

# Highlights

- Between 2000 and 2006, full-time university enrolment increased by more than 190,000, or 31 percent.
- In 2006, there were about 815,000 fulltime students at Canadian universities and university colleges – approximately 700,000 undergraduates and 115,000 graduate students. An additional 265,000 students were enrolled part-time – 220,000 in undergraduate and 45,000 in graduate programs.
- From 2006 to 2016, national full-time enrolment is expected to grow by an additional 70,000 (or nine percent) fulltime students in the low growth scenario to 150,000 (or 18 percent) full-time students in the high growth scenario. Even if participation rates were held constant over the whole 10-year period, enrolment would increase by some 16,000 students. However, demography and the factors affecting university participation rates will play out differently for individual universities, and the drivers of change for enrolment will exert different pressures in different regions.
- Male enrolment and female enrolment have grown strongly over the last six years and both are at record levels. Full-time male enrolment has passed 350,000 students and full-time female enrolment has passed 460,000.
- Women account for two-thirds of full-time enrolment growth since 1971, a surge driven by the rapid increase in women's participation in the labour force.
- After stagnating in the mid-1990s, full-time master's and PhD enrolment has risen rapidly from 65,000 students in 1996 to 102,000 students in 2006. This is a 57 percent increase over the decade, with most of that growth having taken place since the fall of 2000.
- Since 1996, the number of visa students on Canadian university campuses has grown rapidly to approximately 70,000 full-time and 13,000 part-time students in 2006.
- Beginning in about 2011, the population aged 18 to 21 will begin to decline nationally. However, participation rates, which grew strongly in all regions of the country between 2000 and 2006, continue to be a more important driver of enrolment increases than changes in the population of key cohorts.
- Since 2000, bachelor's degree enrolments for the 18 to 21 year-old cohort have grown much more rapidly than the underlying change in the population in that age group in every province.
- Over the last 16 years, the number of fulltime jobs filled by graduate degree holders has grown from 550,000 in 1990 to more than one million in 2006.
- Between 1990 and 2006, jobs for university graduates doubled, whereas jobs for those who had not completed any postsecondary education declined. Over the next decade, the requirements of an increasingly knowledge-based economy and the record retirement levels of the baby boom generation could fuel further growth in the demand for workers with a university education.