

The Class of 2018 Six Years On: Pursuing Education After a First Degree

Statistical Tables



**Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
June 2025**

Table 1. Percentage of first-degree holders (FDH) who pursued further education by province of graduation

Pursued further education	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH
	wN = 387	wN = 1,104	wN = 96	wN = 1,587
Yes	59%	62%	65%	61%
No	41%	38%	35%	39%

Table 2. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by highest credential attained or pursued and status in program at the time of the survey

Highest credential attained or pursued	Completed program	Not yet completed program	All FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 701	wN = 212	wN = 963
PhD/Doctorate	3%	5%	8%
Master's degree	30%	10%	40%
Professional health doctorate	4%	2%	6%
Undergraduate law degree	4%	<1%	4%
Bachelor of Education	5%	<1%	5%
Bachelor's degree (excluding education)	7%	3%	10%
University diploma or certificate	3%	2%	5%
College diploma or certificate/Apprenticeship certificate	11%	2%	13%
Professional designation	4%	2%	6%
Other	2%	<1%	2%
Total	73%	27%	100%

Table 3. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by highest credential attained or pursued and province of graduation

Highest credential attained or pursued	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 226	wN = 676	wN = 62	wN = 963
PhD/Doctorate	8%	9%	*	8%
Master's degree	42%	40%	38%	40%
Professional health doctorate	4%	6%	11%	6%
Undergraduate law degree	3%	5%	*	4%
Bachelor of Education	6%	4%	10%	5%
Bachelor's degree (excluding education)	8%	10%	17%	10%
University diploma or certificate	6%	5%	*	5%
College diploma or certificate/Apprenticeship certificate	12%	14%	10%	13%
Professional designation	8%	6%	*	6%
Other	4%	2%	*	2%

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

Table 4. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by number of programs pursued and province of graduation

Number of programs pursued	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 226	wN = 677	wN = 62	wN = 964
One	76%	73%	67%	73%
Two or more	24%	27%	33%	27%

Table 5. Percentage of first-degree holders by main reason for pursuing further studies and province of graduation

Main reason	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 225	wN = 677	wN = 62	wN = 963
For career advancement/Promotion	30%	28%	28%	29%
It's part of my chosen career path	28%	26%	26%	27%
It's a requirement for a position that I currently hold	11%	12%	17%	12%
An interest in learning more about the subject	12%	12%	11%	12%
To make a career change	7%	10%	*	9%
To make more money	6%	4%	*	4%
For general self-improvement	3%	4%	*	3%
It's a prerequisite for further education	*	2%	*	2%
Other	*	2%	*	2%

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

Table 6. Percentage of employed first-degree holders who reported that their post-2018 programs were necessary for their jobs by province of graduation

Post-2018 programs were necessary for jobs	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All employed FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 206	wN = 561	wN = 56	wN = 823
Yes	75%	80%	77%	79%
No	25%	20%	23%	21%

Table 7. Extent to which employed first-degree holders' jobs were related to their post-2018 programs by province of graduation

Jobs were related to post-2018 programs	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All employed FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 208	wN = 570	wN = 56	wN = 834
Not at all	10%	9%	9%	9%
Slightly	5%	7%	*	6%
Moderately	14%	10%	13%	11%
Considerably	13%	15%	11%	14%
Greatly	58%	59%	62%	59%

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

Table 8. Extent to which employed FDH used skills learned during their post-2018 programs by province of graduation

Used skills learned during post-2018 programs	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All employed FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 208	wN = 569	wN = 56	wN = 833
Not at all	5%	5%	*	5%
Slightly	5%	7%	*	6%
Moderately	12%	11%	13%	12%
Considerably	22%	19%	23%	20%
Greatly	55%	57%	54%	57%

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

Table 9. Percentage of first-degree holders by top financial sources used to finance post-2018 programs and province of graduation

Financial source	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 226	wN = 678	wN = 63	wN = 967
Government student loan	47%	42%	47%	44%
Employment earnings/Personal savings	36%	43%	44%	42%
Parents/Family	17%	23%	10%	21%
Awards based on merit	22%	21%	21%	21%
Bank/Other financial institution	16%	17%	21%	17%
Employer	18%	11%	*	12%
Awards based on need	6%	6%	14%	6%
Credit cards	2%	4%	*	4%
Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)	3%	4%	*	4%
Other	5%	4%	*	4%

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

Table 10. Percentage of first-degree holders who borrowed to finance their further education by province of graduation

Borrowed for further education	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 225	wN = 677	wN = 63	wN = 965
Yes	59%	54%	66%	56%
No	41%	46%	34%	44%

Table 11. Percentage of first-degree holders who received scholarships, grants, or bursaries to finance their further education by province of graduation

Received scholarships, grants, or bursaries	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH who pursued further education
	wN = 225	wN = 668	wN = 62	wN = 954
Yes	57%	56%	57%	56%
No	43%	44%	43%	44%

Table 12. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by discipline cluster of their first degree and province of graduation

Discipline cluster of first degree	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH
	wN = 148	wN = 332	wN = 30	wN = 511
Humanities, arts and social sciences	67%	70%	*	70%
	wN = 50	wN = 239	wN = 26	wN = 314
Physical and life sciences, and mathematics	86%	80%	*	82%
	wN = 126	wN = 328	wN = 20	wN = 474
Applied arts and sciences, and professional programs	39%	49%	*	46%
	wN = 63	wN = 205	wN = 20	wN = 288
Commerce and administration	56%	47%	*	48%

* Data suppressed due to small sub-sample size (unweighted n < 50).

Table 13. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by gender and province of graduation

Gender	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH
	wN = 226	wN = 651	wN = 66	wN = 942
Woman	65%	69%	67%	68%
	wN = 161	wN = 453	wN = 30	wN = 644
Man	50%	51%	*	51%

* Data suppressed due to small sub-sample size (unweighted n < 50).

Table 14. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by region of origin and province of graduation

Region of origin	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH
	wN = 309	wN = 692	wN = 88	wN = 1,088
Maritimes	56%	61%	65%	60%
	wN = 78	wN = 403	wN = 9	wN = 490
Outside Maritimes	67%	63%	*	64%

* Data suppressed due to small sub-sample size (unweighted n < 50).

Table 15. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by parents' educational attainment and province of graduation

Parents' educational attainment	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH
	wN = 205	wN = 664	wN = 53	wN = 922
Bachelor's degree or above	63%	66%	68%	66%
	wN = 115	wN = 270	wN = 31	wN = 416
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	55%	60%	*	59%
	wN = 56	wN = 126	wN = 11	wN = 194
High school diploma or less	47%	52%	*	50%

* Data suppressed due to small sub-sample size (unweighted n < 50).

Table 16. Percentage of first-degree holders who pursued further education by borrowing status for their first degree and province of graduation

Borrowing for first degree	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	All FDH
	wN = 231	wN = 563	wN = 50	wN = 844
Borrowed	55%	57%	61%	57%
	wN = 154	wN = 536	wN = 47	wN = 737
Did not borrow	64%	67%	*	66%

* Data suppressed due to small sub-sample size (unweighted n < 50).