

# Trends in Maritime Higher Education

Volume 14 Number 2

The Class of 2014

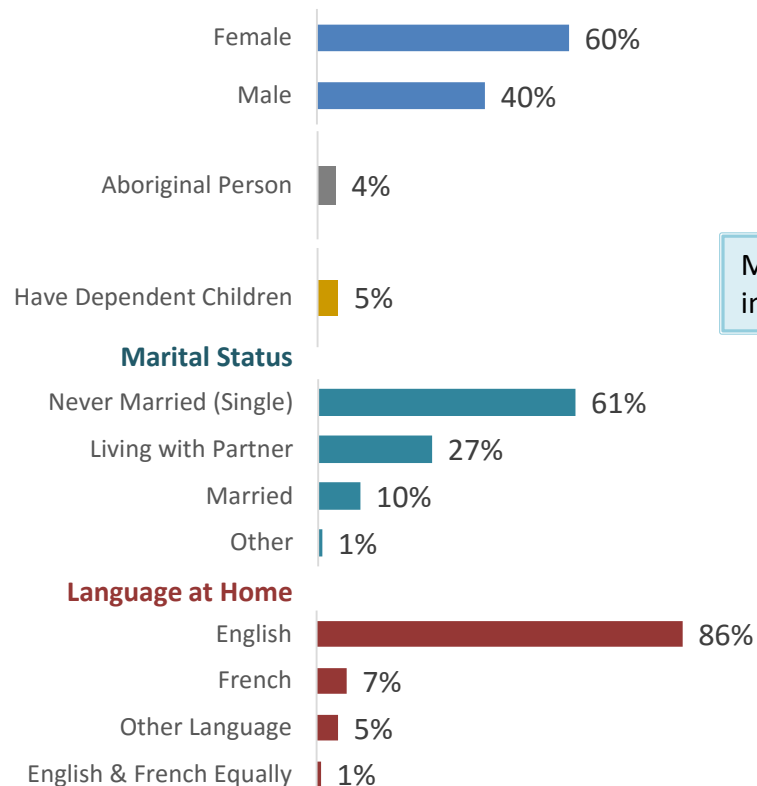
June 2017

## Profile of First Degree Holders and Methodological Notes

First degree holders are defined as graduates who enrolled in university without prior post-secondary education and graduated with their first degree in 2014. Focusing analysis on this group allows for clearer interpretations of the findings as these graduates are a relatively homogenous group, all at the same

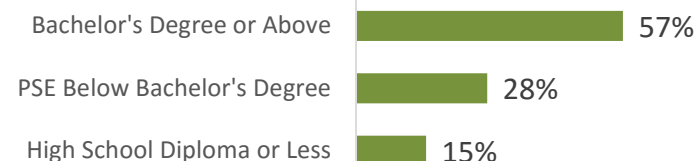
stage in 2014 between education and their transition to the workforce. They correspond to a more traditional pool of students who enter university directly from high school. The charts below present the distribution of the first degree holders by important academic and demographic categories.

### Class of 2014 first degree holders (n=2,010)

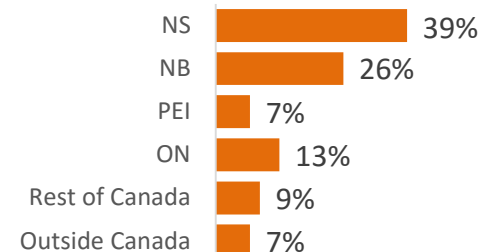


Median age  
in 2016: 25

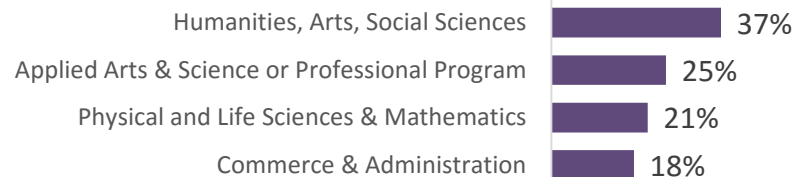
### Parents' Educational Attainment



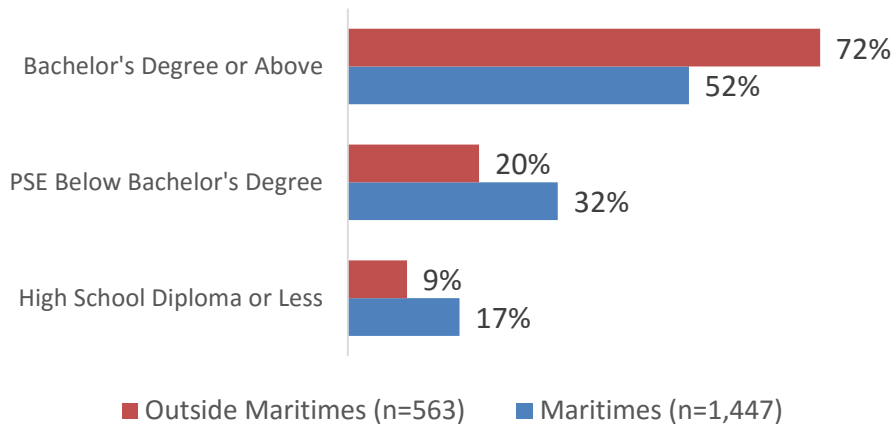
### Province of Residence 12 Months Prior to Enrolling



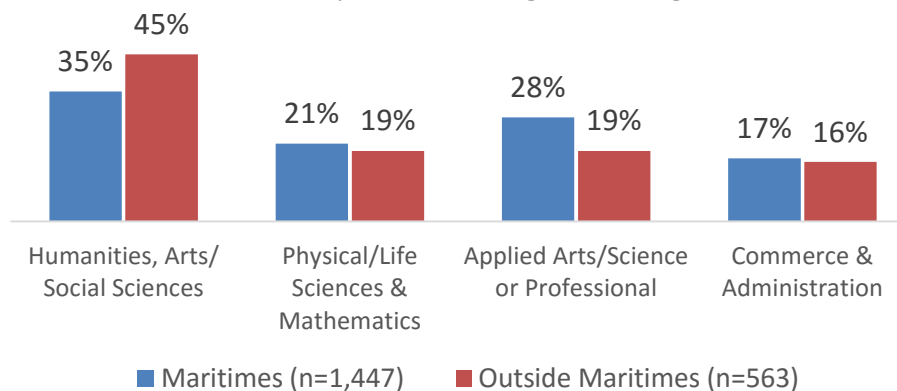
### Discipline Cluster of 2014 Degree



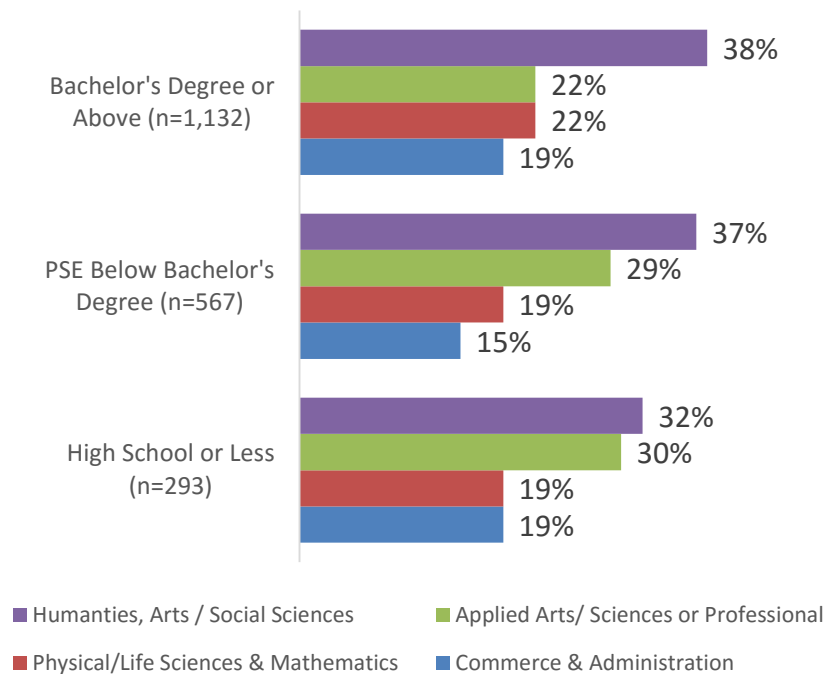
Parents' educational attainment by residence  
12 months prior to enrolling in 2014 degree



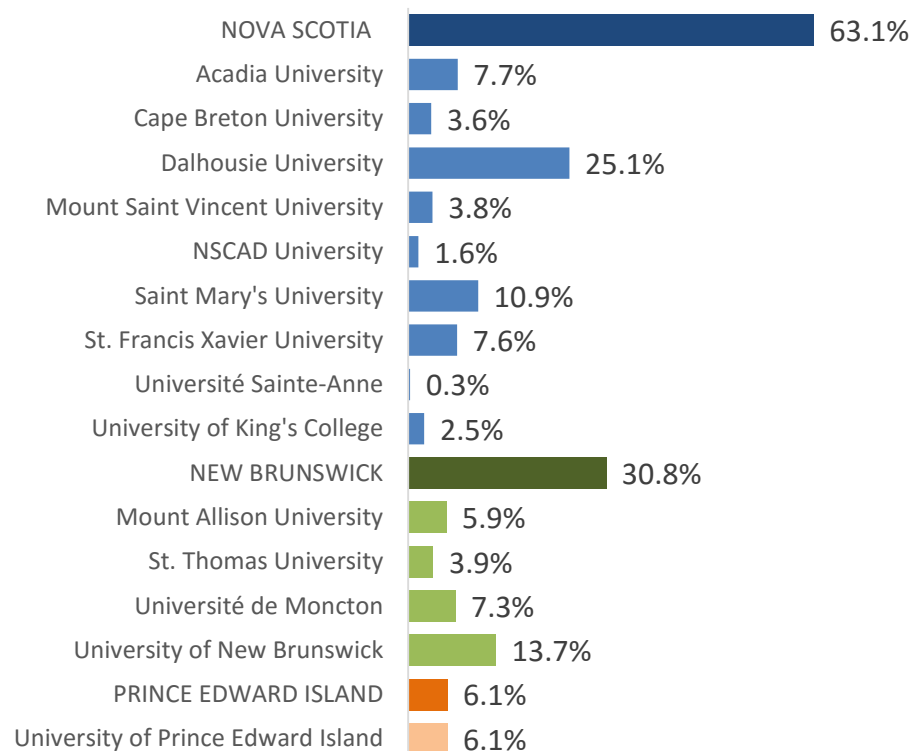
Relationship between discipline of 2014 degree and residence  
12 months prior to enrolling in 2014 degree



Parents' educational attainment by  
discipline of 2014 degree



Distribution of first degree holders (n=2,010) by university of graduation and province of graduation



## Profile of Class of 2014 first degree holders by province of graduation

Province of Graduation	Nova Scotia (n=1,194)	New Brunswick (n=661)	Prince Edward Island (n=155)	All First Degree Holders (n=2,010)
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	39.5%	40.1%	39.9%	39.7%
Female	60.5%	59.9%	60.1%	60.3%
<b>Aboriginal person (First Nation, Metis, or Inuk)</b>				
Yes	4.6%	2.9%	0.8%	3.8%
<b>Have dependent children?</b>				
Yes	4.4%	6.9%	5.8%	5.2%
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married (single)	62.3%	58.3%	59.3%	61.0%
Living with partner/common law	26.1%	27.8%	27.6%	26.7%
Married	9.4%	11.5%	10.6%	10.1%
Other	1.0%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%
<b>Language spoken most often at home</b>				
English	92.2%	73.3%	92.6%	80.0%
French	0.6%	21.9%	0.8%	8.7%
English & French equally	1.0%	2.4%	0.8%	3.8%
Other language	5.8%	2.1%	5.7%	7.0%
Prefer not to say	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
<b>Residence 12 months prior to enrolling in first Bachelor's degree</b>				
NB	6.0%	70.2%	4.8%	25.7%
NS	56.6%	9.4%	4.8%	38.9%
PEI	1.6%	3.1%	79.0%	6.8%
ON	17.8%	5.8%	3.2%	13.2%
Rest of Canada	10.4%	6.6%	1.6%	8.7%
Outside Canada	7.7%	4.9%	6.5%	6.7%
<b>Median age</b>				
Age in 2016	25	25	25	25

Province of Graduation	Nova Scotia (n=1,194)	New Brunswick (n=661)	Prince Edward Island (n=155)	All First Degree Holders (n=2,010)
<b>Discipline cluster of 2014 degree</b>				
Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences	36.6%	36.9%	34.4%	36.5%
Applied Arts and Science or Professional Program	22.0%	32.7%	18.0%	25.1%
Physical and Life Sciences and Mathematics	23.1%	14.9%	22.1%	20.5%
Commerce and Administration	18.2%	15.5%	25.4%	17.8%
	<b>Nova Scotia (n=1,183)</b>	<b>New Brunswick (n=657)</b>	<b>Prince Edward Island (n=152)</b>	<b>All First Degree Holders (n=1,992)</b>
<b>Parents' educational attainment</b>				
Bachelor's degree or above	61.4%	51.5%	45.4%	57.4%
PSE below Bachelor's degree	25.0%	32.7%	33.6%	27.9%
High school diploma or less	13.6%	15.8%	21.0%	14.7%

## Distribution of parents' educational attainment among graduates residing in province prior to enrolling in 2014 degree

Province Prior to Enrolling in 2014 Degree	Nova Scotia (n=727)	New Brunswick (n=547)	Prince Edward Island (n=162)	Outside Maritimes (n=556)	All First Degree Holders (n=1,992)
<b>Parents' educational attainment</b>					
Bachelor's degree or above	55.0%	48.1%	44.0%	72.0%	57.3%
PSE below Bachelor's degree	28.8%	35.1%	37.3%	18.1%	27.9%
High school diploma or less	16.3%	16.8%	18.7%	9.9%	14.8%

# Methodological Notes

The survey of the Class of 2014 was conducted by Advanis Inc. on behalf of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. More information about the survey program may be found at:

<http://www.mphec.ca/research/graduatefollowupsurveys.aspx>

## SURVEY MODE

Surveys were administered both online and over the telephone, and were available in English and French.

## PRE-FIELD

Prior to survey launch, graduates were alerted about the survey in an email notification. An invitation was then sent a few days later. Three waves of reminders were sent at approximately 2-3 week intervals. Where email addresses were unavailable, graduates were contacted by telephone.

Institutions were encouraged to provide a link to the survey via their alumni websites, in total 12 institutions added the link.

A letter-mail alert was sent to graduates living outside the region to increase awareness and the likelihood of participation in the survey. Letters were signed by officials from the MPHEC as well as the addressee's institution of graduation.

## FIELD

The survey was conducted between September 12 and December 6, 2016. The total sample of 2,730 respondents represents 24.5% of the total Class of 2014 bachelor's graduate population of 11,125 in the 15 Maritime universities. The margin of error for the survey is  $\pm 1.6$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The total sample for first degree holders is 2,010, with a margin of error of  $\pm 2.0\%$ , 19 times out of 20. All statistics presented have been generated from weighted data; data were weighted on the basis of the university of graduation and gender.

## DEFINITIONS

### First-degree Holders

First-degree holders are defined as graduates who completed a bachelor's degree and who enrolled in the program with a high-school diploma as their highest completed level of education. For first-degree holders, the 2014 degree represents their starting point in postsecondary education; analyses based on this group provide a clearer picture of outcomes and transitions of Maritime university graduates from the beginning of the postsecondary education path.

### Discipline Cluster

Major fields of study are grouped into four broad categories or clusters for analytical purposes: 1) Commerce and Administration, 2) Applied Arts and Sciences or Professional programs 3) Physical and Life Sciences and Mathematics, and 4) Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. A list of majors comprising each discipline cluster may be found at:

<http://www.mphec.ca/media/84665/DisciplineClustersCIP.pdf>

### Parental educational attainment

Parental educational attainment comprises three categories:

- High school diploma or less
- PSE below bachelor's degree (includes trade, community college or hospital-based certificates or diplomas, and completion of a university certificate or diploma below the bachelor's level, or attendance at university without earning a credential)
- Bachelor's degree or above (includes bachelor's, first professional, master's or PhD degrees, and graduate level certificates/diplomas)

These categories combine both the mother's and father's highest level of education, and the category is assigned based on the highest level of education of the pair. Excluded from analysis are those graduates who did not know or declined to report the highest level of education of either parent.

**For further information, please contact:**

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