



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are students choosing private career colleges?

According to this report, more than half the students attending Ontario's private career colleges have previous post-secondary education (including universities, community colleges and other PCCs). These students have chosen to attend one of Ontario's private career colleges in order to get the skills they need to get a better job or to fast-track their path into the workforce.

- 56% of students born in Canada had previous post-secondary education.
- 66% of the PCC students who are first generation immigrants have attended another post-secondary institution.

Along with offering the program that students wanted to take, other reasons given for choosing a career college include:

- Small class sizes
- Work placement opportunity
- Flexible start dates
- Shorter/more intense programs

How are private career college students different from their public sector counterparts?

This survey showed us that there are differences between students that choose private career colleges and those who choose community colleges. Including:

- Gender:
 - 69% of Ontario PCC students are female, compared to 51% at community colleges
- Age:
 - 57% of Ontario PCC students are over the age of 30, compared to only 10% at community colleges
 - Only 26% of PCC students are under 25, whereas 79% of community college students are aged 18-25 (including 40% who are aged 18-20).
- Diversity:
 - 52% identified as first-generation immigrants, compared to only 13% of those who applied at community colleges.
 - An additional 14% reported that their parents were born outside of Canada.
 - Nearly 4 in 10 PCC students (38%) report that their first language is neither English nor French.

What does this tell us about the role that Ontario's private career colleges play?

This report underlines and reinforces that PCCs serve as an important bridge to the Ontario workforce, in particular for:

- Women
- Mature students
- New immigrants.

Why was this survey commissioned?

This study is the first-of-its-kind amongst PCC students in Ontario. It provides insight into the demographics and diversity of career colleges students, and allows comparisons with the public sector to be made.

Topics examined include:

- Demographic Information
- Previous Education and Training
- Government Assistance and Financial Issues
- Attitudes toward PCCs
- Satisfaction Metrics

Is this report reflective of the career college sector in Ontario?

Yes. Responses were received from nearly 6,000 students from 163 career colleges (nearly 1/3) across the province.

Career colleges were responsible for informing their students of the survey, often allowing it to be completed during school time, ensuring that students took the time to answer thoughtfully.

Regional disparities have been taken into consideration when reaching out to schools and compiling the results.

Specific questions about the methodology can be referred to Environics Research Group.

When did the survey take place?

The survey was programmed by Environics Research Group and made available to students online between January 19th and February 24th, 2017.

Where do the numbers from the public college sector come from?

Data included in this report comparing the PCC survey to Ontario's community colleges was obtained from the Colleges Ontario's Environmental Scan 2016, available on its website.

While the satisfaction rate is high-72%, only 58% would recommend their college to others. Why?

Career Colleges Ontario is proud that so many students are happy with the experience and education they received at a private career college. In fact, although 58% of students would recommend their program (meaning they chose 9 or 10 out of 10) in response to that question, another 25% chose 7 or 8 out of 10, for a total of 83%.

Only 2% of those surveyed indicated that there were dissatisfied with their experience.