



FUND THE FUTURE : THE STATE OF SASKATCHEWAN'S POST-SECONDARY SECTOR



UNIVERSITY
OF REGINA
STUDENTS
UNION

**RIDDELL CENTRE, 3737 WASCANA
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Executive Summary

POST-SECONDARY FUNDING

- While government funding of post-secondary education is declining nationwide, post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan receive a greater proportion of funding from the provincial government than all other provinces except Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador. Post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan also receive a smaller proportion of funding from tuition and other fees than all other provinces except Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Nevertheless, the proportion of post-secondary institution revenue from tuition fees has increased over time. Although the trend has been slower in Saskatchewan than in Canada as a whole, the proportion of revenue from tuition fees has increased from 14.2% in 2010/11 to 21.5% in 2019/20, while the proportion of revenue from the province has declined from 53.1% to 49.5%.
- Per-student provincial government expenditure on post-secondary institutions has consistently been higher in Saskatchewan than the national average over the past 20 years. However, the level of real per-student provincial expenditure per student in Saskatchewan declined from 2009/10 to 2019/20.
- Real per-student government spending has declined by 12% in Saskatchewan over the past two decades, entirely due to declining provincial government spending per student. Only Ontario and PEI have had larger declines in per-student government spending.

TUITION AND FEES

- Saskatchewan's domestic student tuition fees are higher than the national average and the gap has widened over time.
- Saskatchewan's international student tuition fees are lower than the national average.
- The proportion of tuition revenue from international students in Saskatchewan has increased from 9% in 2006/07 to 25% in 2019/20.

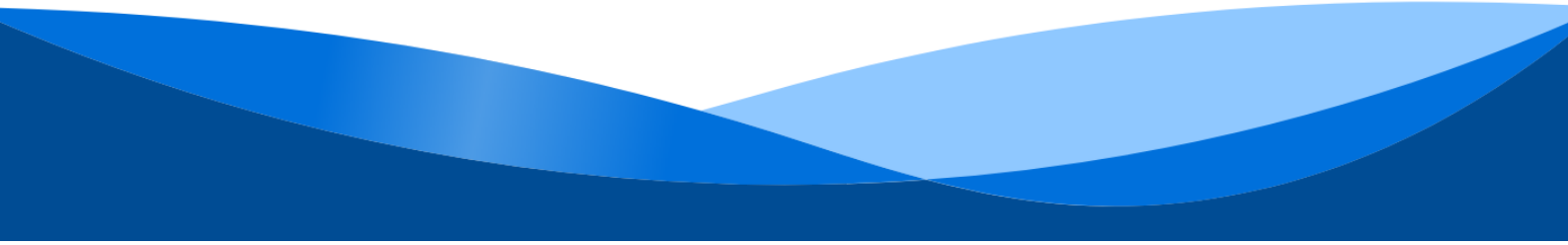
STUDENT LOANS AND GRANTS

- In 2017/18, significant cuts were made to the Saskatchewan student grant system. The Saskatchewan Student Bursary was phased out and the Saskatchewan Student Grant replaced it. In 2021-22, total student grants were lower than they were in 2016/17.
- Overall, the amount of provincial student aid has increased significantly over the past 5 years but it has been primarily offered via loans rather than grants, significantly adding to student debt levels.
- Although total student aid per enrolled student has increased over the past decade, average tuition fees have increased faster.

UNIVERSITY SPENDING (ACADEMIC VS. NON-ACADEMIC)

- Spending on academic salaries as a proportion of operating expenditure has fallen significantly over time in Saskatchewan while there has been little fall nationally. Thus, as of 2019/20 and 2020/21, Saskatchewan spent more on non-academic salaries and wages than academic salaries and wages while the reverse was true in the rest of Canada.
- The proportion of university spending on academic salaries in Saskatchewan declined from 37.5% in 2000-01 to 30.9% in 2020-21.
- The proportion of university spending on non-academic salaries and wages in Saskatchewan has increased from 29.8% in 2000-01 to 32.5% in 2020-21.
- Saskatchewan spent 32.5% of operating expenditure on non-academic salaries and wages, larger than every other province except Newfoundland & Labrador.
- In 2020/21, universities in Saskatchewan spent the largest proportion of their budget (65%) on items other than academic salaries and student aid of all provinces.

PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING

- Recent evidence from the U.S. shows that performance-based funding (PBF) models have “no impact on degree completion outcomes” and have not consistently improved retention or the number of degrees earned. There is also compelling evidence that PBF policies lead to unintended outcomes, such as restricting access to historically marginalized students, higher administration costs, and shifting the burden of the cost of post-secondary education from the government onto students.
 - The Ministry of Advanced Education’s own research into PBF shows that it can significantly reduce government-spending on PSE (40 percent) while dramatically raising the costs shouldered by students (70 percent).
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