

2023-2024 NASPAA ANNUAL DATA REPORT

*Ensuring excellence in education & training for public service and
promoting the ideal of public service.*



January 2026



The Global Standard in Public Service Education



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INTRODUCTION

The 2023–2024 Annual Data Report reflects the collective effort of our member schools to advance excellence in public service education and to share data that informs decision-making across our global network.



The following report is derived from the Annual Data Reports and Self-Study Reports of **208** programs across **11** countries that are accredited, or seeking (re)accreditation. NASPAA programs represent diverse student populations from around the world. With a variety of missions and resources in mind, NASPAA standards are inclusive of program types with different goals, resources, and capacities.

NASPAA, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, sets the global standard in public service and education. NASPAA is the global accreditor of master's degree programs for public administration, public policy, public affairs, and non-profit programs.

The accreditation process includes eligibility requirements, program self-evaluation, an on-site visit, and review by the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA). The rigorous process ensures the highest level of academic quality and continual improvement.



We extend our gratitude to the institutional leaders, faculty, and staff who contributed their data through the Annual Data Report (ADR) and Self-Study Report (SSR). We also acknowledge our member programs for their ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Executive Summary

The 2023–2024 NASPAA Annual Data Report presents insights from 208 programs across 11 countries. The report shows trends in admissions, enrollment, graduation, employment, faculty, and diversity.

Applications are rising again. After several years of steady decline, the number of applications started to plateau with 21,596 for U.S. programs and 39,885 across all programs. These data show that students are continuing to choose public affairs degrees and see value in these programs for their future careers.

Graduation rates remain strong. In the United States, 77.8% of students graduated within four years. This rate is close to the global average of 78.4%, showing that NASPAA programs continue to support students in completing their degrees on time.

Faculty are central to learning. A majority of required courses in the core competencies are taught by full-time faculty. This ensures that students benefit from consistent teaching, strong academic guidance, and programs that meet NASPAA standards.

Diversity is improving but gaps remain. Students are more racially diverse than faculty. 54% of students identify as non-white, compared with 36% of faculty.

Employment is led by government. Government jobs remain the largest employer of graduates, hiring 54.8% of them. At the same time, more students are also working in nonprofit and private sector roles, reflecting a wide range of career opportunities for public affairs graduates.

AT A GLANCE

39,885

Applications
in AY 2023-2024

n = 202 NASPAA programs

70.7%

ADMISSION RATE

Average admission rate. n = 202

60.9%

YIELD RATE

Average yield rate. n = 202

58.9%

FEMALE
ENROLLMENT

n = 169

43.2%

MINORITY
ENROLLMENT

n = 154

78.4%

GRADUATION RATE

4-year Graduation/persistence rate. n = 185

54.8%

GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYMENT

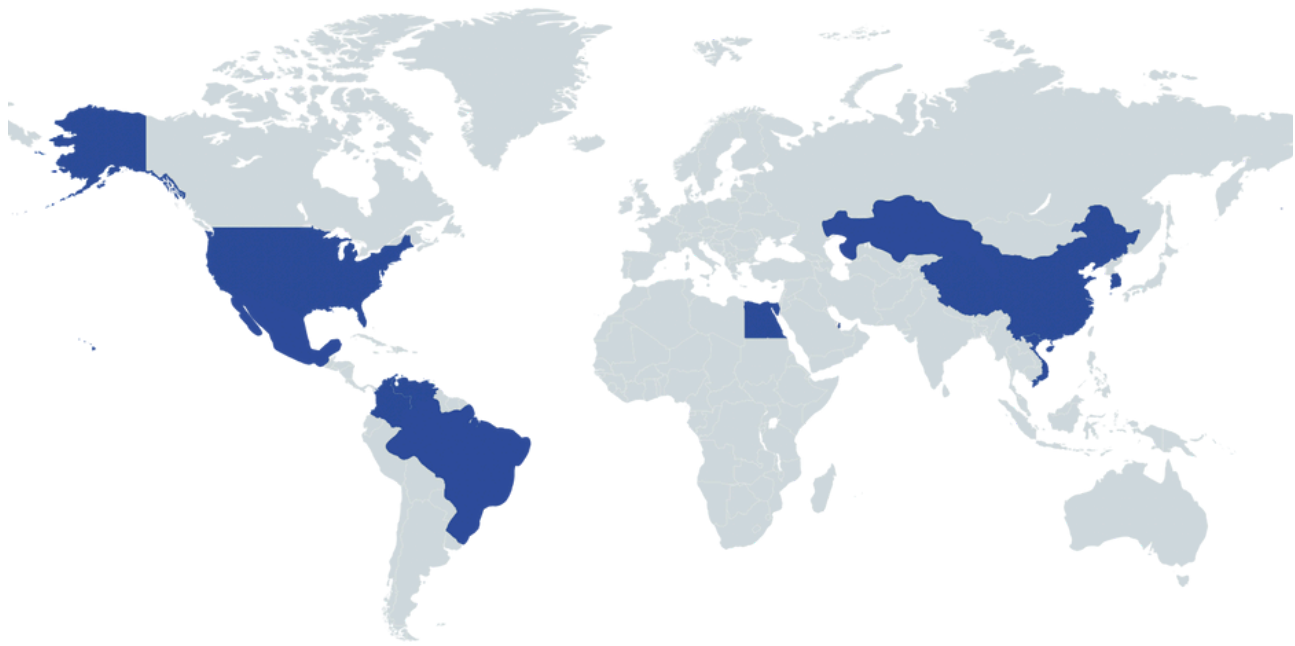
Percent of graduates working in government.
n = 196

AT A GLANCE

208 Programs

Accredited and/or seeking (re)accreditation

11 Countries



187

U.S. Programs

21

Non-U.S. Programs



China



Colombia



Egypt



South Korea



Kazakhstan



Qatar



Venezuela



Vietnam



United States & US Territories



Brazil




Mexico

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

99% of programs require a bachelor’s degree.
Over **80%** also require a GPA, resume, or letters of recommendation.

Most Common Requirements (80%+)



99%

Bachelor’s Degree

n = 182 programs



90%

Statement of Intent


n = 180 programs



83%

GPA

n = 179 programs



82%

Resume

n = 179 programs



82%

Letter of Recommendation

n = 181 programs

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

Less Common Requirements (<20%)



17%

Standardized Tests

n = 176 programs



15%

**Essay/Additional
Writing Sample**

n = 172 programs



12%

Interview

n = 173 programs



9%

Professional Experience

n = 179 programs



Minimum GPA

Mean : 2.91

Median: 3.00

Mode: 3.00

Programs Reporting (n=137)



Minimum Years of Professional Experience

Mean: 3.15

Median: 3.00

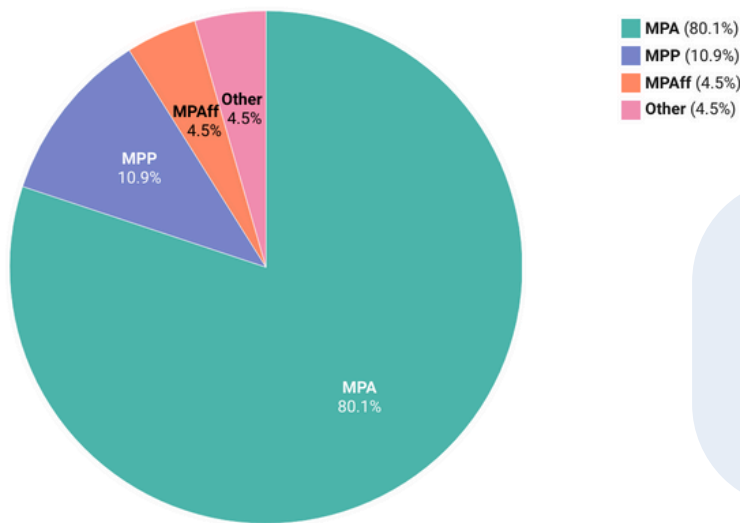
Mode: 3.00

Programs Reporting (n=42)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

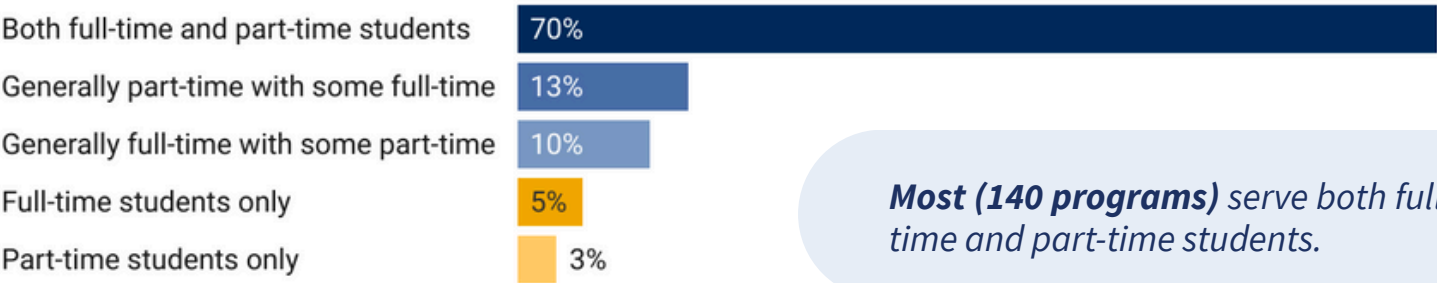
What type of degree does your program award?



The **majority of programs** are **MPA** (80.1%, 161 programs), followed by **MPP** (10.9%, 22 programs). **MPAaff** and other degrees each account for 4.5% (9 programs each).

n=201 programs reporting

Who does your program serve — full-time, part-time, or both?



Most (140 programs) serve both full-time and part-time students.

n=200 programs reporting

When can students join your program?



"Other" cycles include Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer cycles

Over half (57%) admit in both Fall and Spring.

n=168 programs reporting

PROGRAM INFORMATION

All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

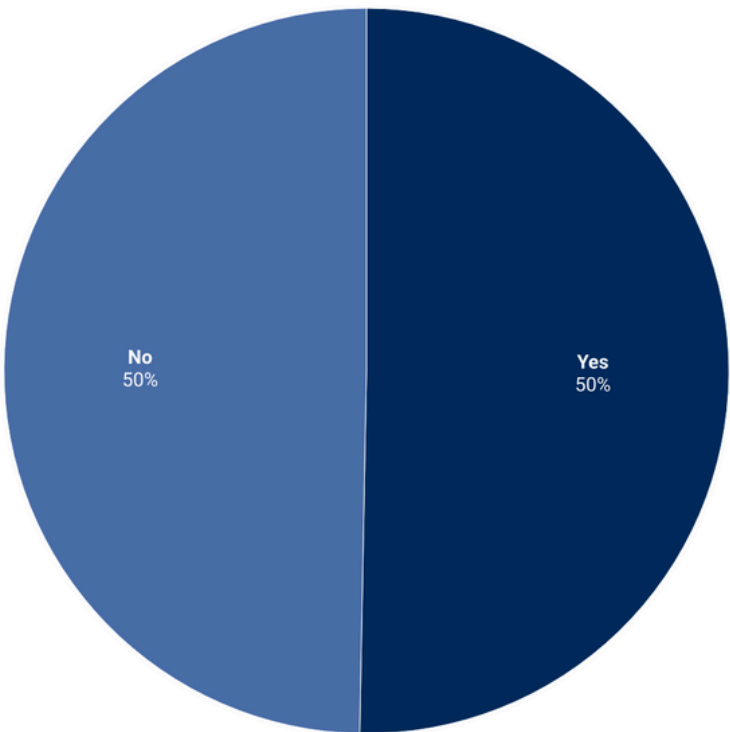
How long does it take most students to graduate?



Majority (108 programs) complete in 4 semesters.

n=197 programs reporting

Can students pursue a dual degree?



Half of programs (85) offer a dual-degree pathway.

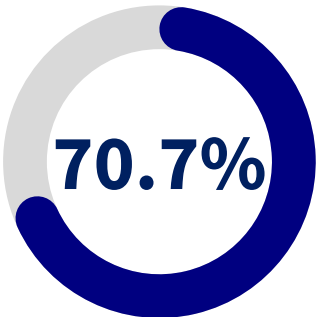
n=169 programs reporting

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

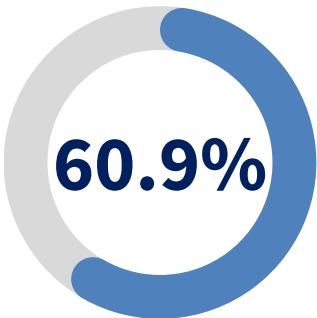
All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

39,885

Applications
in AY 2023-2024
n = 202 programs



of applicants
are
ADMITTED



of admitted
students
ENROLL



59% **FEMALE STUDENTS**
n = 169 programs



49% **PART-TIME STUDENTS**
n = 162 programs



43% **MINORITY STUDENTS**
n = 154 programs



17% **OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS**
n = 158 programs



8% **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**
n = 167 programs



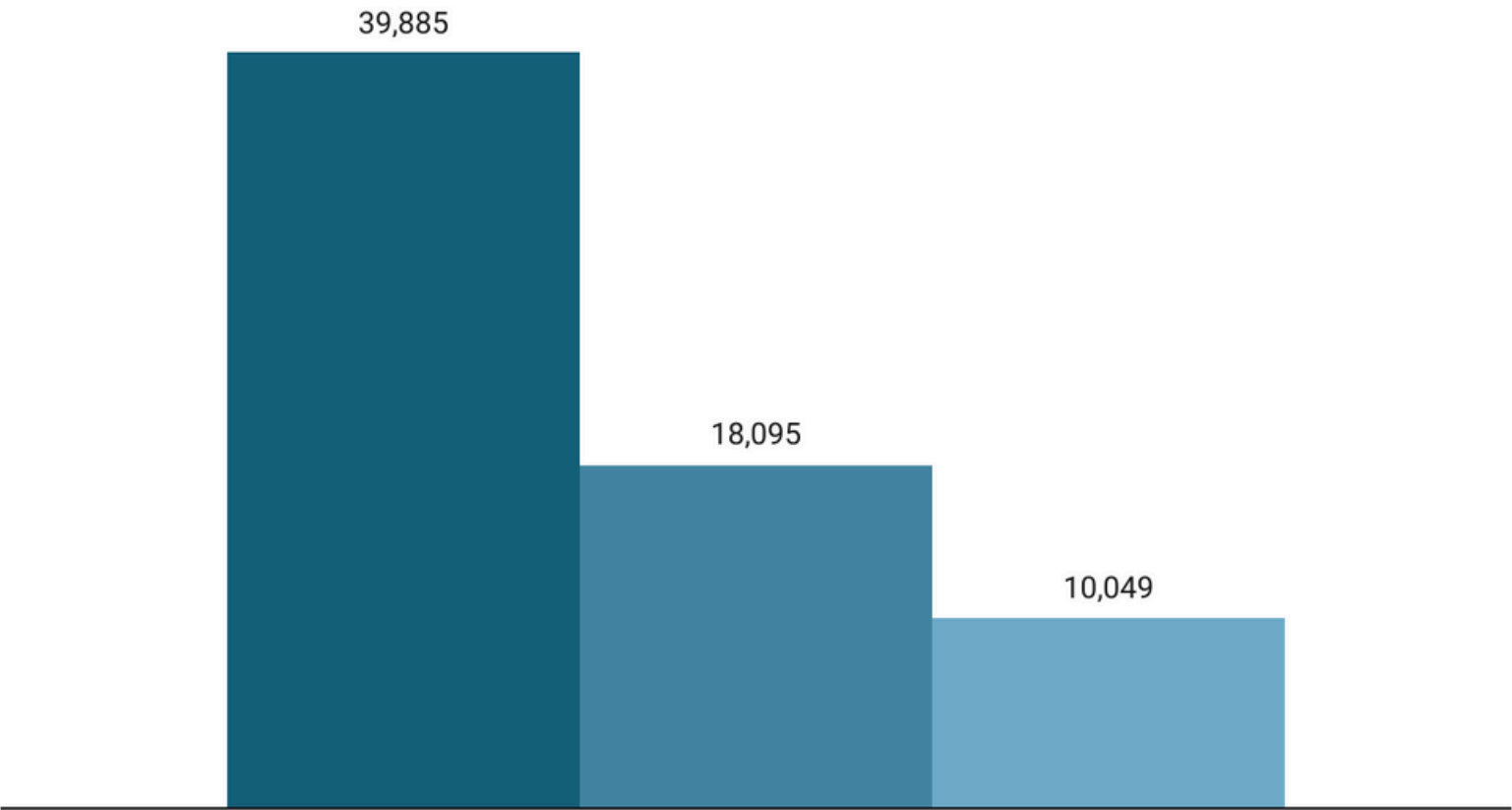
ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

The admissions pipeline illustrates the progression from total applications to admitted students, and finally to enrolled students. Percentages shown represent the share of total applicants at each stage. For example, “% **Admitted**” reflects the proportion of all applicants who were offered admission, while “% **Enrolled**” reflects the proportion of all applicants who ultimately enrolled.

Admissions Funnel - All Programs (2023-2024)

■ Total Applications ■ Total Admissions ■ Total Enrollments



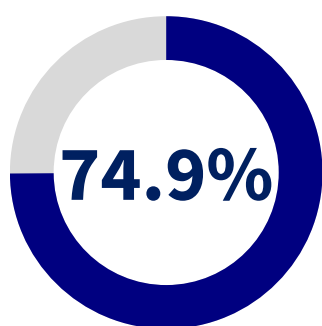
This graph shows the total number of applications, admissions, and enrollments for all programs. n=202.

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

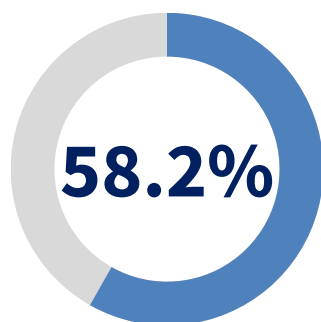
U.S.-Based Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

21,596

Applications
in AY 2023-2024
n=179 programs



of applicants
are
ADMITTED
n=179



of admitted
students
ENROLL
n=179

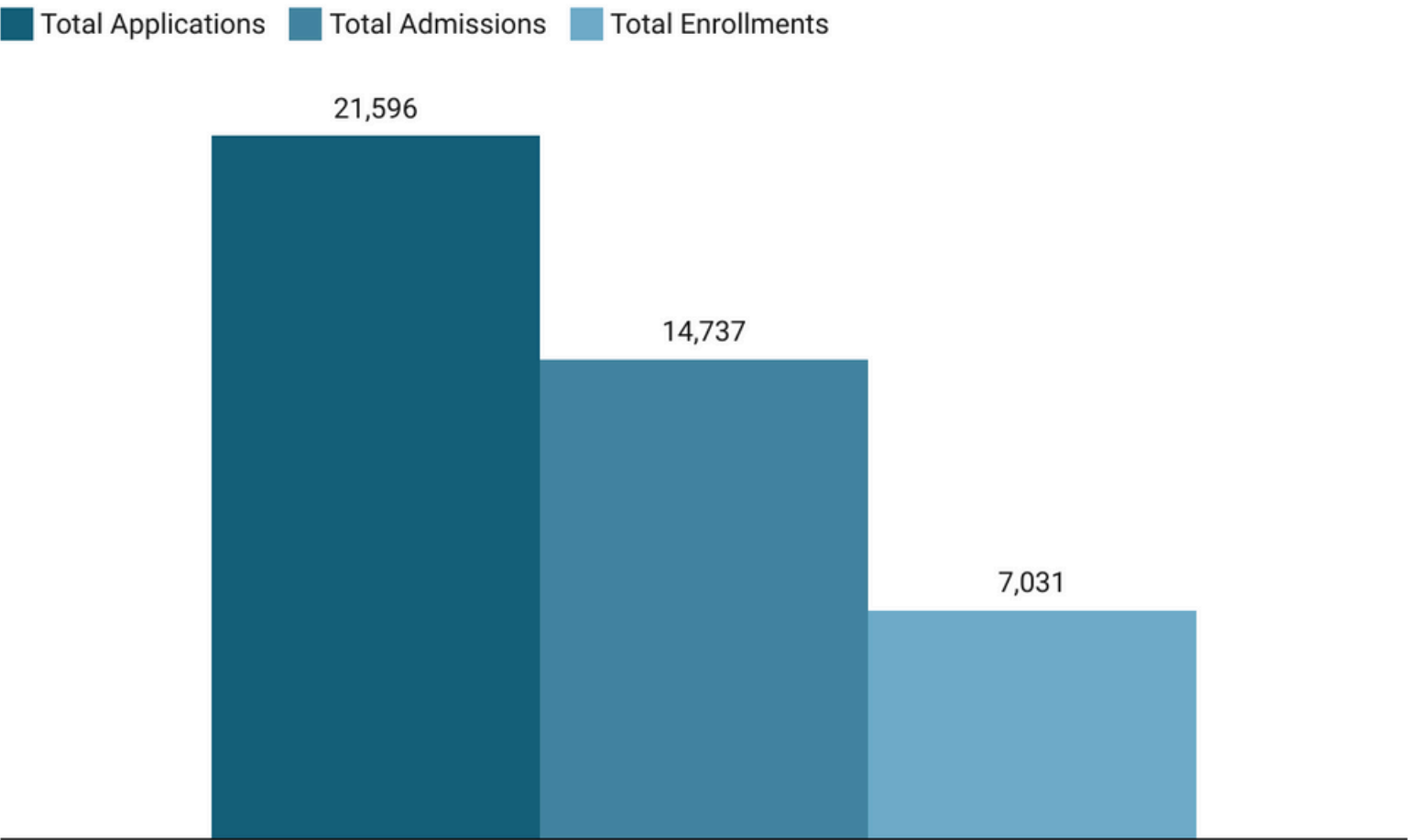
*U.S.-based programs had a **higher admit rate**, but a **lower yield rate** compared to all programs.*

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

U.S.-Based Programs – Annual Data 2023–2024

The admissions pipeline illustrates the progression from total applications to admitted students, and finally to enrolled students. Percentages shown represent the share of total applicants at each stage. For example, “% **Admitted**” reflects the proportion of all applicants who were offered admission, while “% **Enrolled**” reflects the proportion of all applicants who ultimately enrolled.

Admissions Funnel - US-based Programs (2023-2024)



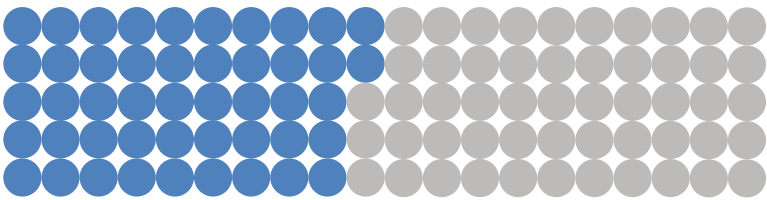
This graph shows the total number of applications, admissions, and enrollments for US-based programs. n=179.

GRADUATION RATES

All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

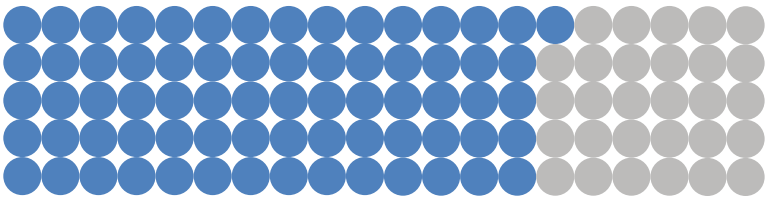
9,166

Initially Enrolled
in ARY-5 Cohort



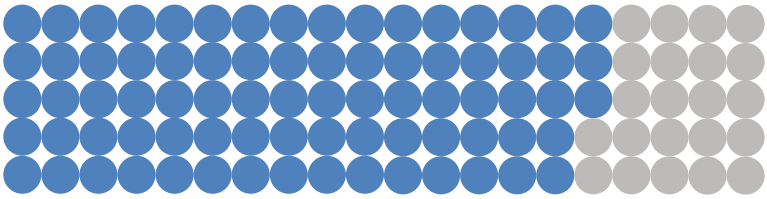
47%

of students
**GRADUATE IN
2 YEARS**



71%

of students
**GRADUATE IN
3 YEARS**



78%

of students
**GRADUATE IN
4 YEARS**

84%

of students **GRADUATED**
or are **PERSISTING TO GRADUATION**

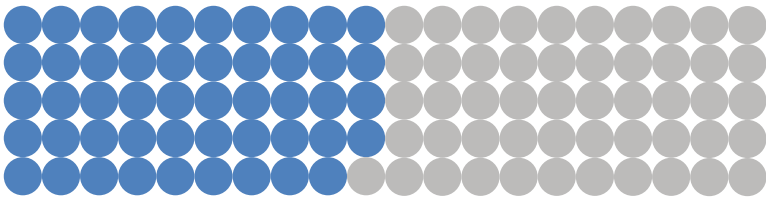
n = 181 programs

GRADUATION RATES

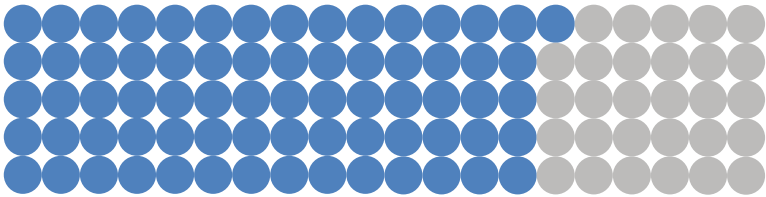
U.S.-Based Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

7,157

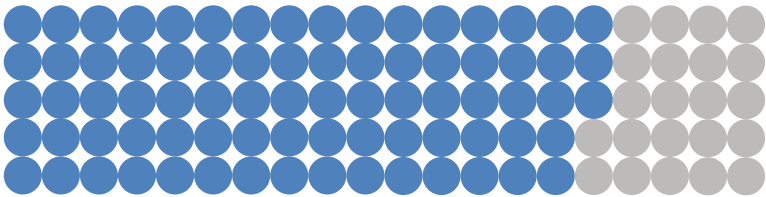
Initially Enrolled
in ARY-5 Cohort



49% of students
**GRADUATE IN
2 YEARS**



71% of students
**GRADUATE IN
3 YEARS**



78% of students
**GRADUATE IN
4 YEARS**

83% of students **GRADUATED**
or are **PERSISTING TO GRADUATION**

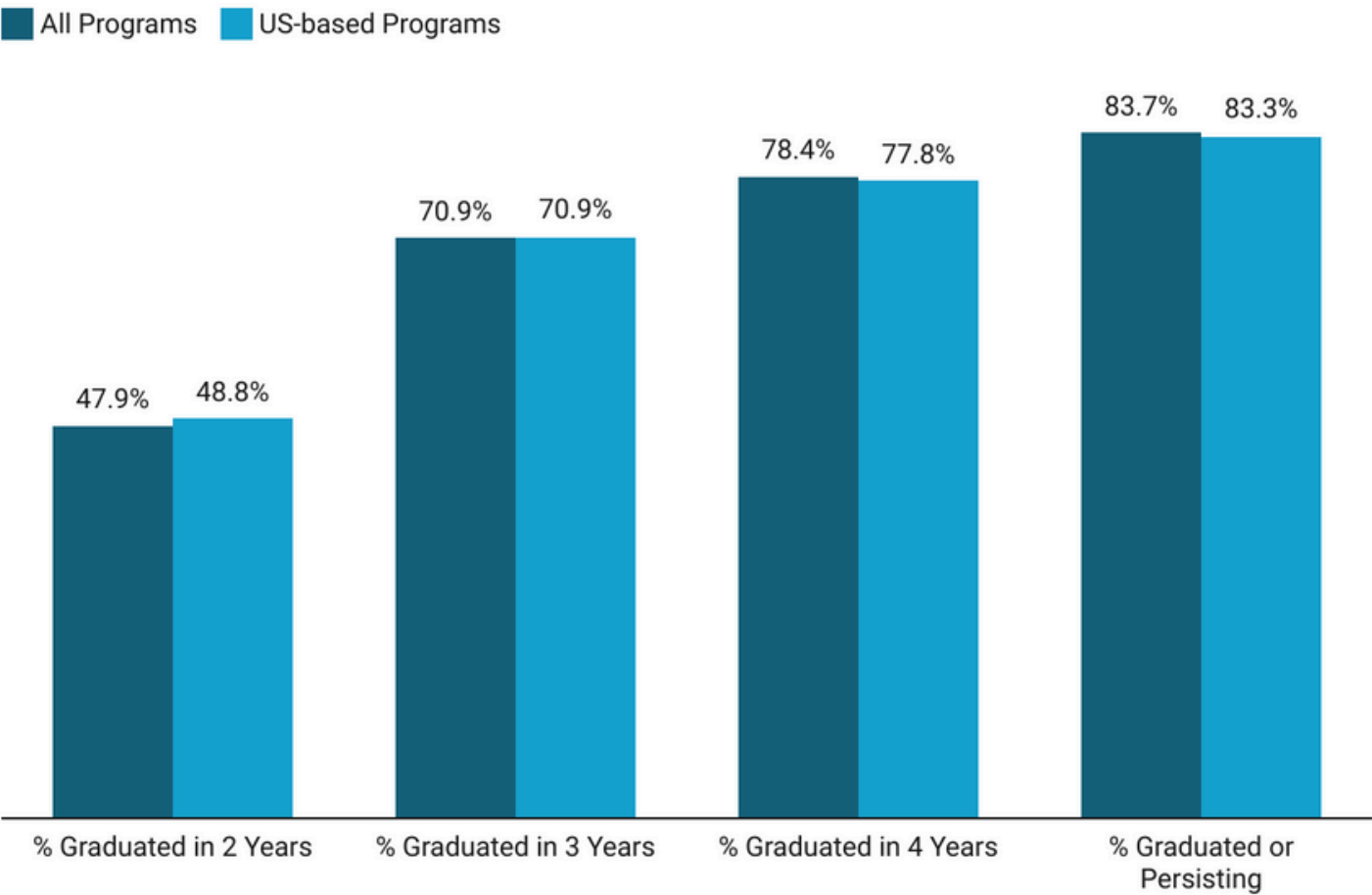
n = 161 programs

GRADUATION RATES

Graduation Rates Comparison: All vs. U.S.-Based Programs Annual Data Report 2023-2024

U.S.-based programs generally report a higher graduation rate at the 2-year mark than the overall average. Although the 3-year graduation rate is the same for U.S.-based programs and all programs, the 4-year graduation rate and the “Graduated or Persisting” rate are slightly higher for all programs combined.

Graduation Rates - All Programs vs. US-based Programs (2023-2024)



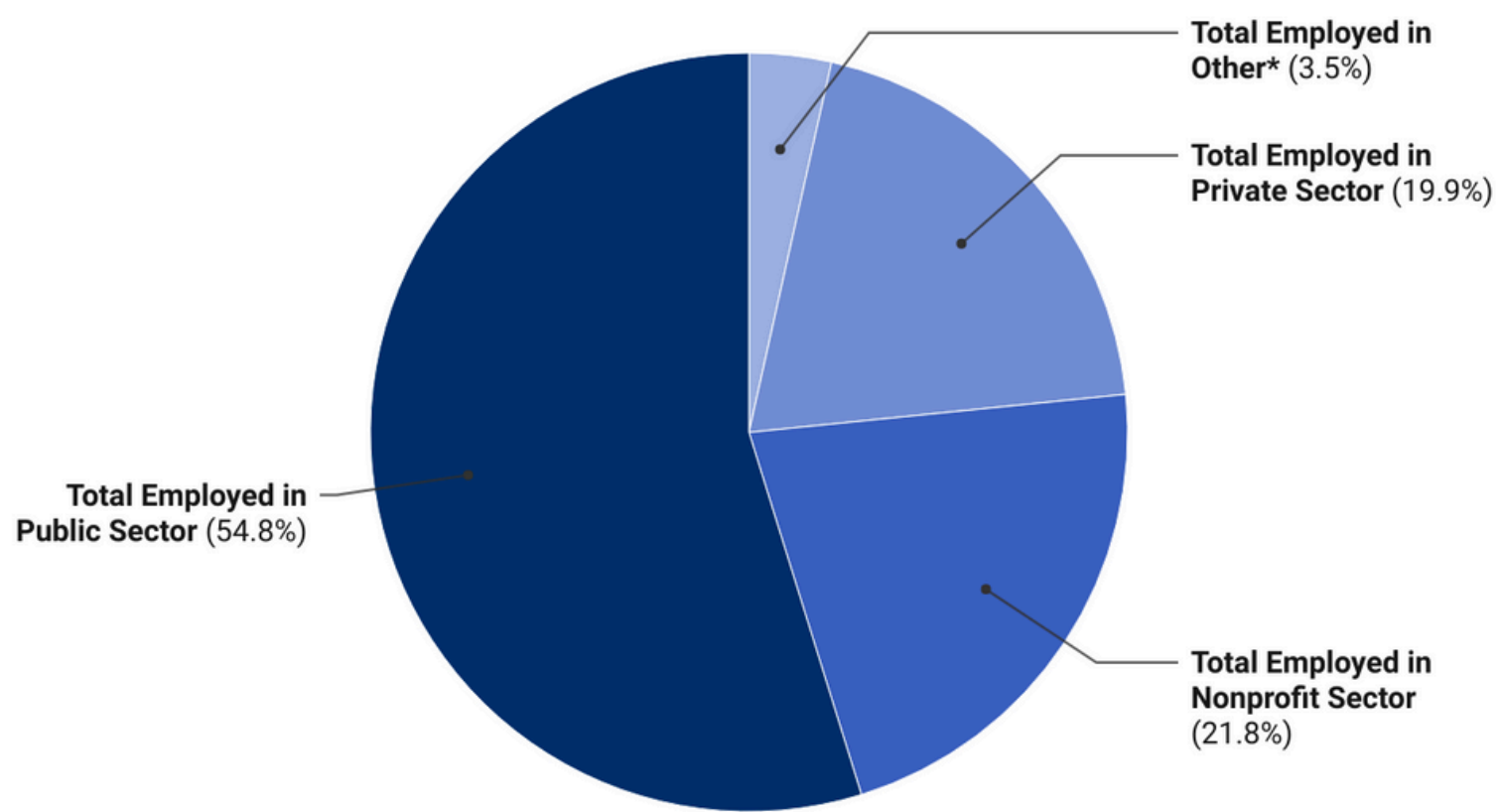
This graph compares 2-year, 3-year, and 4-year graduation rates for all programs versus US-based programs. Note that "Graduated or Persisting" includes all students who have graduated within 4 years and those who are still persisting to graduation. n=181 (all programs), 161 (US-based programs).

EMPLOYMENT

All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

This chart shows **the distribution of employment outcomes for graduates across all reporting programs in AY 2023–2024**. Percentages reflect the share of total reported graduates in each employment category.

Employment Data by Sector - All Programs (2023-2024)



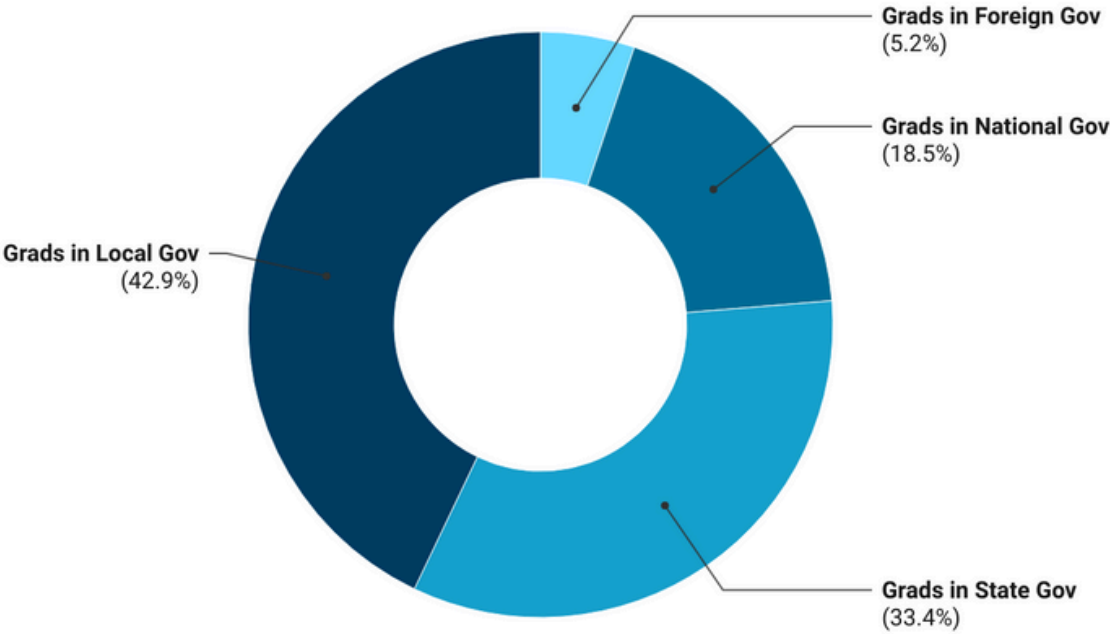
**Other includes graduates pursuing higher education or entering military service. Note: n=196 programs*

This graph only includes graduates who were employed at the time of data collection. If unemployed graduates were included in this graph, unemployed graduates would make up 3.5% of the total graduates.

EMPLOYMENT

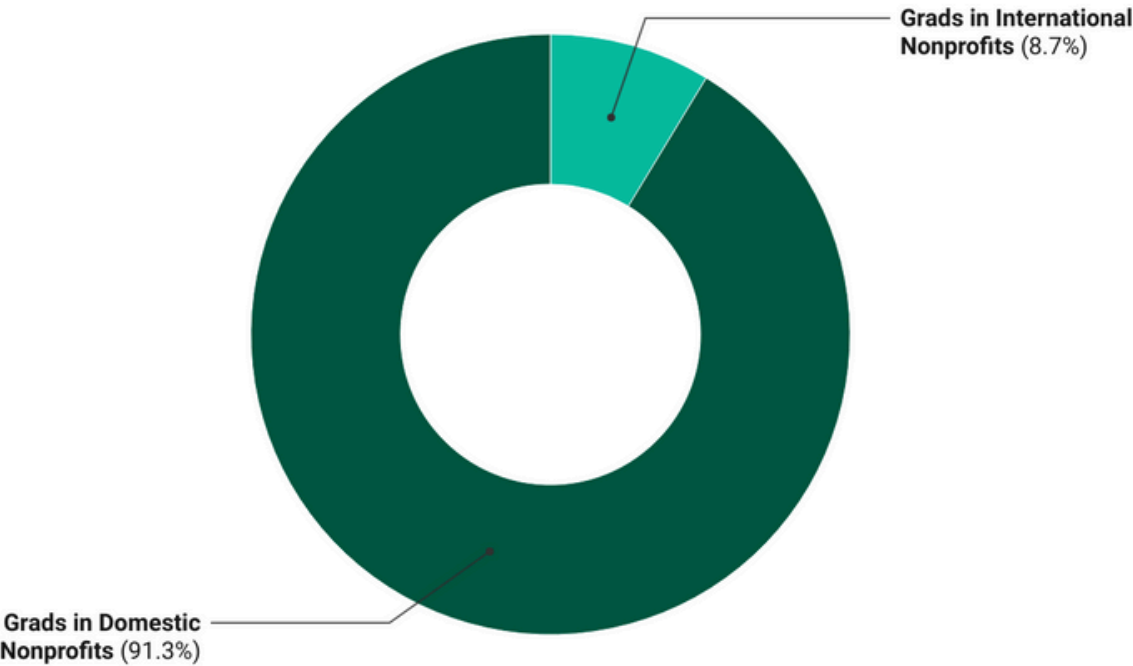
All Programs – Annual Data Report 2023–2024

Public Sector Breakdown - All Programs (2023-2024)



This graph shows the breakdown of the 54.8% of graduates working in the public sector. n=194.

Nonprofit Sector Breakdown - All Programs (2023-2024)



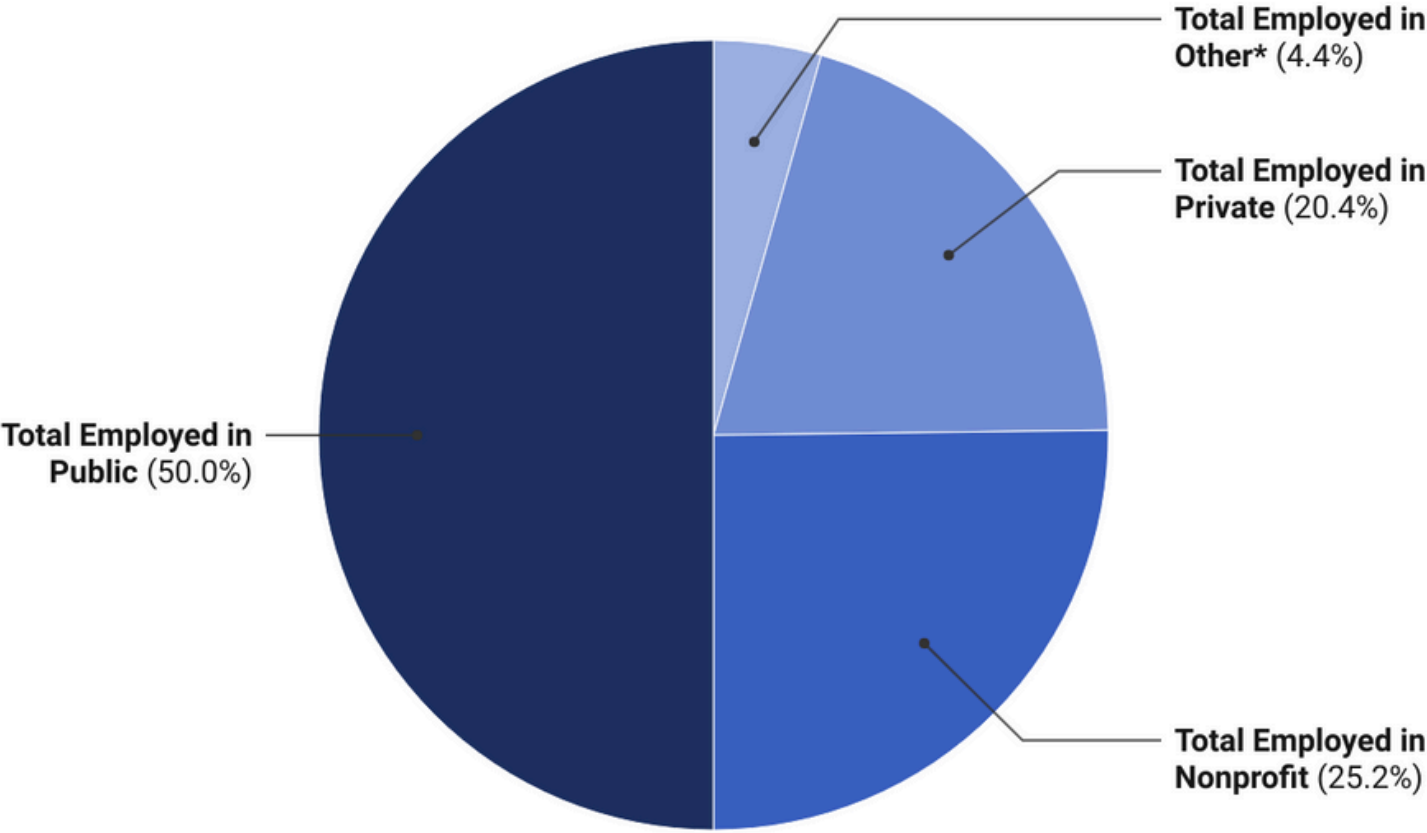
This graph shows the breakdown of the 21.8% of graduates working in the public sector. n=185.

EMPLOYMENT

U.S Based Programs - Annual Data Report 2023-2024

This chart shows **the distribution of employment outcomes** for graduates across **US based reporting programs** in AY 2023–2024. Percentages reflect the share of total reported graduates in each employment category.

Employment Data by Sector - US-based Programs (2023-2024)



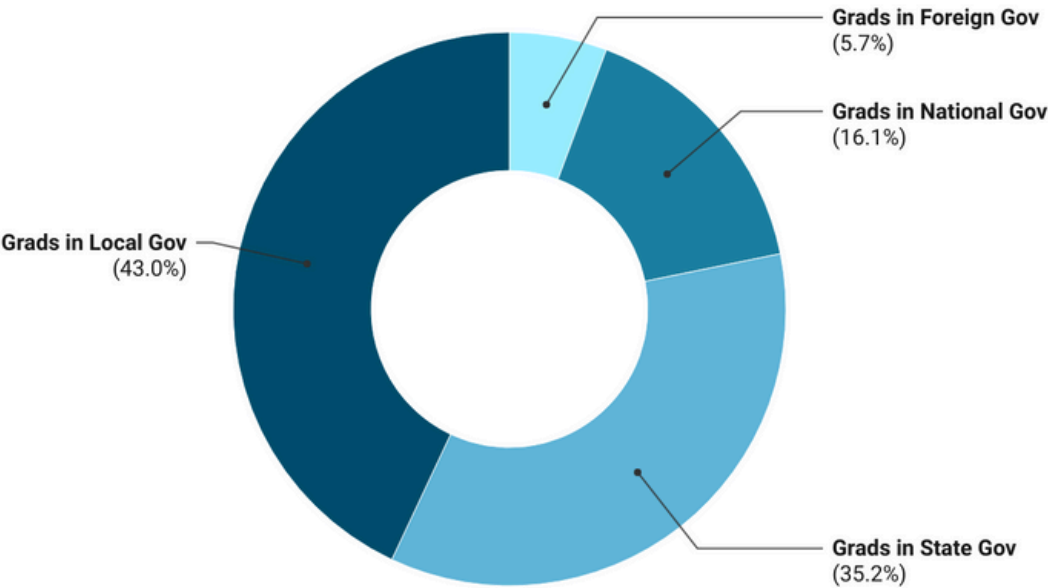
**Other includes graduates pursuing higher education or entering military service. Note: n=176 programs*

This graph only includes students who were employed at the time of data collection. If unemployed graduates were included in this graph, unemployed graduates would make up 4.5% of the total graduates.

EMPLOYMENT

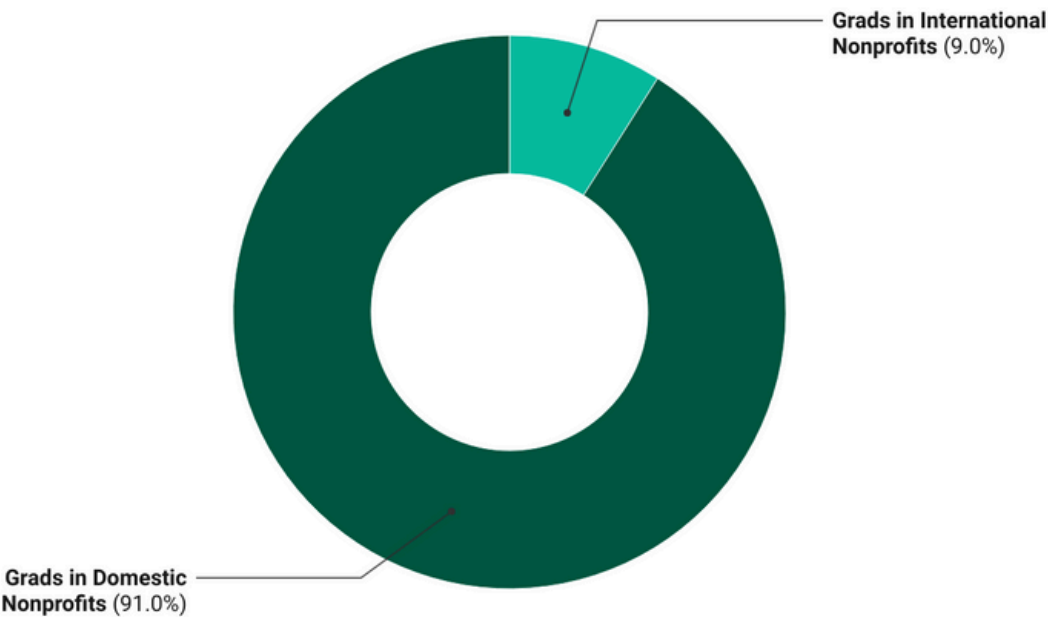
U.S Based Programs - Annual Data Report 2023-2024

Public Sector Breakdown - US-based Programs (2023-2024)



This graph shows the breakdown of the 50.0% of US-based graduates working in the public sector. n=176.

Nonprofit Sector Breakdown - US-based Programs (2023-2024)



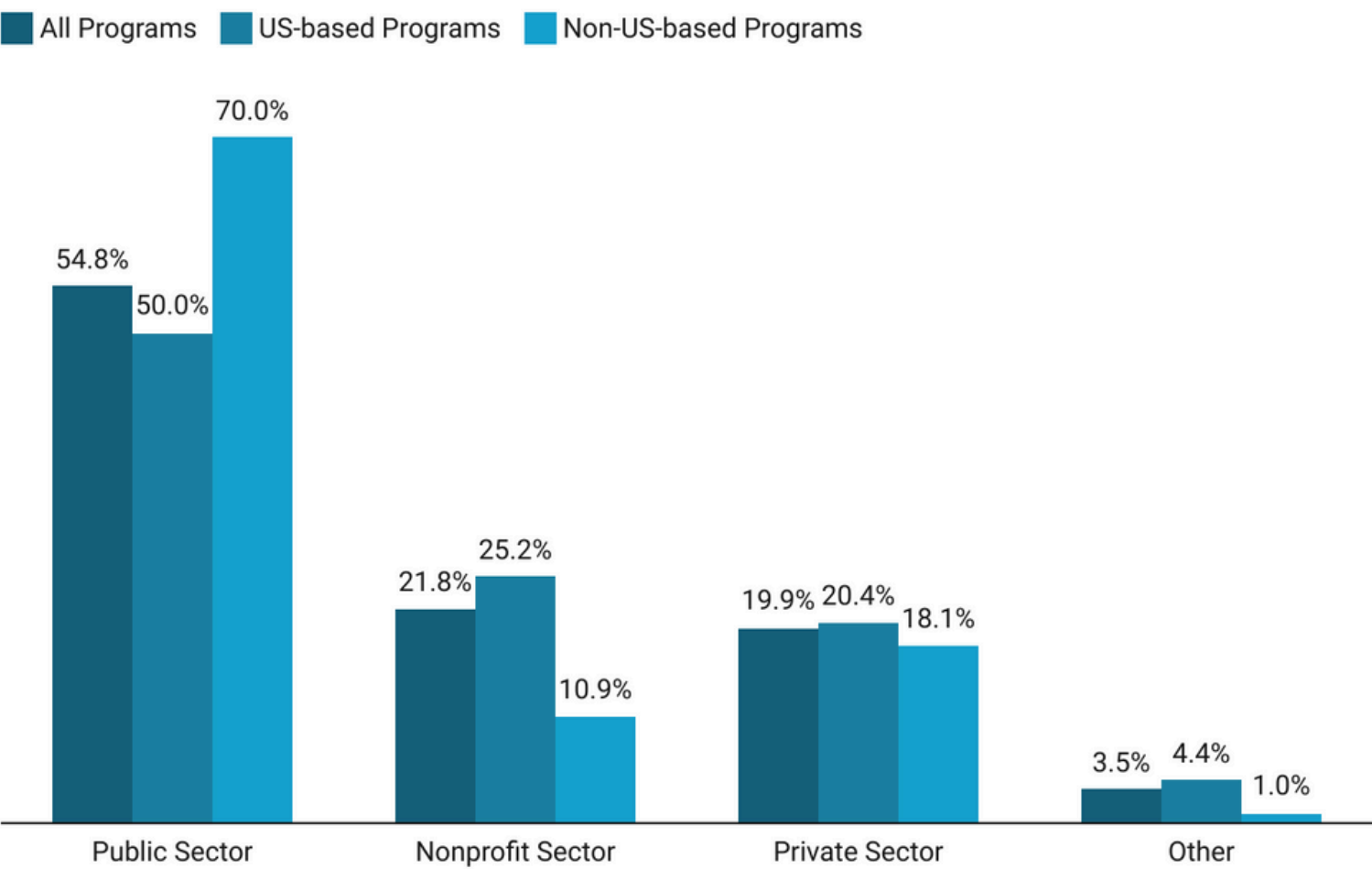
This graph shows the breakdown of the 25.2% of US-based graduates working in the public sector. n=166.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Outcomes by Program Location Annual Data Report 2023-2024

U.S.-based programs report higher nonprofit and private sector employment, while international programs have a significantly higher share in public sector employment.

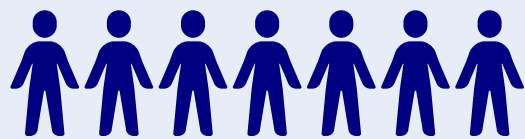
Employment Outcomes by Program Type (2023-2024)



This graph compares employment outcomes for all programs, US-based programs, and Non-US-based programs. n=196 (all programs), 176 (US-based programs), 20 (Non-US-based programs).

FACULTY & COURSES

Self-Study Report 2023-2024 Cohort



7

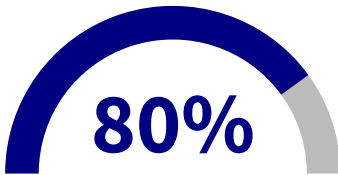
members in
FACULTY NUCLEUS
Median, n = 177 programs
Average = 13 members



Course-Level Averages



REQUIRED COMPETENCIES COURSES
taught by
Full-Time Faculty
n = 193 programs

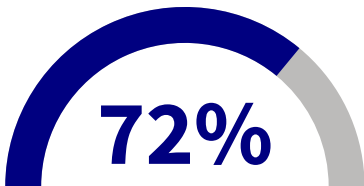


ALL COURSES
taught by
Full-Time Faculty
n = 193 programs

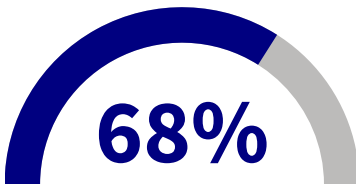
Most programs report that the majority of both required-competency and general courses are taught by full-time faculty



Program-Level Coverage



**PROGRAMS WITH ≥80% OF REQ.
COMPETENCY COURSES**
are taught by Full-Time Faculty
n = 193 programs



**PROGRAMS WHERE
≥75% OF ALL SECTIONS**
are taught by Full-Time Faculty
n = 193 programs

DIVERSITY INSIGHTS

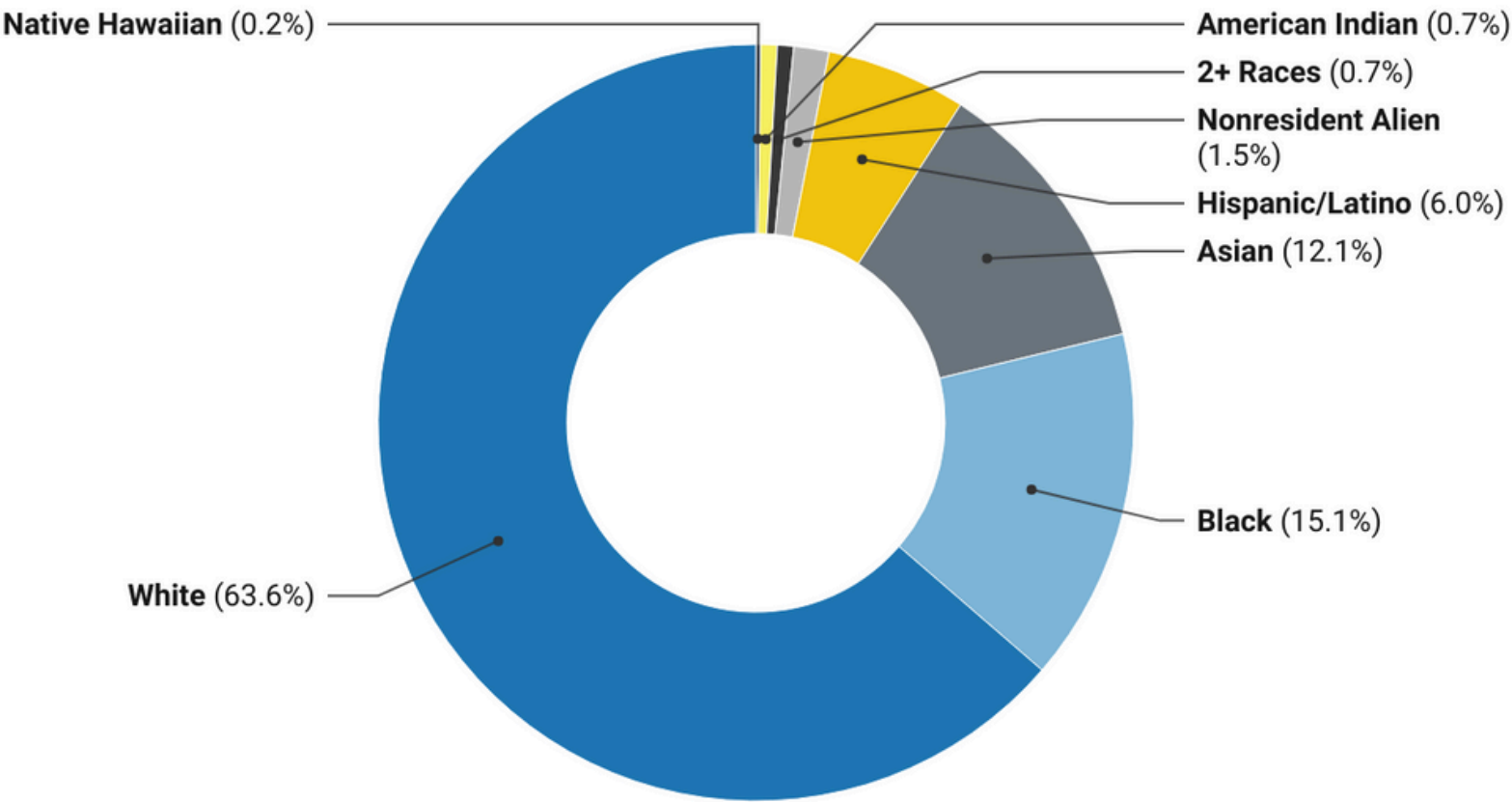
Self-Study Report 2023-2024 Cohort



30

Programs submitted **Self-Study Reports**

Faculty Diversity - 2023-2024 Cohort



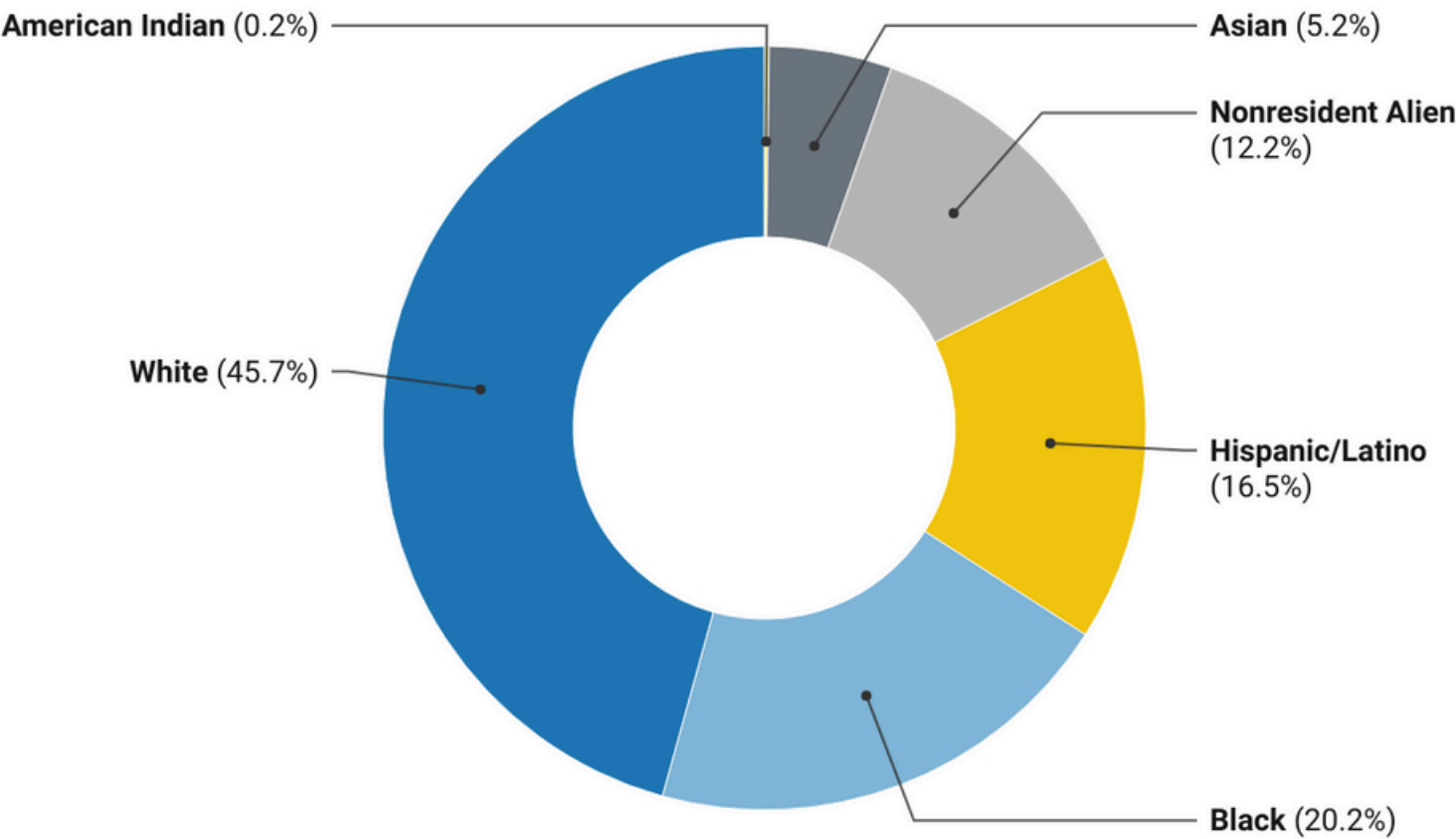
This graph shows the percent of faculty who selected the given category as reported in the Self-Study Reports. n=26.

36% OF FACULTY IDENTIFY AS NON-WHITE.

DIVERSITY INSIGHTS

Self-Study Report 2023-2024 Cohort

Student Diversity - 2023-2024 Cohort



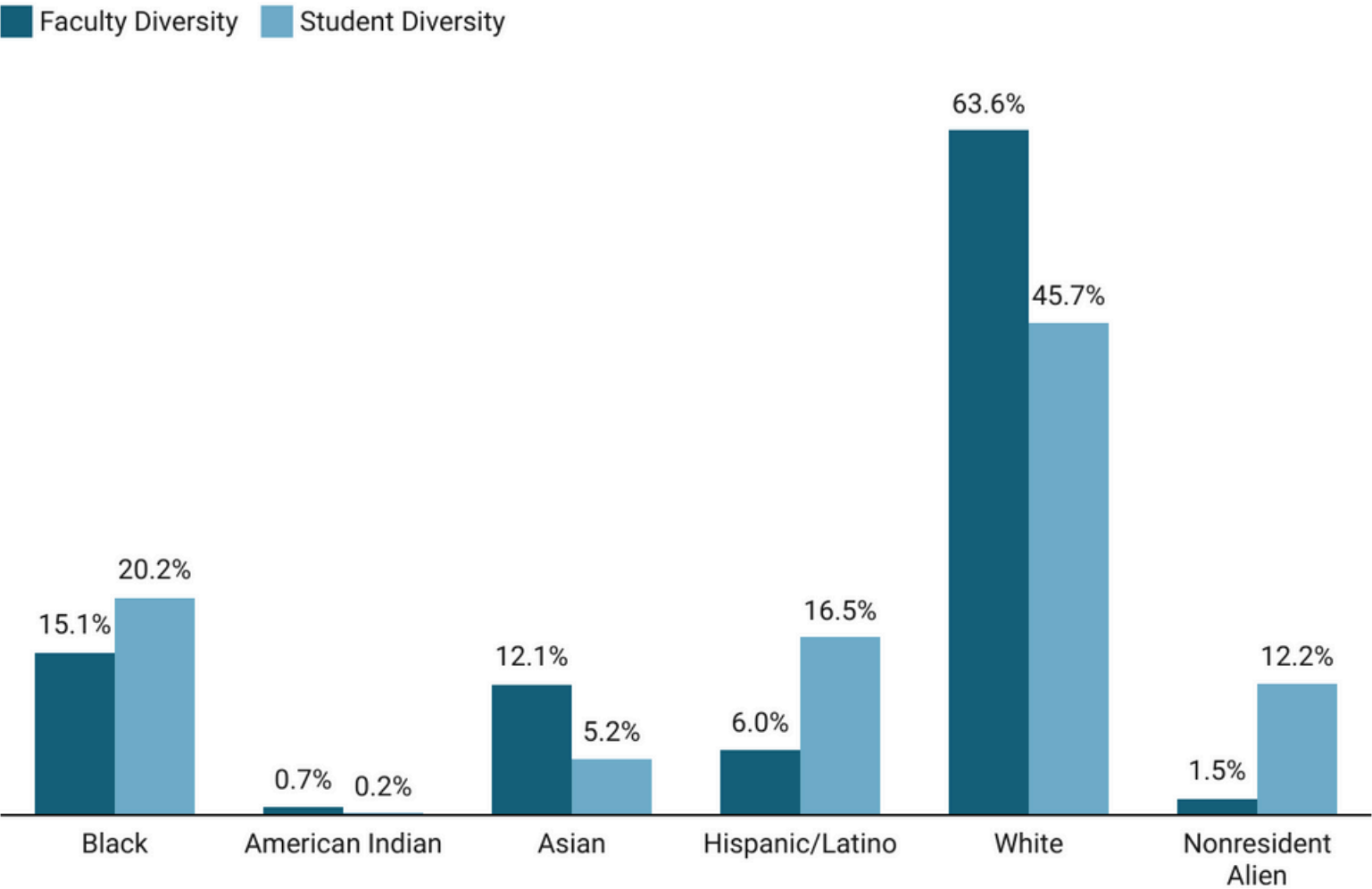
This graph shows the percent of students who selected the given category as reported in the Self-Study Reports. n=25.

54% OF STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS NON-WHITE, LED BY HISPANIC/LATINO (17%) AND BLACK (20%) REPRESENTATION.

DIVERSITY INSIGHTS

Self-Study Report 2023-2024 Cohort

Faculty vs. Student Diversity - 2023-2024 Cohort

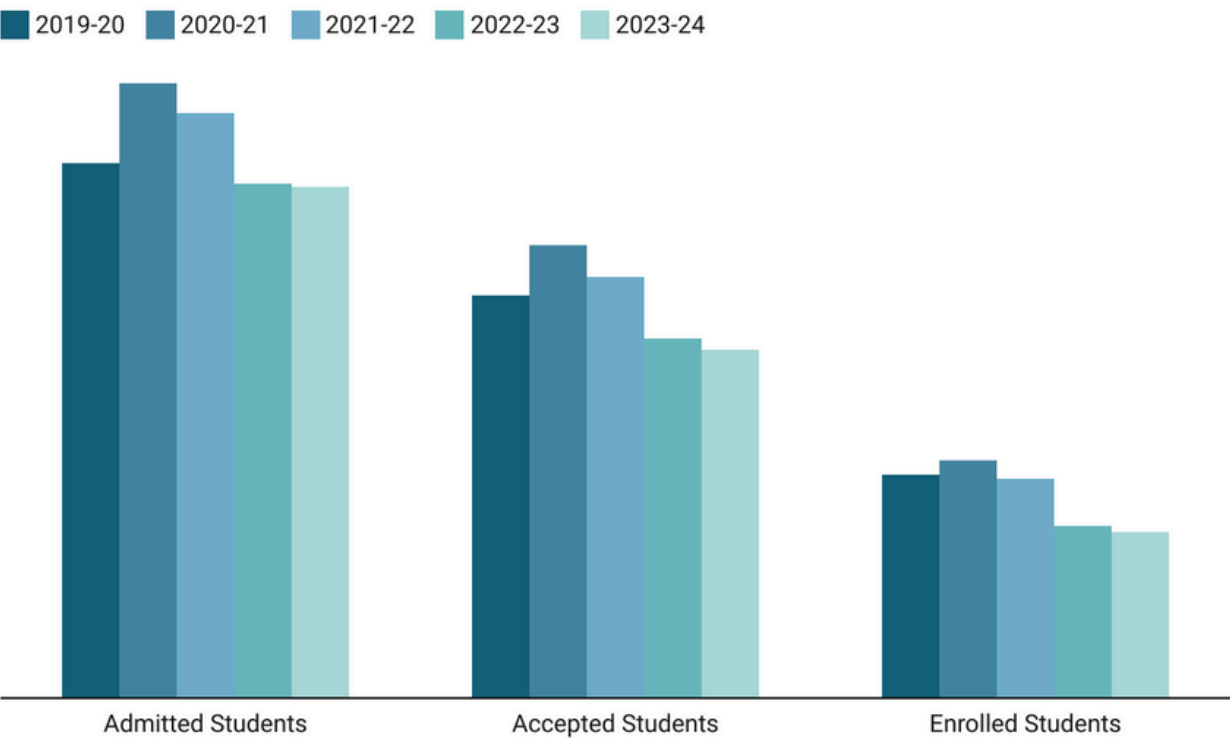


This graph shows the percent of faculty vs. students who selected the given category as reported in the Self-Study Reports. n=535 faculty across 26 programs, 4660 students across 25 programs.

STUDENTS ARE GENERALLY MORE RACIALLY DIVERSE THAN FACULTY ACROSS REPORTING PROGRAMS.

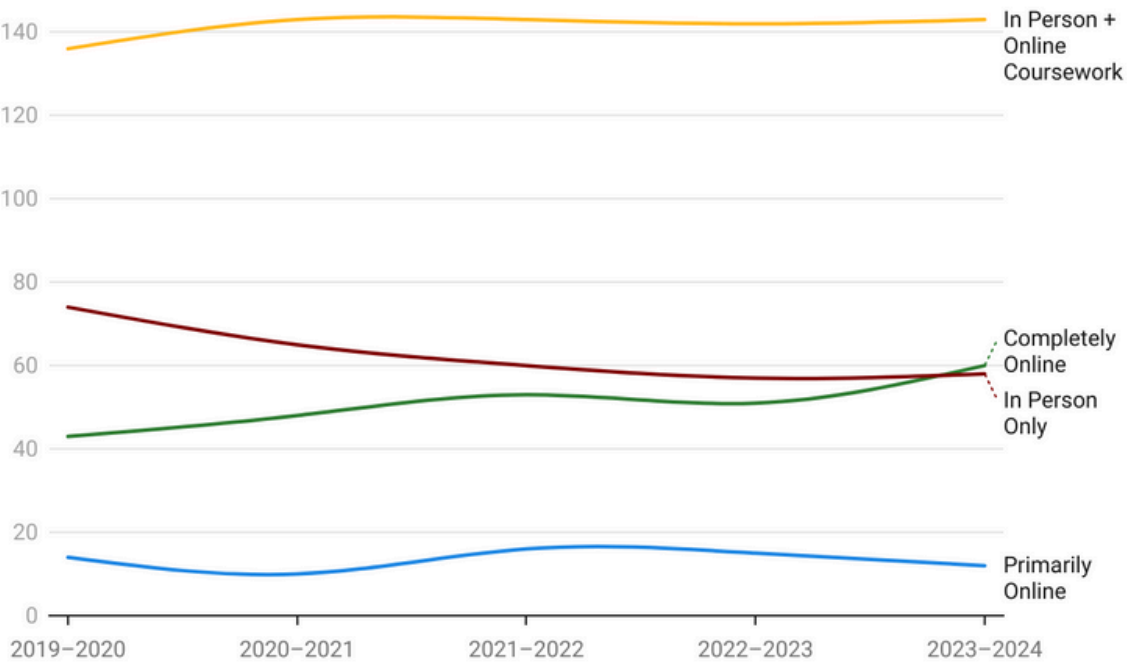
TRENDS

Admissions Trends - US-based Programs (2019-2020 to 2023-2024)



This graph shows the total number of applications, admissions, and enrollments for US-based programs from 2019-20 to 2023-24. n=204.

Delivery Mode Trends, 2019–2024



Programs offering hybrid options continue to dominate, while fully online programs reached their highest level yet in 2023–24.

NASPAA

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