



ONTARIO COLLEGES: *BUILDING A HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE*

Ontario's 24 public colleges produce graduates who are successful in every sector of our economy.

It is estimated that 75 per cent of future jobs will require postsecondary education. Ontario's 24 public colleges will play an essential role in delivering higher education to meet that challenge:

- A survey done by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business found that businesses facing labour shortages will need six times as many college graduates as university graduates.

Ontario's college graduates form the largest component of the six-million strong labour force, successfully employed in all sectors and industries:

- Thirty-three per cent of Ontario's workers (2.1 million) have a college qualification
- About 90 per cent of graduates who enter the labour force find employment within six months of graduation
- Ninety-three per cent of employers are satisfied/very satisfied with the college graduates they have hired.

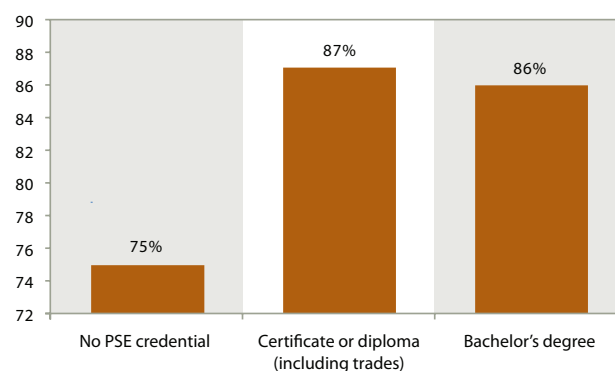
The colleges offer programs in almost 600 subject areas, serving about 200 communities throughout Ontario. Each year, Ontario's colleges serve:

- 200,000 full-time students
- 300,000 part-time students and clients.

Here's why so many are seeking the college advantage:

- College programs are career-focused
- Academic learning is blended with practical experience
- Colleges prepare students for a wide range of careers, including advertising, finance and administration, aviation, construction technology, environmental and natural resources, film, culinary arts, health care, tourism, and information technology (IT).

2008 EMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE ONTARIO POPULATION AGED 25-44 YEARS

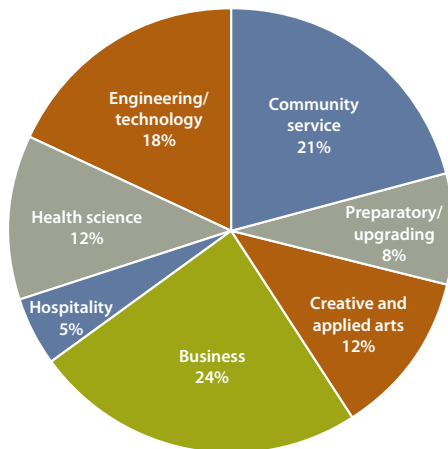


Source: Statistics Canada, Table 282-0004

Today's learners should explore all of their higher-education options and choose the one that is right for them.

Growing numbers of people continue to pursue college education and training. In 2009, first-year full-time enrolment increased by seven per cent. This followed a 5.6 per cent increase in 2008 and a six per cent increase in 2007.

COLLEGE GRADUATES BY EMPLOYMENT SECTOR



Source: 2008 Employment Profile, MTCU; Colleges Ontario

Note that this chart does not include any graduates of collaborative nursing programs. Presumably, this exclusion results in an understatement of the proportion of graduates employed in the health sector.

Colleges offer a spectrum of credentials, serving many needs:

- Certificates
- Two-year and advanced (three-year) diplomas, including many co-op diplomas
- Bachelor's degrees in applied areas of study
- Graduate certificates for those who have already completed a postsecondary diploma or degree
- Joint college-university programs that allow students to earn both a college diploma and university degree.

Ontario's colleges offer 85 per cent of in-school training for apprenticeships.

Colleges provide a supportive learning environment for people from all walks of life. Recent statistics show that:

- Almost two-thirds of college applicants come from the workforce or other postsecondary institutions
- More than one-third of college applicants have previous postsecondary experience before entering college; 10 per cent had earned a college diploma and nine per cent had a university degree
- Seventeen per cent of college applicants were not born in Canada
- Five per cent of students report French as their first language
- Four per cent self-identify as aboriginal
- Twelve per cent use "Special Needs/Disability Services"
- Twenty-three per cent of 2008 applicants reported a household income of less than \$30,000, and 52 per cent reported incomes below \$60,000.

A college education continues to be an affordable option for students. Average tuition costs are:

- Diploma programs: \$2,020 per year
- Graduate certificate programs: \$3,000
- Bachelor's degree programs: \$4,500
- Joint college-university programs: \$4,300.



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