

# The Student Transitions Project (STP):

Following the Success of B.C. Grade 12 Graduates  
into Post-Secondary Education and  
on to Credential Completion

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Presentation for the  
PNAIRP 2010 CONFERENCE

By

The Student Transitions Project

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Devron Gaber, Chair, STP

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Vancouver, B.C.

# AGENDA

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**STP BACKGROUND**

**STUDENT TRANSITIONS**

**STUDENT MOBILITY**

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

# STP BACKGROUND

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**HISTORY**

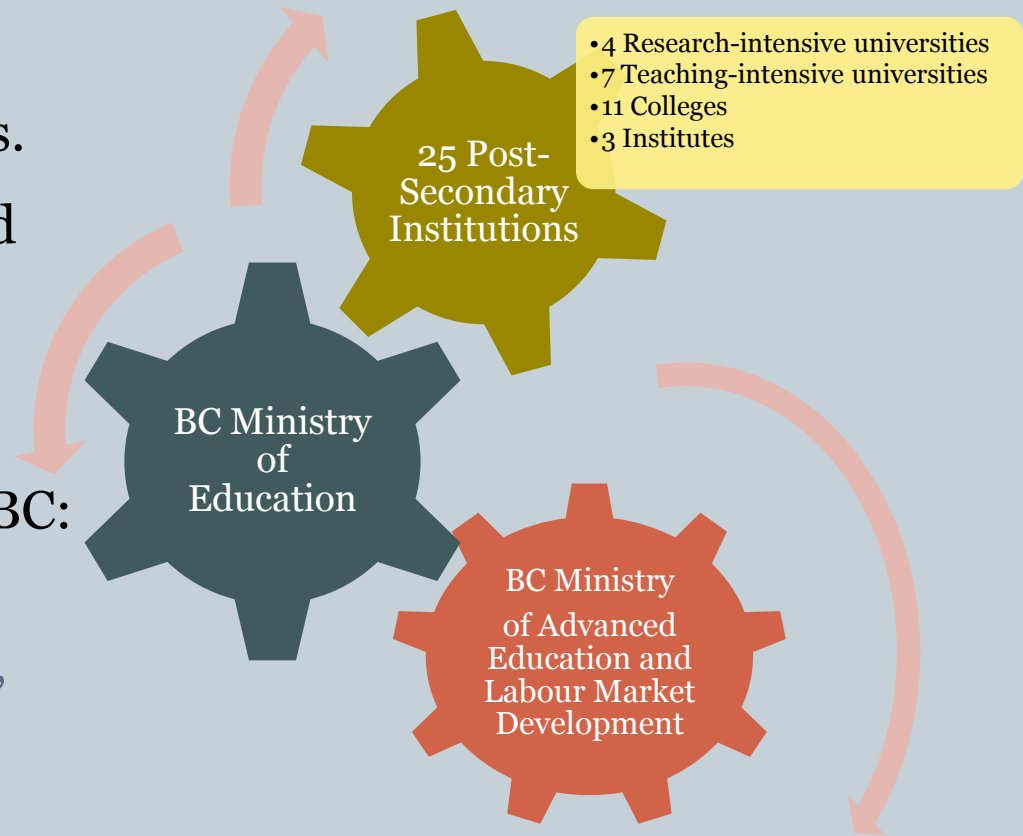
**PURPOSE**

**METHODOLOGY**

# Student Transitions Project (STP)

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- STP began in 2005.
- Collaborative research effort across BC's Education systems.
- BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) is also a partner in STP research.
- Used for strategic planning at various levels of education in BC:
  - school districts,
  - post-secondary institutions,
  - government.



# STP Purpose

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- **Purpose** of STP is to collect, analyze, and report on data from the K to 12 and post-secondary systems to answer questions on student mobility.
- **Goal** is to provide **reliable information** at **predictable times** and in a **timely manner** to support institutions and government with planning.
- **Outputs** include numerous reports, newsletters, Excel pivot tables and interactive tools on a variety of topics available on public site and a password-protected website to Registrars and IR directors.

# STP Governance

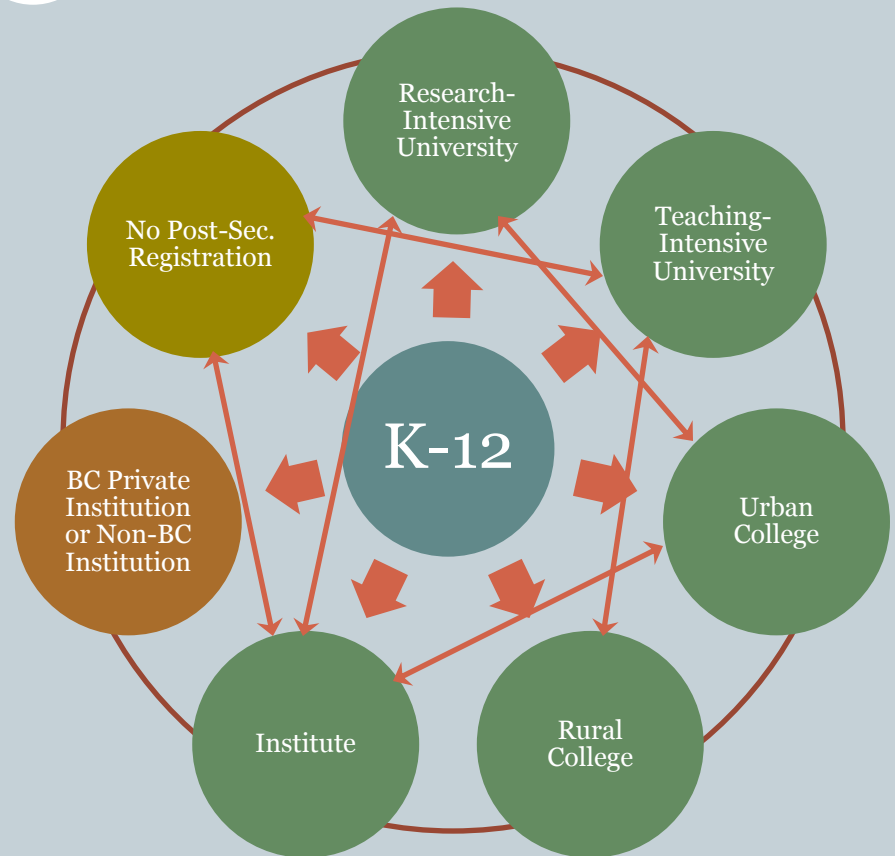
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- Joanne Heslop is STP Manager, seconded to BCCAT from SFU.
- STP is managed by a Steering Committee with supporting subcommittees:
  - Data Management Subcommittee
  - Applicant Research Subcommittee
  - Mobility of Transfer Students Subcommittee
- Steering Committee includes representatives from both Ministries, post-secondary institutions, and BCCAT.

# Student Transitions and Mobility

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- STP tracks education transitions and pathways of students:
  - From K-12 to post-secondary,
- AND
- Within the post-secondary system.



Using 2009-10 institution types

# Student Transitions – How?

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- Personal Education Number (PEN). Without the PEN, there would be no STP.
- All students entering K-12 in BC are assigned a nine-digit number. This unique identifier follows students throughout their education in BC.
- STP links the PEN between the education systems to track student transitions while protecting personal privacy. This is key to our ability to track student movement over time.

Strong Start



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Kindergarten



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Grade 12 Graduate



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College



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University



# STP Outputs and Information

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- **Annual Reports/Updates:**
  - Transitions of High School Graduates into BC Public Post-Sec
  - Movement of Students Between Institutions
  - Mobility of Transfer Students
  - STP Fast Facts
  - Regional Transition Rate Matrices
- **Special Reports & Studies**
  - Transitions Beyond the B.C. Public System (BC Privates & Non-BC)
  - Aboriginal Student Transitions
  - Credential Completion
  - Cohort/Retention Study of a Grade 12 Graduation Cohort
  - Program evaluations



# Future Projects and Work in Progress

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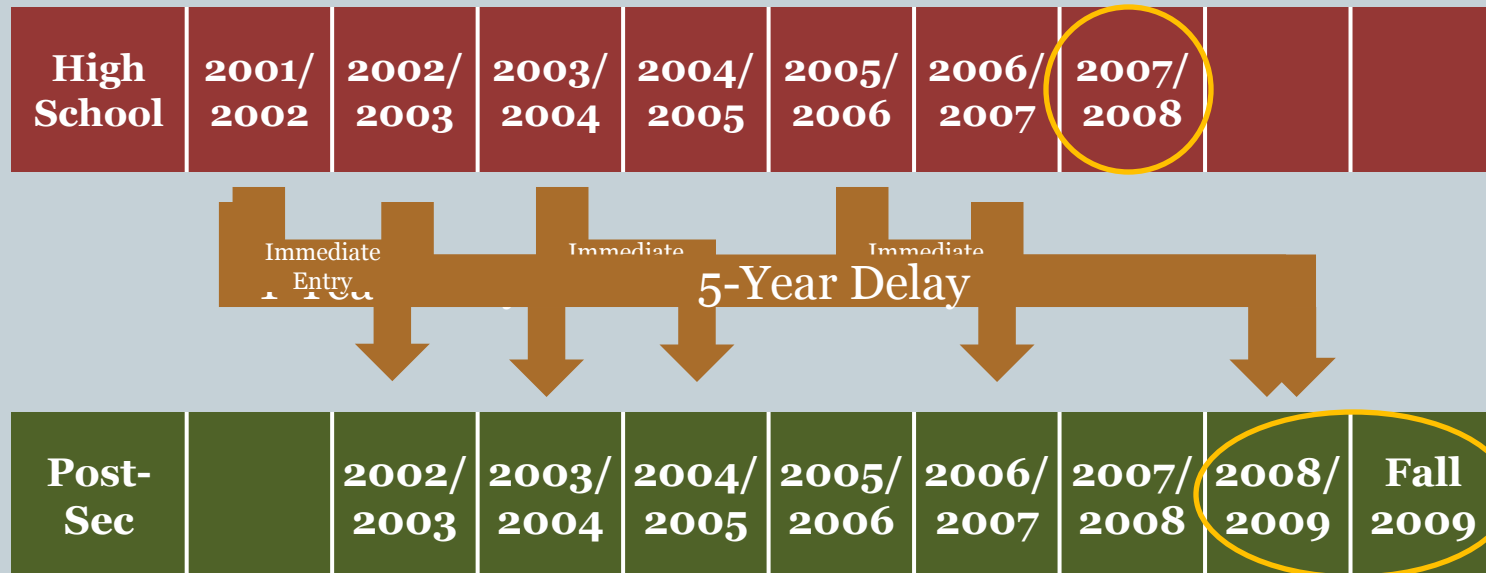
- Transitions of non-graduates
- Applicant Research
- PENning of Private Institutions
- Link STP to student outcomes - employment and education satisfaction
- Impact of high school courses and grades on student transition rates.
- International students – transition rates and mobility
- Longitudinal student mobility



# Which Students are Included?

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- High School Graduates of 2001/02 – 2007/08



- First transitions to BC public post-secondary education: 2002/03 – 2008/09

# STP RESEARCH FINDINGS

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# Research Question #1

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**What proportion of B.C. Grade 12  
Graduates enrol in B.C. public  
post-secondary education  
after graduation?  
When do they enrol?**

# Student Transitions – When?



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The majority enroll  
in Fall (44%)

K-12

**Immediate  
Entry  
(51%)**

**1-Year  
Delay  
(11%)**

**2-Year  
Delay  
(5%)**

**3-Year  
Delay  
(3%)**

**4-Year Delay (2%)**

**5-Year Delay**

**6-Year**

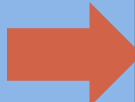
**7-Yr Cumulative  
Transition Rate = 75%**

# Research Question #2

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**Is there any evidence to suggest  
that participation rates  
in BC public postsecondary  
education are rising,  
at least among the population of  
BC grade 12 graduates?**

# Matrix of First Transitions from BC High School Graduation to BC Public Post-Secondary Education



High School Grad Year		Year of First Entry Into BC Public Post-Secondary Education								Total HS Grads	Cumulative Transition Rate (by 2008/2009)
		2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007 /2008	2008/ 2009	No Trans Yet		
2001/2002	# Grads	22,071	4,983	2,113	1,230	907	690	609	10,759	43,362	Seven Years
	% of Grads	50.9%	11.5%	4.9%	2.8%	2.1%	1.6%	1.4%	24.8%	100.0%	75.2%
2002/2003	# Grads		22,701	4,904	2,145	1,226	966	768	11,621	44,331	Six Years
	% of Grads		51.2%	11.1%	4.8%	2.8%	2.2%	1.7%	26.2%	100.0%	73.8%
2003/2004	# Grads			21,111	4,571	1,554	1,227	1,000	12,446	42,309	Five Years
	% of Grads			49.9%	10.8%	4.6%	2.9%	2.4%	29.4%	100.0%	70.6%
2004/2005	# Grads				21,913	4,754	2,110	1,297	13,584	43,660	Four Years
	% of Grads				50.2%	10.9%	4.8%	3.0%	31.1%	100.0%	68.9%
2005/2006	# Grads					22,853	4,898	2,212	14,912	44,876	Three Years
	% of Grads					50.9%	10.9%	4.9%	33.2%	100.0%	66.8%
2006/2007	# Grads						22,455	4,832	16,103	43,390	Two Years
	% of Grads						51.8%	11.1%	37.1%	100.0%	62.9%
2007/2008	# Grads							23,325	21,347	44,672	One Year
	% of Grads							52.2%	47.8%	100.0%	52.2%

# Research Question #3

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**Among those who do not transition to BC public post-secondary education, are they enrolling elsewhere?**

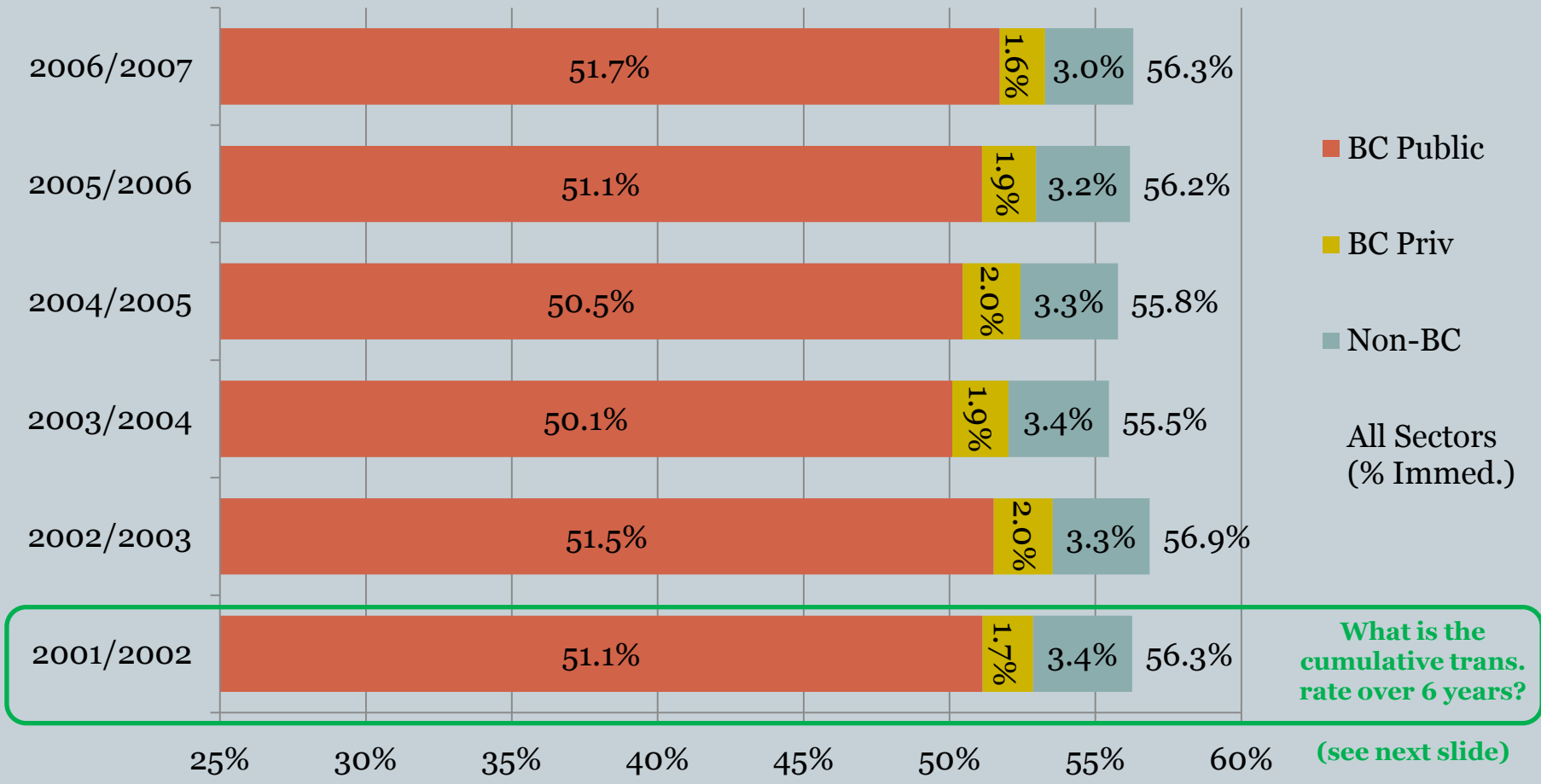
- **BC Private Institutions?**
- **Non-BC Institutions?**

# STP Reduces the Rate of “Non-Transitioners” by Tapping into Other Data Sources

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- Is it possible that “non-transitioners” are enrolling elsewhere? **YES!**
- The STP currently captures post-secondary enrollments ***in the B.C. public system***, but students can also enroll in BC private and non-BC institutions.
- The STP links to two additional data sources to identify post-secondary registrations outside of the BC public system:
  - **Student Financial Aid and**
  - **Passport to Education.**
- The PEN made data linkage possible.

# Immediate-Entry Transition Rates by Graduation Cohort and Sector of First Entry



# Cumulative Transition Rate (Into All Sectors): Grade 12 Graduates of 2001/02



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<b>Time of Entry</b>	<b>Transition Rate</b>	<b>Cumulative Transition Rate</b>
Immediate	56.3%	56.3%
1 Year Delay	13.1%	69.4%
2 Year Delay	5.4%	74.8%
3 Year Delay	2.9%	77.6%
4 Year Delay	2.0%	79.6%
5 Year Delay	1.3%	80.9%
<b>6-Year Cumulative Transition Rate</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	

As the time since graduation increases, the rate at which students enroll in post-secondary education declines, but cumulatively the vast majority of grade 12 graduates (81%) enrolled within six years of graduation.

# Non-BC Post-Secondary Destinations



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- Among those who leave B.C., where do they go?
  - 80% to other Canadian Provinces (80%)
  - 8% to USA
  - 2% to other Countries
  - 12% to unknown destinations.
- Top 3 most popular non-BC institution destinations:
  - University of Toronto, University of Alberta and McGill University.
- Top 5 most popular USA state destinations:
  - New York, California, Washington, Massachusetts, Michigan.

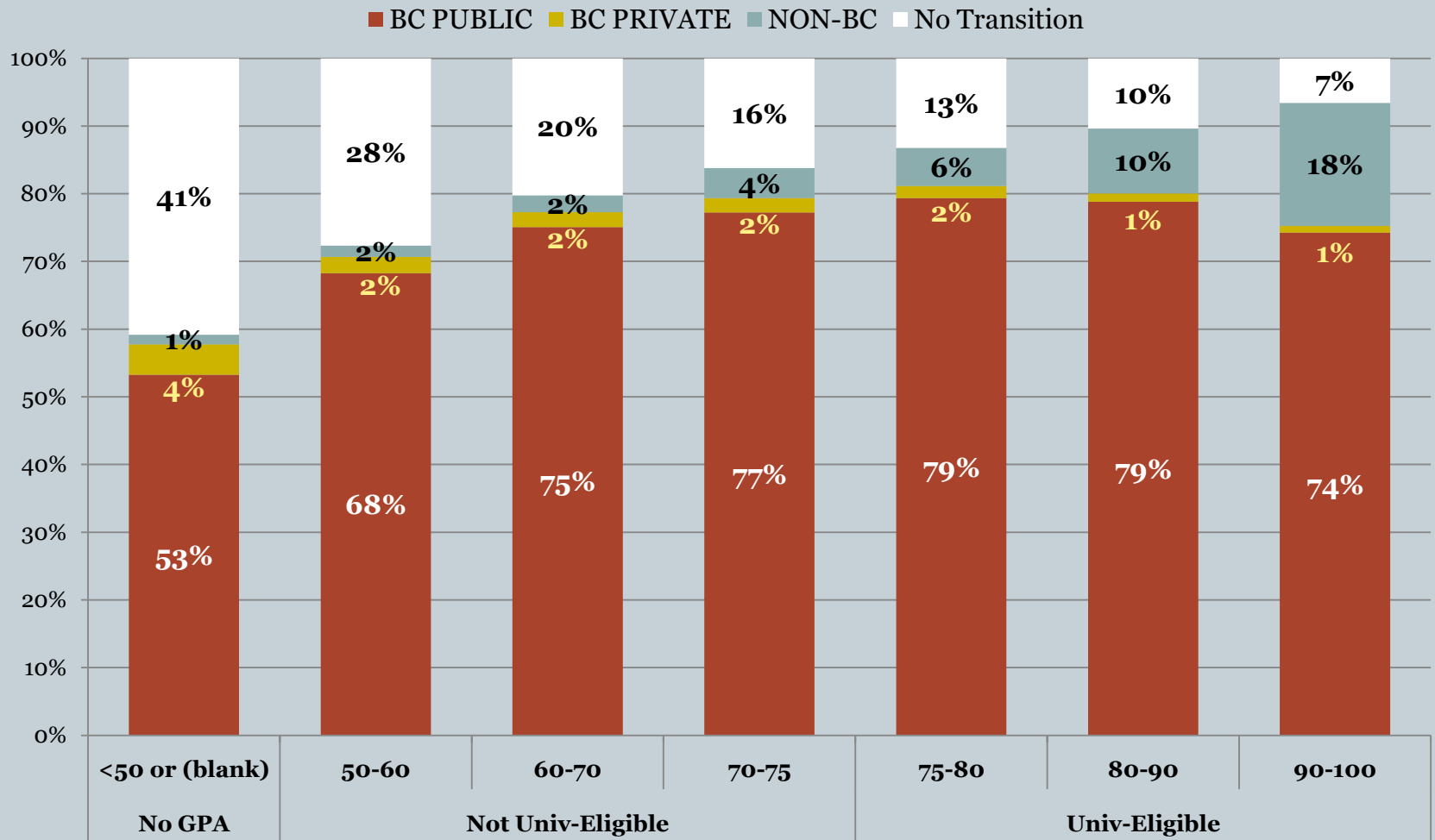
# Research Question #4

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**Do academic qualifications  
from high school affect  
students' post-secondary  
sector destinations?**

# Sector Destinations by Academic GPA

## (High School Graduation Cohorts 2001/02 to 2006/07)



# Research Question #5

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**Which credentials and programs  
do students first enrol in?**

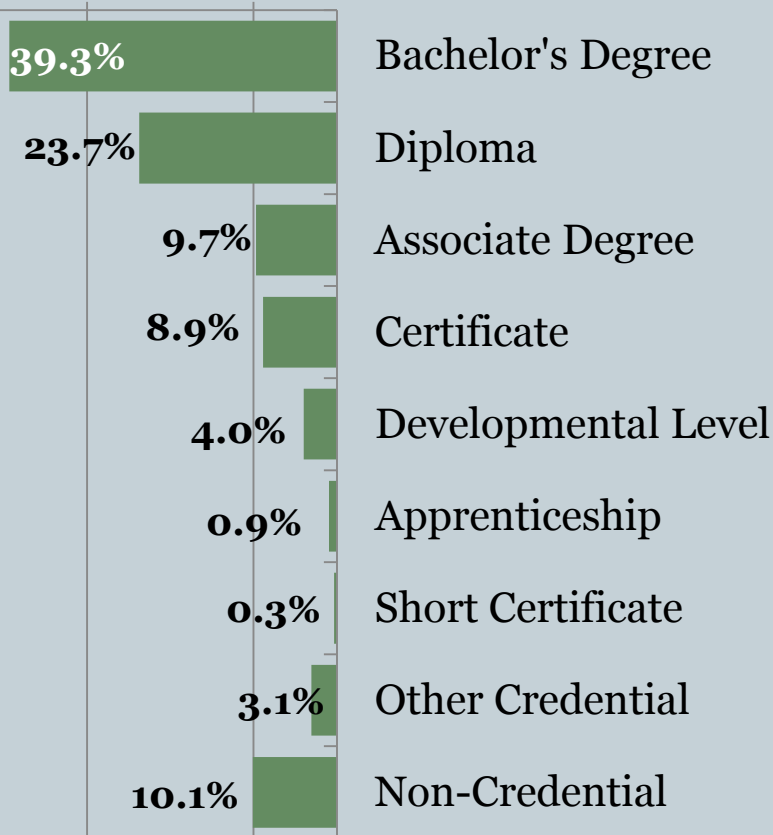
**What are the program trends?**

# Programs and Credentials of First Enrollment

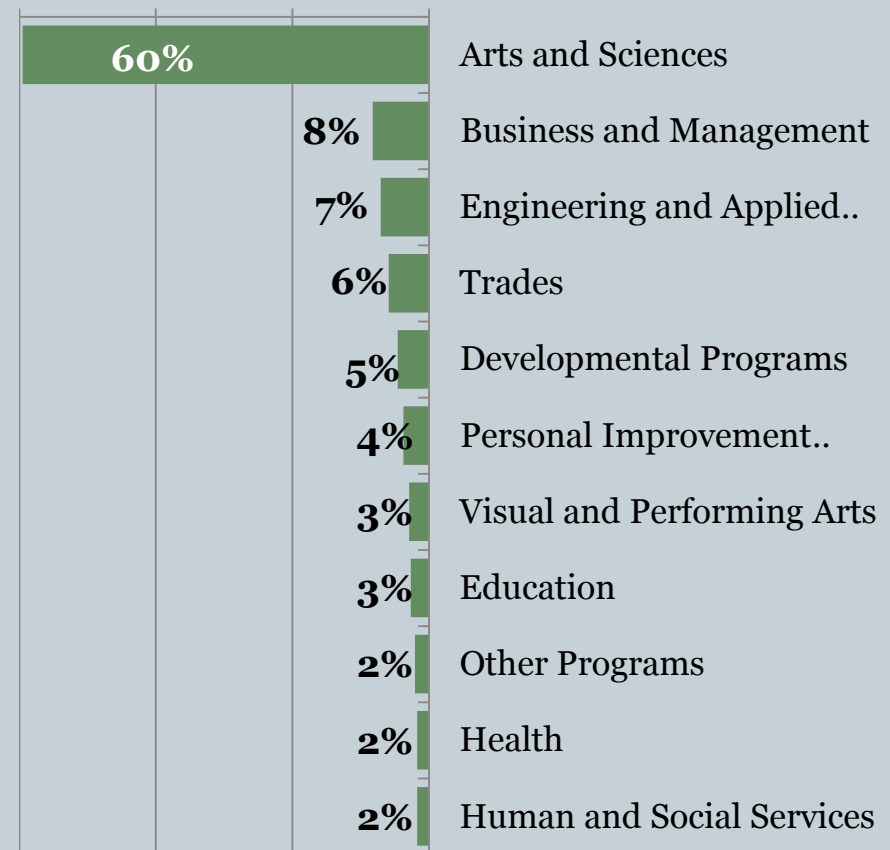
(Grade 12 Grads of 2001/02 to 2003/04 Who Enrolled Immediately in BC Public Post-Sec)

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## % Distribution by Credential Type



## % Distribution by Program

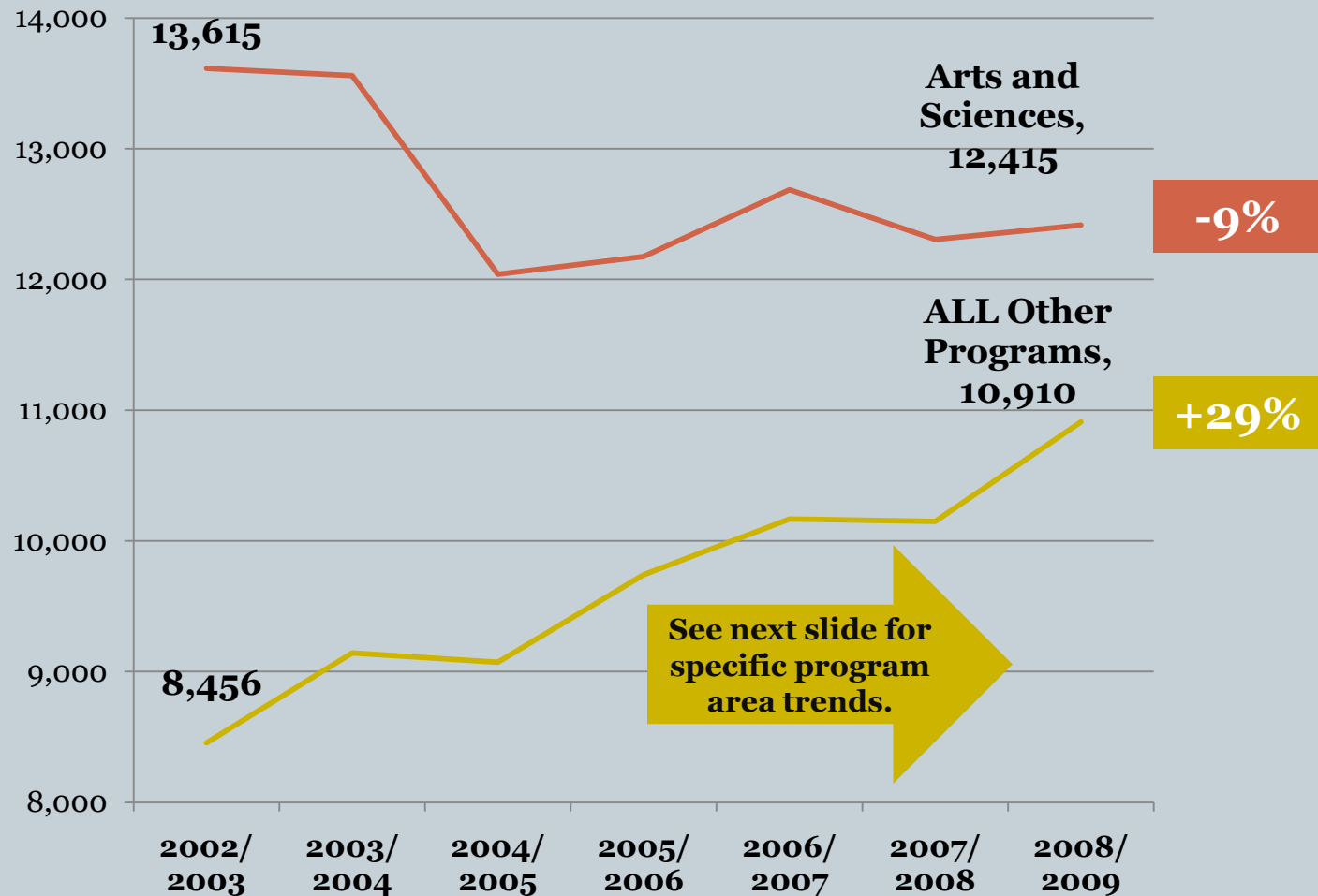


Includes 65,883 grade 12 graduates of 2001/02 to 2003/04 who enrolled in BC public post-secondary education within one year of high school graduation.

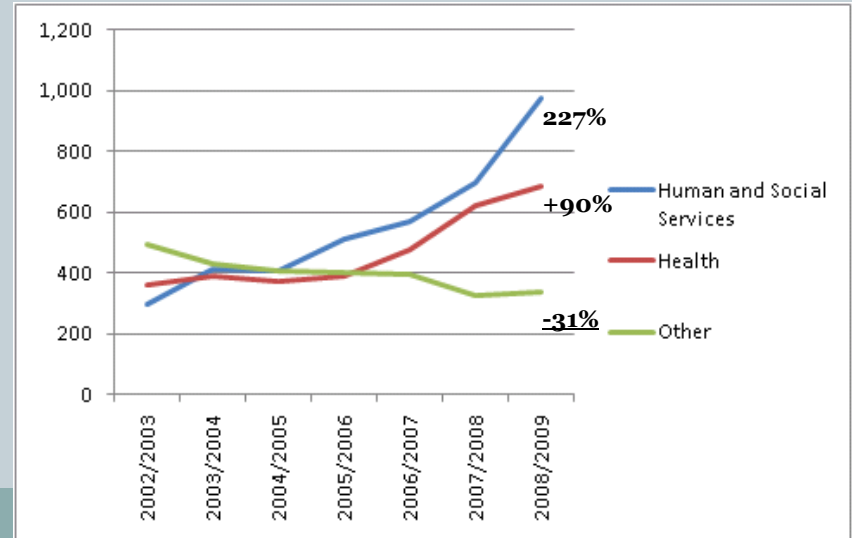
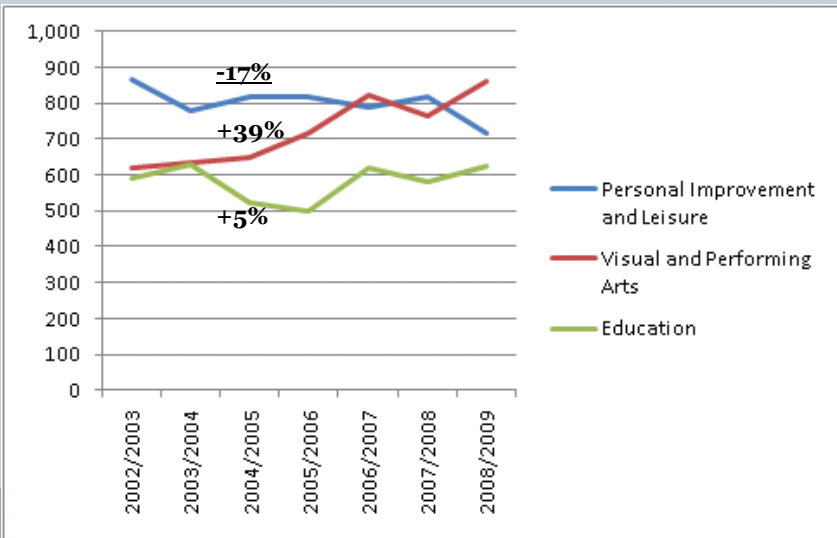
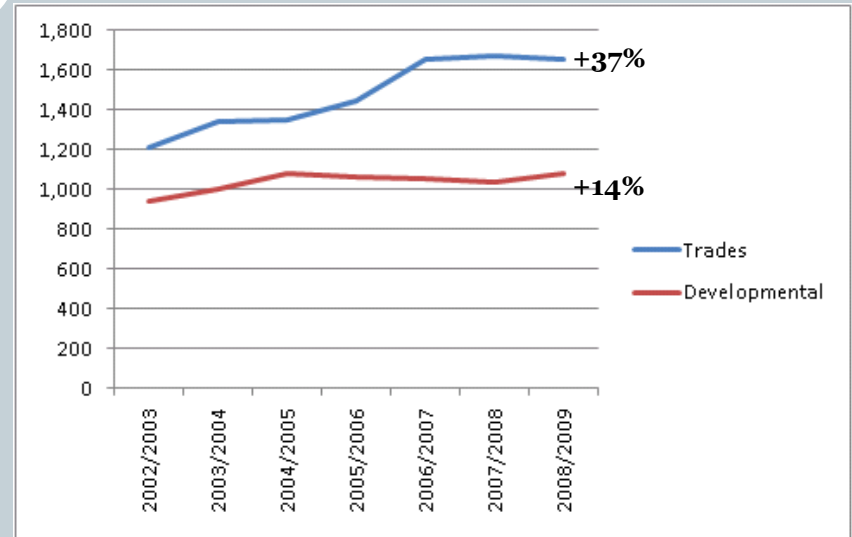
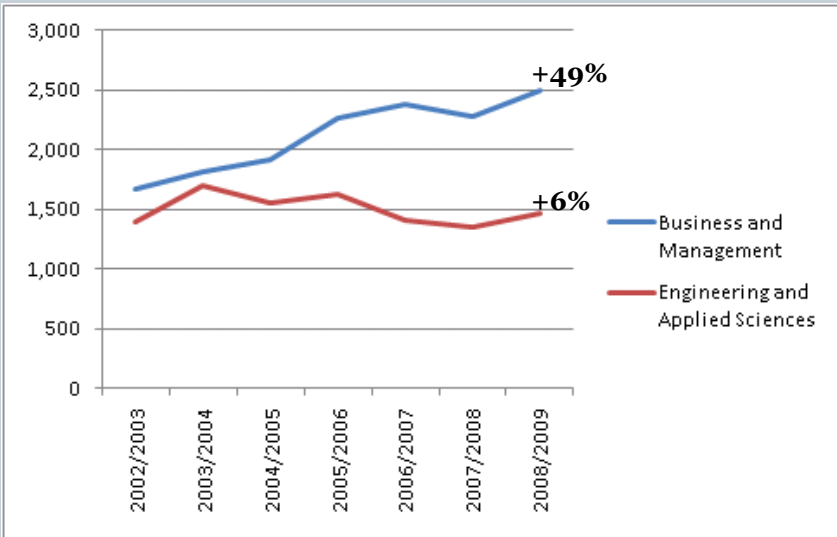
# Immediate-Entry Program Trends by B.C. Public Post-Sec Program Destination



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# Immediate-Entry Trends Into “Other” B.C. Public Post-Sec Programs



# Research Question #6

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## Student Mobility:

**To what extent do BC public post-secondary registrants move between institutions?**

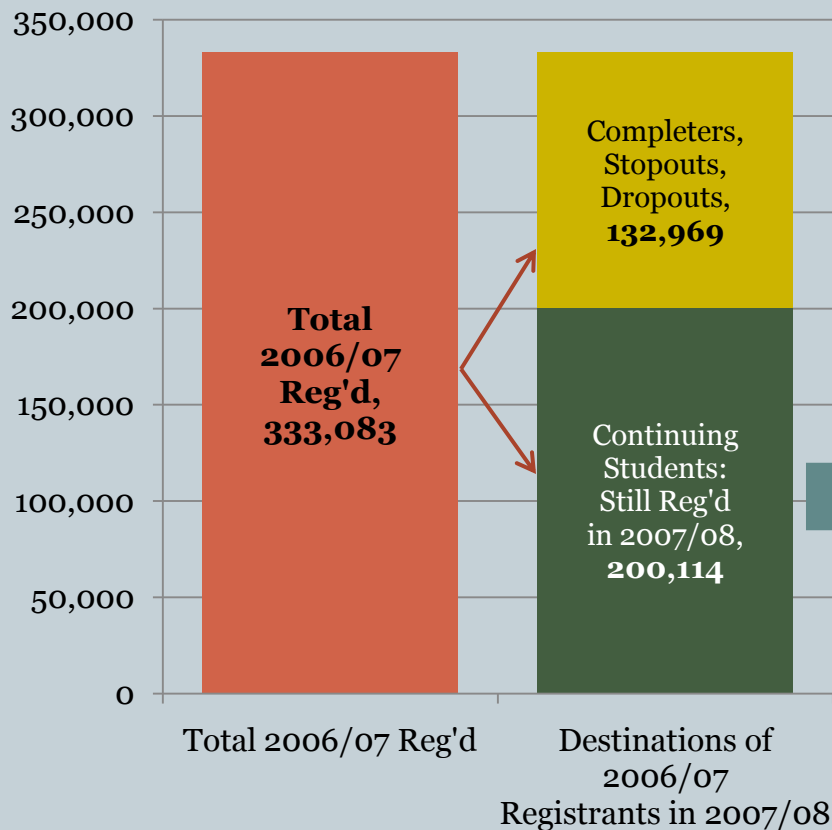
**To what extent do students switch programs, credentials, study levels, etc.?**

# Student Movers: 2006/07 to 2007/08

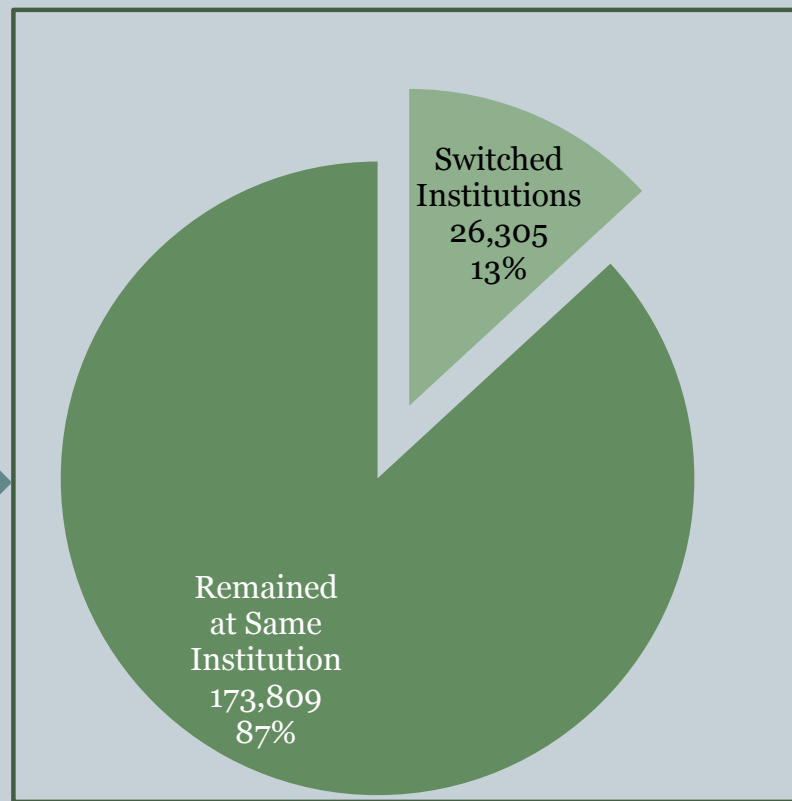


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## 333,083 Post-Secondary Registrants of 2006/07



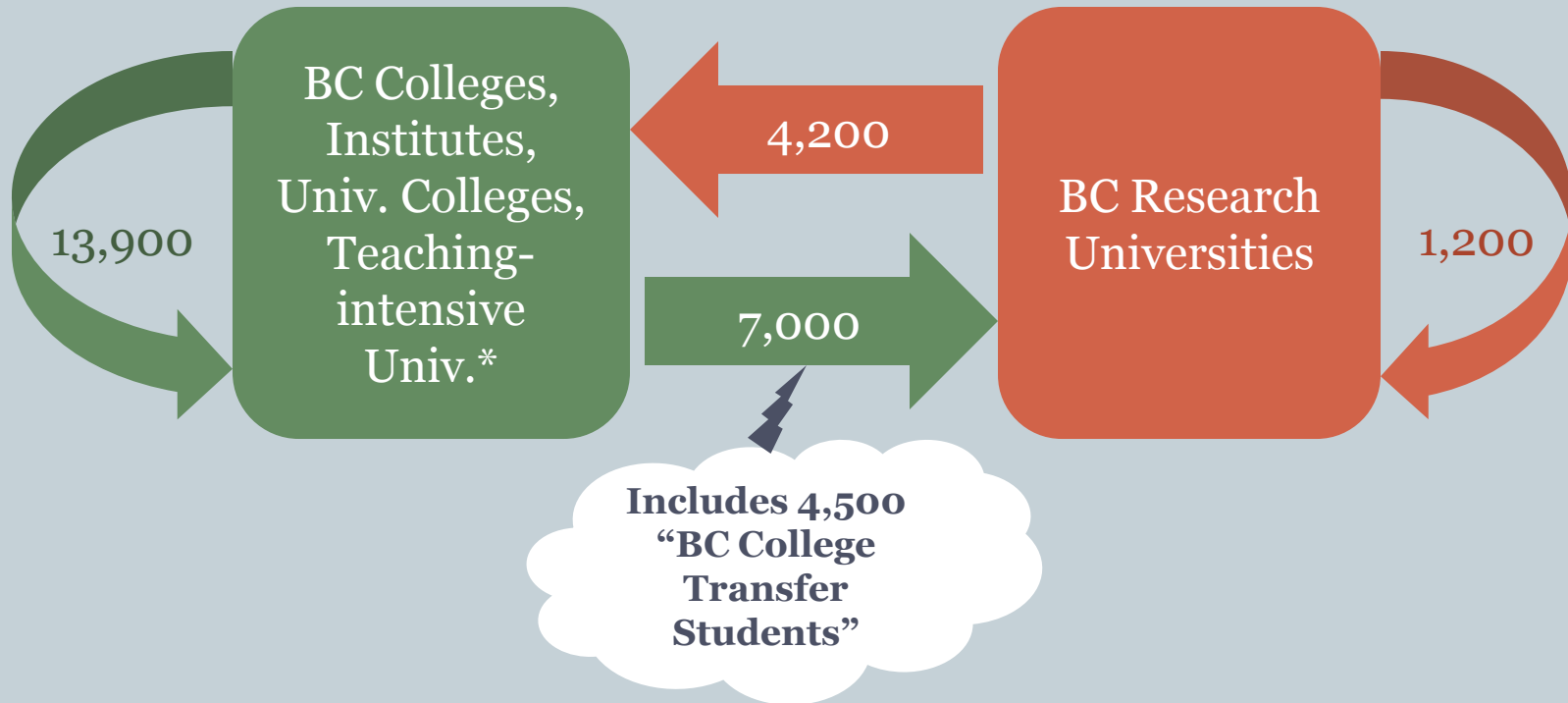
## 200,114 Continuing Registrants in 2007/08



# Student Mobility Between Sectors in the BC Public Post-Secondary Education System

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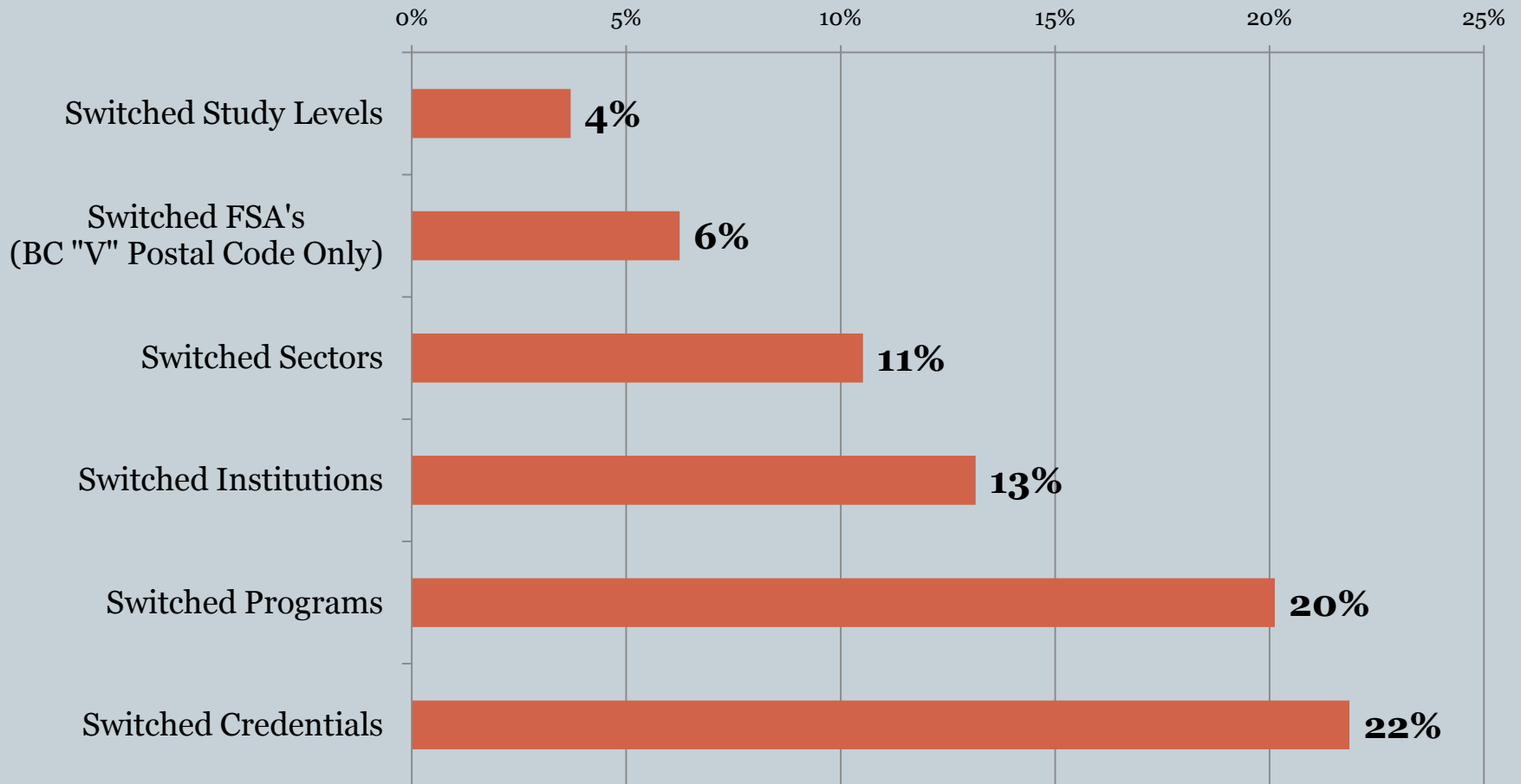
- **26,300** students moved between BC public post-secondary institutions, from 2006/07 to 2007/08.



\*Institutional designations in these slides are those that were in place before Fall 2008.

# Types of Student Mobility (2006/07 to 2007/08)

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# Research Question #7

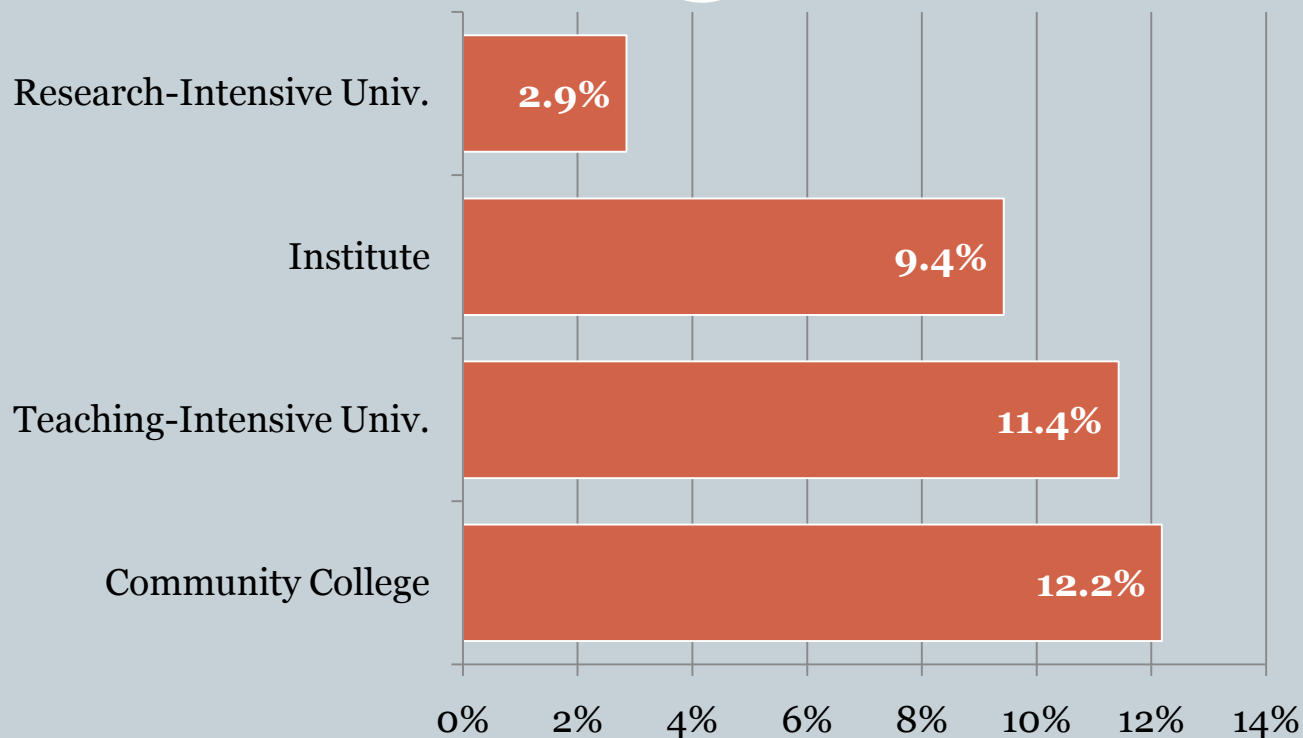
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What are the **drop-out rates** of BC high school graduates who enrolled immediately in post-secondary after high school graduation?

# First Year, Immediate-Entry Dropout Rate from BC Public Post-Secondary Education, by Type of Institution First Attended



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The **dropout rate** is calculated from the proportion of students who made an immediate entry into BC public post-secondary education in 2004/05 after high school graduation in 2003/04 and did not complete a credential in 2004/05 and did not return to any BC public post-secondary institution at any time over the next four years (2005/06 to 2008/09).

## STP's System-wide perspective transforms the institutional perspective.

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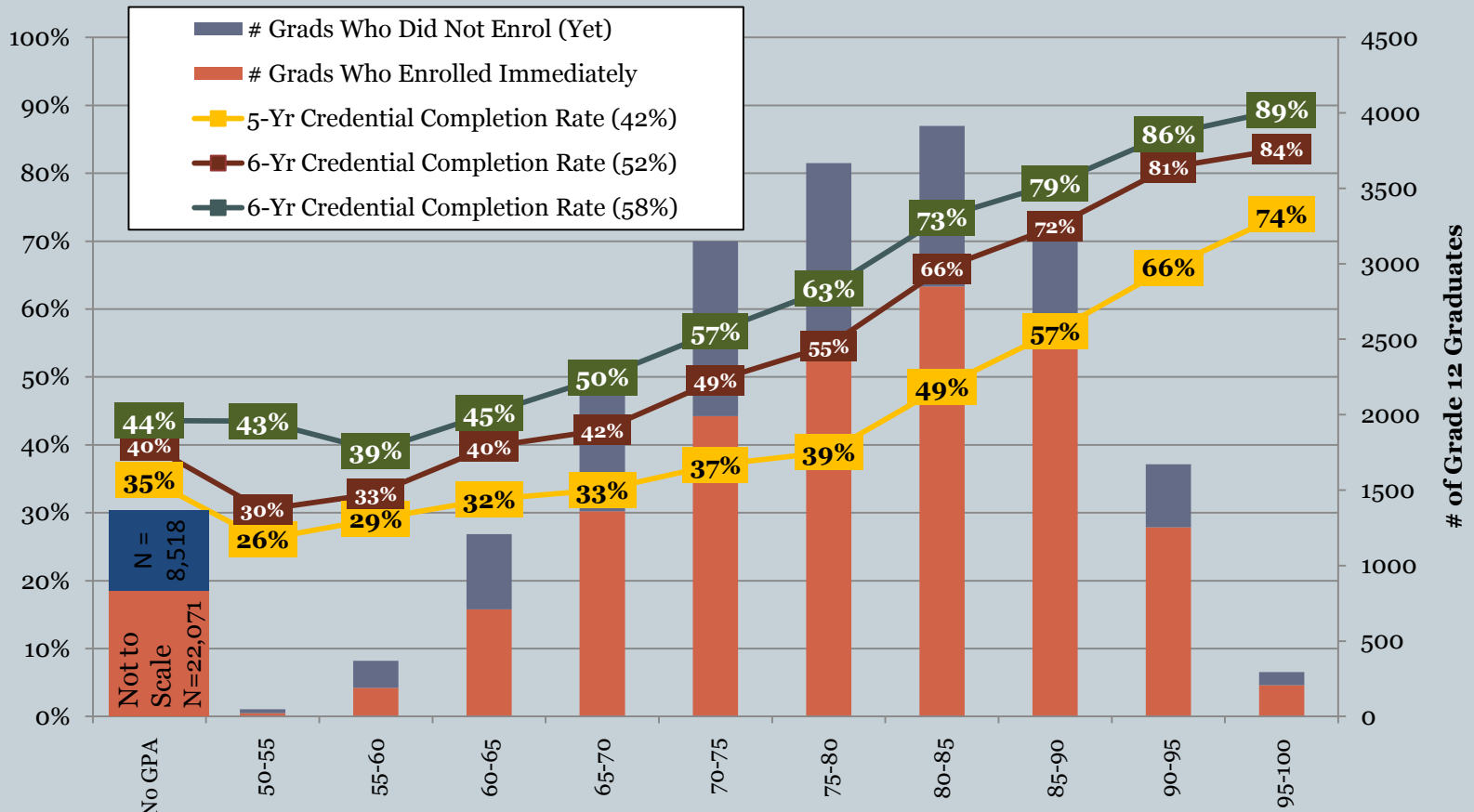
- Institutional dropout rates do not normally account for students who continue successfully at another institution.
- STP's system-wide data allows us to change our perspective on drop-out rates. It's never as bad as it first appears!

# Research Question #8

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**What are the credential completion rates of BC high school graduates who enrolled immediately in post-secondary after high school graduation?**

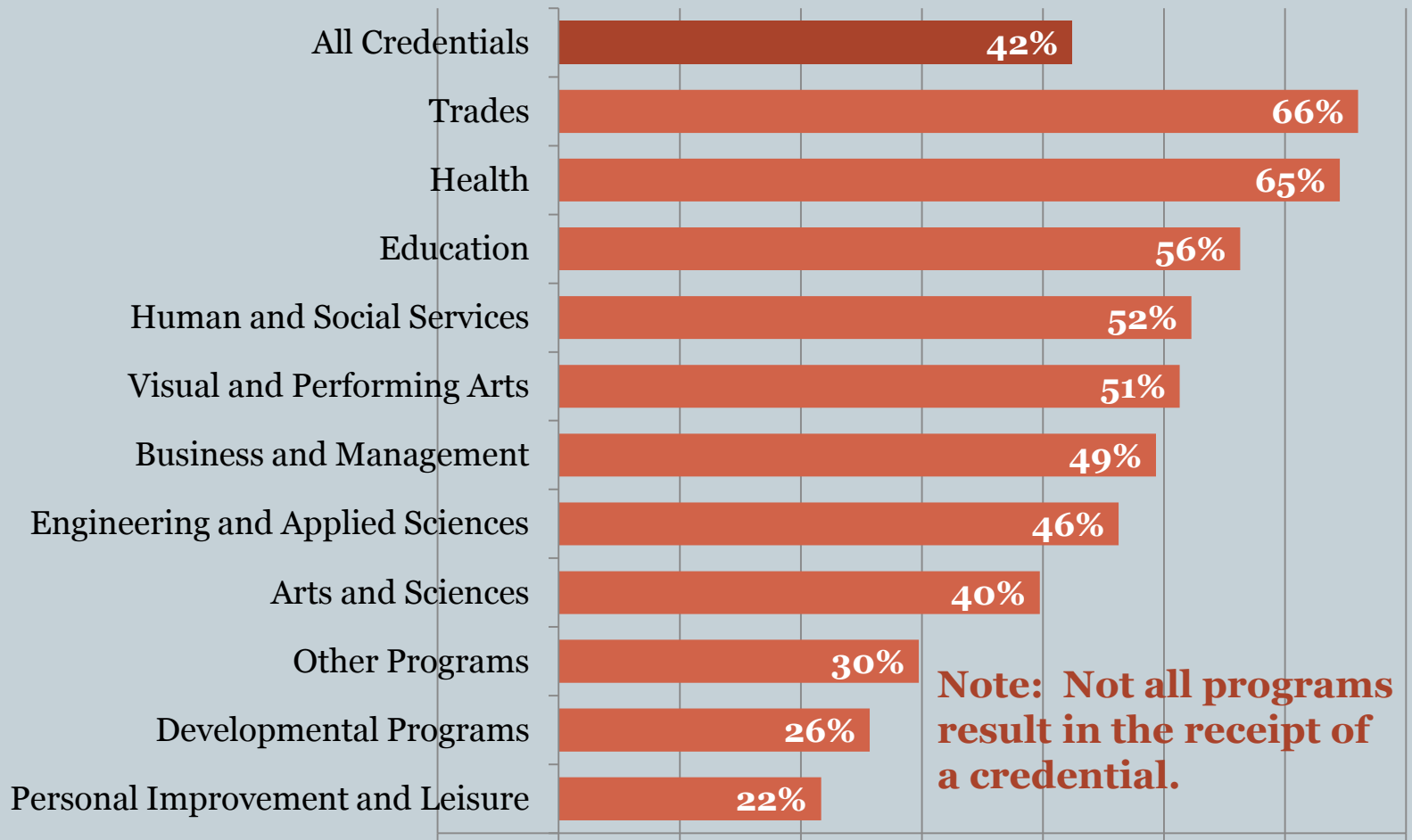
# 5-Yr, 6-Yr and 7-Yr Credential Completion Rates, of the 2001/02 Gr12 Graduation Cohort, by Academic GPA



A total of 43,362 students graduated in 2001/02, of which 22,071 enrolled immediately. Credential completion rate is calculated for these immediate-entry students only as the number of unique completers divided by the number of unique immediate-entry students.

# Five-Year Credential Completion Rates by Program of Entry

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Includes BC grade 12 graduates of 2001/02 to 2003/04 who enrolled immediately in BC public post-secondary education. Credentials completed include Bachelor's, Assoc. Degree, Diploma, Certificate, etc.

# Research Question #9

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**Do students finish in the  
same programs/credentials  
where they began?  
➔ (Looking Forward)**

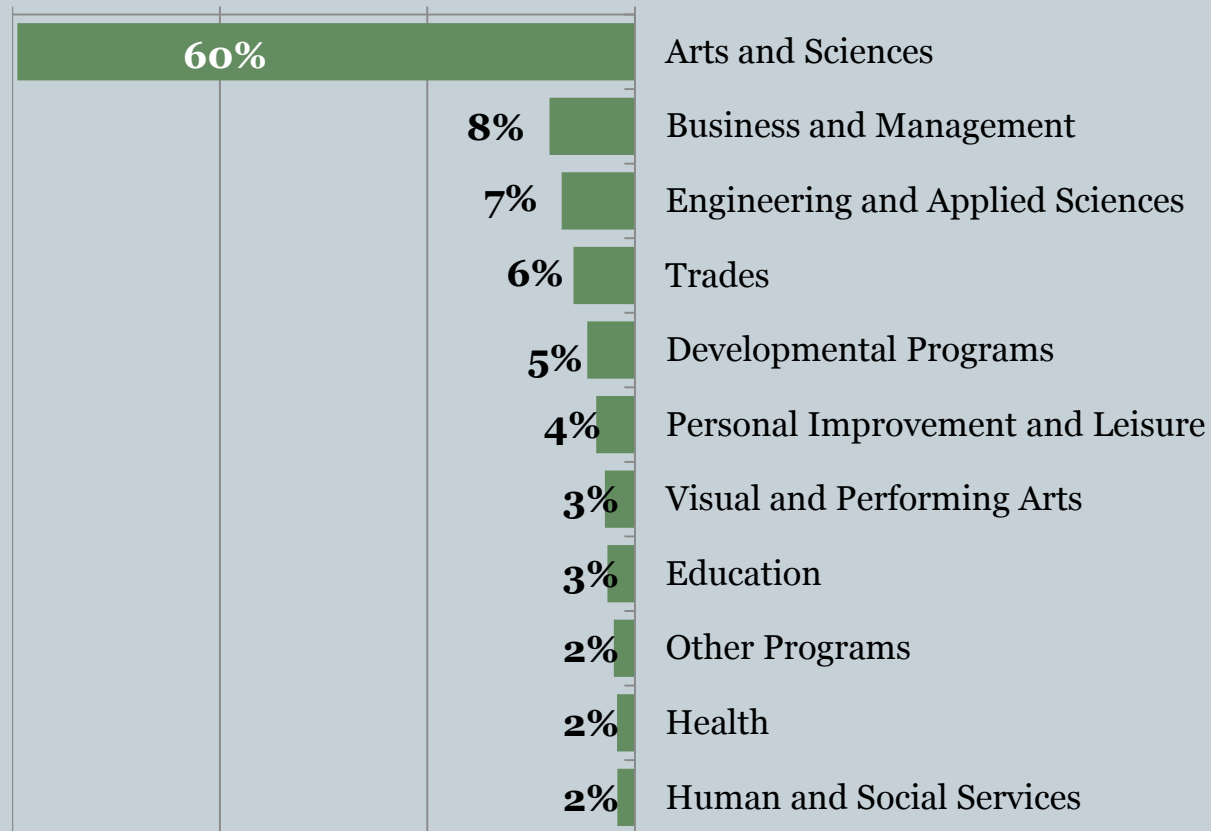
**Do students start in the  
same programs/credentials  
where they finished?  
(Looking Backwards) ➔**



# Quick Review of Programs of First Entry

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## % Distribution by Program

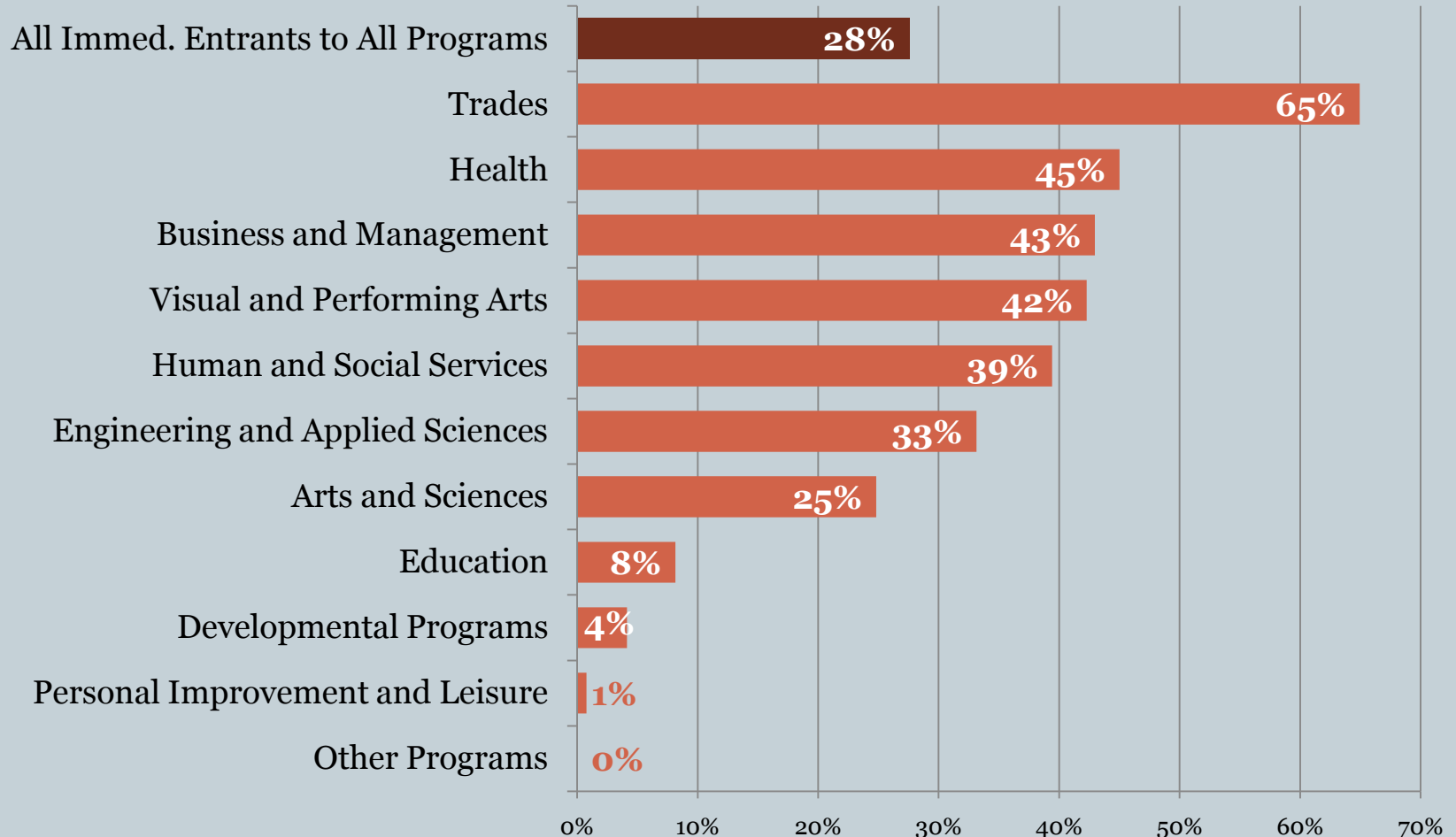


Includes 65,883 grade 12 graduates of 2001/02 to 2003/04 who enrolled in BC public post-secondary education within one year of high school graduation.

# Looking Forward from Entry:

% of Entrants Who First Completed the Program they First Began

40

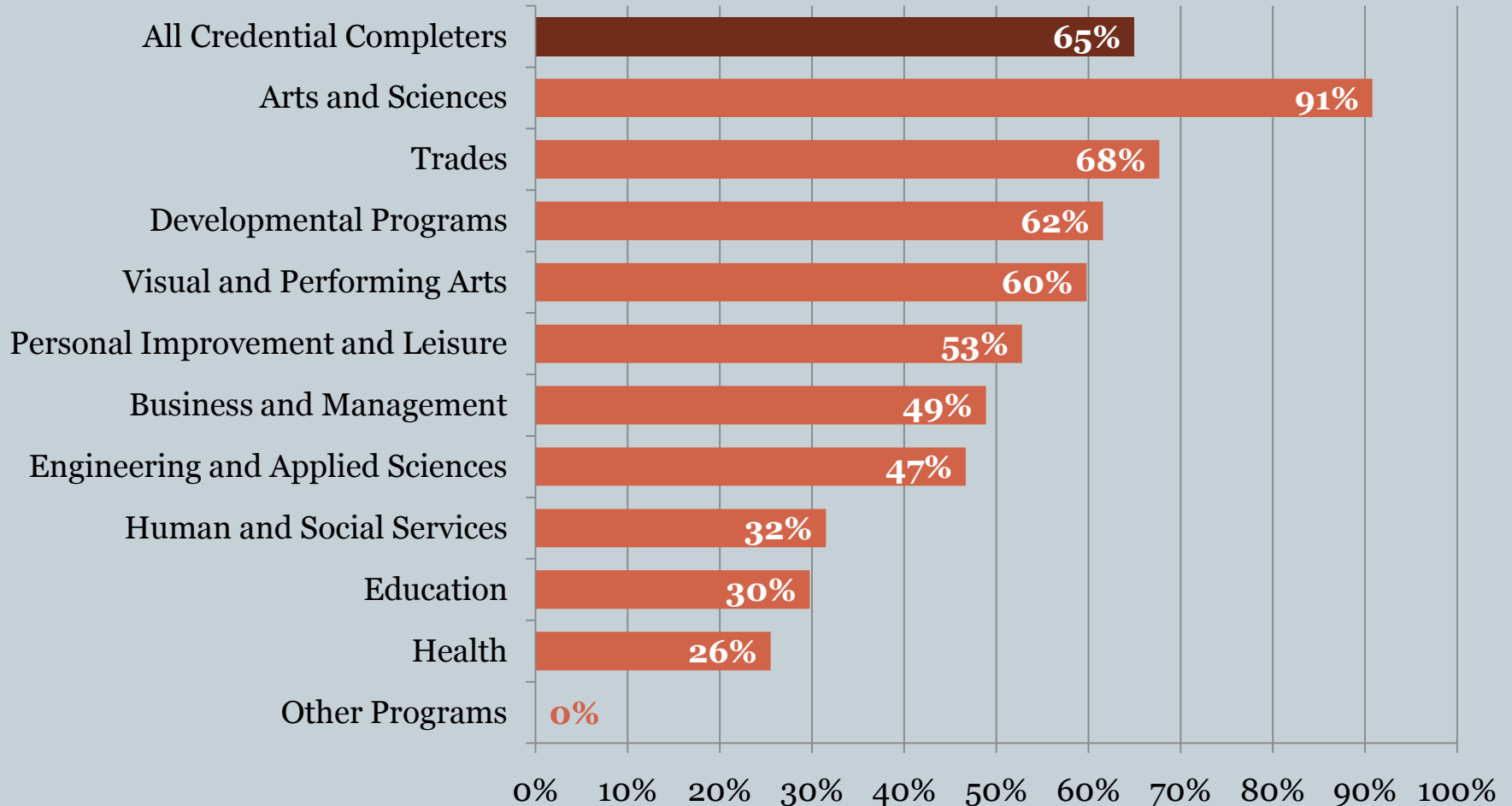


Includes 65,583 grade 12 grads of 2001/02 to 2003/04 who enrolled immediately in BC public post-secondary education.

# Looking Backward from Completion:

% of Completers Who First Entered the Program they First Completed

41

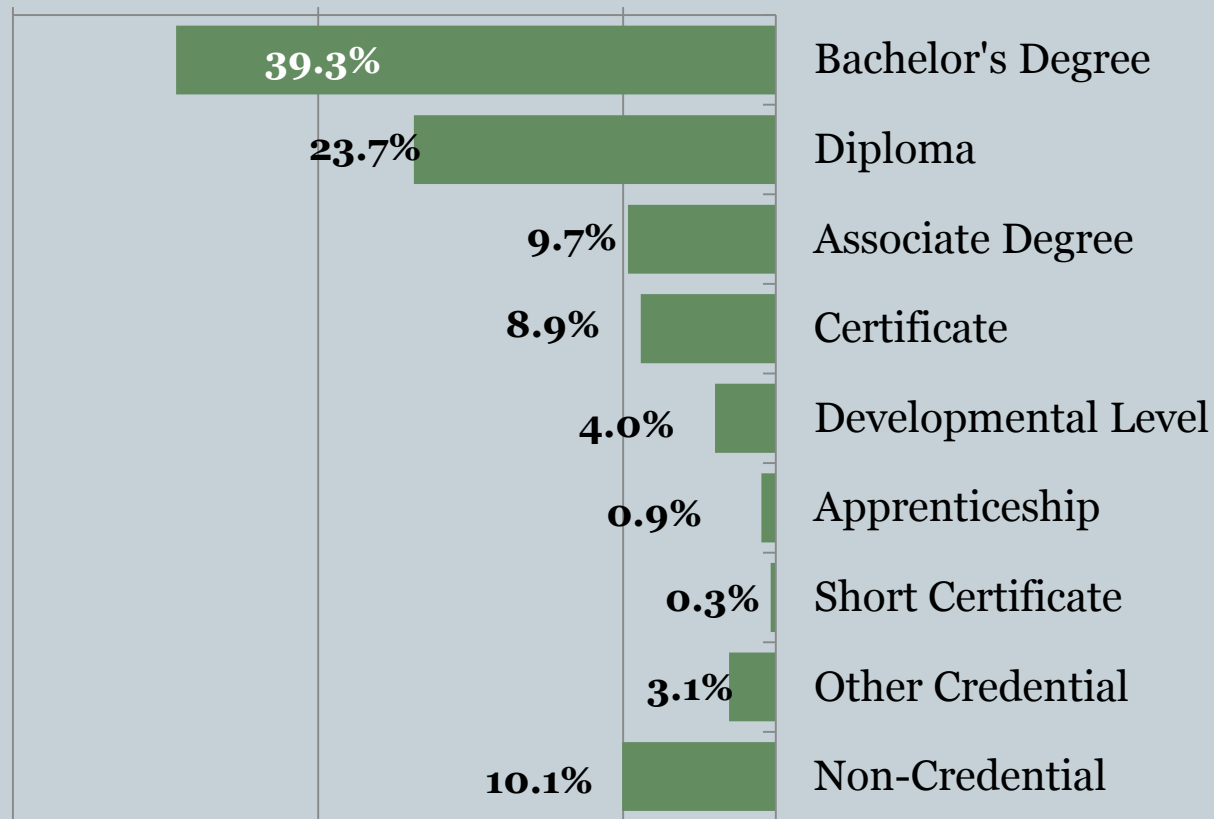


Includes 27,953 credential completers among the population of grade 12 grads of 2001/02 to 2003/04 who enrolled immediately in BC public post-secondary education.

# Quick Review of Credentials of First Entry

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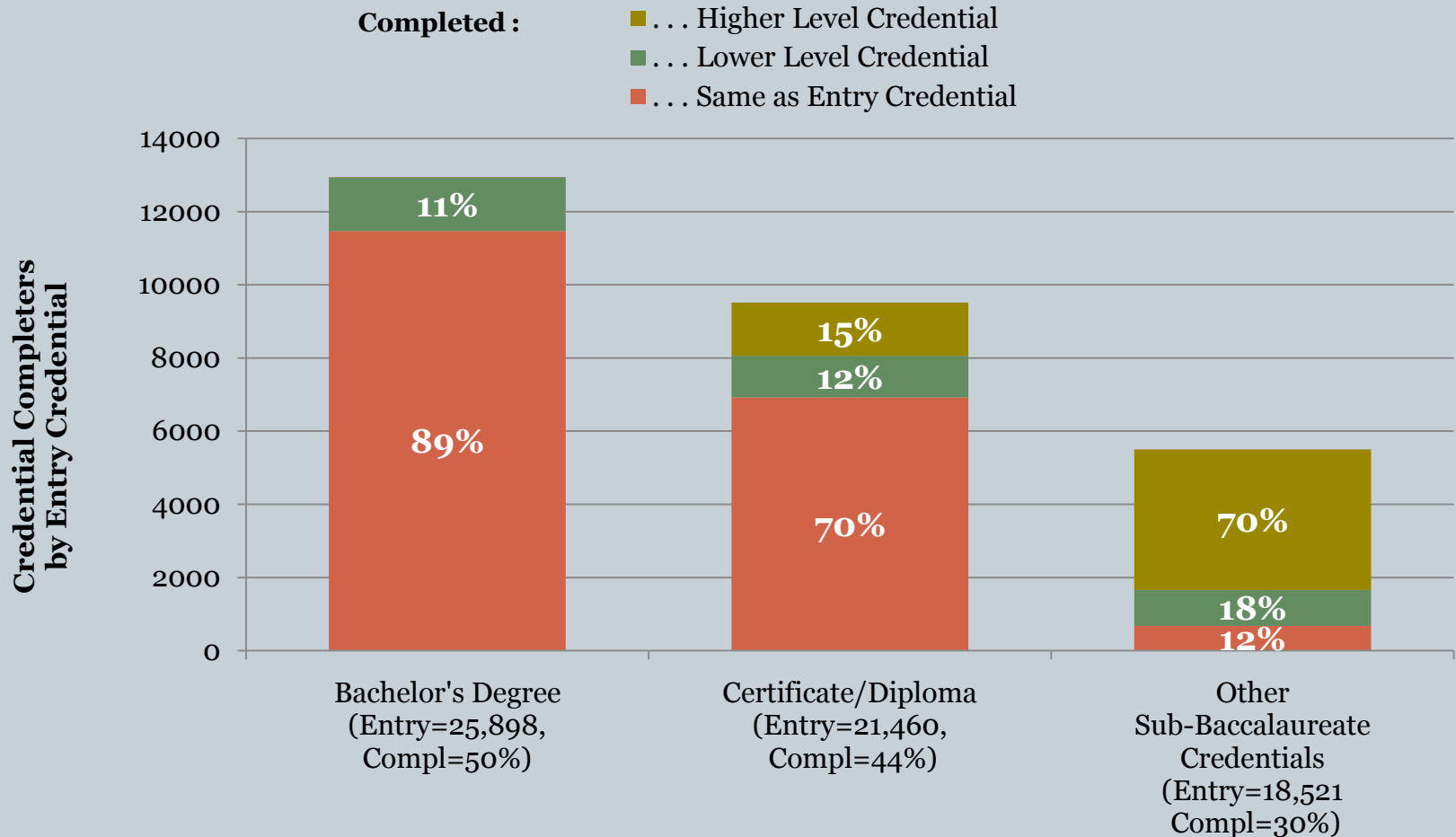
## % Distribution by Credential Type



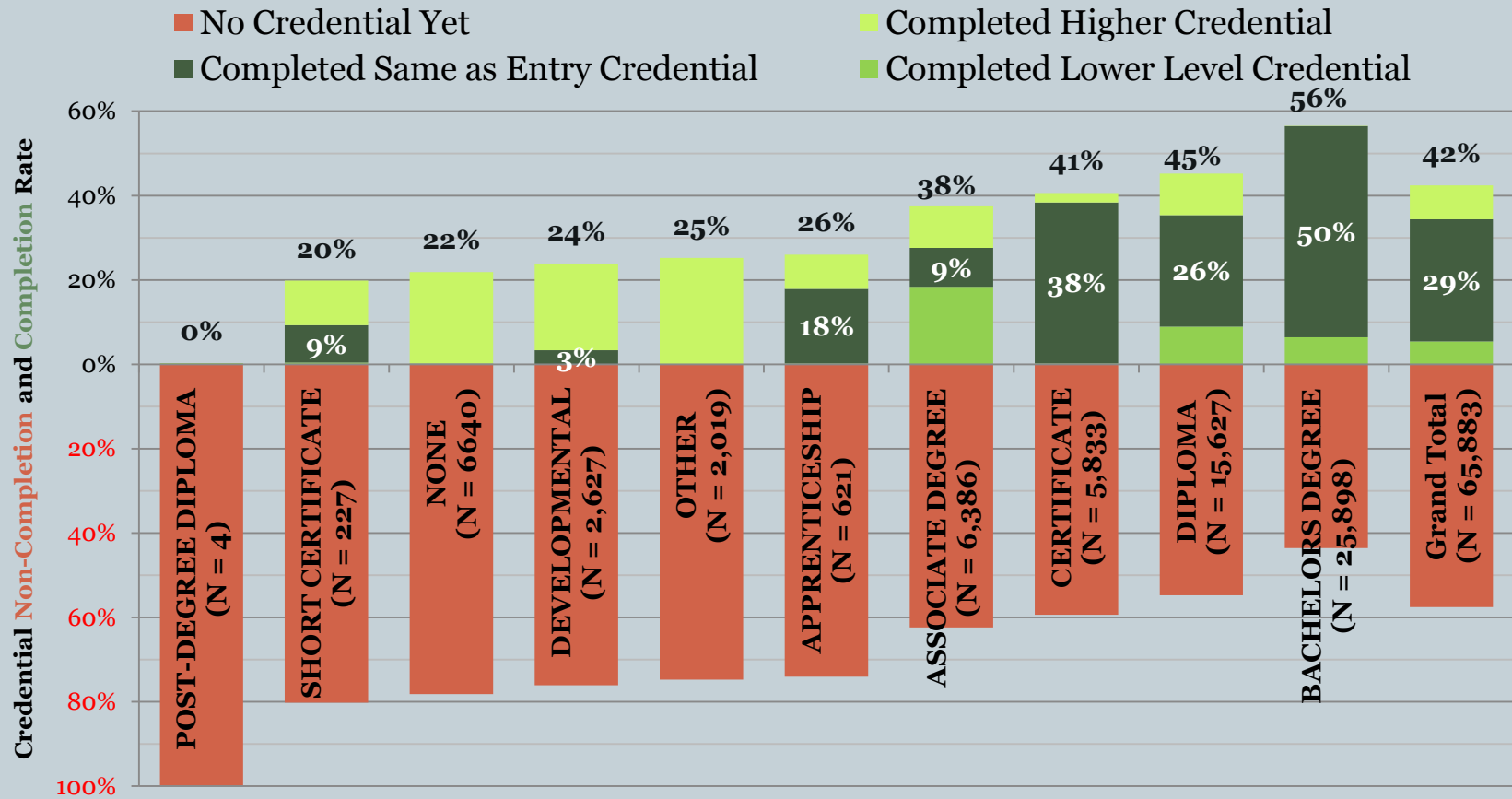
Includes 65,883 grade 12 graduates of 2001/02 to 2003/04 who enrolled in BC public post-secondary education within one year of high school graduation.

# Looking Forward from Credential of Entry to Credential of First Completion

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# Five-Year Credential Completion Status, by Credential Level Initially Entered



**Interpretation - eg. Bachelor's Degree:** 25,898 students enrolled in a Bachelor's Degree. From this group, 56% completed a credential within five years, of whom 50% completed a Bachelor's and 6% completed some other credential; 44% have not yet completed a credential.

Includes 65,583 grade 12 grads of 2001/02 to 2003/04 who enrolled immediately in BC public post-secondary education.



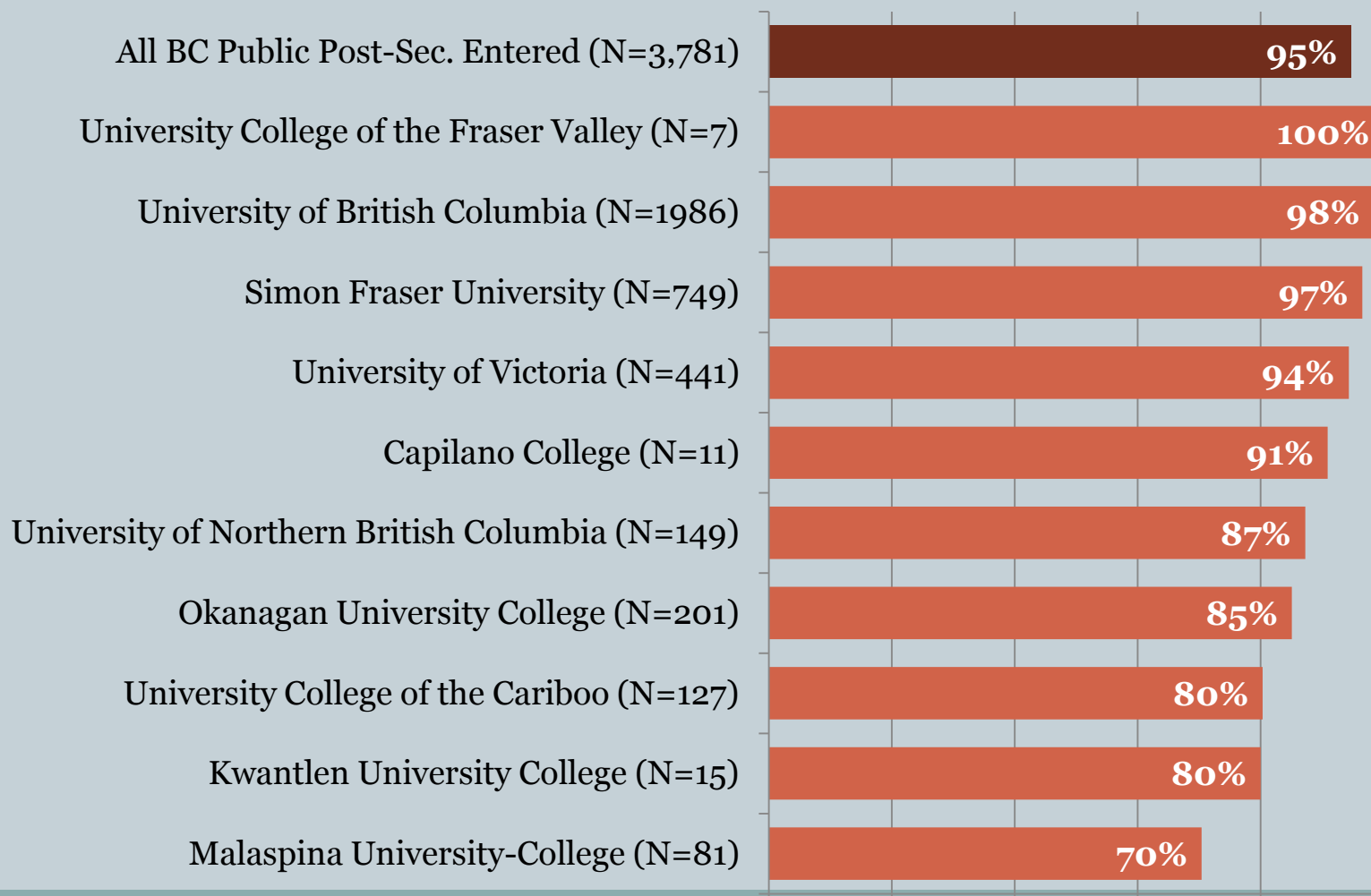
# Research Question #10

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**Among Bachelor's degree seekers  
who completed a Bachelor's  
degree within five years,  
do they complete at the same  
institution where they first  
enrolled?**

# % of 5-Yr Bach. Degree Completers Who Completed Bach. Degree at Same Institution Where First Enrolled in Bach. Degree (2003/04 Immediate Entry Gr12 Grads)

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Note: Institution names above are those that were in place at the time of Bachelor's Degree entry in 2004/05. Bachelor's degree completers who enrolled immediately in a sub-baccalaureate credential are excluded.

# Research Question #11

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**Do credential completion rates  
vary by demographic  
characteristics?**

# 5-Yr Credential Completion Rates by Student Demographic Characteristics

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Characteristic	Group	5-Yr Credential Completion Rate
All Students	All Students	42%
Academic Qualifications	Highest Achievers (GPA 95%+)	67%
	High Achievers (GPA 75-100%)	52%
	Moderate Achievers (GPA 50-75%)	35%
	No Academic GPA	35%
Gender	Females	44%
	Males	40%
Aboriginal Status	Non-Aboriginal Student	43%
	Aboriginal Student	30%

# Conclusion

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**Secrets of  
Our Success**

# Secrets of Our Success

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- **Start small**
  - Small steering committee
  - Achievable research agenda
  - Collect minimum dataset to answer research questions
- **Expand incrementally**
  - Add 1 year of data at a time
  - Minimize new data elements
  - Evolving research questions
- **Manage the Data and Information**
  - Collect data annually
  - Data sharing agreement
  - Data use policy
  - Data linkage policy
- **Stability and continuity**
  - Steering committee membership remains stable
  - Consultants replaced by permanent STP Manager
  - Sufficient/ongoing resources are allocated to the project.

# Questions & Comments

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# Looking for More Information?

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- **STP Web Site:**
  - [http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student\\_transitions/](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/)
  - STP Fast Facts
  - Regional Transition Matrices
  - STP Highlights Newsletters
  - STP Research Reports