

**2021** ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCAN

# Student and Graduate Profiles



COLLEGES ONTARIO | COLLÈGES ONTARIO

# Student and Graduate Profiles

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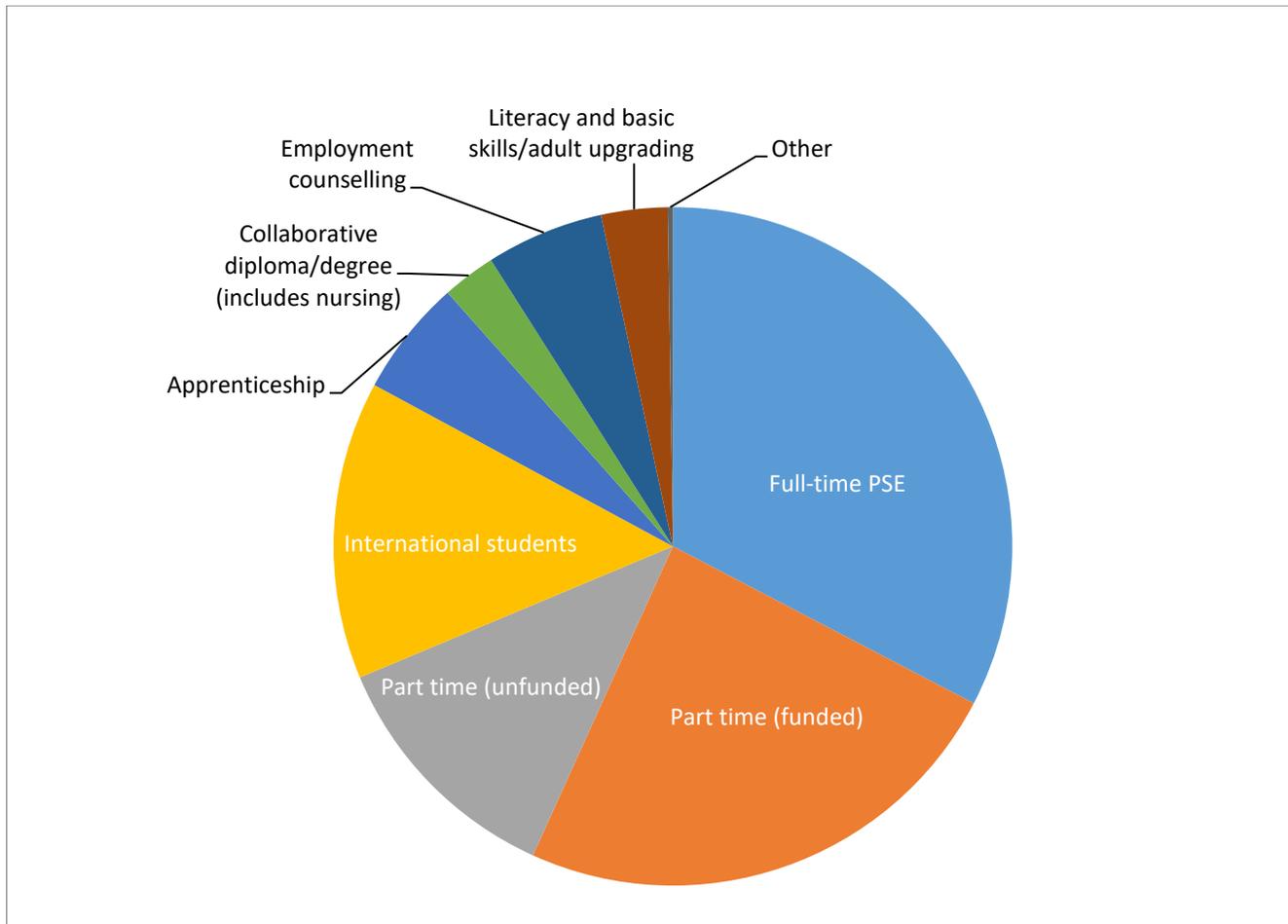
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## 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- Each year, more than 500,000 students and clients are served by Ontario's public colleges. Of this group, more than 260,000 are full-time post-secondary students.
- There were 193,823 distinct applicants for the 2019-20 academic year.
- Fifty-five per cent of new fall 2020 entrants to Ontario post-secondary institutions enrolled in a college.
- In 2019-20, total funded, full-time equivalent (FTE) post-secondary enrolment in the colleges was 211,441 (including funded full-time, part-time and tuition-short programs).
- More than 95,000 international students were studying at Ontario's colleges in fall 2020.
- Colleges delivered 82 per cent of the in-school training for new apprentices in 2019-20.
- Eighty-six per cent of graduates in the labour force were working six months after graduation.

## 2 COLLEGE ACTIVITY

Figure 1. Relative distribution of learners/clients served by Ontario's colleges



Sources: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities; Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development; OCAS; College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading.



- Serving more than 500,000 people, learners at Ontario colleges comprise a diverse population. In addition to traditional post-secondary education (PSE), colleges offer many other types of programs and courses, including apprenticeship training, continuing education courses, collaborative programs with universities and literacy and basic skills programs.

### 3 NUMBERS OF ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICANTS, STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

#### 3.1 Applicants

**Table 1. Per cent of college applicants\* direct from secondary school vs. non-direct, by year**

Year	Direct		Non-direct		Total
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
2011-12	64,124	34.7%	120,916	65.3%	185,040
2012-13	67,714	34.5%	128,656	65.5%	196,370
2013-14	69,256	34.6%	130,742	65.4%	199,998
2014-15	68,384	34.7%	128,639	65.3%	197,023
2015-16	62,488	32.1%	132,440	67.9%	194,928
2016-17	54,450	28.5%	136,909	71.5%	191,359
2017-18	52,971	26.9%	143,827	73.1%	196,798
2018-19	49,903	25.0%	149,409	75.0%	199,306
2019-20**	50,902	26.3%	142,921	73.7%	193,823
2020-21**	45,574	22.0%	161,876	78.0%	207,450

\*Distinct applicants across fall/winter/spring.

\*\*Preliminary numbers as of May 2021.

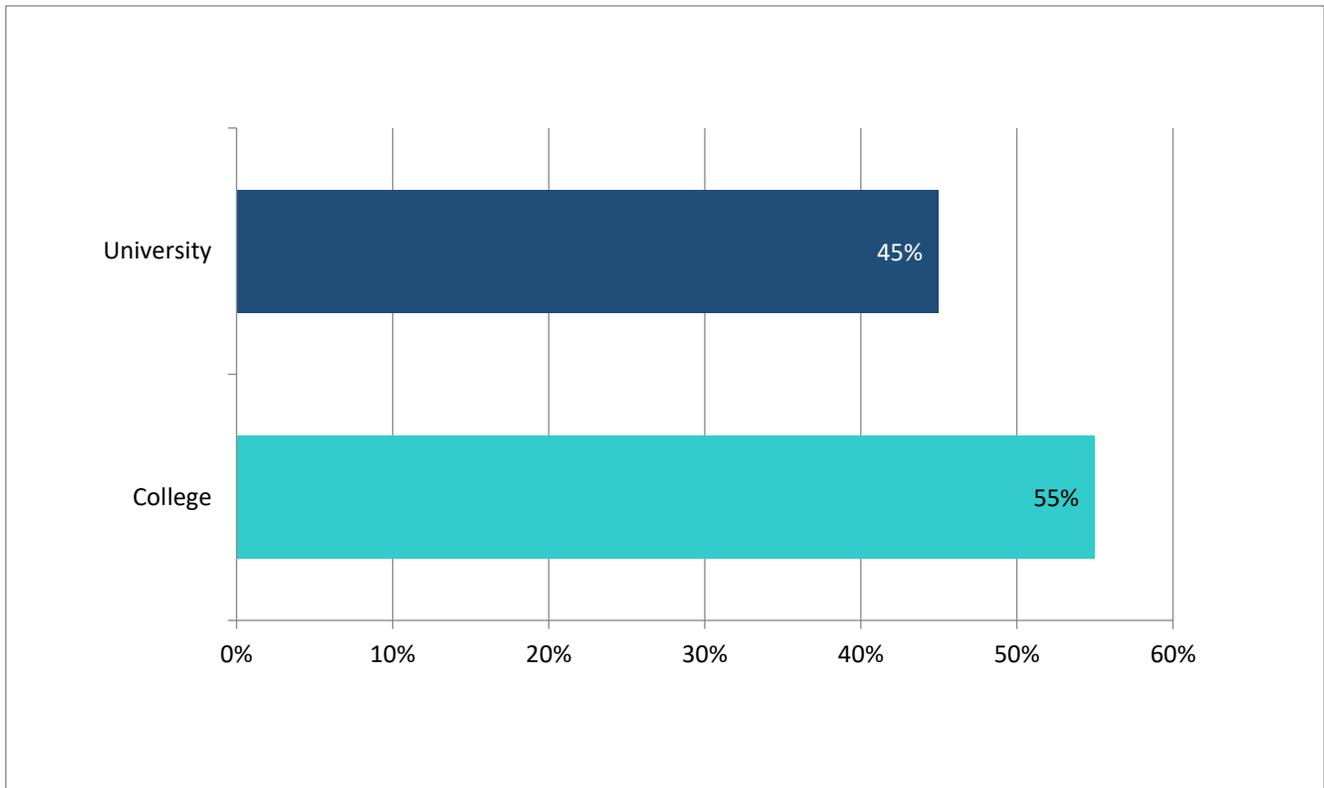
Direct: Applicants applying directly from high school (for OCAS applicant data, this category includes school board-run adult day schools).

Non-direct: Applicants not applying directly after high school.

Source: OCAS.



**Figure 2. New fall 2020 Ontario post-secondary entrants by sector**



Note: University and college data include first-year full-time domestic head counts for fall 2020. Significant numbers of students also enrol in colleges during the winter and spring intake periods, not shown in the above figure. New full-time apprentices at colleges are included with the college data. Sources: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities; Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development; OCAS.

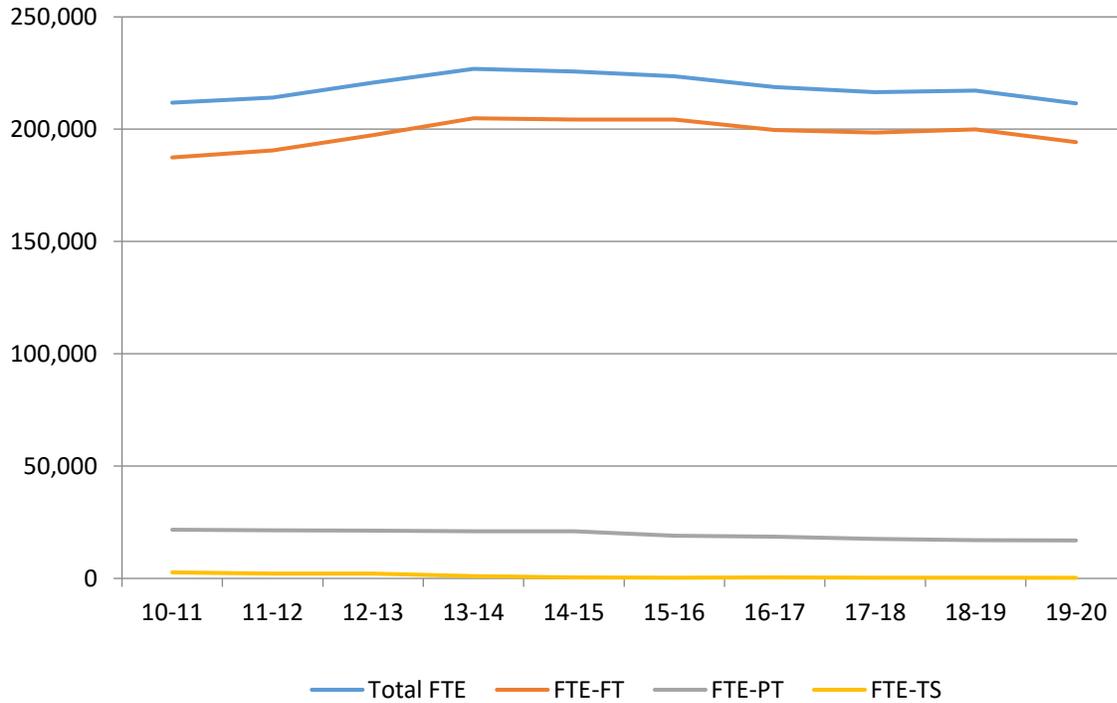


- A majority of new fall 2020 entrants to post-secondary education in Ontario enrolled in a college.

### 3.2 Students

#### Post-secondary-funded enrolment

**Figure 3. Funded college enrolments as FTEs\* from 2010-11 to 2019-20**



\*FTE = full-time equivalent; FT - full time; PT = part time; TS = tuition short (programs typically less than 52 weeks in duration).

Note that funded students do not comprise the total college population.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



**Table 2. Total funded FTE enrolment by college, 2019-20**

College	2019-20 FTE
Algonquin	19,487
Boréal	1,332
Cambrian	3,193
Canadore	2,728
Centennial	11,518
Conestoga	10,639
Confederation	2,547
Durham	11,860
Fanshawe	13,953
Fleming	5,545
George Brown	20,361
Georgian	8,800
Humber	21,699
La Cité	3,939
Lambton	2,469
Loyalist	2,509
Mohawk	11,647
Niagara	7,254
Northern	805
Sault	1,760
Seneca	19,187
Sheridan	15,834
St. Clair	7,375
St. Lawrence	5,002
<b>Total</b>	<b>211,441</b>

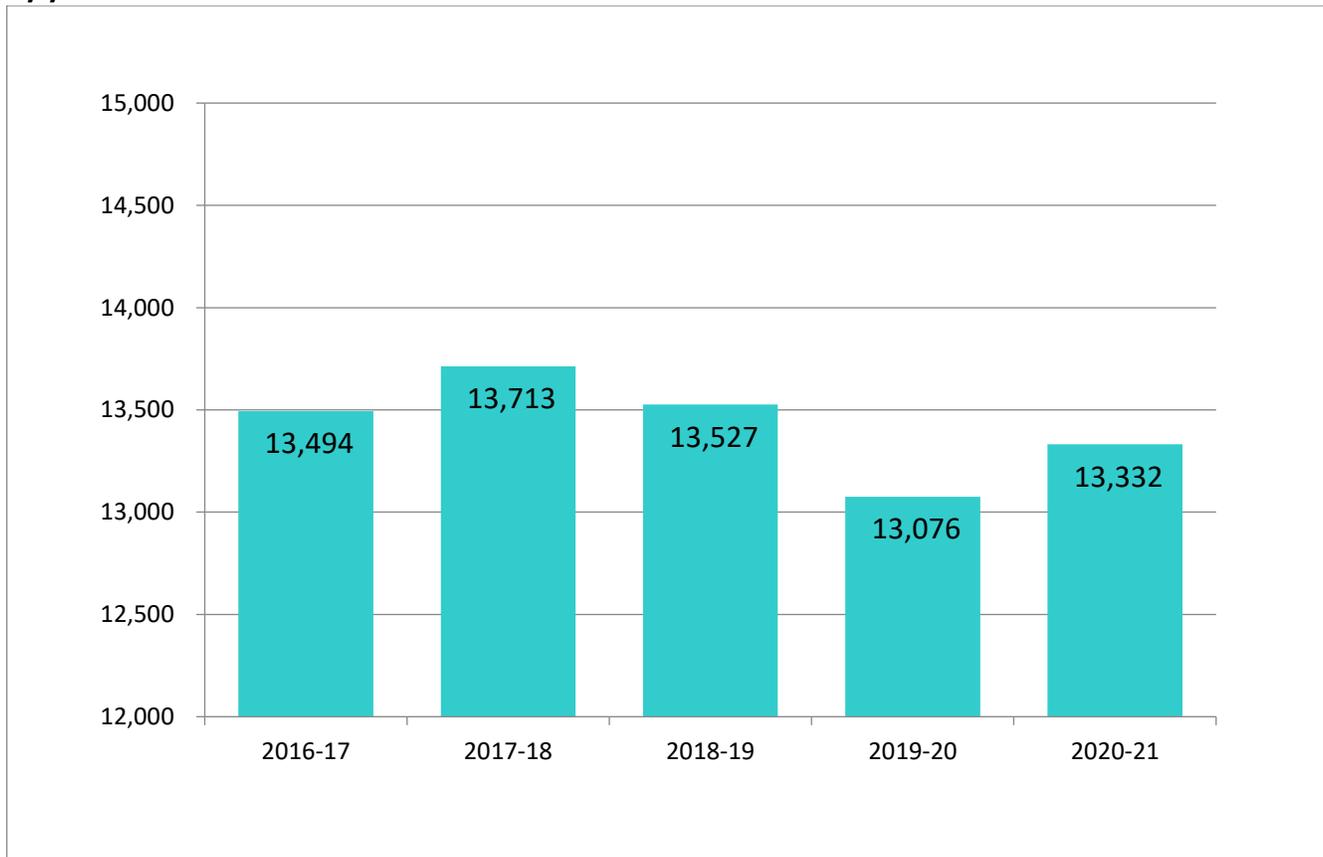
Note that funded students do not comprise the total college population.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



## Collaborative nursing students

**Figure 4. Ontario college-university collaborative nursing programs: total full-time fall enrolment\* by year**



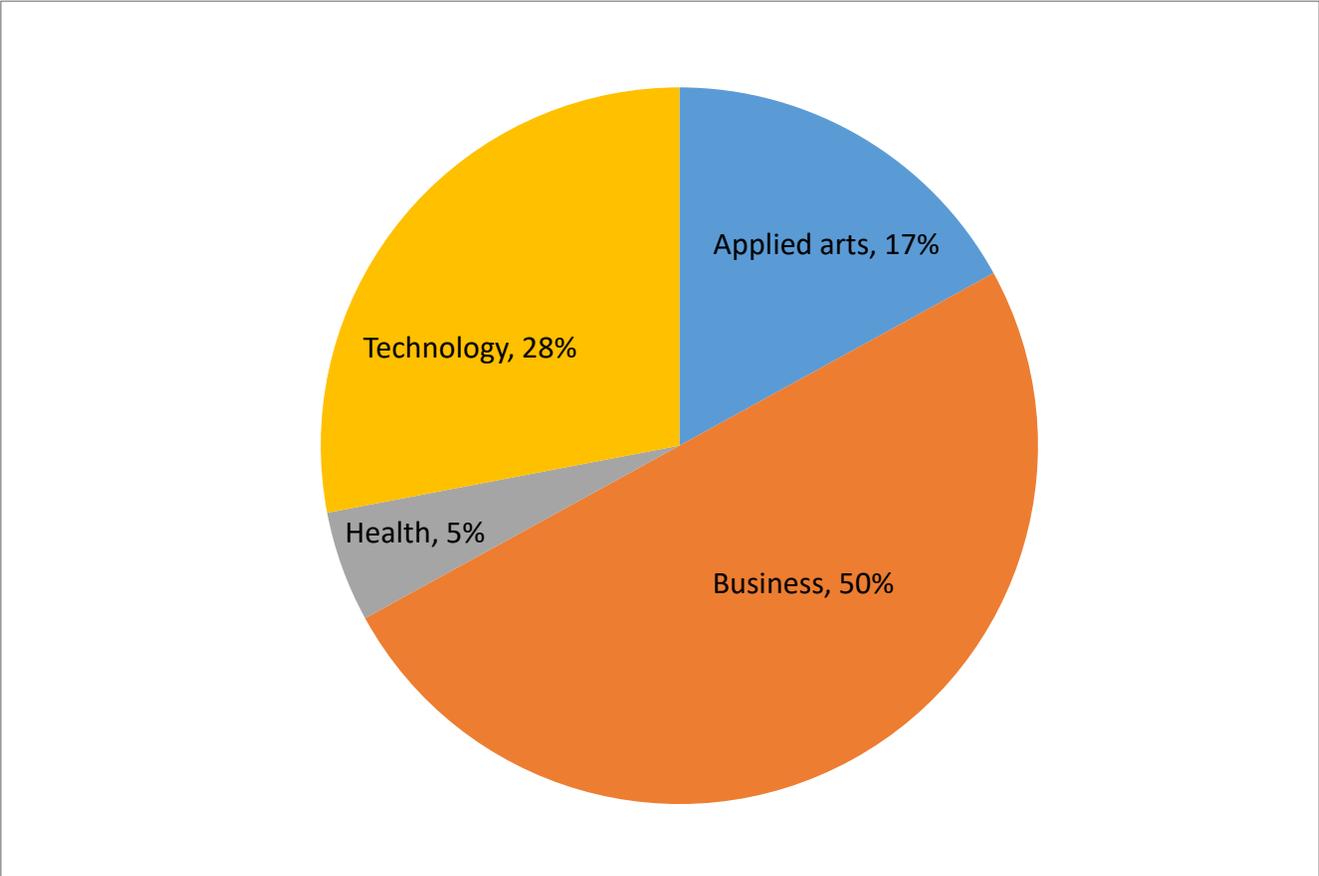
\*Includes full-time students reported by colleges or their university partners.  
Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



- Collaborative nursing programs have been offered through college-university partnerships. Although individual models vary, nursing students have for years completed courses at both the college and university campuses (a policy change announced in 2020 will allow some colleges to offer independent nursing degree programs). Students in these nursing programs are counted separately from the post-secondary-funded FTEs and enrolment numbers are reported either through the college or the university.

**International students**

**Figure 5. International student enrolment by program category**



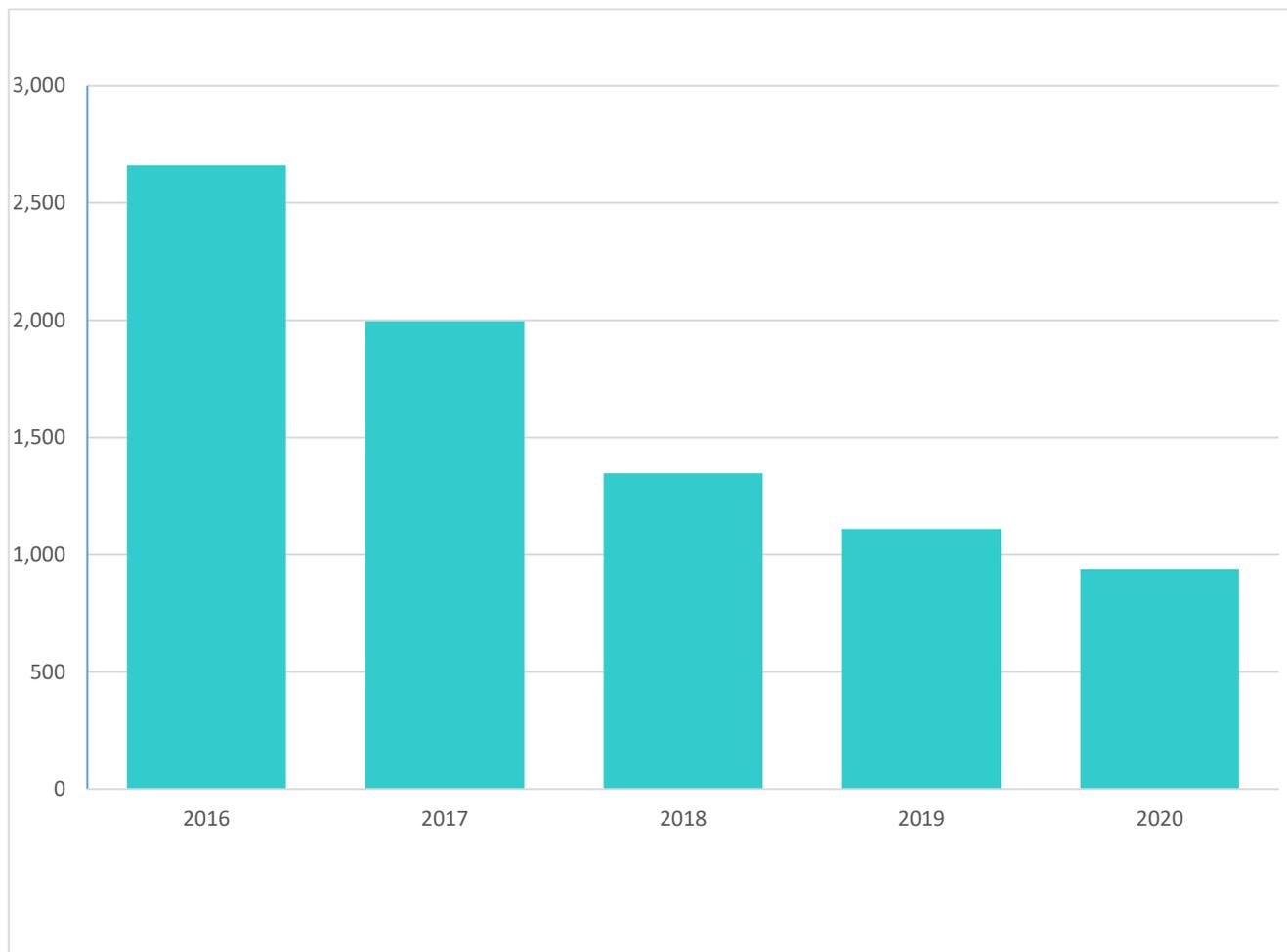
Source: OCAS, November enrolment count.



- More than 95,000 international students enrolled at colleges in 2020-21.

## Second Career students

Figure 6. College Second Career enrolment

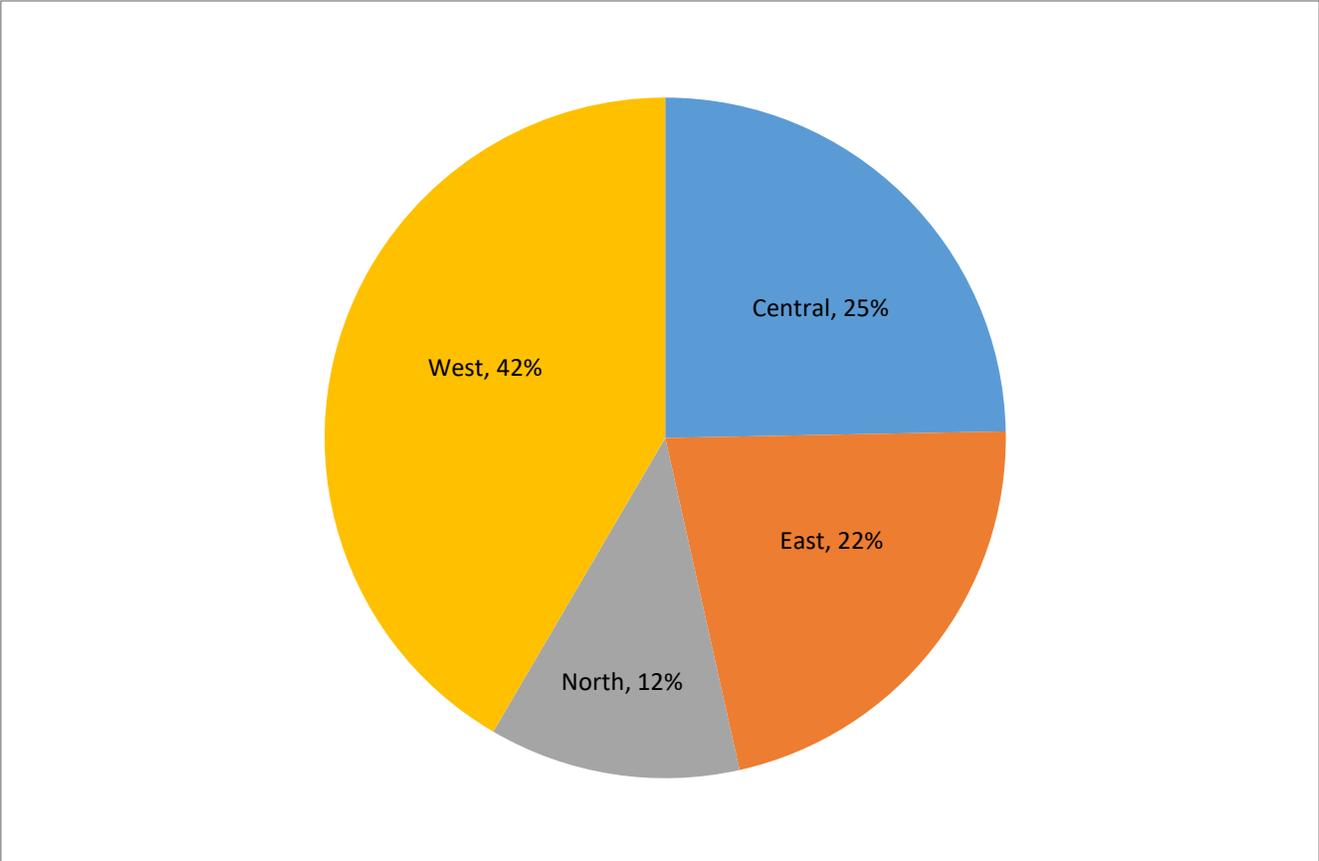


Fall enrolment only. Additional learners enrol in the winter and spring semesters.  
Source: OCAS.



- The Ontario government's Second Career program has provided funding for adult retraining since 2008. Second Career clients in Ontario can pursue their training at public or private colleges.
- During the 2020-21 fiscal year, 38 per cent of Second Career clients received training at a public college.
- The average age of Second Career clients is 40 years, with an almost equal distribution of males and females. Clients pursue a range of career options.
- Currently, the top occupations pursued are as truck drivers, heavy equipment operators, social and community service workers, medical administrative assistants and accounting clerks.

**Figure 7. Relative distribution of Second Career clients by provincial region**



Source: Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.



- As shown in Figure 7, the relative distribution of these clients across provincial regions generally reflects local population densities.

### 3.3 Graduates

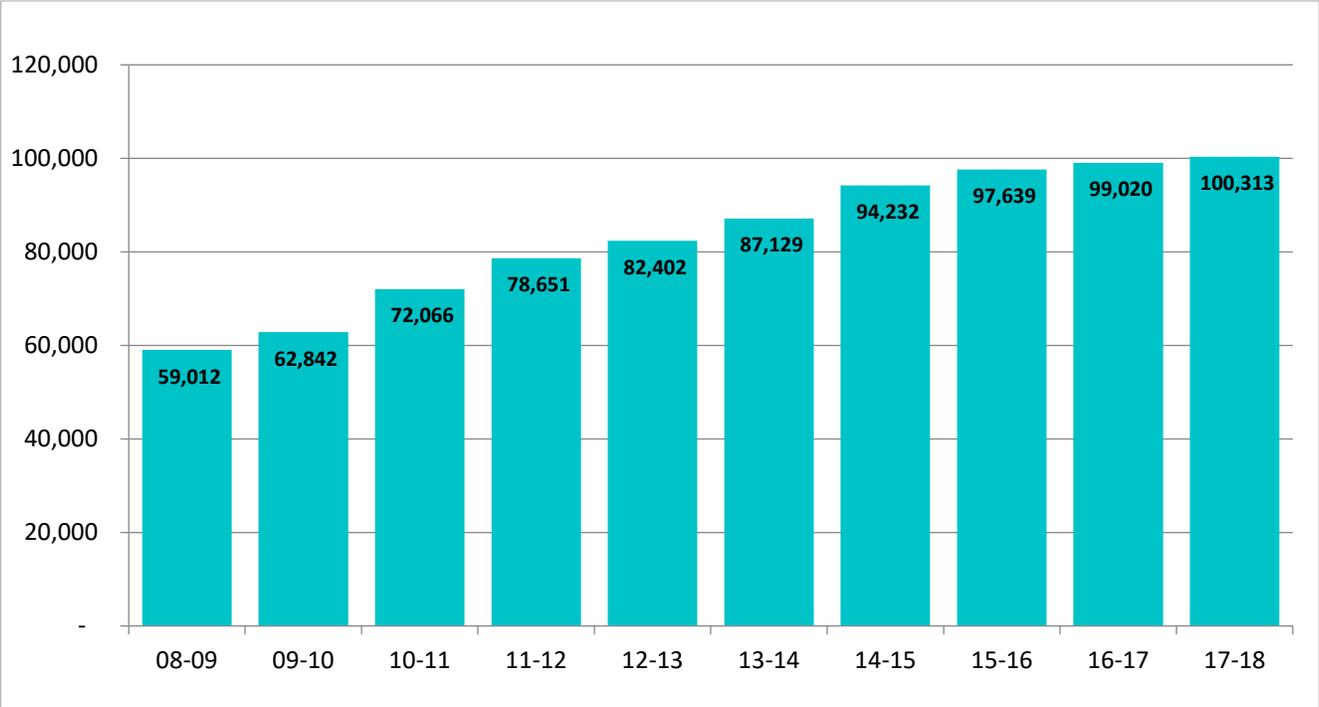
**Table 3. Number of graduates by college and semester of graduation\***

College	Summer 2016	Fall 2016	Winter 2017	Total
Algonquin	1063	2295	4690	<b>8048</b>
Boréal	32	134	588	<b>754</b>
Cambrian	503	755	1509	<b>2767</b>
Canadore	181	204	978	<b>1363</b>
Centennial	1256	1384	4505	<b>7145</b>
Conestoga	610	1084	2879	<b>4573</b>
Confederation	81	168	1237	<b>1486</b>
Durham	381	965	3068	<b>4414</b>
Fanshawe	902	1411	4722	<b>7035</b>
Fleming	410	759	1874	<b>3043</b>
George Brown	1449	2170	5482	<b>9101</b>
Georgian	761	1584	1916	<b>4261</b>
Humber	1287	2013	6204	<b>9504</b>
La Cité	111	332	1259	<b>1702</b>
Lambton	324	398	742	<b>1464</b>
Loyalist	68	186	1195	<b>1449</b>
Mohawk	771	804	3694	<b>5269</b>
Niagara	528	1013	2715	<b>4256</b>
Northern	19	62	466	<b>547</b>
Sault	38	109	643	<b>790</b>
Seneca	1440	2126	4567	<b>8133</b>
Sheridan	933	1598	4406	<b>6937</b>
St. Clair	172	885	2330	<b>3387</b>
St. Lawrence	366	828	1691	<b>2885</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13686</b>	<b>23267</b>	<b>63360</b>	<b>100313</b>

\*2017-18 reporting year (actual year of graduation is the academic year prior to the reporting year).  
 These totals exclude the graduates of collaborative nursing programs.  
 Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



**Figure 8. Ontario college graduates by year\* 2008-09 to 2017-18**



\*Reporting year (actual year of graduation is the academic year prior to the reporting year).  
Source: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



## 4 DOMESTIC LEARNER DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS

**Table 4. College applicants**

	Per cent
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	58%
Male	41%
Other gender identity	<1%
<b>Average applicant age</b>	
	25 years
<b>Applicant region</b>	
Central Ontario	8%
Eastern Ontario	12%
Golden Horseshoe (excluding Toronto)	36%
Northern Ontario	5%
Southwestern Ontario	20%
Toronto	19%
<b>Status in Canada</b>	
Canadian citizen	87%
Immigrant or refugee	13%

Sources: OCAS.



**Table 5. College students**

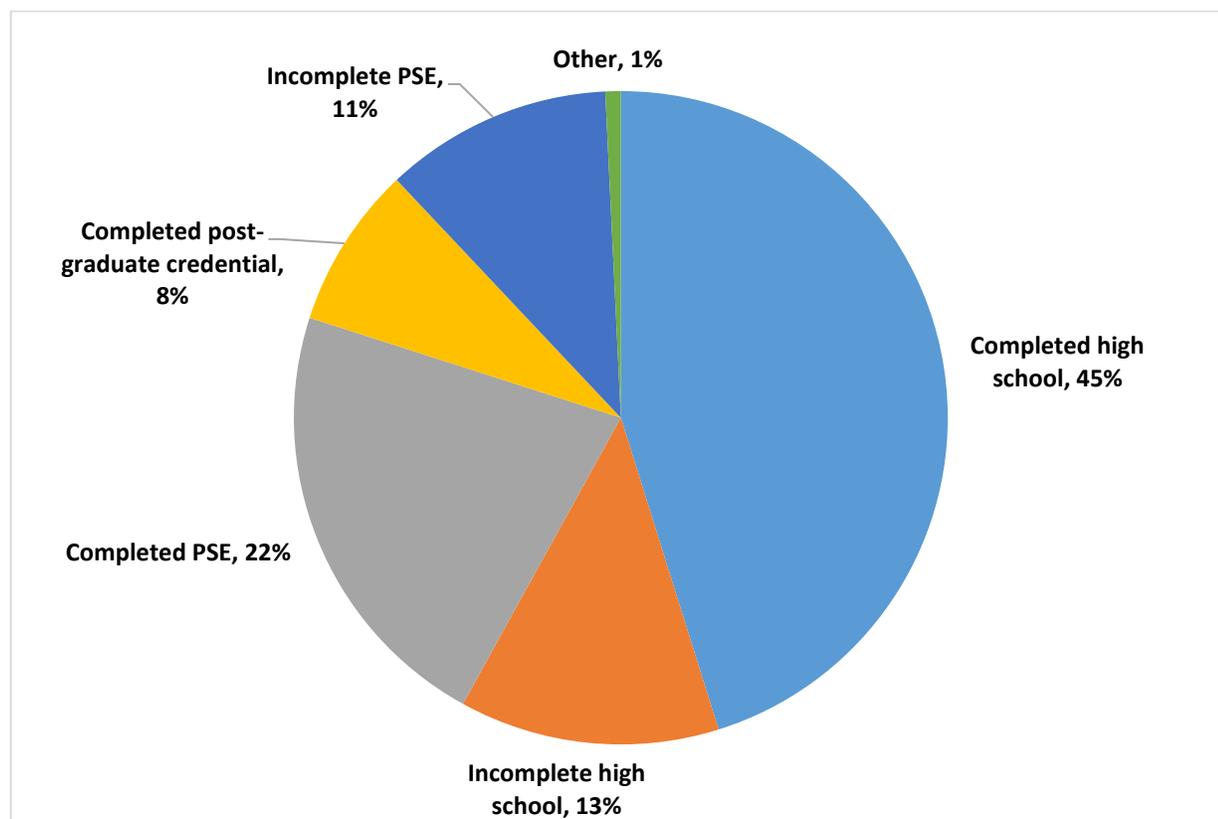
	<b>Per cent</b>
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	54%
Male	45%
Other gender identity	<1%
<b>Age</b>	
<21 years	51%
21-25 years	27%
26-30 years	10%
31-35 years	4%
>35 years	8%
<b>First-generation status*</b>	
	29%
<b>First language</b>	
English	86%
French	4%
Other	10%

\*Percentage of students whose parents never attended a post-secondary institution.  
Sources: OCAS.



#### 4.1 Level of education

**Figure 9. Pathways to college**



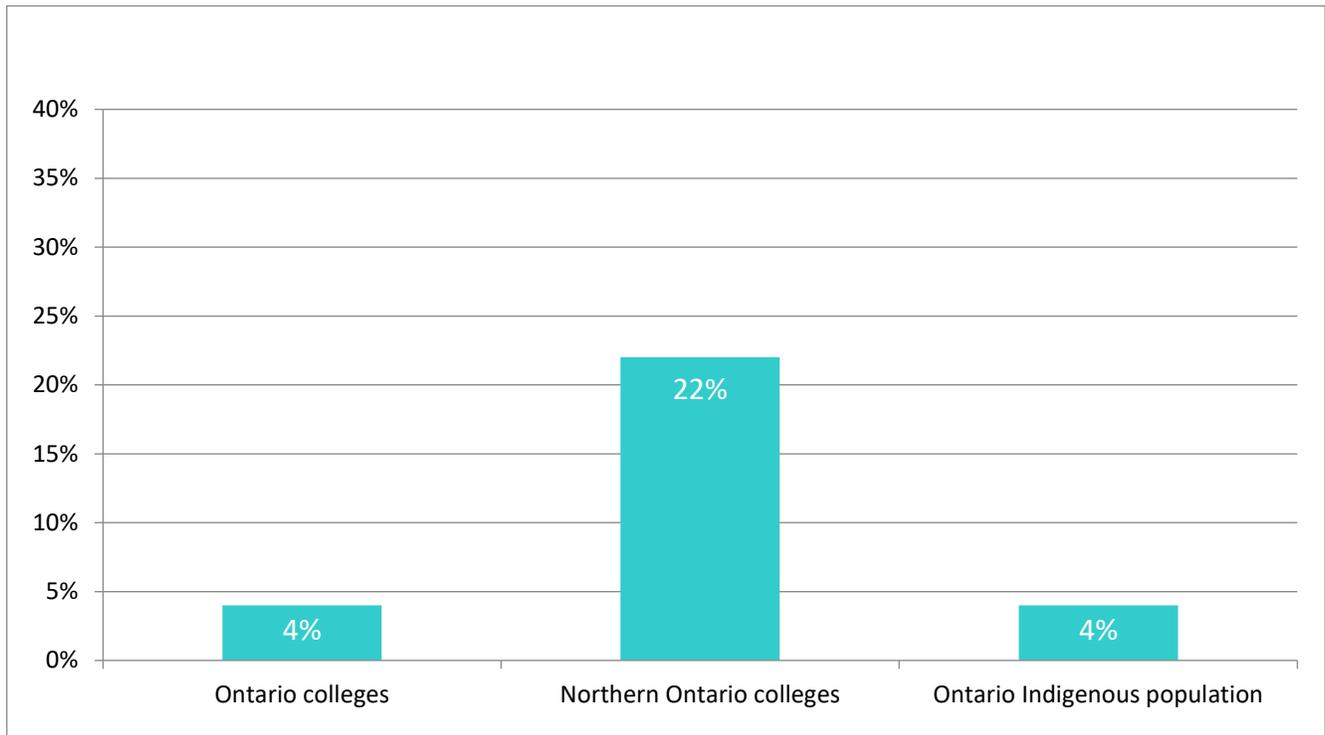
Source: 2019 OCAS Applicant Survey.



- In 2019, the majority of college applicants had some level of high school education. Another 41 per cent had some previous post-secondary education, 16 per cent of whom had previously completed a university undergraduate or graduate degree.

## 4.2 Indigenous status

**Figure 10. Proportion of college students of Indigenous identity**



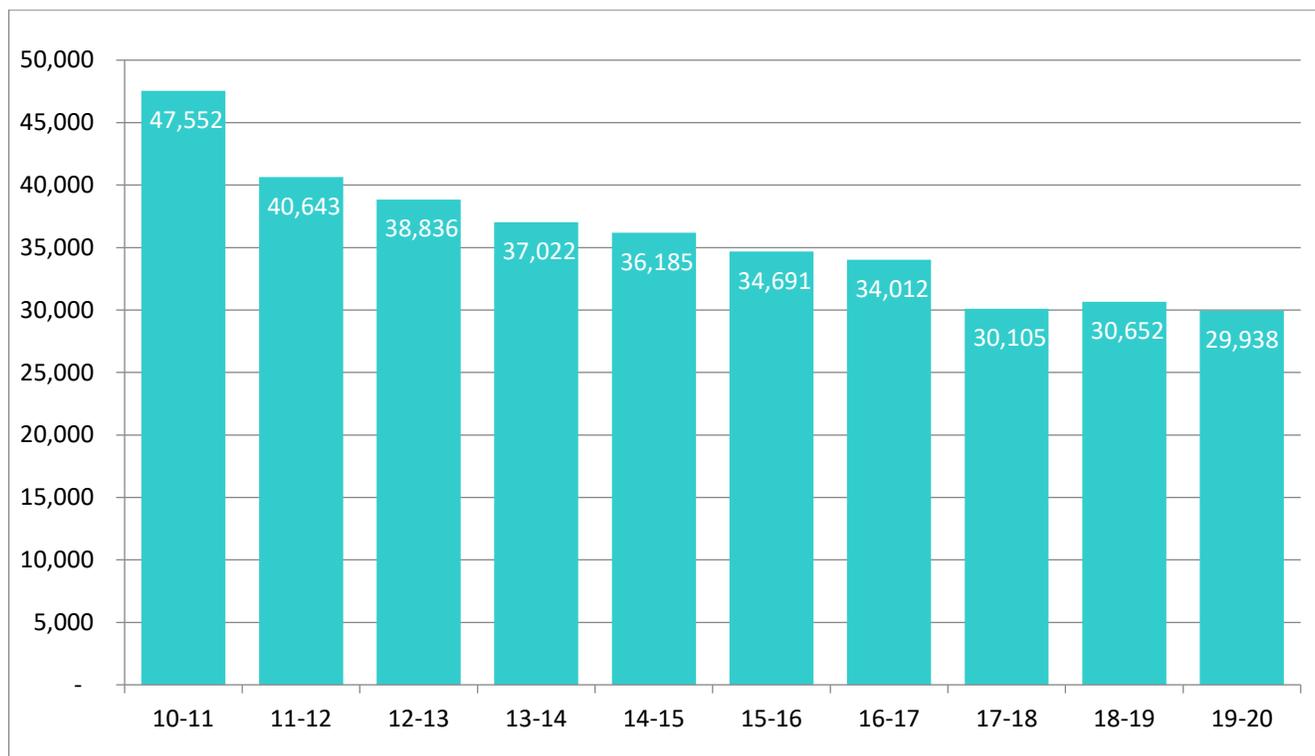
Sources: OCAS, 2016 census.



- Approximately four per cent of Ontario college students self-identify as Indigenous, a high proportion of whom study at a northern college.

## 5 APPRENTICES

Figure 11. Total new apprenticeship starts at colleges by year

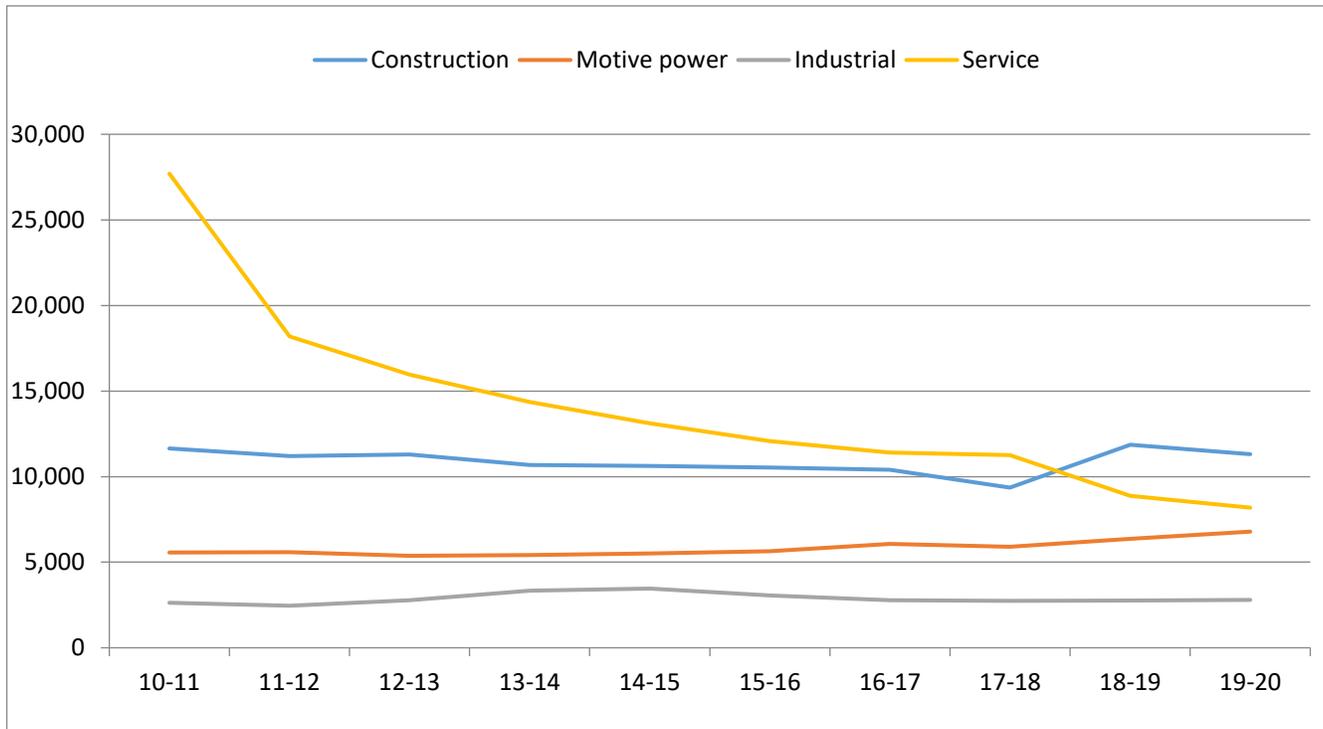


Source: Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.



- In 2019-20, 82 per cent of new apprenticeship seats in Ontario were allocated to the colleges for a total of 29,938.
- Previous changes in government policy have led to a decrease in the number of apprenticeship starts, particularly in the service sector.

**Figure 12. New apprenticeship starts\* at colleges by sector and year**

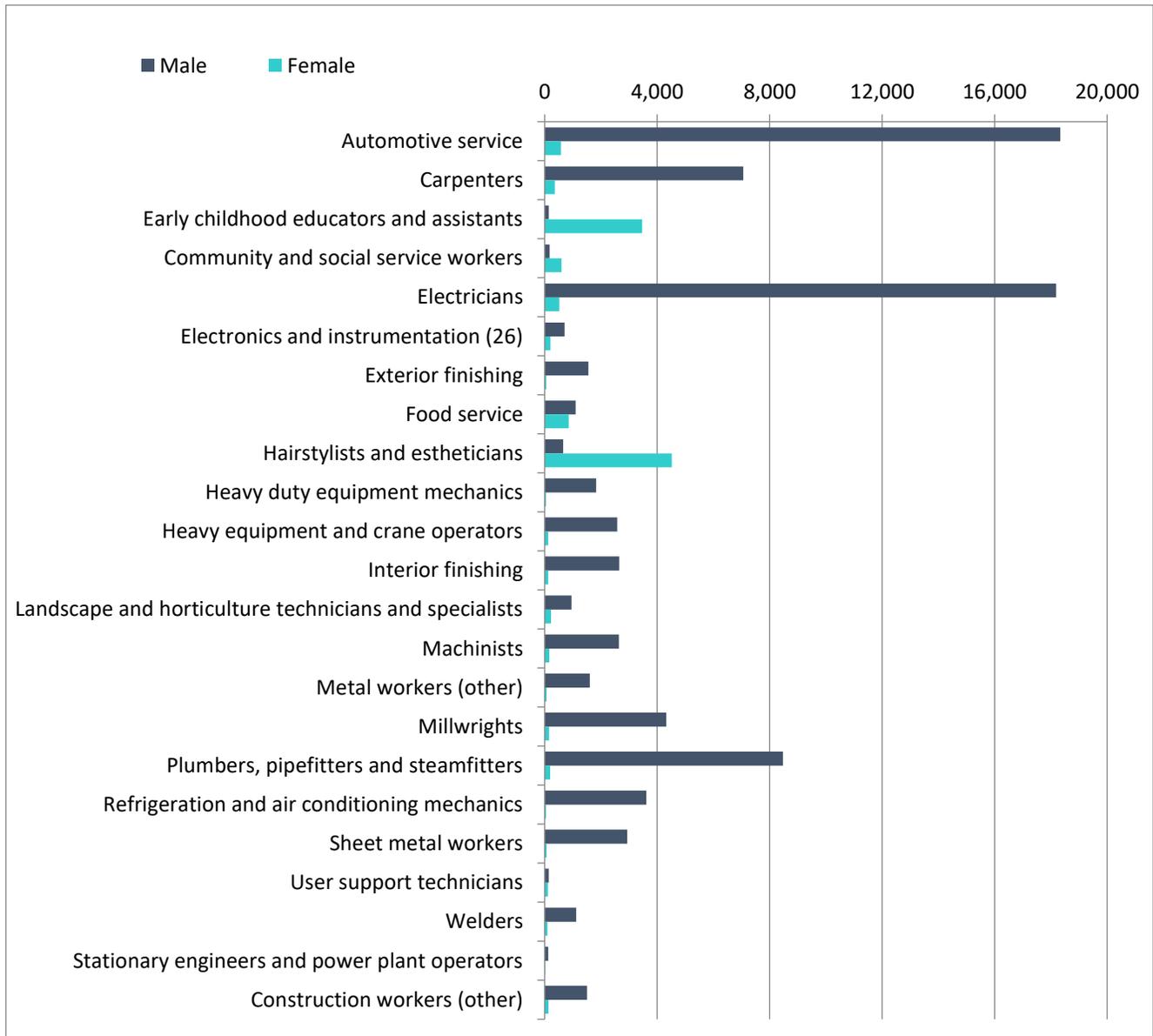


\*Includes full- and part-time apprentices. Excludes starts in exam preparation.  
 Source: Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.



- Reflecting the needs of Ontario’s economy, the distribution of new apprenticeship starts varies by sector.

**Figure 13. Distribution of Ontario registered apprentices by gender**



Source: Statistics Canada; Table 37-10-0023-01.



- Detailed information on the gender of registered apprentices is available from Statistics Canada. In Ontario, females comprise 13 per cent of total registered apprentices and are under-represented in many trades.

## 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS

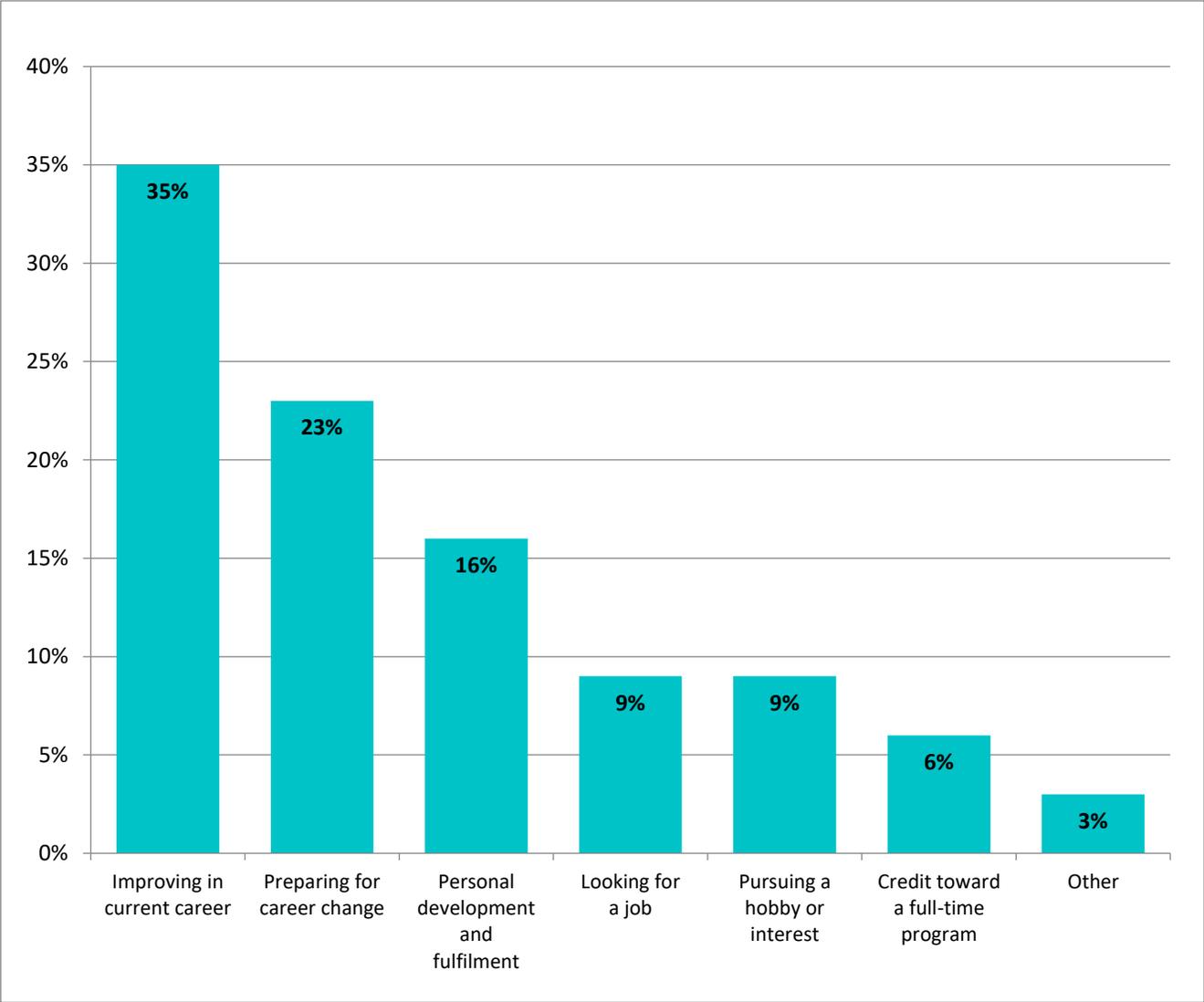
**Table 6. Background characteristics of college continuing education students**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>In class</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	62%	78%	67%
Male	36%	20%	31%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	2%
<b>Age</b>			
<20	3%	2%	2%
20-24	11%	9%	10%
25-29	18%	15%	17%
30-34	17%	15%	16%
35-44	24%	29%	26%
45-54	17%	22%	19%
55-64	8%	7%	8%
65+	3%	1%	2%
<b>First language</b>			
English	61%	78%	66%
French	2%	4%	3%
Other	37%	17%	31%
<b>Immigrant status</b>			
Recent immigrant (last 10 years)	25%	12%	21%
<b>Previous education</b>			
High school or less	21%	21%	21%
College certificate	9%	10%	9%
College diploma	23%	28%	24%
University degree	48%	41%	46%
<b>First-generation status</b>			
Neither parents nor sibling attended PSE	33%	47%	37%
<b>Employment status</b>			
Full time	62%	62%	62%
Part time	19%	21%	20%
Unemployed	9%	7%	8%
Homemaker	3%	5%	4%
Retired	4%	1%	3%
Other	4%	3%	4%

Sources: 2018 continuing education survey (CCI Research Inc.).



**Figure 14. Main reason for taking a continuing education course**

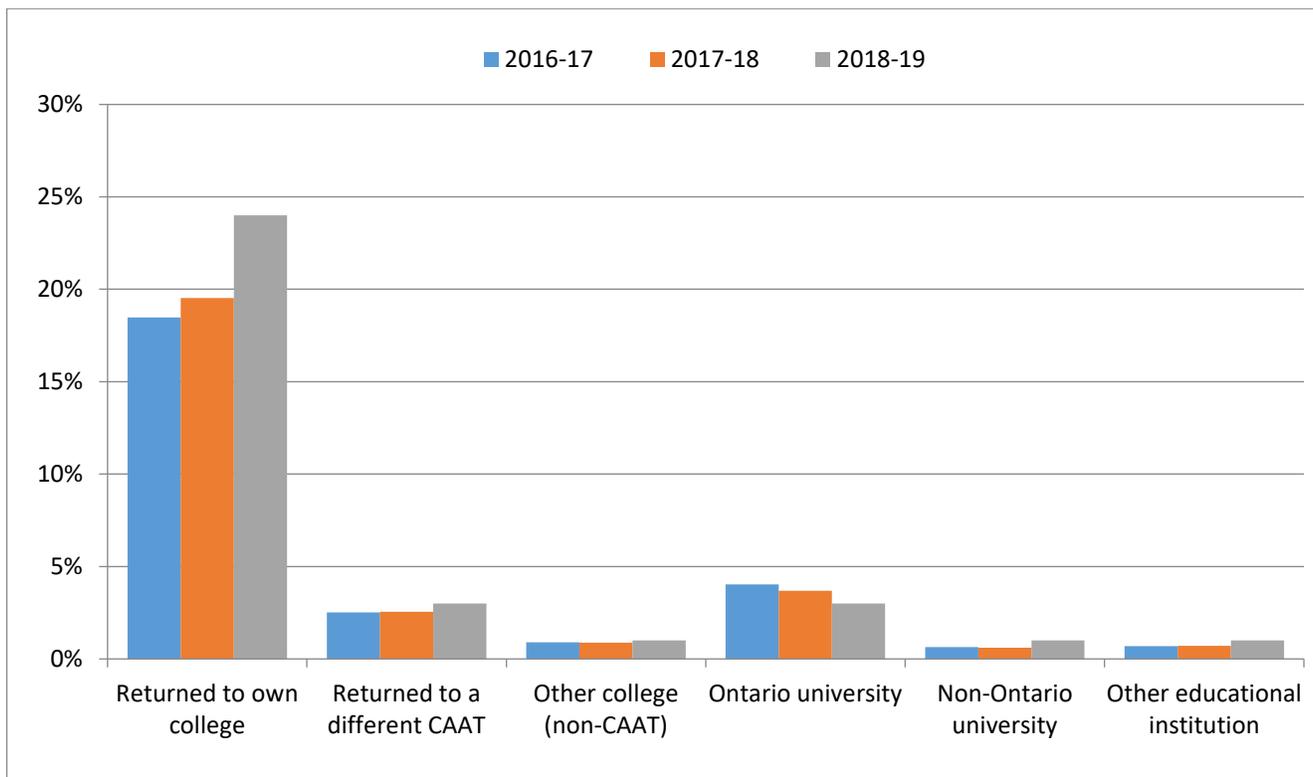


Source: 2018 continuing education survey (CCI Research Inc.)



## 7 GRADUATES

**Figure 15. Further education of college graduates\* (within six months of graduation)**



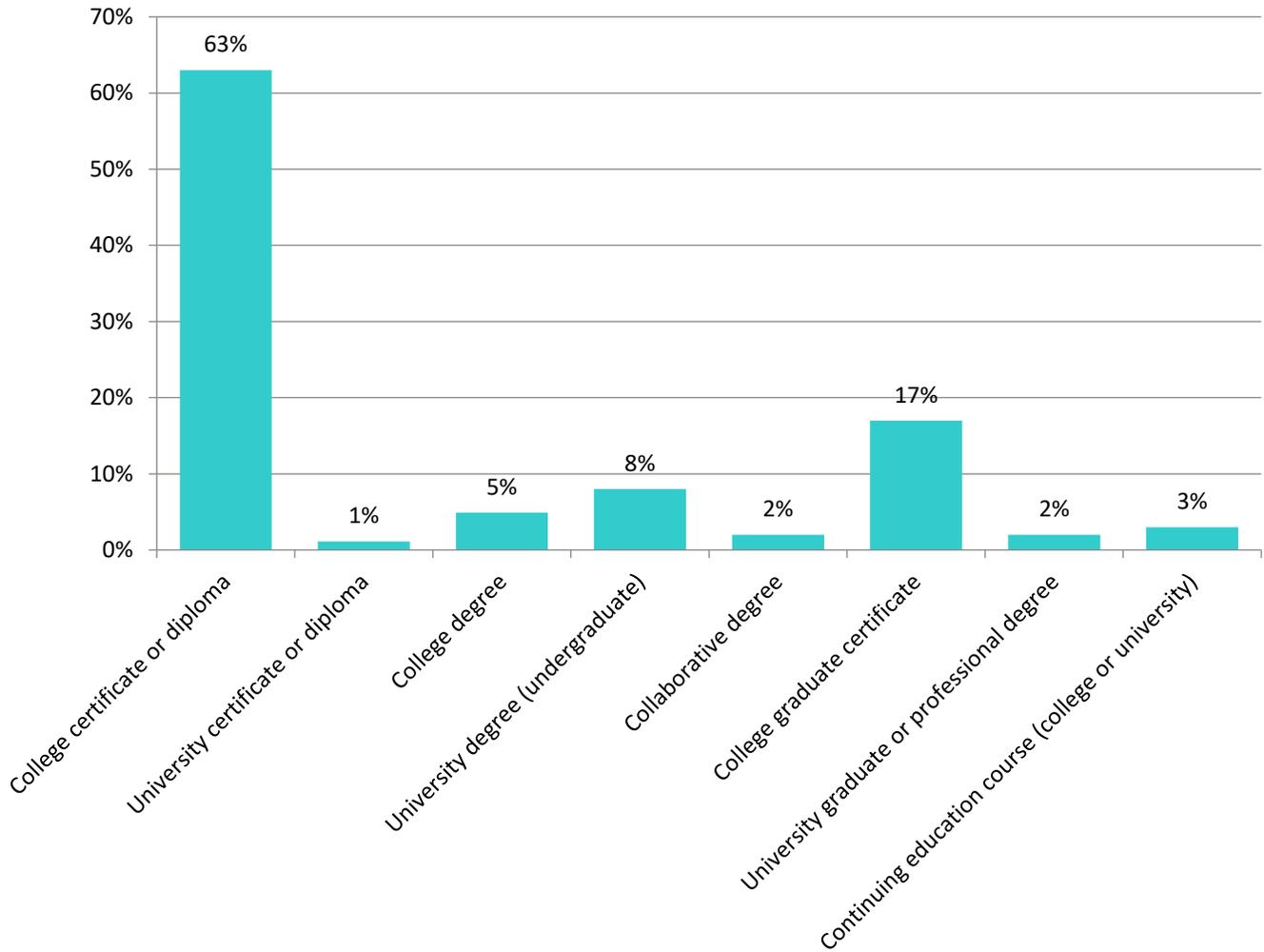
\*Includes those studying full or part time.

Source: Most recent graduate satisfaction surveys (Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities).



- Thirty-two per cent of graduates in 2018-19 chose to further their education immediately (i.e., within six months) after graduation.
- The percentages vary slightly from year to year but returning to their college of graduation or enrolling in an Ontario university continues to be the most popular choices for graduates.

**Figure 16. Further education credential choices of college graduates (within six months of graduating)**



Source: 2019-20 Graduate satisfaction survey (Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities).



- Of the 32 per cent of college graduates who continued their education immediately after graduation, 63 per cent enrolled in a college certificate or diploma program. Undergraduate degrees (college or university) were chosen by 15 per cent of college graduates and a further 19 per cent pursued a graduate program.

## 8 PERCEPTIONS

### 8.1 Graduates

Many details regarding graduates' experiences are available from the key performance indicators gathered each year by the provincial government. Some of the highlights from the 2019-20 survey included:

- Ninety-four per cent of graduates would recommend their colleges to someone else and 87 per cent of graduates would recommend their specific programs.
- Eighty-four per cent of college graduates were very satisfied/satisfied with the overall quality of instruction, that the course material in their programs was up to date and that the equipment was up to date.
- Eighty-three per cent of graduates were very satisfied/satisfied with the course content.

**Table 7. Graduate and employer beliefs about the importance of the following skills and abilities for the graduate’s current position and their satisfaction with graduate’s educational preparation**

	Importance (extremely important / important)		Satisfaction (very satisfied / satisfied)	
	Graduate-rated	Employer-rated	Graduate-rated	Employer-rated
A. Specific job-related knowledge	89%	92%	78%	85%
B. Specific job-related skills	88%	93%	79%	86%
C. Oral communication	94%	96%	85%	91%
D. Written communications	84%	85%	84%	86%
E. Comprehension	91%	91%	85%	92%
F. Math skills	60%	63%	67%	74%
G. Computer skills	76%	74%	76%	85%
H. Critical thinking	90%	94%	85%	86%
I. Problem solving	94%	96%	85%	87%
J. Research and analysis	67%	57%	75%	71%
K. Teamwork	93%	98%	87%	94%
L. Organization and planning	92%	91%	84%	86%
M. Time management	95%	97%	85%	87%
N. Quality of work	96%	100%	86%	93%
O. Productivity	94%	98%	84%	89%
P. Creative and innovative	75%	69%	76%	77%
Q. Adaptable	92%	96%	83%	92%
R. Responsible	97%	99%	87%	94%

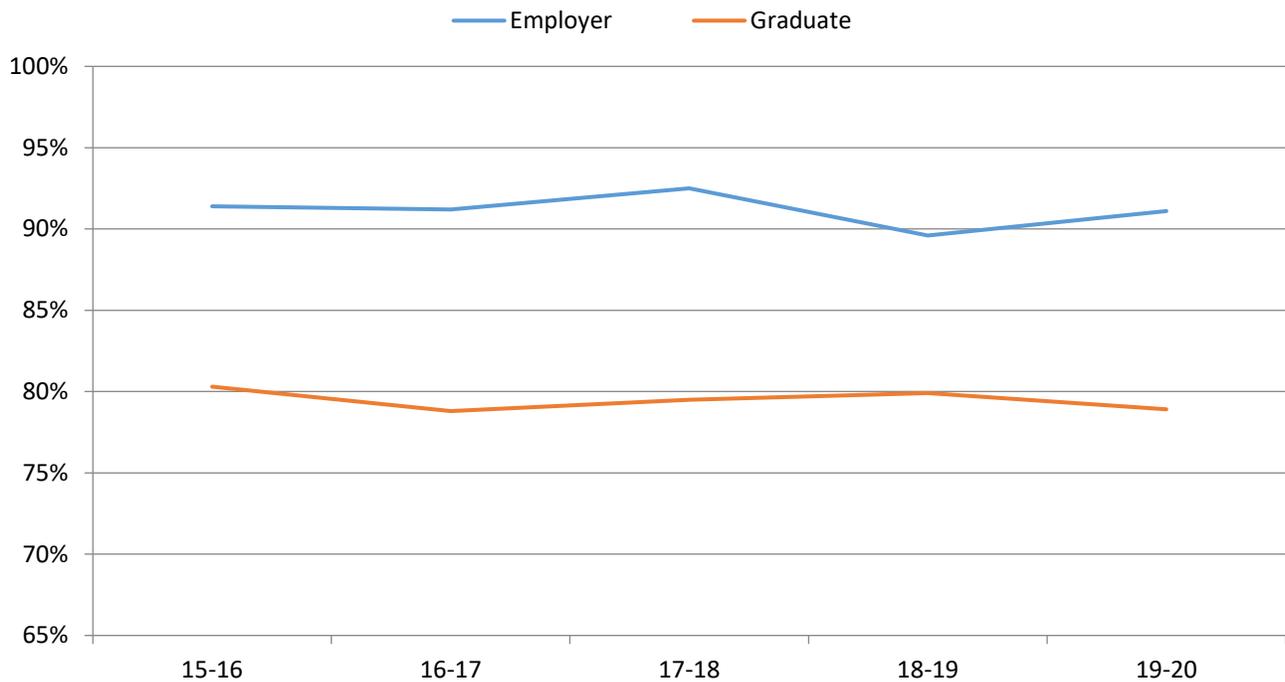
Source: 2019-20 Graduate satisfaction survey (Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities).



- Graduates and employers display very high agreement in their ratings of the relative importance and satisfaction of each of these components to the work the graduates are doing.

## 9 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Figure 17. Satisfaction scores by year\*



\*Reporting year

Sources: Graduate and employer satisfaction surveys (Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities).



- Ontario college data include four key performance indicators (KPIs): graduate satisfaction rate, employer satisfaction rate, graduate employment rate and graduation rate.
- Graduation rates are reported by the colleges while surveys were used to collect all the other information. Independent research firms collect the survey data on behalf of the colleges and the ministry.

**Table 8. Key performance indicators 2010-11 to 2019-20\***

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Graduate employment rate (%)</b>	83.0	83.0	83.6	83.4	84.0	83.6	83.0	85.7	86.2	85.5
<b>Graduation rate (%)</b>	64.2	65.0	64.9	65.5	66.1	66.7	66.6	66.8	67.2	66.4
<b>Graduate satisfaction rate (%)</b>										
Very satisfied/satisfied	79.1	78.9	80.0	80.1	80.0	80.3	78.8	79.5	79.9	78.9
Neither	11.8	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.6	11.9	13.1	13.0	13.2	13.3
Very dissatisfied/dissatisfied	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.6	8.4	7.9	8.1	7.5	6.9	7.8
<b>Employer satisfaction rate (%)</b>										
Very satisfied/satisfied	93.2	92.8	93.4	92.2	88.1	91.4	91.2	92.5	89.6	91.1
Neither	4.5	4.9	4.3	5.0	9.2	5.6	5.8	5.1	7.2	7.0
Very dissatisfied/dissatisfied	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.2	2.0

\*Reporting year

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



## 10 NOTES ON DATA SOURCES

Data shown in this chapter were derived from the following sources:

- **Applicants:** OCAS application data and responses to their annual applicant survey.
- **Students:** Enrolment and demographic data were obtained from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, and OCAS enrolment reports.
- **Apprentices:** Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.
- **Continuing education students:** Continuing education surveys conducted by CCI Research Inc. on behalf of the colleges.
- **Graduates and employers:** The graduate and employer satisfaction/outcomes survey and the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities' employment profiles provide data for college graduates six months after graduation.