



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Graduate Appendix

2025-26 Undergraduate and Graduate Enrolment Report

Date:

MARCH 2026

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	ABOUT THIS REPORT	1
	2025-26 ENROLMENT CYCLE	2
	Figure 1: Graduate students at a glance	2
1.	ENROLMENT	3
1.1	GRADUATE ENROLMENT BY DEGREE TYPE	3
	Figure 2: Graduate Enrolment by Degree Type	3
	Table 1: Graduate Enrolment by Degree Type	3
1.2	GRADUATE ENROLMENT BY FACULTY	4
	Figure 3: Doctoral Degrees, Fall Headcount by Faculty	4
	Table 2: Doctoral Degrees (7 years), Fall Headcount by Faculty	5
	Figure 4: Thesis-based Master's Degrees, Fall Headcount by Faculty	6
	Figure 5: Course-based Master's Degrees, Fall Headcount by Faculty	7
	Table 3: Thesis-based Master's Degrees, Fall Headcount by Faculty	8
	Table 4: Course-based Master's Degrees, Fall Headcount by Faculty	9
	Table 5: Certificate Programs, Cumulative Total Each Academic Year, by Faculty	9
	Table 6: Other Programs (Qualifying, Special, Visiting Students), Fall Headcount by Faculty	10
	Table 7: Fall 2025 Headcount by College and Faculty	11
	Table 8: Percentage of Full-time and Part-time Graduate Students	11
1.3.	GRADUATE/UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT COMPARISON	12
	Table 9: Percentage of Graduate Students Out of Total Number of All Students, by Faculty	12
	Figure 6: Year Over Year, Percentage of Graduate Students Out of Total Number of All Students, by Faculty	13
1.4.	GRADUATE STUDENTS BY CITIZENSHIP	13
	Table 10: Total Enrolment and Percentage Change Over Past Fall (Total, International, Domestic)	13
	Table 11: Percentage of International Students by Faculty	14
	Table 12: Top 20 Source Countries by Student Citizenship, by Percentage	14
1.5.	SPONSORED STUDENTS	16
	Table 13: Citizenship of Sponsored Graduate Students	16
1.6.	ENROLMENT BY GENDER	17
	Table 14: Fall Term Graduate Enrolment by Gender	17
	Figure 7: Doctoral Enrolment by Gender	17
	Figure 8: Thesis-based Master's Enrolment by Gender	18
	Figure 9: Course-based Master's Enrolment by Gender	18
	Figure 10: Certificate Enrolment by Gender	19
1.7.	INDIGENOUS STUDENT ENROLMENT	20
	Figure 11: Percentage of Indigenous Students Out of Total Fall Graduate Enrolment	20
	Figure 12: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Enrolment (7 Years)	21
	Table 15: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Enrolment by Faculty, Fall 2025	21
2.	APPLICATIONS, ADMISSIONS AND YIELD	22
2.1.	GRADUATE ADMISSIONS	22

Figure 13: Percentage of Newly Admitted Graduate Students by Term	22
Figure 14: Total Number of Admissions to Graduate Programs	23
Figure 15: Domestic Graduate Student Applications and Admissions	24
Figure 16: International Graduate Student Applications and Admissions	24
Table 16: Domestic Graduate Admissions	25
Table 17: International graduate admissions	25
Figure 17: Indigenous Student Applications and Admissions	26
2.2. YIELD RATES	27
Table 18: Doctoral Yield Rate and Average AGPA	27
Table 19: Thesis-based Master's Yield Rate and Average AGPA	28
Table 20: Course-based Master's Yield Rate and Average AGPA	28
Table 21: Certificate Yield Rate and Average AGPA	28
3. RETENTION AND COMPLETION	29
3.1. GRADUATE DEGREES GRANTED	29
Figure 18: Convocants by Degree, Over 7 Years	29
3.2. COMPLETION TIME	29
3.2.1 AVERAGE COMPLETION TIME	30
Table 22: Average Completion Time (in Years) by Degree Type, Over 7 Years	31
Table 23: Average Completion Times in Years by Citizenship, Over 7 Years	31
3.2.2 DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLETION TIMES	32
Figure 19: Completion Distribution by Degree, 2025	32
Figure 20: Domestic Completion Distribution by Degree, 2025	33
Figure 21: International Completion Distribution by Degree, 2025	33
3.2.3 LEAVES OF ABSENCE	34
Table 24: Average Length of Leaves of Absence (LOA) (in Years) by Degree Type	34
Table 25: Average Length of Leaves of Absence (LOA) (in Years) by Citizenship, Over 7 Years	34
3.3. COMPLETION AND ATTRITION RATES	35
Table 26: Doctoral Attrition and Completion Rates	35
Table 27: Thesis-based Master's Attrition and Completion Rates	37
Table 28: Course-based Master's Attrition and Completion Rates	38
4. POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS	39
Figure 22: Number of Postdoctoral Scholars by Faculty	39
Figure 23: Postdoctoral Scholar Countries of Citizenship	40
Figure 24: Appointment Duration, 2019-2025	41
Figure 25: Percentage of Postdoctoral Scholar Career Outcomes by Area (2005-18)	41

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This appendix reflects the following overall data scope for graduate content:

Enrolment headcounts

- Include graduate refugee students in domestic headcounts.

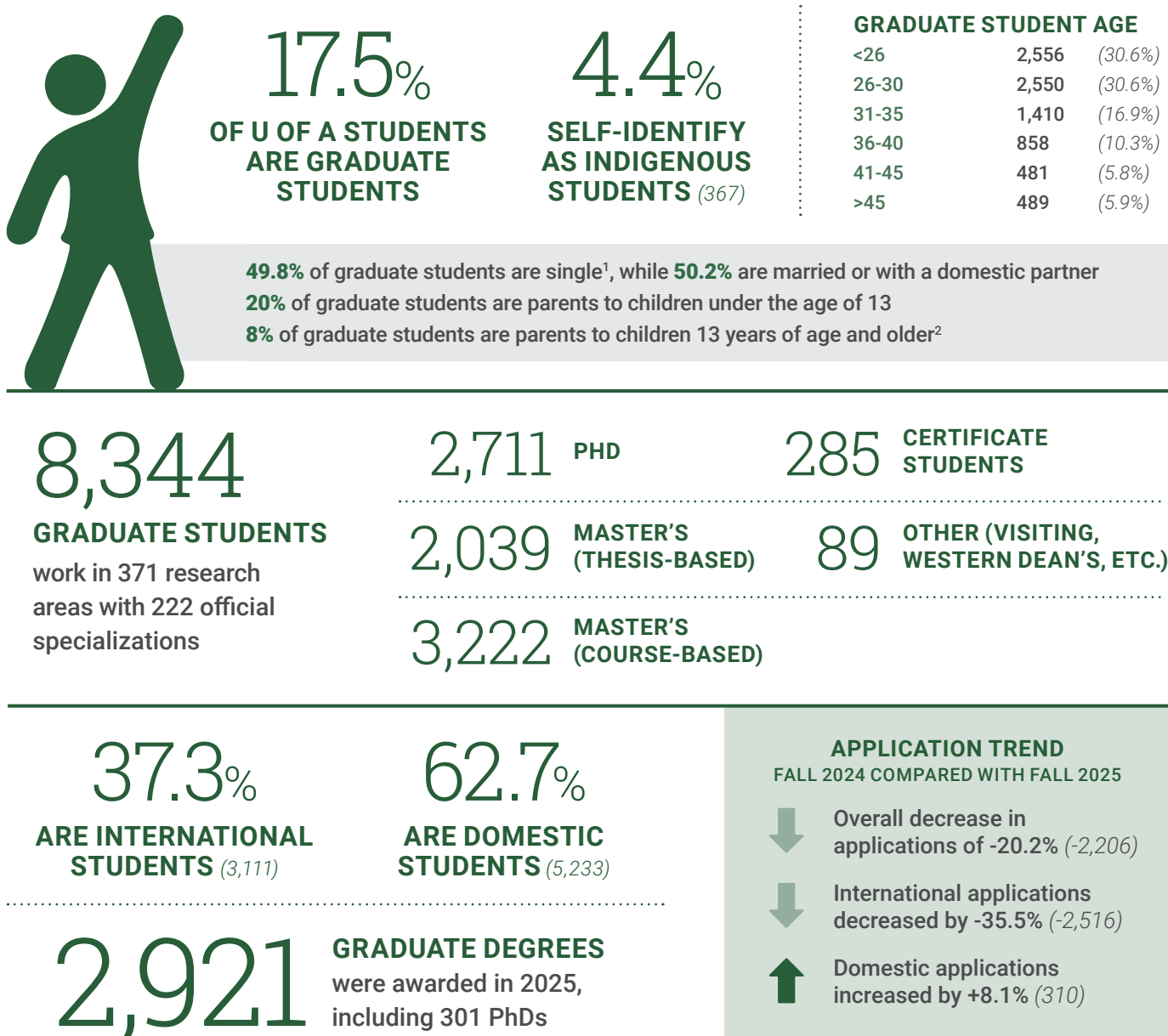
Applicant headcounts

- Unless otherwise noted, all graduate numbers reflect the number of fall term individual applicants, not total applications since some applicants apply to multiple departments and/or programs.
- Some applicants may defer, changing their admission term after they apply. These applicants are counted in the term the applicant started their program, not the term the applicant originally applied for. Applicants who have a deferral in progress are counted in the term in which the applicant is currently expected to start.

2025-26 ENROLMENT CYCLE

Graduate students at the U of A play a vital role in driving the university's learning, teaching and research missions forward. At 8,344 students, graduate students make up 17.5% of the total U of A student body working in 371 research areas and 222 specializations. While nearly 5,000 graduate students at U of A are engaged in research-intensive thesis-based programs, graduate students are also pursuing research and professional training through course-based master's (CBM) degrees and graduate certificates, where enrolment continues to be high, and trending upward, respectively. In addition to pursuing their own studies, many U of A graduate students are supporting undergraduate students as Teaching Assistants and faculty members as Research Assistants.

FIGURE 1: GRADUATE STUDENTS AT A GLANCE



¹ Including those who noted they have never been married and have no domestic partner, and those who are divorced, separated or widowed.

² This data is from the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS), completed last in 2022 (survey is completed every three years).

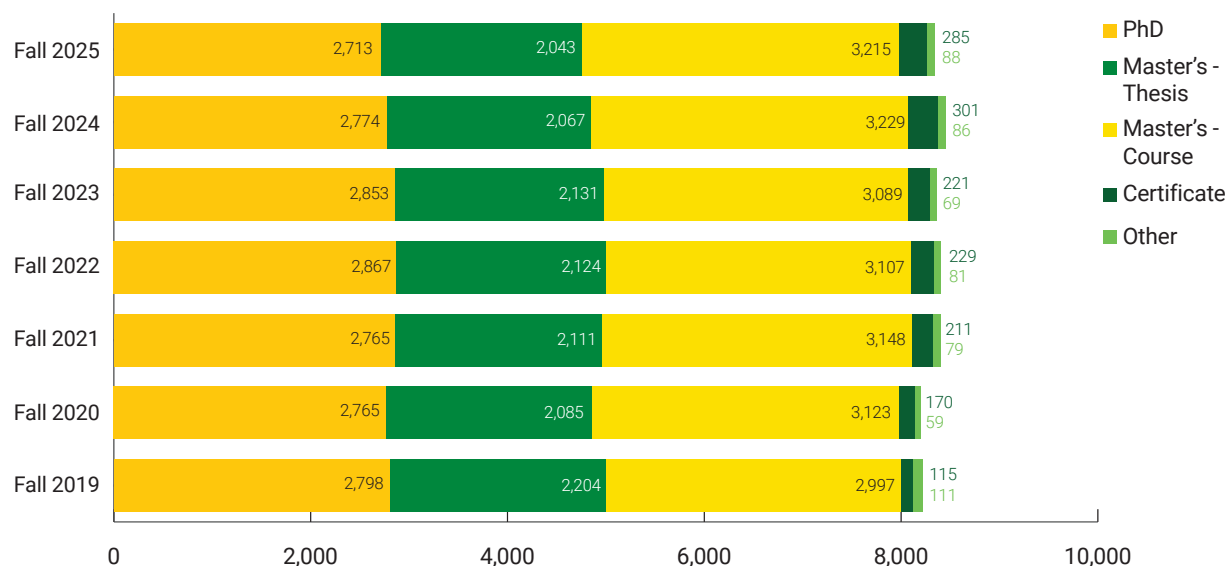
1. ENROLMENT

This section³ presents enrolment numbers based on the standard Dec. 1, 2025 headcounts, as reported to Statistics Canada and the Government of Alberta. Enrolment is a point-in-time snapshot and the December headcounts reflect fall term registrations only. As a result, enrolment reported here does not include the total number of graduate students who have been on campus throughout the entire calendar year, unless otherwise noted.

1.1 GRADUATE ENROLMENT BY DEGREE TYPE

Graduate enrolment in course-based master's programs have steadily increased over the past seven years, reaching 3,215 in 2025-26, while graduate enrolment in thesis-based programs saw a decrease of 2.0 percent year-over-year.

FIGURE 2: GRADUATE ENROLMENT BY DEGREE TYPE



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Note: Other includes Qualifying Students, Special Graduate Students and Visiting Students.

TABLE 1: GRADUATE ENROLMENT BY DEGREE TYPE

Degree	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
PhD	2,798	2,765	2,853	2,867	2,853	2,774	2,713
Thesis-based master's	2,204	2,085	2,111	2,124	2,131	2,067	2,043
Course-based master's	2,997	3,123	3,146	3,107	3,089	3,228	3,215
Certificate	115	170	211	229	221	301	285
Other	111	59	81	81	69	87	88
Total	8,225	8,202	8,402	8,408	8,363	8,457	8,344

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Notes:

1. Other = students in post-master's and post-baccalaureate certificates, postgraduate diplomas, qualifying, special graduate and visiting students;

2. Students who have GPS listed as their department are included.

3. The exceptions are subsection 1.5 and Table 13, which report on sponsored students; see below.

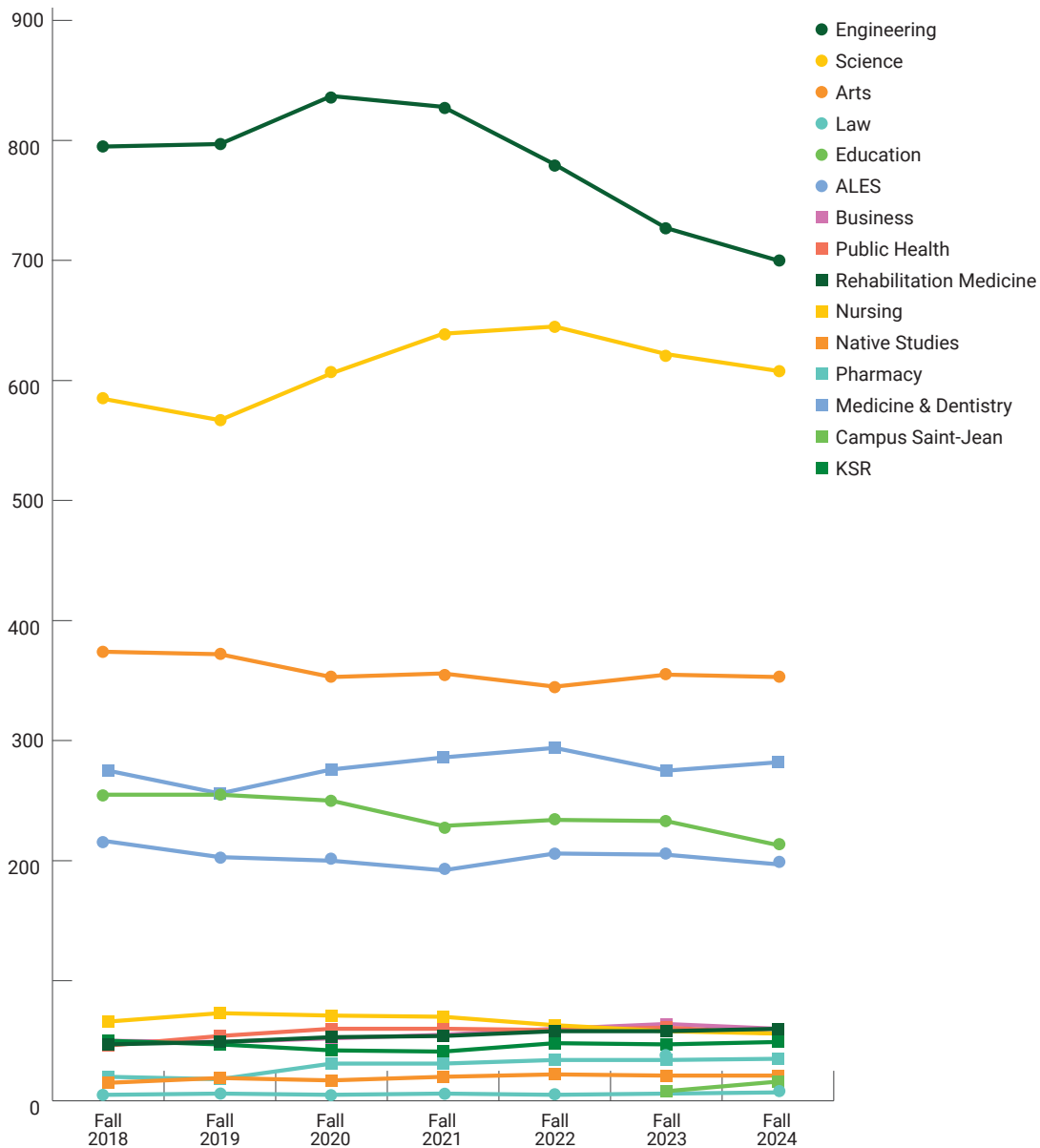
1.2 GRADUATE ENROLMENT BY FACULTY

Fall term graduate enrolment headcounts by faculty are shown in Figures 3 to 5 and in Tables 2 to 7. While the data reveals varied year-over-year changes across the institution, they bear out the general trends described above.

At the doctoral level, the picture of overall stability is reflected in the enrolment trends for many of the small to medium size programs (Figure 3). The total number of doctoral students has decreased slightly from last year (-2.3%).

- Doctoral student enrolment increased in both the Faculty of Native Studies and Faculté Saint-Jean.
- Faculté Saint-Jean registered its first doctoral enrolment in Fall 2024 and doubled their enrolment in Fall 2025 to 16 students.
- Engineering (-3.86%) and Science (-2.4%) have the largest number of PhD students on campus and both saw decreases in doctoral student enrolment.

FIGURE 3: DOCTORAL DEGREES, FALL HEADCOUNT BY FACULTY



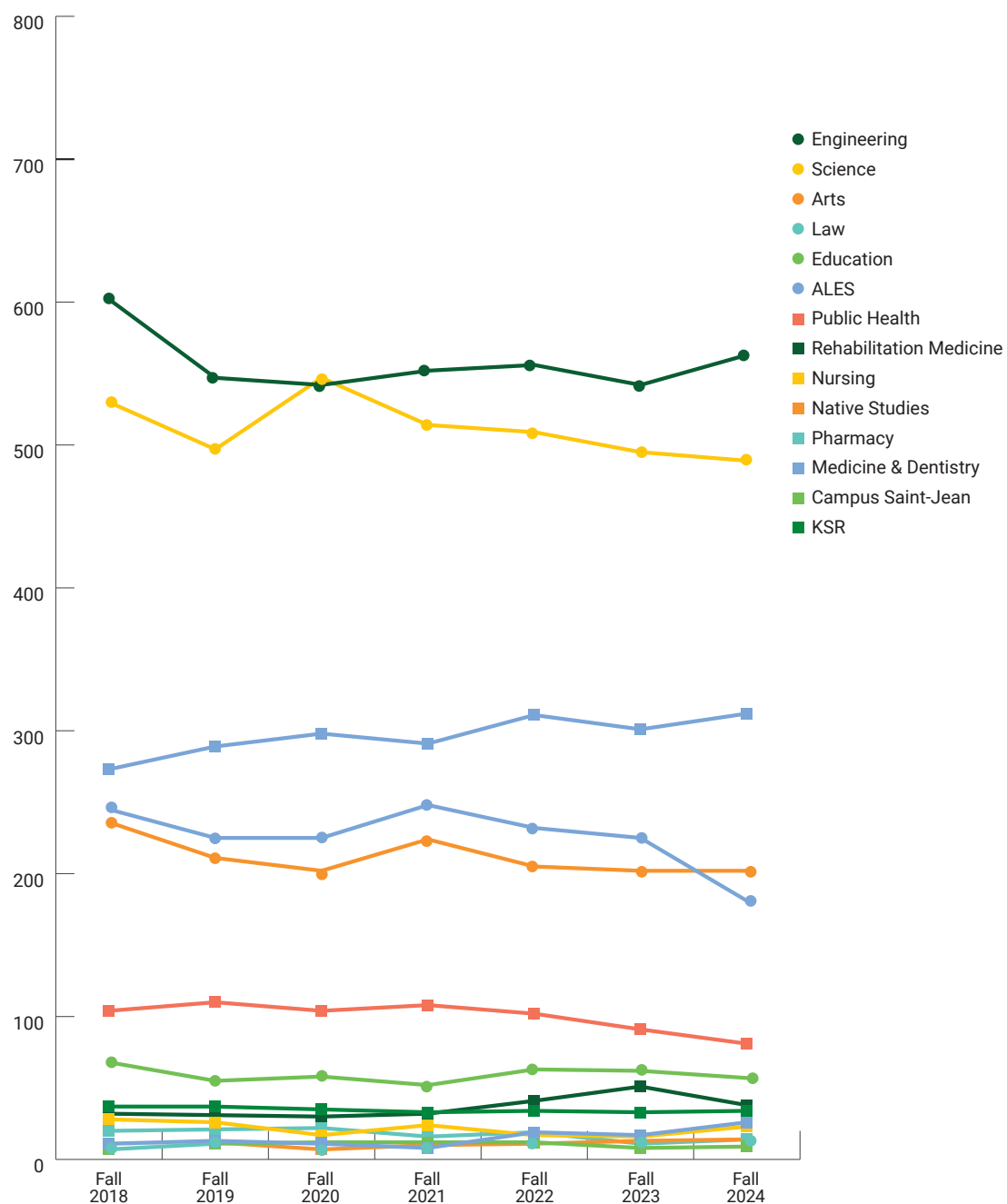
Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

TABLE 2: DOCTORAL DEGREES (7 YEARS), FALL HEADCOUNT BY FACULTY

Faculty	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
ALES	216	203	200	192	206	205	197
Arts	374	372	353	356	345	355	353
Business	47	49	53	54	58	58	60
Campus Saint-Jean						8	16
Education	255	255	250	229	234	233	213
Engineering	795	797	837	828	780	727	700
KSR	15	19	17	20	22	21	21
Law	50	47	42	41	48	47	49
Medicine & Dentistry	5	6	5	6	5	6	7
Native Studies	275	256	276	286	294	275	282
Nursing	66	73	71	70	63	58	56
Pharmacy	20	18	31	31	34	34	35
Public Health	46	54	60	60	59	61	56
Rehabilitation Medicine	50	49	52	55	60	64	60
Science	584	567	606	639	645	622	608
Total	2,798	2,766	2,855	2,877	2,857	2,778	2,713

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

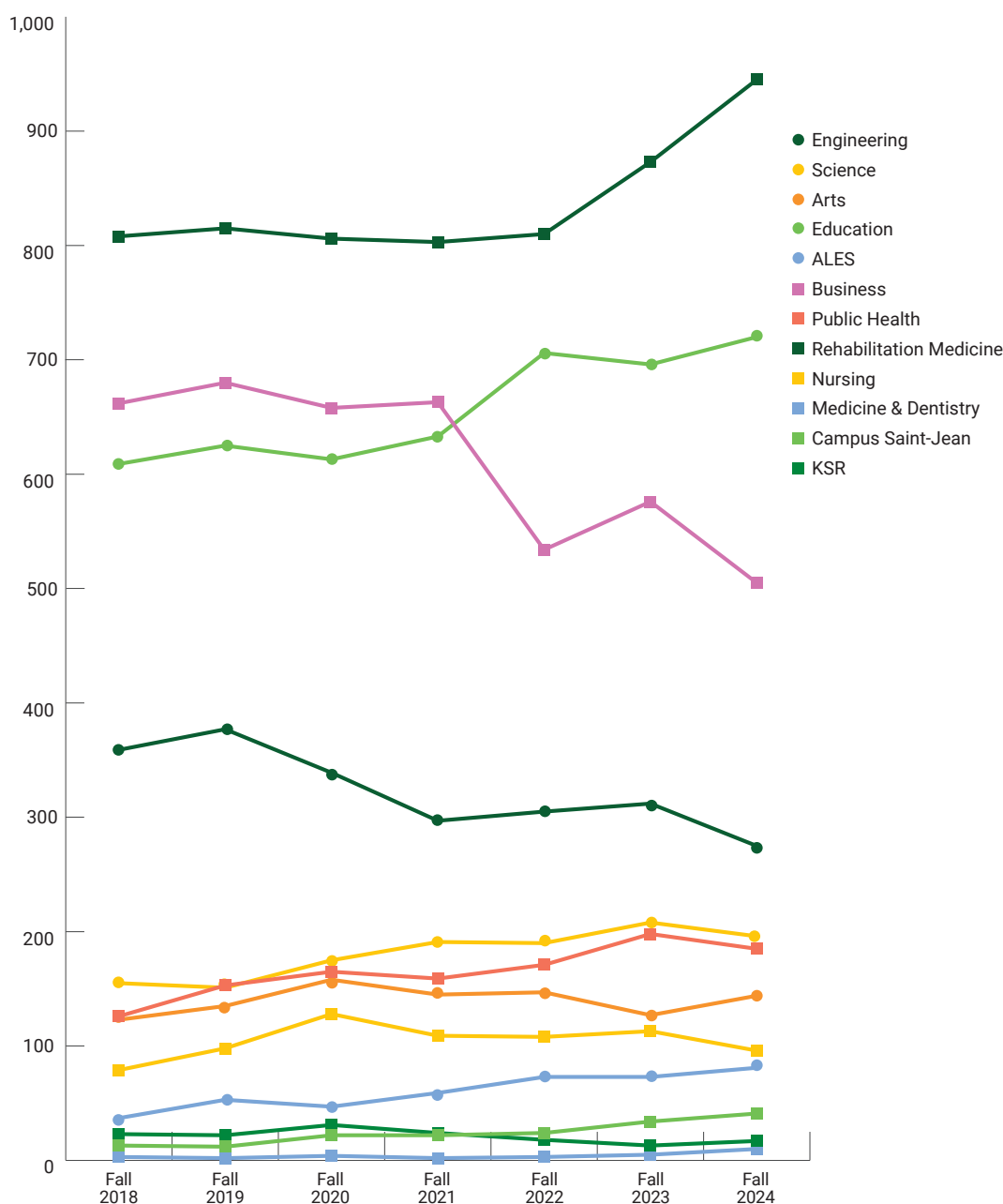
FIGURE 4: THESIS-BASED MASTER'S DEGREES, FALL HEADCOUNT BY FACULTY



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Enrolment in most thesis-based master's (TBM) programs reflects a slight decline again this year (-1.1%, 24).

FIGURE 5: COURSE-BASED MASTER'S DEGREES, FALL HEADCOUNT BY FACULTY



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Enrolment in all course-based master's programs overall remained close to last year, with some faculties seeing growth that was offset by those with decreased enrolment (Figure 5).

The faculties of Campus Saint-Jean, KSR, Medicine & Dentistry, ALES and Rehabilitation Medicine all experienced growth larger than eight percentage points since last year. New course-based master's programs are currently being developed to respond to the increasing demand.

Faculties seeing decreases of more than ten percentage points this year were Engineering, Nursing and Business.

Overall, this year saw increases in the total number of master's students in Arts, Campus Saint-Jean, Education, KSR, Medicine & Dentistry, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and Rehabilitation Medicine (Table 3).

In those faculties who have both thesis- and course-based master's programs, some saw growth or declines within both programs in the same direction. For several faculties, however, including ALES, Arts, CSJ and Rehabilitation Medicine, there was a decrease in enrolment in the thesis programs and an increase in enrolment in the course-based programs. Inversely, Engineering and Nursing saw growth in thesis enrolment and decreased enrolment in their course-based programs. The greatest variance in these shifts was in ALES (-24.3 % TBM and +9.9 % in CBM) and Nursing (+30.4% in TBM and -17.7% in CBM).

TABLE 3: THESIS-BASED MASTER'S DEGREES, FALL HEADCOUNT BY FACULTY

Faculty	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
ALES	245	225	225	248	232	225	181
Arts	236	211	202	224	205	202	202
Business							
Campus Saint-Jean	11	13	11	8	19	17	26
Education	68	55	58	52	63	62	57
Engineering	602	547	542	552	556	542	563
KSR	37	37	35	33	34	33	34
Law	7	11	12	12	12	8	9
Medicine & Dentistry	273	289	298	291	311	301	312
Native Studies	11	12	7	10	11	13	14
Nursing	28	26	17	24	17	16	23
Pharmacy	20	21	22	16	19	11	14
Public Health	104	110	104	108	102	91	81
Rehabilitation Medicine	32	31	30	32	41	51	38
Science	530	497	547	514	509	495	489
Total	2,204	2,085	2,110	2,124	2,131	2,067	2,043

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

TABLE 4: COURSE-BASED MASTER'S DEGREES, FALL HEADCOUNT BY FACULTY

Faculty	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
ALES	37	53	47	59	73	73	81
Arts	123	135	158	145	147	127	144
Business	662	680	658	663	534	576	505
Campus Saint-Jean	13	12	22	22	24	34	41
Education	609	625	613	633	706	696	720
Engineering	359	377	339	297	305	312	275
KSR	23	22	31	24	18	13	17
Law							
Medicine & Dentistry	3	2	4	2	3	5	10
Native Studies							
Nursing	79	98	128	109	108	113	96
Pharmacy							
Public Health	126	153	165	159	171	198	185
Rehabilitation Medicine	808	815	806	803	810	873	945
Science	155	151	175	191	190	208	196
Total	2,997	3,123	3,146	3,107	3,089	3,228	3,215

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Enrolment in certificate programs continues to be high and is trending upwards (+161% increase between 2019-20 and 2024-25). The 2025-26 period is not yet complete as it doesn't include the full enrolment for Winter, Spring and Summer 2025 terms, but appears promising. Since the structure of certificate programs (generally four courses taken over 3-12 terms), reporting on their enrolment in the fall term is not as accurate as full degree programs with more consistent enrolment.

Programs offered in each of the faculties represented continue to be of interest to professionals looking to upgrade their skills, and similar programs might offer future possibilities for laddering into graduate degrees. In Fall 2025 six new interdisciplinary certificate programs moved through the governance cycle and will be sent for Ministry approval by early 2026. The intention is to launch many of these new certificates programs for Fall 2026.

TABLE 5: CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, CUMULATIVE TOTAL EACH ACADEMIC YEAR, BY FACULTY

Faculty	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Business	2	1		1			
Campus Saint-Jean	1	7	5	1	5	3	56
Education		30	59	114	118	204	191
KSR	24	33	31	29	28	34	35
Rehabilitation Medicine	88	99	116	84	70	60	57
Total	115	170	211	229	221	301	339

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

*The 2025-26 year is not yet complete as the full number of students in the Winter, Spring and Summer 2025 are not yet included.

Table 6 shows graduate enrolment in other programs, including qualifying, special and visiting students and the number remains variable. The relatively small number of students in this category reflects students that are meeting conditions for admission, visiting the U of A from another institution or are taking advanced studies in a non-degree format outside of a graduate credential.

TABLE 6: OTHER PROGRAMS (QUALIFYING, SPECIAL, VISITING STUDENTS), FALL HEADCOUNT BY FACULTY

Faculty	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
ALES	8	2	3	3	3	8	2
Arts	15	13	12	2	6	13	6
Business	15	6	9	16	11	14	16
Campus Saint-Jean	1					1	2
Education	4	6	3	6		3	1
Engineering	18	11	19	16	15	7	14
GPS*	1						40
KSR			1				
Law			1	2	1	1	
Medicine & Dentistry	1						
Native Studies	5	3	5	7	4	5	
Nursing	4	1	9	15	13	19	
Pharmacy	2			1	1	1	1
Public Health	4	3	3	2	3	1	
Rehabilitation Medicine	22	3	2	1	4	1	
Science	11	11	14	10	8	13	6
Total	111	59	81	81	69	87	88

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

*Note: Many visiting students list GPS as their primary faculty, especially those with a Western Deans' status.

TABLE 7: FALL 2025 HEADCOUNT BY COLLEGE AND FACULTY

College	Faculty	PhD	TBM	CBM	Cert.	Other	Total Grad Students	Total at College / Stand Alone Level	% of Total
College of Health Sciences	Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation	49	34	17	34		134	2,384	28.6%
	Medicine & Dentistry	282	312	10			604		
	Nursing	56	23	96			175		
	Pharmacy & Pharmacy Sciences	35	14			1	50		
	Public Health	56	81	185			322		
	Rehabilitation Medicine	60	38	945	56		1,099		
College of Natural + Applied Sciences	ALES	197	181	81		2	461	3,312	39.7%
	Engineering	700	563	275		14	1,552		
	Science	608	489	196		6	1,299		
College of Social Sciences + Humanities	Arts	353	202	144		6	705	2,484	29.8%
	Business	60		505		16	581		
	Education	213	57	720	189	1	1,180		
	Law	7	9				16		
Campus Saint-Jean		16	26	41	6	2	91	91	1.10%
Faculty of Native Studies		21	14	0	0	0	34	34	0.40%
Continuing Education		0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0%
Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies							40	40	0.50%
Total Student by Degree Type							Total	8,344	

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Note: Continuing Education still has two enrolments from the former Faculty of Extension. Following administrative changes in 2020, most students transferred with their program to another faculty. GPS students reflect non-degree and visiting students.

The percentage of graduate students who participate in full-time versus part-time graduate studies at the U of A varies by year. Over the past three years, at an aggregate level, more students are participating part-time instead of full-time, a percentage point more between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Outside of the pandemic years of 2019-20, the number of part-time students in 2024 is at its highest level since 2017.

TABLE 8: PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME GRADUATE STUDENTS

Status	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Full-time	81.0	80.4	81.4	82.7	82.2	81.2	80.9
Part-time	19.0	19.6	18.6	17.3	17.8	18.8	19.1

*Note: The 2025-26 cycle is not yet complete and the percentage breakdown may still change if students adjust their status partway through the year.

1.3. GRADUATE/UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT COMPARISON

Over the last seven years, graduate students have comprised roughly 20% of the total student population at the U of A. Table 9 highlights the balance of graduate to undergraduate students among individual faculties.

These ratios offer insights into the potential capacity of graduate students to support the undergraduate teaching and research activities of individual faculties. In the case of most faculties, the rates have remained relatively consistent over time.

- KSR, Medicine & Dentistry, Science, Arts and Business saw total student numbers trend upwards over seven years, while the percentage of graduate students decreased.
- Education and CSJ saw the percentage of graduate students increase as their total number of students increased.

TABLE 9: PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL STUDENTS, BY FACULTY

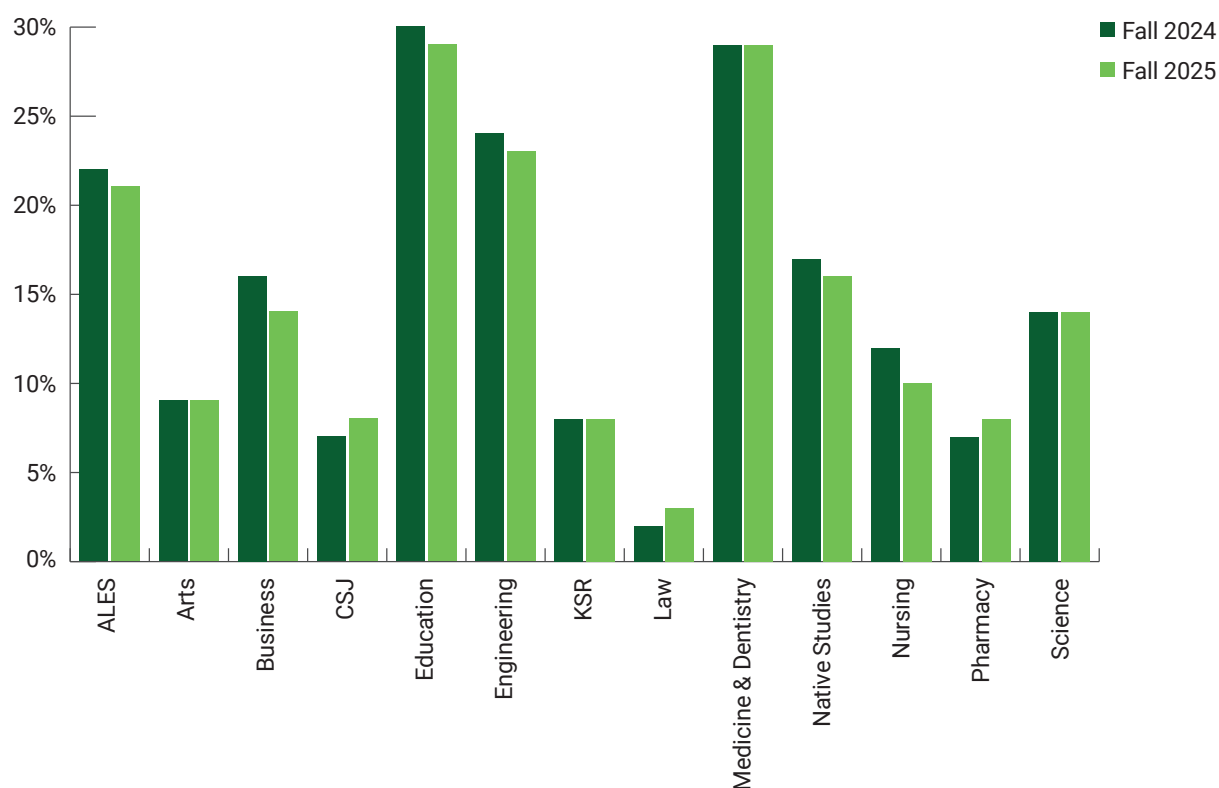
College	Faculty	Fall 2020		Fall 2021		Fall 2022		Fall 2023		Fall 2024		Fall 2025	
		Total	Grad%	Total	Grad%	Total	Grad%	Total	Grad%	Total	Grad%	Total	Grad%
College of Health Sciences	KSR	1,111	12	1,187	12	1,320	11	1,439	9	1,502	9	1,700	8
	Medicine & Dentistry	1,616	34	1,595	34	1,631	36	1,641	36	1,708	36	2,103	29
	Nursing	1,511	12	1,537	13	1,619	14	1,647	13	1,642	12	1,770	10
	Pharmacy	611	7	613	6	625	8	644	7	633	9	649	8
	Public Health	280	100	320	100	332	100	329	100	335	100	322	100
	Rehabilitation Medicine	1,004	100	997	100	1,006	100	975	100	985	100	1,099	100
College of Natural + Applied Sciences	ALES	2,048	25	2,185	22	2,249	21	2,145	23	2,231	23	2,184	21
	Engineering	6,400	28	6,504	27	6,545	27	6,415	26	6,509	25	6,865	23
	Science	7,624	17	8,399	15	8,633	16	8,850	15	9,065	15	9,323	14
College of Natural + Applied Sciences	Arts	6,798	11	7,457	10	7,668	9	7,462	10	7,599	9	7,768	9
	Business	2,789	26	2,907	25	2,947	24	3,762	20	3,978	15	4,082	14
	Education	3,805	25	3,993	24	4,055	24	4,018	26	3,965	28	4,074	29
	Law	579	2	566	3	588	3	587	3	591	3	605	3
Standalone Faculties + Other	Augustana	1,019	0	995	0	1,018	0	945	0	901	0	820	0
	Campus Saint-Jean	830	3	846	4	781	5	712	4	736	7	1,194	8
	Continuing Education	68	100	77	100	8	100	3	100	2	100	0	0
	GPS*	38	100	7	100	26	100	17	100	19	100	40	100
	Native Studies	221	12	212	15	225	11	216	14	210	16	216	16
	Open Studies	1,434	0	1,069	0	1,079	0	1,292	0	1,593	0	1,527	0
Grand Total		39,687	21	41,391	20	42,344	20	43,100	20	44,197	19	43,994	19

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number. Totals include all students (graduate, undergraduate).

*The students listed under GPS include Visiting or Western Deans Arrangement Students who aren't affiliated with a specific faculty.

FIGURE 6: YEAR OVER YEAR, PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL STUDENTS, BY FACULTY



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Note: Faculties with 100% or 0% graduate students are not represented in this figure to help focus on a scale to show year-over-year differences.

1.4. GRADUATE STUDENTS BY CITIZENSHIP

International graduate students (i.e., students on a student visa, work permit or study permit) make up 37.5% of total graduate student enrolment, which continued the downward trend in 2024-25 from a high (-4.2 percentage points from 41.7%) two years ago. Immigration issues and subsequent deferrals over the past three years continue to remain high, although this affects incoming cohorts more than current students. There is a strong probability that geopolitical uncertainties and natural disasters may continue to impact these numbers.

TABLE 10: TOTAL ENROLMENT AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PAST FALL (TOTAL, INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC)

Credential	Fall 2024			Fall 2025			Percentage Change, Fall 2024 to Fall 2025
	International	Domestic	Total	International	Domestic	Total	
PhD	1,527	1,247	2,774	1,482	1,231	2,713	-2.2%
Master's (Thesis-based)	934	1,133	2,067	837	1,206	2,043	-1.2%
Master's (Course-based)	930	2,297	3,228	743	2,472	3,215	-0.4%
Certificate	5	296	301	5	280	285	-5.3%
Other	51	35	87	46	42	88	+1.1%

As Table 11 shows, international students are distributed unevenly across faculties. The table does, however, reveal that faculty-specific international student participation has decreased in many faculties, with the exception of Business, Pharmacy and Public Health.

TABLE 11: PERCENTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY FACULTY

Program Faculty	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
ALES	50.8%	50.7%	52.0%	53.4%	61.7%	60.7%	58.1%
Arts	36.6%	34.3%	38.5%	40.9%	43.7%	42.5%	39.1%
Business	46.1%	39.0%	48.1%	55.9%	53.4%	58.5%	53.2%
Campus Saint-Jean	11.5%	3.1%	5.3%	6.5%	10.4%	4.8%	4.4%
Education	8.0%	6.9%	8.6%	11.1%	12.5%	9.8%	9.2%
Engineering	70.8%	67.0%	69.7%	72.7%	74.0%	72.7%	68.9%
KSR	19.4%	15.8%	15.0%	17.1%	18.6%	18.8%	13.4%
Law	23.1%	11.8%	11.8%	22.2%	29.4%	28.6%	25.0%
Medicine & Dentistry	33.1%	30.0%	30.9%	32.4%	34.8%	33.6%	31.3%
Native Studies	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%	3.2%
Nursing	20.3%	18.7%	12.4%	16.1%	16.4%	15.5%	17.1%
Pharmacy	69.0%	59.0%	54.7%	56.3%	59.3%	60.9%	54.0%
Public Health	14.6%	21.6%	23.8%	23.4%	25.1%	25.4%	18.9%
Rehabilitation Medicine	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%	3.2%	3.7%	3.6%	3.2%
Science	56.4%	54.4%	56.9%	59.5%	59.7%	57.8%	54.3%

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Note: In this chart, International Students do not include students in the categories with a citizenship status noted as Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident. Students with a refugee status are included with domestic students.

It is also noteworthy that the international graduate student population is very diverse in terms of country of origin. In all, graduate students hold citizenship from 110 countries.

TABLE 12: TOP 20 SOURCE COUNTRIES BY STUDENT CITIZENSHIP, BY PERCENTAGE

2024 Rank	Country of Citizenship	Fall 2019 %	Fall 2020 %	Fall 2021 %	Fall 2022 %	Fall 2023 %	Fall 2024 %	Fall 2025 %	Fall 2025 #
1	Canada	52.5	54.8	52.6	51	50.9	52.6	56	4,673
	*Permanent Residents	7.7	8.3	8.1	7.3	6.7	6.6	6.7	558
2	China	13.6	13	13.7	13.7	12.6	12.9	12.1	1,012
3	Iran	4.6	4.5	5.1	6.1	6.7	6	5.3	442
4	India	5.1	4.2	4.9	5.7	5.6	5	3.4	286
5	Bangladesh	1.6	1.6	2	2	2	1.9	1.6	132
6	Pakistan	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.2	103
7	Nigeria	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.1	95
8	United States	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	95

9	Ghana	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.2	1	87
10	Egypt	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	65
11	Colombia	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	55
12	Sri Lanka	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	52
13	Brazil	1	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	49
14	Mexico	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	47
15	Viet Nam	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	34
16	Turkey	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	32
17	Philippines	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	31
18	Nepal	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	31
19	Korea, South	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	30
20	Hong Kong SAR	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	22
Other Countries		6.2	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.9	4.9	5.2	-
Total Enrolment		8,225	8,202	8,402	8,408	8,363	8,457	-	8,344

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Note: Students are classified as either Domestic or International for purposes of fee assessments. In this table Domestic numbers include both Canadian and Permanent Resident totals. Students who are classified as Permanent Residents may hold citizenship in other countries; however, they are not counted in the totals for rows 2-20. Since their status has changed, they are no longer considered international students and they pay domestic fees and are included in the domestic totals.

Table 12 shows the 20 countries with the largest numbers of citizens enrolled in graduate studies at the university (by headcount) from 2019 to 2025. The 19 countries listed (without Canada and Permanent Residents) represent 32.4% of the graduate student headcount for Fall 2025 (down from Fall 2024 at 36.0% and Fall 2023 at 37.1%). While the positions of the countries on this list have varied over time, China, Iran and India have occupied the top three spots for over a decade. However, each of China, India and Iran saw decreases this year (India most significantly). These changes appear to be due to geopolitical situations abroad and changing immigration guidelines within Canada.

While this list has generally remained relatively stable, with just some shifting within the order, Hong Kong made it back to the top 20 source countries last year after being bumped out by Vietnam in 2024. While still in the top 20, both Ghana and Nigeria dropped to fewer than 100 students this year.

As the number of students from the countries in the bottom half are small, those countries tend to experience slight fluctuations depending on the year, so it is perhaps more telling to see those that continue to be on the list over several years.

The total percentage from other countries not in the top 19 countries (without Canada) held from last fall at 4.9%.

The percentage of Canadian students is the highest it's been in the seven reported years at 56.0%. The lowest percentage in that time was 2023 at 50.9%.

1.5. SPONSORED STUDENTS

Sponsored students are international students who are either partially or fully supported by their governments, national or multinational companies or third-party entities such as the Fulbright Program.⁴

TABLE 13: CITIZENSHIP OF SPONSORED GRADUATE STUDENTS

Country	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*	TOTAL
China	37	38	32	34	17	31	25	214
Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	5
Mexico	8	1	3	5	3	5	4	29
Colombia	2	1	5	10	4	4	2	28
Libya	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	6
Pakistan	0	0	6	17	0	0	1	24
Brazil	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chile	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	7
Yemen	7	3	0	1	0	0	1	11
Kazakhstan	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Other	15	12	18	13	8	15	6	87
TOTAL	78	61	66	85	32	57	38	417

Source: International Education & Enrolment (IEE) - Sponsored Student Program, Data as of Dec. 19, 2025

Notes: *Each academic year indicates the number of new sponsored students from that country, as of the winter semester, except for the 2025-26 academic year, which is based on Fall 2025 enrolment only.

Sponsored students come to the U of A from 31 different countries, the most common of which are listed in sequence in Table 13.⁵

The number of sponsored students varies from year to year, mainly as a result of factors such as political and economic changes in students' home countries and changes in diplomatic relationships between Canada and those nations. While last year saw an increase after the low of 2023-24, this year's number remains lower than typical. This may change as the number of deferrals has been high this year, and we may see more students register in Winter 2026, but also likely reflects the same geopolitical and immigration challenges impacting international enrolment more broadly.

As of Fall 2025, 38 sponsored graduate students are registered at the U of A, accounting for 1% of our international student enrolment.⁶

4 Support normally includes tuition, associated fees and living expenses for the duration of the student's degree program. The Sponsored Student Program is administered by the International Education & Enrolment (IEE) (formerly University of Alberta International (UAI)) Office.

5 The large number of sponsored students from China can be attributed to our success in attracting students through the China Scholarship Council. This program provides scholarships of up to four years of study in any field for those top Chinese students aspiring to earn doctoral degrees from the U of A. The average scholarship lengths are two years for master's students and four years for PhD students.

6 There are 3,447 international students registered in the Fall 2024 term, and there were 3,113 international students registered in the Fall 2025 term.

1.6. ENROLMENT BY GENDER

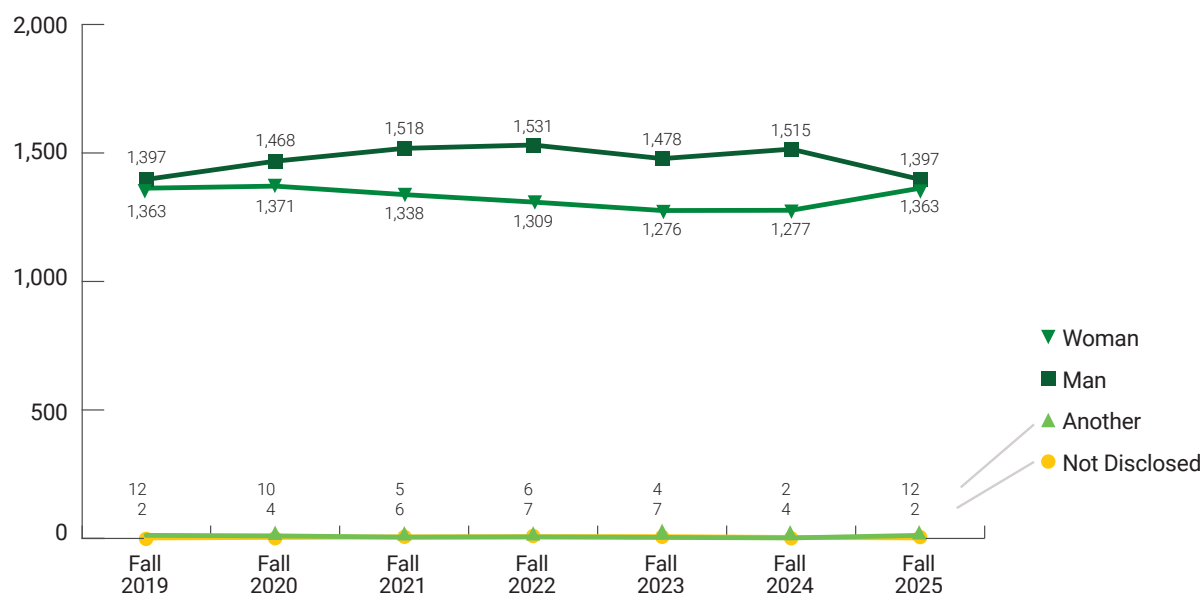
Table 14 and Figures 7 to 10 illustrate enrolment by gender in various categories of graduate programs, with the exception of certificate students.⁷ As in previous years, students enrolled as “female” outnumber students who enrolled as “male” overall in graduate studies. While our systems currently only provide info on the four gender categories below (i.e., woman, man, another and not disclosed), we are working to adjust this to ensure that gender descriptions are inclusive and accurate.

TABLE 14: FALL TERM GRADUATE ENROLMENT BY GENDER

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	% of Total
Female	4,342	4,415	4,547	4,592	4,672	4,761	4,776	57.2
Male	3,867	3,762	3,824	3,782	3,651	3,646	3,508	42.0
Other	6	14	21	26	34	46	53	0.6
Not Disclosed	10	11	10	8	6	4	7	0.1
TOTAL	7,971	8,225	8,204	8,414	8,424	8,375	8,466	100.0

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

FIGURE 7: DOCTORAL ENROLMENT BY GENDER



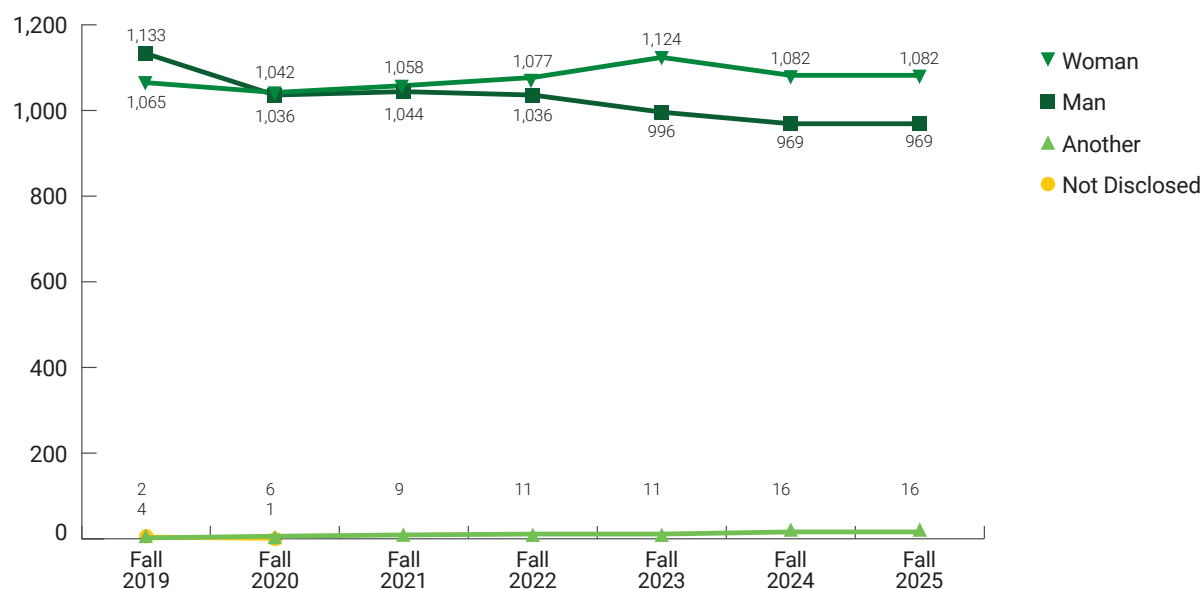
Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

As can be seen from Table 14, the number of graduate students who select “other” gender has grown in each of the past 7 years. The general figures, however, obscure a more complex picture. As the gender breakdown can vary greatly by credential. The percentage continues to trend towards gender parity with respect to men and women, as doctoral students who enrolled as “woman” virtually match the number of “men” this year.

The percentage of doctoral students who identified as “another” or “not disclosed” is 0.4%. The percentage of persons choosing the “not disclosed” categorization is down to 0.1%, from the high in 2022 and 2023 where it was at 0.3%.

⁷ Note that graduate admissions software implemented in 2017 allows applicants to self-identify as male, female, other or to choose not to disclose. Over time, this change in practice will allow us to reflect our students’ gender diversity with more nuance. Here we have aligned these categories to female, male, other or not disclosed. As we move to the new SLATE admissions system, this may be adjusted further.

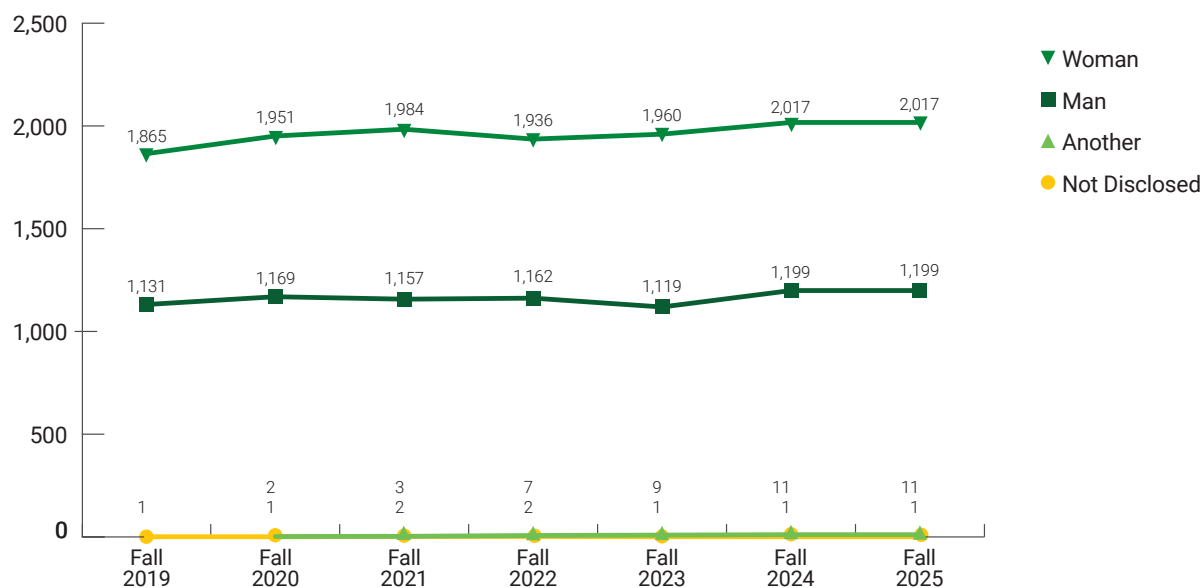
FIGURE 8: THESIS-BASED MASTER'S ENROLMENT BY GENDER



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Within thesis-based master's programs, students who enrolled as "woman" account for 52.3% of enrolments, while students who enrolled as "man" comprise 46.9% (see Figure 8). In the Fall of 2025, 0.8% noted "other" or "not disclosed".

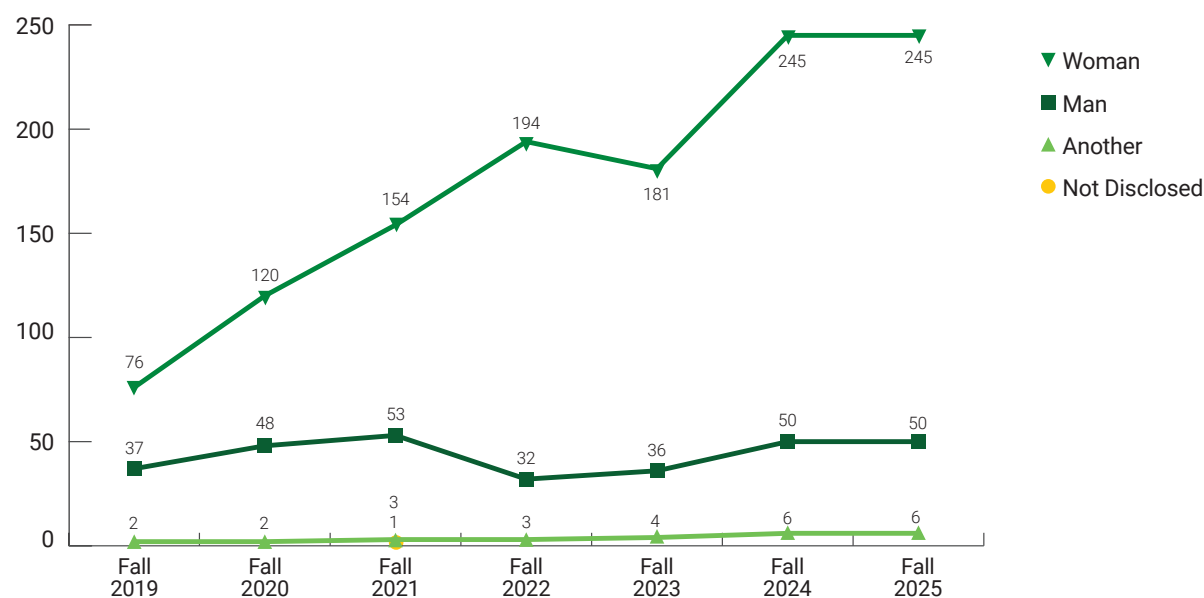
FIGURE 9: COURSE-BASED MASTER'S ENROLMENT BY GENDER



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

The situation is very different in our course-based master's programs, where the majority of registrants enrolled as "woman" (62.5) in 2025. The trend shows these numbers continue to remain divergent. The percentage of "another" or "not disclosed" is at 0.3%.

FIGURE 10: CERTIFICATE ENROLMENT BY GENDER



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

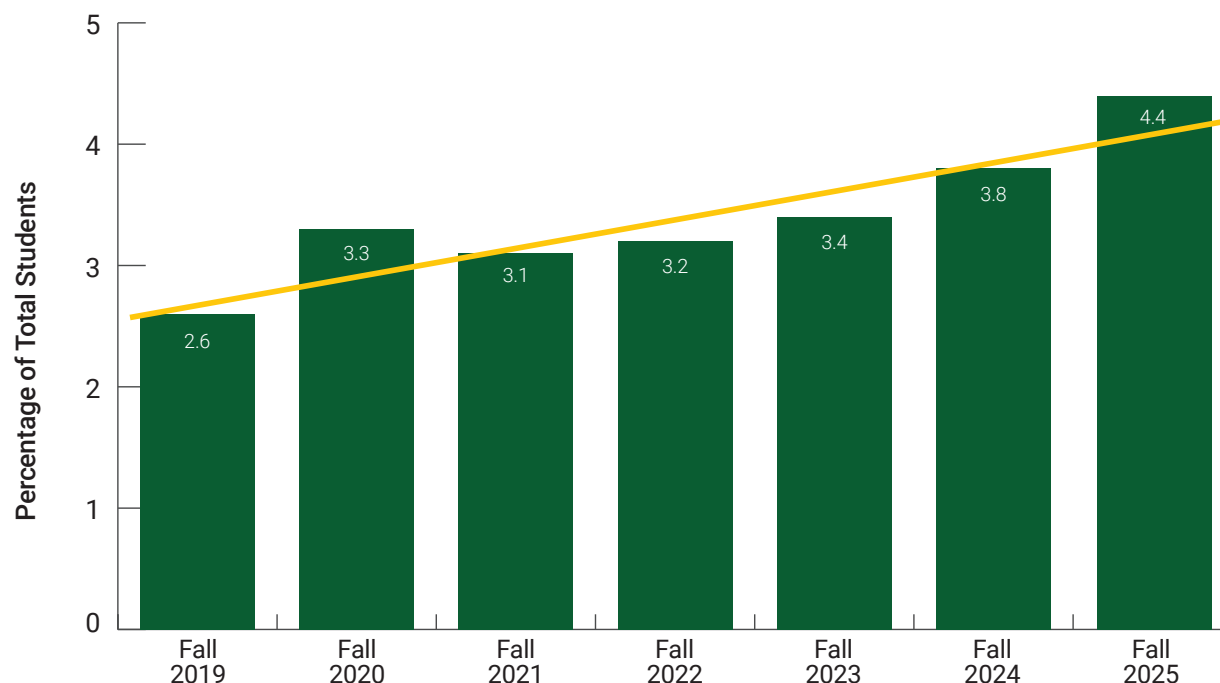
The widening gap between students who enrolled as “woman” and students who enrolled as “man” is very evident for certificate students. The proportion of students who enrolled as “woman” is similar to last year (81.4%). The percentage of certificate students who noted “another” or “not disclosed” was 2.0%.

Overall, the U of A data appears to be broadly in line with national figures reported by the U15 Institutions who participate in the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS). That said, as we look to increase enrolment across graduate programs, unraveling differences in learner populations will become increasingly important.

1.7. INDIGENOUS STUDENT ENROLMENT

The number of students registered in our graduate programs who are self-declared as First Nations, Métis or Inuit continues to increase: 367 students in 2025, compared to 215 in Fall 2019.⁸ Indigenous students now reflect 4.4% of the overall graduate student population (up from 3.8% in 2024).

FIGURE 11: PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS OUT OF TOTAL FALL GRADUATE ENROLMENT



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

The upward trend is reflected in registrations in most program categories. Over the past seven years, from 2019 to 2025, the percentage change in number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students enrolled is an increase of 141.4%.

The increase or decrease in Indigenous student registration by degree types over last fall was:

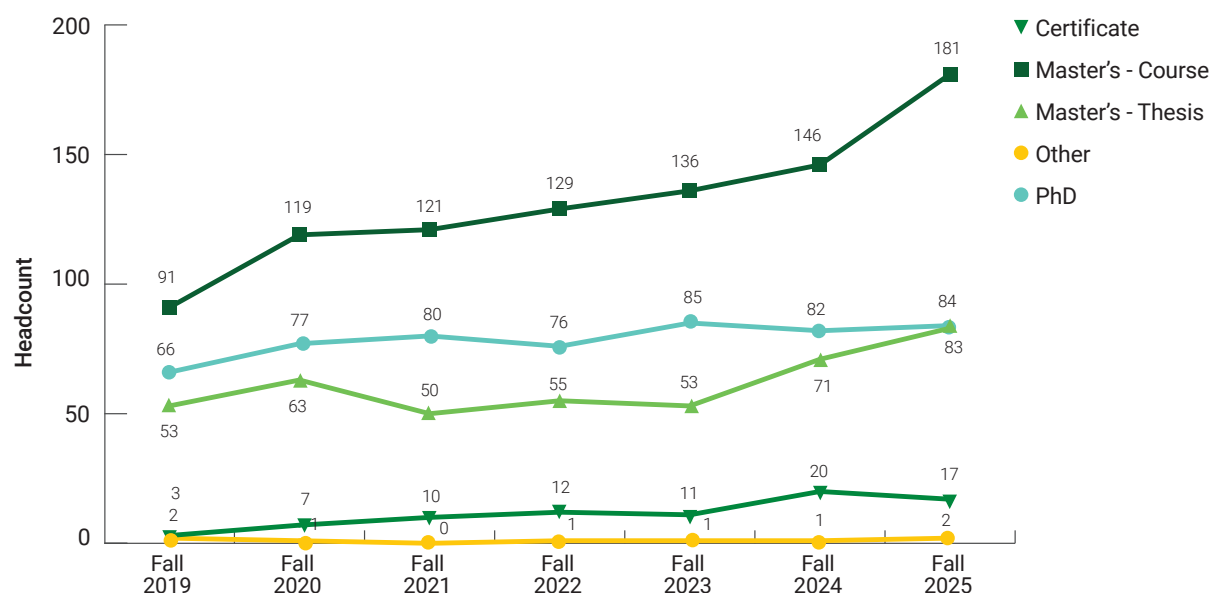
- PhD +2.4% increase (+2 students)
- Master's (thesis-based) +16.9% increase (+12 students)
- Master's (course-based) +24.0% increase (+35 students)
- Certificate -15.0% decrease (-3 students)

The distribution of Indigenous students from within Canada varies across faculties at the U of A. Table 15 highlights those faculties with the highest numbers of Indigenous graduate student enrolments.

Course-based master's programs have observed the largest increase in the number of Indigenous students enrolled (+24.0%), while the number in certificate programs decreased slightly (-15.0%). Indigenous enrolment in course-based master's programs increased by 35 students in the past year, doubling from 91 students in 2019. The Faculty of Education has the highest total of Indigenous graduate students (139) with the majority of those in the course-based master's program (94).

⁸ Student enrolment records are maintained in Campus Solutions, and students are able to self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

FIGURE 12: FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT STUDENT ENROLMENT (7 YEARS)



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Note: "Other" includes qualifying and visiting students, as well as people registered in post-baccalaureate certificates or post-graduate diplomas.

TABLE 15: FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT STUDENT ENROLMENT BY FACULTY, FALL 2025

Program Faculty	PhD	Master's (Thesis-based)	Master's (Course-based)	Certificate and Other
ALES	*		8	*
Arts	16		11	*
Business	*			9
CSJ			*	
Education	28	13	*	94
Engineering	*		9	*
KSR	*	*	*	*
Law	*		*	
Medicine & Dentistry	*		8	*
Native Studies	14		13	
Nursing	*		*	7
Pharmacy				
Public Health	6		8	*
Rehabilitation Medicine	*	*		51
Science	*		15	*
Combined * Faculties	20	4	11	3
Total	84	17	83	164

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Note: For protection of privacy, all numbers under five are reported as * and no totals are provided.

Note: "Other" includes qualifying and visiting students, as well as people registered in post-baccalaureate certificates or post-graduate diplomas.

2. APPLICATIONS, ADMISSIONS AND YIELD

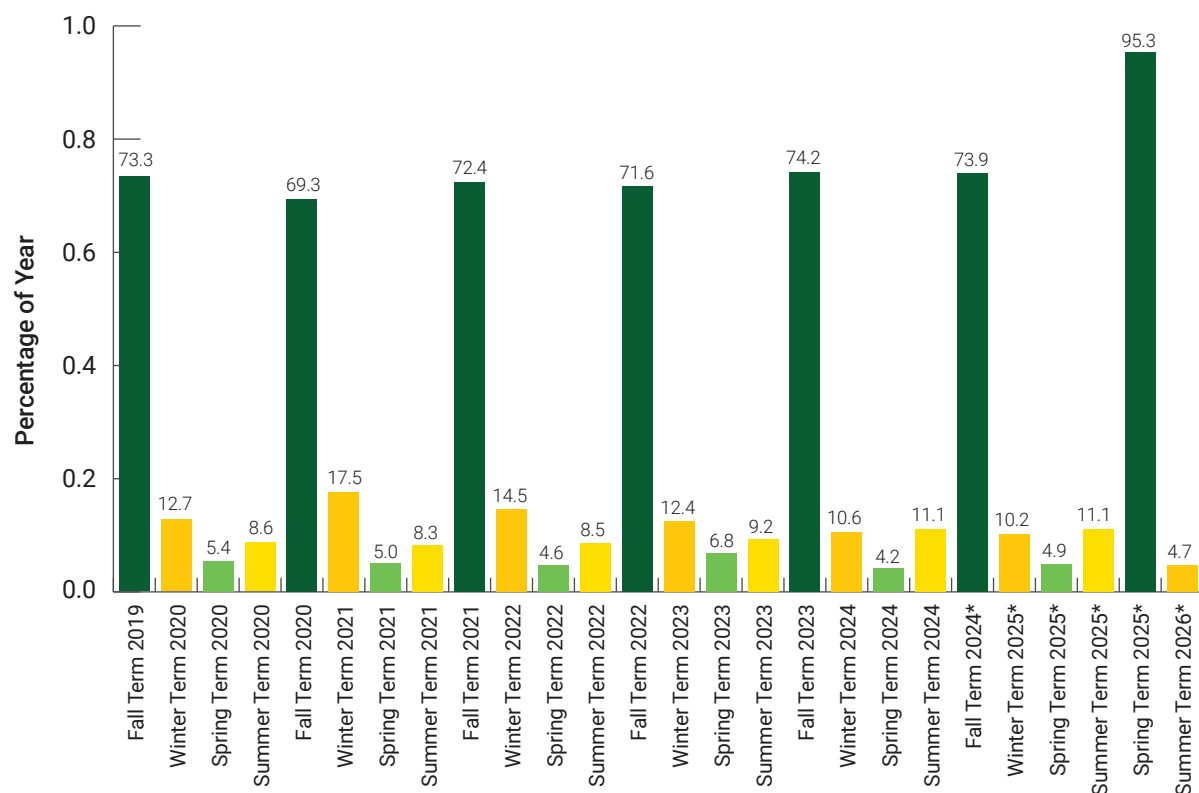
As of Dec. 1, 2025, the U of A has received 9,135 graduate applications (see Figure 14).⁹ As of Dec. 1, 2024, we had received 13,060 applications for the 2024-25 year. This is a decrease of 3,925 applications, or a -30.1% decrease since the same time last year. This appears to be, at least in part, due to increased immigration issues and geopolitical unrest.

2.1. GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

It is important to note that a large portion of graduate students do not start their programs in the fall term (Figure 13). From the 2019-20 to 2024-25 period, the average percentage of graduate students that start in a term other than fall is 27.4%. The 2024-25 year is slightly below average at 26.1%. As a result, in the figures and tables that follow (Figures 15 to 17, and Tables 16 and 17), we have presented provisional 2025-26 data* based on figures currently available in PeopleSoft Campus Solutions. In the future, we might also expect additional shifting in the terms students begin as we build more flexible graduate programs.

With the move to a new application system in September 2025, application windows for some programs for Winter, Spring and Summer 2025 were delayed to be captured in the new system. Those terms appear lower than usual at this time, even for the incomplete year, however we expect the numbers to even out once applications are reviewed at the end of the coming year.

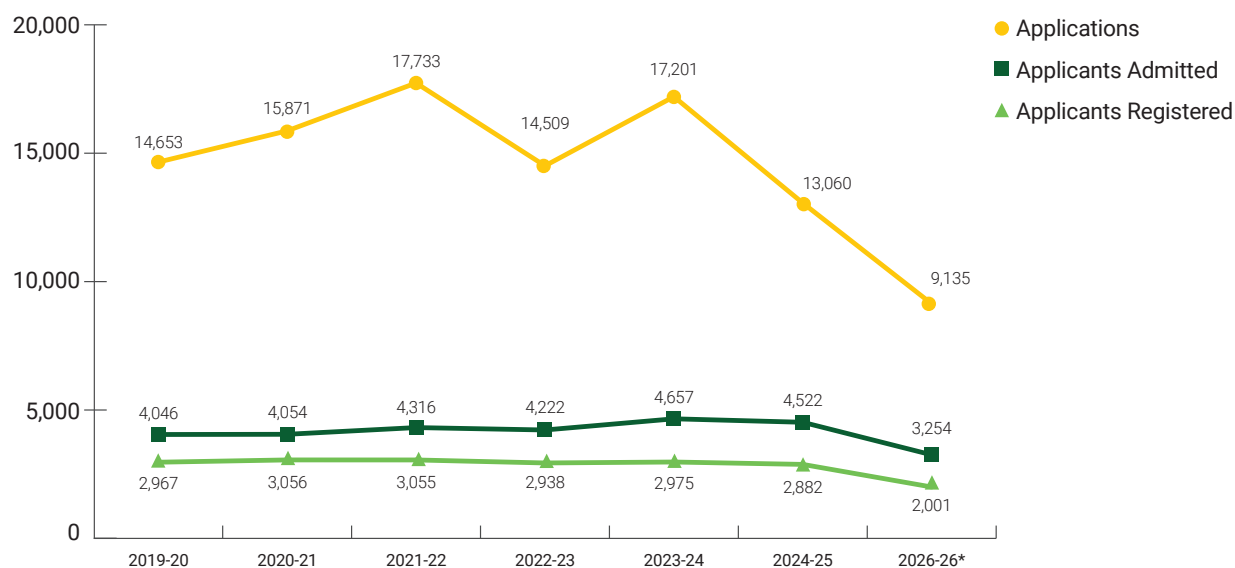
FIGURE 13: PERCENTAGE OF NEWLY ADMITTED GRADUATE STUDENTS BY TERM



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

⁹ When considering these figures, it is important to note that since 2017-18, GPS has tracked substantially more applications to U of A graduate programs than we did prior to that time. This is partly due to the new graduate admissions system implemented as part of the Graduate Studies Management Solution (GSMS). Previously, departments would sometimes pre-screen applicants and those applications that were not recommended for admission were not forwarded to GPS for processing. Migration to the new system allows the university to better understand the true demand for our programs, which is a key measure for our quality assurance processes. All applications processed in the new system are included in this analysis. A new application system was implemented in Fall 2025 for the coming academic year, and those numbers will start to be reflected next year.

FIGURE 14: TOTAL NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS



Source : Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

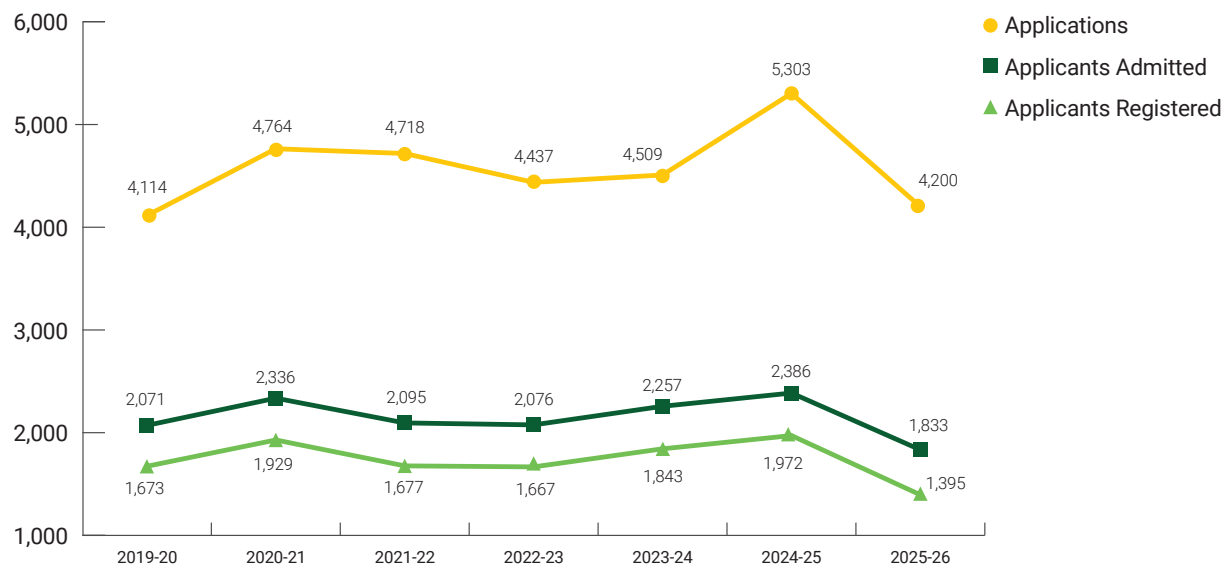
*Provisionary academic year figures (September to December) for 2025-26.

The first of the surrounding figures, Figure 14, illustrates the total number of applications for admission to graduate programs, the number of admissions offered and the number of subsequent registrations. This approach counts unique applications, not applicants: some applicants may have submitted multiple applications (though this is more likely at the undergraduate level).

As the table reveals, admission to U of A graduate programs remains competitive. This year, 35.6% of applications resulted in an offer of admission, but this number is not yet complete; however, as a percentage it is already higher than the full 2024-25 academic year rate (34.6%). This stems from the lower number of applications. In terms of headcount, the numbers are slightly lower than last year, but more stable than might be expected with such a decline in the number of applications.

The overall yield rate (that is, the proportion of admitted applicants who registered in graduate studies) currently stands at 61.5% (a slight decrease from 63.7% for 2024-25). However, it should be noted that the 2025-26 figures do not yet include data from the spring and summer terms. The current numbers suggest a trend of decreasing yield rate compared to the years 2019-2022, in which yield rate was typically between 69% and 76%.

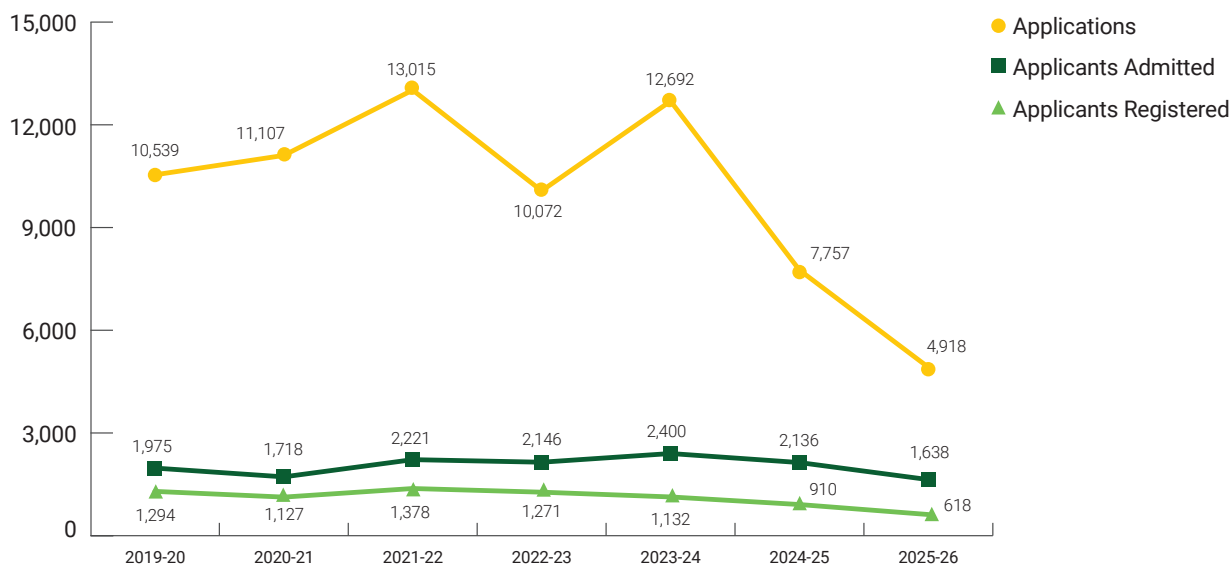
FIGURE 15: DOMESTIC GRADUATE STUDENT APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

*Provisionary academic year figures (September to December) for 2025-26.

FIGURE 16: INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

*Provisionary academic year figures (September to December) for 2025-26.

International applicants (i.e., students seeking to attend the university on a study-work visa) continue to make up a large part of the total graduate applicant pool. International applications have trended down over the past number of years, from the highest-ever level in 2021-22 (see Figure 16) with 13,015 applications. In 2023-24, we were close to the all-time high with 12,692. However, this year saw a continued drop, to 4,918, as of Dec. 1, 2025. At this same point last year, the number was at 7,757. While the cycle isn't over for this academic year, this is concerning – if the number were to remain where it is, we would have a 36.6% decrease over last year's international applications.

Of note, a very large number of Iranian applications were submitted during the December 2022 to July 2023 period when the application fee was waived due to banking issues in that country. This initiative inflated the number of applications received that year and is therefore not a valid basis for growth prediction.

While application rates this year are lower so far, the data suggests that immigration and geopolitical issues are affecting enrolment. Considering that the 2025-26 cycle is not complete yet, we anticipate that travel and immigration documentation issues will have an effect on this year's numbers again, especially when considered together with the high volume of deferrals observed again in Fall 2025. Graduate students who have deferred from the Fall 2025 term to another term are at 1,050, and of these, 710 are due to visa delays or travel issues (67.6%).¹⁰

TABLE 16: DOMESTIC GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Applications	4,114	4,764	4,718	4,437	4,509	5,303	4,200
Applicants Admitted	2,071	2,336	2,095	2,076	2,257	2,386	1,833
Applicants Registered	1,673	1,929	1,677	1,667	1,843	1,972	1,395

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Previous years data is for the full academic year.

*Provisionary academic year figures (September to December) for 2025-26.

TABLE 17: INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Applications	10,539	11,107	13,015	10,072	12,692	7,757	4,918
Applicants Admitted	1,975	1,718	2,221	2,146	2,400	2,136	1,638
Applicants Registered	1,294	1,127	1,378	1,271	1,132	910	618

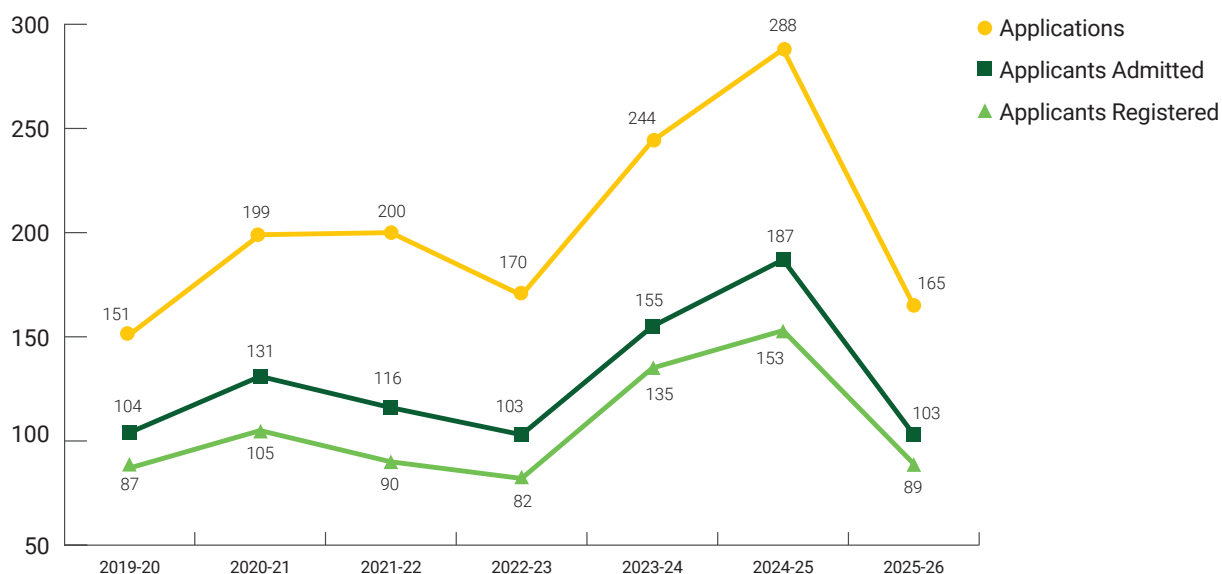
Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

Previous years data is for the full academic year.

*Provisionary academic year figures (September to December) for 2025-26.

¹⁰ Requests for deferrals from July 25, 2024-August 15, 2025, and the number noted includes deferrals to date from the Fall 2025 term to another term.

FIGURE 17: INDIGENOUS STUDENT APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dec. 1 Archive

*Provisionary academic year figures (September to December) for 2025-26.

We are pleased to note that the total Indigenous enrolment continues to increase (see Section 1.7), and the increase in applications also tells a promising story. The 2025-26 cycle is not yet complete, the apparent decrease in the chart is based on only partial data for this year. As Figure 17 reveals, the gap between applications and admissions is smaller than among non-Indigenous students: so far this year, 62.4% of applications from Indigenous students living within Canada are admitted, as opposed to 38.1% overall, and 86.4% of admitted students register, as opposed to 58.2% overall.¹¹

Although the applicant pool is proportionately smaller, with year-over-year fluctuations in total numbers, the broadly positive trend in both qualified applicants and registrations is well aligned with the strategic objectives of the U of A, and with our continued desire to realize the commitments laid out in *Braiding Past, Present and Future*. GPS is working to identify barriers and opportunities to recruit, support and retain Indigenous students, including creating pathways to increase engagement with Indigenous applicants and strong funding to support their graduate education journey.

¹¹ Both numbers are not yet complete for the 2025-26 cycle, but are comparing the same time period.

2.2. YIELD RATES

The yield rate, or the number of admitted students that register, is an important factor in informing our work around graduate student recruitment and enrolment.

One factor in admissions decisions is the Admissions Grade Point Average (AGPA).¹² While it is a core eligibility criterion for graduate admissions, it is rarely a final determining factor as there are other elements to consider, including letters of reference, statements of interest, CVs and so forth. Going forward at GPS, we continue to think about more and different ways to make admissions decisions as we work towards more equitable and inclusive measures for admission.

Tables 18 to 21 show both the percentage yield rate — the number of applicants admitted who register — as well as the average AGPA for all applicants admitted by program type. These figures illustrate consistently high entry AGPAs over the reported period.¹³

The doctoral yield rate last year and this year (so far) is low and requires further investigation, however, we know that the yield rate will still increase as we continue throughout the academic year. Comparing Dec. 1 data with last year shows that at this same time, the doctoral yield rate was 53.0%, which is only 1.5 percentage points above the Dec. 1 data this year. That said, this decrease could represent supervisory or resource capacity as well as previously noted challenges with international graduate student enrolment over the past year. These numbers will be closely tracked in the context of the implementation of Minimum Guaranteed Funding for doctoral students. Among doctoral applicants, this year's average AGPA is higher than last year, however, the cycle is not yet complete.

TABLE 18: DOCTORAL YIELD RATE AND AVERAGE AGPA

	Average AGPA	Applicants Admitted	Applicants Registered	Percentage Yield
2019-20		701	509	72.6
2020-21		599	482	80.5
2021-22		630	465	73.8
2022-23		649	468	72.1
2023-24		625	359	57.4
2024-25		615	338	55.0
2025-26*		496	279	56.3

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note that 2025-26 numbers are preliminary and do not include all terms.

While the 2025-26 year is not yet complete, the yield rate for thesis-based master's and course-based master's programs is currently fairly low. It is, however, not too far from the Dec. 1 data for 2024-25 (68% for thesis-based master's and 52% for course-based master's). While it is relatively static trendwise for thesis-based master's programs, for course-based master's programs it continues to trend downward. For applicants to master's programs, the AGPA remains fairly consistent over the last several years, but is generally trending higher over the past 10 years.

¹² The Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) is calculated from the grades on the most recent 60 course credits taken by the applicant. The AGPAs of the applicants who were not admitted are unknown to GPS.

¹³ This section considers only those students in doctoral and master's programs. Students in other program categories (qualifying and visiting students) and those registered in post-master's certificate and graduate certificate programs are not included.

TABLE 19: THESIS-BASED MASTER'S YIELD RATE AND AVERAGE AGPA

	Average AGPA	Applicants Admitted	Applicants Registered	Percentage Yield
2019-20		1,038	778	75.0
2020-21		992	775	78.1
2021-22		1,055	791	75.0
2022-23		989	754	76.2
2023-24		1,070	751	70.2
2024-25		961	653	68.0
2025-26*		845	547	64.7

Source: Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note: 2025-26 numbers are preliminary and do not include all terms.

TABLE 20: COURSE-BASED MASTER'S YIELD RATE AND AVERAGE AGPA

	Average AGPA	Applicants Admitted	Applicants Registered	Percentage Yield
2019-20		1,978	1,414	71.5
2020-21		2,064	1,481	71.8
2021-22		2,165	1,430	66.1
2022-23		2,145	1,339	62.4
2023-24		2,461	1,460	59.3
2024-25		2,422	1,453	60.0
2025-26*		1,912	1,018	53.2

Source: Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note: 2025-26 numbers are preliminary and do not include all terms.

The yield rate in certificate programs continues to be encouraging. While the 2025-26 year is not yet complete, the yield is already high compared with last year's full year numbers (82.6%), even though some certificates typically run over the spring and summer terms. Growth in certificates continues to show that demand for microcredentials remains strong and that certificates may provide a helpful entry for working professionals to come back to higher education.

TABLE 21: CERTIFICATE YIELD RATE AND AVERAGE AGPA

	Applicants Admitted	Applicants Registered	Percentage Yield
2019-20	153	123	80.4
2020-21	217	184	84.8
2021-22	253	212	83.8
2022-23	298	255	85.6
2023-24	376	302	80.3
2024-25	288	238	82.6
2025-26*	122	98	80.3

Source: Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note: 2025-26 numbers are preliminary and do not include all terms.

Note: Graduate Certificates no longer require an AGPA to be calculated for every application. Some certificates still require an AGPA, while others do not. With this variance, we are no longer reporting the AGPAs for graduate certificates because it is not captured consistently.

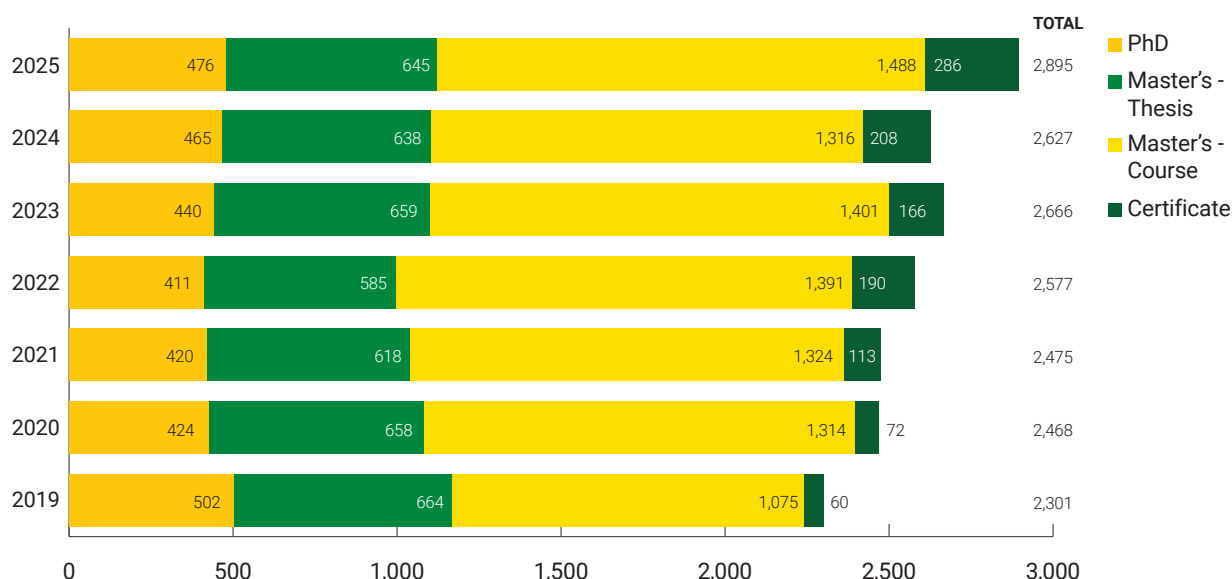
3. RETENTION AND COMPLETION

This section provides information on three key measures of program success: graduate degrees granted, average completion time and rates of attrition. The first two measures are reported by graduating cohort and include all individuals who graduated in a given calendar year.¹⁴

3.1. GRADUATE DEGREES GRANTED

The U of A saw a strong number of graduate students convocate again this year, 2,895 students, in continuing relative growth over the past several years. Since 2019, the total number has increased by 25.8% or 594 students, which equates to a total of 18,009 graduate students who convocated from all categories during the period.

FIGURE 18: CONVOCANTS BY DEGREE, OVER 7 YEARS



Source: Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note: Convocation numbers are for the year from January to December (not the Academic Year - September to August).

Convocant numbers continue to trend upward, with this year's increases led by course-based master's and certificate programs.

3.2. COMPLETION TIME

A key measure impacting enrolment, as well as student experience and success, is the time to completion. For the purpose of the data presented below, completion time is defined as the period from a student's first registration date to their program completion date. In graduate studies, times to completion vary widely by credential types.

Leaves of absence can potentially skew overall completion times as they are not factored in, at present, to the data as presented. A leave of absence has the effect of pausing a student's time in-program as they cease to continue working on their program while on leave. In some instances, a student may have multiple leaves or one leave that is extended if the reason for the leave takes longer than expected to be resolved. Further, with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions on university

¹⁴ Note that the parameters for convocation numbers include the two convocations each year, Spring and Fall up to 2025 (a third convocation ceremony is being introduced in 2026). Therefore, the numbers cannot be precisely correlated with admissions numbers, which are based on the academic year. This provides the most accurate picture of completion times based on the available information.

research, international travel and visa processing delays, graduate students were eligible to take special leaves of absence when it was clear they could not progress in their programs through no fault of their own.

It is also important to note that the leave of absence policy changed in 2020, and again in 2025, to further support our students in their work to complete their programs while dealing with all sorts of issues in their lives.

3.2.1 AVERAGE COMPLETION TIME

In 2025, recipients of doctoral degrees took an average of 5.57 years to complete their studies. Those in thesis-based master's programs had required on average 2.74 years, while those in course-based master's programs took 2.17 years. Certificate students took on average 1.47 years to complete.¹⁵

While these completion times broadly reflect those witnessed in previous years, a few observations emerge. The first is that average completion times for students in doctoral programs are high relative to average doctoral program completion times reported by other sources.¹⁶ Although slightly lower than last year, average completion times remain under the GPS mandated maximum of six years. The second observation is that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lengthening of completion times for research-based students seem to have leveled off again after reaching a high of 5.63 years in 2022. The average completion times for students in course-based master's programs remain markedly shorter than for those in thesis-based master's programs

It is also interesting to note that international students consistently complete their programs in less time than domestic students, year over year, in every type of degree program, with the exception of international certificate students (Table 23).

Another factor that may affect the greater variability in completion time for master's and certificate students is the variability in structure (i.e., number of credits) depending on the specific program. So as new programs begin in both credential types, this may show fluctuations.

¹⁵ Note that figures appearing here differ from those reported in previous enrolment reports. In 2020, the methodology used to calculate completion times was revised. The new calculation is more accurate in that it measures individual students' completion time from the admission term (date of first term of attendance) to the end date of the completion term listed on the student's transcript (instead of convocation date).

¹⁶ While recent data for Canadian mean time to completion for doctoral students seems elusive, Stats Canada data released in January 2023 tracks the doctoral cohort and noted an average time to graduation for doctoral students of 4.84 years in 2014-15. Back in 2013, University Affairs published an article noting that mean times-to-completion ranged from five years to just over six years.

TABLE 22: AVERAGE COMPLETION TIME (IN YEARS) BY DEGREE TYPE, OVER 7 YEARS

Convocation Year	PhD	Master's (Thesis-based)	Master's (Course-based)	Certificate
2019	5.56	2.63	2.25	2.32
2020	5.60	2.65	2.14	2.08
2021	5.48	2.71	2.15	1.70
2022	5.63	2.85	2.14	1.60
2023	5.58	2.73	2.10	1.60
2024	5.57	2.74	2.17	1.47
2025	5.64	2.67	2.04	1.36

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note: Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to a student's completion date, and includes any time away from the program (i.e., leaves of absence).

The time to completion increased for all graduate credentials for international students, with the exception of certificates. The trend of decreased time to completion for domestic students in the PhD program shifted slightly this year with a small increase for the first time in the reporting period.

TABLE 23: AVERAGE COMPLETION TIMES IN YEARS BY CITIZENSHIP, OVER 7 YEARS

Convocation Year	PhD		Master's (Thesis-based)		Master's (Course-based)		Certificate	
	Domestic	International	Domestic	International	Domestic	International	Domestic	International
2019	5.86	5.06	2.74	2.41	2.42	1.66	2.32	
2020	5.98	4.98	2.71	2.54	2.42	1.61	2.09	1.85
2021	5.85	4.96	2.78	2.61	2.40	1.62	1.68	2.07
2022	5.97	5.23	2.99	2.66	2.35	1.6	1.6	1.54
2023	5.99	5.10	2.91	2.52	2.43	1.60	1.54	3.33
2024	5.92	5.24	2.92	2.57	2.43	1.64	1.47	1.70
2025	6.15	5.21	2.77	2.57	2.30	1.61	1.36	-

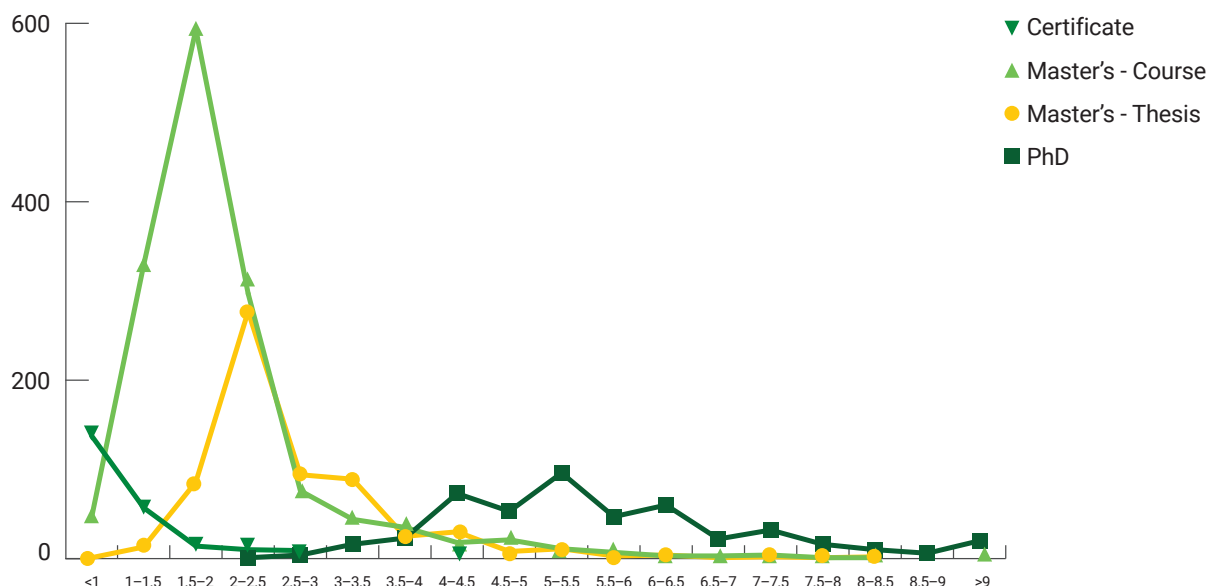
Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note: Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to a student's completion date, and includes any time away from the program (i.e., leaves of absence).

3.2.2 DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLETION TIMES

Completion time, as noted above, is a complex variable; its significance is not fully captured in a single measure.

FIGURE 19: COMPLETION DISTRIBUTION BY DEGREE, 2025



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

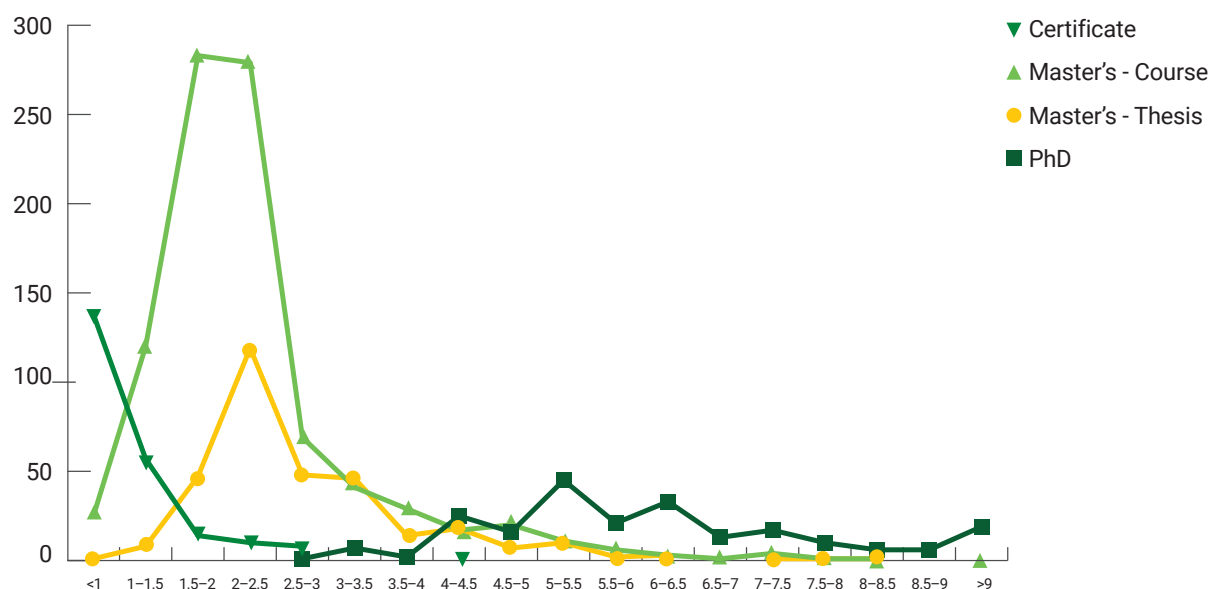
Note: Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to a student's completion date and includes any time away from the program (i.e., leaves of absence).

While the average time to completion (reported below) offers a means to track overall performance, it obscures information about the variability and range of completion patterns. Figure 19 illustrates the distribution of completion times for 2025 graduates, in an effort to bring more clarity to the issue.

Not surprisingly, the trend is for the majority of master's students to finish within the expected range; the curve, however, includes a long tail reflecting relatively small numbers of students whose longer completion times skew the average completion time upward.

The PhD pattern is differently distributed, illustrating the fact that while some international students may go beyond the six-year time limit for their program; this is far less common than with domestic students (compare Figures 20 and 21 below).

FIGURE 20: DOMESTIC COMPLETION DISTRIBUTION BY DEGREE, 2025

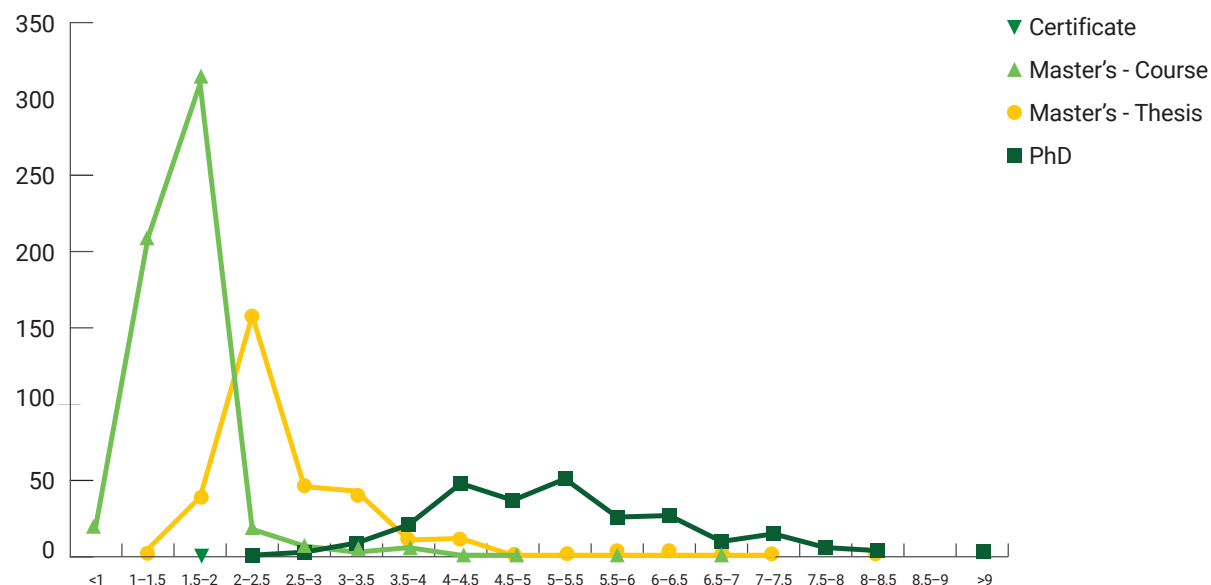


Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Notes:

1. The figure represents the distribution of time to completion in elapsed years, including time taken on leaves of absences;
2. Domestic = Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.
3. Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to a student's completion date and includes any time away from the program (i.e., all leaves of absence).

FIGURE 21: INTERNATIONAL COMPLETION DISTRIBUTION BY DEGREE, 2025



Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Note:

1. The figure represents the distribution of time to completion in elapsed years, including time taken on leaves of absences;
2. International = students attending the university on a study/work visa at time of admission.
3. Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to a student's completion date and includes any time away from the program (i.e., all leaves of absence).
4. Due to the low number of international certificate students (4), this data has been removed from Figure 21.

3.2.3 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The number of students on all types of leaves of absence (including, for example, the exceptional leave of absence¹⁷) continues to trend upward for research-based credentials. However, the total number of students on leave has increased this year over last year by 52.5% (101 to 154 students¹⁸). This increase is driven largely by PhD and Course-based Masters students, and the average lengths of leaves are fairly steady.

We continue to hope that the leaves are being utilized as an appropriate tool to assist students who are facing challenges mentally, physically, and otherwise. An update to the graduate Leaves of Absence policy was introduced in the Fall of 2025 and so any changes driven by the policy updates will not be seen until next year at the earliest.

TABLE 24: AVERAGE LENGTH OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE (LOA) (IN YEARS) BY DEGREE TYPE

Convocation Year	PhD		Master's (Thesis-based)		Master's (Course-based)	
	Average LOA	Students on LOA	Average LOA	Students on LOA	Average LOA	Students on LOA
2019	0.80	55	0.54	31	0.94	18
2020	0.91	48	0.68	32	0.88	26
2021	0.86	52	0.60	39	0.77	27
2022	0.84	51	0.52	39	0.85	34
2023	0.67	55	0.70	51	0.84	24
2024	0.87	41	0.65	32	0.81	27
2025	0.87	63	0.65	39	0.83	49

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

TABLE 25: AVERAGE LENGTH OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE (LOA) (IN YEARS) BY CITIZENSHIP, OVER 7 YEARS

Convocation Year	Overall		Domestic		International	
	Average LOA	Students on LOA	Average LOA	Students on LOA	Average LOA	Students on LOA
2019	0.75	105	0.78	84	0.63	21
2020	0.83	106	0.87	90	0.61	16
2021	0.75	118	0.75	98	0.78	20
2022	0.74	124	0.79	95	0.56	29
2023	0.71	129	0.74	94	0.61	35
2024	0.79	101	0.86	73	0.60	28
2025	0.80	154	0.94	105	0.48	49

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

As in previous years, domestic students continue to be more likely than international students to take leaves, and this year the average length of leave for domestic students has risen. While the number of International students who have taken a leave increased, the average length for those leaves reduced.

¹⁷ In instances where students may be dealing with extenuating or unanticipated circumstances beyond their control, leaves of absence are an important administrative option that transparently and equitably supports students towards successful completion. This means that when they cannot work on their research, their time in-program will not continue to advance.

¹⁸ Includes one certificate student who is on leave who is not reflected in Table 24, but is reflected in Table 25.

3.3. COMPLETION AND ATTRITION RATES

Another important factor in managing enrolment is the relative proportion of U of A graduate students who complete their programs. To determine completion and attrition rates, we categorize the graduate students that started their program in each academic year into three groups: those who were still active at the end of each Spring term; those who have convocated; and those who have left the university without acquiring any credential(s).¹⁹ For the purposes of this section we have included a longer period of data since expected completion times vary widely by credential types.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic appear to have negatively impacted completion times and most likely also impacted attrition rates. Students who anticipated completing their doctoral or master's degree may have been delayed in reaching certain milestones due to university closures and/or research activity ramp-downs and as a result required a longer active registration period.

Table 26 presents doctoral attrition and completion rates. The table does not report the rates for cohorts that fall within the six-year completion time for a PhD but does report the absolute number of convocating, still active, and remaining students for those groups.

Doctoral attrition rates remain an area of concern and GPS intends to work with programs to better understand the causes and to propose strategies on how they could be reduced in the coming years. It is, however, encouraging that since 2000, the attrition rates have decreased steadily, albeit unevenly.

TABLE 26: DOCTORAL ATTRITION AND COMPLETION RATES

Year	Applicants Registered	Students Who Have Completed	Students Still Active in Program	Program Not Completed	Attrition Rate (%)	Completion Rate (%)
2005-06	390	294	0	96	24.6	75.4
2006-07	460	358	1	101	22.0	78.0
2007-08	459	365	1	93	20.3	79.7
2008-09	490	408	1	81	16.5	83.5
2009-10	562	474	1	87	15.5	84.5
2010-11	533	446	3	84	15.8	84.2
2011-12	517	427	2	88	17.0	83.0
2012-13	541	431	7	103	19.0	81.0
2013-14	477	390	9	78	16.4	83.7
2014-15	466	374	13	79	17.0	83.1
2015-16	467	355	26	86	18.4	81.6
2016-17	437	328	40	68	15.6	84.2
2017-18	484	340	84	60	12.4	87.6
2018-19	479	270	158	51	10.7	89.4
2019-20	506	186	266	54	N/A	N/A
2020-21	483	75	352	56	N/A	N/A
2021-22	461	25	384	52	N/A	N/A
2022-23	474	4	424	46	N/A	N/A
2023-24	409	1	402	6.0	N/A	N/A

¹⁹ Note that students currently recorded as "active" may either convocate or leave their program without a degree in the future. Thus, attrition rates reported for cohort years that still retain active students become increasingly speculative as we move toward the present.

2024-25	314	0	314	0.0	N/A	N/A
2025-26 ³						

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Notes:

1. Figures are calculated taking into account the student's program at the term of admission, which has implications for students who move from master's to PhD programs without formally reapplying (and, conversely, for students who are repositioned in master's programs from the doctoral programs they entered, usually as a result of a failed candidacy exam).
2. 2025-26 includes numbers for all four terms, but is incomplete as it doesn't show the full picture (late registration for Winter 2026, Spring 2026 and Summer 2026 terms).
3. Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to their completion date, and includes any time away from the program (i.e., all leaves of absence).

TABLE 27: THESIS-BASED MASTER'S ATTRITION AND COMPLETION RATES

Year	Applicants Registered	Students Who Have Completed	Students Still Active in Program	Program Not Completed	Attrition Rate (%)	Completion Rate (%)
2005-06	616	537	1	78	12.7	87.3
2006-07	652	567	1	84	12.9	87.1
2007-08	706	608	0	98	13.9	86.1
2008-09	730	645	0	85	11.6	88.4
2009-10	810	736	0	74	9.1	90.9
2010-11	697	622	1	74	10.6	89.4
2011-12	744	673	0	71	9.5	90.5
2012-13	786	701	2	83	10.6	89.4
2013-14	761	684	1	76	10.0	90.0
2014-15	757	692	0	65	8.6	91.4
2015-16	770	694	9	67	8.7	91.3
2016-17	842	764	11	67	8.0	92.0
2017-18	817	712	27	78	9.6	90.5
2018-19	820	699	47	74	9.0	91.0
2019-20	777	609	109	59	7.6	92.4
2020-21	773	532	164	77	10.0	90.0
2021-22	795	477	268	50	6.3	93.7
2022-23	755	183	537	35	4.6	95.4
2023-24	810	11	772	27.0	N/A	N/A
2024-25	596	0	596	0.0	N/A	N/A
2025-26 ³	572	0	572	0	N/A	N/A

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Notes:

1. Figures are calculated taking into account the student's program at the term of admission.
2. Excludes students in other program categories (qualifying and visiting students and those registered in post-baccalaureate certificates or post-graduate diplomas).
3. 2025-26 includes numbers for all four terms, but is incomplete as it doesn't show the full picture (late registration for Winter 2026, Spring 2026 and Summer 2026 terms).
4. Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to a student's completion date and includes any time away from the program (i.e., all leaves of absence).

In general, master's completion rates over the last several years remain between 90% and 96% (see Tables 27 and 28), and both thesis-based and course-based completion rates are trending upward, while attrition rates are trending downward.

Note that we have not reported attrition and completion rates for cohorts within the mandated three-year completion time of a master's degree.

TABLE 28: COURSE-BASED MASTER'S ATTRITION AND COMPLETION RATES

Year	Applicants Registered	Students Who Have Completed	Students Still Active in Program	Program Not Completed	Attrition Rate (%)	Completion Rate (%)
2005-06	633	569	0	64	10.11	89.89
2006-07	727	639	1	87	11.97	88.03
2007-08	878	778	0	100	11.39	88.61
2008-09	898	807	0	91	10.13	89.87
2009-10	1,032	917	0	115	11.14	88.86
2010-11	1,042	945	1	96	9.21	90.79
2011-12	1,114	1,019	0	95	8.53	91.47
2012-13	980	901	0	79	8.06	91.94
2013-14	1,121	1,018	0	103	9.19	90.81
2014-15	978	916	0	62	6.34	93.66
2015-16	994	930	2	61	6.14	93.76
2016-17	1,196	1,109	6	81	6.77	93.23
2017-18	1,237	1,154	8	75	6.06	93.94
2018-19	1,392	1,320	12	60	4.31	95.69
2019-20	1,370	1,271	40	59	4.31	95.69
2020-21	1,462	1,288	86	88	6.02	93.98
2021-22	1,413	1,103	251	59	4.18	95.82
2022-23	1,344	639	661	44	3.30	96.07
2023-24	1,511	59	1,434	18	N/A	N/A
2024-25	1,033	0	1,032	1	N/A	N/A
2025-26 ³	1,067	0	1,067	0	N/A	N/A

Source: Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Internal Script with data extracted from Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Dec. 1, 2025.

Notes:

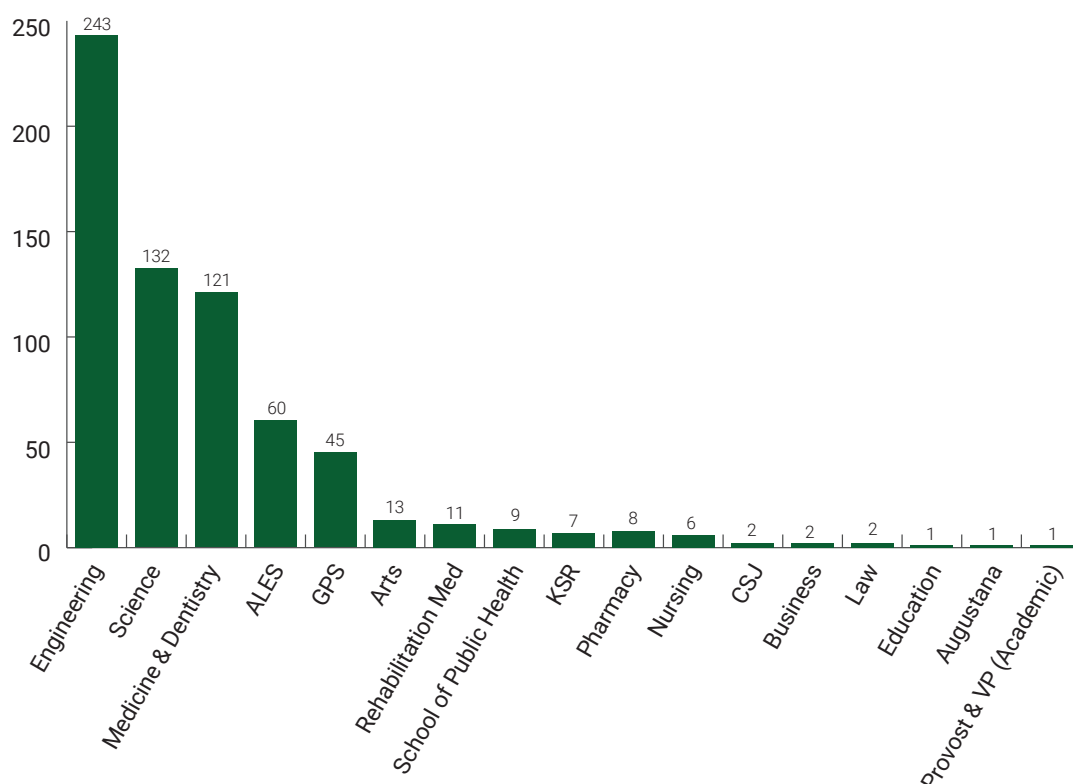
1. Figures are calculated taking into account the student's program at the term of admission.
2. Excludes students in other program categories (qualifying and visiting students and those registered in post-baccalaureate certificates or post-graduate diplomas).
3. 2025-26 includes numbers for all four terms, but is incomplete as it doesn't show the full picture (late registration for Winter 2026, Spring 2026 and Summer 2026 terms).
4. Completion time here is the period from a student's registration date to a student's completion date and includes any time away from the program (i.e., all leaves of absence).

4. POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS

GPS is pleased to now provide support for postdoctoral scholars across campus. This group comprises three categories²⁰: Postdoctoral Employees, Postdoctoral Trainees and Postdoctoral Guests. The large majority of postdoctoral scholars are employees, so they are in a different category than graduate students, and so this data does not fall within the category of “enrolment”. However, as GPS now provides support for this important group of researchers on campus, we include here some high-level data to highlight this community and their characteristics.

Postdoctoral scholar data is at a point in time, as their appointment length typically varies from three months to five years. While the below data (Figure 22) is reflective of an November 2025 date, it does not provide for a complete picture of this population across the academic year.

FIGURE 22: NUMBER OF POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS BY FACULTY



Source: HCM Data pulled by Shared Services, November 18, 2025

Notes:

1. The postdoctoral scholars listed under GPS are those funded through GPS scholarships and awards.

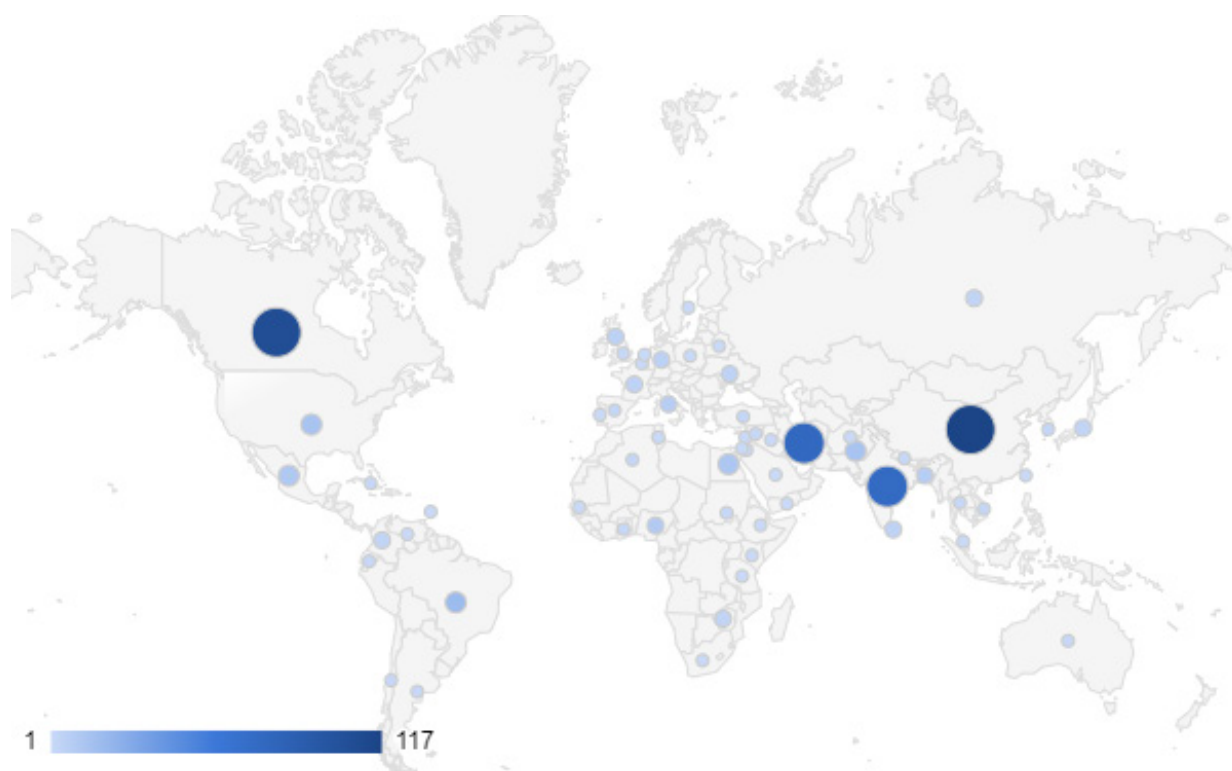
As of November 2025, postdoctoral scholars were from over 65 countries, with China (148), Canada (128), Iran (70), India (67), Brazil (34), Pakistan (18), Mexico (17), Sri Lanka (13), USA (13), Nigeria (12) and Bangladesh (10) the most common countries of origin.²¹ This diversity reflects the number of available postdoctoral researchers, agreements, and relationships being built at the U of A.

From prior tracking of postdoctoral scholars, we know that many stay in Canada, resulting in a brain gain for Canada, and more specifically Alberta.

²⁰ In October 2025, the second collective agreement between the U of A and the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA) was ratified. In that agreement, the term Fellow has been updated to Scholar, and the categories were renamed to Postdoctoral Scholar Employees, Postdoctoral Scholar Awardees (formerly Trainees) and Postdoctoral Scholar Visitors (formerly Guests).

²¹ These are the countries from which greater than 10 postdoctoral scholars originate.

FIGURE 23: POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP

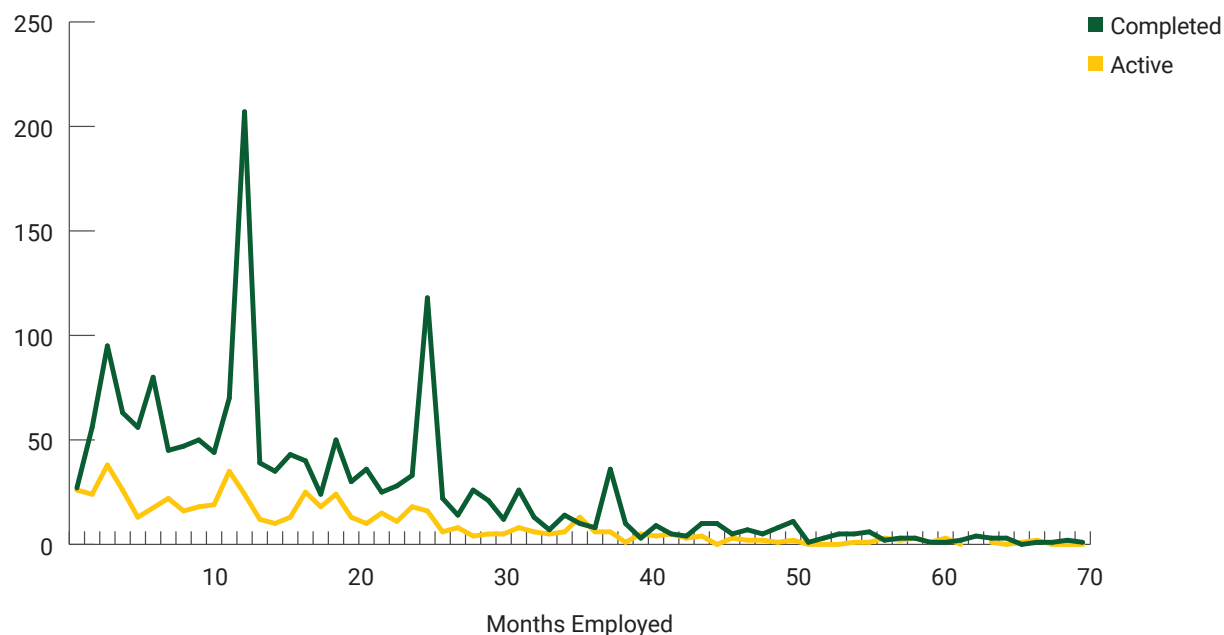


HCM Data pulled by Shared Services, November 18, 2025

Many postdoctoral scholars are familiar with the U of A, as between 2019-2025, 43% of our postdoctoral scholars were alumni, and 52% of the alumni group are former international students.

Many appointments are one year long, but some extend further. As the role of the postdoctoral scholar is intended to be a transitory role, there is high pressure on them to find their next place or career step.

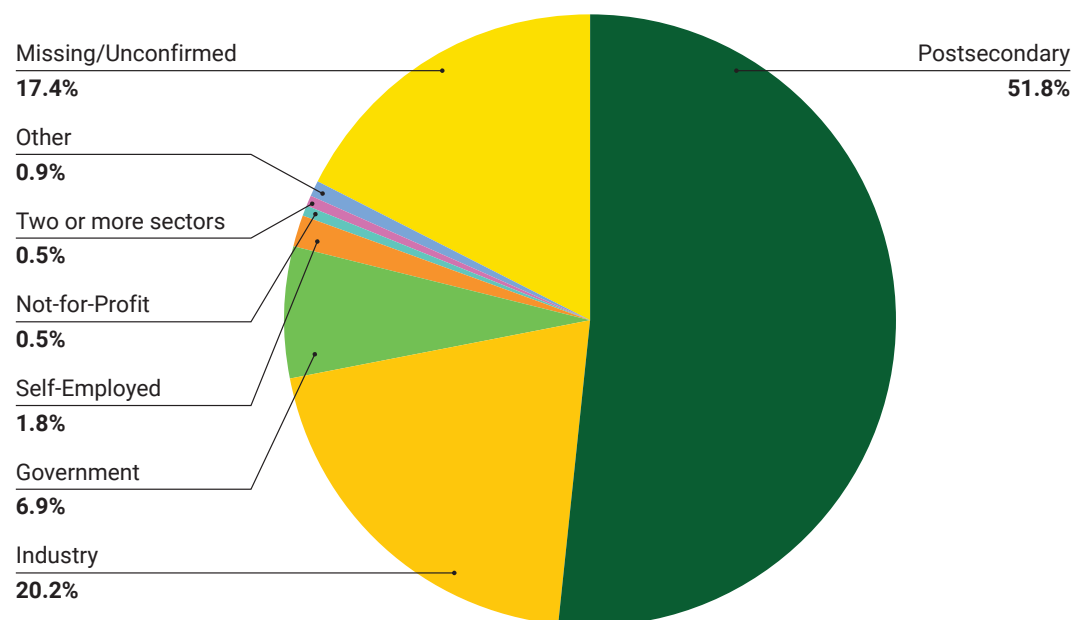
FIGURE 24: APPOINTMENT DURATION, 2019-2025



Source: HCM Data pulled by Shared Services.

While we hope to refresh this data soon, an environmental scan performed on 3,577 U of A postdoctoral scholars who were at the U of A between 2005-18, provided the below career outcomes:

FIGURE 25: PERCENTAGE OF POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR CAREER OUTCOMES BY AREA (2005-18)



Source: Postdoctoral Fellows at the University of Alberta: An overview of the former status and career outcomes of former fellows from 2000-18. Prepared by Renee Polziehn (Professional Development Director while seconded to the Office of VP Research), November 2018

Note:

1. Postsecondary includes all careers at postsecondary institutions — tenured faculty, postdoctoral scholars, research associates, etc.
2. "Two or more sectors" are postdoctoral scholars who work in more than one different category.
3. "Other" includes postdoctoral scholars who have gone back to school, retired, deceased, are not looking for work, etc.