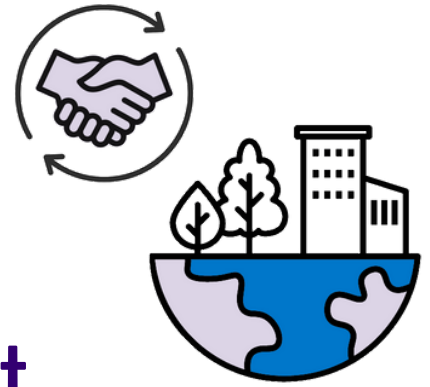


Ontario's Universities: The Talent Pipeline for Ontario's Labour Market



As Ontario continues to build its economic future, the ability to meet the ever-shifting labour demands across sectors will be critical. From advanced manufacturing to critical minerals to life sciences, no industry or sector in the province does not rely on the highly skilled talent produced by Ontario's universities.

Universities are responding to emerging labour market needs by providing programming that ensures students have the skills and experiences they need to thrive in the future economy. They also equip students with fundamental communication and critical thinking skills that are applicable across a broad range of roles and industries, ensuring their adaptability and resilience as technology continues to transform the nature of work in all sectors.

Below are a few examples of how Ontario's universities are strengthening the workforce and responding to labour demands.



Ontario university graduates are entering the labour market ready to work.

University graduates have a **94.3%** employment rate after two years in the workforce, according to the Ontario Blue-Ribbon Panel's report, *Ensuring Financial Sustainability for Ontario's Postsecondary Sector*.



Industries across Ontario are feeling the pressure of labour shortages. According to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Ontario Economic Report,

40%

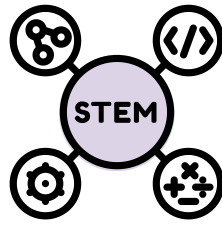
of respondents reported labour shortages in their organization.

When asked about policy priorities, investment in workforce development (including micro-credentials and education) ranked as the third highest priority among respondents.

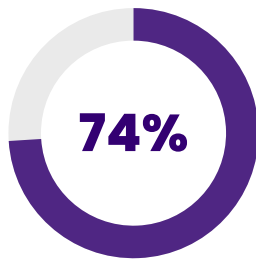


Partnering with Municipalities to Drive Regional Talent Development

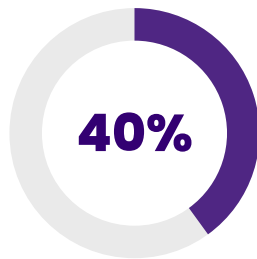
In response to severe labour shortages seen across sectors, universities have increased enrolment in key programs, delivering the highly skilled graduates that Ontario needs.



Universities awarded **37,217 STEM** credentials and **14,962 engineering** credentials in 2021-22.



Increase in STEM enrolment since 2010

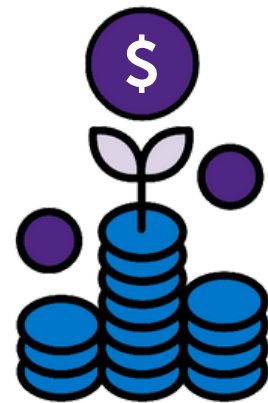


Increase in health care enrolment since 2010

Since 2010, universities have increased STEM enrolment by 74%, and health care enrolment by 40%.

Ontario's universities are job creators, employing more than **487,600** Ontarians in regions across the province through direct hiring and by driving local demand for goods and services.

They are also economic engines in their communities, contributing more than **\$45 BILLION** to Ontario's GDP through the spending activities of institutions, employees, students, visitors and alumni.



The growth of Ontario's economy across sectors is dependent on the highly skilled talent that comes from Ontario's universities.

According to Stokes Economics, Ontario is seeing a demand for a total of **928,700** jobs requiring a university education through to 2030. As industries continue to modernize, the need for skilled, adaptable workers who can keep pace with changing demands will grow.

