

Trends in Maritime Higher Education

Volume 22 Number 2

The Class of 2018 in 2024

February 2025

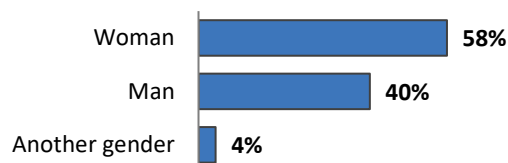
Profile of First-Degree Holders and Methodological Notes

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

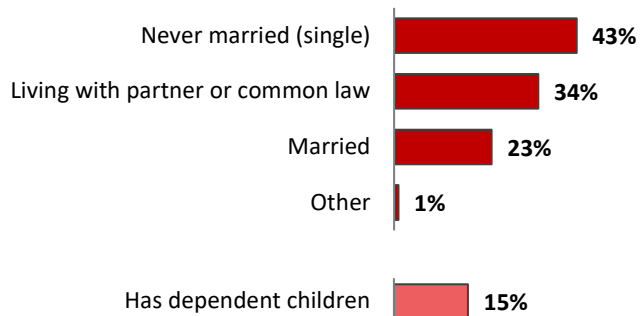
2018 between education and their transition to the workforce. They correspond to a more traditional pool of students who enter university directly from high school. The charts below present the distribution of the first-degree holders by important demographic categories.

Profile of Class of 2018 First-Degree Holders Surveyed in 2024 (n = 1,603)

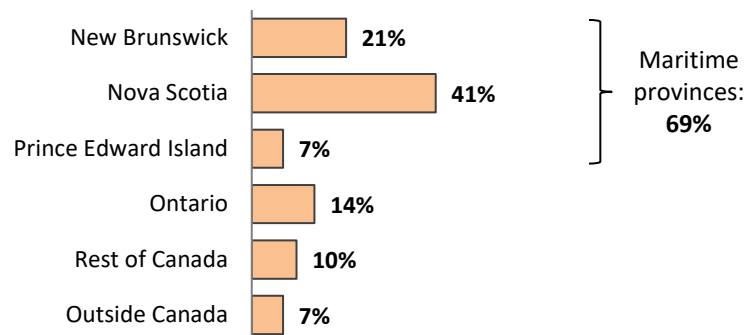
Gender Identity[†]



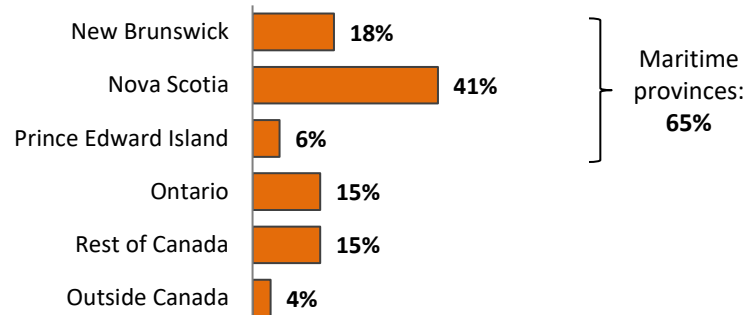
Marital Status and Dependents



Place of Residence 12 Months Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree



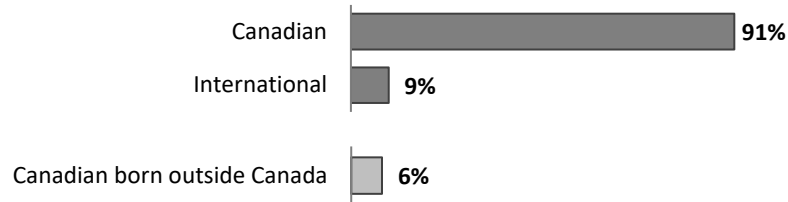
Place of Residence at the Time of the Survey



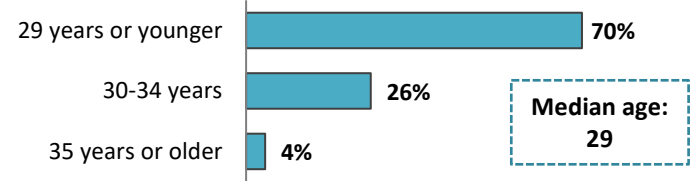
[†] Respondents could choose multiple options.



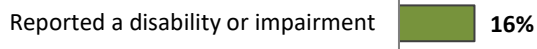
Status in Canada



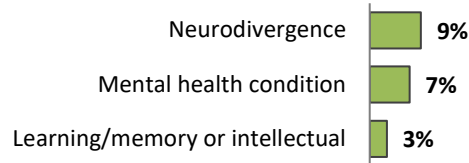
Age Group (as of December 31, 2024)



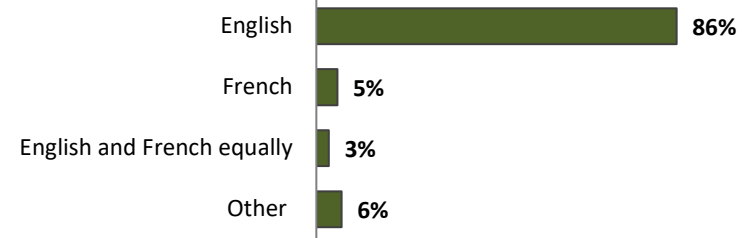
Disability or Impairment



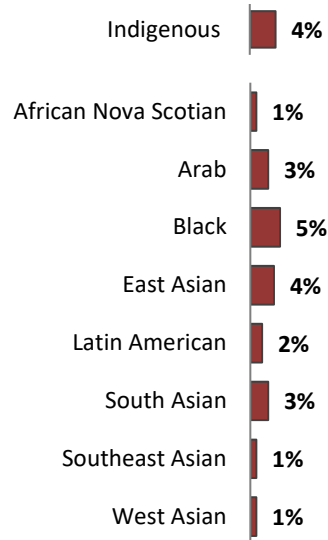
Most Reported Disabilities or Impairments[†]



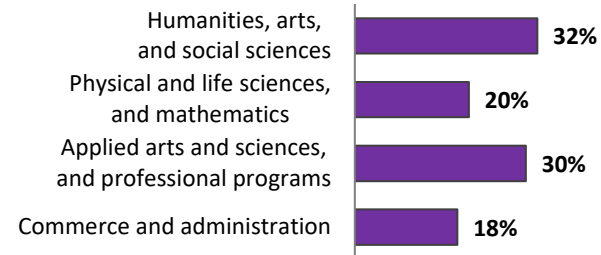
Language Spoken Most Often at Home



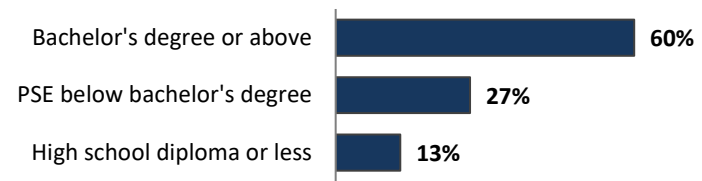
Population Group of Person[†]



Discipline Cluster of 2018 Degree



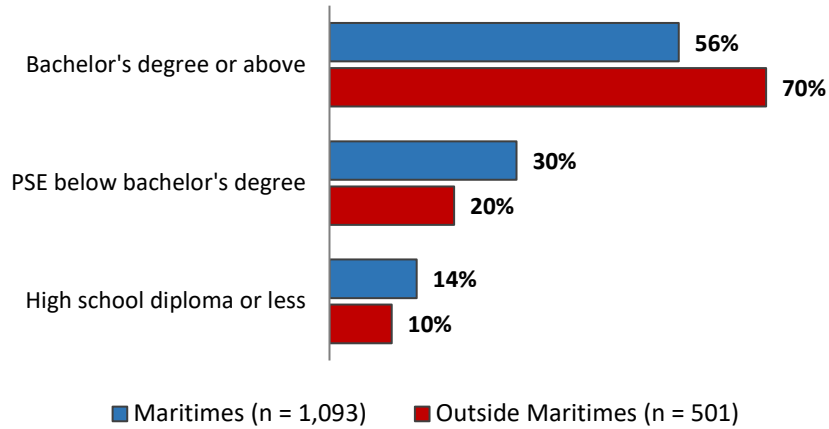
Parents' Educational Attainment



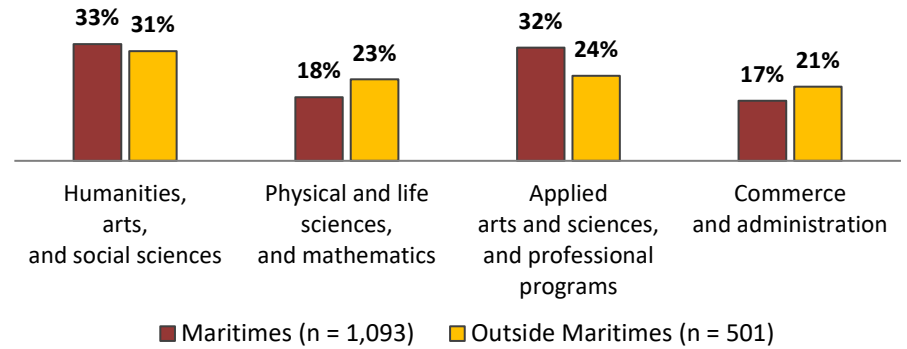
[†] Respondents could choose multiple options.



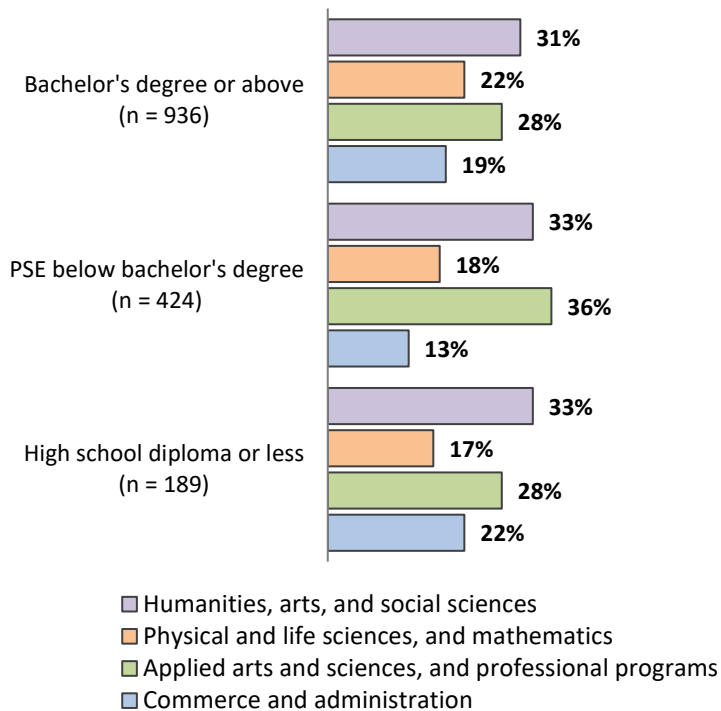
Parents' Educational Attainment by Region of Residence
12 Months Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree



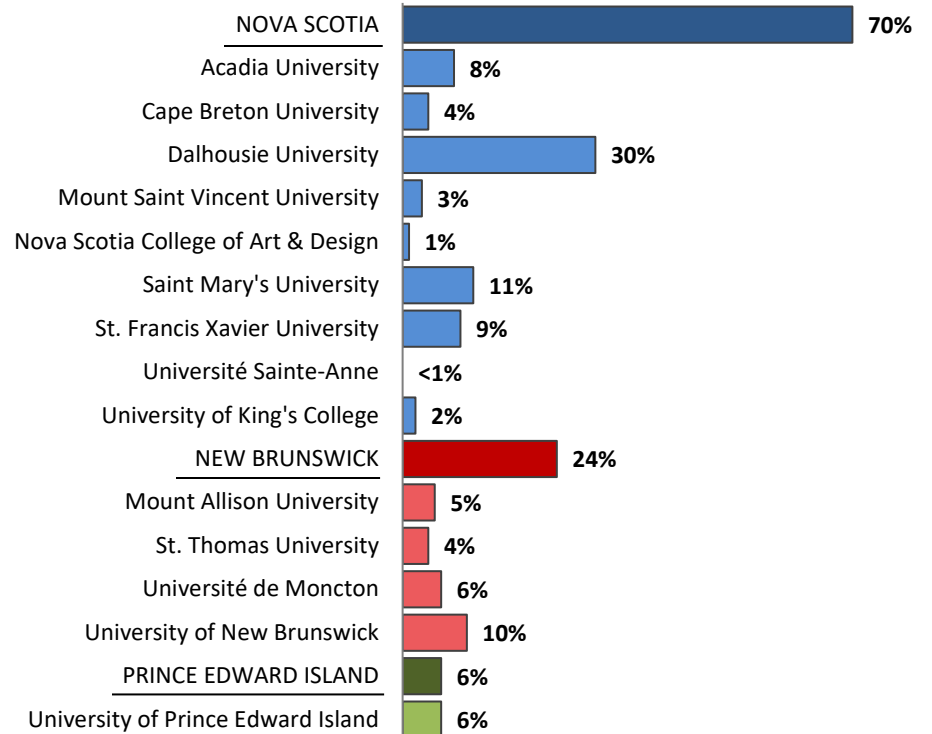
Discipline Cluster of 2018 Degree by Region of Residence 12
Months Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree



Parents' Educational Attainment by
Discipline Cluster of 2018 Degree



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



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

	Province of Graduation			
	New Brunswick (n = 424)	Nova Scotia (n = 1,086)	Prince Edward Island (n = 93)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 1,603)
Gender Identity[†]				
Woman	56.8%	57.7%	68.0%	58.1%
Man	40.3%	39.9%	32.0%	39.5%
Another gender	3.1%	4.4%	*	3.8%
Marital Status				
Never married (single)	39.0%	43.8%	47.7%	42.8%
Living with partner or common law	36.6%	33.1%	26.3%	33.6%
Married	22.9%	22.5%	26.0%	22.8%
Other	1.6%	0.5%	*	0.8%
Has Dependent Children				
Yes	18.8%	12.8%	17.7%	14.6%
Place of Residence 12 Months Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree				
New Brunswick	66.0%	6.6%	6.9%	21.2%
Nova Scotia	11.2%	54.6%	5.0%	40.9%
Prince Edward Island	2.7%	1.9%	79.2%	6.8%
Ontario	5.6%	17.7%	*	13.9%
Rest of Canada	8.7%	11.2%	*	10.0%
Outside Canada	5.8%	8.0%	*	7.2%
Place of Residence at the Time of the Survey				
New Brunswick	59.8%	5.0%	*	18.4%
Nova Scotia	12.5%	53.6%	7.3%	40.7%
Prince Edward Island	2.9%	1.6%	68.3%	6.0%
Ontario	9.7%	17.7%	8.9%	15.2%
Rest of Canada	12.1%	17.2%	6.3%	15.3%
Outside Canada	3.0%	4.9%	5.3%	4.4%
Status in Canada				
Canadian	92.2%	89.8%	97.4%	90.9%
International	7.8%	10.2%	*	9.1%

	Province of Graduation			
	New Brunswick (n = 424)	Nova Scotia (n = 1,086)	Prince Edward Island (n = 93)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 1,603)
Canadian Born Outside Canada				
Yes	3.5%	6.5%	6.6%	5.7%
Reported a Disability or Impairment				
Yes	13.5%	16.5%	12.8%	15.5%
Most Reported Disabilities or Impairments[†]				
Neurodivergence	7.4%	9.1%	6.1%	8.5%
Mental health condition	6.4%	7.9%	6.1%	7.4%
Learning/memory or intellectual	3.7%	3.1%	*	3.1%
Indigenous Person				
Yes	4.0%	3.7%	*	3.6%
Population Group of Person[†]				
African Nova Scotian	*	1.0%	*	0.8%
Arab	1.4%	3.3%	*	2.8%
Black	5.7%	4.4%	*	4.6%
East Asian	3.0%	5.3%	*	4.5%
Latin American	*	2.1%	*	1.7%
South Asian	2.7%	2.6%	*	2.7%
Southeast Asian	*	1.0%	*	0.7%
West Asian	*	0.7%	*	0.6%
Age Group and Median Age (as of December 31, 2024)				
29 years or younger	71.3%	68.2%	78.9%	69.6%
30-34 years	25.2%	27.2%	19.1%	26.2%
35 years or older	3.5%	4.6%	*	4.2%
Median age	29	29	28	29

* Data suppressed due to small cell size (unweighted n < 5).

† Respondents could choose multiple options.



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

	Province of Graduation			
	New Brunswick (n = 424)	Nova Scotia (n = 1,086)	Prince Edward Island (n = 93)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 1,603)
Language Spoken Most Often at Home				
English	71.2%	90.6%	93.7%	86.0%
French	19.0%	0.5%	*	5.1%
English and French equally	5.9%	1.6%	*	2.6%
Other	3.9%	7.3%	*	6.3%

* Data suppressed due to small cell size (unweighted n < 5).

	Province of Graduation			
	New Brunswick (n = 424)	Nova Scotia (n = 1,086)	Prince Edward Island (n = 93)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 1,603)
Discipline Cluster of 2018 Degree				
Humanities, arts, and social sciences	38.2%	30.1%	31.7%	32.2%
Physical and life sciences, and mathematics	12.8%	21.6%	26.7%	19.8%
Applied arts and science, and professional programs	32.8%	29.7%	20.5%	29.9%
Commerce and administration	16.2%	18.6%	21.1%	18.1%

Parents' Educational Attainment by Province of Graduation

	Province of Graduation			
	New Brunswick (n = 424)	Nova Scotia (n = 1,086)	Prince Edward Island (n = 93)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 1,603)
Parents' Educational Attainment (graduates of all geographic origins)				
Bachelor's degree or above	54.6%	62.7%	55.3%	60.2%
PSE below bachelor's degree	30.4%	25.5%	33.0%	27.1%
High school diploma or less	15.0%	11.9%	11.7%	12.6%

Parents' Educational Attainment by Place of Residence 12 Month Prior to Enrolling in 2018 Degree

	Residence Prior to Enrolling				
	New Brunswick (n = 352)	Nova Scotia (n = 633)	Prince Edward Island (n = 108)	Outside Maritimes (n = 501)	All First-Degree Holders (n = 1,603)
Parents' Educational Attainment					
Bachelor's degree or above	52.5%	58.0%	52.9%	70.2%	60.2%
PSE below bachelor's degree	31.8%	28.5%	36.4%	20.3%	27.1%
High school diploma or less	15.7%	13.5%	10.7%	9.5%	12.6%

Methodological Notes

The survey of the Class of 2018 Maritime University graduates in 2024 was conducted by Prairie Research Associates Inc. on behalf of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. More information about the MPHEC Graduate Outcomes survey may be found at:

<http://www.mphec.ca/research/graduatefollowupsurveys.aspx>

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., Facebook, Instagram, X). The survey questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure respondents did not experience problems with any of the questions, and to verify that the questionnaire script and skip patterns worked in the intended manner.

FIELD

The survey was conducted between September 12 and December 31, 2024. Surveys were administered both online and over the telephone and were available in English and French. Graduates who completed the survey were eligible to participate in a draw for a grand prize of \$2,000 or one of eight prizes of \$500.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZES

The total sample of 2,243 respondents represents 23.5% of the total Class of 2018 bachelor's graduate population of 9,542 in 14 Maritime universities for whom contact information was available. 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 1,603, with a margin of error of ± 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

All statistics presented in this report have been generated from weighted data; data were weighted based on the university of graduation and gender reported in the universities' administrative data. Non-responses have been excluded from the analyses. Statistics in charts and tables may not sum up to 100% due to rounding.

DEFINITIONS

Gender Identity

In previous surveys, gender was obtained from the universities' administrative data. A new question on gender identity was added to the Class of 2018 in 2024 survey which allowed graduates to select more than one response. Hence, the percentages may add up to more than 100%.

Status of Graduates in Canada

The status of graduates are obtained from the universities' administrative data. Graduates are grouped into two categories:

- Canadian: Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- International: non-Canadian who does not have "permanent resident" status

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:

https://www.mphec.ca/media/234967/Discipline-Cluster-and-CIP_Regroupement-de-disciplines-et-la-CPE_2021.pdf

Parents' Educational Attainment

Parents' educational attainment comprises three categories:

- High school diploma or less
- Post-secondary education (PSE) below a bachelor's degree (includes trade, college, CEGEP or other certificate or diploma below a bachelor's degree)
- Bachelor's degree or above (includes bachelor's, professional, master's or PhD degrees, and graduate level certificate or diploma)

These categories combine the parents or guardians' highest level of education, and the category is assigned based on the highest level of education between them.

Population Group of Person

The groups presented are based on the indigenous group question and on the groups identified in the Canadian *Employment Equity Act* and provincial policies to support diversity and inclusion. Some groups have been combined due to small sample sizes.

For further information, please contact:

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