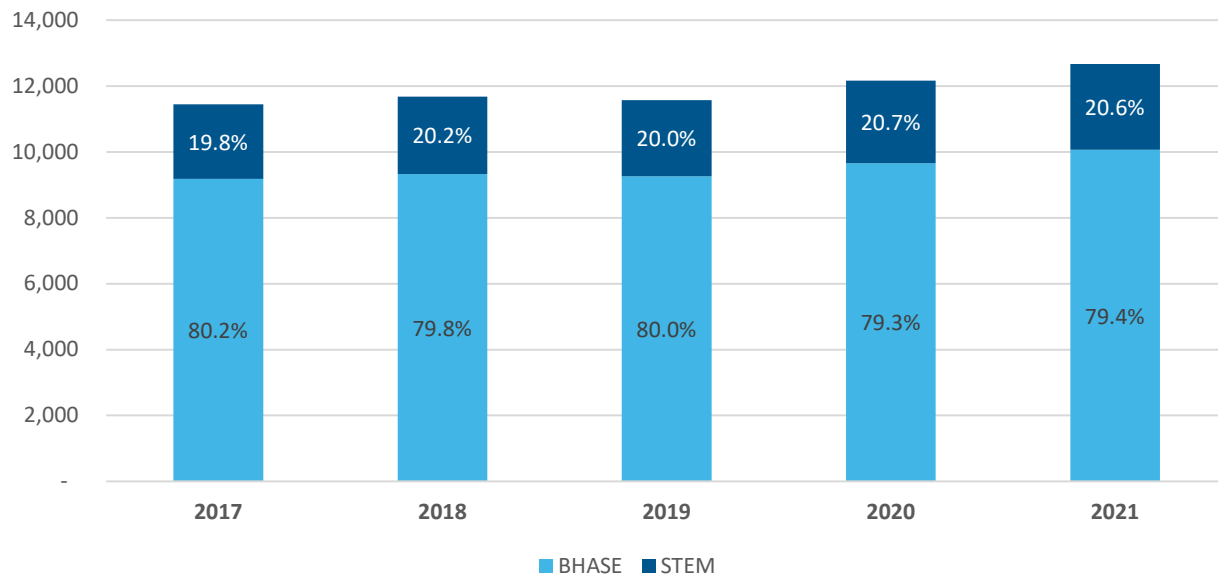
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded by Area of Study, 2017-2021



In 2021, over 20 per cent of graduates were awarded credentials in the STEM fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and Computer Sciences, with the remainder graduating from programs in the BHASE fields of Business, Humanities, Health, Arts, Social Science, and Education. The proportion of credentials awarded in the STEM fields has grown slightly in Saskatchewan between 2017 and 2021, increasing by one percentage point over this period.

Figure 12

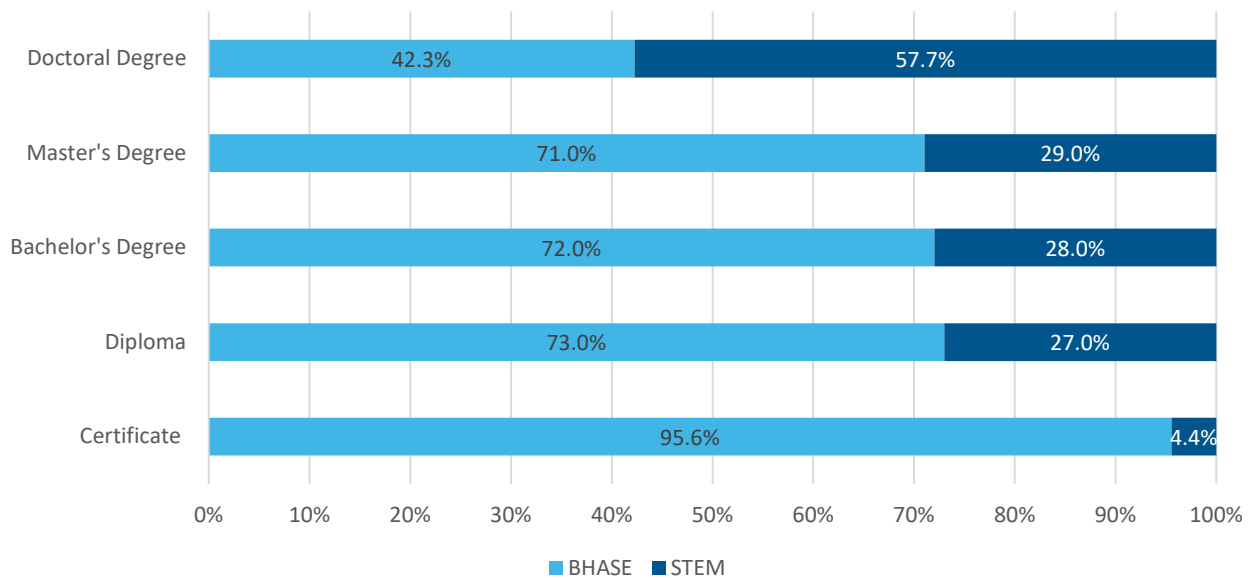
Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Credentials Awarded by STEM and BHASE Fields, 2017-2021



Generally, at more advanced credential levels there are greater proportions of STEM graduates than at lower levels. In Saskatchewan in 2021, Certificate programs produced the lowest percentage of STEM graduates (4.4 per cent) while Doctoral programs produced the greatest percentage of STEM graduates (57.7 per cent).

Figure 13

Percentages of BHASE-STEM Post-Secondary Graduates, by Type, 2021



The next Indicators Project report will be released in Winter 2023 and will focus on enrolments in the 2021-22 academic year.

Table 1*Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project – Credentials Awarded Data*

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Credentials Awarded	12,080	12,530	12,310	12,620	13,010
Bachelor's	4,920	4,960	4,910	5,070	5,300
Certificate	4,530	4,800	4,640	4,620	4,460
Diploma	1,250	1,340	1,320	1,440	1,750
Doctoral	190	210	190	190	190
Master's	1,200	1,230	1,260	1,290	1,310
Female	7,100	7,100	7,050	7,190	7,390
Male	4,930	5,390	5,180	5,360	5,500
Indigenous	2,200	2,460	2,290	1,950	1,810
First Nations	1,530	1,790	1,600	1,310	1,150
Métis	650	660	660	630	640
International	1,290	1,550	1,810	2,310	2,510
BHASE	9,180	9,320	9,260	9,650	10,060
STEM	2,270	2,350	2,310	2,510	2,610