

**USask University Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday June 12, 2025**  
**2:30-4:30pm**  
**Convocation Hall and Zoom**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm.

The Chair, Dr. Christian Willenborg, began by explaining to members that both the Chair and Vice-Chair are away today; therefore, the Governance Committee appointed him as Chair for today's meeting. He then continued with a Land Acknowledgement.

No members of the media identified themselves.

The Chair reminded members there are no recordings of Council meetings.

**1. Tribute**

Dr. Sasha Koustov, Professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, provided a tribute to Professor Emeritus Don McEwen.

Prior to agenda approval, the Chair noted to members that committee year end reports were circulated with the agenda and questions on the reports will be taken during question period.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

**2.1 Adoption of the Agenda**

Motion: (Deters/Jones): *That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

**3. Chair's Opening Remarks**

Chair Willenborg welcomed members to the final Council meeting of the 2024-2025 noting that it has been an exciting year. The Chair provided members with a recap on the year, including three elections, IRCC decisions, tariffs and budget challenges.

The Chair mentioned Convocation which took place last week and thanked members of Council as well as all of those who served on committees.

Chair Willenborg expressed his gratitude for the Governance team and all of their support of Council throughout the year.

**4. Minutes**

Motion: (Lamb/Lieverse): *That the minutes of May 15, 2025 be approved as circulated.*

CARRIED

Abstention: Vandenberg

## 5. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

## 6. Executive Committee of Council

### 6.1 Item for Information: 2024/25 Executive Committee Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

## 7. Academic Programs Committee

Carolyn Augusta, Chair of APC presented the committee's items as outlined in the agenda package.

### 7.1 Request for Decision: Termination of Project Based Master of Mathematics

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Augusta/Okoko): *It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the termination of the Master of Math (M.Math) Project Based Program effective May 2026.*

CARRIED

### 7.2 Item for Information: Academic and Curricular Approval Chart Revisions

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

### 7.3 Item for Information: 2024/25 APC Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

## 8. Planning and Priorities Committee

Dr. Angela Lieveise, Vice-Chair of the PPC Committee, introduced Dr. Jerome Cranston to present the 2024-2025 Enrolment Report.

### 8.1 Item for Information: 2024/2025 Enrolment Report

*Slides are attached.*

Dr. Jerome Cranston presented the report to members. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Final numbers are not confirmed until the middle of June.
- Numbers and plans continue to shift given the changes taking place in the world.
- Enrolment has stabilized- have seen domestic enrolment growth and a large decrease in graduate students.

- Continue to see an increase in students who graduate.
- Increase in teaching activity- students are taking more classes.

There were no questions.

## 8.2 Item for Information: 2024/25 PPC Annual Report

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

## 9. Governance Committee

Dr. Roy Dobson, Chair of the Governance Committee presented the committee's item.

### 9.1 Request for Decision: Academic Courses Policy Changes

Information is in the agenda package.

Question: Much of the changed/new material employs the term "educator", but much of the old material uses the previous terms "instructor" and "instructor of record". Are these terms distinct? If they are, I look forward to understanding the difference.

There is no definition in nomenclature between instructor and educator. Dr. Turner noted that this has been a shift in language coming from the Learning Charter. These definitions will become clearer in the revamped policy coming forward next year.

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the changes to Academic Courses Policy, effective September 1, 2025.*

CARRIED  
1 opposed online

### 9.2 Request for Decision: Changes to Nominations Committee Terms of Reference

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the changes to the Council Bylaws regarding membership of and quorum for the Nominations Committee of Council.*

CARRIED

### 9.3 Request for Decision: Nominations to the Nominations Committee of Council

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve the slate of nominations, effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED

### 9.4 Request for Decision: Nomination for Chair of the Nominations Committee

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion (Dobson/Augusta): *It is recommended by the Governance Committee that Council approve Reza Fotouhi as Chair of the Nominations Committee, effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED

**9.5 Item for Information: Editorial Changes to Council Bylaws**

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

**9.6 Item for Information: Student Appeal and Misconduct Report 2024-2025**

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

**9.7 Item for Information: Editorial Changes to College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Faculty Council Bylaws**

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

**9.8 Item for Information: 2024/25 Governance Annual Report**

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

**10. Nominations Committee**

Scott Bell, Chair of the Nominations Committee presented the committees items.

**10.1 Request for Decision: Omnibus Council Committee Selections**

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Bell/Dawson): *It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the slate of nominations to the committees as noted below effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED

Singh Abstention

**10.2 Request for Decision: Omnibus Council Committee Selections**

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Bell/Dawson): *It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the attached nominations of Council Committee Chairs effective July 1, 2025.*

CARRIED

Jones Abstention

**10.3 Request for Decision: Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Search**

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

Motion (Bell/Dawson): *It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that Council approve the nomination for the Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Search, effective July 1, 2025.*

**10.4 Item for Information: 2024/25 Nominations Annual Report**

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

**11. Scholarships and Awards Committee**

**11.1 Item for Information: 2024/25 Scholarships and Awards Annual Report**

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

**12. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee**

Eric Lamb, Chair of the RSAW committee introduced the items.

**12.1 Item for Information: Vice President Research Annual Report**

Chair Lamb invited Dr. Baljit Singh to provide highlights on the year-end RSAW report. The full report is in the agenda package.

**12.2 Item for Information: College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Annual Report**

Information is in the agenda package. There were no questions.

**12.3 Item for information: 2024/25 RSAW Annual Report**

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

**13. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee**

**13.1 Item for Information: 2024/25 TLARC Annual Report**

Information is in the agenda package. Questions will be taken during question period.

**14. Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships**

Dr. Scott Walsworth presented one item for decision.

**14.1 Request for Decision: Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law**

Dr. Walsworth explained that this gift was awarded to an existing faculty member which will be spread out over five years. It was also noted that some JCCP members continue to have concerns about the lack of safeguards on faculty bias when it comes to how money is donated for chairs and scholarships

Motion (Walsworth/Walleen): *It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that University Council approve the Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law in the College of Law.*

## **15. Reports**

### **15.1 Report of the President**

President Stoicheff was away travelling. The full report is in the agenda package.

### **15.2 Report of the Acting Provost**

Acting Provost Vince Bruni-Bossio acknowledged the communities affected by fires and invited Greg Fowler to speak to the work USask is doing to help these communities.

Mr. Fowler explained to members that his unit is working close with the red cross. USask began to take evacuees and red cross volunteers and are currently hosting 215 people. Mr. Fowler expressed his gratitude to the USask community for their support. The evacuation notice has been lifted for the groups that we are currently hosting; therefore, we will now be hosting those who are living in hotels to move to campus.

Dr. Bruni-Bossio mentioned the 'Think Tank' project designed to engage in discussions to be creative and brainstorm ideas to help USask's financial situation over the next 18 months. He noted that there are small things that we can do better, for example, how we use power on campus and looking at power optimizing space. Larger projects include looking at programs is beyond the scope of this project, but do encourage programming review in the Colleges. Dr. Bruni-Bossio was very clear to members that this project is not connected directly with any reorganization changes ongoing right now.

There were no questions.

### **15.3 Report of the GSA President**

There was no report from the GSA.

### **15.4 Report of the USSU President**

The full report is in the agenda package.

President Emma Wintermute presented a thorough review of the USSU report as well as pointing out upcoming events.

There were no questions.

## **16. Other business**

There was none.

## 17. Question period

Pre-submitted question :

There has been discussions in various colleges and at APC regarding the use of the CASPer test for admissions decisions. APC has observed a recent increase in the number of new programs seeking to use a situational judgement test (e.g., CASPer) in their admissions process. CBC News questions this practice ([https://youtu.be/mkxXnb-ml\\_I?si](https://youtu.be/mkxXnb-ml_I?si)). Some academic journal articles have concluded that CASPer scores are biased due to racial factors (e.g., [1-2]). There is also a cost to writing the CASPer test: \$50 CAD + \$18 per school to which results are sent [3], and this may adversely impact the ability of otherwise-strong potential applicants to submit their candidacy for admission. This test intends to "measure aspects of social intelligence and professionalism like ethics, empathy, problem-solving and collaboration" [4], and is reputed to be a test that "you cannot study for" [5]. However, preparation has been shown to increase test scores (e.g., [6]), and preparatory courses may be prohibitively expensive for some applicants (e.g., [7]), which may again deepen the divide between potential applicants who have significant access to resources and those who do not.

***Given the potential for adverse effects on the applicant pool in Saskatchewan, APC requests that each college that uses Casper in their admissions process undertake a study to examine the validity of Casper as a predictor of future success in their discipline. We also ask that the results be shared to Council, to enable a full understanding and discussion across the university.***

### References

- [1] V. Rosales, C. Conley, and M.C. Norris, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Situational Judgment Testing Among Applicants to an Anesthesiology Residency Program," *J Grad Med Educ*, vol. 16, no. 2, pp. 140-145 Apr. 2024. Accessed: May 29, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-23-00360.1>. [Online] Available: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11234310/>
- [2] C.E. Gustafson, C.J. Johnson, G.L.B. Dallaghan, O.J. Knight, K.M. Malloy, K.R. Nichols, and L. Rahangdale, "Evaluating situational judgment test use and diversity in admissions at a southern US medical school", *PLoS One*, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. e0280205 Feb. 2023. Accessed: May 29, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0280205>. [Online] Available: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9925012/>
- [3] University of Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, "Admissions Information", <https://pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca/students/undergraduate-programs/admissions-information.php> (accessed May 29, 2025).
- [4] Acuity Insights, "Take CASPer", <https://acuityinsights.app/> (accessed May 30, 2025).
- [5] R. Katta and J. Li-Wang, "How to Prepare for the Casper Test: Tips and Strategies", <https://www.thesuccessfulmatch.com/post/how-to-prepare-for-the-casper-test-tips-and-strategies#:~:text=Although%20Altus%20Suite%20markets%20Casper,a%20few%20very%20important%20point%20s.> (accessed May 29, 2025).
- [6] F. Lievens, T. Buyse, P.R. Sackett, and B.S. Connelly, "The Effects of Coaching on Situational Judgement Tests in High-stakes Selection", *International Journal of Selection and Assessment*, vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 272 - 282 Sept. 2012. Accessed: May 30 2025. [Online] Available: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1468-2389.2012.00599.x>

[7] Astroff Consultants, "Get Ready to Write CASPer", <https://www.casptest.com/> (accessed May 30, 2025).

Dr. Bruni-Bossio noted that the Provost Office is dedicated to the validity of these tests and committed to bringing back some more analysis.

Dr. Sarah Forgie, Dean of the College of Medicine, noted that CASPer has been an ongoing discussion for many years and introduced her colleague Dr. Adeyemi Laosebikan who noted that discussions are ongoing to start an ad hoc committee. Dr. Laosebikan explained that there is no definitive answer from the company who run CASPer tests on why some students are disadvantaged.

It was noted that CASPer plays a minimal role in admissions processes and is used to assess personal qualities in a candidate to help predict professional issues. In addition to CASPer, there are multiple interview processes to assess admission.

Dr. Laosebikan noted that the College of Medicine is in communication with company to address the concerns and will also work with other Colleges using this test as well.

Chair Augusta thanked the College of Medicine for this information and looks forward to more detail and hearing from other colleges on their data in the Fall.

## **18. Adjournment**

(Jones): The meeting was properly adjourned at 4:03 pm.



# University Council Enrolment Report

Academic Year 2024/2025

# Enrolment goals

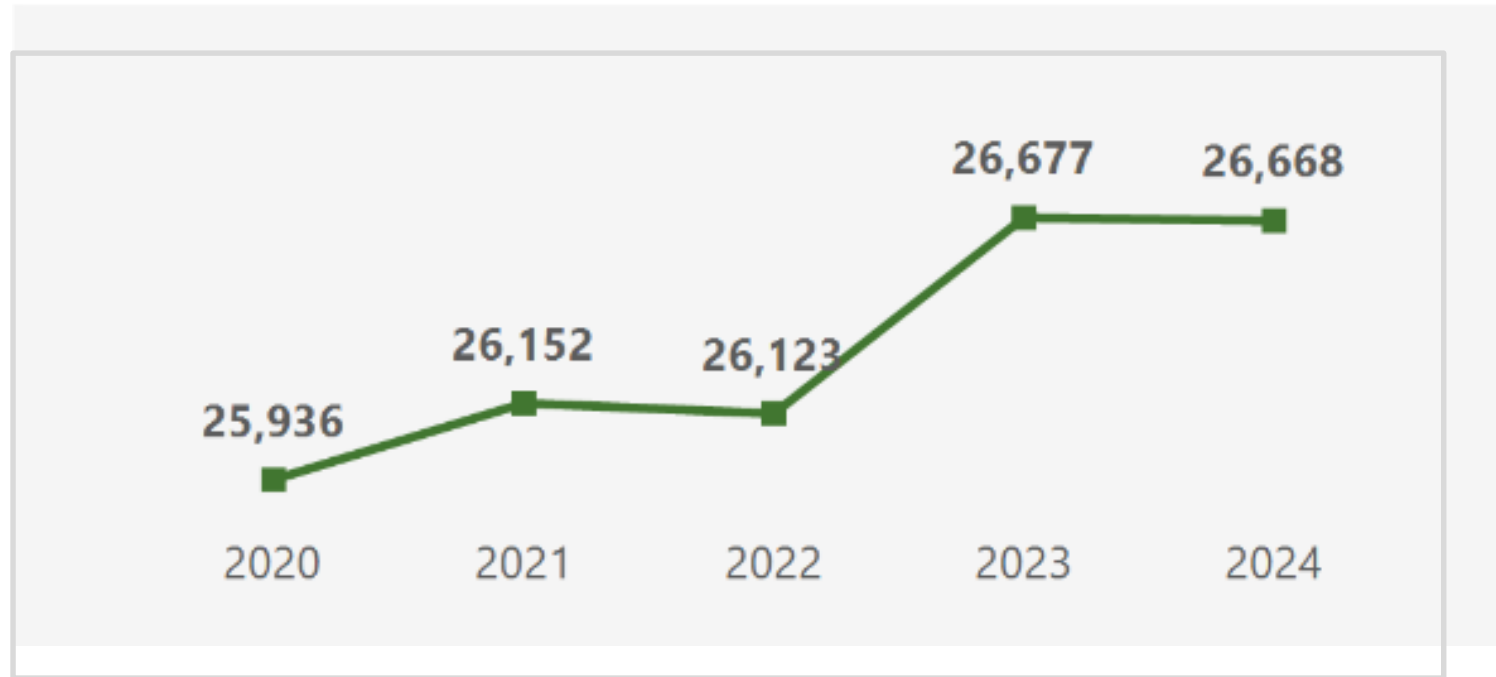
USASK's enrolment goals within the LTSE plan 2019-2025 ended in 2024-25

## Goals by 2024-25

- Overall number of students (29,316 by 2025)
  - Undergraduate 78-79%
  - Graduate 16-17%
  - Non-degree and medical residents (the remainder)
- Diversity of students
  - Self-declared Indigenous (15% of UG, 10% of Grad)
  - International (10% of UG, 35% at the graduate level)

Future enrolment goals are under development as part of SEM and will be brought forward in Fall 2025

# 2024-2025 Total Academic Year Enrolment

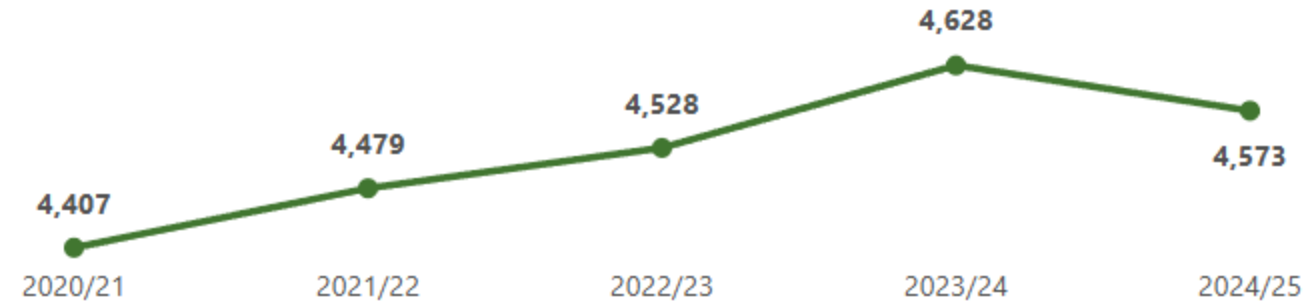


Undergrad	21,283	↑ 78	Grad Students	4,573	↓ 55
Non-degree	199	↓ 17	Med Residents	613	↓ 15

# Graduate & Undergraduate Enrolment

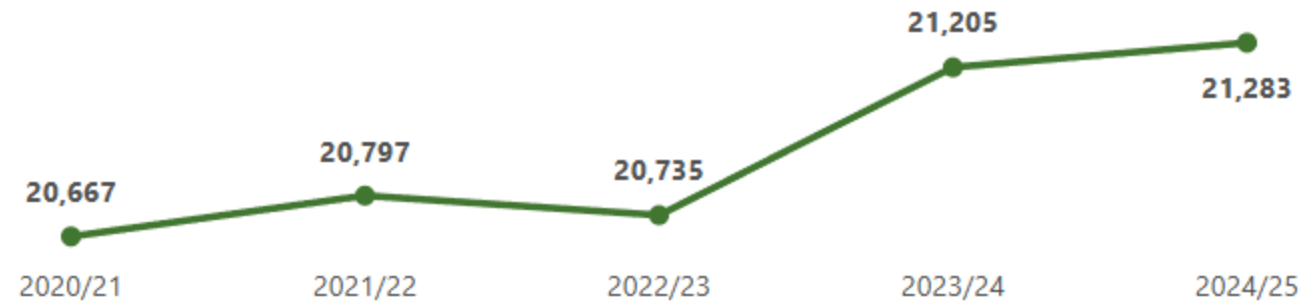
## Graduate Studies

4,573 ↓ 1.2%



## Undergraduate

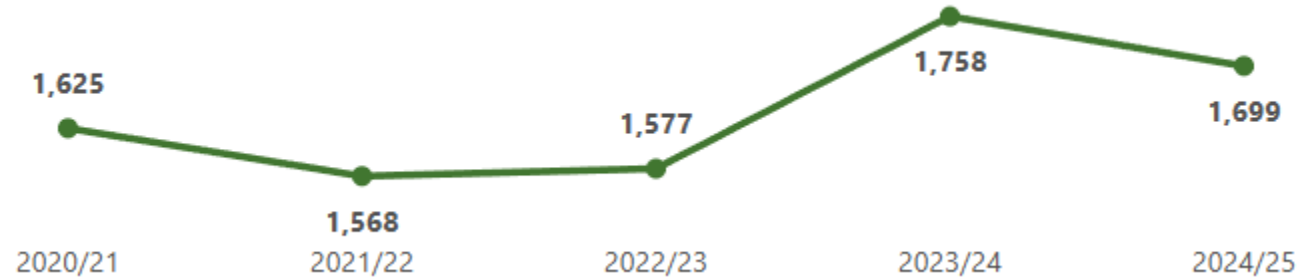
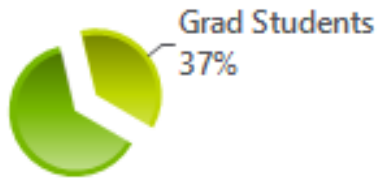
21,283 ↑ 0.4%



# International Student Enrolment

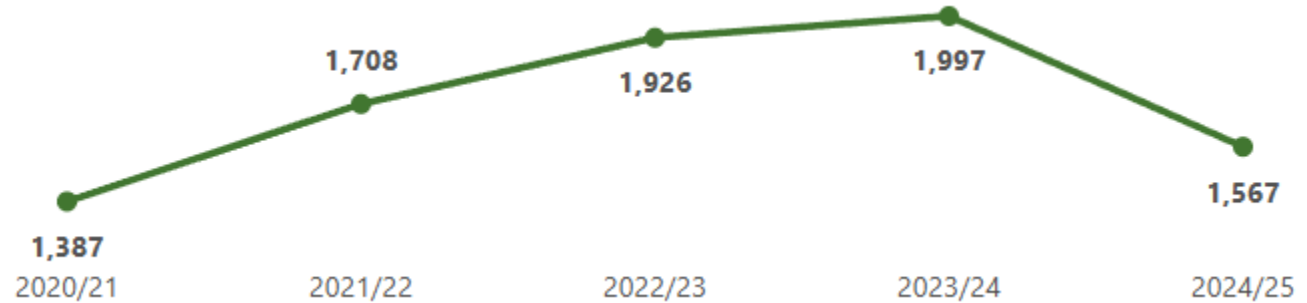
## Graduate Studies

1,699 ↓ 3.4%



## Undergraduate

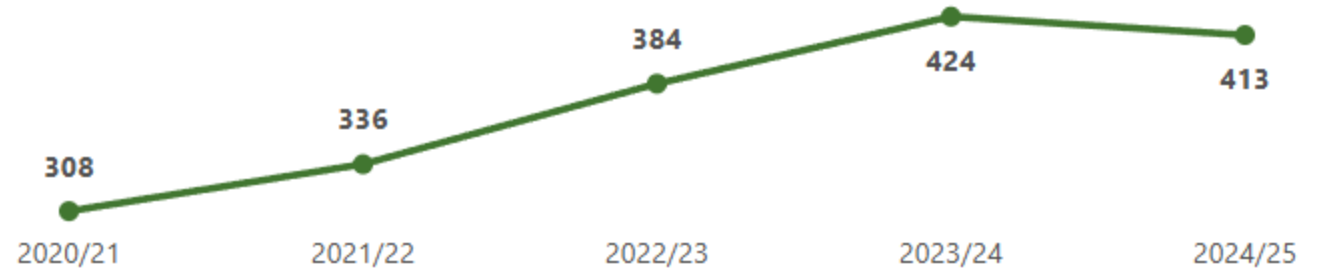
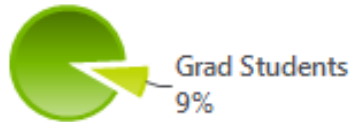
1,567 ↓ 21.5%



# Self-declared Indigenous Student Enrolment

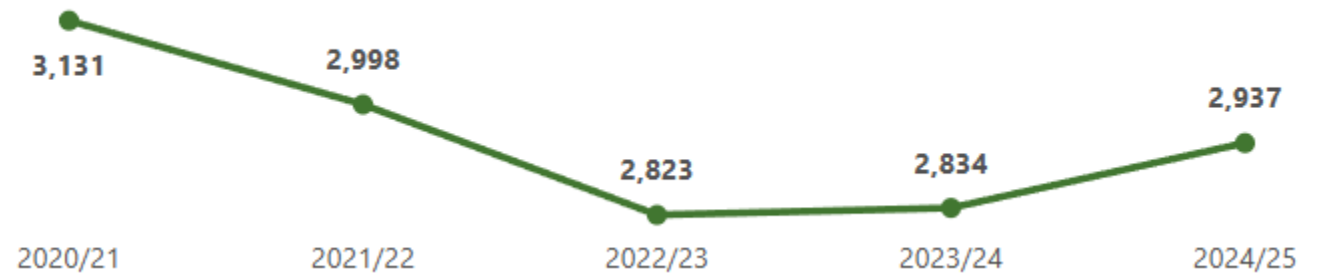
## Graduate Studies

413 ↓ 2.6%



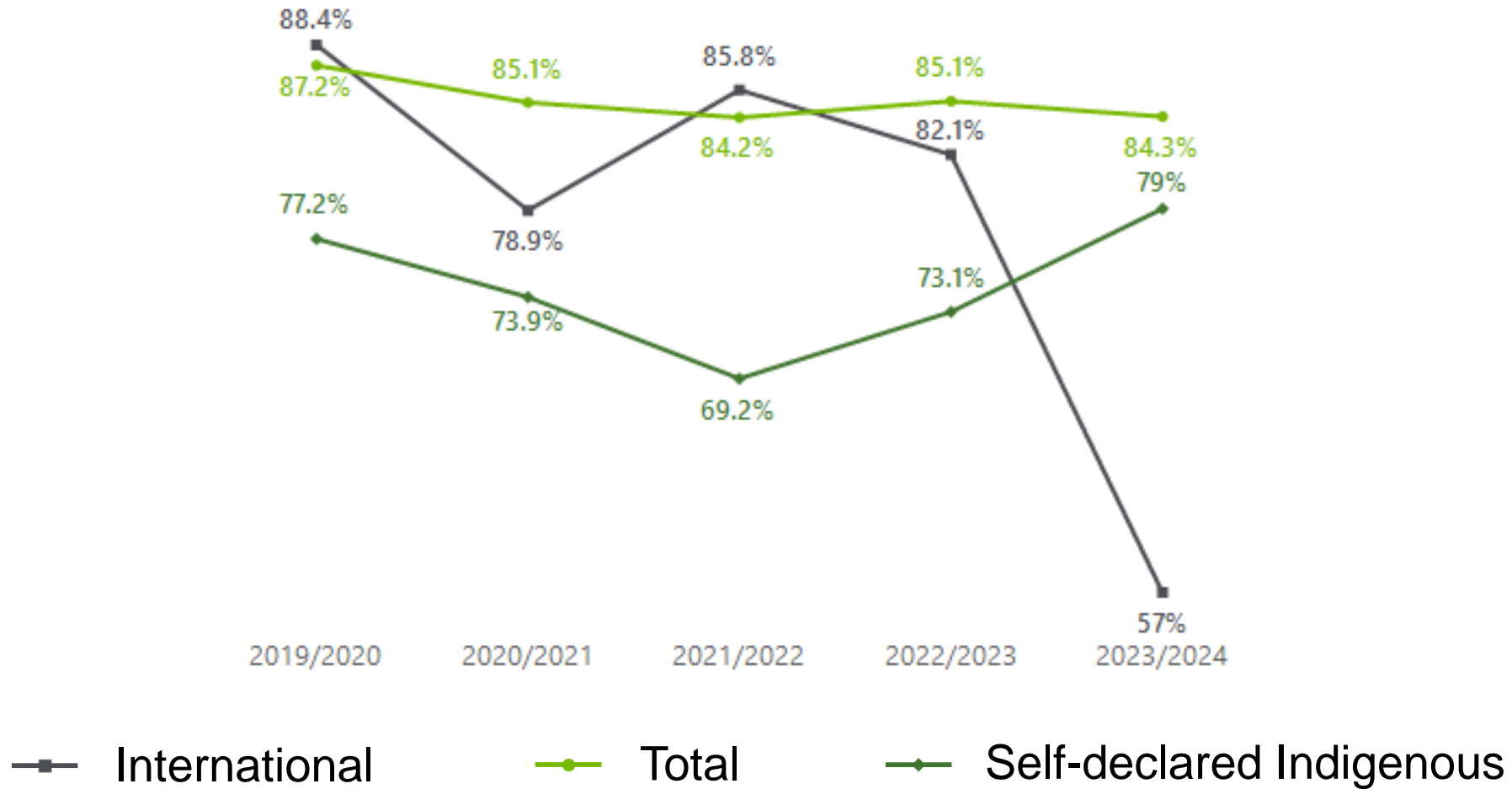
## Undergraduate

2,937 ↑ 3.6%





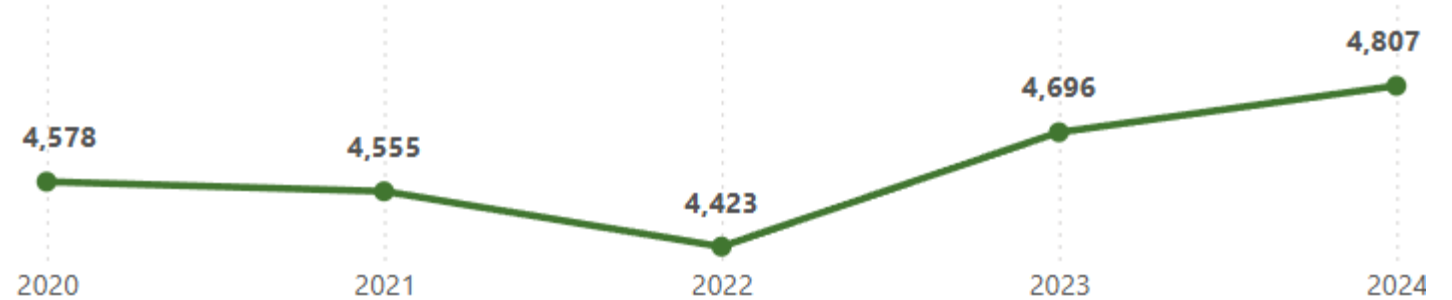
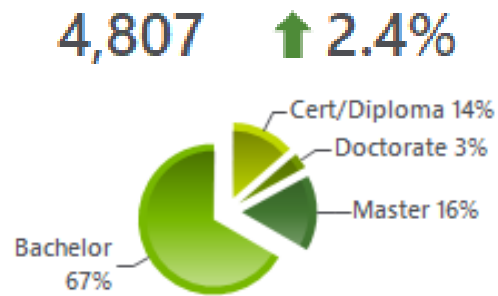
# Retention – Direct Entry Undergraduate Programs



# Graduation

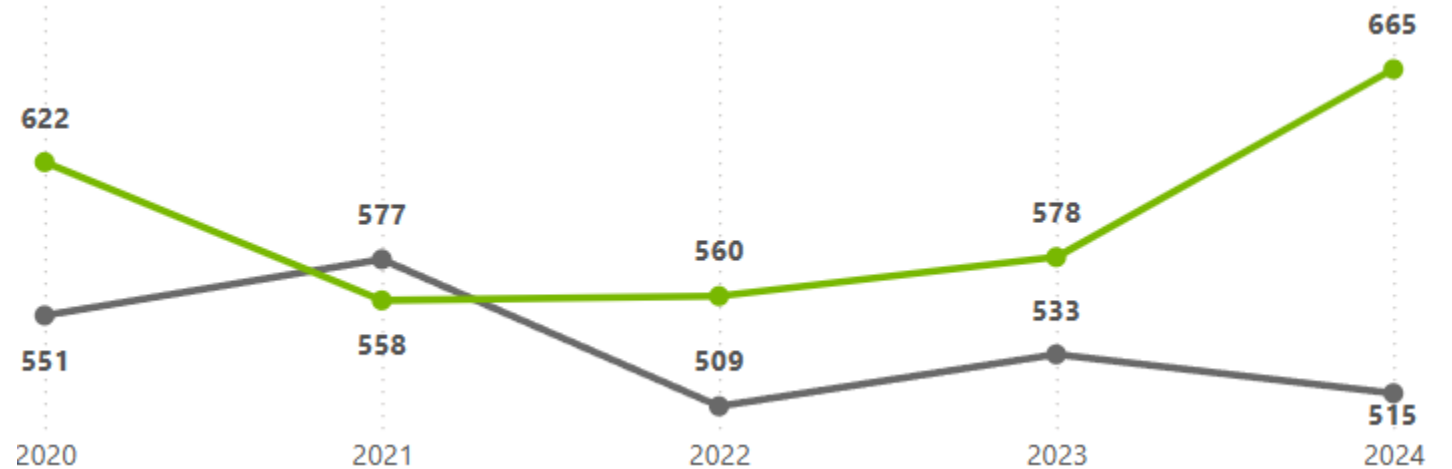
## Fall and Spring 2024 Convocation

### Total



### International

665 ↑ 15.1%



### Self-declared Indigenous

515 ↓ 3.4%

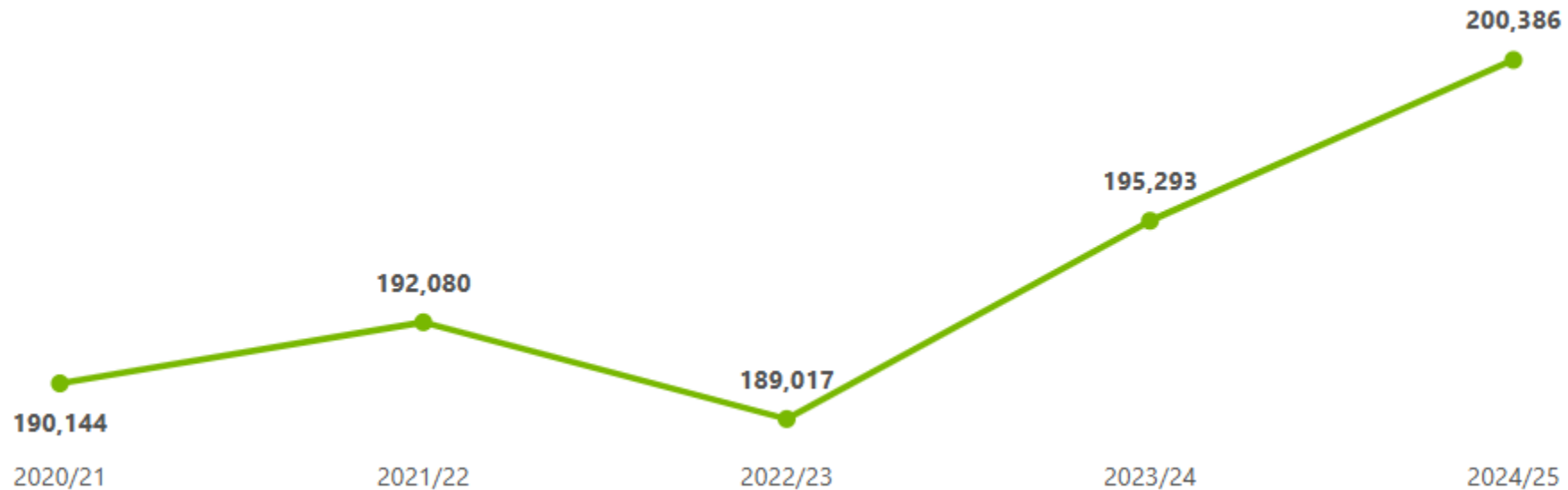




# Three Credit Unit Activity

Total

200,386 ↑ 2.6%



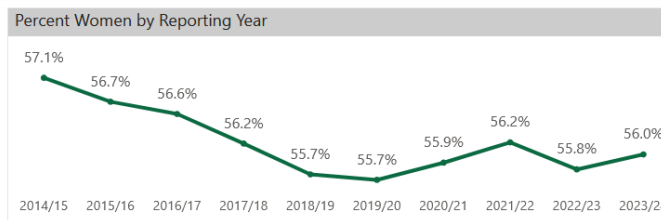
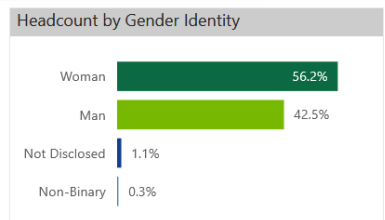
# Student Demographics Dashboard

## Academic Year Student Enrolment Demographics for 2023/2024 Reporting Year



Women

14,954  
(+368 +2.5%)

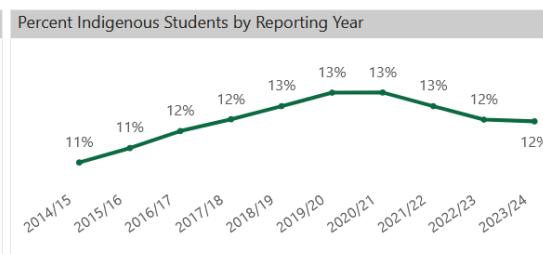
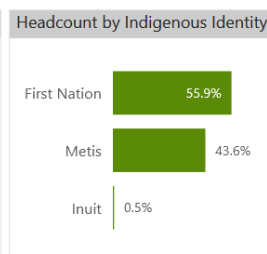
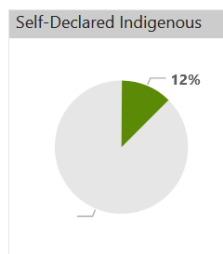


Percent Women by College

College	Women
Nursing	84%
Pharmacy and Nutrition	73%
School of Public Health	71%
Western College of Vet Med	71%
Education	71%
Dentistry	69%
JSG School of Public Policy	65%
Agriculture and Bioresources	63%
Kinesiology	58%
Law	57%
Arts and Science	56%
Medicine	54%
School of Environ and Sustain	52%
Graduate and Postdoc Studies	51%
Office of the Provost	47%
Edwards School of Business	43%
Engineering	21%

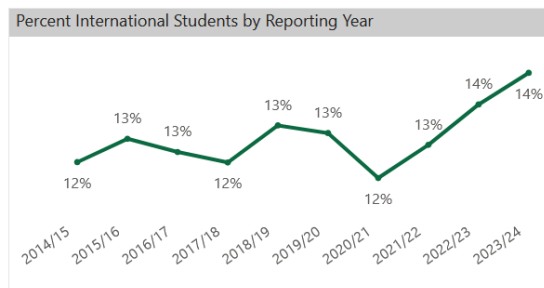
Indigenous

3,307  
(+53 +1.6%)



International

3,848  
(+274 +7.7%)



Filters

Academic Year

Reporting Level Summary

☐ Graduate Studies

☐ Undergraduate/Non-Degree/PGCL

[Go to Notes & Definitions](#)

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Information and Communications Technology - Reporting and Data Systems. University Data Warehouse, as of date: Jun 20, 2024.

<https://leadership.usask.ca/priorities/reports/enrolment.php>



Thank You.

Questions?