

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

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The Class of 2012

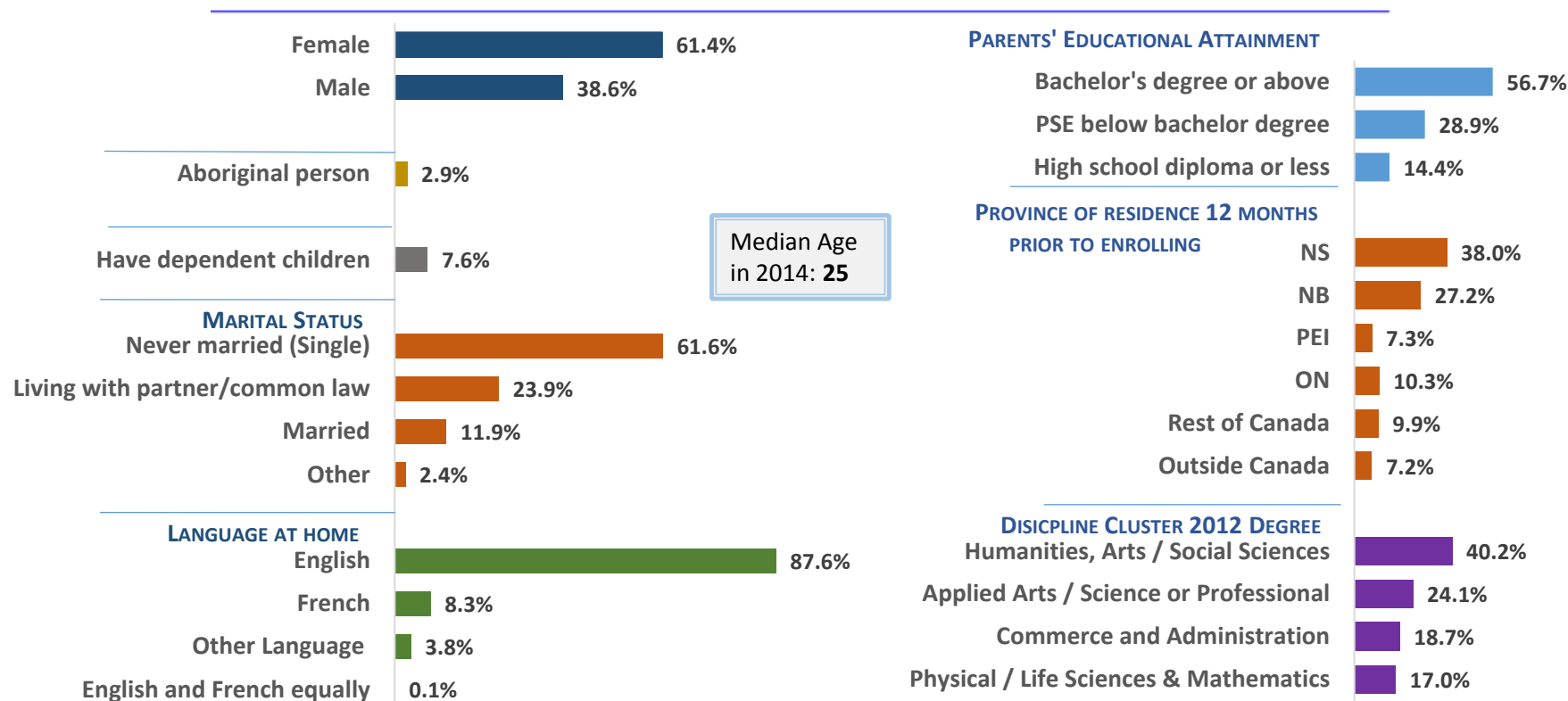
September 2015

Profile of First Degree Holders and Methodological Notes

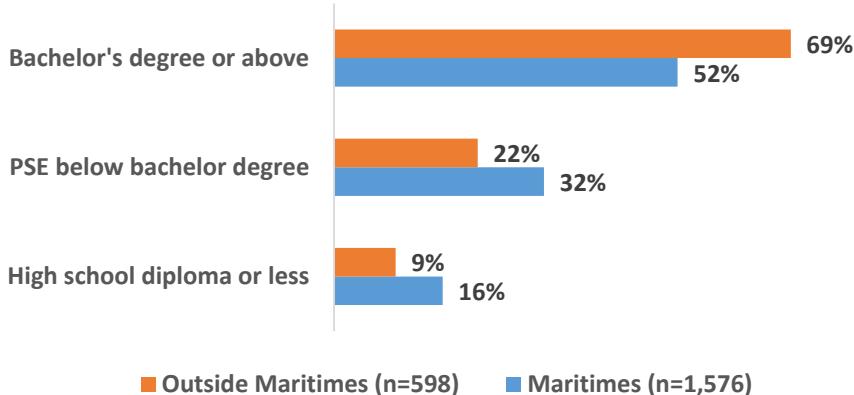
First degree holders are defined as graduates who enrolled in university without prior postsecondary credentials and graduated with their first degree in 2012. Focusing analysis on this group allows for clearer interpretation of findings as these graduates are a relatively homogeneous group, all at the same stage in 2012 in their transition

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

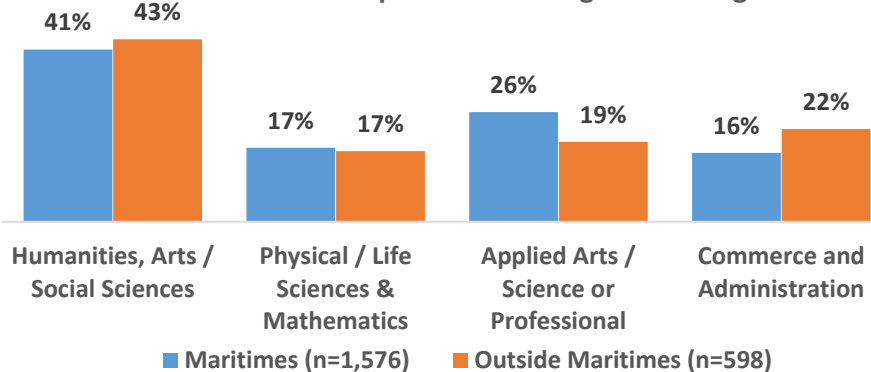
Demographic profile of Class of 2012 first degree holders surveyed in 2014 (n=2,177)



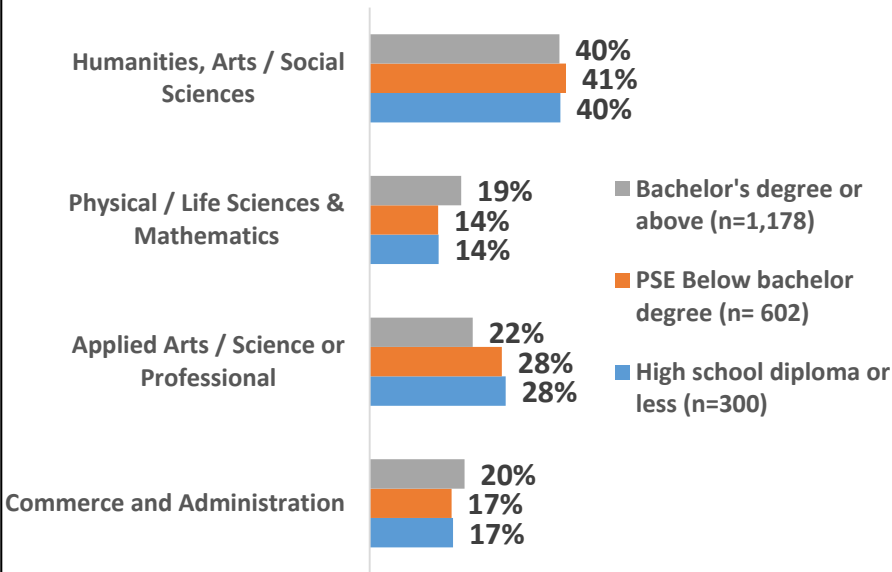
Parents' educational attainment, by residence 12 months prior to enrolling in 2012 degree



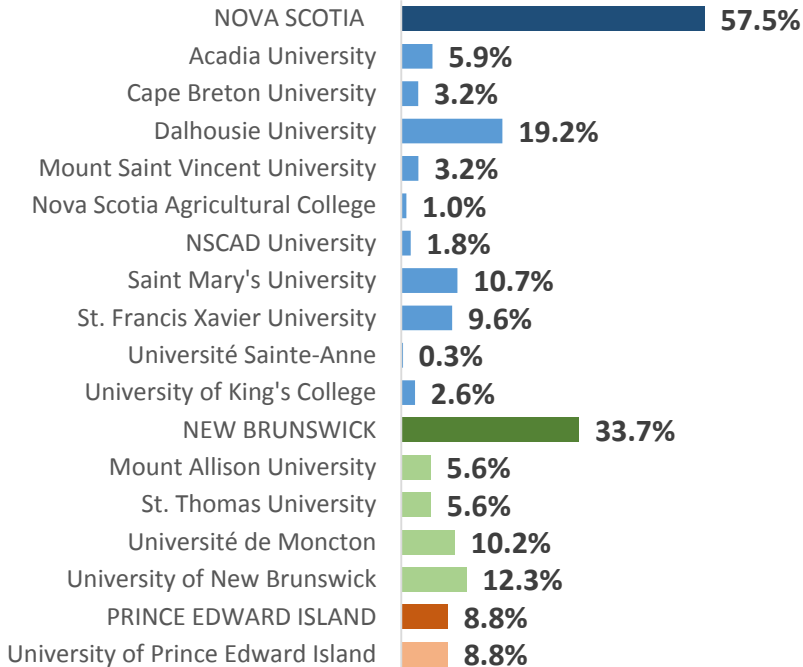
Relationship between discipline of 2012 degree and residence 12 months prior to enrolling in 2012 degree



Relationship between parents' educational attainment and discipline of 2012 degree



Distribution of first degree holders by university of graduation and province of graduation



Demographic profile of Class of 2012 first degree holders by province of graduation

	Province of Graduation			
	Nova Scotia (n=1,337)	New Brunswick (n=696)	Prince Edward Island (n=144)	All first Degree holders (n=2,177)
Gender				
Female	60.9%	62.3%	62.0%	61.4%
Male	39.1%	37.7%	38.0%	38.6%
Aboriginal person [First Nation (North American Indian), Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)]				
	3.7%	2.0%	-	2.9%
Dependent children?				
Have dependent children	7.3%	8.5%	6.3%	7.6%
Marital Status				
Never married (Single)	64.1%	57.3%	59.7%	61.6%
Living with partner/common law	23.2%	25.4%	23.6%	23.9%
Married	10.5%	14.2%	14.6%	11.9%
Other	2.2%	3.0%	2.1%	2.4%
Language spoken most often at home				
English	93.0%	75.6%	95.8%	87.6%
French	2.1%	21.7%	1.4%	8.3%
English and French equally	-	0.3%	-	0.1%
Other Language	4.8%	2.3%	2.1%	3.8%
Prefer not to say	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%
Residence 12 months prior to enrolling in first bachelor's degree				
NS	55.8%	10.5%	5.6%	38.0%
NB	5.5%	73.3%	5.6%	27.2%
PEI	2.5%	2.6%	75.4%	7.3%
ON	15.3%	2.7%	0.7%	10.3%
Rest of Canada	12.7%	5.6%	5.6%	9.9%
Outside Canada	8.2%	5.3%	7.0%	7.2%
Median age in 2014	25	25	25	25

	Province of Graduation			
	Nova Scotia (n=1,337)	New Brunswick (n=696)	Prince Edward Island (n=144)	All first Degree holders (n=2,177)
Discipline Cluster of 2012 Degree				
Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	38.1%	43.0%	45.5%	40.2%
Physical and Life Sciences and Mathematics	20.1%	10.9%	17.5%	17.0%
Applied Arts and Science or Professional Program	21.3%	32.3%	10.5%	24.1%
Commerce and Administration	20.5%	13.8%	26.6%	18.7%
Parents' educational attainment				
Bachelor's degree or above	62.4%	48.5%	42.3%	56.7%
PSE below bachelor degree	25.1%	34.3%	38.7%	28.9%
High school diploma or less	12.5%	17.2%	19.0%	14.4%

Distribution of parents' educational attainment among graduates resident in province prior to enrolling in 2012 degree

	Province of Graduation			
	Nova Scotia (n=711)	New Brunswick (n=481)	Prince Edward Island (n=105)	All first Degree holders (n=1,297)
Bachelor's degree or above	56.7%	46.8%	39.0%	51.6%
PSE below bachelor degree	28.7%	34.7%	41.9%	32.0%
High school diploma or less	14.6%	18.5%	19.0%	16.4%

Bold font denotes statistic significantly different from the average for all first degree holders (Chi-Square, p<0.01)

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey of the Class of 2012 was conducted by Advanis Inc. on behalf of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. This two-year-out survey was the first under the new Graduate Outcomes Survey Program design. 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 seven institutions added the link.

The effectiveness of a letter-mail alert in increasing response rates was also tested. 2,191 letters were sent to a random sample of graduates. Two variables of segmentation were used: gender, and region of residence. Letters were signed by officials from the MPHEC as well as the addressee's institution of graduation. Letters were sent September 26, 2014. Any graduates receiving a letter did not also receive the first email alert.

FIELD

The survey was conducted between September 30th and December 1st, 2014. The average length of the survey was 24 minutes (telephone) and 21 minutes (online).

The total sample of 2,895 respondents represents 27.3% of the total Class of 2012 bachelor's graduate population of 10,615 in the 15 Maritime universities. The margin of error for the survey is ± 1.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The total sample for first degree holders is 2,187, with a margin of error of $\pm 2.1\%$, 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 2012 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>

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Specific cross-tabulations and analyses were conducted using SPSS (22.0) with ordinal/categorical data being tested for differences using Chi-Square and notable differences detected using adjusted standardized residuals. Ratio and continuous data main effects were tested using one-way ANOVA (SPSS 22.0) and t-tests. Differences between groups were tested using the Student-Neuman-Keuls test.

For further information, please contact:

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