

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT 2020 - 2021

In 2020-2021, **70,575** students were enrolled in Maritime universities, up 0.9% over one year and 1.5% over 10 years. 84.1% of students were enrolled at the undergraduate level, while 15.9% were enrolled at the graduate level. Both undergraduate (+0.4%) and graduate (+3.3%) enrolments increased over one year. In Fall 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Maritime universities had switched to online delivery of programs which appears to have had an impact on certain enrolment trends. Full-time enrolment decreased by 1% across the Maritimes, but this decrease was offset by the 11.2% jump in part-time enrolment. Full-time and part-time enrolment both decreased in *Architecture, engineering and related technologies* programs, leading to an overall enrolment drop of -7.3%. Conversely, enrolment in *Mathematics, computer and information sciences* programs increased by 10.3%, followed by *Education* (+8.1%) and *Social and behavioural sciences and law* (+6.1%). The number of international students decreased by 4.1% in 2020-2021 after showing enrolment increases in every year since 2010-2011 (up 102.7% over 10 years). This one-year drop has been offset by increased enrolment of students from the Maritime provinces (up 1.9%) and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (up 3.6%).

New Brunswick experienced a one-year enrolment decrease of 1.1% to **18,662** students (-16.1% over 10 years). Enrolment declines over one year were observed among students of all origins: NB residents (-0.5%), students from other Maritime provinces (-5.3%), Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (-0.5%), and international students (-1.8%).

Nova Scotia experienced a one-year enrolment increase of 1.2% to **46,888** students (+9.4% over 10 years). Enrolment over one year increased for NS residents (+3.6%), students from other Maritime provinces (+1.7%), and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+4.1%), but decreased for international students (-5.7%) compared to the previous year.

Prince Edward Island experienced a one-year enrolment increase of 5.7% to **5,025** students (+13.8% over 10 years). Enrolment over one year increased for home province residents (+5.1%), students from other Maritime provinces (+1.5%), and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+13.8%). The number of international students was also up 6.1%. This continues the province's increased international enrolment over 10 years (+210.2%).

University participation of Maritimers in the Maritimes has been steadily decreasing over the past decade, reaching 21.6% in 2020-2021 (-0.2 percentage point over one year and -1.8 pp over 10 years). The home province participation rate increased by 0.3 pp in NS over one year, while it decreased by 0.4 pp in NB and 0.2 pp in PEI (-0.8 pp, -1.8 pp and -5.3 pp in NS, NB and PEI over 10 years, respectively).

New Brunswick

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▼ -1.1%	▼ -3.8%	▼ -16.1%
NB Residents	▼ -0.5%	▼ -3.4%	▼ -22.1%
Other Maritimers	▼ -5.3%	▼ -13.6%	▼ -22.4%
Other Canadians	▼ -0.5%	▼ -1.2%	▼ -2.6%
International	▼ -1.8%	▼ -0.2%	▲ 21.6%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.4 pp	▼ -0.1 pp	▼ -1.8 pp

Nova Scotia

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 1.2%	▲ 8.4%	▲ 9.4%
NS Residents	▲ 3.6%	▲ 1.6%	▼ -8.6%
Other Maritimers	▲ 1.7%	▲ 3.9%	▼ -2.6%
Other Canadians	▲ 4.1%	▼ -4.5%	▼ -1.7%
International	▼ -5.7%	▲ 47.9%	▲ 126.2%
Home Province Participation Rate	▲ 0.3 pp	▼ -0.6 pp	▼ -0.8 pp

Prince Edward Island

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 5.7%	▲ 20.0%	▲ 13.8%
PEI Residents	▲ 5.1%	▲ 5.1%	▼ -17.5%
Other Maritimers	▲ 1.5%	▼ -3.1%	▲ 15.6%
Other Canadians	▲ 13.8%	▲ 12.2%	▲ 43.7%
International	▲ 6.1%	▲ 92.8%	▲ 210.2%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -2.8 pp	▼ -5.3 pp

Maritimes

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 0.9%	▲ 5.6%	▲ 1.5%
NB Residents	— 0.0%	▼ -2.3%	▼ -18.8%
NS Residents	▲ 3.0%	▲ 0.7%	▼ -9.1%
PEI Residents	▲ 2.9%	▲ 2.0%	▼ -17.0%
Other Canadians	▲ 3.6%	▼ -3.5%	▼ -0.8%
International	▼ -4.1%	▲ 39.9%	▲ 102.7%
Maritime Participation Rate	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -0.9 pp	▼ -1.8 pp

ENROLMENT BY REGISTRATION STATUS		UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT				GRADUATE ENROLMENT				TOTAL ENROLMENT			
		Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over			Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over			Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	16 434	▼ -1.0%	▼ -4.5%	▼ -16.6%	2 228	▼ -2.1%	▲ 1.6%	▼ -12.8%	18 662	▼ -1.1%	▼ -3.8%	▼ -16.1%
	Full-time	14 385	▼ -2.7%	▼ -4.9%	▼ -13.5%	1 456	▼ -6.2%	▲ 6.0%	▼ -5.3%	15 841	▼ -3.1%	▼ -4.0%	▼ -12.8%
	Part-time	2 049	▲ 13.1%	▼ -1.4%	▼ -33.1%	772	▲ 6.9%	▼ -5.6%	▼ -24.2%	2 821	▲ 11.4%	▼ -2.6%	▼ -30.9%
Nova Scotia	Total	38 390	▲ 0.2%	▲ 5.8%	▲ 7.0%	8 498	▲ 5.5%	▲ 21.8%	▲ 21.9%	46 888	▲ 1.2%	▲ 8.4%	▲ 9.4%
	Full-time	32 851	▼ -2.2%	▲ 2.6%	▲ 5.5%	5 387	▲ 7.9%	▲ 24.9%	▲ 32.8%	38 238	▼ -0.9%	▲ 5.2%	▲ 8.7%
	Part-time	5 539	▲ 18.0%	▲ 30.4%	▲ 16.9%	3 111	▲ 1.6%	▲ 16.8%	▲ 6.6%	8 650	▲ 11.5%	▲ 25.1%	▲ 13.0%
Prince Edward Island	Total	4 529	▲ 7.3%	▲ 21.3%	▲ 11.1%	496	▼ -6.9%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 47.2%	5 025	▲ 5.7%	▲ 20.0%	▲ 13.8%
	Full-time	3 995	▲ 6.9%	▲ 24.0%	▲ 16.9%	488	▼ -3.7%	▲ 11.9%	▲ 88.4%	4 483	▲ 5.6%	▲ 22.6%	▲ 22.0%
	Part-time	534	▲ 10.3%	▲ 4.3%	▼ -19.2%	8	*	*	*	542	▲ 6.3%	▲ 2.3%	▼ -26.7%
Maritimes	Total	59 353	▲ 0.4%	▲ 3.7%	▼ -0.5%	11 222	▲ 3.3%	▲ 16.6%	▲ 13.7%	70 575	▲ 0.9%	▲ 5.6%	▲ 1.5%
	Full-time	51 231	▼ -1.7%	▲ 1.7%	▲ 0.1%	7 331	▲ 4.0%	▲ 19.7%	▲ 25.3%	58 562	▼ -1.0%	▲ 3.7%	▲ 2.7%
	Part-time	8 122	▲ 16.2%	▲ 18.7%	▼ -4.0%	3 891	▲ 2.1%	▲ 11.2%	▼ -3.1%	12 013	▲ 11.2%	▲ 16.2%	▼ -3.7%

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FALL TERM)	FTE 2020-2021	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick	16 514.47	▼ -2.5%	▼ -3.8%	▼ -13.4%	
Nova Scotia	40 180.68	▼ -0.6%	▲ 6.1%	▲ 8.8%	
Prince Edward Island	4 573.40	▲ 5.5%	▲ 22.2%	▲ 20.3%	
Maritimes	61 268.55	▼ -0.7%	▲ 4.2%	▲ 2.5%	

Table 4: Total Fall Term Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) by Province, Institution and Registration Status

ENROLMENT BY GENDER ¹		Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over					
			1 year		5 years		10 years	
New Brunswick	Female	10 990	▲	0.2%	—	0.0%	▼	-15.8%
	Male	7 479	▼	-2.7%	▼	-10.7%	▼	-18.4%
Nova Scotia	Female	27 047	▲	2.0%	▲	8.4%	▲	8.0%
	Male	19 324	▼	-1.5%	▲	5.8%	▲	8.6%
Prince Edward Island	Female	2 811	▲	0.2%	▲	8.2%	▲	1.2%
	Male	1 887	▲	0.3%	▲	18.6%	▲	15.3%
Maritimes	Female	40 848	▲	1.4%	▲	6.0%	—	0.0%
	Male	28 690	▼	-1.7%	▲	1.6%	▲	0.3%

¹ Students with gender "not reported" are excluded

Table 10: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Gender

Table 11: Total Enrolment by Province, Major Field of Study, and Gender

Table 1: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

Table 2: Total Undergraduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

Table 3: Total Graduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

FULL-TIME ENROLMENT BY AGE GROUP ²		Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over					
			1 year		5 years		10 years	
New Brunswick	19 or younger	5 093	▼	-5.6%	▲	1.1%	▼	-11.9%
	20-24 years old	8 052	▼	-1.8%	▼	-7.6%	▼	-13.1%
	25 or older	2 696	▼	-1.8%	▼	-1.6%	▼	-13.7%
Nova Scotia	19 or younger	9 851	▼	-4.1%	▲	0.2%	▲	2.0%
	20-24 years old	19 360	▼	-1.5%	▲	1.9%	▲	5.4%
	25 or older	9 027	▲	4.1%	▲	20.1%	▲	25.9%
Prince Edward Island	19 or younger	1 249	▲	0.6%	▲	24.8%	▲	15.9%
	20-24 years old	2 230	▲	8.9%	▲	26.3%	▲	19.1%
	25 or older	1 004	▲	5.1%	▲	12.7%	▲	38.5%
Maritimes	19 or younger	16 193	▼	-4.2%	▲	2.0%	▼	-2.0%
	20-24 years old	29 642	▼	-0.8%	▲	0.6%	▲	0.5%
	25 or older	12 727	▲	2.9%	▲	14.1%	▲	15.5%

² Students with age "not reported" are excluded

Table 12: Full-time Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Age Group

How to read the tables

Enrolment statistics are reported at the provincial and Maritime level for the 2020-2021 fall term. The percent change over one, five and ten years (change since 2019-2020, 2015-2016 and 2010-2011, respectively) is provided to illustrate major trends. *Percent change is not reported for cells with small *n*. Below each summary table is the title of a corresponding table on the MPHEC website with a breakdown by university and other variables available at: <http://www.mphed.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/enrolment.aspx>

University enrolment is calculated from data in the MPHEC Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS), which contains detailed information on demographics, programs and courses for all students enrolled in 15 publicly-funded Maritime universities.

ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT					GRADUATE ENROLMENT					TOTAL ENROLMENT				
	Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over				Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over				Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years			1 year	5 years	10 years			1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick	16 434	▼ -1.0%	▼ -4.5%	▼ -16.6%		2 228	▼ -2.1%	▲ 1.6%	▼ -12.8%		18 662	▼ -1.1%	▼ -3.8%	▼ -16.1%	
Home Province Residents ³	11 150	▼ -1.0%	▼ -3.1%	▼ -21.4%		1 149	▲ 4.4%	▼ -6.6%	▼ -28.3%		12 299	▼ -0.5%	▼ -3.4%	▼ -22.1%	
Other Maritimers	1 556	▼ -5.9%	▼ -14.6%	▼ -23.2%		131	▲ 1.6%	▲ 0.8%	▼ -10.9%		1 687	▼ -5.3%	▼ -13.6%	▼ -22.4%	
Other Canadians	1 826	▼ -0.7%	▼ -2.6%	▼ -5.1%		349	▲ 0.6%	▲ 7.1%	▲ 13.3%		2 175	▼ -0.5%	▼ -1.2%	▼ -2.6%	
International ⁴	1 902	▲ 2.9%	▼ -4.9%	▲ 22.0%		599	▼ -14.2%	▲ 18.4%	▲ 20.3%		2 501	▼ -1.8%	▼ -0.2%	▲ 21.6%	
Nova Scotia	38 390	▲ 0.2%	▲ 5.8%	▲ 7.0%		8 498	▲ 5.5%	▲ 21.8%	▲ 21.9%		46 888	▲ 1.2%	▲ 8.4%	▲ 9.4%	
Home Province Residents	18 206	▲ 2.5%	▼ -0.1%	▼ -10.3%		3 355	▲ 9.9%	▲ 12.4%	▲ 2.5%		21 561	▲ 3.6%	▲ 1.6%	▼ -8.6%	
Other Maritimers	2 648	▲ 1.8%	▲ 2.7%	▼ -3.3%		590	▲ 0.9%	▲ 10.1%	▲ 0.9%		3 238	▲ 1.7%	▲ 3.9%	▼ -2.6%	
Other Canadians	8 344	▲ 4.4%	▼ -8.9%	▼ -4.7%		2 394	▲ 3.2%	▲ 14.7%	▲ 10.1%		10 738	▲ 4.1%	▼ -4.5%	▼ -1.7%	
International	9 192	▼ -7.6%	▲ 45.8%	▲ 125.4%		2 159	▲ 3.0%	▲ 57.6%	▲ 129.7%		11 351	▼ -5.7%	▲ 47.9%	▲ 126.2%	
Prince Edward Island	4 529	▲ 7.3%	▲ 21.3%	▲ 11.1%		496	▼ -6.9%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 47.2%		5 025	▲ 5.7%	▲ 20.0%	▲ 13.8%	
Home Province Residents	2 404	▲ 7.0%	▲ 6.7%	▼ -19.3%		216	▼ -12.9%	▼ -9.6%	▲ 10.2%		2 620	▲ 5.1%	▲ 5.1%	▼ -17.5%	
Other Maritimers	488	▲ 2.7%	▼ -3.7%	▲ 14.8%		45	▼ -10.0%	▲ 4.7%	▲ 25.0%		533	▲ 1.5%	▼ -3.1%	▲ 15.6%	
Other Canadians	356	▲ 11.9%	▲ 5.6%	▲ 38.5%		114	▲ 20.0%	▲ 39.0%	▲ 62.9%		470	▲ 13.8%	▲ 12.2%	▲ 43.7%	
International	1 281	▲ 8.4%	▲ 101.1%	▲ 207.2%		121	▼ -13.6%	▲ 34.4%	▲ 245.7%		1 402	▲ 6.1%	▲ 92.8%	▲ 210.2%	
Maritimes	59 353	▲ 0.4%	▲ 3.7%	▼ -0.5%		11 222	▲ 3.3%	▲ 16.6%	▲ 13.7%		70 575	▲ 0.9%	▲ 5.6%	▲ 1.5%	
New Brunswick ⁵	13 426	▼ -0.3%	▼ -2.0%	▼ -18.3%		1 572	▲ 3.5%	▼ -5.0%	▼ -22.6%		14 998	— 0.0%	▼ -2.3%	▼ -18.8%	
Nova Scotia	19 663	▲ 1.9%	▼ -1.1%	▼ -10.9%		3 489	▲ 9.3%	▲ 12.4%	▲ 2.5%		23 152	▲ 3.0%	▲ 0.7%	▼ -9.1%	
Prince Edward Island	3 363	▲ 4.2%	▲ 1.6%	▼ -19.2%		425	▼ -6.4%	▲ 4.7%	▲ 4.9%		3 788	▲ 2.9%	▲ 2.0%	▼ -17.0%	
Other Canadians	10 526	▲ 3.7%	▼ -7.4%	▼ -3.7%		2 857	▲ 3.5%	▲ 14.5%	▲ 11.9%		13 383	▲ 3.6%	▼ -3.5%	▼ -0.8%	
International	12 375	▼ -4.6%	▲ 38.4%	▲ 104.4%		2 879	▼ -1.9%	▲ 46.4%	▲ 95.5%		15 254	▼ -4.1%	▲ 39.9%	▲ 102.7%	

³ Students enrolled within their permanent province of residence declared at admission; ⁴ Excludes students enrolled in offshore programs; ⁵ Provincial residents enrolled at all Maritime universities.

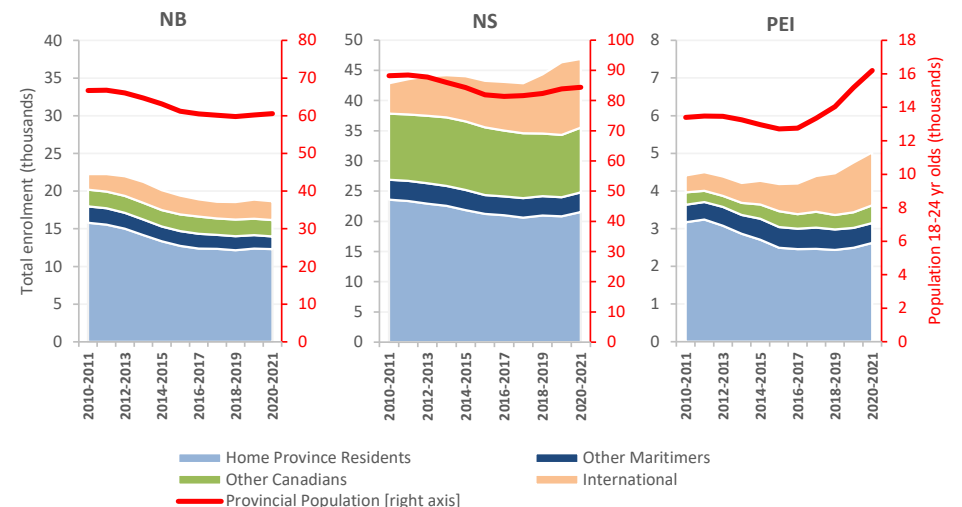
Table 5: Enrolment of International Students by Province, Institution, Reg. Status, and % of Total Enrolment

Table 9: Total Enrolment by Province of Study, Immigration Status, Province of Residence and Level of Study

UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION		2020-2021	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
Home Province Participation	NB	17.1%	▼ -0.4 pp	▼ -0.1 pp	▼ -1.8 pp
Number of students enrolled full-time in a university in their province of residence, divided by the provincial population aged 18-24 ⁶ .	NS	20.6%	▲ 0.3 pp	▼ -0.6 pp	▼ -0.8 pp
	PEI	14.0%	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -2.8 pp	▼ -5.3 pp
Maritime Participation					
Number of Maritimers enrolled full-time in a university in the Maritimes, divided by the Maritime population aged 18-24.		21.6%	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -0.9 pp	▼ -1.8 pp

⁶ Provincial population data: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501>. Statistics Canada updates population estimates from time to time, therefore previously published participation rate calculations may change.

KEY TRENDS IN DEMOGRAPHICS AND UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN



ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY ⁷	Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick					
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	463	▼ -4.5%	▲ 25.5%	▲ 53.3%	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	1 795	▼ -2.4%	▼ -15.4%	▼ -4.9%	
Business, management and public administration	2 835	▼ -1.2%	▼ -6.1%	▼ -14.1%	
Education	1 426	▲ 7.8%	▲ 17.8%	▼ -29.1%	
Health and related fields	2 425	▲ 2.1%	▼ -5.2%	▼ -19.9%	
Humanities ⁸	2 838	▼ -5.1%	▼ -9.6%	▼ -39.4%	
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	890	▲ 6.0%	▲ 18.7%	▲ 86.2%	
Physical and life sciences and technologies ⁹	1 862	▼ -1.9%	▼ -4.9%	▼ -10.9%	
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2 651	▲ 5.2%	▲ 10.6%	▲ 22.4%	
Visual and performing arts	338	▲ 1.2%	▲ 7.6%	▼ -3.7%	
Other/Not Applicable ¹⁰	1 139	▼ -18.6%	▼ -27.0%	▼ -42.0%	
Nova Scotia					
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1 229	▲ 0.5%	▲ 3.5%	▼ -0.4%	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	3 936	▼ -10.2%	▲ 13.7%	▲ 46.4%	
Business, management and public administration	9 962	▲ 4.4%	▲ 9.5%	▲ 23.4%	
Education	2 883	▲ 9.1%	▲ 31.6%	▲ 0.5%	
Health and related fields	7 556	▼ -2.1%	▲ 7.3%	▲ 20.1%	
Humanities	4 795	▲ 0.5%	▼ -8.0%	▼ -36.8%	
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	2 772	▲ 10.6%	▲ 98.4%	▲ 191.5%	
Physical and life sciences and technologies	5 603	▲ 2.4%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 12.6%	
Social and behavioural sciences and law	5 346	▲ 4.4%	▼ -1.2%	▲ 5.6%	
Visual and performing arts	957	▼ -5.7%	▼ -0.6%	▼ -26.3%	
Other/Not Applicable	1 849	▼ -5.6%	▼ -5.9%	▲ 1.9%	
Prince Edward Island					
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	114	▲ 28.1%	▲ 245.5%	*	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	262	▲ 7.4%	▲ 83.2%	▲ 178.7%	
Business, management and public administration	957	▲ 7.4%	▲ 27.4%	▲ 17.6%	
Education	364	▲ 1.7%	▲ 4.3%	▼ -15.2%	
Health and related fields	1 014	▲ 2.1%	▲ 17.4%	▲ 42.6%	
Humanities	288	▼ -12.2%	▼ -32.6%	▼ -68.1%	
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	330	▲ 20.4%	▲ 137.4%	▲ 211.3%	
Physical and life sciences and technologies	702	▲ 7.7%	▼ -2.8%	▼ -2.5%	
Social and behavioural sciences and law	865	▲ 21.0%	▲ 61.7%	▲ 107.4%	
Visual and performing arts	30	*	*	*	
Other/Not Applicable	99	▼ -43.1%	▼ -48.4%	▼ -45.0%	

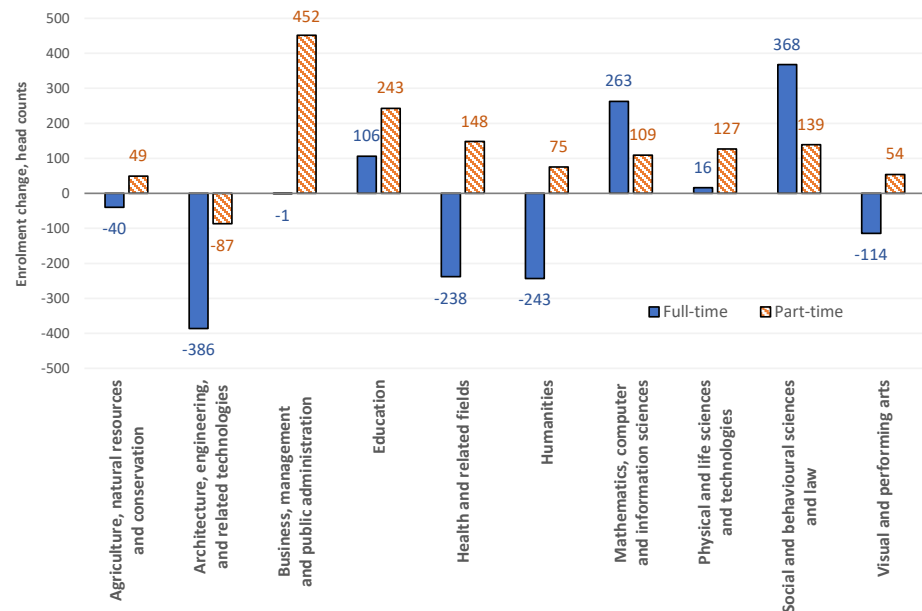
⁷ Major field of study categories are based on the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Canada 2016 primary groupings available at: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/standard/cip/2016/index>; ⁸ Includes General Arts;

⁹ Includes General Sciences; ¹⁰ "Not applicable" - courses or other educational activities that are not within a program.

ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	Enrolment 2020-2021	Change Over					
		1 year		5 years		10 years	
Maritimes							
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1 806	▲	0.5%	▲	13.6%	▲	17.6%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	5 993	▼	-7.3%	▲	4.7%	▲	28.3%
Business, management and public administration	13 754	▲	3.4%	▲	6.9%	▲	12.9%
Education	4 673	▲	8.1%	▲	24.6%	▼	-12.0%
Health and related fields	10 995	▼	-0.8%	▲	5.1%	▲	9.6%
Humanities	7 921	▼	-2.1%	▼	-9.8%	▼	-39.9%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	3 992	▲	10.3%	▲	74.6%	▲	160.1%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	8 167	▲	1.8%	▲	2.1%	▲	4.9%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	8 862	▲	6.1%	▲	6.2%	▲	15.9%
Visual and performing arts	1 325	▼	-4.3%	▲	1.1%	▼	-21.6%
Other/Not Applicable	3 087	▼	-12.6%	▼	-16.9%	▼	-22.0%

Table 7: Total Enrolment by Province, Major Field of Study, and Level of Study

ENROLMENT CHANGE SINCE 2019-2020 BY FIELD OF STUDY AND REGISTRATION STATUS



For further information, please contact:
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

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