

# TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

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## UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT 2024-2025

In 2024-2025, **75,982** students were enrolled in Maritime universities, a 2.0% decrease compared to the previous year, but an increase of 8.7% and 11.2% over five and ten years, respectively. Overall, undergraduate enrolment decreased by 2.1%, and graduate enrolment decreased by 1.4%.

Enrolment in *Education* programs increased by 5.0% and in *Health and related fields* increased by 1.2% over one year. Enrolment in *Mathematics, computer and information sciences* programs decreased by 8.2%, and enrolment in *Business, management and public administration* decreased by 4.4% compared to the previous year. These last two major field of study groups had the highest proportion of international students as the percentage of total enrolment, 59% and 48%, respectively, as of 2023-2024.

In **New Brunswick**, total enrolment increased by 0.7%, to **20,874** students. While international enrolment decreased by 2.1%, enrolment of NB residents increased by 1.8%, and enrolment of students from other Maritime provinces and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes increased by 0.7%.

In **Nova Scotia**, total enrolment decreased by 3.1%, to **49,542** students. The enrolment drop was driven entirely by international students (-14.9%) as domestic enrolment increased in all categories: NS residents up 1.9%, students from the other Maritime provinces up 1.4%, and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes up 1.9%.

In **Prince Edward Island**, total enrolment decreased by 2.3% to **5,566** students. Enrolment decreased among home province residents (-0.1%), students from other Maritime provinces (-1.4%), and international students (-6.6%). Enrolment of Canadian students from outside the Maritimes increased by 2.2%.

In 2024-2025, enrolment of Canadian students increased overall in the Maritimes: NB residents up 1.3%, NS residents up 1.8%, PEI residents up 1.6%, and other Canadians up 1.7%. The decrease in total enrolment was mainly due to a drop in the number of international students in the region. International enrolment in the Maritimes peaked in 2023-2024, reaching 21,902 students. Following the introduction of federal government caps on the number of study permit issued to international students and tighter conditions for study and post-graduation work permits, the number of international students dropped 11.3% between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, to 19,432 students.

In 2024-2025, undergraduate enrolment of provincial residents increased in all three provinces, albeit the rate of the increase has not kept up with the recent population growth in the region. As a result, home province university participation rates decreased over one year by 0.3 percentage points (pp) in NB, 0.7 pp in NS, and 0.5 pp in PEI, and the participation rate of Maritimers in the Maritimes decreased by 0.6 pp.



New Brunswick				
Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years	
Total Enrolment	▲ 0.7%	▲ 11.0%	▲ 4.3%	
NB Residents	▲ 1.8%	▼ -2.6%	▼ -9.6%	
Other Maritimers	▲ 0.7%	▼ -7.6%	▼ -16.1%	
Other Canadians	▲ 0.7%	▲ 11.3%	▲ 11.7%	
International	▼ -2.1%	▲ 89.9%	▲ 83.0%	
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -2.5 pp	▼ -2.2 pp	

Nova Scotia				
Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years	
Total Enrolment	▼ -3.1%	▲ 6.9%	▲ 12.6%	
NS Residents	▲ 1.9%	▲ 5.2%	▲ 0.1%	
Other Maritimers	▲ 1.4%	▲ 8.2%	▲ 4.5%	
Other Canadians	▲ 1.9%	▲ 10.8%	▲ 0.5%	
International	▼ -14.9%	▲ 6.0%	▲ 70.9%	
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.7 pp	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -1.4 pp	

Prince Edward Island				
Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years	
Total Enrolment	▼ -2.3%	▲ 17.1%	▲ 30.3%	
PEI Residents	▼ -0.1%	▲ 7.1%	▼ -1.4%	
Other Maritimers	▼ -1.4%	▲ 7.6%	▲ 2.0%	
Other Canadians	▲ 2.1%	▲ 16.7%	▲ 26.5%	
International	▼ -6.6%	▲ 39.9%	▲ 194.0%	
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -2.5 pp	▼ -5.1 pp	

Maritimes				
Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years	
Total Enrolment	▼ -2.0%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 11.2%	
NB Residents	▲ 1.3%	▼ -0.5%	▼ -7.1%	
NS Residents	▲ 1.8%	▲ 4.4%	▼ -0.6%	
PEI Residents	▲ 1.6%	▲ 5.0%	▼ -3.7%	
Other Canadians	▲ 1.7%	▲ 11.1%	▲ 3.0%	
International	▼ -11.3%	▲ 22.2%	▲ 81.0%	
Maritime Participation Rate	▼ -0.6 pp	▼ -1.9 pp	▼ -2.6 pp	

Enrolment by Registration Status		Undergraduate Enrolment					Graduate Enrolment					Total Enrolment					
		Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	18,182	▲ 1.6%	▲ 10.0%	▲ 2.0%	2,692	▼ -5.4%	▲ 18.3%	▲ 22.4%	20,874	▲ 0.7%	▲ 11.0%	▲ 4.3%				
	Full-time	16,307	▲ 3.6%	▲ 10.3%	▲ 5.2%	1,897	▼ -7.1%	▲ 22.2%	▲ 39.2%	18,204	▲ 2.4%	▲ 11.4%	▲ 7.9%				
	Part-time	1,875	▼ -13.0%	▲ 7.3%	▼ -18.8%	795	▼ -1.1%	▲ 10.1%	▼ -5.0%	2,670	▼ -9.7%	▲ 8.1%	▼ -15.2%				
Nova Scotia	Total	41,120	▼ -3.7%	▲ 7.3%	▲ 11.7%	8,422	▼ -0.2%	▲ 4.6%	▲ 16.7%	49,542	▼ -3.1%	▲ 6.9%	▲ 12.6%				
	Full-time	37,445	▼ -1.2%	▲ 11.4%	▲ 15.8%	5,517	▼ -1.2%	▲ 10.5%	▲ 27.4%	42,962	▼ -1.2%	▲ 11.3%	▲ 17.2%				
	Part-time	3,675	▼ -23.0%	▼ -21.9%	▼ -17.8%	2,905	▲ 1.9%	▼ -5.2%	▲ 0.8%	6,580	▼ -13.7%	▼ -15.3%	▼ -10.5%				
Prince Edward Island	Total	4,933	▼ -2.7%	▲ 16.9%	▲ 28.1%	633	▲ 1.0%	▲ 18.8%	▲ 50.7%	5,566	▼ -2.3%	▲ 17.1%	▲ 30.3%				
	Full-time	4,487	▼ -3.2%	▲ 20.1%	▲ 36.9%	626	▲ 0.8%	▲ 23.5%	▲ 62.2%	5,113	▼ -2.7%	▲ 20.5%	▲ 39.5%				
	Part-time	446	▲ 2.8%	▼ -7.9%	▼ -22.3%	7	*	*	*	453	▲ 3.0%	▼ -11.2%	▼ -25.5%				
Maritimes	Total	64,235	▼ -2.1%	▲ 8.8%	▲ 9.9%	11,747	▼ -1.4%	▲ 8.1%	▲ 19.5%	75,982	▼ -2.0%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 11.2%				
	Full-time	58,239	▼ -0.1%	▲ 11.7%	▲ 13.9%	8,040	▼ -2.5%	▲ 14.0%	▲ 32.2%	66,279	▼ -0.4%	▲ 12.0%	▲ 15.9%				
	Part-time	5,996	▼ -18.6%	▼ -13.6%	▼ -18.5%	3,707	▲ 1.3%	▼ -2.7%	▼ -1.3%	9,703	▼ -12.0%	▼ -9.7%	▼ -12.6%				

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

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

Full-Time Equivalents (Fall Term)	FTE 2024-2025	Change Over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	18,891	▲ 2.0%	▲ 11.6%	▲ 7.3%
Nova Scotia	44,542	▼ -1.4%	▲ 10.2%	▲ 16.3%
Prince Edward Island	5,192	▼ -2.6%	▲ 19.7%	▲ 38.1%
Maritimes	68,625	▼ -0.6%	▲ 11.2%	▲ 15.0%

Enrolment by Gender	Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick	Female	11,571	▲ 0.8%	▲ 5.8%	▲ 1.8%
	Male	8,520	▲ 2.3%	▲ 11.1%	▼ -1.4%
	Diverse / Not reported	783	▼ -15.4%	*	*
Nova Scotia	Female	28,165	▼ -0.2%	▲ 6.2%	▲ 10.9%
	Male	19,886	▼ -3.9%	▲ 1.4%	▲ 6.9%
	Diverse / Not reported	1,491	▼ -32.3%	*	*
Prince Edward Island	Female	2,488	▼ -4.6%	▼ -11.3%	▼ -6.7%
	Male	1,565	▼ -8.9%	▼ -16.8%	▼ -2.4%
	Diverse / Not reported	1,513	▲ 10.3%	*	*
Maritimes	Female	42,224	▼ -0.2%	▲ 4.9%	▲ 7.1%
	Male	29,971	▼ -2.5%	▲ 2.8%	▲ 3.9%
	Diverse / Not reported	3,787	▼ -15.8%	*	*

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

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

### How to read the tables

Enrolment statistics are reported at the provincial and Maritime level for the 2024-2025 fall term. The percent change over one, five and ten years (change since 2023-2024, 2019-2020 and 2014-2015, 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.mphec.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. Definitions and notes for each variable are available here: <http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/definitions-notes.aspx>

Full-Time Enrolment by Age Group <sup>1</sup>	Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick	19 or younger	5,654	▲ 3.5%	▲ 4.8%	▲ 9.9%
	20-24 years old	8,974	▲ 2.1%	▲ 9.4%	▼ -0.1%
	25 or older	3,576	▲ 1.5%	▲ 30.3%	▲ 30.5%
Nova Scotia	19 or younger	10,647	▼ -5.5%	▲ 3.6%	▲ 4.5%
	20-24 years old	20,090	▼ -0.3%	▲ 2.3%	▲ 5.7%
	25 or older	12,225	▲ 1.3%	▲ 41.0%	▲ 63.8%
Prince Edward Island	19 or younger	1,227	▼ -12.0%	▼ -1.1%	▲ 15.9%
	20-24 years old	2,773	▲ 0.1%	▲ 35.4%	▲ 59.6%
	25 or older	1,113	▲ 1.8%	▲ 17.2%	▲ 28.4%
Maritimes	19 or younger	17,528	▼ -3.3%	▲ 3.6%	▲ 6.9%
	20-24 years old	31,837	▲ 0.4%	▲ 6.5%	▲ 7.1%
	25 or older	16,914	▲ 1.4%	▲ 36.8%	▲ 52.8%

<sup>1</sup>Students with age "not reported" are excluded.

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

ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT						GRADUATE ENROLMENT						TOTAL ENROLMENT										
	Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over			Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over									
		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years							
New Brunswick	18,182	▲	1.6%	▲	10.0%	▲	2.0%		2,692	▼	-5.4%	▲	18.3%	▲	22.4%		20,874	▲	0.7%	▲	11.0%	▲	4.3%
Home Province Residents <sup>2</sup>	10,673	▲	1.1%	▼	-4.8%	▼	-11.0%		1,314	▲	8.0%	▲	19.3%	▲	4.4%		11,987	▲	1.8%	▼	-2.6%	▼	-9.6%
Other Maritimers	1,522	▲	0.9%	▼	-7.8%	▼	-16.7%		122	▼	-2.4%	▼	-5.4%	▼	-7.6%		1,644	▲	0.7%	▼	-7.6%	▼	-16.1%
Other Canadians	2,102	▲	2.1%	▲	14.6%	▲	12.2%		326	▼	-7.9%	▼	-6.1%	▲	9.0%		2,428	▲	0.7%	▲	11.3%	▲	11.7%
International <sup>3</sup>	3,885	▲	3.1%	▲	111.4%	▲	83.2%		930	▼	-19.1%	▲	33.2%	▲	82.4%		4,815	▼	-2.1%	▲	89.9%	▲	83.0%
Nova Scotia	41,120	▼	-3.7%	▲	7.3%	▲	11.7%		8,422	▼	-0.2%	▲	4.6%	▲	16.7%		49,542	▼	-3.1%	▲	6.9%	▲	12.6%
Home Province Residents	18,670	▲	1.6%	▲	5.1%	▼	-0.3%		3,230	▲	3.4%	▲	5.8%	▲	2.2%		21,900	▲	1.9%	▲	5.2%	▲	0.1%
Other Maritimers	2,817	▲	0.6%	▲	8.3%	▲	3.4%		630	▲	5.2%	▲	7.7%	▲	9.6%		3,447	▲	1.4%	▲	8.2%	▲	4.5%
Other Canadians	9,247	▲	2.5%	▲	15.7%	▼	-0.6%		2,180	▼	-0.5%	▼	-6.0%	▲	5.6%		11,427	▲	1.9%	▲	10.8%	▲	0.5%
International	10,386	▼	-16.8%	▲	4.4%	▲	71.4%		2,382	▼	-5.6%	▲	13.6%	▲	68.3%		12,768	▼	-14.9%	▲	6.0%	▲	70.9%
Prince Edward Island	4,933	▼	-2.7%	▲	16.9%	▲	28.1%		633	▲	1.0%	▲	18.8%	▲	50.7%		5,566	▼	-2.3%	▲	17.1%	▲	30.3%
Home Province Residents	2,486	▲	1.1%	▲	10.7%	▲	1.0%		184	▼	-13.6%	▼	-25.8%	▼	-25.2%		2,670	▼	-0.1%	▲	7.1%	▼	-1.4%
Other Maritimers	492	▼	-1.8%	▲	3.6%	▼	-3.3%		73	▲	1.4%	▲	46.0%	▲	62.2%		565	▼	-1.4%	▲	7.6%	▲	2.0%
Other Canadians	368	0.0%	▲	15.7%	▲	19.1%		114	▲	9.6%	▲	20.0%	▲	58.3%		482	▲	2.1%	▲	16.7%	▲	26.5%	
International	1,587	▼	-8.9%	▲	34.3%	▲	177.4%		262	▲	10.1%	▲	87.1%	▲	359.6%		1,849	▼	-6.6%	▲	39.9%	▲	194.0%
Maritimes	64,235	▼	-2.1%	▲	8.8%	▲	9.9%		11,747	▼	-1.4%	▲	8.1%	▲	19.5%		75,982	▼	-2.0%	▲	8.7%	▲	11.2%
New Brunswick <sup>4</sup>	13,094	▲	0.7%	▼	-2.5%	▼	-8.5%		1,770	▲	6.3%	▲	16.5%	▲	4.6%		14,864	▲	1.3%	▼	-0.5%	▼	-7.1%
Nova Scotia	20,108	▲	1.6%	▲	4.2%	▼	-1.2%		3,377	▲	3.1%	▲	5.8%	▲	3.0%		23,485	▲	1.8%	▲	4.4%	▼	-0.6%
Prince Edward Island	3,458	▲	1.8%	▲	7.2%	▼	-3.1%		406	▼	-0.5%	▼	-10.6%	▼	-8.8%		3,864	▲	1.6%	▲	5.0%	▼	-3.7%
Other Canadians	11,717	▲	2.4%	▲	15.5%	▲	2.0%		2,620	▼	-1.1%	▼	-5.1%	▲	7.6%		14,337	▲	1.7%	▲	11.1%	▲	3.0%
International	15,858	▼	-11.9%	▲	22.3%	▲	81.2%		3,574	▼	-8.6%	▲	21.8%	▲	80.3%		19,432	▼	-11.3%	▲	22.2%	▲	81.0%

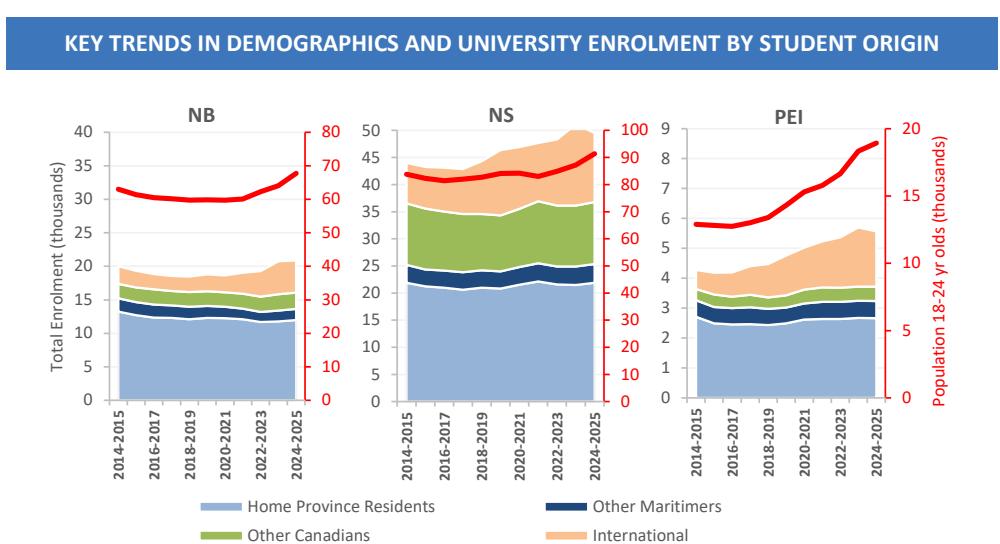
<sup>2</sup> Students enrolled within their permanent province of residence declared at admission; <sup>3</sup> Excludes students enrolled in offshore programs; <sup>4</sup> Provincial residents enrolled at all Maritime universities.

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

Table 9: Total Enrolment by Province of Study, Status of Student in Canada, Province of Residence and Level of Study

UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION	2024-2025	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
Home Province Participation					
Number of students enrolled full-time in a university in their province of residence, divided by the provincial population aged 18-24 <sup>5</sup> .	NB	15.1%	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -2.6 pp	▼ -2.2 pp
	NS	19.7%	▼ -0.7 pp	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -1.4 pp
	PEI	12.5%	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -2.5 pp	▼ -5.1 pp
Maritime Participation					
Number of Maritimers enrolled full-time in a university in the Maritimes, divided by the Maritime population aged 18-24.		20.0%	▼ -0.6 pp	▼ -1.9 pp	▼ -2.6 pp

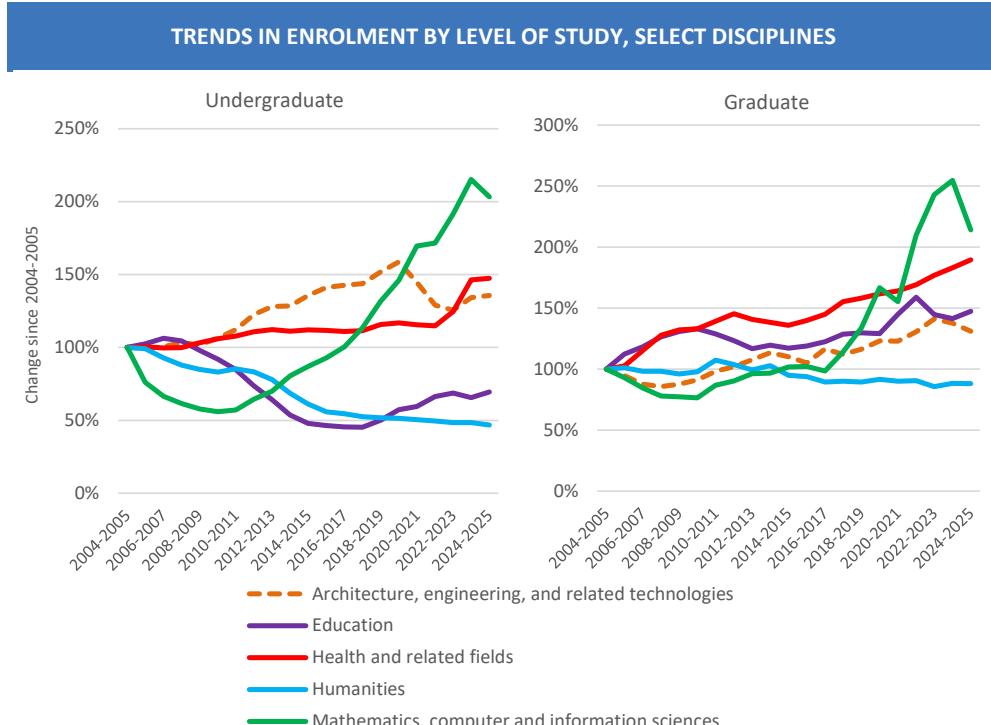
<sup>5</sup> Provincial population data: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and gender available at: <https://doi.org/10.25318/171000501-eng>. Statistics Canada updates population estimates from time to time, therefore previously published participation rate calculations may change.



ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY <sup>6</sup>	Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
<b>New Brunswick</b>				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	420	▼ -7.5%	▼ -13.4%	▲ 32.9%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	2,031	▲ 4.3%	▲ 11.3%	▼ -4.2%
Business, management and public administration	3,485	▼ -1.9%	▲ 22.0%	▲ 10.2%
Education	1,765	▲ 3.9%	▲ 33.4%	▲ 41.5%
Health and related fields	3,100	▲ 5.8%	▲ 30.3%	▲ 12.7%
Humanities <sup>7</sup>	2,644	▼ -1.1%	▼ -10.9%	▼ -19.7%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	1,344	▼ -1.7%	▲ 56.8%	▲ 80.4%
Physical and life sciences and technologies <sup>8</sup>	1,789	▼ -1.5%	▼ -6.6%	▼ -9.9%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2,616	▲ 2.2%	▲ 2.1%	▲ 5.9%
Visual and performing arts	353	▲ 11.4%	▲ 5.7%	▲ 10.3%
Other/Not Applicable <sup>9</sup>	1,327	▼ -6.4%	▲ 1.8%	▼ -17.3%
<b>Nova Scotia</b>				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,043	▼ -1.8%	▼ -10.2%	▼ -11.3%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	3,397	▼ -2.3%	▼ -22.5%	▲ 2.1%
Business, management and public administration	11,719	▼ -5.4%	▲ 18.8%	▲ 22.1%
Education	2,942	▲ 5.9%	▲ 11.4%	▲ 34.8%
Health and related fields	8,975	▼ -0.3%	▲ 23.8%	▲ 41.6%
Humanities	4,247	▼ -4.2%	▼ -6.6%	▼ -22.0%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	3,126	▼ -10.6%	▲ 24.7%	▲ 139.4%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	5,879	▼ -3.0%	▲ 3.9%	▲ 2.3%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	5,806	▼ -2.9%	▲ 7.4%	▼ -0.6%
Visual and performing arts	1,027	▲ 0.9%	▼ -5.2%	▼ -5.7%
Other/Not Applicable	1,381	▼ -2.4%	▼ -26.0%	▼ -29.7%
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	389	▲ 2.6%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 16.5%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	309	▼ -1.9%	▲ 26.6%	▲ 180.9%
Business, management and public administration	1,003	▼ -0.3%	▲ 12.6%	▲ 38.0%
Education	372	▲ 2.8%	▲ 3.9%	▲ 7.8%
Health and related fields	654	▲ 0.6%	▲ 15.3%	▲ 29.5%
Humanities	277	▼ -6.7%	▼ -15.5%	▼ -45.9%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	495	▼ -9.3%	▲ 80.7%	▲ 280.8%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	848	▼ -2.2%	▲ 12.5%	▲ 13.5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	1,081	▼ -3.0%	▲ 40.4%	▲ 83.8%
Visual and performing arts	44	▼ -10.2%	▲ 22.2%	▲ 10.0%
Other/Not Applicable	94	▼ -16.1%	▼ -46.0%	▼ -59.8%

ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	Enrolment 2024-2025	Change Over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
<b>Maritimes</b>				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,852	▼ -2.3%	▼ -7.6%	▲ 1.4%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	5,737	▼ -0.1%	▼ -11.1%	▲ 3.2%
Business, management and public administration	16,207	▼ -4.4%	▲ 19.1%	▲ 20.1%
Education	5,079	▲ 5.0%	▲ 17.5%	▲ 34.5%
Health and related fields	12,729	▲ 1.2%	▲ 24.8%	▲ 32.6%
Humanities	7,168	▼ -3.2%	▼ -8.6%	▼ -22.5%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	4,965	▼ -8.2%	▲ 36.5%	▲ 127.6%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	8,516	▼ -2.6%	▲ 2.3%	▲ 0.4%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	9,503	▼ -1.6%	▲ 8.8%	▲ 6.8%
Visual and performing arts	1,424	▲ 2.9%	▼ -2.0%	▼ -1.7%
Other/Not Applicable	2,802	▼ -4.8%	▼ -16.2%	▼ -26.3%

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



<sup>6</sup> Major field of study categories are based on the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Canada 2021 primary groupings available at: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects/standard/cip/2021/index>; <sup>7</sup> Includes General Arts;

<sup>8</sup> Includes General Sciences; <sup>9</sup> "Not applicable" - courses or other educational activities that are not within a program.



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