

Trends in Maritime Higher Education

Volume 18 Number 3

The Class of 2018 in 2020

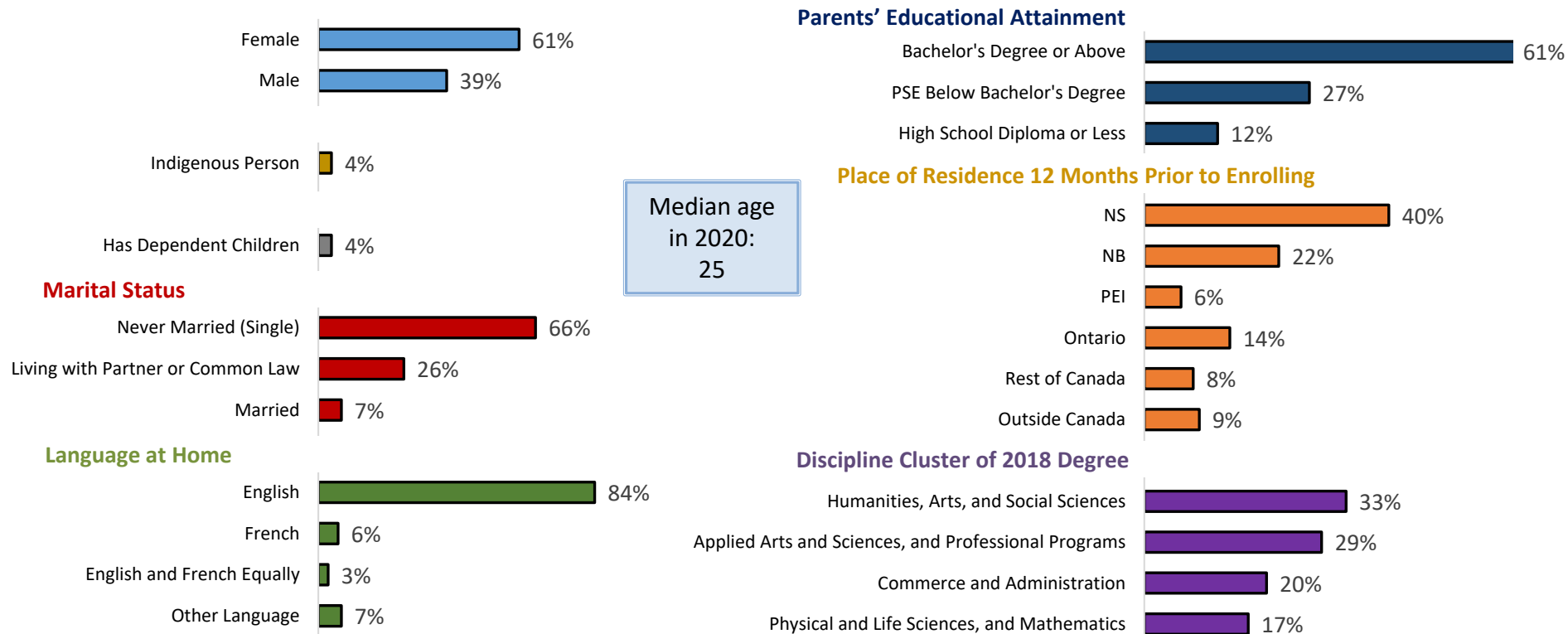
April 2021

Profile of First-Degree Holders and Methodological Notes

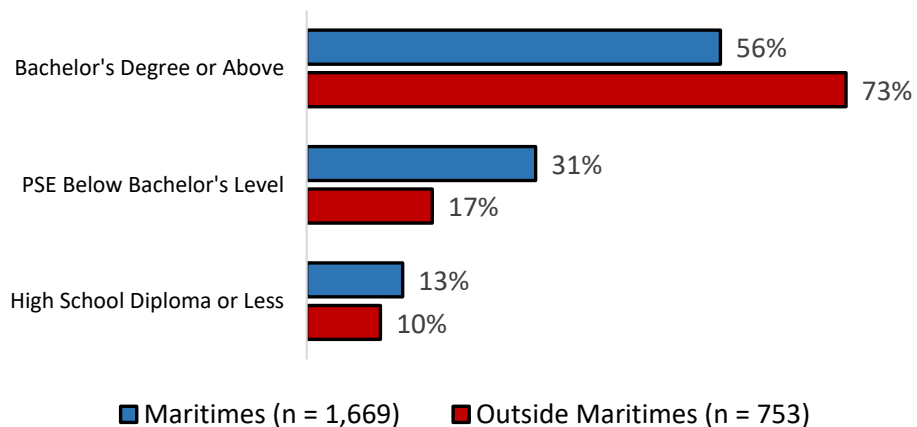
First-degree holders are defined as graduates who enrolled in university without a prior post-secondary credential and graduated with their first degree in 2018. Focusing analyses on this group allows for clearer interpretations of the findings as these graduates are a relatively homogenous group, all at the same stage in

2018 between education and their transition to the workforce. They correspond to a more traditional pool of students who enter university directly from high school. The charts below present the distribution of the first-degree holders by important academic and demographic categories.

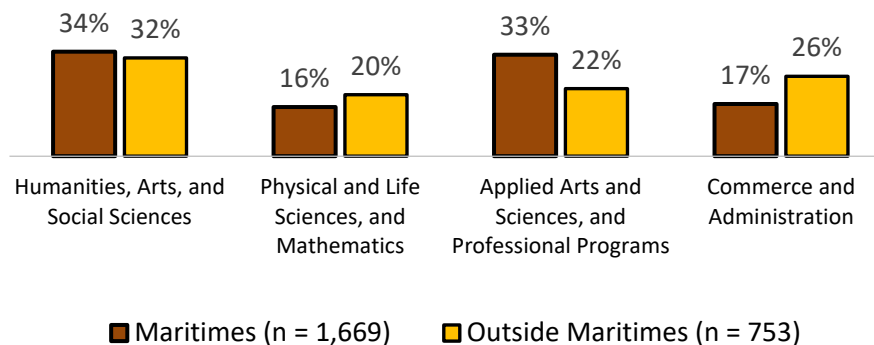
Demographic Profile of Class of 2018 First-Degree Holders Surveyed in 2020 (n = 2,437)



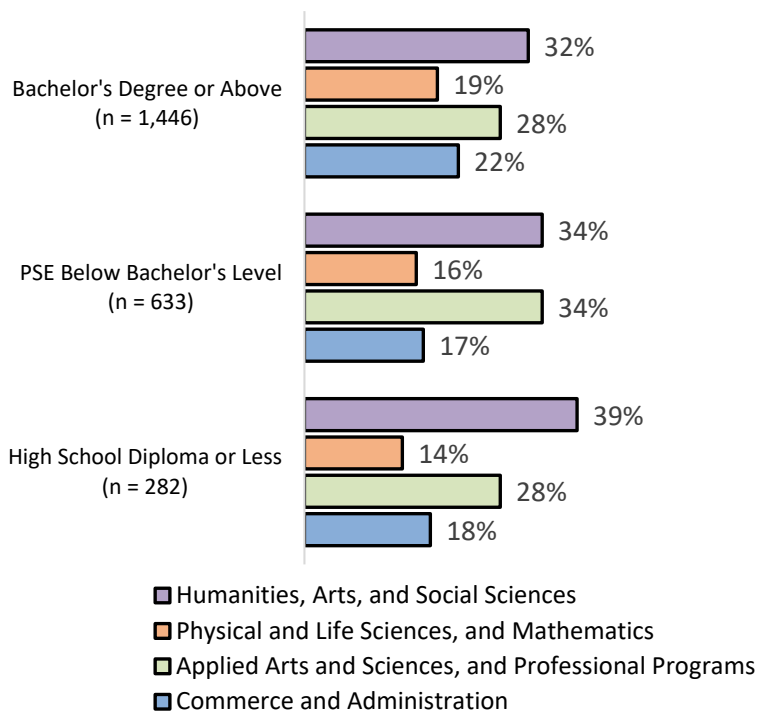
Parents' Educational Attainment by Residence 12 Months Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree



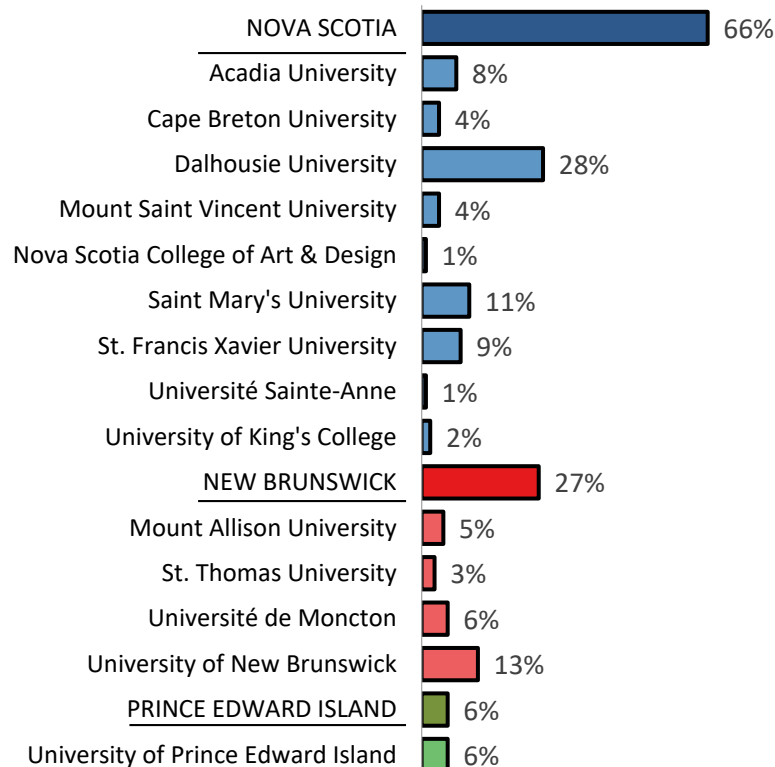
Discipline of 2018 Degree and Residence 12 Months Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree



Parents' Educational Attainment by Discipline of 2018 Degree



Distribution of First-Degree Holders by University of Graduation and Province of Graduation



Demographic Profile of Class of 2018 First-Degree Holders by Province of Graduation

	Province of Graduation			
	Nova Scotia (n = 1,580)	New Brunswick (n = 639)	Prince Edward Island (n = 218)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 2,437)
Gender				
Female	61.6%	58.6%	62.5%	60.8%
Male	38.4%	41.4%	37.5%	39.2%
Indigenous Person				
First Nation, Metis, or Inuk	4.3%	2.7%	2.2%	3.7%
Have Dependent Children?				
Yes	4.1%	3.6%	7.3%	4.1%
Marital Status				
Never Married (Single)	67.0%	65.7%	63.7%	66.5%
Living with Partner or Common Law	25.9%	26.5%	26.2%	26.0%
Married	6.7%	7.4%	9.7%	7.1%
Other	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Language Spoken Most Often at Home				
English	88.3%	72.5%	90.2%	84.1%
French	1.0%	19.1%	1.0%	5.9%
English & French Equally	2.0%	4.1%	1.3%	2.6%
Other Language	8.7%	4.3%	7.5%	7.4%
Residence 12 Months Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree				
NB	5.8%	66.6%	5.2%	22.3%
NS	55.7%	10.2%	7.0%	40.3%
PEI	1.2%	3.0%	71.7%	6.1%
Ontario	17.5%	5.7%	4.9%	13.5%
Rest of Canada	9.6%	7.2%	1.7%	8.5%
Outside Canada	10.1%	7.2%	9.4%	9.3%
Median Age				
Age in 2020 (as of Dec. 31)	25	25	25	25

	Province of Graduation			
	Nova Scotia (n = 1,580)	New Brunswick (n = 639)	Prince Edward Island (n = 218)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 2,437)
Discipline Cluster of 2018 Degree				
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	31.7%	38.0%	26.8%	33.1%
Physical and Life Sciences, and Mathematics	18.5%	12.6%	25.3%	17.3%
Applied Arts and Science, and Professional Programs	28.1%	32.4%	29.5%	29.3%
Commerce and Administration	21.7%	16.9%	18.3%	20.2%
Parents' Educational Attainment				
Bachelor's Degree or Above	62.8%	58.1%	57.2%	61.2%
PSE Below Bachelor's Level	24.9%	30.1%	31.0%	26.7%
High School Diploma or Less	12.3%	11.8%	11.8%	12.1%

Distribution of Parents' Educational Attainment among Graduates Residing in Province prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree

	Province of Residence Prior to Enrolling				All First-Degree Holders (n = 2,437)
	Nova Scotia (n = 953)	New Brunswick (n = 524)	Prince Edward Island (n = 192)	Outside Maritimes (n = 753)	
Parents' Educational Attainment					
Bachelor's Degree or Above	56.0%	55.2%	56.3%	73.1%	61.2%
PSE Below Bachelor's Level	30.6%	32.3%	31.3%	16.9%	26.7%
High School Diploma or Less	13.5%	12.5%	12.4%	10.0%	12.1%

Methodological Notes

The survey of the Class of 2018 Maritime University graduates in 2020 was conducted by Prairie Research Associates Inc. on behalf of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. More information about the Graduate Outcomes 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 to complete the survey was then sent a few days later. Reminders were sent to graduates who had not yet completed the survey 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, and on their social media accounts (i.e., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram). All institutions provided at least one interaction on their social media.

FIELD

The survey was conducted between September 16 and December 11, 2020. The total sample of 3,339 respondents represents 31.8% of the total Class of 2018 bachelor's graduate population of 10,514 in the 14 Maritime universities for whom contact information was available. The margin of error for the survey is ± 1.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The total sample for first-degree holders is 2,437, with a margin of error of ± 2.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. All statistics presented in this report have been generated from weighted data; data were weighted on the basis of the university of graduation and gender. Statistics in charts and tables may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

DEFINITIONS

Discipline Cluster

Major fields of study are grouped into four broad categories or clusters for analytical purposes:

- Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
- Physical and Life Sciences, and Mathematics
- Applied Arts and Sciences, and Professional Programs
- Commerce and Administration

A list of fields of study comprising each discipline cluster may be found at:

<http://www.mphec.ca/media/84665/DisciplineClustersCIP.pdf>

Parents' Educational Attainment

Parents' educational attainment comprises three categories:

- High school diploma or less
- Post-secondary education (PSE) below bachelor's degree (includes trade, college, CEGEP or hospital based certificate or diploma, university certificate or diploma below the bachelor's level, or attendance at university without earning a credential)
- Bachelor's degree or above (includes bachelor's, first professional, master's or PhD degrees, and graduate level certificate or diploma)

These categories combine the parents/guardians' highest level of education, and the category is assigned based on the highest level of education between them. Excluded from analysis are those graduates who did not know or declined to report the highest level of education of their parents/guardians.

For further information, please contact:

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