



POLYTECHNICS AT WORK

Close ties to employers represent one of the distinct advantages of a polytechnic education. Polytechnic institutions are focused on strategic workforce development, allowing students to learn alongside industry professionals, to industry standards, using industry equipment. The result is a talent pipeline that is highly employable and prepared to hit the ground running.

Curricula are developed in consultation with employer partners, instructors are drawn from industry, and businesses and organizations partner with polytechnics to solve their challenges through applied research. These connections create work-integrated learning opportunities for students, offering them an intimate understanding of the work environment and equipment used in the field. As a result, graduates are positioned for a smooth transition from education to employment.

Employing a breadth of programming approaches, learning strategies and credentials, polytechnic education delivers the skills in demand for an evolving and dynamic economy.



Each year, Polytechnics Canada works with its member institutions to collect data on student enrollment, programs on offer, work-integrated learning, gender diversity and more. Here are some highlights:

Students

In 2019-20, enrolment increased 12% at the 13 members of Polytechnics Canada, serving over 375,000 for-credit learners:

- 275,000 full-time students
- 71,000 part-time students
- 31,000 apprentices



Polytechnic students are exceptionally diverse:

- 34% have completed a previous post-secondary credential
- 19% have partially completed another credential prior to attending a polytechnic
- The student body includes 99,000 international students from more than 130 countries

Credentials

At its core, polytechnic education is applied, hands-on, technical and career-focused. Polytechnics offer an exceptionally broad range of programs suited to the diversity of students and sectors they serve. Learners develop the skills and confidence they need, preparing them for immediate and long-term success in the workplace.

In 2019-20, Polytechnics Canada members offered:

- Over 1,000 diploma programs
- Over 375 graduate certificates
- More than 210 Bachelor's degrees
- Nearly 650 certificate programs
- 270 apprenticeship training programs
- An additional 27 Bachelor's degrees offered jointly with universities

Graduates

Canada's polytechnic institutions enjoy close connections to employers and are committed to ensuring graduates are equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience to make an immediate impact. A polytechnic education focuses on "learning by doing," allowing students to build necessary experience and confidence to thrive.

- In 2020, 94,500 highly skilled learners graduated from one of Canada's 13 polytechnics, ready to put their skills to use



Applied Research

Applied research refers to an exceptionally broad range of supports delivered in response to industry demand. Polytechnic institutions across Canada mobilize state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and expertise to deliver solutions for partners across industrial and social sectors, always in partnership and often with the help of student talent.

In 2020-21, Polytechnics Canada members:

- Conducted 3,720 applied research projects
- Served 2,600 partners
- Deployed nearly \$39 million in federal funding
- Developed 3,320 prototypes
- Engaged 23,200 students in applied research
- Leveraged an additional \$61.9 million from other sources



Work-integrated Learning

Polytechnic education offers learners opportunities to work alongside their future employers. Students benefit from experience and exposure to the people, technology and challenges that characterize their future workplaces.

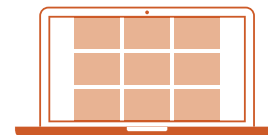
- 76% of all degree programs include a work-integrated learning component
- 64% of all degree, diploma and graduate certificate programs include a work-integrated learning component

Work-integrated learning offered at polytechnics includes:

- Co-op programs
- Applied research
- Internships
- Capstone projects
- Field/clinical placements
- Service learning
- Apprenticeships

Upskilling & Reskilling

Polytechnics deliver training to those looking to upgrade their skills or re-enter the labour market after being displaced. Short-cycle training is delivered in flexible formats and can be tailored to employer needs. Increasingly, polytechnics are leveraging micro-certifications to recognize the competencies delivered within their programming.



Polytechnics Canada members offer nearly 17,000 continuing education programs. On average, these courses take 37 hours to complete and cost \$465. Almost 40% include an online component. More than 60% of learners are women.

Subject matter includes:

- Business
- Engineering, construction & trades
- Hospitality & tourism
- Community service
- Energy and mining
- Manufacturing
- Computer science, data analytics & information technology
- Environment & land management
- Science
- Health
- Transportation

About Us

Polytechnics Canada is the voice of leading research-intensive, publicly funded polytechnics, colleges and institutes of technology. Our mission is policy advocacy for federal action in innovation and skills.

Polytechnics Canada members play a critical role in enhancing Canada's productivity and innovation. Through their facilities and networks, our members provide meaningful solutions to industry problems and accelerate knowledge transfer. Graduates are job-ready and equipped with the skills employers need across sectors.

At Polytechnics Canada, we are proud promoters of the polytechnic education model—applied, hands-on and technical; industry-focused and industry-driven.

Learn more at polytechnicscanada.ca.

Our Members

