

## BC Student Outcomes

THE 2017 TO 2019 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES SURVEY

## Infographic Report of Findings

The classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017,  
two years after graduation

The *2017 to 2019 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey Infographic Report of Findings: The classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017 Two Years After Graduation* has been prepared by BC Stats for the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum.

Publication Date: May 2021

# Introduction

The Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) is part of BC Student Outcomes, an ongoing research program that gathers information from former students for B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions and the Province of British Columbia. Since 1995, the BGS has been tracking baccalaureate graduates' outcomes.

## Contents

|    |
|----|
| 3  |
| 6  |
| 9  |
| 13 |
| 14 |
| 18 |
| 19 |

## About the Report

This report presents a summary of the 2017, 2018, and 2019 surveys of 2015, 2016, and 2017 baccalaureate graduates. Twenty-one public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia participated in the BGS—eleven universities, seven colleges, and three institutes. Ninety percent of respondents were from universities and graduates from the three largest universities made up 65 percent of respondents overall.

There were a total of 70,135 graduates (23,715 in 2017, 23,520 in 2018, and 22,900 in 2019) who were eligible and invited to participate in the survey. Of these, 31,353 graduates completed the survey for an overall response rate of 45%. The response rate ranged from 44% to 45% each year.

Baccalaureate programs were organized into 10 program areas based on Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.<sup>1</sup> Four of these program areas—Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological Science & Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences & Math—fall under Arts & Sciences. Graduates were most likely to have taken Social Sciences or Business and Management programs.

| Program Areas                        | Respondents   | Percentage of Respondents |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Business and Management              | 5,007         | 16%                       |
| Education                            | 1,597         | 5%                        |
| Engineering and Applied Sciences     | 4,156         | 13%                       |
| Health                               | 3,624         | 12%                       |
| Human and Social Services            | 2,682         | 9%                        |
| Visual and Performing Arts           | 1,474         | 5%                        |
| <b>Arts and Sciences:</b>            |               |                           |
| Social Sciences                      | 6,856         | 22%                       |
| Humanities                           | 2,338         | 7%                        |
| Biological Science and Life Sciences | 2,684         | 9%                        |
| Physical Sciences and Math           | 935           | 3%                        |
| <b>Total Graduate Respondents</b>    | <b>31,353</b> | <b>100%</b>               |

<sup>1</sup> The [Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\)](#) is a standard taxonomy used to describe educational programs. A standard method of grouping CIP codes into CIP clusters has been developed for use by the B.C. public post-secondary system. CIP 2016 was used for this report.

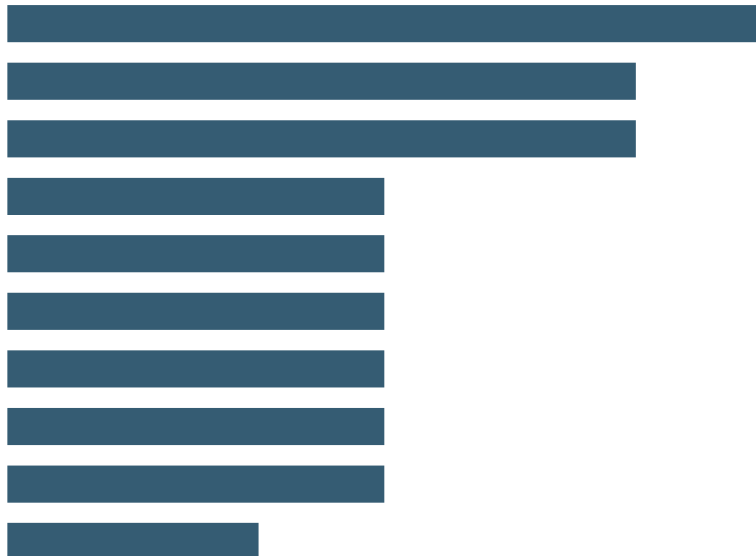


## GENDER

In most program areas, the majority of baccalaureate graduates were **female**.

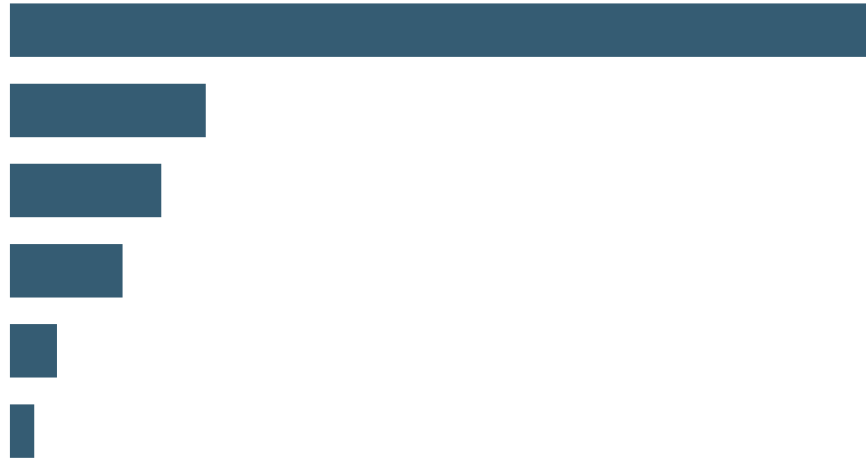
## AGE

At the time of the survey, **26** was the **overall median age** of respondents.



## CURRENT REGION OF RESIDENCE

Two years after graduating, the majority of graduates were living in the Mainland/Southwest region .



Note: Percentages are based on those respondents who provided a valid postal code.



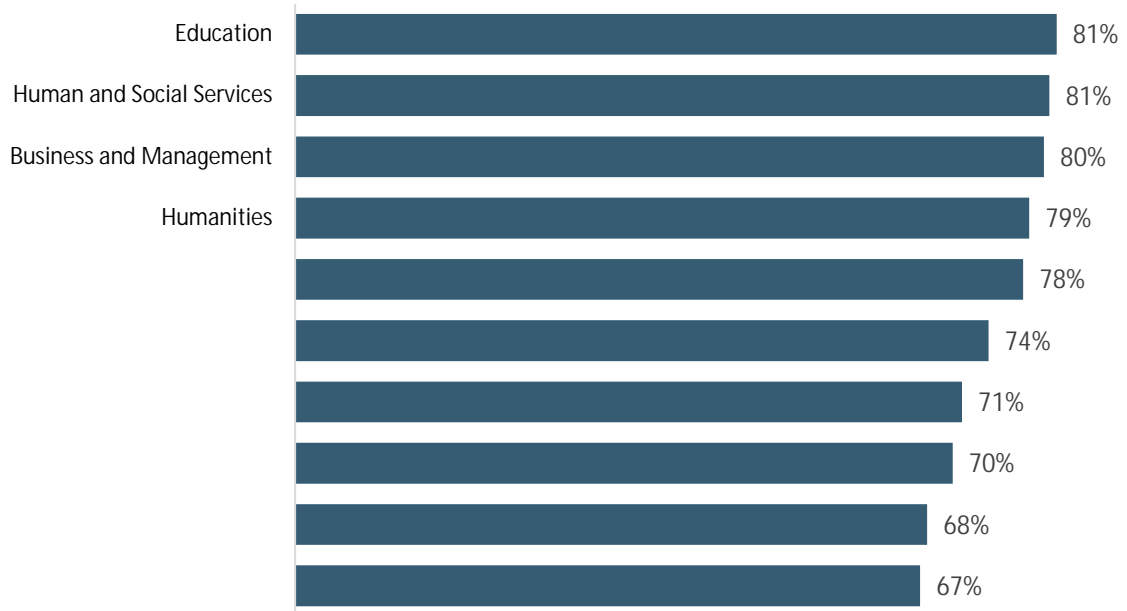
What did they say about their education?





## WOULD SELECT SAME PROGRAM AGAIN

**75%** of all graduates said they would **select the same program again**.



## PARTICIPATED IN WORK EXPERIENCE

**50%** participated in **paid or unpaid work experience** as part of their program (e.g., internship, practicum, volunteer requirement).

## USEFULNESS OF EDUCATION IN THEIR WORK

### DIFFICULTY SCHEDULING CLASSES

**46%** said they **had difficulty scheduling classes** because they were either not available, not offered, always full, or had restricted enrolment.

## How did graduates finance their education?

45%

borrowed money to support their education



\$27,000

was the median amount borrowed for their education

34%

of respondents received government student loans



\$25,000

was the median amount received in government student loans

13%

Had to interrupt their studies for financial reasons



21%

took part, or all, of their program on a part-time basis for financial reasons

## TOP SOURCES OF FUNDING

Family or friends and employment were the most common funding sources mentioned by graduates.

Note: Respondents indicated their top two sources of funding. Percentages add to more than 100.

## BORROWED TO FINANCE THEIR EDUCATION

\$32,000

\$25,000  
\$30,000

\$18,000

\$30,000

\$25,000

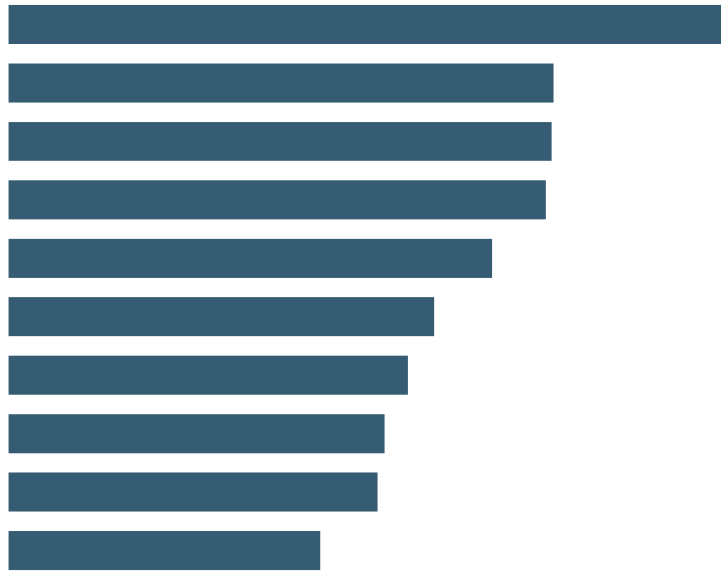
Note: The percentages shown are based on all respondents who gave a valid response. The amounts of debt reported are based on those who said they incurred any amount of financial debt during the undergraduate program they completed.

## RECEIVED GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS

\$30,000

## INTERRUPTED STUDIES FOR FINANCIAL REASONS

Humanities graduates had the highest rate of having to interrupt their studies for financial reasons.



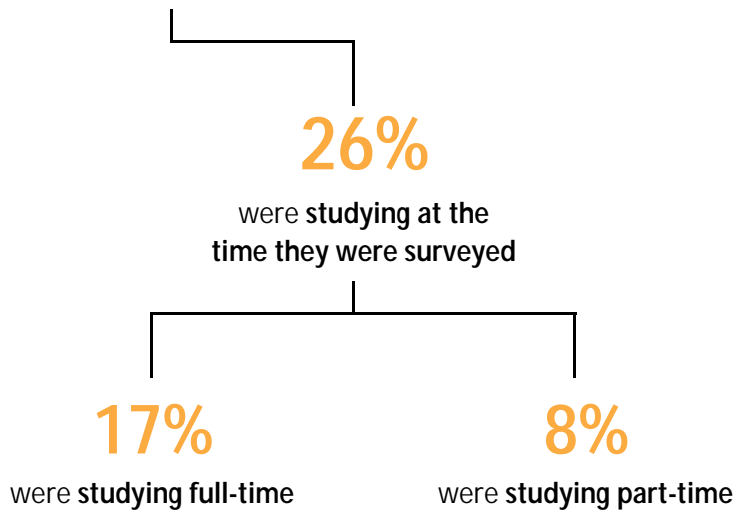
## STUDIED PART-TIME DUE TO FINANCES

The need to take some, or all, of their program on a part-time basis due to finances was highest among Humanities graduates .

# Did baccalaureate respondents continue their education after graduation?

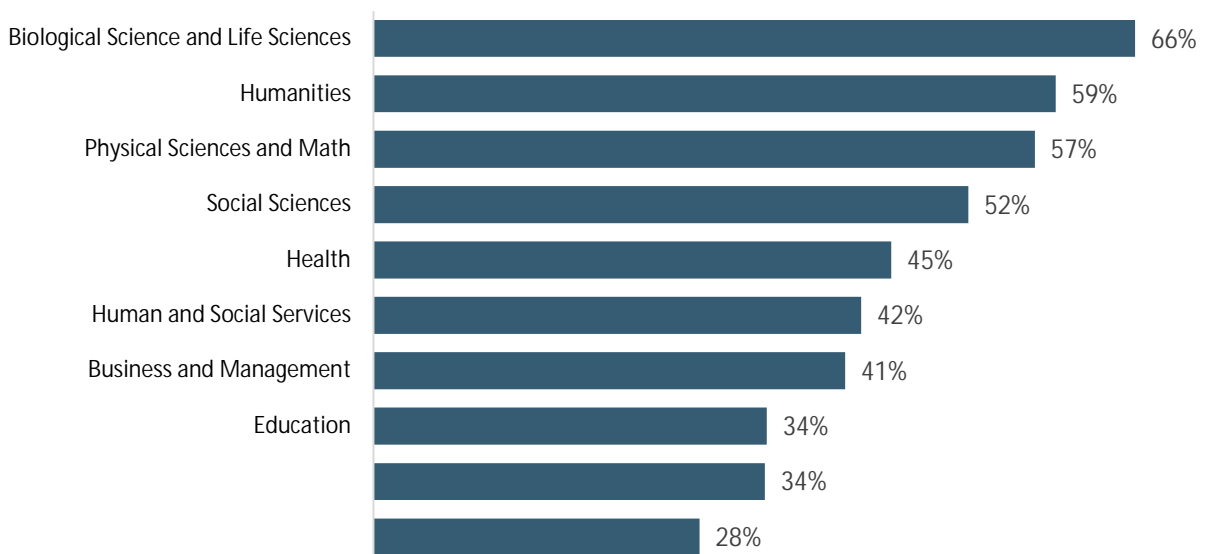
46%

of graduates **continued their education** after graduating with their baccalaureate degree



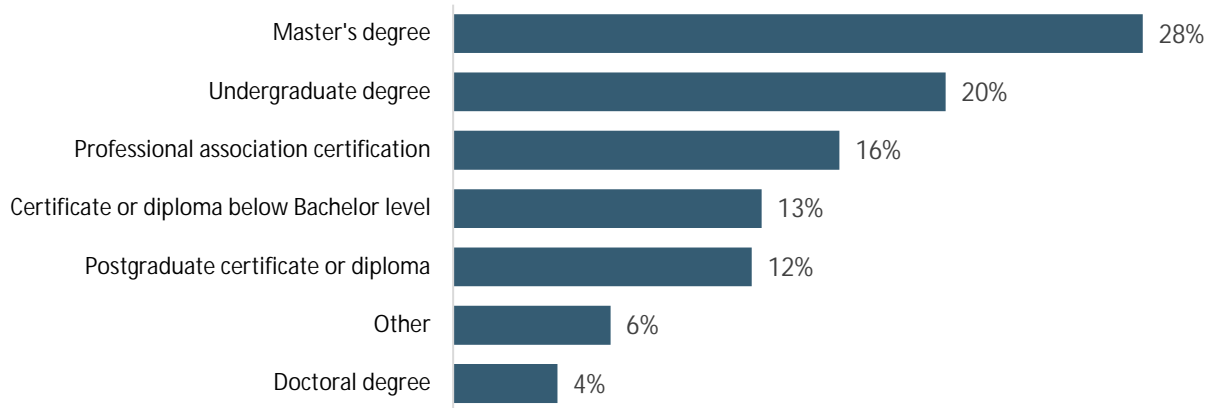
## FURTHER EDUCATION BY PROGRAM

Graduates from **Arts and Sciences programs** tended to enrol in further education.



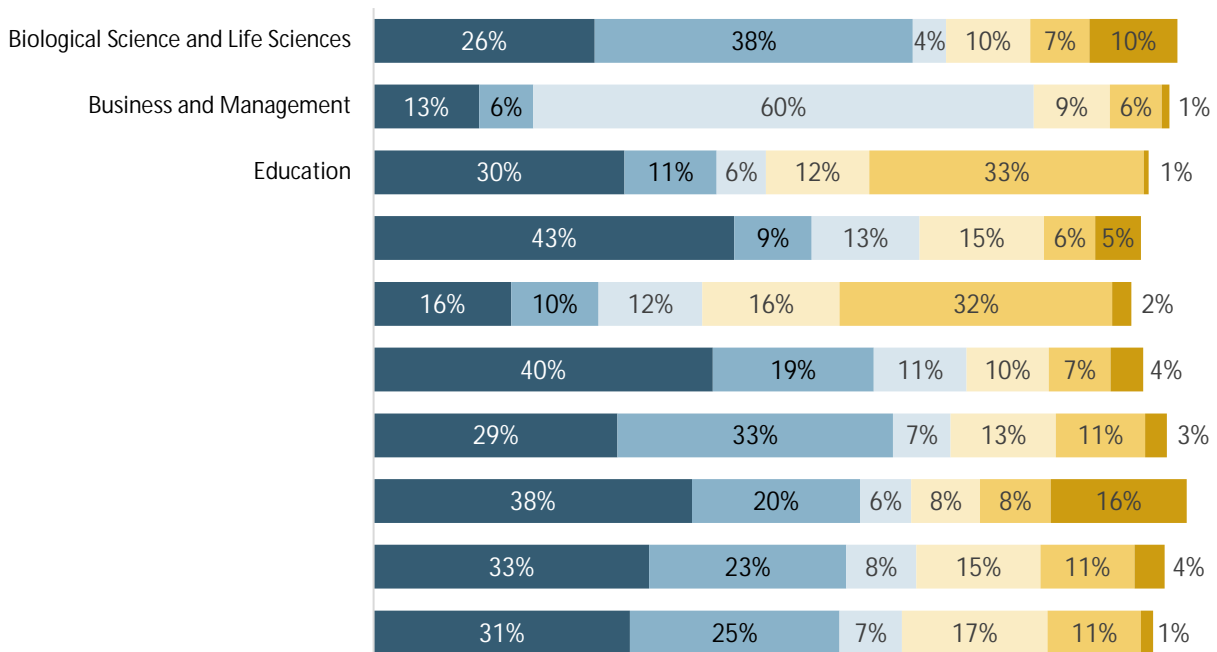
## TYPES OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Of those who continued their education, more than one-quarter were enrolled in a Master's degree program .



## TYPE OF FURTHER EDUCATION BY PROGRAM AREA

The type of further education pursued varied by program area .



Note: Percentages are based on respondents who said they took further education after completing their baccalaureate program. The *Other* category has not been included in this chart.

# What were the employment outcomes of baccalaureate graduates?

**90%**

were **in the labour force**  
(working or looking for work)

**84%**

of all respondents **were employed**

**6.0%**

of those in the labour force  
were **unemployed**

## OF THOSE WHO WERE EMPLOYED...

**74%**

were in a  
**program-related job**

**88%**

were  
**working full-time**

**19%**

had  
**two or more jobs**

**\$54,600**

was the  
**median annual salary**  
at their main job

## SKILL LEVEL OF JOBS

The majority of those employed were in **professional occupations**.

Note: The Skill Level is coded according to the National Occupational Classification (NOC). Professional occupations usually require a university education. Technical, paraprofessional, and skilled occupations usually require a college education or apprenticeship training. Intermediate



What were their employment outcomes?



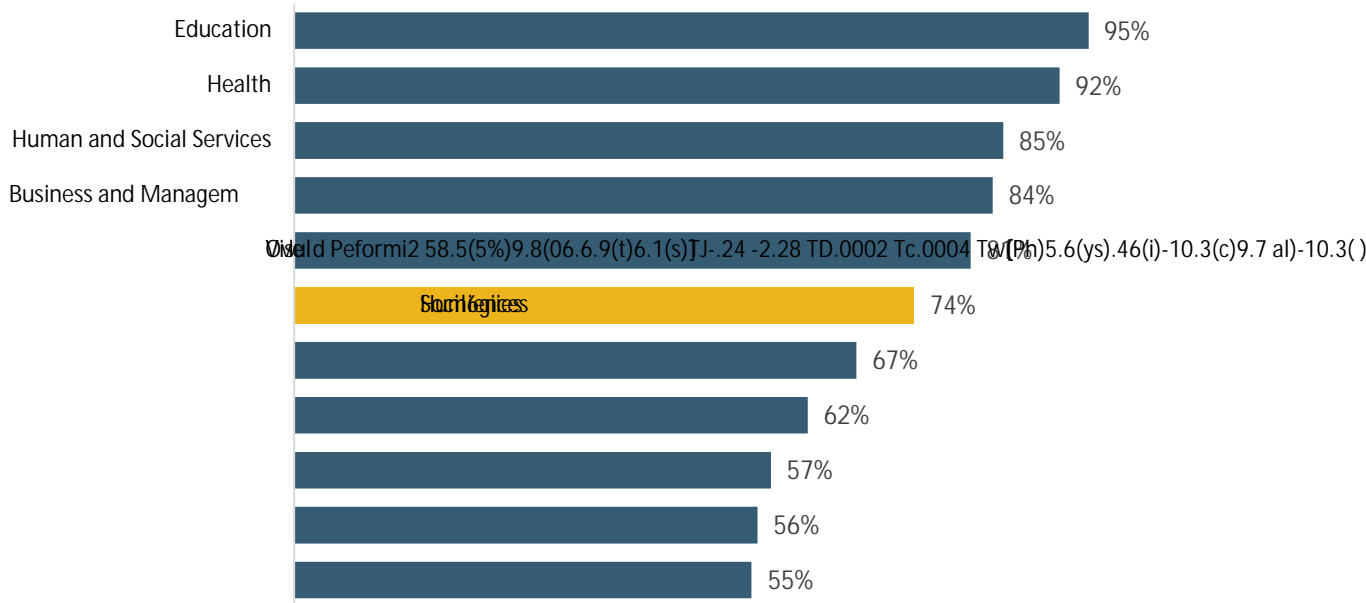
Northern B.C.

Note: The unemployment rate for each region was based on the respondents' postal code at the time of the survey. Respondents whose location was unknown at the time of the survey were not included in the analysis.



# IN A PROGRAM-RELATED JOB

Arts and Sciences graduates were least likely to say their main job was related to their program of study .



## About BC Student Outcomes

The annual Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) is one of the BC Student Outcomes surveys that collects information from former post-secondary students. Those who respond are asked to evaluate their educational experiences and to talk about their employment and further education. For more information, please visit the [BC Student Outcomes website](#).

# Survey Methodology

## Cohort

The 2017, 2018, and 2019 surveys of baccalaureate graduates collected feedback from B.C. baccalaureate graduates two years after they completed their degree. The valid survey cohort consisted of 70,135 baccalaureate graduates from B.C. public universities, colleges, and institutes. Twelve percent of the cohort (n = 8,636) were international students. Graduates for whom no contact data were available were excluded.

There were 21 B.C. post-secondary institutions that participated in this project—eleven were classified as universities, seven were colleges, and three were institutes. The following table lists the participating institutions, the number of graduates who were eligible for the survey, the number of respondents, and the response rates.

| Institution                              | Cohort        | Respondents   | Response Rate |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| University of British Columbia           | 23,562        | 9,562         | 41%           |
| Simon Fraser University                  | 15,063        | 6,373         | 42%           |
| University of Victoria                   | 9,518         | 4,399         | 46%           |
| Kwantlen Polytechnic University          | 2,926         | 1,451         | 50%           |
| Thompson Rivers University               | 2,782         | 1,377         | 49%           |
| University of the Fraser Valley          | 2,633         | 1,224         | 46%           |
| British Columbia Institute of Technology | 2,456         | 1,223         | 50%           |
| Vancouver Island University              | 2,303         | 1,216         | 53%           |
| University of Northern British Columbia  | 1,701         | 796           | 47%           |
| Capilano University                      | 1,384         | 626           | 45%           |
| Douglas College                          | 1,246         | 656           | 53%           |
| Emily Carr University of Art and Design  | 1,098         | 573           | 52%           |
| Royal Roads University                   | 991           | 486           | 49%           |
| Langara College                          | 886           | 516           | 58%           |
| Okanagan College                         | 564           | 288           | 51%           |
| Camosun College                          | 500           | 269           | 54%           |
| Vancouver Community College              | 232           | 122           | 53%           |
| North Island College                     | 117           | 82            | 70%           |
| Nicola Valley Institute of Technology    | 89            | 62            | 70%           |
| Justice Institute of BC                  | 71            | 40            | 56%           |
| College of the Rockies                   | 13            | 12            | 92%           |
| <b>Overall</b>                           | <b>70,135</b> | <b>31,353</b> | <b>45%</b>    |

Note: University of British Columbia includes both the Okanagan and Vancouver campuses.

## Data Collection

The Baccalaureate Graduates Survey was administered as a mixed-mode survey, with interviews conducted by telephone and online using an integrated Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)/ Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI) system. A field test cohort of former students was randomly selected from the available institutional samples. Full telephone survey administration, and online survey administration, was undertaken from September through January for each survey year.

A total of 31,353      31,353