Athabasca University

Factbook 2022-23

Institutional Data Analysis

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Athabasca University respectfully acknowledges that we live and work on the Traditional Lands of the Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) of Canada. We honour the ancestry, heritage, and gifts of the Indigenous Peoples and give thanks to them.

Mission

Athabasca University, Canada's Open University, is dedicated to the removal of barriers that restrict access to and success in university-level study and to increasing equality of educational opportunity for adult learners worldwide.

Vision

Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities
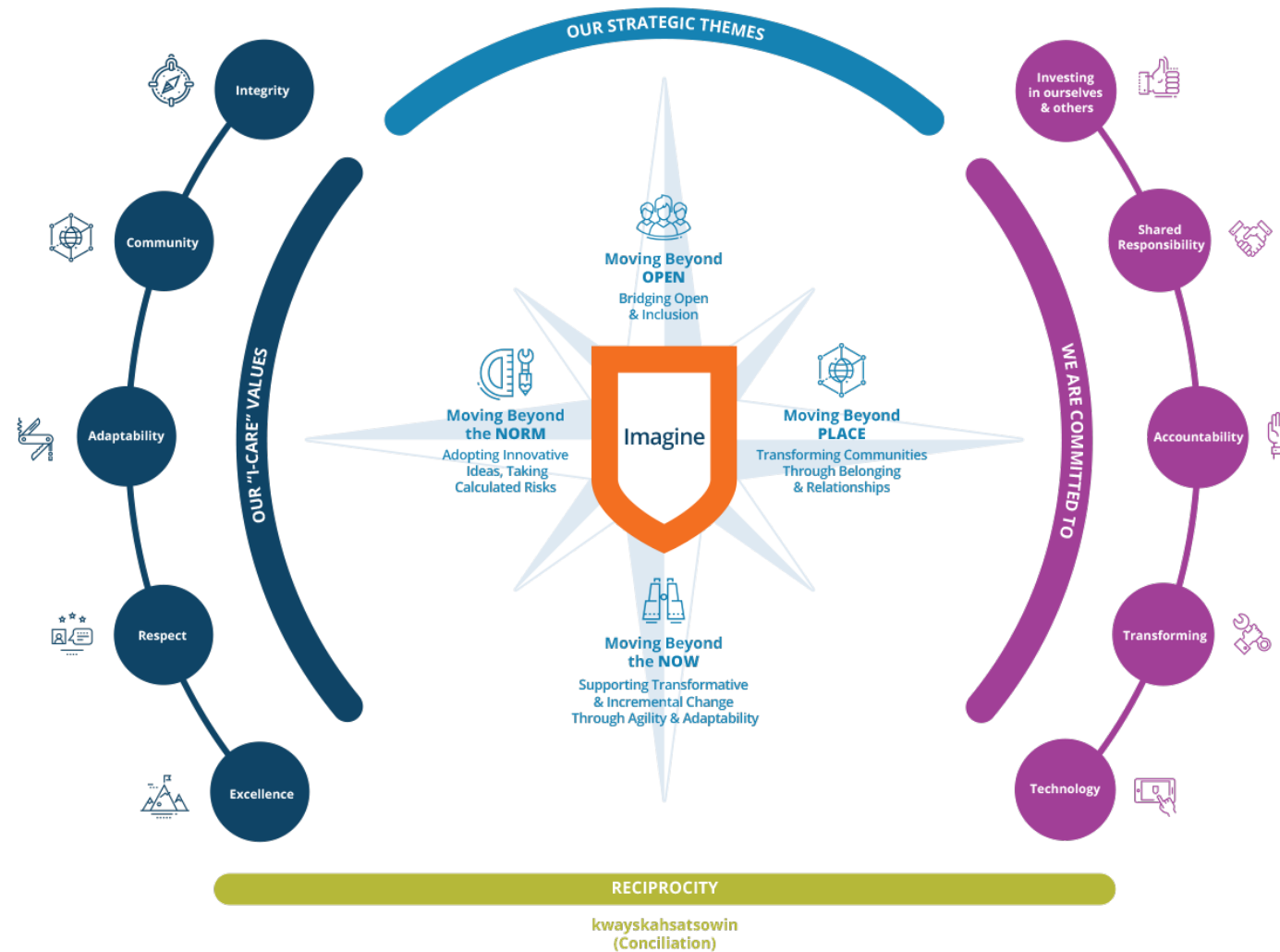
ICARE Values

Integrity

Community

Adaptability

Respect

Excellence

Values, Commitments, and Strategic Themes

History

1970	Established by Government of Alberta on June 25, 1970
1972	Pilot project as an open, distance university
1973	First course 'World Ecology'
1976	First degrees offered in Bachelor of Arts: Liberal Studies and Bachelor of General Studies
1978	Permanent self-governing status as Alberta's 4th public university
1984	Relocated to Athabasca
1992	Revised mandate to offer Master's programs
1994	Introduced world's first online MBA
2001	Established Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research (renamed 'Nukskahtowin' in 2019)
2006	First Canadian public university regionally accredited in U.S.
2008	First Doctorate program, Doctor of Distance Education (EdD) opened
2019	PowerED™ launched
2020	AU celebrated 50 years
2021	Start-up phase announced for Integrated Learning Environment (ILE)
2022	Faculty of Business received AACSB accreditation as one of the world's best business schools

2022-23 Learners' Profile

- **35,592** learners (31,043 Undergraduate & 4,549 Graduate).

- Unlike traditional Universities where most learners pursue a credential, about **41%** of AU's learners were **Open Studies** (Non-Program/General interest & Visiting learners) who do not receive an AU credential.

- **Average age of learners was 33 years old** (Undergraduate average age: 32 years old, Graduate average age: 38 years old).

- **68%** of all learners were **female** (66% of Undergraduate learners were female, and 78% of Graduate learners were women).

- **4.7%** were self-identified Indigenous learners.

- **44%** of all learners resided in **Alberta**.

- **12%** of Canadian learners resided in **rural areas**.

- **3.8%** were international learners (on visas or offshore learners).

2022-23 Learners Worldwide

2022-23 Top 10 Cities/Towns

City/Town	Learners
Calgary	5,497
Edmonton	3,688
Toronto	964
Winnipeg	820
Ottawa	732
Vancouver	524
Mississauga	448
Surrey	421
Brampton	412
Hamilton	395

UNDERGRADUATE

Undergraduate 25 Year Enrolment Trend

Undergraduate Learners

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
38,464	38,264	38,619	33,272	31,043

Undergraduate Location of Residence

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
International	607	534	531	474	421
Rest of Canada	9,598	9,548	9,580	8,377	7,917
Ontario	11,997	11,655	10,949	9,100	8,398
Alberta	16,262	16,527	17,559	15,321	14,307
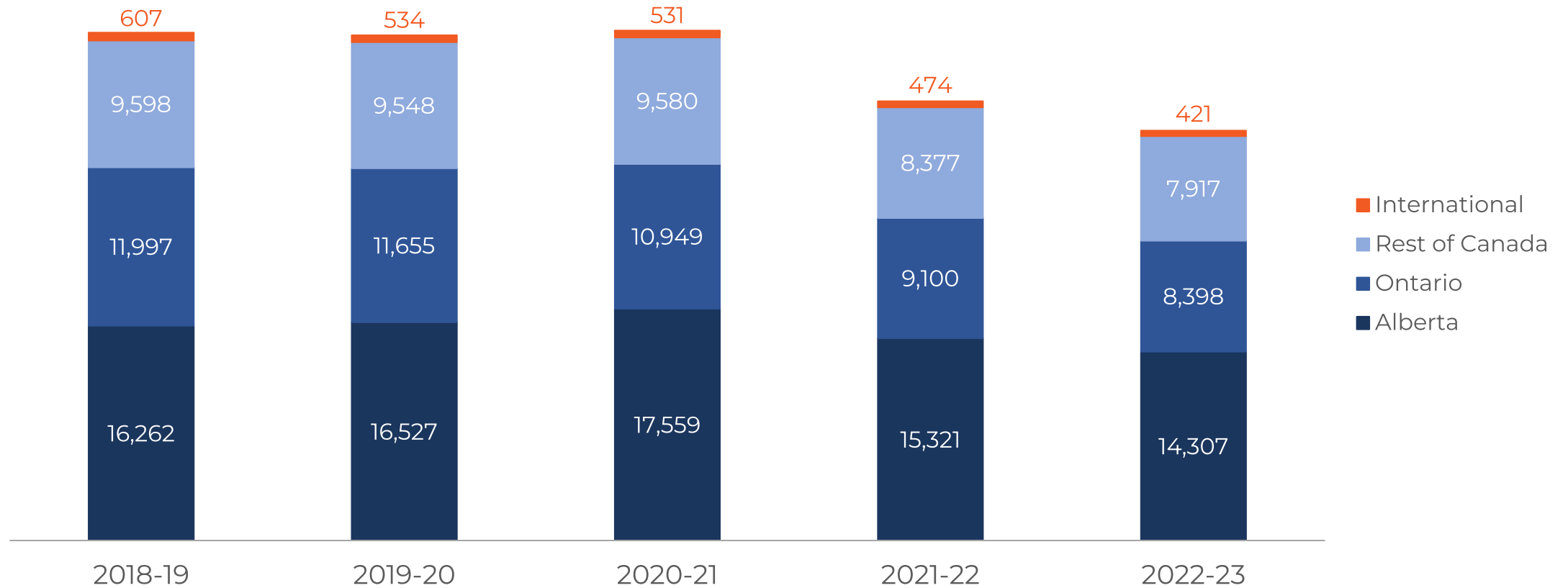
2022-23 Undergraduate Rural Learners

8.4% of undergraduate learners in **Alberta** reside in **rural areas**

12% of undergraduate learners in **Canada** reside in **rural areas**

Undergraduate Indigenous Learners

1,405	1,401	1,607	1,452	1,498
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22

4.8% of undergraduate learner population
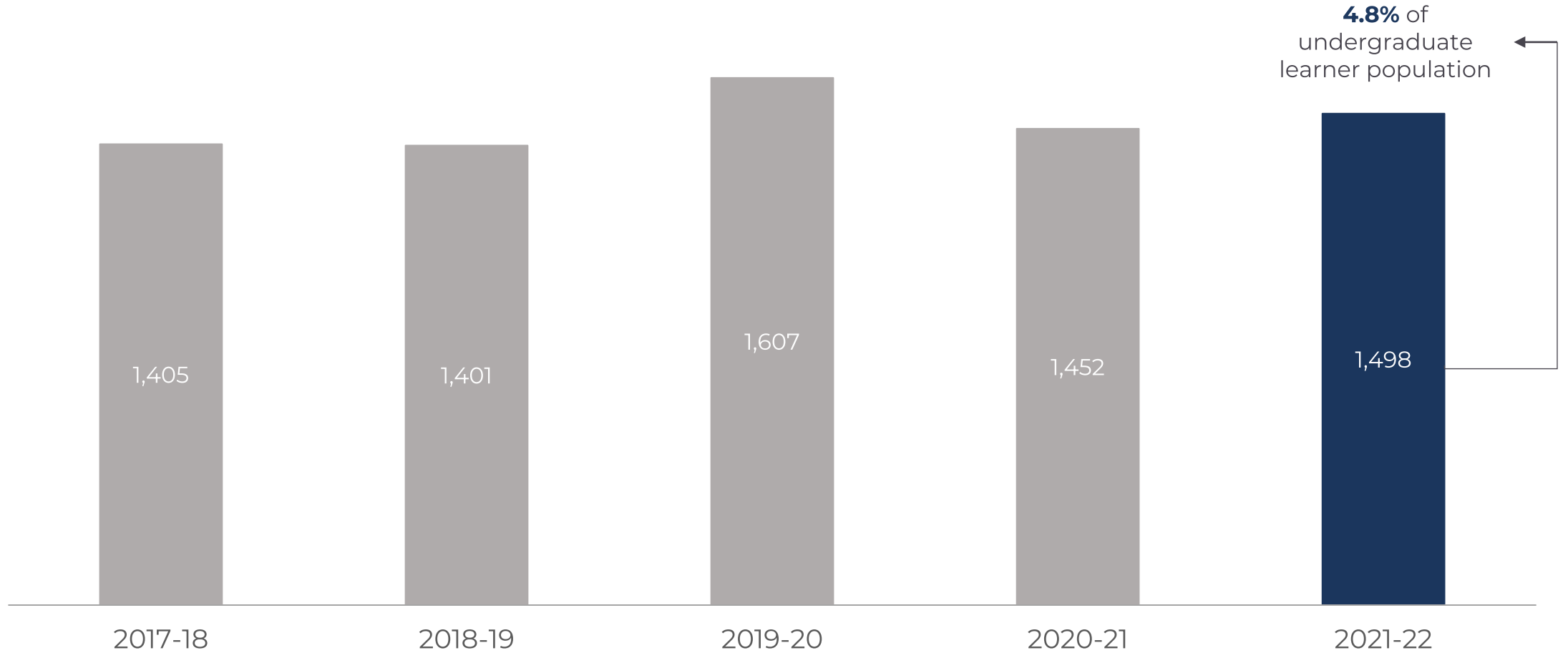
2022-23 Undergraduate Age & Gender (Sex)

Age	Female	Male
Under 25	5,740	3,779
25-34	7,145	3,633
35-44	5,140	1,916
45-54	1,999	699
55+	499	236

■ Female ■ Male
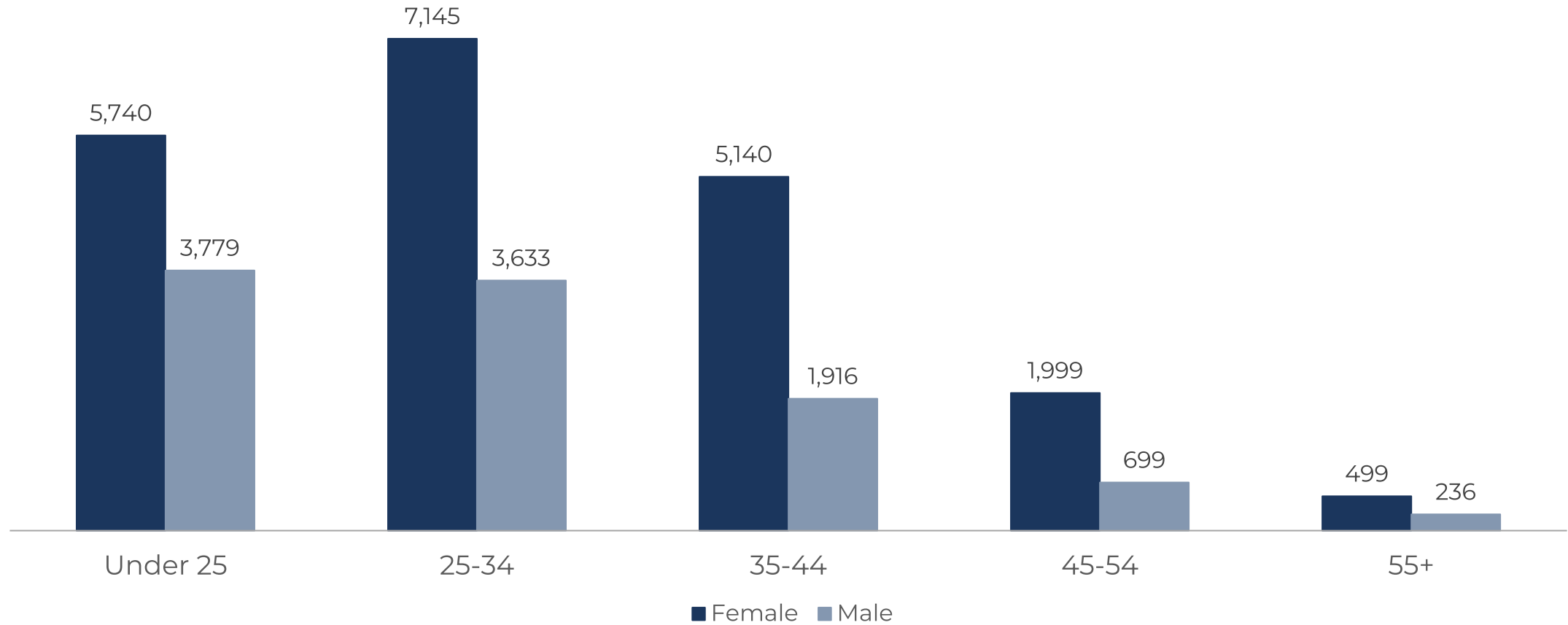
2022-23 Undergraduate
Gender (Sex) Distribution by Faculty

Faculty	Female	Male
Business	59%	41%
Health	90%	10%
Humanities	77%	23%
Science	41%	59%

■ Female ■ Male
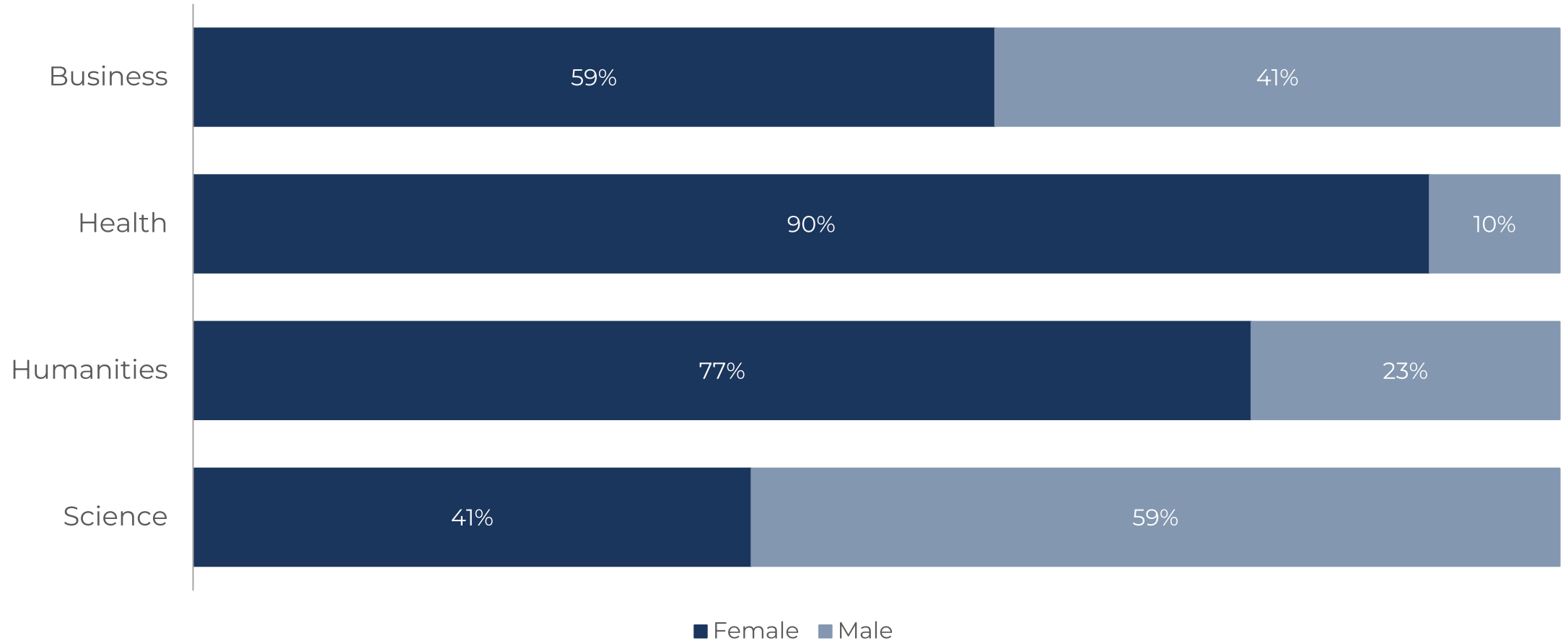
First-Time Undergraduate Learners
(Age at first Undergraduate Program Enrollment Date)

■ 2020-21 ■ 2021-22 ■ 2022-23

Under 25: 2,255
25-34: 2,554
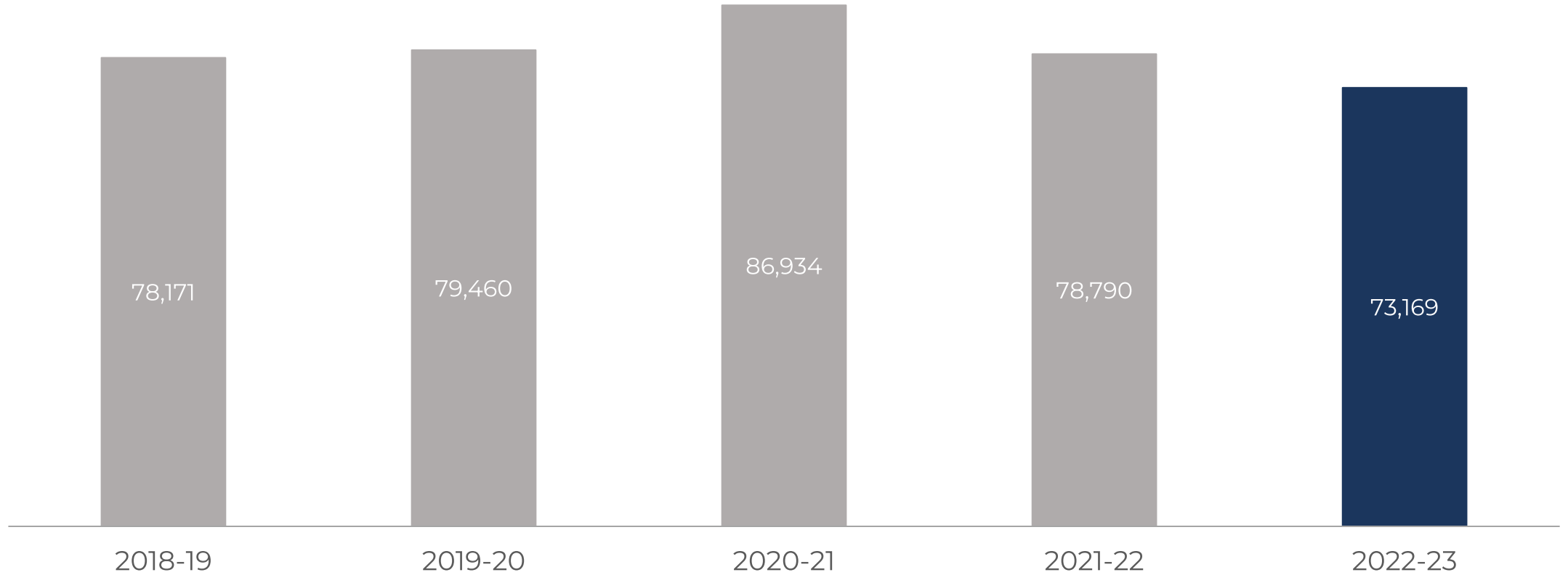**35-44:** 1,476
45-54: 456
55+: 99
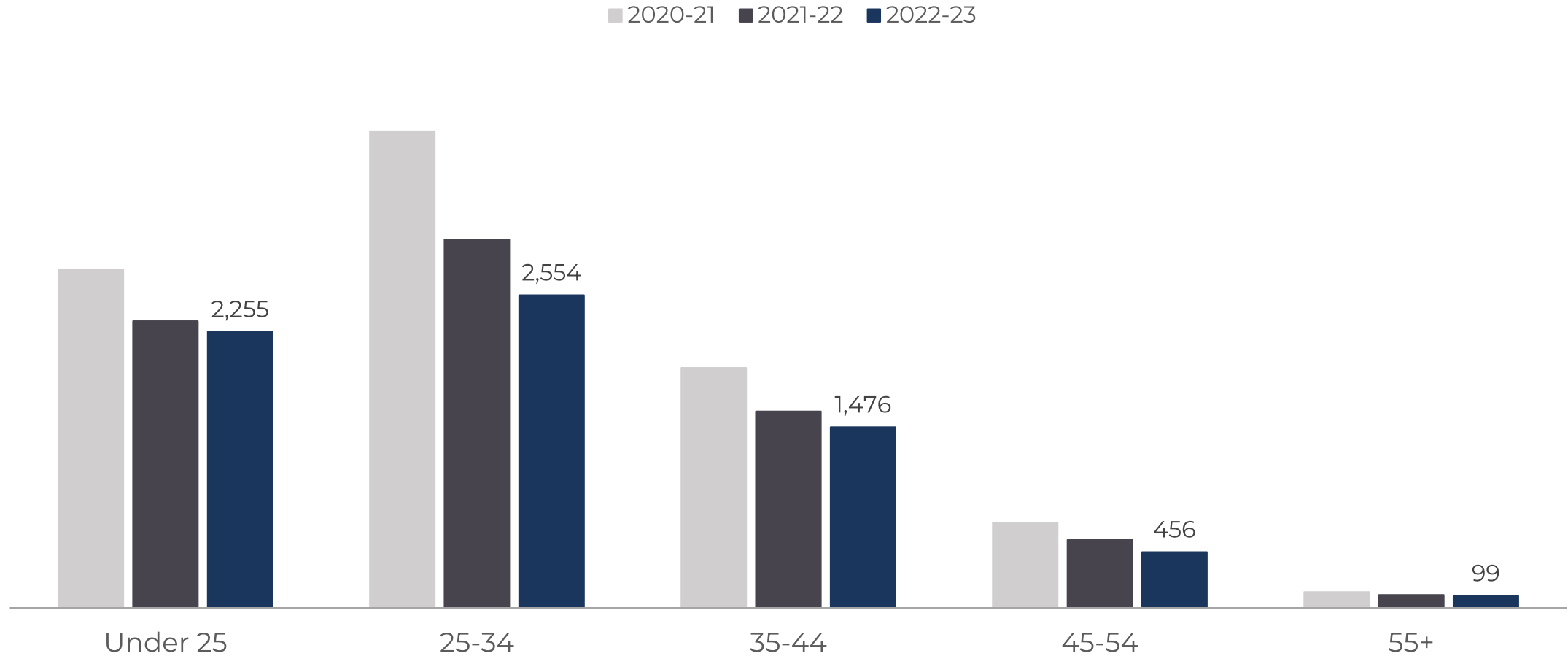
Note: First-time program enrollments at the undergraduate level, excluding learners in Open Studies

Undergraduate Course Registrations
(3 credit equivalents)

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
78,171	79,460	86,934	78,790	73,169

2022-23 Top 10 Undergraduate Courses

Course	Registrations
ENGL255	2,291
BIOL235	1,891
MATH215	1,603
PSYC290	1,235
PSYC289	1,138
ACCT253	1,110
ADMN232	995
CMIS245	977
ADMN233	846
ECON247	774

2022-23 Undergraduate Credit Course Distribution

Faculty	Number of Courses	Course Registrations
Business	89	16,201
Health Disciplines	32	4,255
Humanities & Social Sciences	396	33,643
Science & Technology	135	15,917
Total	**652**	**70,016**

2022-23 Top 10 Visiting Institutions
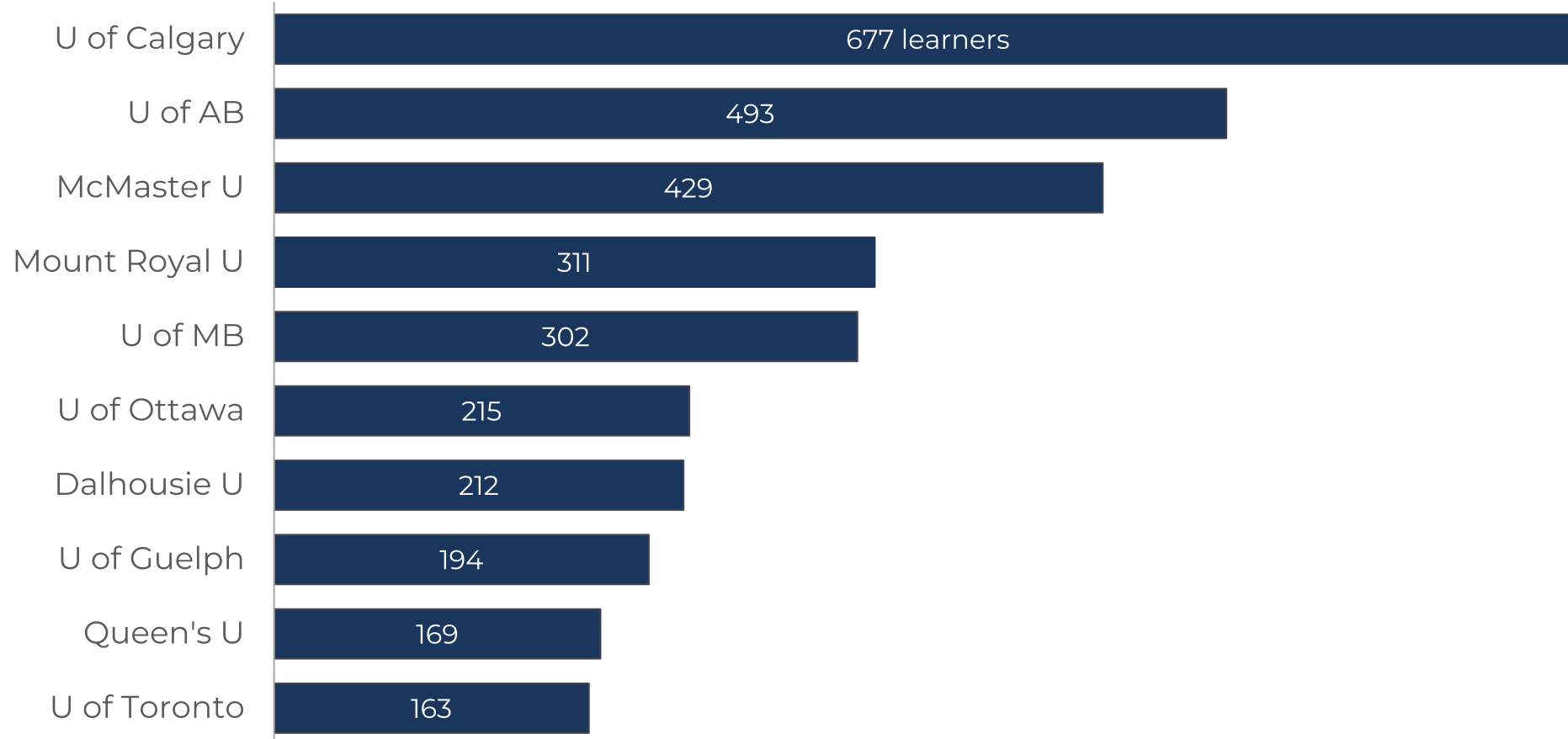
Institution	Learners
U of Calgary	677 learners
U of AB	493
McMaster U	429
Mount Royal U	311
U of MB	302
U of Ottawa	215
Dalhousie U	212
U of Guelph	194
Queen's U	169
U of Toronto	163

Undergraduate Program Learners

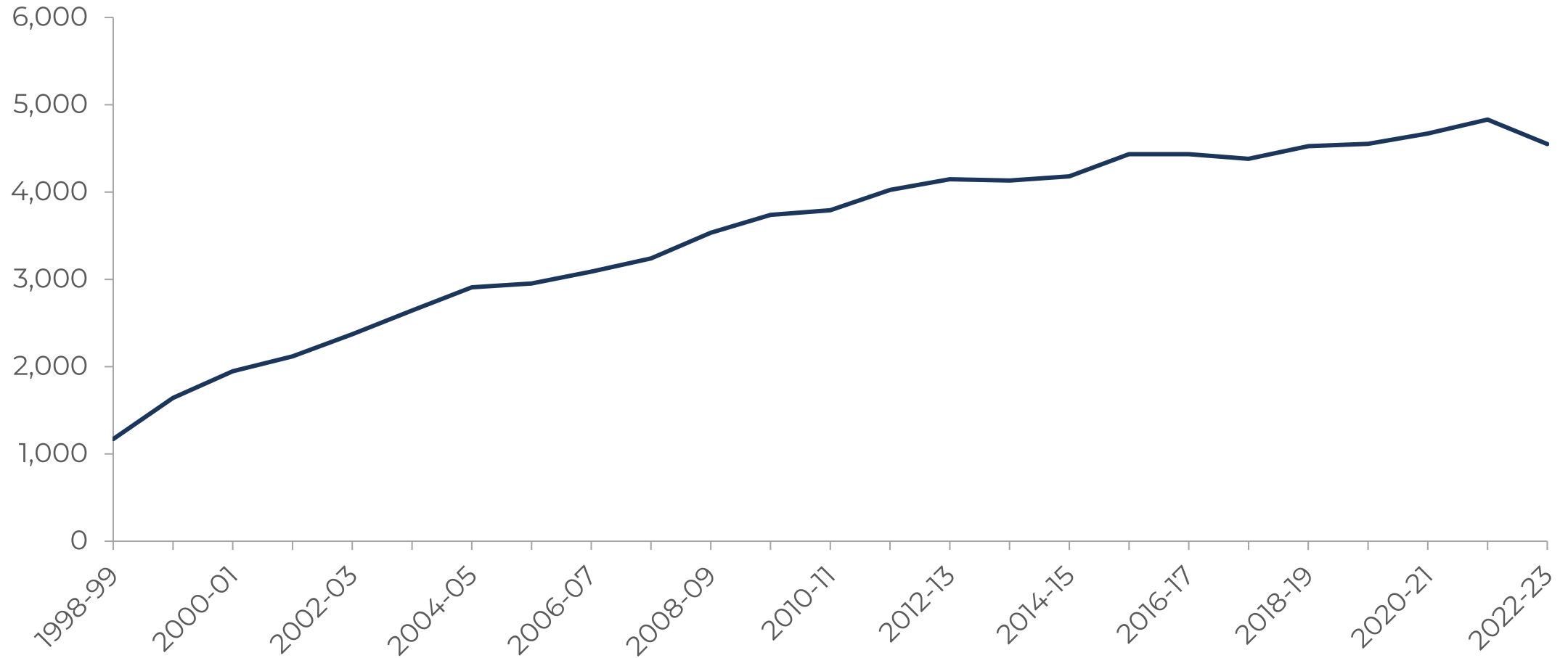| Faculty	Program Name	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Business	Bachelor of Commerce	3,005	3,035	2,928
	Bachelor of Management	563	277	135
	Bachelor of Management (3 Year)	1,243	1,151	1,073
	Certificates & Diplomas	882	714	646
Health Disciplines	Bachelor of Health Administration*	374	511	436
	Bachelor of Nursing	2,599	2,635	2,655
Humanities & Social Sciences	Bachelor of Arts	2,728	2,691	2,494
	Bachelor of Arts (3 Year)	1,324	1,201	1,108
	Bachelor of General Studies	916	850	887
	Bachelor of Health Administration*	153	-	-
	Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations	786	729	649
	Bachelor of Professional Arts	1,268	1,210	1,019
	Certificates & Diplomas	716	625	605
Science & Technology	Bachelor of Science	2,348	2,280	2,145
	Certificates & Diplomas	257	209	174

* Bachelor of Health Administration was previously offered by the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

GRADUATE

Graduate 25 Year Enrolment Trend

Graduate Learners

13% of total
learner population

Year	Value
2018-19	4,526
2019-20	4,552
2020-21	4,670
2021-22	4,830
2022-23	4,549

Graduate Location of Residence

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
International	125	114	88	95	74
Rest of Canada	1,530	1,546	1,601	1,623	1,547
Ontario	1,628	1,625	1,648	1,695	1,598
Alberta	1,243	1,267	1,333	1,417	1,330
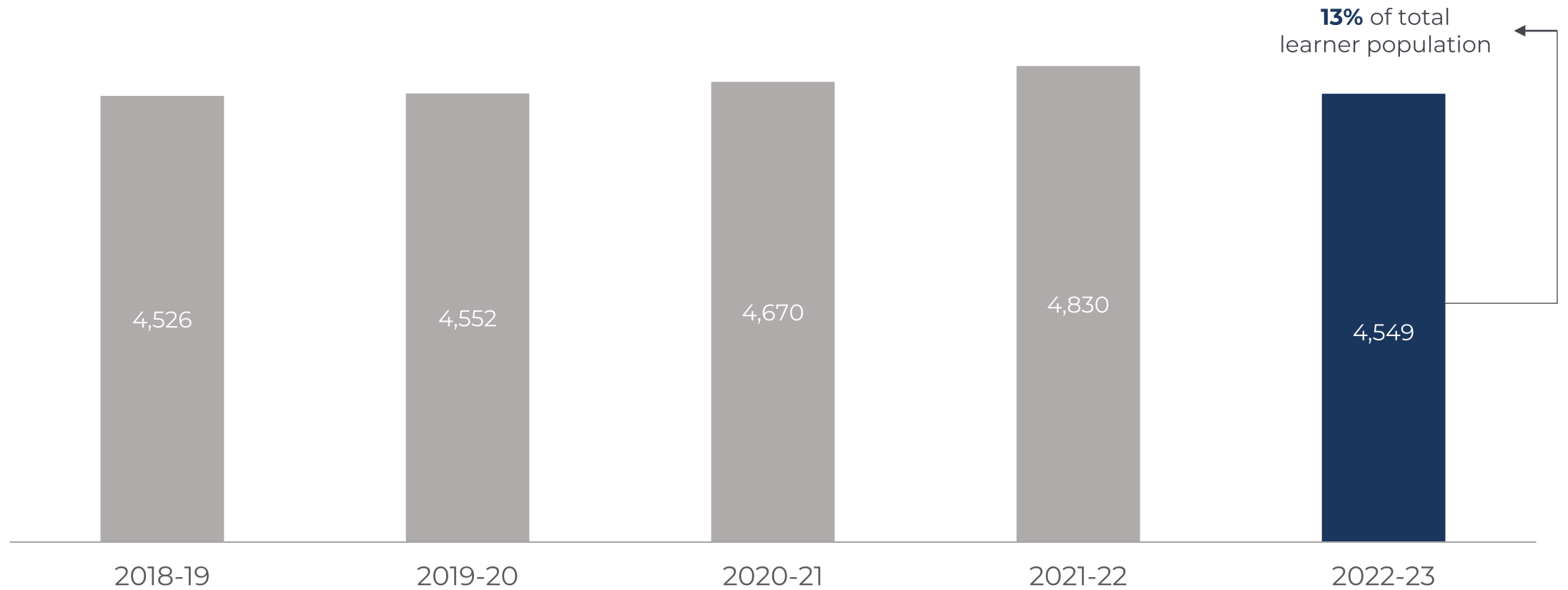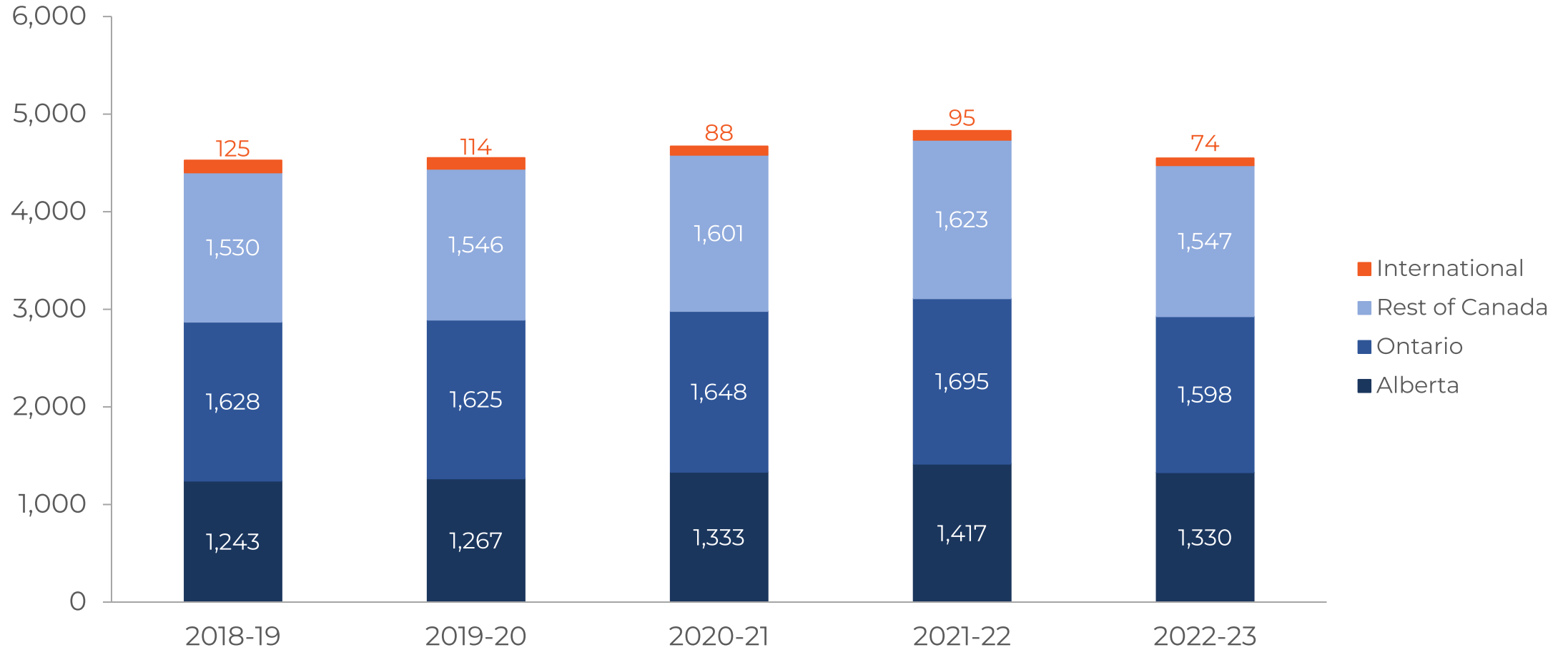
2022-23 Graduate Rural Learners

| 8.6% | of graduate learners in **Alberta** reside in **rural areas** |

| 13% | of graduate learners in **Canada** reside in **rural areas** |

Graduate Indigenous Learners

3.6% of graduate learner population

138 — 2018-19

132 — 2019-20

155 — 2020-21

162 — 2021-22

163 — 2022-23
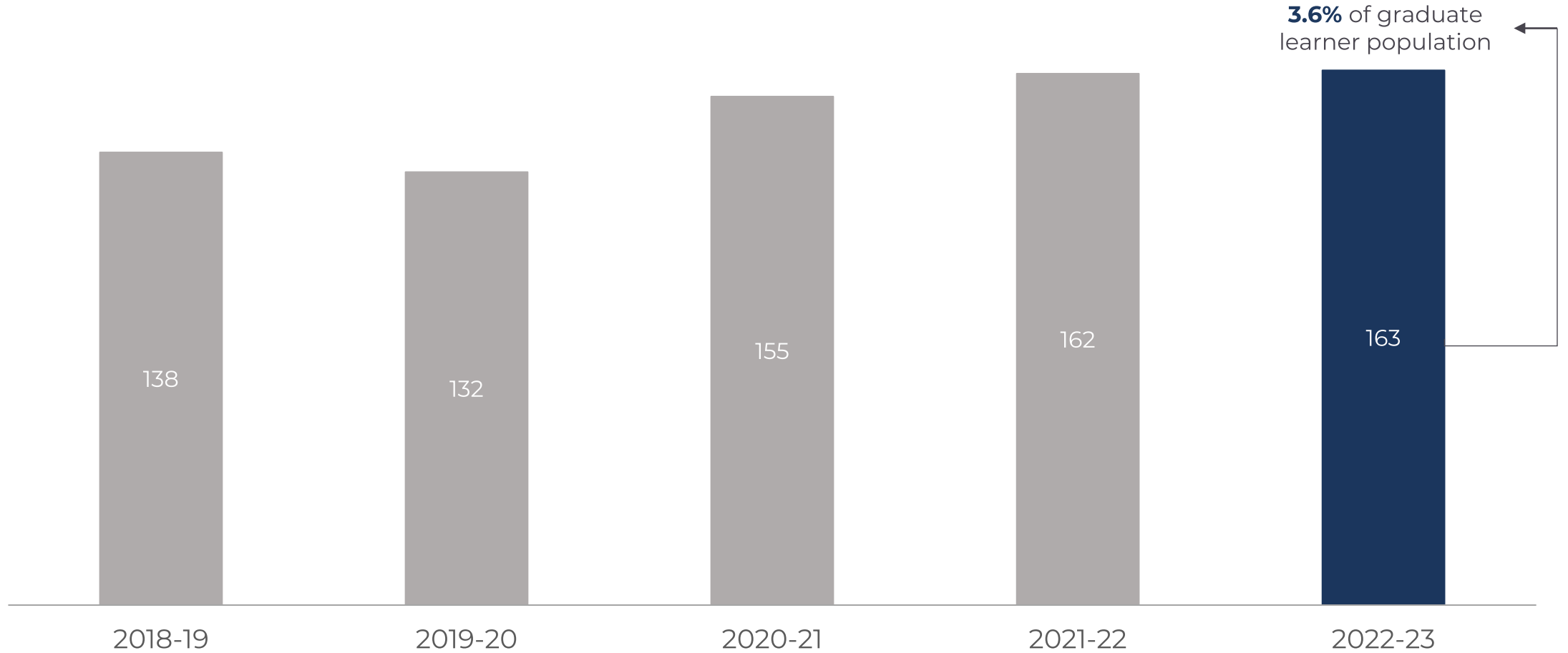
2022-23 Graduate Learner
Age & Gender (Sex)

	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55+
Female	76	1,505	1,268	543	135
Male	25	295	387	211	62

■ Female ■ Male
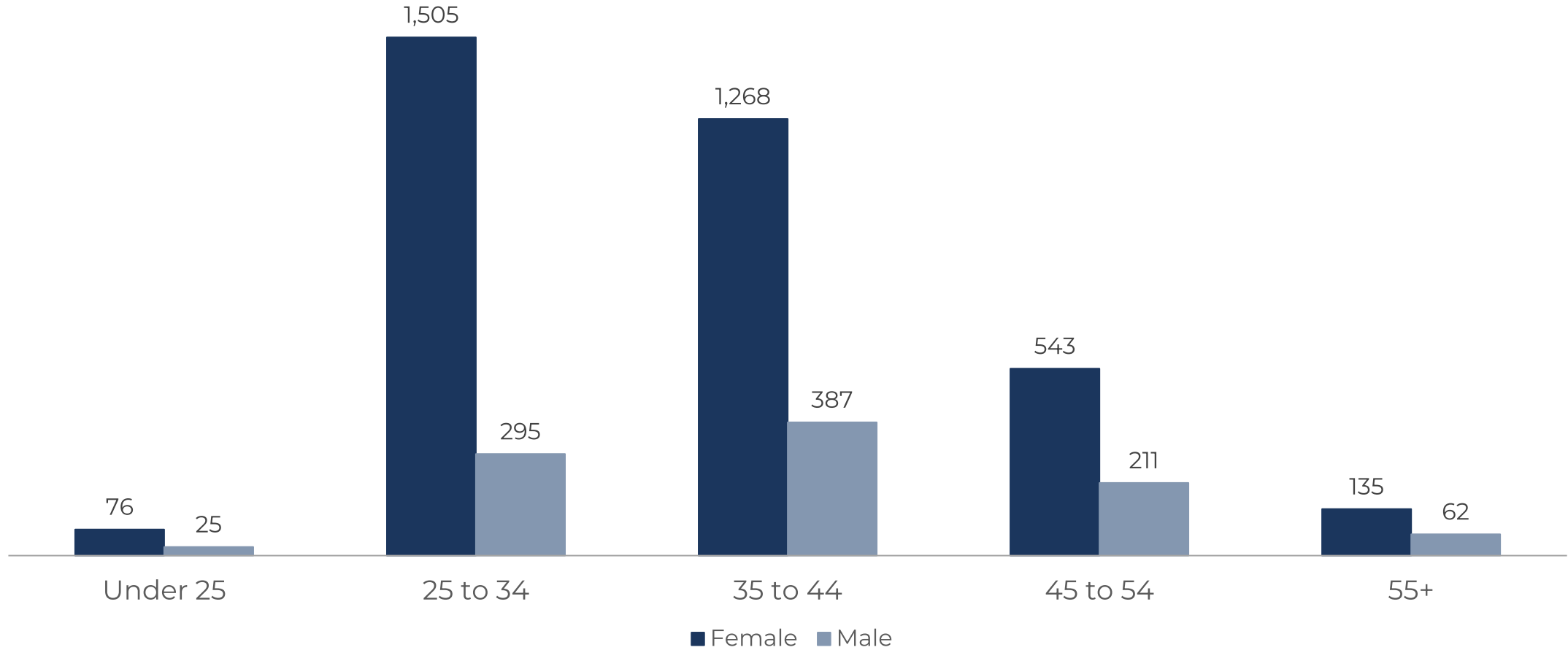
2022-23 Graduate
Gender Distribution by Program

Program	Female	Male
MA	79%	21%
MBA	47%	53%
MC	87%	13%
MED	72%	28%
MHS	89%	11%
MN	93%	7%
MSC	22%	78%
DBA	38%	62%
EDD	76%	24%
Cert & Dip	66%	34%

■ Female ■ Male
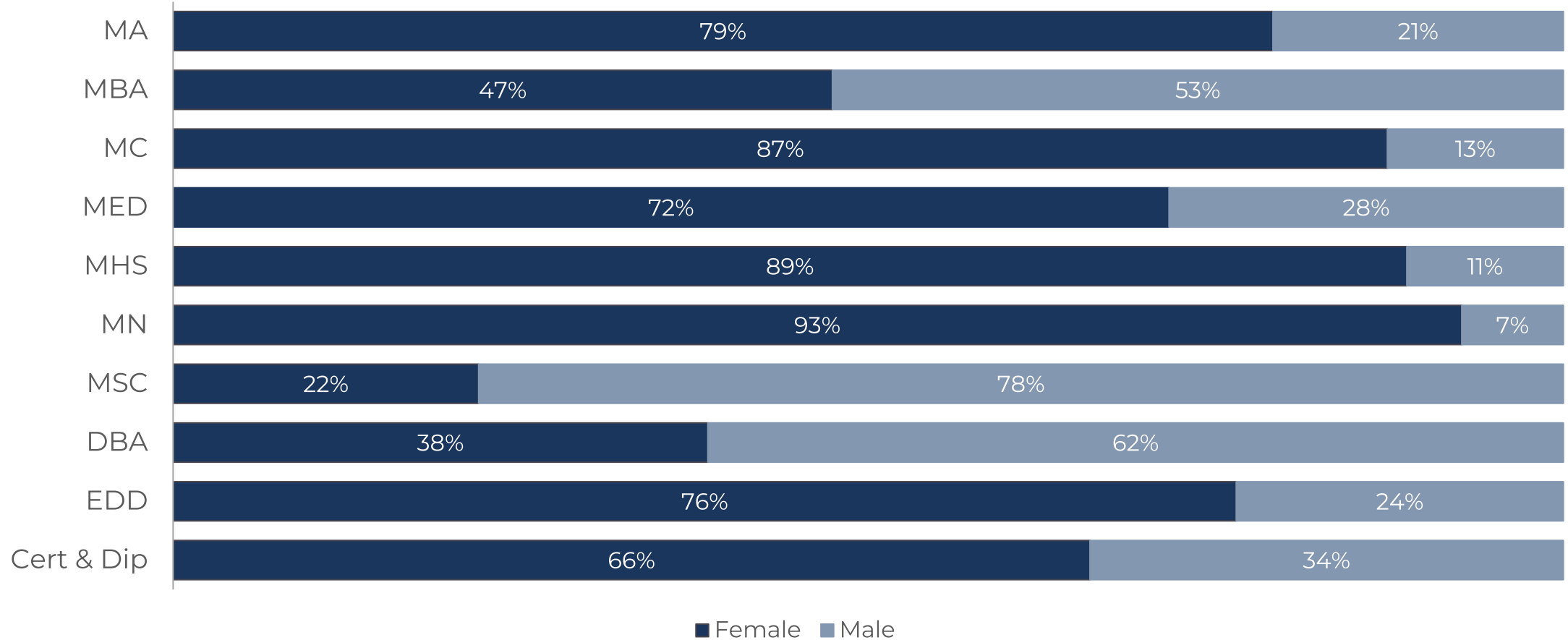
First-Time Graduate Learners
(Age at first Graduate Program Enrollment Date)

■ 2020-21 ■ 2021-22 ■ 2022-23

Under 25: 106

25-34: 658

35-44: 473

45-54: 178

55+: 42
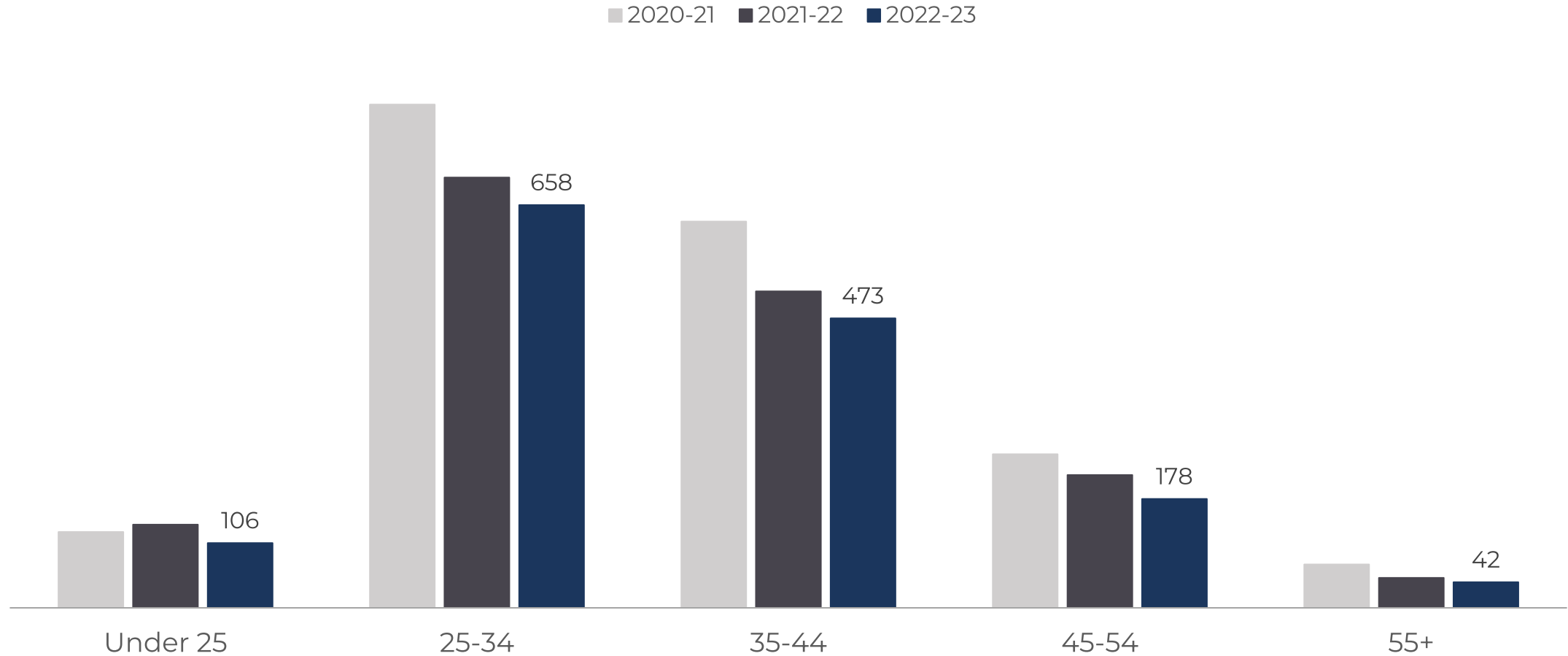
Note: First-time program enrollments at the graduate level

2022-23 Top Graduate Visiting Institutions
(Western Deans' Agreement)

Institution	Number of Learners
University of British Columbia	23
University of Alberta	11
University of Calgary	9
University of Saskatchewan	9
Simon Fraser University	8
University of Manitoba	7
Thompson Rivers University	7
University of British Columbia (Okanagan)	5

Graduate Course Registrations
(3 credit equivalents)

10,730	10,686	11,113	11,223	10,477
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
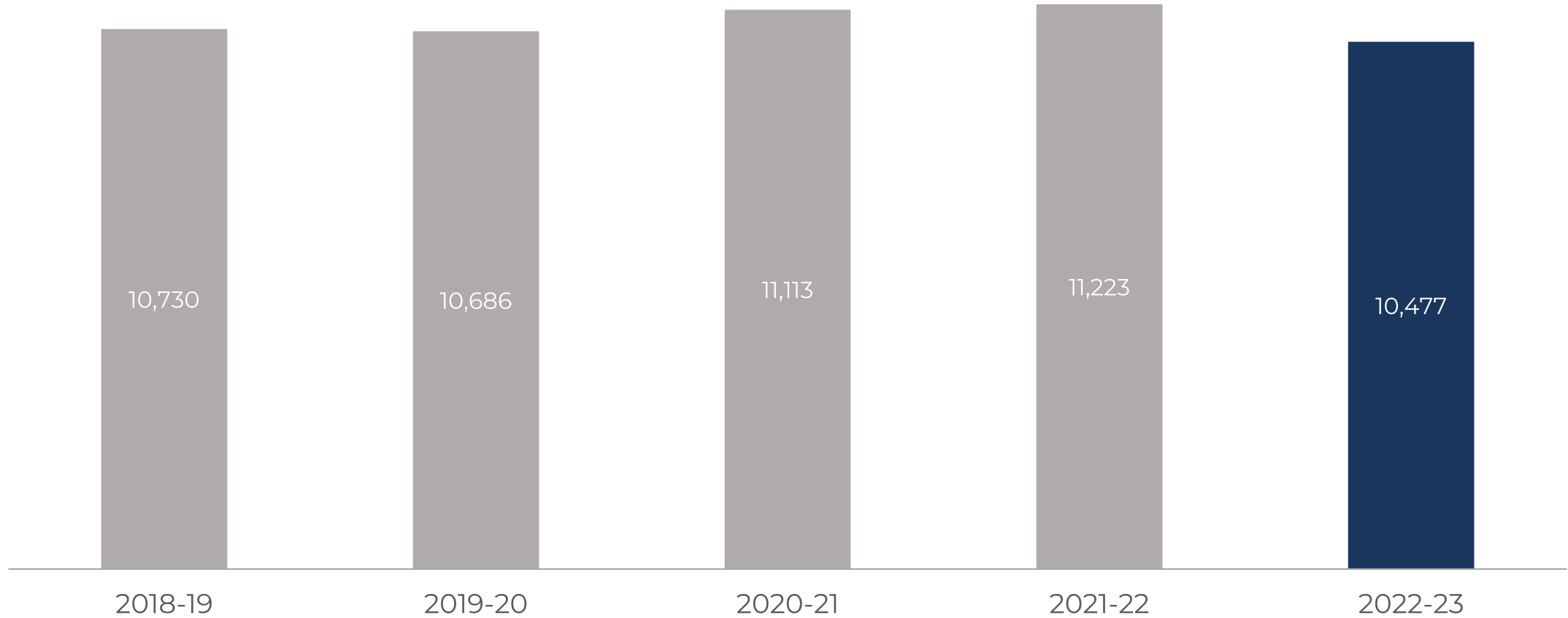
Note: Doctoral students are not enrolled in proposal or dissertation course until they pass.

Graduate Program Learners

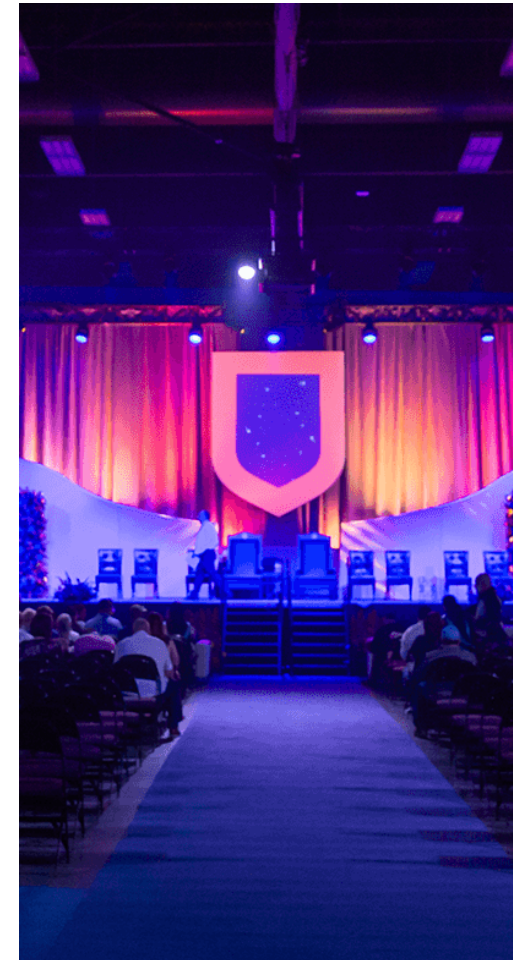| Faculty	Program Name	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Business	Doctor of Business Administration	30	30	26
	Master of Business Administration	614	647	582
	Certificates & Diplomas	79	108	95
Health Disciplines	Master of Counselling	390	401	411
	Master of Health Studies	482	518	435
	Master of Nursing	1,735	1,795	1,735
	Certificates & Diplomas	68	88	92
Humanities & Social Sciences	Doctor of Education	53	60	51
	Master of Education	276	290	286
	Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies	570	542	472
	Certificates & Diplomas	129	110	102
Science & Technology	Master of Science	134	139	133
	Certificates & Diplomas	110	102	129

CONVOCATION 2023

Image Sources: Athabasca University convocation in pictures
Photo gallery: Athabasca University welcomes home Class of 2023

Undergraduate Credentials Awarded

Faculty	Program Name	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Business	Bachelor of Commerce	83	82	90
	Bachelor of Management	28	23	17
	Bachelor of Management (3 Year)	108	102	95
	Certificates & Diplomas	79	73	57
Health Disciplines	Bachelor of Health Administration**	6	16	19
	Bachelor of Nursing	136	168	158
Humanities & Social Sciences	Bachelor of Arts	59	72	87
	Bachelor of Arts (3 Year)	66	61	63
	Bachelor of General Studies	171	111	129
	Bachelor of Health Administration**	*	-	-
	Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations	62	64	61
	Bachelor of Professional Arts	93	115	95
	Certificates & Diplomas	65	76	77
Science & Technology	Bachelor of Science	30	45	45
	Certificates & Diplomas	9	11	16

* Numbers suppressed for less than 5 credentials awarded
** Bachelor of Health Administration was previously offered by the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
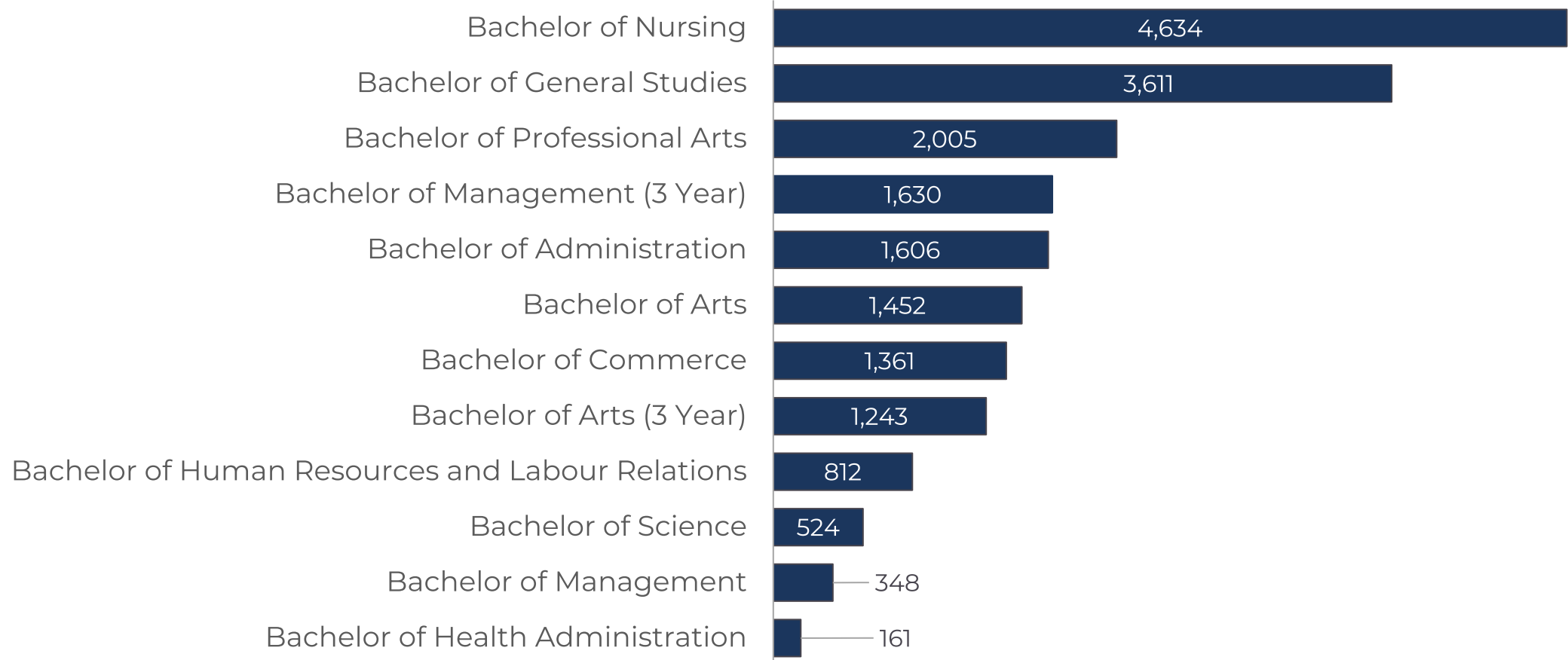
2022-23 Undergraduate Average Time-to-Degree (T2D)

Faculty	Program Name	Degrees Awarded	Average T2D (Years)*
Business	Bachelor of Commerce	90	4.9
	Bachelor of Management	17	7.7
	Bachelor of Management (3 Year)	95	6.1
Health Disciplines	Bachelor of Health Administration	19	5.8
	Bachelor of Nursing	158	6.3
Humanities & Social Sciences	Bachelor of Arts	87	5.9
	Bachelor of Arts (3 Year)	63	5.0
	Bachelor of General Studies	129	3.1
	Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations	61	5.9
	Bachelor of Professional Arts	95	5.9
Science & Technology	Bachelor of Science	45	6.4

* Time-to-Degree (T2D): Time in years. Degree date less Minimum Program Enrollment date.

Total Undergraduate Degrees Awarded
(All-time as of March 31, 2023)

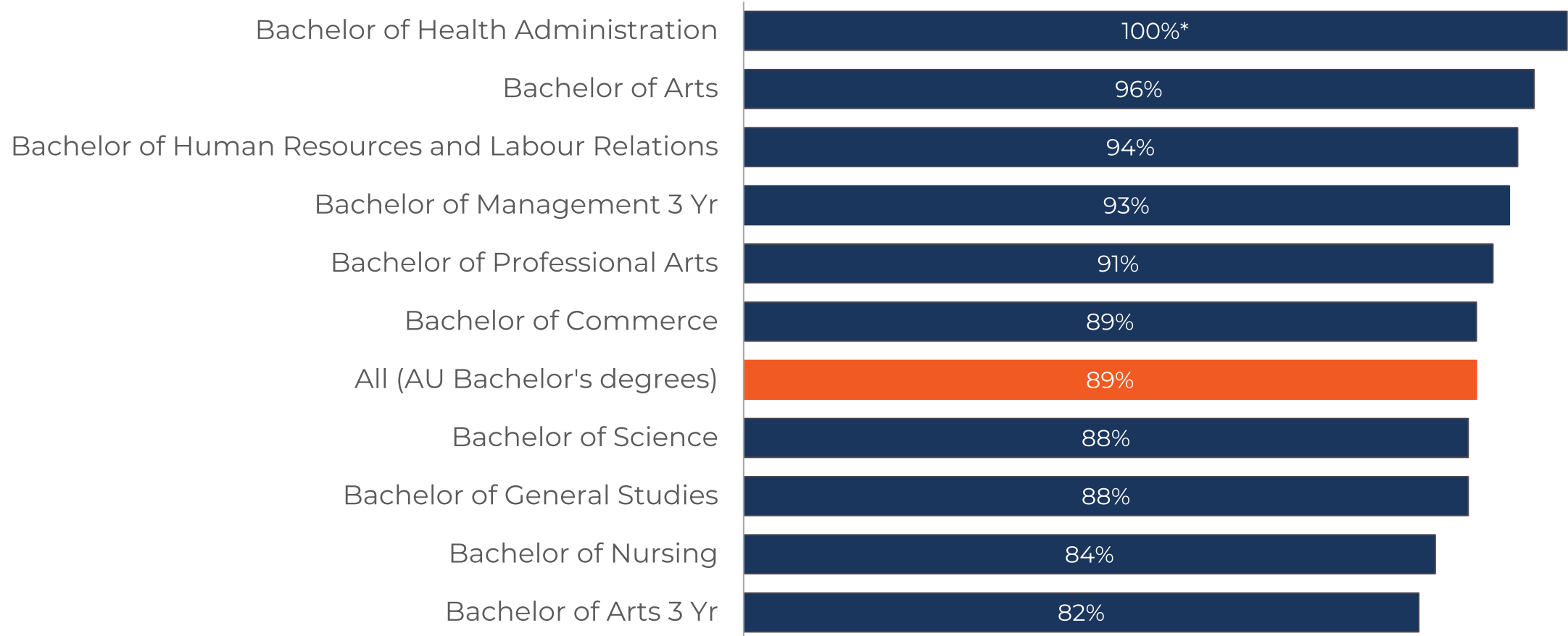| Degree	Count
Bachelor of Nursing	4,634
Bachelor of General Studies	3,611
Bachelor of Professional Arts	2,005
Bachelor of Management (3 Year)	1,630
Bachelor of Administration	1,606
Bachelor of Arts	1,452
Bachelor of Commerce	1,361
Bachelor of Arts (3 Year)	1,243
Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations	812
Bachelor of Science	524
Bachelor of Management	348
Bachelor of Health Administration	161

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022: Cost Benefits Bachelor's Degree

Valid percentage of undergraduate alumni who agree & strongly agree that their program was worth the financial cost

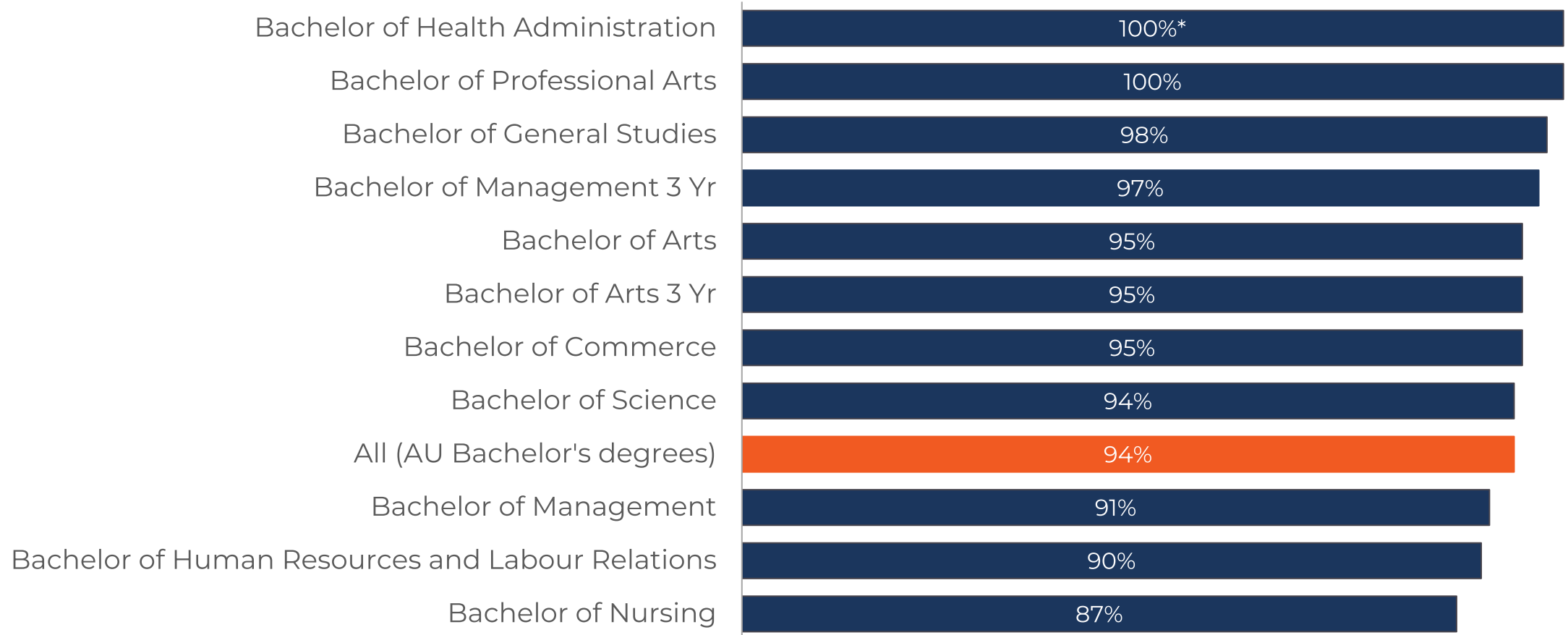| Degree	Percentage
Bachelor of Health Administration	100%*
Bachelor of Arts	96%
Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations	94%
Bachelor of Management 3 Yr	93%
Bachelor of Professional Arts	91%
Bachelor of Commerce	89%
All (AU Bachelor's degrees)	89%
Bachelor of Science	88%
Bachelor of General Studies	88%
Bachelor of Nursing	84%
Bachelor of Arts 3 Yr	82%

(*) indicates less than 10 respondents

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022: Bachelor's Program Quality

Valid percentage of undergraduate alumni satisfied & very satisfied with the quality of the program

Program	Percentage
Bachelor of Health Administration	100%*
Bachelor of Professional Arts	100%
Bachelor of General Studies	98%
Bachelor of Management 3 Yr	97%
Bachelor of Arts	95%
Bachelor of Arts 3 Yr	95%
Bachelor of Commerce	95%
Bachelor of Science	94%
All (AU Bachelor's degrees)	94%
Bachelor of Management	91%
Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations	90%
Bachelor of Nursing	87%

(*) indicates less than 10 respondents

Graduate Credentials Awarded

Faculty	Program Name	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Business	Doctor of Business Administration	5	5	*
	Master of Business Administration	145	145	127
	Certificates & Diplomas	122	125	108
Health Disciplines	Master of Counselling	86	79	95
	Master of Health Studies	56	51	60
	Master of Nursing	276	347	360
	Certificates & Diplomas	7	14	13
Humanities & Social Sciences	Doctor of Education	*	8	13
	Master of Education	42	54	47
	Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies	58	57	69
	Certificates & Diplomas	31	47	27
Science & Technology	Master of Science	27	23	16
	Certificates & Diplomas	11	10	11

* Numbers suppressed for less than 5 credentials awarded

2022-23 Graduate
Average Time-to-Degree (T2D)

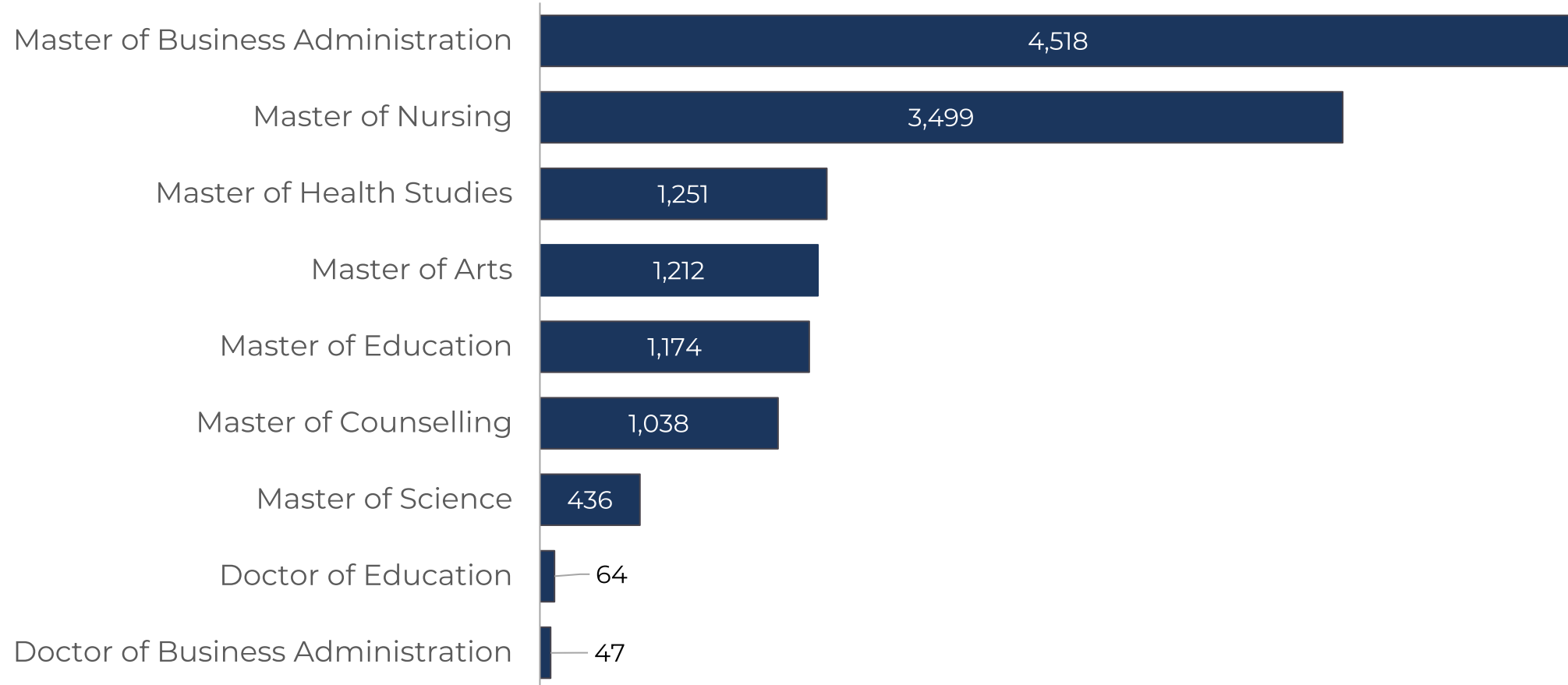| Faculty	Program Name	Degrees Awarded	Average T2D (Years)**
Business	Doctor of Business Administration	*	5.7
	Master of Business Administration	127	3.2
Health Disciplines	Master of Counselling	95	4.3
	Master of Health Studies	60	4.5
	Master of Nursing	360	4.0
Humanities & Social Sciences	Doctor of Education	13	5.8
	Master of Education	47	3.8
	Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies	69	5.5
Science & Technology	Master of Science	16	5.7

* Numbers suppressed for less than 5 degrees awarded
** Time-to-Degree (T2D): Time in years. Degree date less Minimum Program Enrollment date.
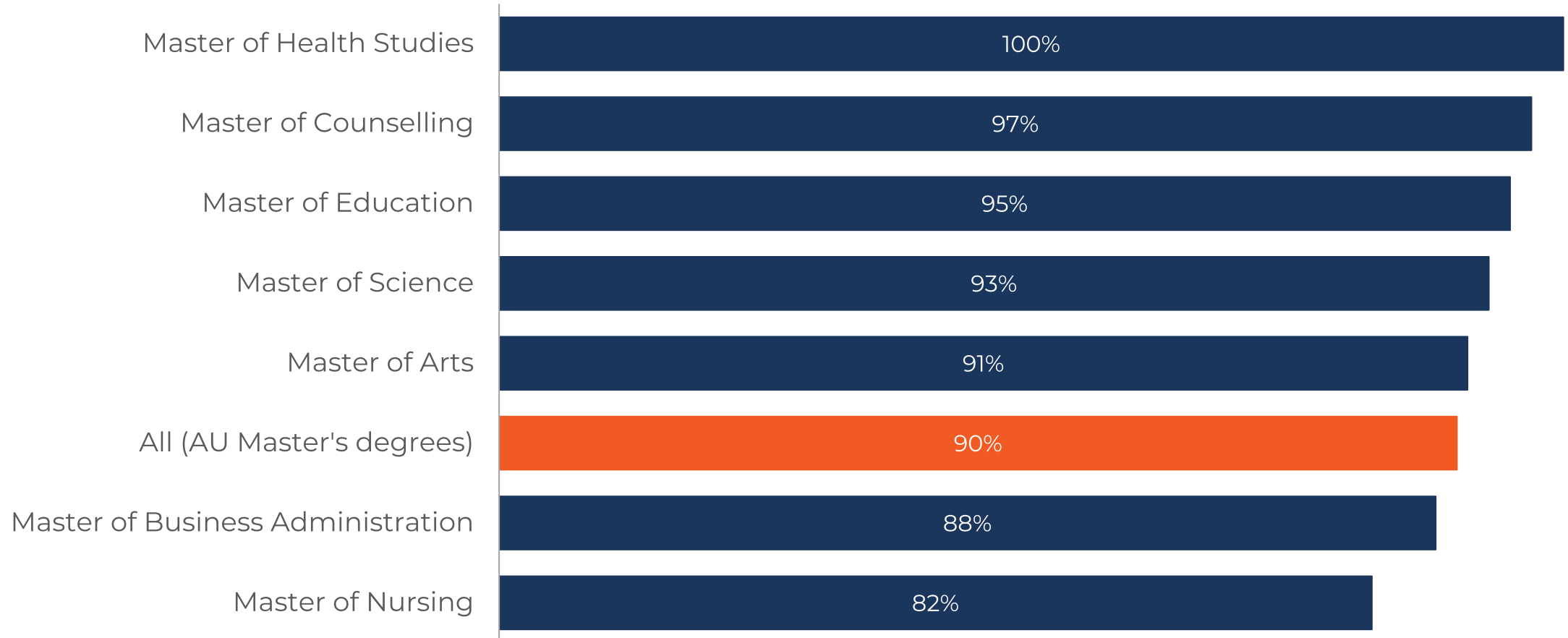
Total Graduate Degrees Awarded
(All-time as of March 31, 2023)

Degree	Count
Master of Business Administration	4,518
Master of Nursing	3,499
Master of Health Studies	1,251
Master of Arts	1,212
Master of Education	1,174
Master of Counselling	1,038
Master of Science	436
Doctor of Education	64
Doctor of Business Administration	47

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022: Cost Benefits Master's Degree

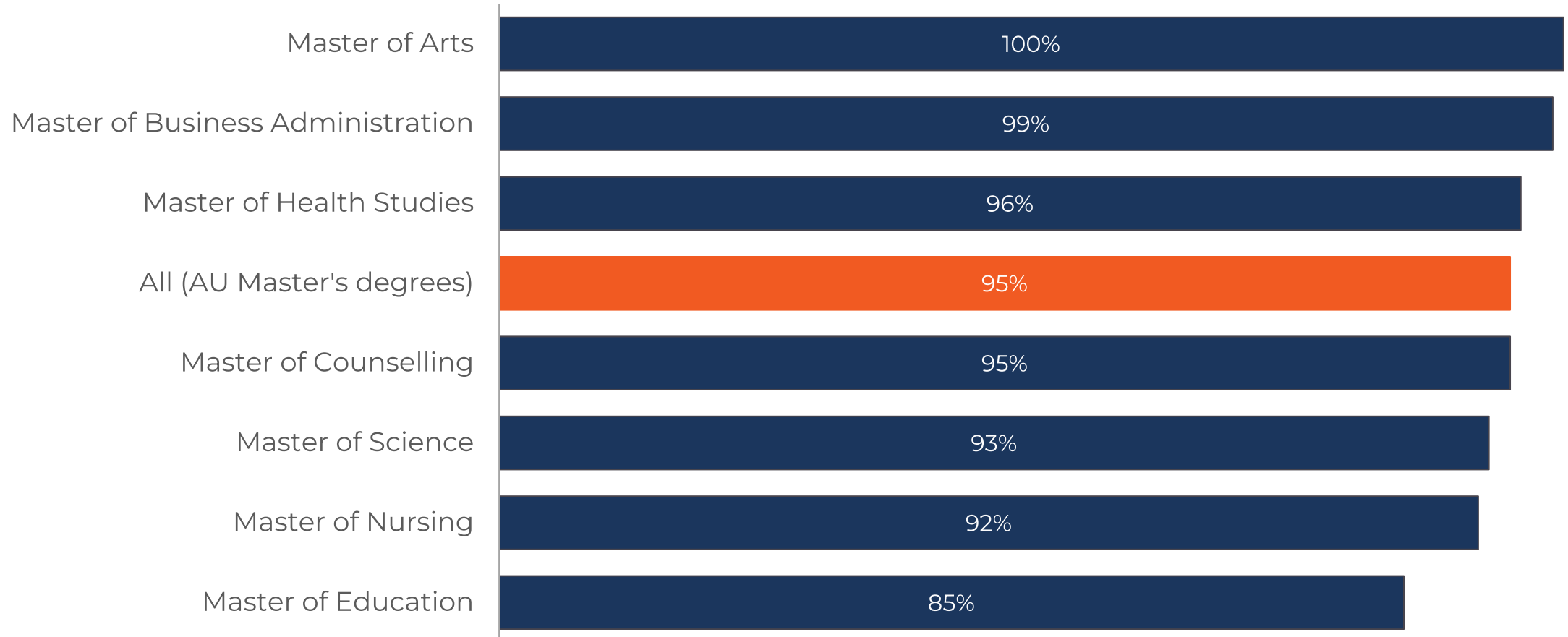**Valid percentage of graduate alumni who agree & strongly agree that their program was worth the financial cost**

Program	Percentage
Master of Health Studies	100%
Master of Counselling	97%
Master of Education	95%
Master of Science	93%
Master of Arts	91%
All (AU Master's degrees)	90%
Master of Business Administration	88%
Master of Nursing	82%

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022: Master's Program Quality

Valid percentage of graduate alumni satisfied & very satisfied with the quality of the program

Program	Percentage
Master of Arts	100%
Master of Business Administration	99%
Master of Health Studies	96%
All (AU Master's degrees)	95%
Master of Counselling	95%
Master of Science	93%
Master of Nursing	92%
Master of Education	85%

RESEARCH

Research Funding for Graduate Students

Athabasca University financially supports the research of our graduate students through the Graduate Student Research Fund (GSRF) and other research awards.

The **Graduate Student Research Fund (GSRF)** is intended to:
- enhance the research experience of award recipients
- foster research creativity and innovation
- support graduate students' research-focused endeavors
- encourage dissemination of master's or doctoral research
- acknowledge graduate students' contributions to AU's research climate

The fund provides awards to both master's and doctoral students.

Visit Graduate Student Research Fund for information on the application process, including deadlines and guidelines.

Research Funding for Graduate Students

Other funding sources

AU also provides or administers a number of graduate scholarships and awards to help students conduct and disseminate research.Text

- [Faculty of Graduate Studies – Graduate funding](#)
- [Office of the Registrar – Awards for Graduate students](#)

External funding

The Research Centre maintains a [calendar of external funding opportunities for graduate students](#) and will help you apply for these awards.

Research Institute

Athabasca River Basin Research Institute (ARBRI)

The Athabasca River Basin Research Institute (ARBRI) leads in research related to the environment to the environment, ecosystems, and communities of northern Alberta.

Canada Research Chairs

Canada Research Chair in Hydrological Sustainability
Dr. Scott Ketcheson, Faculty of Science & Technology

As a field hydrologist, Dr. Ketcheson studies the movement of water between forests, wetlands, and streams in northern Alberta. His research program uses both traditional hydrological techniques and innovative sensor networks to gain a direct process-based understanding of the hydrological function and importance of headwater catchments for generating freshwater in tributary river networks within the Athabasca River Basin. Additional information on Dr. Ketcheson's hydrology research can be found on his website: AU Hydrology.

Canada Research Chair in Sound Studies
Dr. Mickey Vallee, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Vallee's interdisciplinary research focuses on innovation in sound-based technologies and how new local and global research communities can be built around these innovations. By building an understanding of the personal and collective experiences that people have with emerging sound technologies, Dr. Vallee will investigate how the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities engage with technological innovation.

Athabasca University Chairs

UNESCO/ICDE Chairholder in Open Educational Resources (OER)
Dr. Rory McGreal, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. McGreal is responsible for promoting the use and reuse of free, openly licensed educational content institutionally, nationally, and internationally, with a particular focus on developing countries. Both UNESCO and the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) support the use of open educational resources (OER) as being essential for the achievement of the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goal 4: Education for All. He has delivered OER seminars, keynote presentations and conducted workshops in more than 60 countries.

Commonwealth of Learning Chairholder in Emerging Technologies in Open and Distance Learning
Dr. Mohamed Ally, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Ally is conducting research that will impact both developed and developing countries. He is currently a Canadian expert on information technology for learning, education and training (ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 36) (Information technology for learning, education and training) to set international standards for mobile learning, online learning, virtual reality, and augmented reality. Professor Ally has edited/co-edited 15 books on the use of emerging technologies in education and presented speeches at many national and international conferences. He is a founding director of the International Mobile Learning Association and the International Association for Blended Learning.