

BC Student
 Outcomes



Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Infographic Report

2025 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students



Introduction

Every year, the BC Student Outcomes Program collects feedback from former students who took post-secondary programs at a participating B.C. post-secondary institution. Student feedback is essential to maintain quality and relevance in the education system. Outcomes surveys are conducted with funding from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, SkilledTradesBC (formerly the Industry Training Authority), and British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions. The former Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate students are surveyed within two years of completing or leaving their programs. The survey collects outcomes and evaluative information, which is used to improve the quality of training, meet accountability requirements, help with policy development, and inform prospective students.

About the Report

This report presents results for the 2025 BC Student Outcomes Survey of former Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students. Respondents from programs with no credential are excluded. Nineteen public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia participated in the 2025 Survey. In total, 30,335 former Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate students were eligible for the survey. Of these, 10,628 completed the survey for an overall response rate of 35%.

Credential	Eligible for survey	Respondents	Response rate
Associate degree and university transfer	3,600	1,192	33%
Diploma	17,622	6,192	35%
Certificate	9,113	3,244	36%
Grand Total	30,335	10,628	35%

Note: Numbers are from the 2025 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students.

Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate programs were organized into program areas based on Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.¹ Due to low sample sizes, the Trades Program Area results are excluded from the Program Areas tabulations but are included in the overall results.

Program Areas	Respondents	Percentage of respondents
Arts and Sciences	2,199	21%
Business and Management	2,796	26%
Education	460	4%
Engineering and Applied Sciences	1,759	17%
Health	1,997	19%
Human and Social Services	991	9%
Visual and Performing Arts	365	3%
Trades	61	1%
Grand Total	10,628	100%

Note: Programs are grouped using the BC CIP Cluster, a roll-up based on the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

¹ 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 2021 was used for this report.

Survey Methodology

Cohort

The eligible cohort consisted of 30,335 former students from Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate programs from participating B.C. public colleges, institutes, or universities. Respondents for whom no contact data were available were excluded. In the cohort, 41% (n = 12,315) were identified by institutions as being international students.

There were 19 B.C. public post-secondary institutions that participated in this project. The following table lists the institutions, the number of former students who were eligible for the survey, the number of respondents, and the response rates.

Institution	Cohort	Respondents	Response Rate
British Columbia Institute of Technology	4,769	1,621	34%
Camosun College	2,308	940	41%
Capilano University	1,365	372	27%
Coast Mountain College	387	175	45%
College of New Caledonia	1,118	439	39%
College of the Rockies	544	237	44%
Douglas College	2,845	1,102	39%
Justice Institute of BC	1,036	321	31%
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	2,732	620	23%
Langara College	4,453	1,491	33%
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	176	89	51%
North Island College	529	212	40%
Northern Lights College	439	215	49%
Okanagan College	2,113	807	38%
Selkirk College	714	366	51%
Thompson Rivers University	1,303	436	33%
University of the Fraser Valley	1,034	280	27%
Vancouver Community College	1,989	693	35%
Vancouver Island University	481	212	44%
Grand Total	30,335	10,628	35%

Data Collection

The BC Student Outcomes Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate 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, were undertaken from January through July 2025. A total of 10,628 survey completions were obtained, for a final response rate of 35%. There were 3,982 former international student respondents. A majority (68%) of all surveys were completed online.

Analysis and Reporting

BC Stats is responsible for cleaning and validating the data received from the data collection contractor. Based on these data—the responses to the survey questionnaire—the necessary variables were derived for analysis and reporting. Published results from the BC Student Outcomes Program surveys are available at: <https://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>.

This report analyses respondents who had taken a Diploma (including post-degree and advanced diplomas), Associate Degree (including university transfer), or Certificate (including post-degree and advanced certificates) program. Respondents from programs with no credential are excluded.

Employment outcomes are reported for Diploma and Certificate graduates only (n = 8,716). Former Associate Degree students are less likely to be in the labour market and more likely to pursue further education.

Limitations

The former students who responded to the survey—35% of those eligible—were those from the cohort who could be located and agreed to be surveyed. Students who remained in B.C. might have been easier to locate to participate in the survey. Those who responded to the survey may not be representative of all former students.

Percentages

For consistency and ease of presentation, most percentages in the report text, tables, and charts have been rounded and may not always add to 100.

Unless otherwise noted, each percentage is based on the number of students who gave a valid response to the question—those who refused to answer the question, or selected "Don't know", were not included in calculations.

Who were the former Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate students?



62%

identified as Woman/Girl



46%

were born in Canada



28

was the median age
at the time of the survey



47%

had previous post-secondary
credentials prior to their program



8%

self-identified as
Indigenous

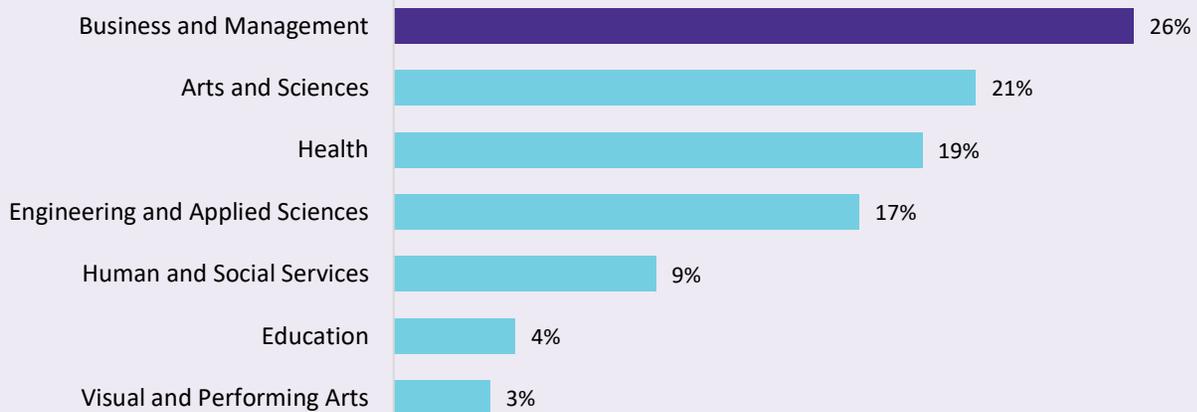


57%

resided in the Mainland/Southwest
region at the time of the survey

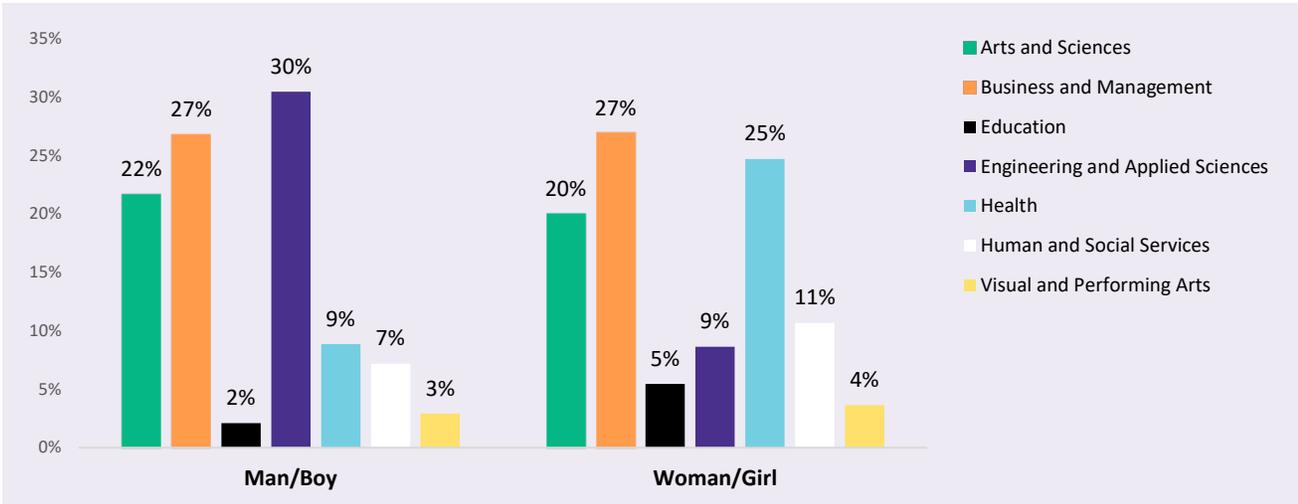
What programs did respondents take?

The most common program area was **Business and Management**.



Did gender play a role in program selection?

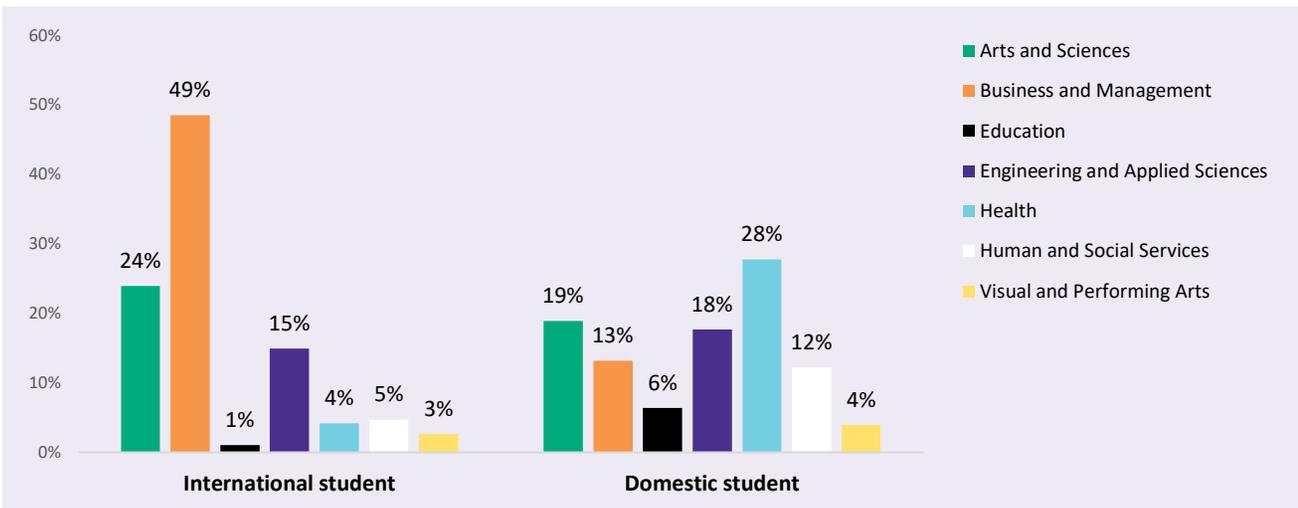
Business and Management programs were most popular among woman/girl respondents, while **Engineering and Applied Sciences** were most popular among man/boy respondents.



Note: Non-binary respondents are omitted in the visualization due to low numbers (n = 63) to preserve confidentiality.

What programs did international students choose?

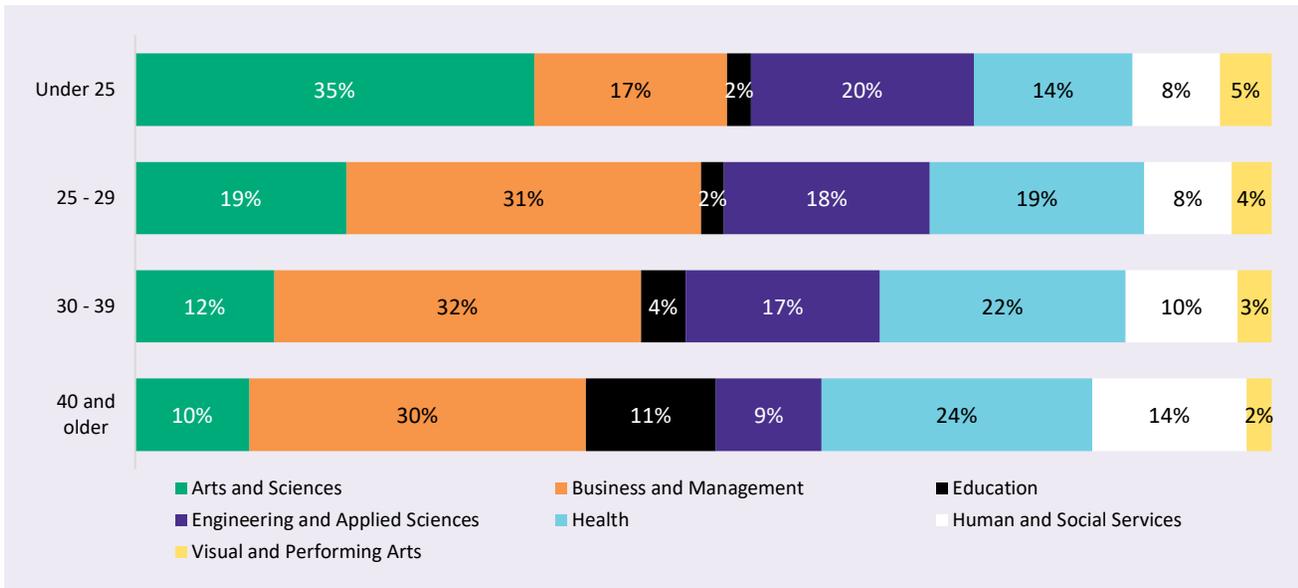
Almost half of international students took **Business and Management** programs, while 28 percent of domestic students took **Health** programs.



Note: International student status is based on institution-reported data.

Did program choice vary by age?

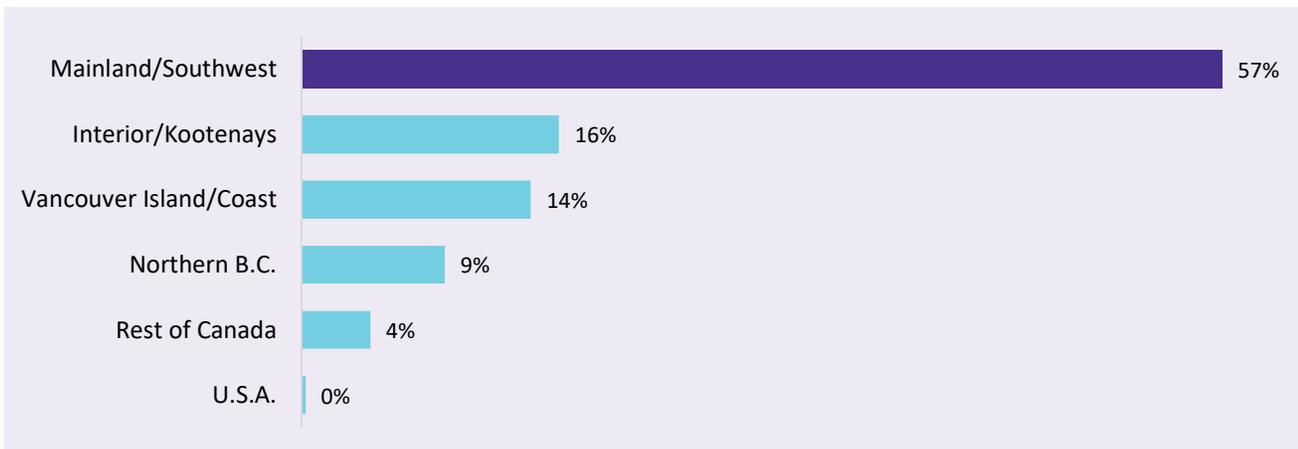
Arts and Sciences programs were more common among those under 25, while Business and Management programs were popular among respondents aged 25 and older.



Note: Age groups are derived from institution-reported data at the time of survey.

Where were they living?

The majority of respondents lived in the Mainland/Southwest region at the time of the survey.



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

What did they say about their education?



90%

said they were very satisfied or satisfied with their education



69%

said the organization of the program was very good or good



77%

said the quality of instruction was very good or good



79%

said the coverage of relevant topics was very good or good



69%

said the amount of practical experience was very good or good

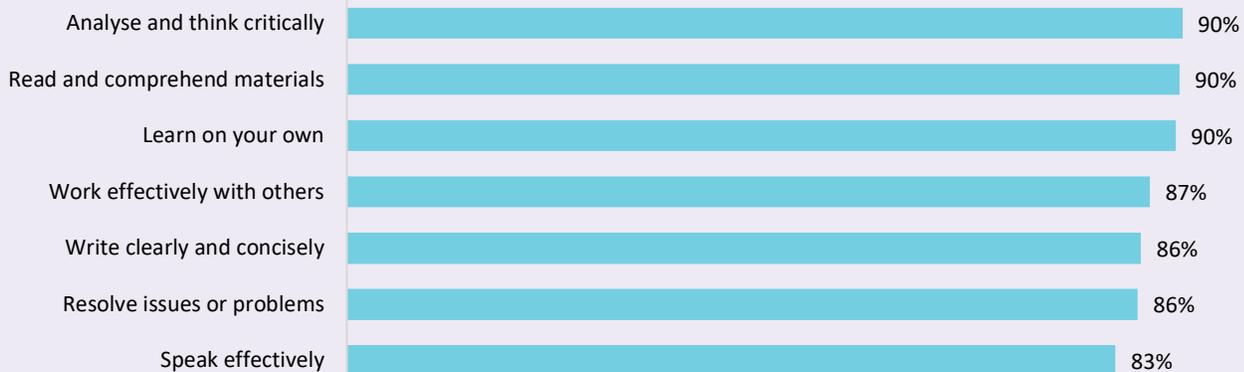


77%

said the coverage of standards used was very good or good

What skills did they develop?

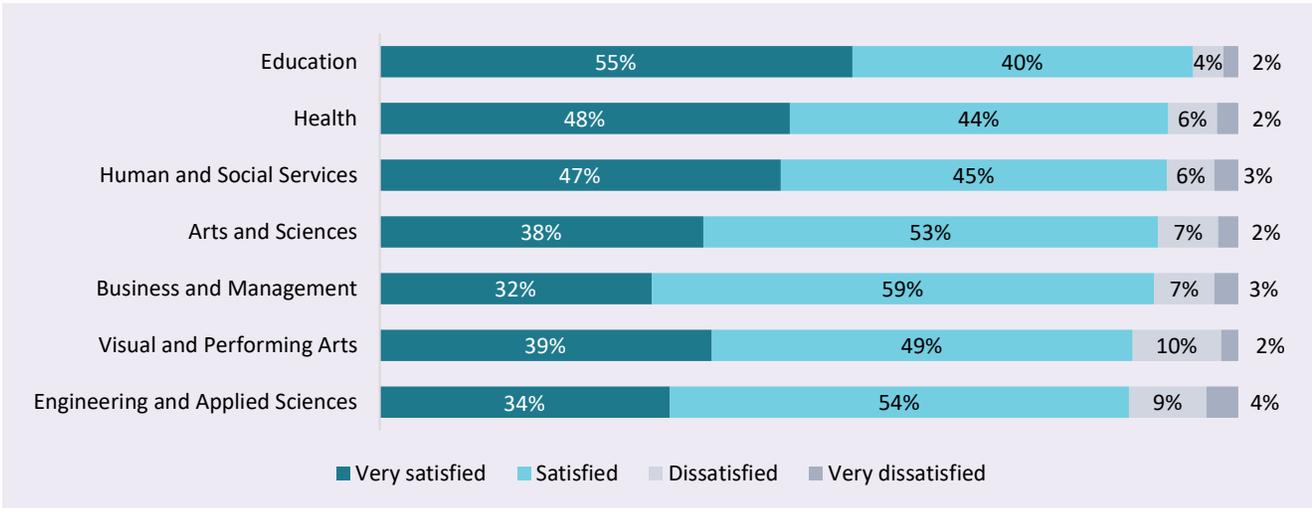
The majority of respondents said their program was very helpful or helpful in developing a number of skills.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who said their program was "Very helpful" or "Helpful" in developing the selected skill, based on those who gave rating on a four-point scale from "Very helpful" (4) to "Not at all helpful" (1), excluding those who said not applicable.

Were they satisfied with their education?

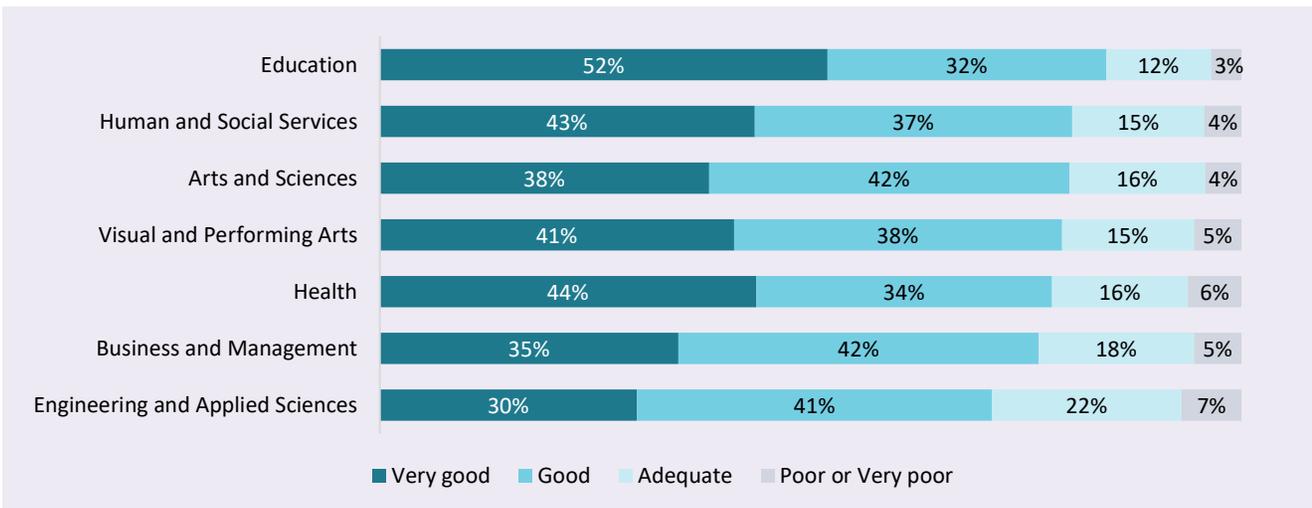
Among all program areas, most respondents (90 percent) were very satisfied or satisfied with the education they received.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who rated the education on a four-point scale from "Very satisfied" (4) to "Very dissatisfied" (1).

What did they think about the quality of instruction?

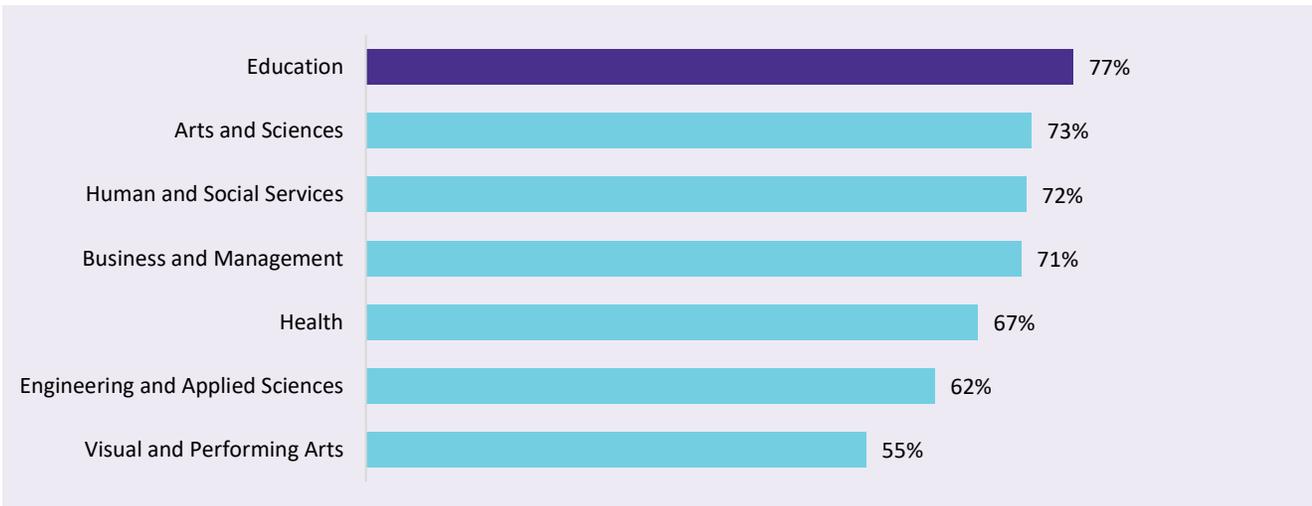
Overall, the majority of respondents (77 percent) rated the quality of instruction as very good or good.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who rated the quality of instruction on a five-point scale from "Very good" (5) to "Very poor" (1), excluding those who said not applicable.

What did they think about the organization of the program?

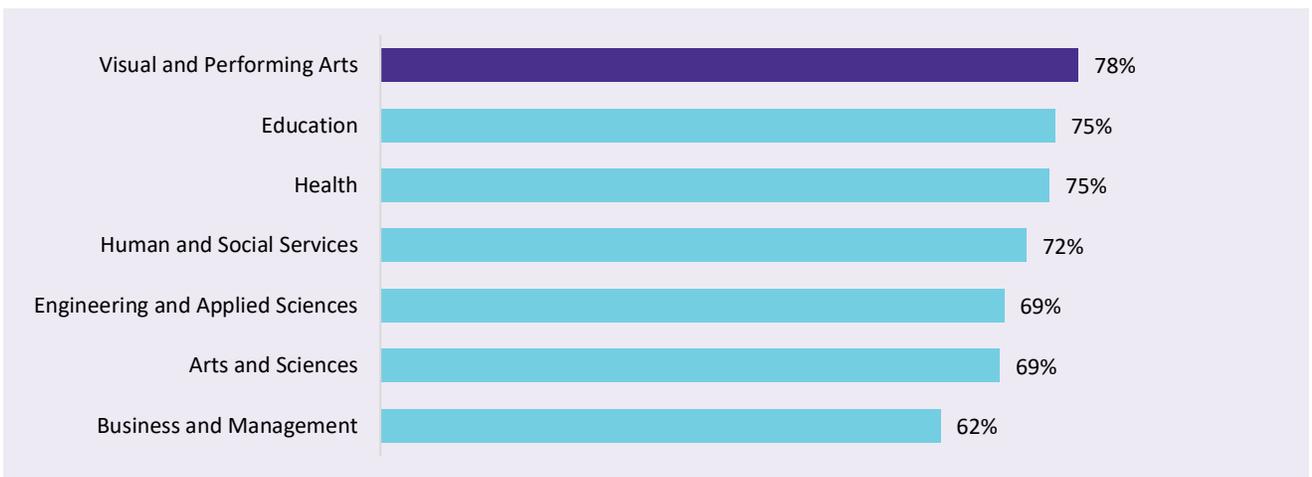
Respondents from **Education** programs rated the organization of their program higher than any other field.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who said the organization of the program was "Very good" or "Good", based on those who gave a rating on a five-point scale from "Very good" (5) to "Very poor" (1), excluding those who said not applicable.

What did they think about the amount of practical experience?

Respondents in **Visual and Performing Arts** programs were more likely to say the amount of practical experience was very good or good.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who said the amount of practical experience was "Very good" or "Good", based on those who gave a rating on a five-point scale from "Very good" (5) to "Very poor" (1), excluding those who said not applicable.

What did they think about the relevance of topics?

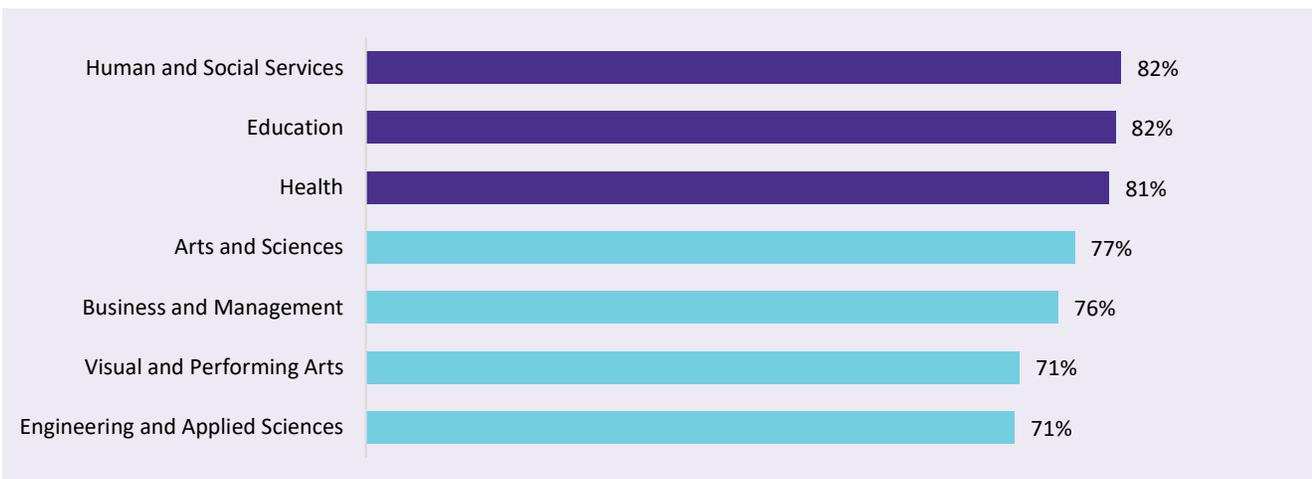
The majority of respondents said the relevance of topics covered was very good or good, especially those in **Education, Health, Human and Social Services, and Arts and Sciences** programs.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who said the relevance of topics covered was "Very good" or "Good", based on those who gave a rating on a five-point scale from "Very good" (5) to "Very poor" (1), excluding those who said not applicable.

What did they think about the coverage of standards used?

Respondents in **Human and Social Services, Education, and Health** programs were most likely to rate the coverage of standards used in the field as very good or good.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who said the coverage of standards used in the field was "Very good" or "Good", based on those who gave a rating on a five-point scale from "Very good" (5) to "Very poor" (1), excluding those who said not applicable.

How did they finance their education?



32%

borrowed money to support their education



18%

received government student loans to fund their education



\$15,000

was the median amount borrowed for their education



\$16,000

was the median amount received in government student loans



11%

had to interrupt their studies for financial reasons

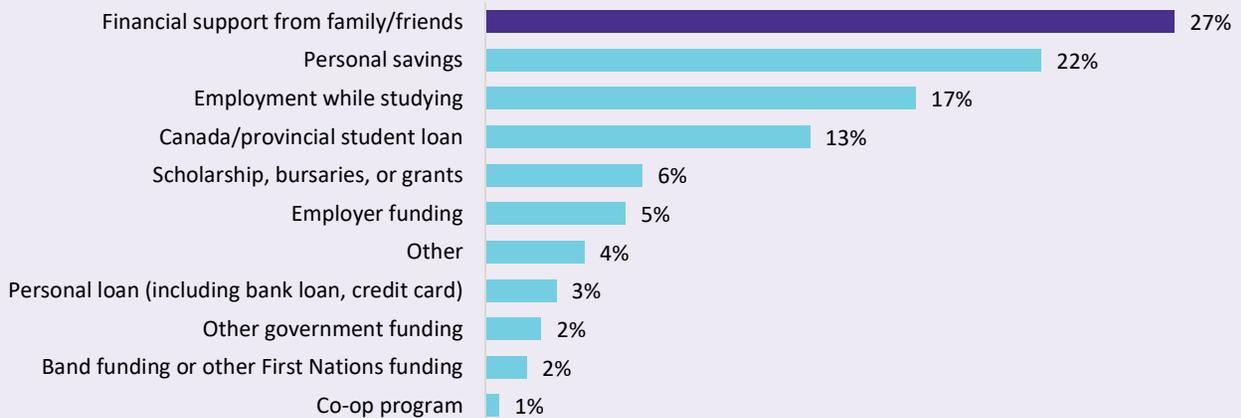


15%

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

What were the primary sources of funding?

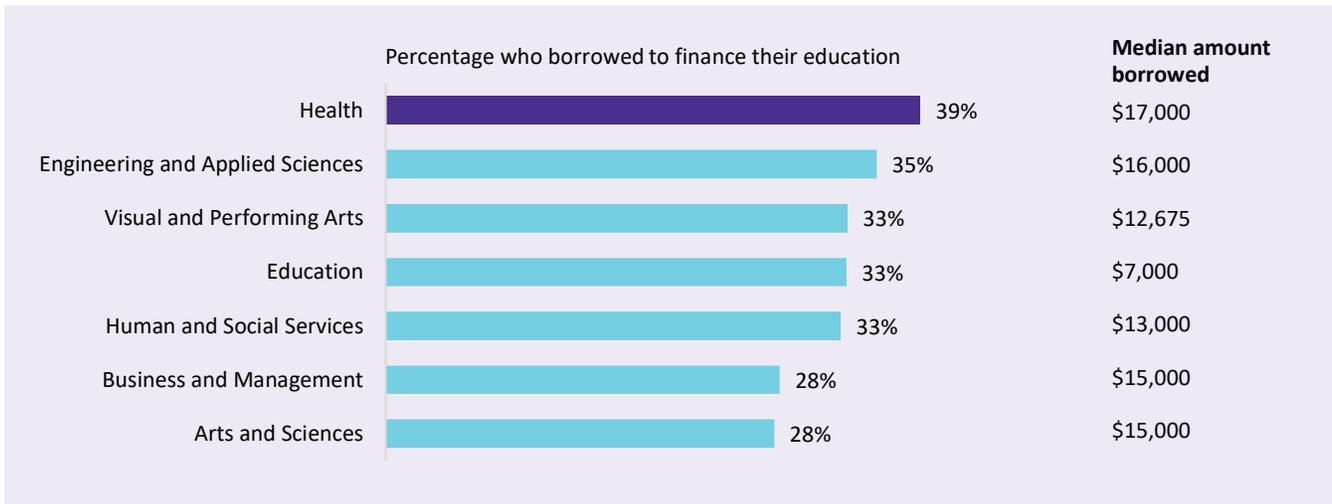
Financial support from family/friends was mentioned most often as the **most important or primary** source of funding.



Note: Other includes responses "Free or subsidized room and board" and "High school paid for or subsidized training."

Who borrowed to finance their education?

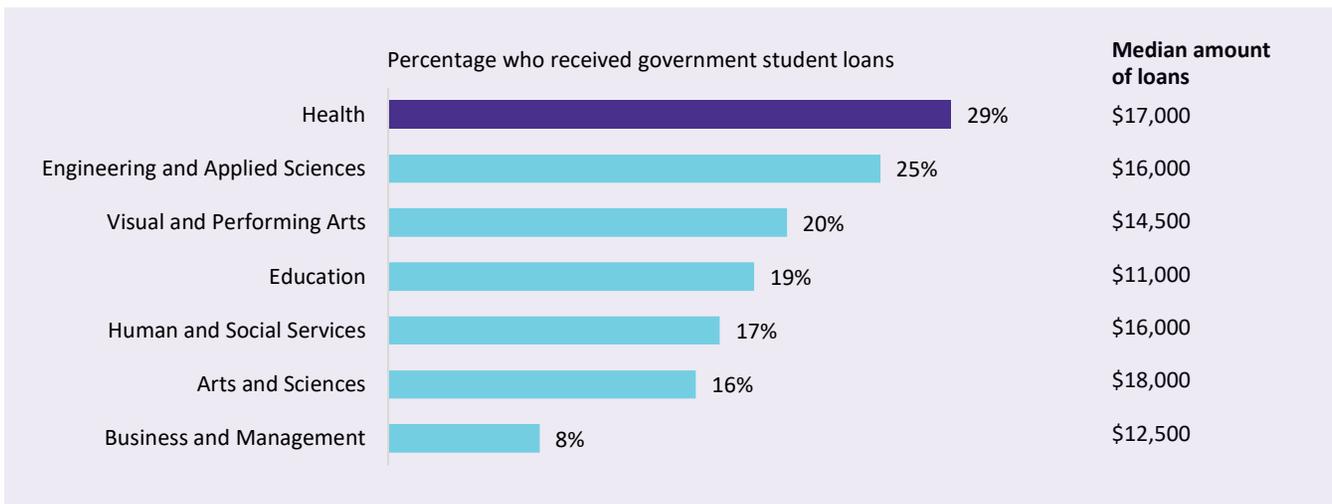
Almost 40 percent of respondents in **Health** programs incurred some type of debt to finance their education.



Notes: Debt amounts are medians, based on those who gave a valid amount. The percentages shown are of respondents who said they incurred debt from borrowing from any source to fund their education.

Who received government student loans?

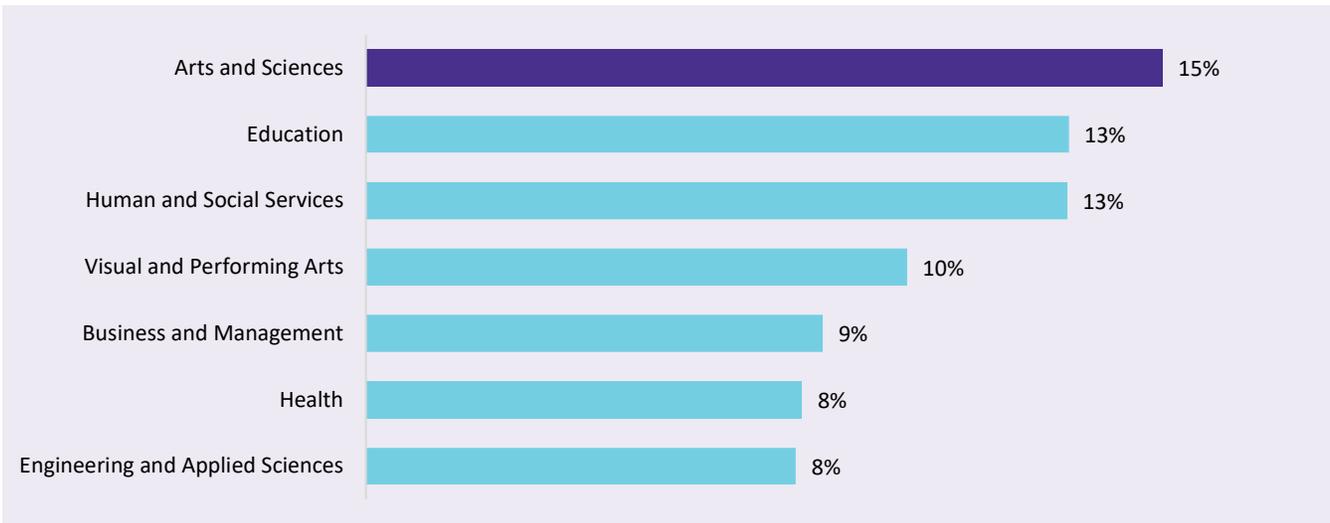
Almost 30 percent of respondents in **Health** programs received government student loans.



Notes: Loan amounts are medians, based on those who reported a valid loan amount. The percentages shown are of those who said they received government student loans to fund their education.

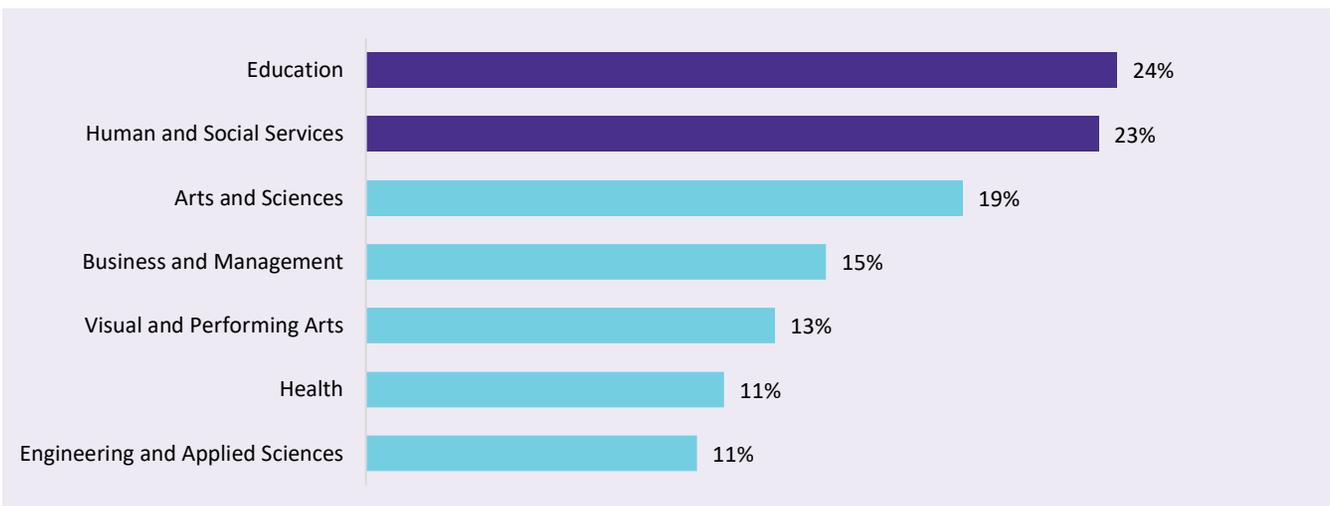
Were studies interrupted for financial reasons?

Arts and Sciences program respondents had the highest rate of having to interrupt their studies for financial reasons.



Did they study part-time for financial reasons?

Respondents in **Education** programs were most likely to say they had to study part-time for financial reasons, followed very closely by those in **Human and Social Services** programs.



Have they taken further education?



30%

have taken further education since leaving their program



65%

expected to transfer course credits between institutions



24%

were studying at the time of the survey



87%

of those who expected to transfer course credits received them



81%

of those who have taken further education did so at a B.C. public post-secondary institution

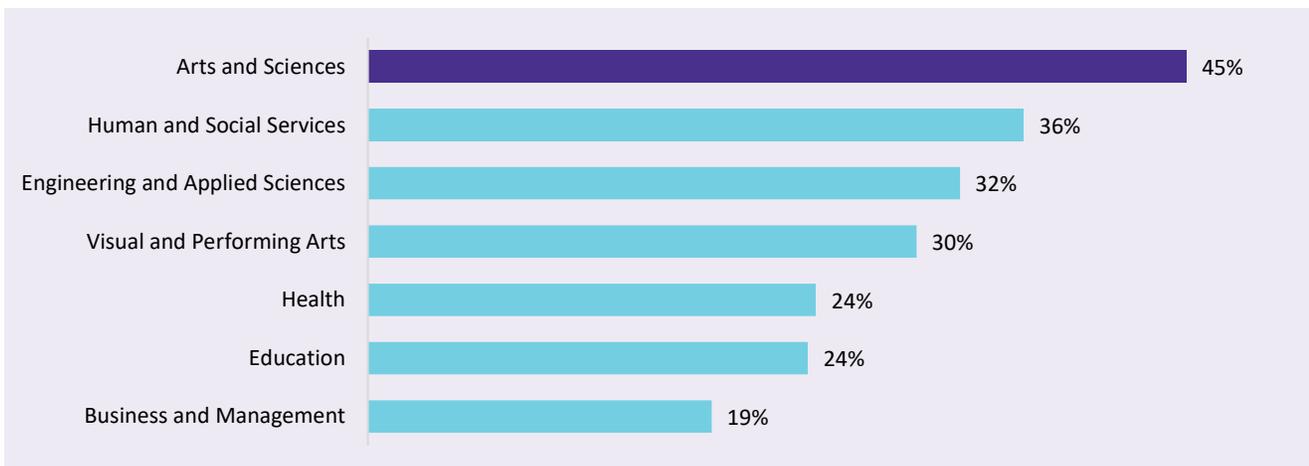


82%

were very satisfied or satisfied with the overall transfer experience

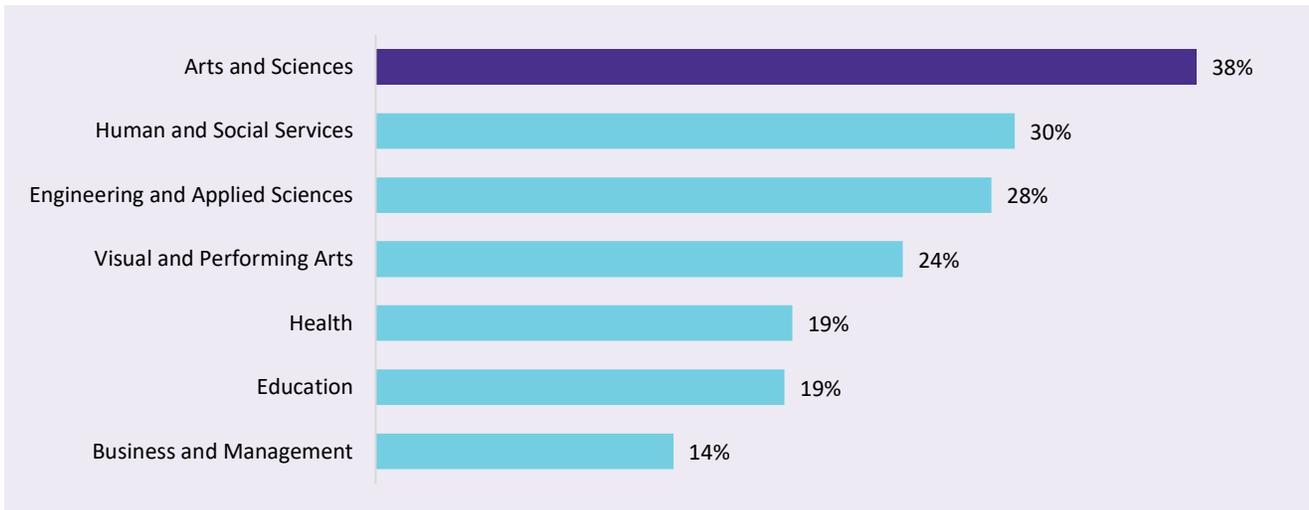
Who took further education?

Respondents in **Arts and Sciences** programs were the most likely to enrol in further education.



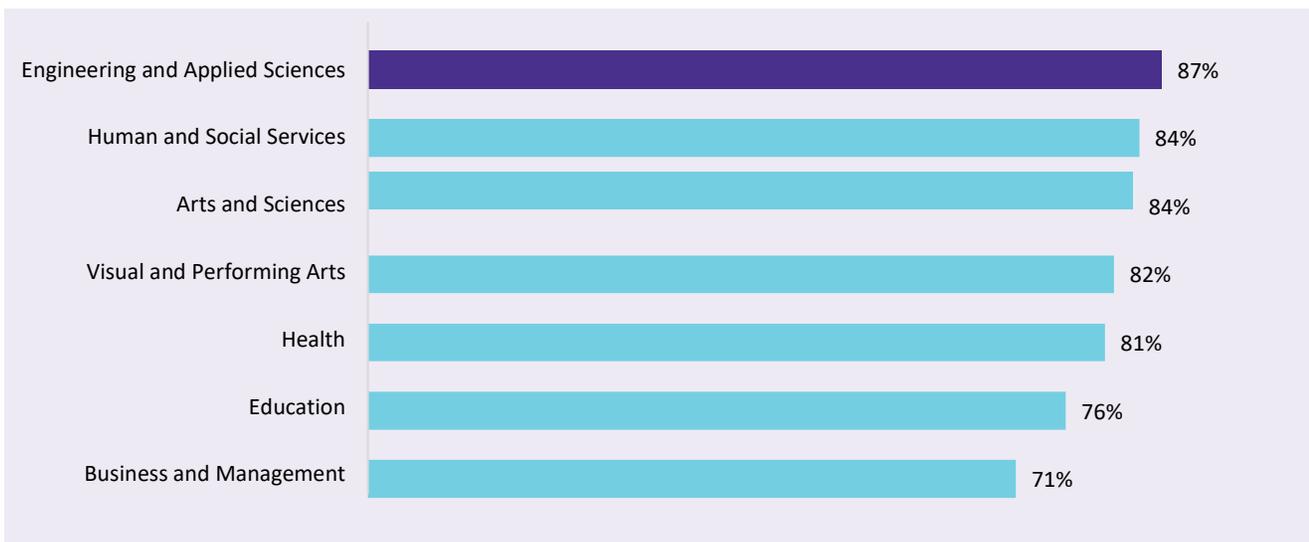
Who was studying at the time of the survey?

More than one-third of respondents in **Arts and Sciences** programs said they were studying at the time of the survey.



Did they take further education at a B.C. public post-secondary institution?

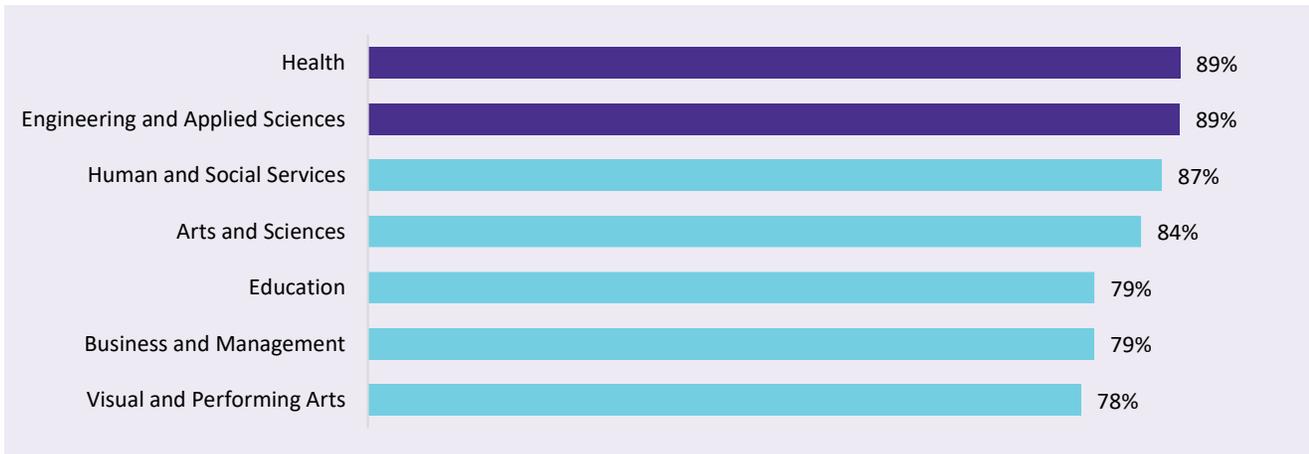
Engineering and Applied Sciences programs' respondents who took further education were the most likely to do so at a B.C. post-secondary institution.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who took further education.

Was further education in a field related to their program?

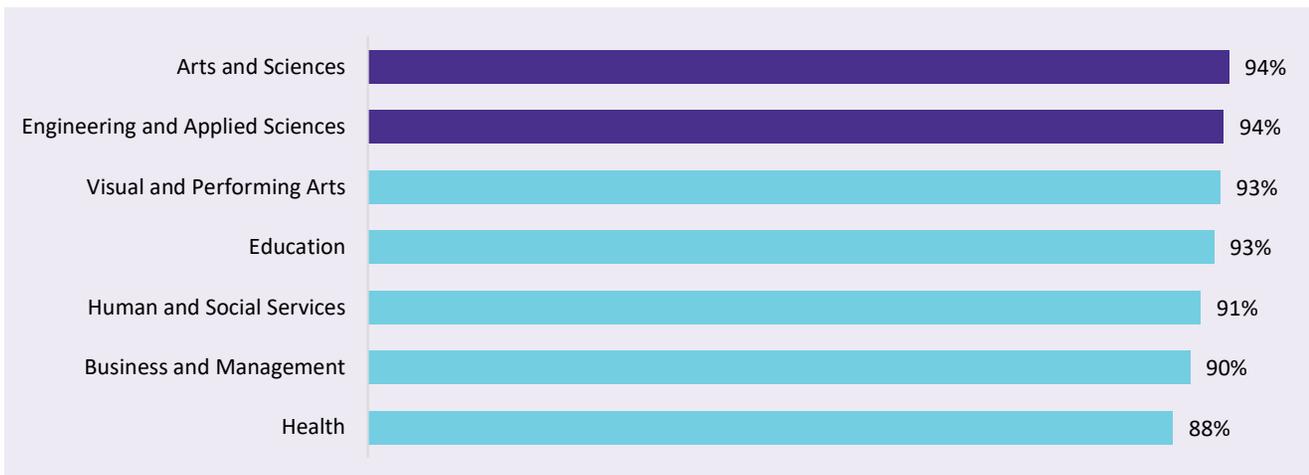
Overall, the majority of respondents (85 percent) who took further studies said their subsequent studies were very or somewhat related to their program, especially those in **Health** and **Engineering and Applied Sciences** programs.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who took further studies and said their subsequent studies were "Very related" or "Somewhat related" to their program, based on those who gave a rating on a four-point scale from "Very related" (4) to "Not at all related" (1).

Did their program prepare them well for further education?

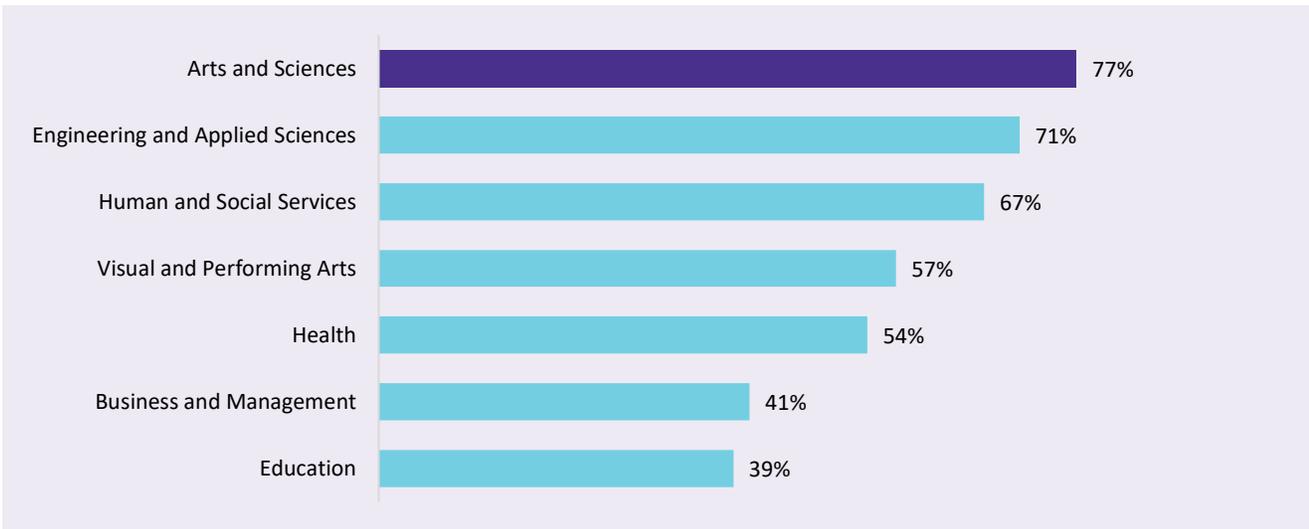
Overall, the majority of respondents (92 percent) who took further studies said they were very well or somewhat prepared by their program, especially those in **Arts and Sciences** and **Engineering and Applied Sciences** programs.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who took further studies and said their program "Very well prepared" or "Somewhat prepared" them, based on those who gave a rating on a four-point scale from "Very well prepared" (4) to "Not at all prepared" (1), excluding those who said not applicable.

Did respondents expect to transfer course credits?

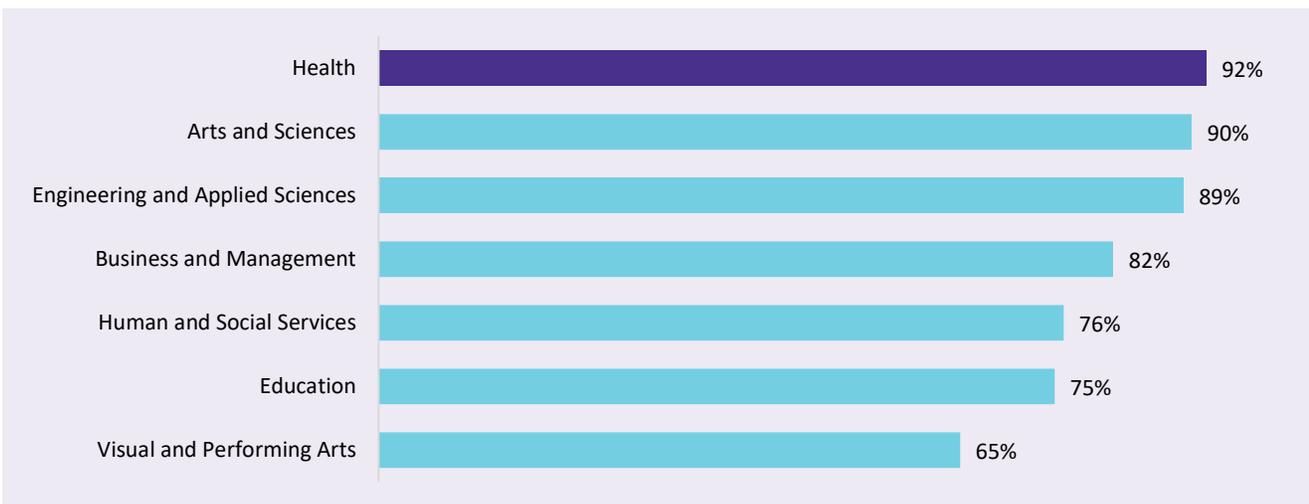
Among all program areas, **Arts and Sciences** respondents were the most likely to expect transfer course credits.



Note: Expected transfer credits percentages are of respondents who took further education at a different post-secondary institution.

Did respondents receive the transfer credits they expected?

Most respondents who expected transfer credits received them, especially those in **Health** programs.



Note: Received transfer credits percentages are of those who expected transfer credits.

Were respondents satisfied with their credit transfer experience?

Almost 90 percent of **Arts and Sciences** program respondents who expected to transfer credits were very satisfied or satisfied with their credit transfer experience.



Note: Percentages are of respondents who expected to transfer credits and said they were "Very satisfied" or "Satisfied" with their credit transfer experience, based on a five-point scale from "Very satisfied" (5) to "Very dissatisfied" (1).

What were the employment outcomes of Diploma and Certificate graduates?



94%

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



74%

were in a program-related
job



84%

of all respondents were
employed



84%

were working full-time
at their main job



9.3%

of those in the labour force
were unemployed

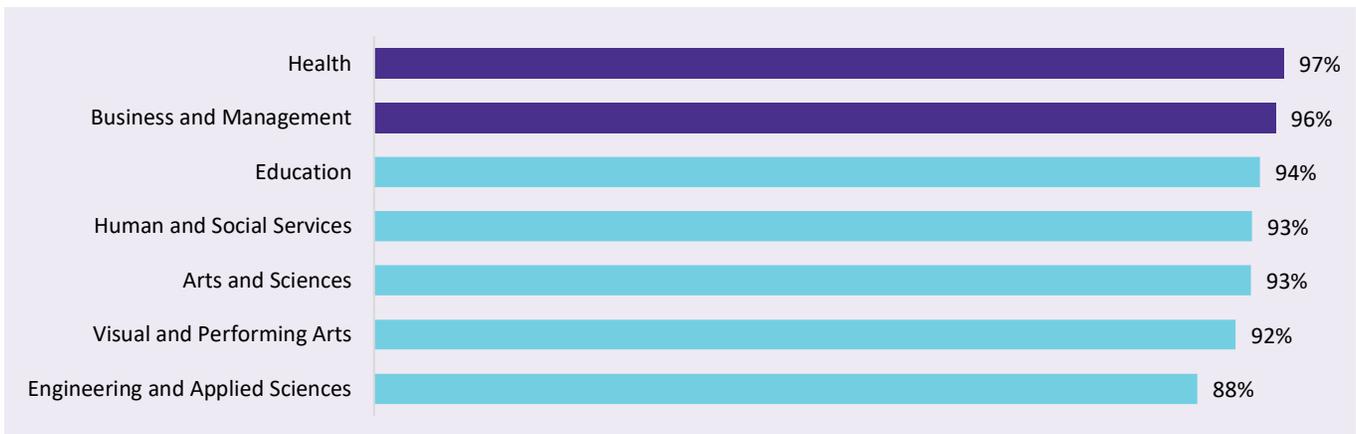


\$28.22

was the median hourly
wage at their main job

Were respondents participating in the labour force?

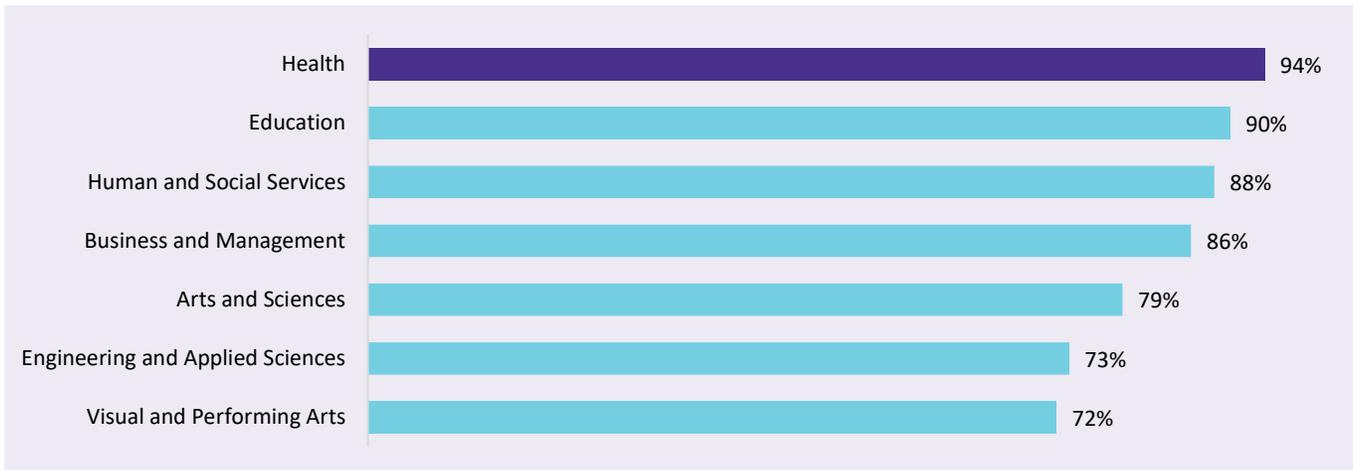
The majority of Diploma and Certificate graduates were in the labour force at the time of the survey, especially those who were in **Health** and **Business and Management** programs.



Notes: Percentages are based on graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs only. The labour force participation rate is the number of respondents employed or looking for work as a percentage of all respondents.

Were respondents employed?

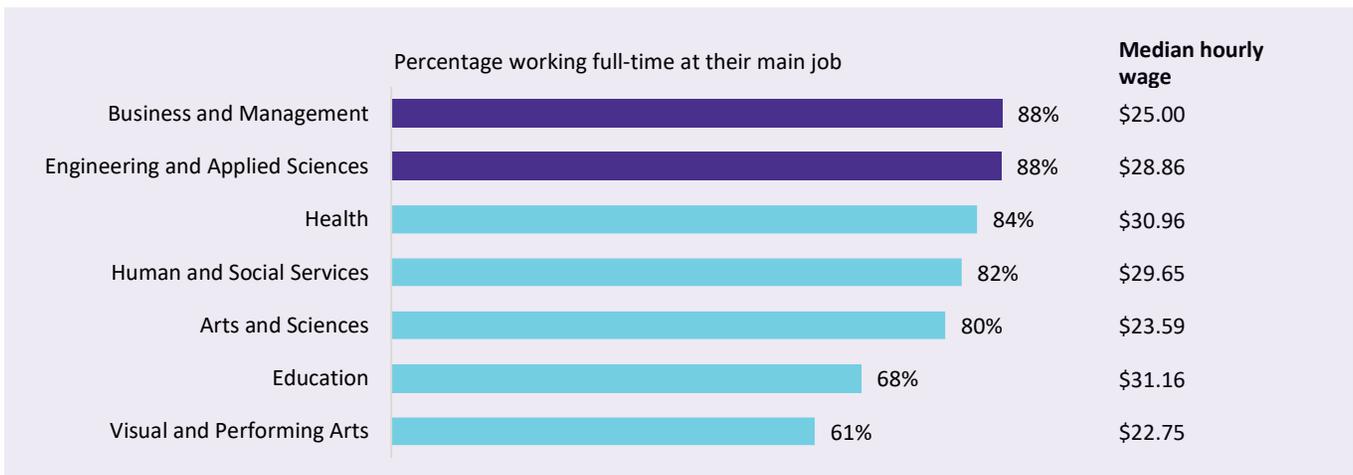
Diploma and Certificate graduates in **Health** programs reported the highest employment rates.



Notes: Percentages are based on graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs only. The employment rate is the number employed as a percentage of all respondents.

Were they working full-time at their main job?

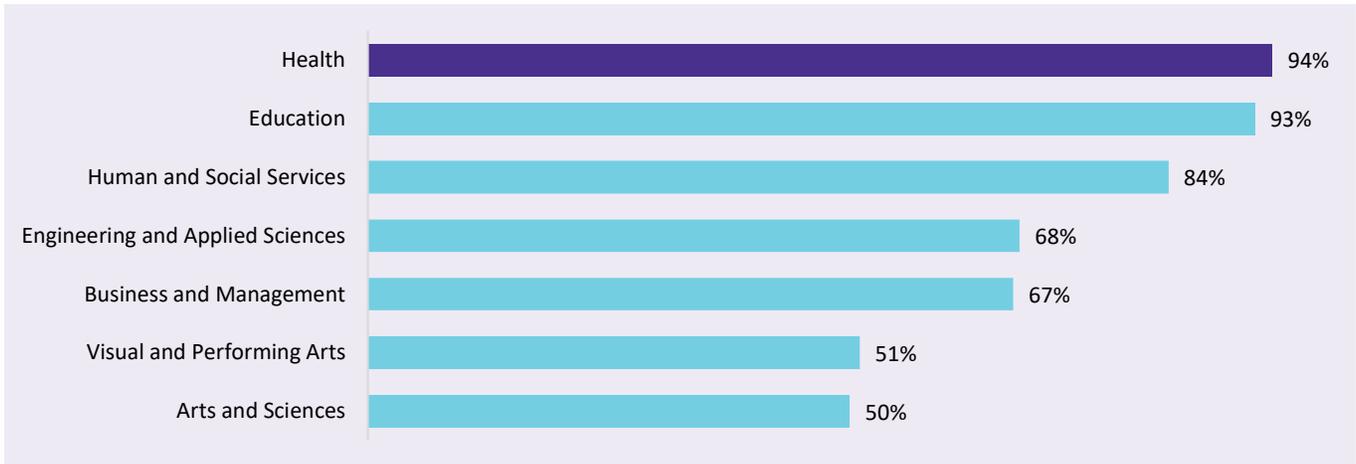
The majority of Diploma and Certificate graduates worked full-time at their main job, particularly those in **Business and Management** and **Engineering and Applied Sciences** programs.



Notes: Percentages are based on employed graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs only. Full-time employment is 30 or more hours per week. Hourly wage amounts are medians, based on those who worked full-time at their main job.

Were they working in a program-related job?

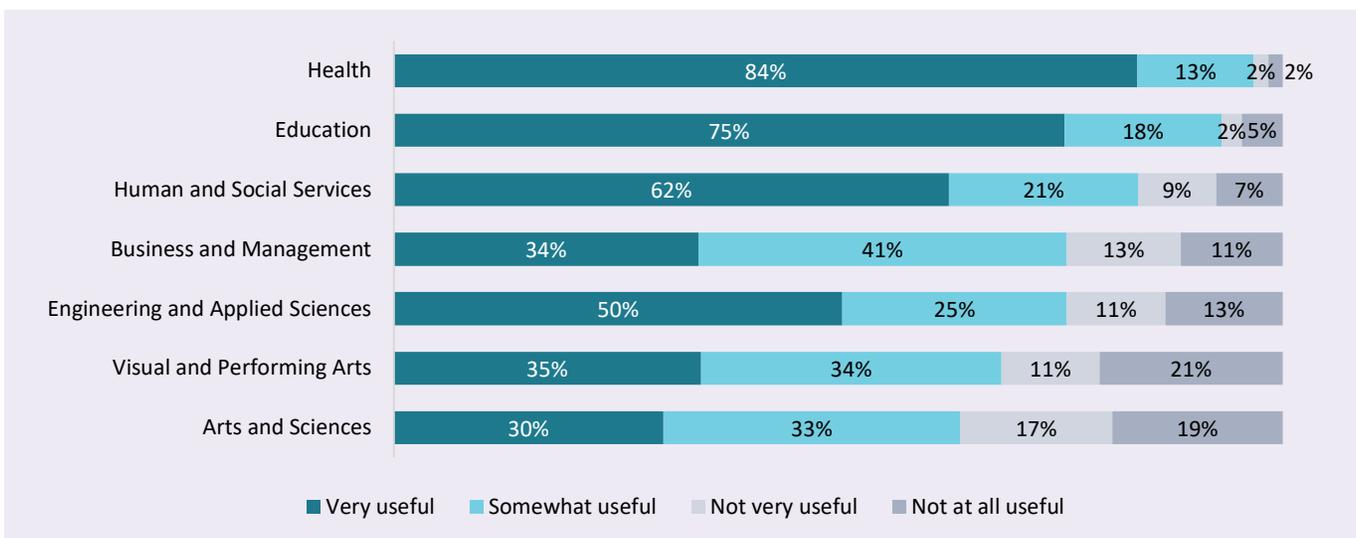
Compared to other programs, Diploma and Certificate graduates in **Health** programs were more likely to say their main job was very or somewhat related to their program of study.



Note: Percentages are of employed graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs who said their main job was "Very related" or "Somewhat related" to their program, based on those who gave a rating on a four-point scale from "Very related" (4) to "Not at all related" (1).

How useful was their education in getting their main job?

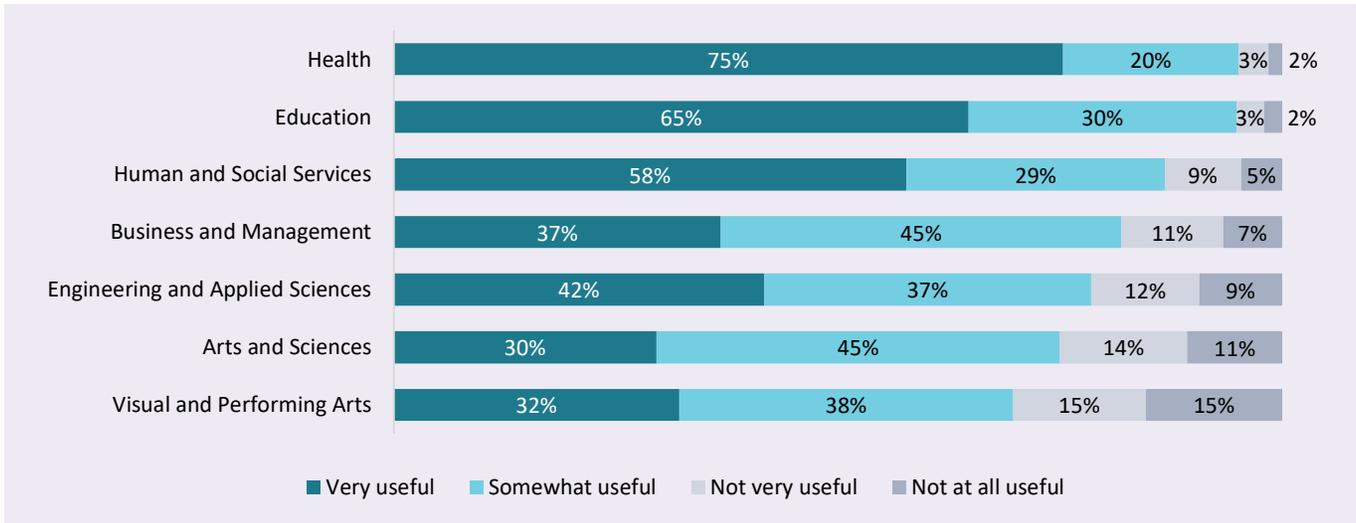
The majority of Diploma and Certificate graduates (82 percent) said their education was very or somewhat useful in getting their main job.



Note: Percentages are of employed graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs who rated their education on a four-point scale from "Very useful" (4) to "Not at all useful" (1) in getting their main job.

How useful were the knowledge and skills gained in performing their main job?

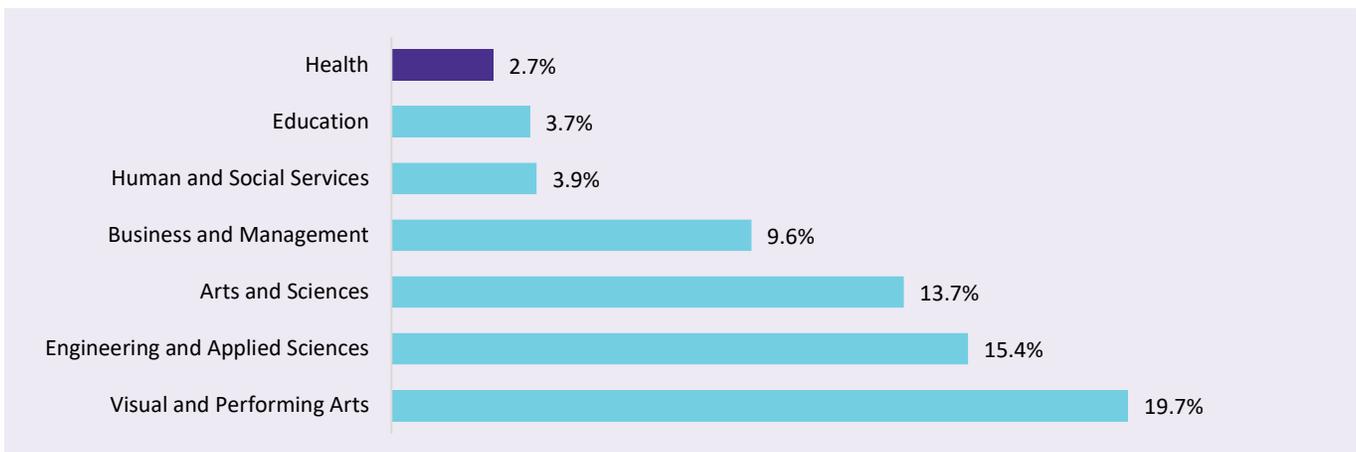
Most Diploma and Certificate graduates (84 percent) said the knowledge and skills they gained in their program were very or somewhat useful in performing their main job.



Note: Percentages are of employed graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs who rated the knowledge and skills gained in their program on a four-point scale from "Very useful" (4) to "Not at all useful" (1) in performing their main job.

What was the unemployment rate among programs?

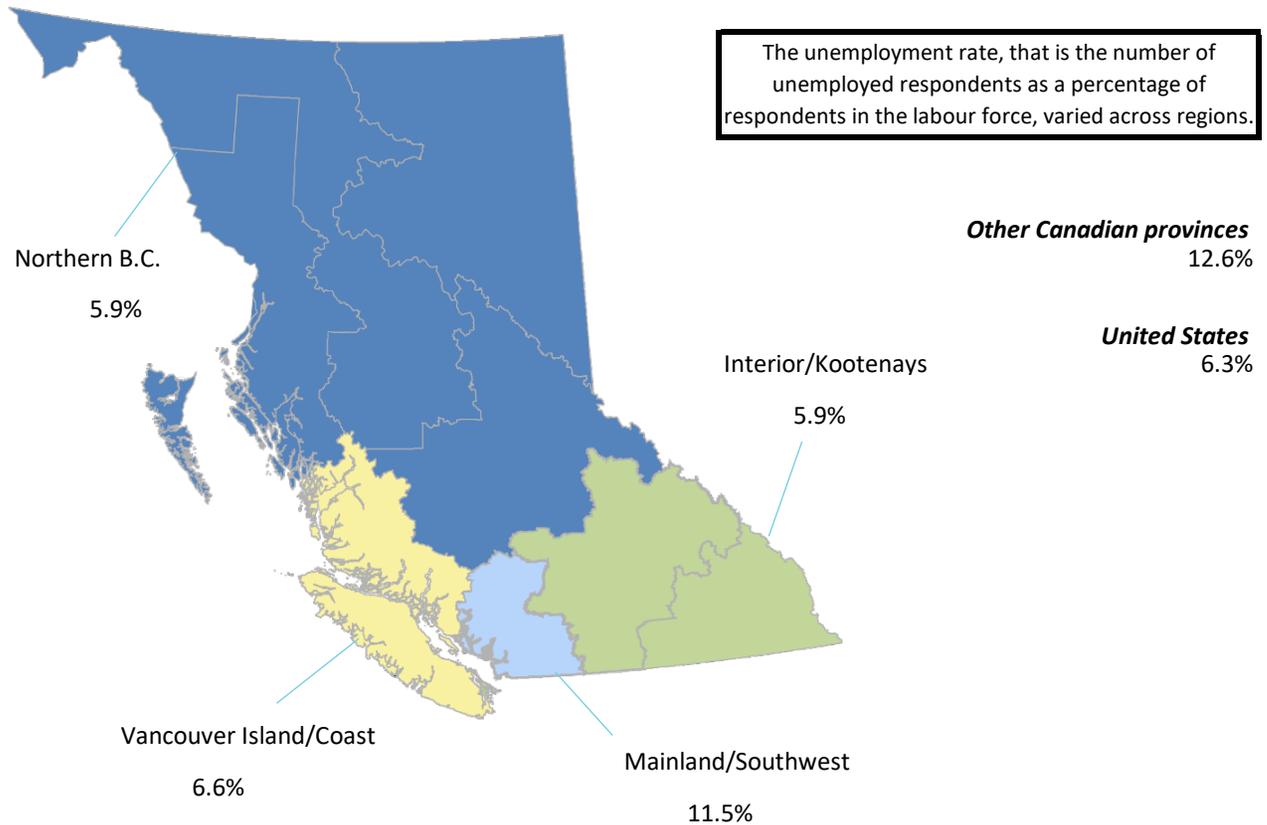
Diploma and Certificate graduates in **Health** programs had the lowest unemployment rates.



Notes: Percentages are based on employed graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs only. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed respondents as a percentage of respondents in the labour force.

What was the unemployment rate among B.C. regions?

Diploma and Certificate graduates residing in the **Northern B.C.** and **Interior/Kootenays** regions at the time of the survey reported the lowest unemployment rates.



Notes: Percentages are based on employed graduates from Diploma and Certificate programs only. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed respondents as a percentage of respondents in the labour force. The unemployment rate for each region was based on respondents' postal code at the time of the survey. Those whose location was unknown at the time of the survey were not included in the analysis.