

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators



Enrolments 2021-22

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators: Enrolments 2021-22

In 2021-22, a record number of students were enrolled in credential programs at Saskatchewan's public post-secondary institutions. Increases took place at all credential levels except for enrolments in Bachelor's degree programs, which declined by less than two per cent. Enrolments of both Indigenous and International students also increased in 2021-22 compared to the previous academic year. However, in the fall semester enrolment data from 2022, Indigenous student numbers decreased compared to fall 2021, which suggests that the post-pandemic recovery for this student group is less assured than for other students. Overall fall enrolment was down slightly (less than one per cent) in 2022, while International student numbers increased by 12 per cent between fall 2021 and fall 2022.

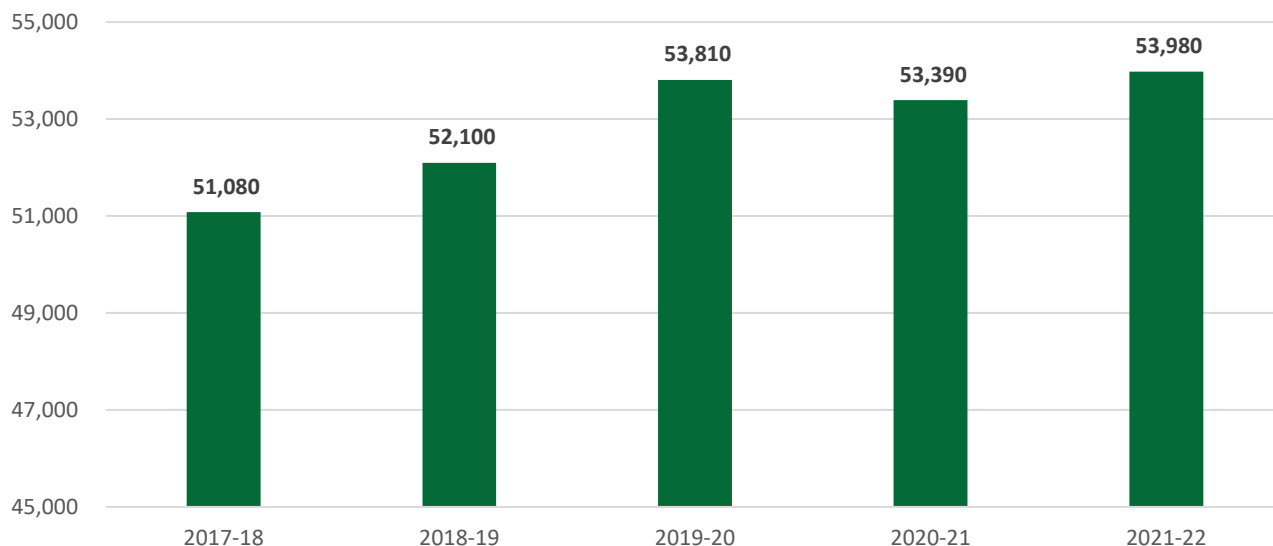
Since 2016, Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education have been working together to develop and implement the Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project to collect, analyze and report sector-wide post-secondary data. The project is led by the province's four public 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.

Total Enrolments

In the 2021-22 academic year, there were 53,980¹ students enrolled in credentialed post-secondary programs through Saskatchewan's public institutions. This represents a one per cent increase from the previous year, and the highest total ever recorded in the province. Over the past five years (between 2017-18 and 2021-22), the total number of post-secondary students has grown by six per cent.

Figure 1

Total Annual Enrolments, 2017-18 to 2021-22



¹ All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. 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.

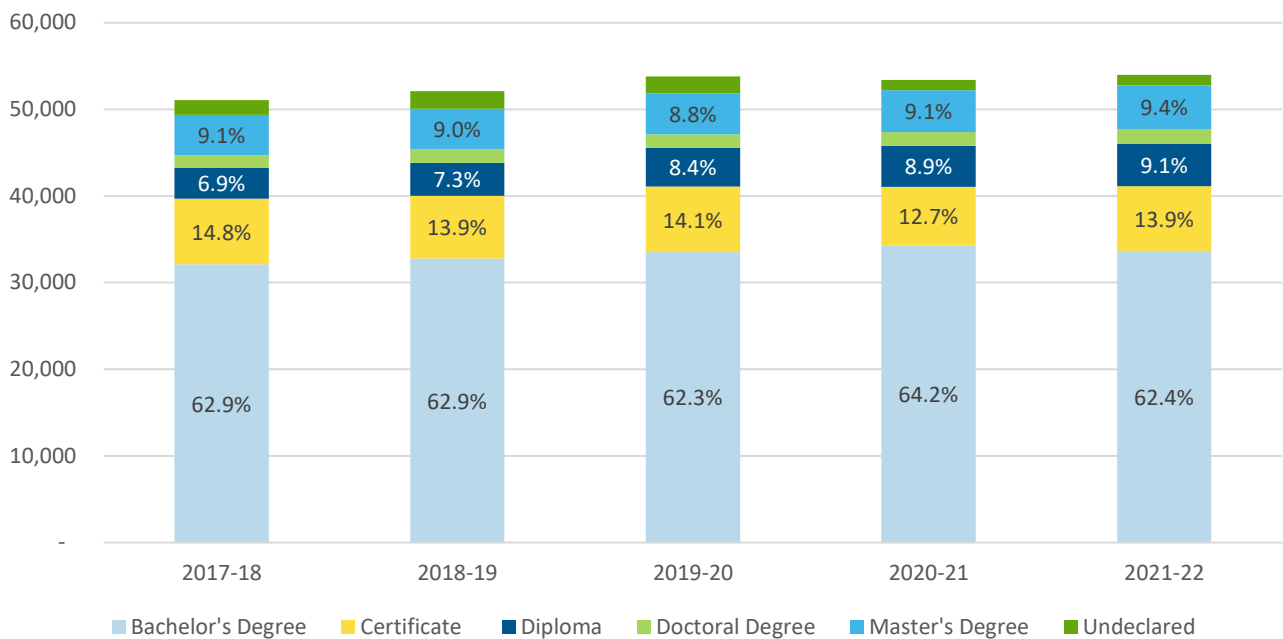
Credential Types

The majority of these students are enrolled in Bachelor’s Degree programs (nearly two-thirds), followed by Certificate programs, Master’s Degrees, Diploma programs, Doctoral Degrees, and Undeclared students². While this breakdown has not changed dramatically over the past five years, an increasing percentage of students are taking Diploma programs and fewer students are remaining Undeclared in their credential intentions.

The number of students taking Certificate programs had declined significantly in 2020-21, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021-22, however, those numbers returned to pre-pandemic levels. All other credential types also increased between 2020-21 and 2021-22, with the exception of Bachelor’s Degree students, which decreased by nearly two per cent year-over-year.

Figure 2

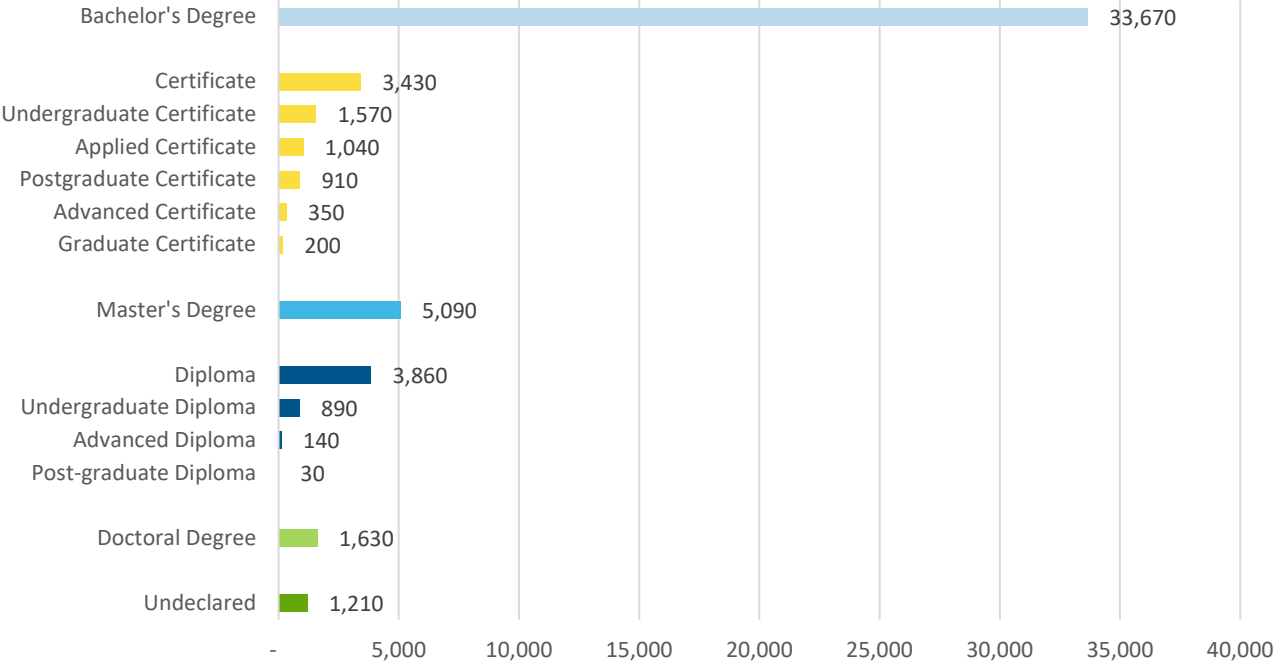
Total Annual Enrolments by Credential Type, 2017-18 to 2021-22



² 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.

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.

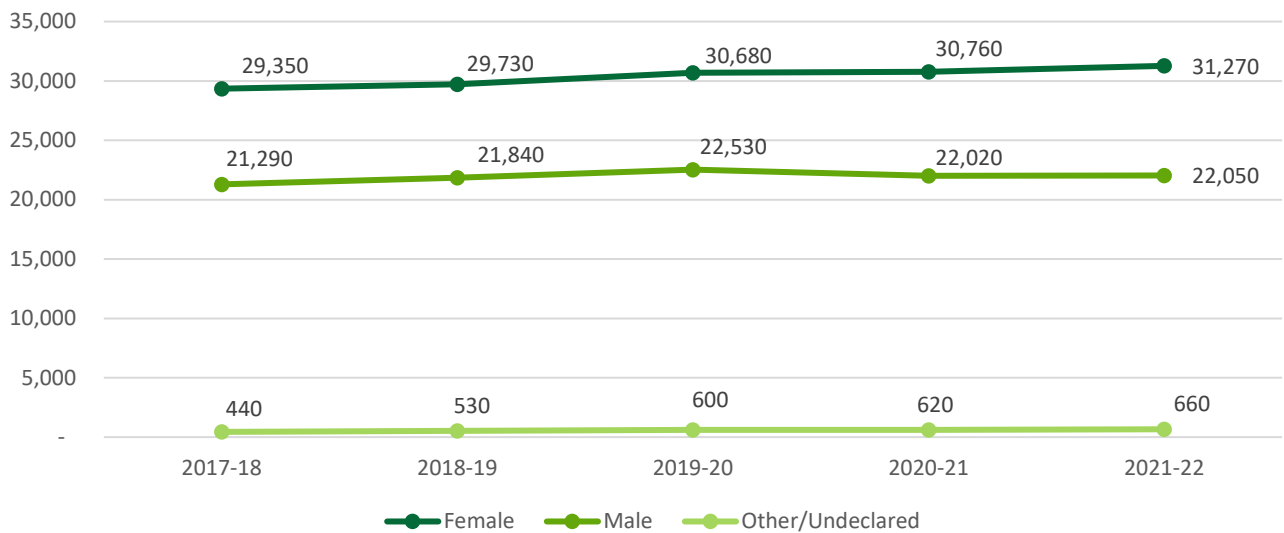
Figure 3
Total Annual Enrolments by Detailed Credential Type, 2021-22



Gender

There are significantly more females than males enrolled in post-secondary education in Saskatchewan and this gap appears to be growing. The number of male students in the sector remained stable in 2021-22 compared to the year before, while the number of female students increased by nearly two per cent. Over the past five years, female enrolments have increased by seven per cent, compared to four per cent for male students. The number of students who did not self-identify as either male or female has increased significantly, by six per cent year-over-year and by 50 per cent since 2017-18, though the overall numbers remain small.

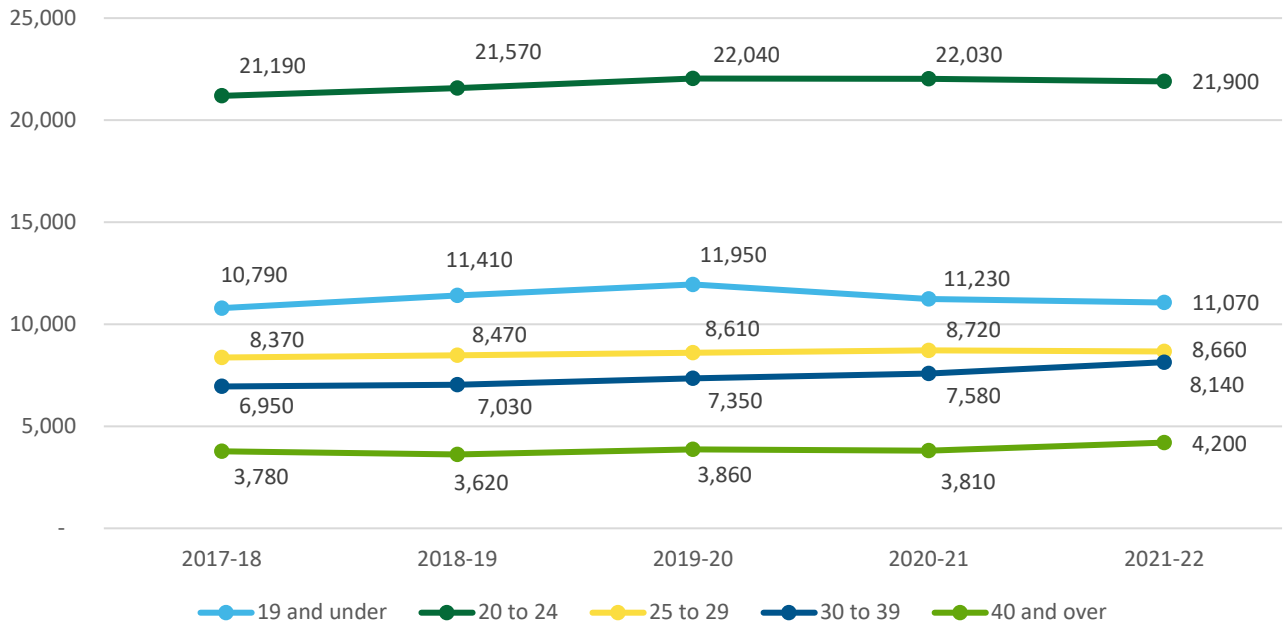
Figure 4
Total Annual Enrolments by Gender, 2017-18 to 2021-22



Age

In Saskatchewan, a majority of post-secondary students (around 60 per cent) are young adults aged 24 years and under, though in recent years there has been significant enrolment growth among students aged 30 and over. In the two academic years since the onset of COVID-19, two noticeable trends have emerged: a sharp decline (7 per cent) of students aged 19 and under, which has been offset by an even greater increase (10 per cent) of students aged 30 and over.

Figure 5
Total Annual Enrolments by Age Group, 2017-18 to 2021-2022

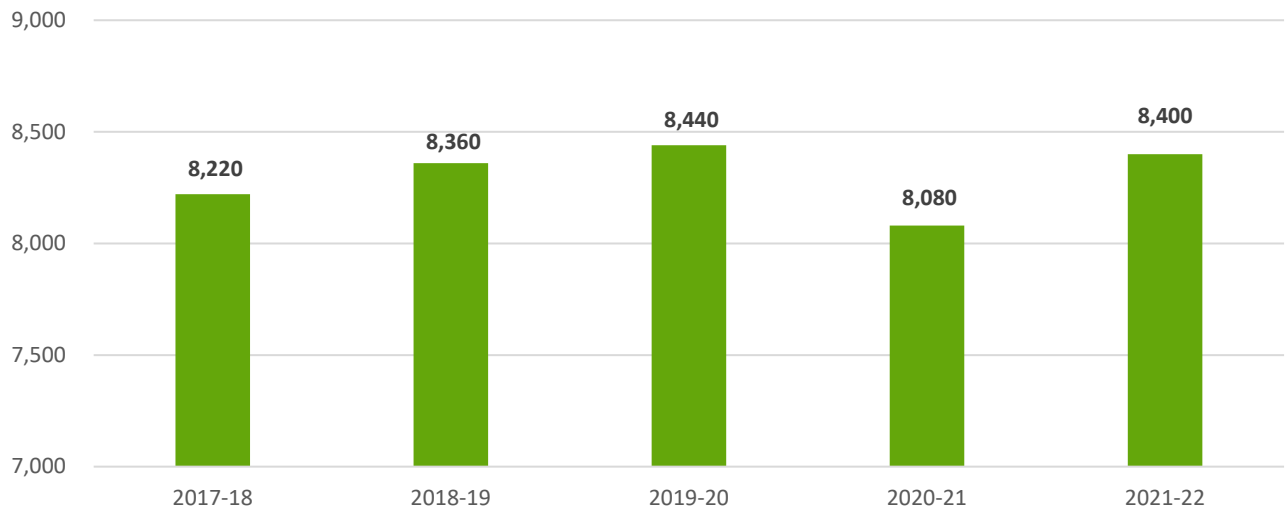


Indigenous Students

In 2021-22 there were 8,400 students enrolled in credential programs at Saskatchewan's public post-secondary institutions who self-declared as First Nations, Métis or Inuit, representing 16 per cent of the Saskatchewan student body. Over the past five years, the number of Indigenous students has grown by two per cent. However, in academic year 2020-21, Indigenous enrolment decreased by four per cent in just one year. This one-year drop is believed to have been the result of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; with a four per cent increase in 2021-22, Indigenous enrolments appear to be recovering in the wake of the pandemic.

Figure 6

Indigenous Student Enrolments, 2017-18 to 2021-22



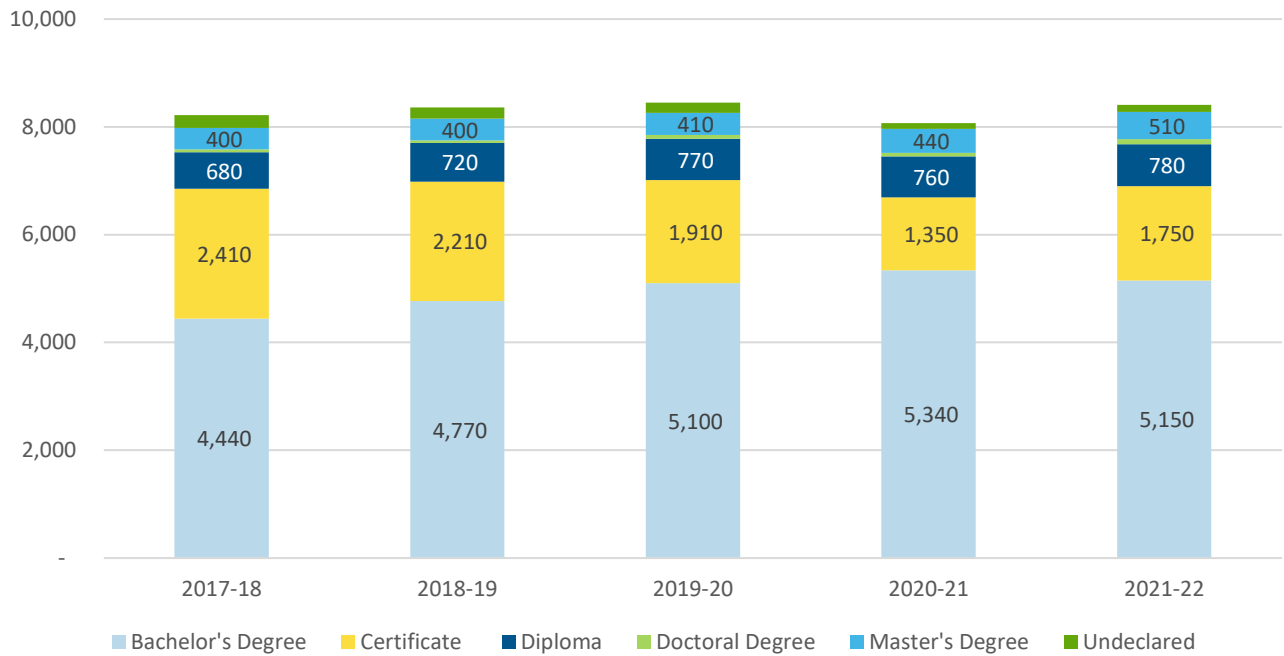
Over the past five years, while Indigenous student enrolments have increased only modestly overall, at the credential-level, decreases have occurred only for one-year Certificate programs (27 per cent decline)³. Indigenous enrolments have increased for all longer-cycle programs, with Diploma students increasing by 15 per cent, Bachelor's by 16 per cent, Master's by 28 per cent and Doctoral students by 80 per cent since 2017-18⁴.

³ The number of Undeclared students has also decreased since 2017-18, by 46 per cent, but these represent just a small fraction of total Indigenous students, between one and two per cent per year.

⁴ The number of Indigenous Doctoral students increased from 50 in 2017-18 to 90 in 2021-22; while an 80 per cent increase is significant, the overall numbers remain small.

Figure 7

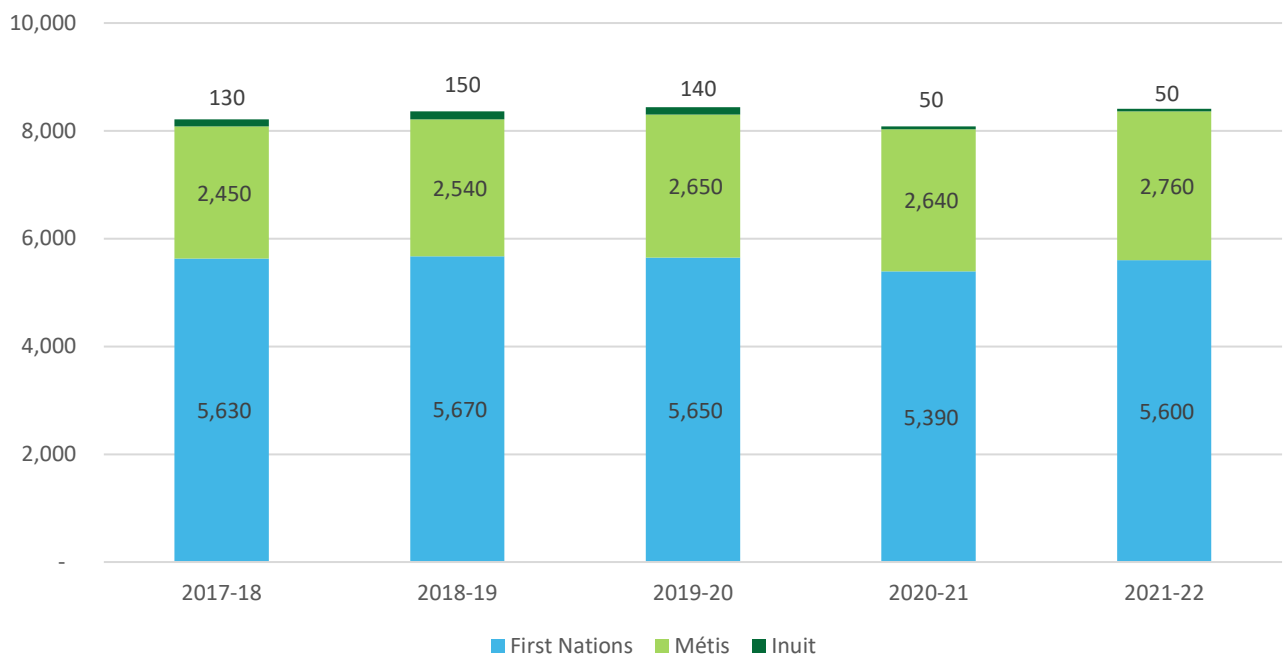
Indigenous Student Enrolments, by Credential Type, 2017-18 to 2021-22



In 2021-22, two-thirds of Indigenous students were First Nations and one-third were Métis. A very small percentage of Saskatchewan Indigenous students are Inuit, some of whom take university programs offered in Canada's far north.

Figure 8

Indigenous Student Enrolments, by Student Group, 2017-18 to 2021-22



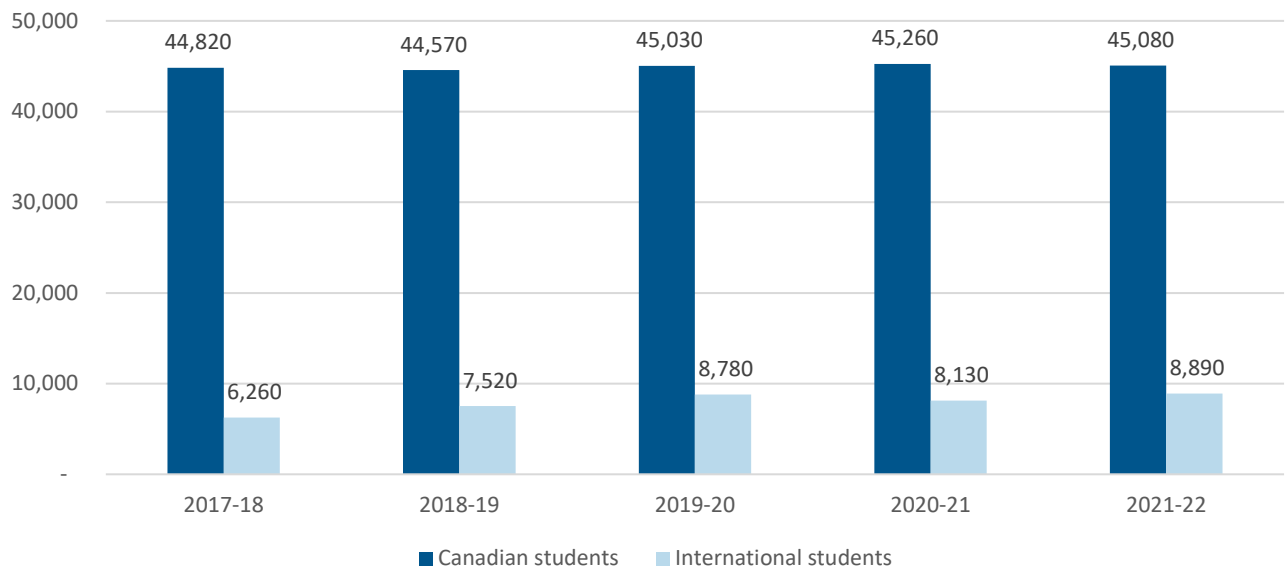
Canadian and International Students

Until 2020, there had been significant increases in the numbers of International post-secondary students studying in Saskatchewan. The impact of COVID-19 on International students in 2020 and 2021 disrupted this growth, and resulted in a sudden decline in International student enrolments. However, as with Indigenous students, 2021-22 marked a recovery year for International student enrolments, which increased by 760 students (nine per cent year-over-year) to an all-time high of 8,890.

While International student enrolments increased by a significant 42 per cent between 2017-18 and 2021-22, enrolments of Canadian students have been largely static, fluctuating minimally and increasing by less than one per cent over the same five-year period. In 2017-18, International students represented 12 per cent of all students in the sector, which climbed to 17 per cent in 2021-22.

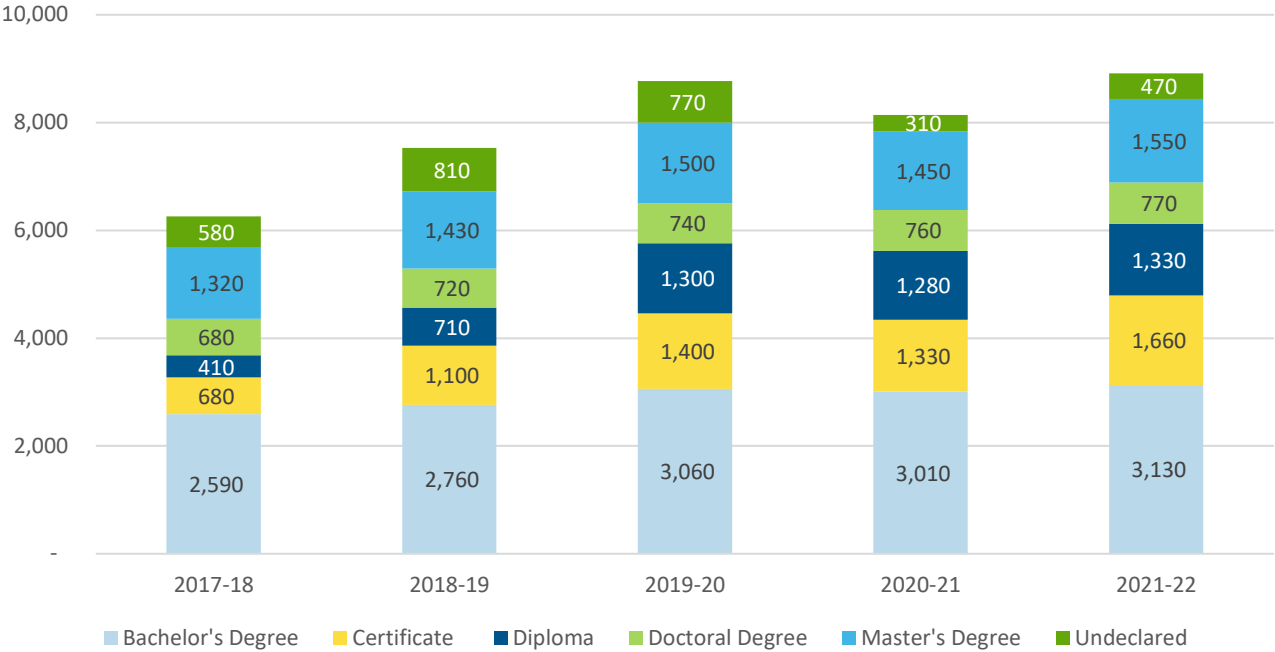
Figure 9

Canadian and International Student Enrolments, 2017-18 to 2021-22



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 2021-22, there were twice as many International students in Certificate programs and three times as many in Diploma programs as five years earlier in 2017-18. At the degree levels, International students in Bachelor’s programs increased by 21 per cent, Master’s by 17 per cent, and Doctoral by 13 per cent over this same five year period.

Figure 10
International Student Enrolments, by Credential Type, 2017-18 to 2021-22



Students with Disabilities

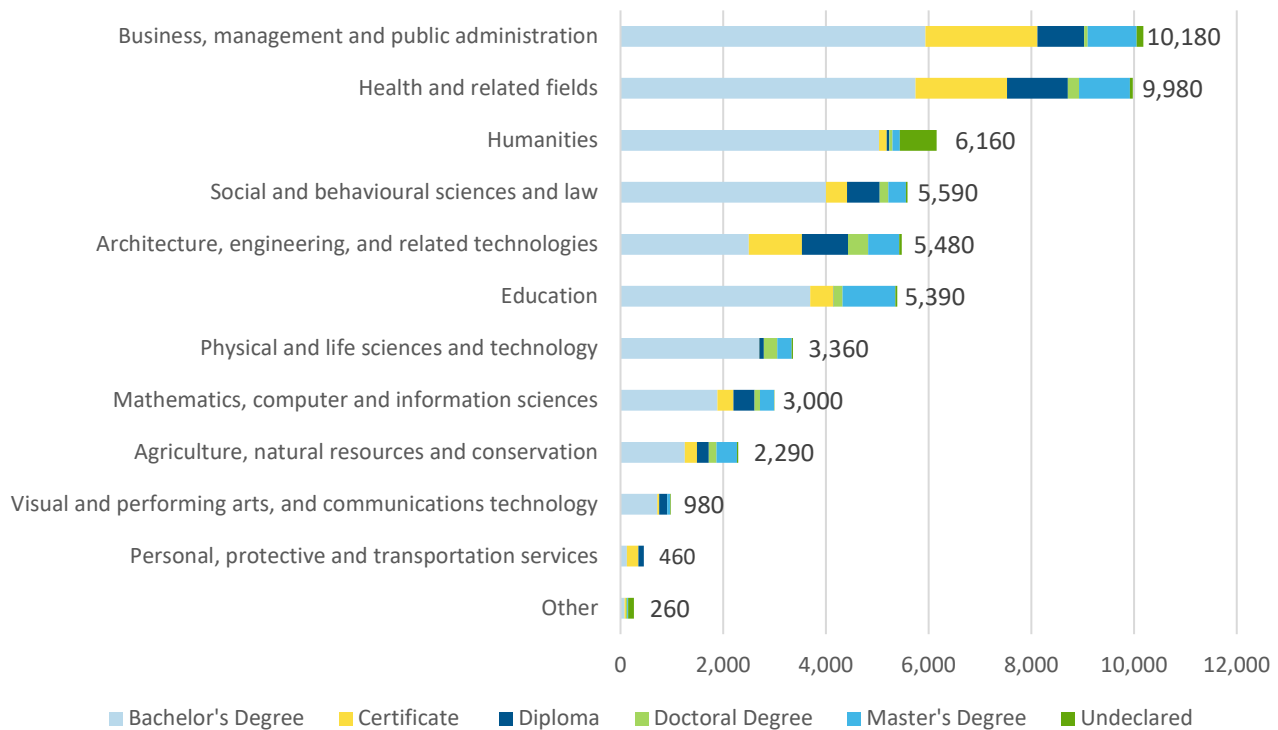
In 2021-22, 3,530 Saskatchewan post-secondary students were granted an academic accommodation for a disability⁵, up from 3,020 students in 2020-21, an increase of 17 per cent. The percentage of students granted an accommodation for a disability also increased, from 5.7 per cent of the student body in 2020-21, to 6.5 per cent in 2021-22.

Areas of Study

In 2021-22, the most popular areas of study for Saskatchewan post-secondary students were those of Business, Management and Public Administration (10,180 students); Health and Related Fields (9,980); and, Humanities (6,160). Together these three groups comprise half of all enrolments⁶.

Figure 11

Total Annual Enrolments by Primary Grouping and Credential Type, 2021-22



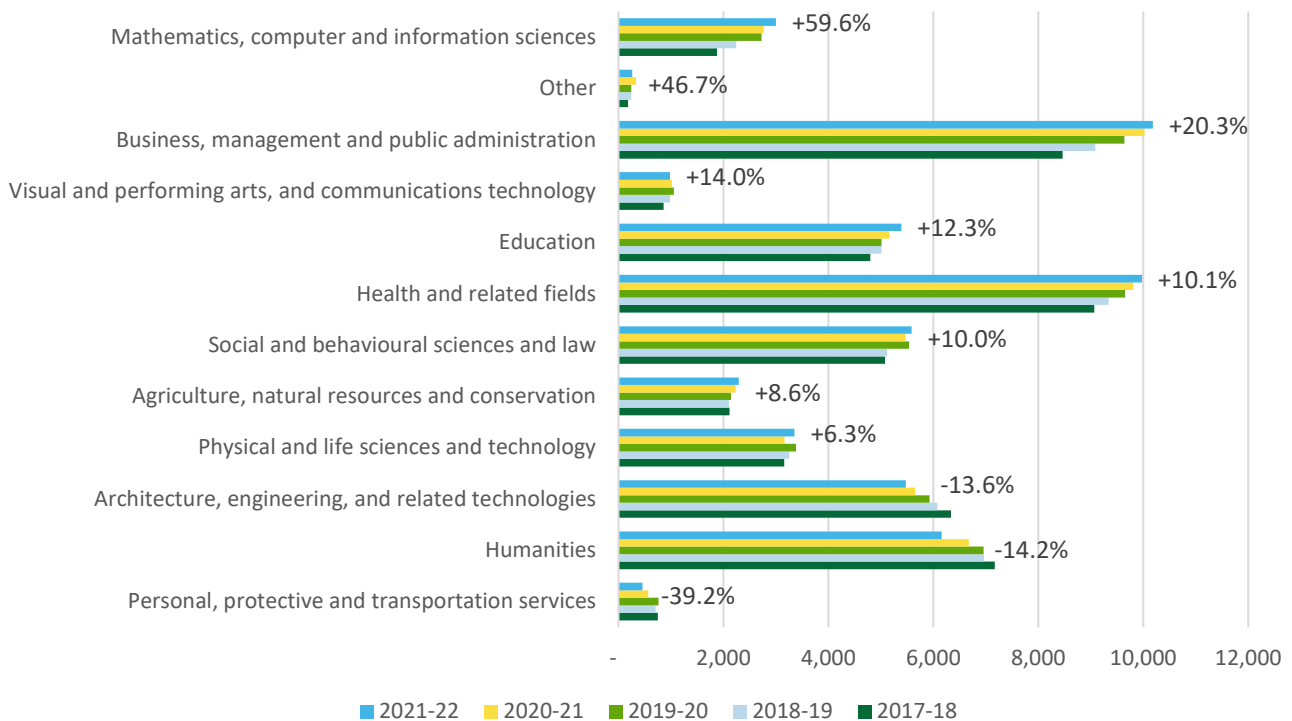
⁵ This data does not provide a count of the total number of students with disabilities in the sector, as only those students who required an academic accommodation for their disability are accounted for. Common accommodations include notetaking services, audio-recorded lectures, enlarged print materials, extensions for assignments, extended time for exams, quiet space for exams, and the use of a reader or scribe for exams.

⁶ 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.

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 (20 per cent increase); and, Visual and Performing Arts (14 per cent increase). Over that period, three areas have seen decreasing enrolments. These are Personal, Protective and Transportation Services (39 per cent decline); Humanities (14 per cent decline); and, Architecture, Engineering and Related Technologies (14 per cent decline).

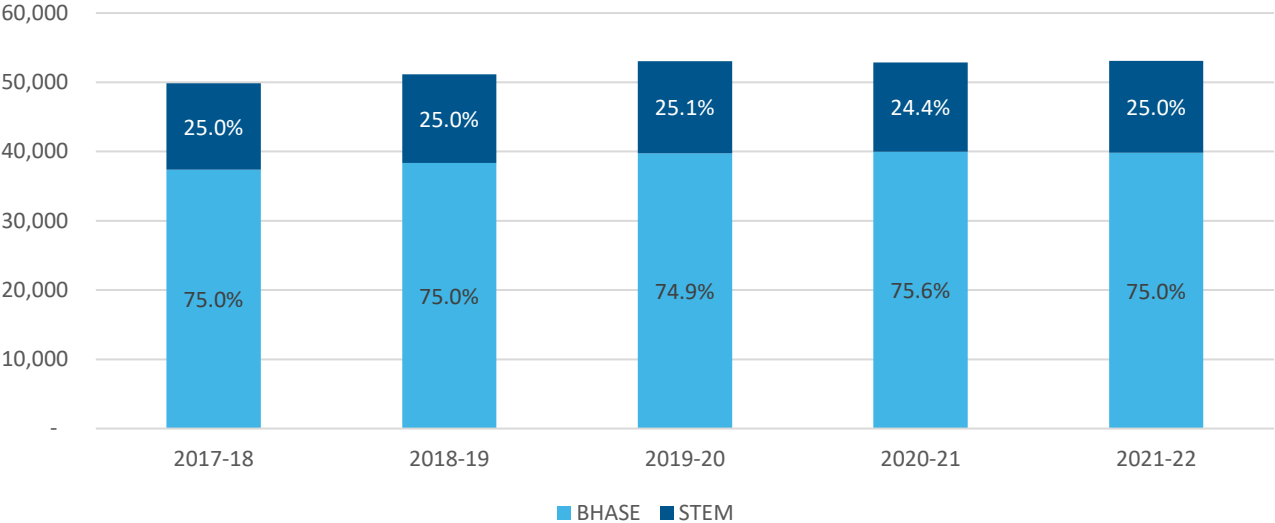
In terms of total number of students, the most significant increases have occurred in the areas of Business, Management and Public Administration, which has added 1,720 students since 2017-18; Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences, which has increased by 1,120 students; and, Health and related fields, which has increased by 910 students in that time.

Figure 12
Total Annual Enrolments by Primary Grouping, 2017-18 to 2021-22



In 2021-22, exactly 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 virtually unchanged between 2017-18 and 2021-22.

Figure 13
Total Annual Enrolments by STEM and BHASE Fields, 2017-18 to 2021-22

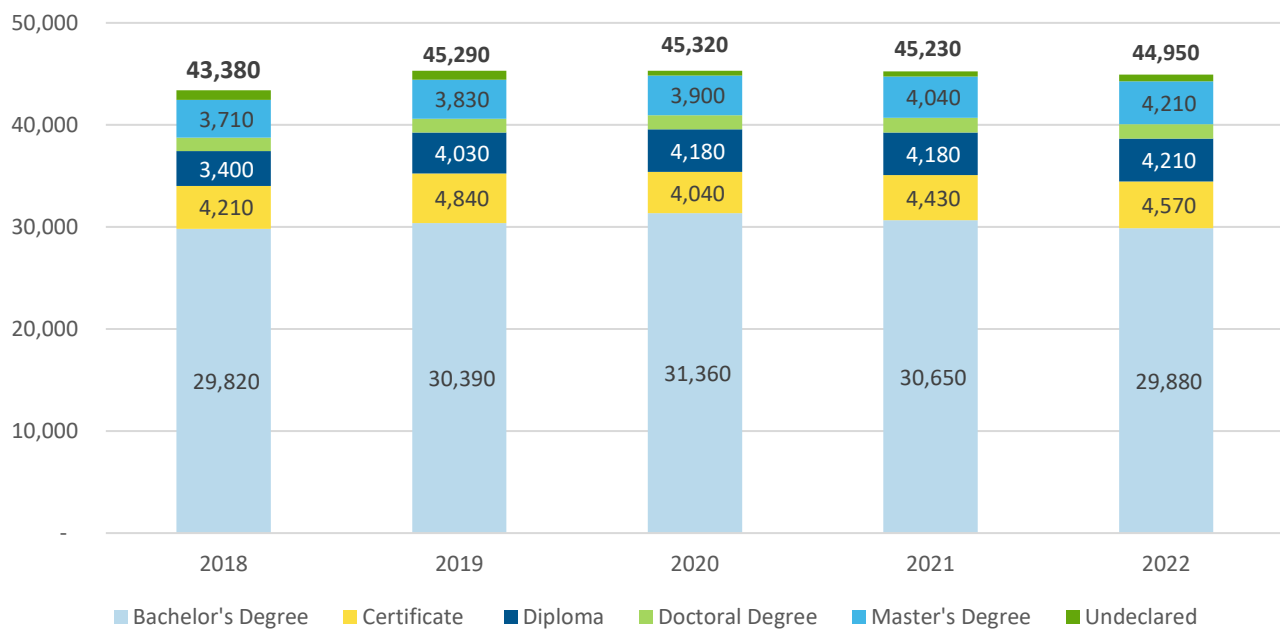


Fall 2022 Enrolments

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 2021-22. 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 2022, there were 44,950 students enrolled in credentialed programming at Saskatchewan’s public post-secondary institutions, down less than one per cent from fall 2021 (280 students) but four per cent higher than in fall 2018. Year-over-year, enrolments in Bachelor’s and Doctoral programs both decreased by three per cent, while Master’s program enrolments increased by four per cent, Certificates increased by two per cent and Diplomas by one per cent since fall 2021.

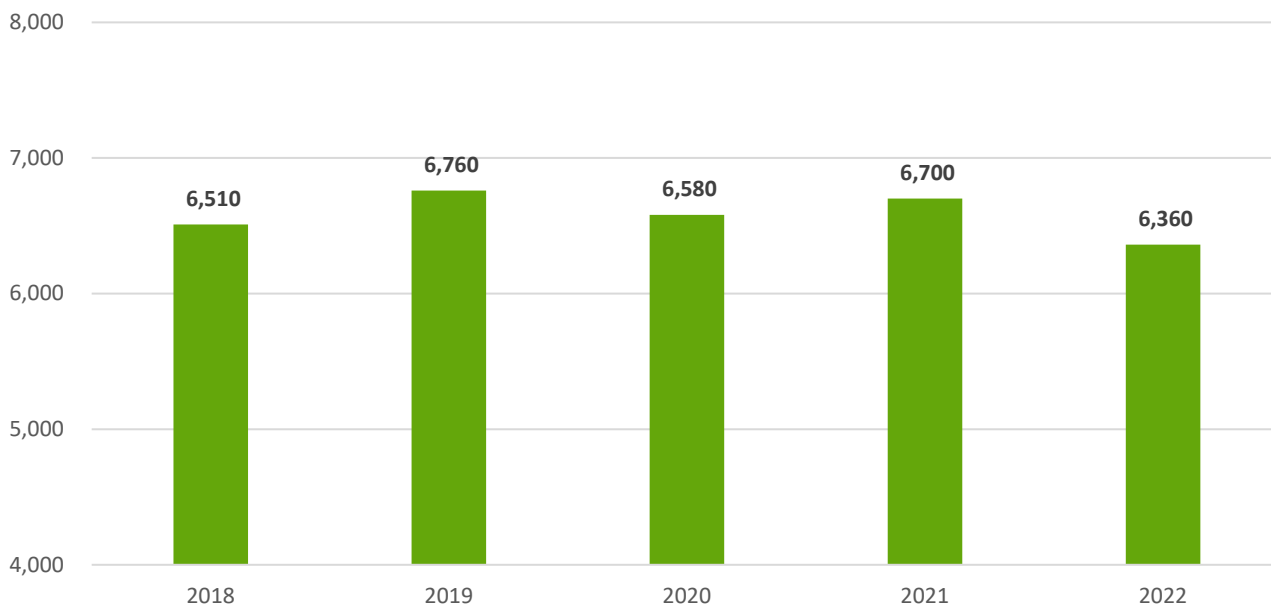
Figure 14
Fall Semester Enrolments by Credential Type, 2018 to 2022



While the 2021-22 academic year enrolments for Indigenous students (discussed above) show a positive four per cent increase year-over-year and might suggest that Indigenous student numbers have recovered in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is complicated by a decrease in fall 2022 enrolments. In fall 2022, there were 340 fewer Indigenous students enrolled at Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions than in fall 2021, a decrease of five per cent. Since fall 2018, Indigenous enrolments have decreased by over two per cent.

Figure 15

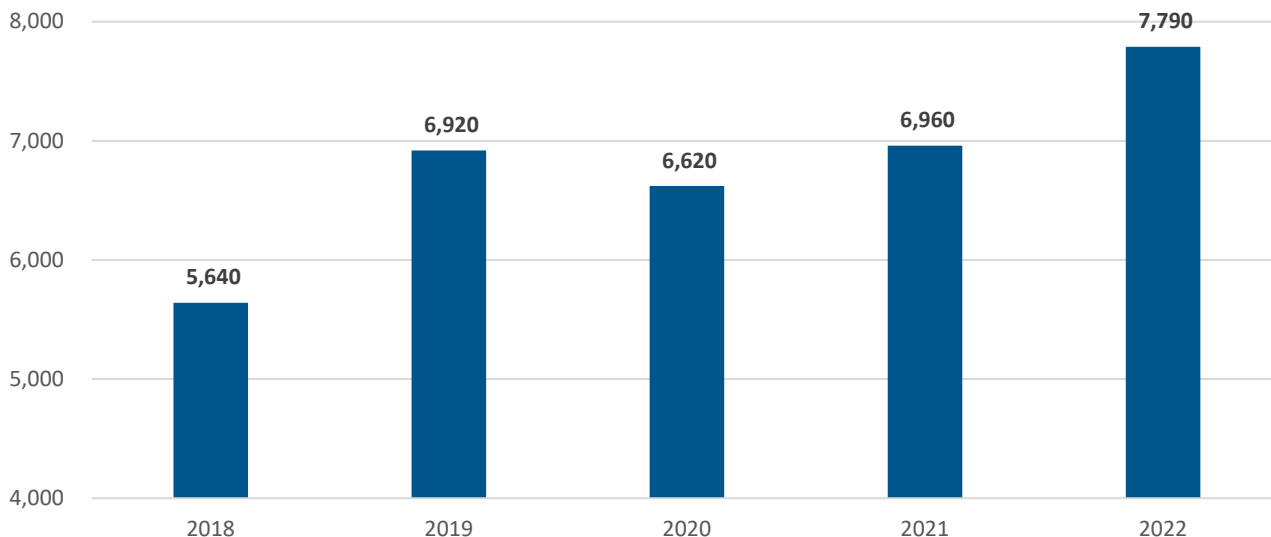
Indigenous Student Fall Semester Enrolments, 2018 to 2022



Fall 2022 shows record enrolments of International students and a complete recovery from the 2020 enrolment decline for this student group. Fall enrolments have increased by 13 per cent since 2019, the year before the pandemic, and by 18 per cent since fall 2020.

Figure 16

International Student Fall Semester Enrolments, 2018 to 2022



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 2023.

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

| | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Annual Enrolment | 51,080 | 52,100 | 53,810 | 53,390 | 53,980 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 32,120 | 32,770 | 33,510 | 34,270 | 33,670 |
| Certificate | 7,560 | 7,250 | 7,570 | 6,780 | 7,480 |
| Diploma | 3,550 | 3,820 | 4,500 | 4,740 | 4,910 |
| Doctoral Degree | 1,500 | 1,550 | 1,550 | 1,580 | 1,630 |
| Master's Degree | 4,630 | 4,690 | 4,730 | 4,850 | 5,090 |
| Undeclared | 1,720 | 2,010 | 1,950 | 1,160 | 1,210 |
| Female | 29,350 | 29,730 | 30,680 | 30,760 | 31,270 |
| Male | 21,290 | 21,840 | 22,530 | 22,020 | 22,050 |
| Indigenous | 8,220 | 8,360 | 8,440 | 8,080 | 8,400 |
| First Nations | 5,630 | 5,670 | 5,650 | 5,390 | 5,600 |
| Métis | 2,450 | 2,540 | 2,650 | 2,640 | 2,760 |
| International | 6,260 | 7,520 | 8,780 | 8,130 | 8,890 |
| Granted Accommodations | | | 3,080 | 3,020 | 3,530 |
| STEM | 12,460 | 12,780 | 13,300 | 12,910 | 13,280 |
| BHASE | 37,390 | 38,360 | 39,740 | 39,960 | 39,830 |