

**The Class of 2012 Six Years On:  
Pursuing Education After a First Degree**

**Statistical Tables**



**Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission**

**June 2020**

Table 1: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education after a first degree by province of graduation

	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates
	Wn <sup>*</sup> =1,152	Wn=616	Wn=124	Wn=1,892
Pursued further education	67.7%	58.1%	75.2%	65.1%

Statistics based on the survey question: Since your graduation in 2012 have you enrolled in any other education programs leading towards a diploma, certificate, or degree?

Table 2: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by highest credential attained or pursued and status in program at time of survey

Highest credential attained or pursued	Graduates who have completed their program	Graduates who have not yet completed their program		All graduates who pursued further education (Wn=1,228)
		Enrolled	Not Enrolled	
PhD/Doctorate	2.1%	4.6%	0.3%	7.0%
Master's degree	25.8%	9.8%	1.7%	37.3%
Professional degree (e.g. medicine, law)	5.6%	1.4%	0.1%	7.1%
Bachelor of Education	6.2%	0.4%	0.2%	6.8%
Bachelor's degree (excluding education)	7.6%	2.0%	0.8%	10.4%
University diploma or certificate	3.4%	1.5%	0.4%	5.3%
College diploma or certificate/Apprenticeship certificate	12.8%	2.0%	1.3%	16.1%
Professional designation	5.7%	1.8%	0.3%	7.8%
Other	1.8%	0.3%	0.1%	2.2%
Total	71.0%	23.8%	5.2%	100.0%

Statistics based on the survey questions: What type of certificate, diploma, or degree would someone receive at the end of this program? Have you completed this program? Are you currently enrolled in this program?

\* Wn= Weighted sample

Table 3: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by highest credential attained or pursued and province of graduation

Highest credential attained or pursued	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates who pursued further education
	Wn=778	Wn=357	Wn=93	Wn=1,228
PhD/Doctorate	6.9%	7.2%	6.3%	7.0%
Master's degree	34.4%	44.4%	34.7%	37.3%
Professional degree (e.g. medicine, law)	7.9%	6.1%	4.6%	7.1%
Bachelor of Education	6.1%	7.7%	8.8%	6.8%
Bachelor's degree (excluding education)	11.3%	7.3%	15.1%	10.4%
University diploma or certificate	5.0%	6.2%	4.2%	5.3%
College diploma or certificate/Apprenticeship certificate	17.6%	13.5%	13.0%	16.1%
Professional designation	8.5%	5.7%	10.5%	7.8%
Other	2.3%	2.0%	2.9%	2.2%

Statistics based on the survey question: What type of certificate, diploma, or degree would someone receive at the end of this program?

Table 4: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by highest credential attained or pursued, gender and province of graduation

Gender	Highest credential attained or pursued	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates who pursued further education
		Wn=515	Wn=230	Wn=55	Wn=801
Female	PhD/Doctorate	6.2%	5.6%	8.6%	6.2%
	Master's degree	35.4%	44.6%	40.0%	38.4%
	Professional degree (e.g. medicine, law)	6.7%	6.2%	1.4%	6.2%
	Bachelor of Education	7.8%	9.3%	8.6%	8.3%
	Bachelor's degree (excluding education)	12.9%	8.9%	17.1%	12.0%
	University diploma or certificate	4.2%	7.0%	2.9%	5.0%
	College diploma or certificate/Apprenticeship certificate	18.3%	11.8%	11.4%	16.0%
	Professional designation	6.7%	5.2%	7.1%	6.3%
Other	1.7%	1.4%	2.9%	1.7%	
		Wn=263	Wn=126	Wn=38	Wn=427
Male	PhD/Doctorate	8.3%	10.1%	**	8.4%
	Master's degree	32.4%	44.0%	**	35.3%
	Professional degree (e.g. medicine, law)	10.1%	5.9%	**	8.8%
	Bachelor of Education	2.8%	4.9%	**	4.0%
	Bachelor's degree (excluding education)	8.1%	4.4%	**	7.4%
	University diploma or certificate	6.5%	4.5%	**	5.9%
	College diploma or certificate/Apprenticeship certificate	16.1%	16.5%	**	16.1%
	Professional designation	12.1%	6.7%	**	10.8%
Other	3.5%	3.1%	**	3.4%	

Statistics based on the survey question: What type of certificate, diploma, or degree would someone receive at the end of this program?

\*\* Data suppressed due to small subsample (n < 50)

Table 5: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by number of programs pursued and province of graduation

Number of programs pursued	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates who pursued further education
	Wn=778	Wn=357	Wn=93	Wn=1,228
One program	69.9%	71.4%	80.5%	71.1%
Two or more programs	30.1%	28.6%	19.5%	28.9%

Statistics based on the survey question: How many of these programs have you enrolled in since your graduation in 2012?

Table 6: Reasons for pursuing highest credential by province of graduation

Reason for pursuing highest credential	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates who pursued further education
	Wn=778	Wn=357	Wn=93	Wn=1,228
It's part of my chosen career path	28.1%	31.8%	29.8%	29.3%
For career advancement/Promotion	29.6%	26.1%	28.0%	28.5%
An interest in learning more about the subject	12.3%	13.2%	9.5%	12.3%
It's a requirement for a position that I currently hold	10.4%	11.1%	15.1%	11.0%
To make a career change	10.5%	8.0%	6.4%	9.5%
For general self-improvement	2.9%	3.8%	3.4%	3.2%
To make more money	2.9%	2.3%	2.6%	2.7%
It's a prerequisite for further education	2.1%	1.4%	3.0%	2.0%
To get a job/Find employment	1.0%	2.0%	2.2%	1.4%
Other	0.3%	0.4%	-	0.3%

Statistics based on the survey question: What is the main reason you decided to take this program?

Table 7: Percentage of graduates who felt the programs pursued after the first degree were necessary for their job by province of graduation

Programs pursued were necessary for their job	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates in labour force who pursued further education
	Wn=670	Wn=329	Wn=83	Wn=1,082
Yes	76.1%	71.9%	81.6%	75.3%
No	23.9%	28.1%	18.4%	24.7%

Statistics based on the survey question: Do you feel that the studies pursued after the 2012 degree were necessary for your current (or the most recent) job?

Table 8: Extent to which graduates' job was related to the programs pursued after the first degree by province of graduation

Graduates' job was related to the programs pursued	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates in labour force who pursued further education
	Wn=670	Wn=329	Wn=83	Wn=1,082
Not at all (1)	10.0%	8.9%	8.0%	9.5%
To some extent (2)	4.3%	6.5%	4.2%	5.0%
To some extent (3)	8.0%	8.9%	5.2%	8.0%
To some extent (4)	13.5%	12.1%	15.1%	13.2%
To a great extent (5)	64.2%	63.6%	67.5%	64.3%

Statistics based on survey question: Thinking about your current (or the most recent) job, to what extent is it related to the program(s) you pursued after your 2012 degree?

Table 9: Extent to which graduates using skills learned during the programs pursued after the first degree in their job by province of graduation

Using skills learned in their job	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates in labour force who pursued further education
	Wn=670	Wn=329	Wn=83	Wn=1,082
Not at all (1)	6.3%	7.5%	6.1%	6.7%
To some extent (2)	4.6%	4.0%	-	4.1%
To some extent (3)	7.9%	10.6%	9.0%	8.8%
To some extent (4)	19.2%	16.3%	19.3%	18.4%
To a great extent (5)	62.0%	61.6%	65.6%	62.1%

Based on the survey question: Thinking about your current (or the most recent) job, to what extent do you use the skills you learned during the program(s) you pursued after your 2012 degree?

Table 10: Percentage of graduates borrowing to finance the first degree and pursuing further education by province of graduation

Borrowing to finance the first degree	Pursuing further education	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates
		Wn=607	Wn=401	Wn=75	Wn=1,083
Borrowed	Pursued	65.2%	53.6%	73.7%	61.5%
	Did not pursue	34.8%	46.4%	26.3%	38.5%
		Wn=540	Wn=215	Wn=49	Wn=804
Did not borrow	Pursued	70.6%	66.4%	**	70.0%
	Did not pursue	29.4%	33.6%	**	30.0%

Based on survey questions: Did you borrow any money to finance the university education you completed in 2012? Since your graduation in 2012 have you enrolled in any other education programs leading towards a diploma, certificate, or degree?

\*\* Data suppressed due to small subsample (Wn < 50)

Table 11: Percentage of graduates borrowing to finance the programs pursued after the first degree by province of graduation

Borrowing to finance the programs pursued after the first degree	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates who pursued further education
	Wn=778	Wn=357	Wn=93	Wn=1,228
Borrowed	56.0%	62.7%	63.0%	58.5%
Did not borrow	44.0%	37.3%	37.0%	41.5%

Based on survey question: Did you borrow any money to finance the educational program(s) you've taken since 2012?

Table 12: Percentage of graduates by financial sources for post-2012 programs by province of graduation

Top financial sources for post-2012 programs	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates who pursued further education
	Wn=778	Wn=357	Wn=93	Wn=1,228
Employment earnings/Personal savings	42.2%	44.0%	41.6%	42.7%
Government student loan	36.8%	44.0%	51.0%	40.0%
Bank/Other financial institution	24.9%	24.5%	27.6%	25.0%
Parents/Family	24.0%	16.1%	16.0%	21.1%
Awards based on merit	16.0%	21.0%	12.8%	17.2%
Employer	15.2%	10.3%	15.2%	13.8%
Credit cards	4.8%	4.9%	2.9%	4.7%
Awards based on need	3.1%	5.1%	7.0%	3.9%
Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)	3.3%	1.9%	1.6%	2.8%
Other	3.0%	3.0%	1.6%	2.8%

Statistics based on survey question: What were your two main sources of funding for the degree you completed in 2012?

Note: Totals add up to more than 100% as each graduate could select up to two reasons.

Table 13: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by gender and province of graduation

Gender	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates
	Wn=724	Wn=376	Wn=77	Wn=1,177
Female	71.2%	61.6%	72.0%	68.2%
	Wn=426	Wn=241	Wn=47	Wn=715
Male	61.9%	52.8%	**	60.1%

Statistics based on survey question: Since your graduation in 2012 have you enrolled in any other education programs leading towards a diploma, certificate, or degree?

\*\* Data suppressed due to small subsample (Wn < 50)

Table 14: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by their region of origin and province of graduation

Origin	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates
	Wn=754	Wn=523	Wn=116	Wn=1,392
Maritimes	68.2%	57.5%	75.4%	64.8%
	Wn=396	Wn=94	Wn=8	Wn=499
Outside Maritimes	67.0%	61.8%	**	66.1%

Statistics based on the survey question: Since your graduation in 2012 have you enrolled in any other education programs leading towards a diploma, certificate, or degree?

\*\* Data suppressed due to small subsample (Wn < 50)

Table 15: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by parents' educational attainment and province of graduation

Parents' educational attainment	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates
	Wn=660	Wn=283	Wn=51	Wn=994
Bachelor's degree or above	71.8%	63.6%	79.8%	69.9%
	Wn=339	Wn=217	Wn=49	Wn=605
PSE below bachelor's degree	63.2%	56.7%	**	61.4%
	Wn=134	Wn=106	Wn=22	Wn=261
High school diploma or less	59.7%	45.7%	**	55.3%

Statistics based on the survey question: Since your graduation in 2012 have you enrolled in any other education programs leading towards a diploma, certificate, or degree?

\*\* Data suppressed due to small subsample (Wn < 50)

Table 16: Percentage of graduates who pursued further education by discipline cluster and province of graduation

Discipline cluster of first degree	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	All graduates
	Wn=450	Wn=256	Wn=53	Wn=759
Humanities, arts and social sciences	76.3%	74.7%	84.2%	76.3%
	Wn=216	Wn=70	Wn=22	Wn=307
Physical and life sciences, and mathematics	83.6%	79.1%	**	83.7%
	Wn=240	Wn=205	Wn=24	Wn=469
Applied arts and sciences, and professional programs	52.3%	35.8%	**	44.4%
	Wn=247	Wn=85	Wn=25	Wn=357
Commerce and administration	53.1%	43.9%	**	52.1%

Statistics based on the survey question: Since your graduation in 2012 have you enrolled in any other education programs leading towards a diploma, certificate, or degree?

\*\* Data suppressed due to small subsample (Wn < 50)