



Findings from the 2020 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Webinar Logistics

- Please submit questions at any time through the Q&A feature in your Zoom toolbar. We will only be answering audience questions during the designated Q&A period.
- The recording and presentation slides will be emailed to registrants as well as posted to the CGS website after the live event.

Plan for today

- **Four speakers** will speak for approximately **45 minutes** total, followed by Q & A
 - **Enyu Zhou** and **Janet Gao** of the Council of Graduate Schools will present the findings from 2020 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees for approximately 25 minutes.
 - Following their presentation, **Laurence Bray** (Associate Provost for Graduate Education, George Mason University) and **Preselfannie E. Whitfield McDaniels** (Dean, Division of Graduate Studies, Jackson State University) will discuss how the findings are reflected on specific campuses.

Introduction: Suzanne T. Ortega





Findings from the Fall 2020 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees

Enyu Zhou, *Senior Analyst, Council of Graduate Schools*

Janet Gao, *Research and Program Associate, Council of Graduate Schools*



About the CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees

- Jointly sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) Board since 1986.
- The **only national survey** that collects data on first-time and total graduate enrollment across all fields of graduate study.
- The **only source** of data on graduate enrollment by degree level and on applications to graduate school by all broad field of study.
- The Fall 2020 survey was sent to 763 U.S. institutions between November 2020 to April 2021 and received a 73.1% response rate.



How to Access the Report & Data Tables

[Home](#) / [Benchmarking](#) / [Graduate Enrollment and Degrees](#)

Graduate Enrollment and Degrees »

[International Graduate Admissions Survey »](#)

[Best Practices Data »](#)

[Reports »](#)

[Research and Policy Forums »](#)

[Strategic Consultations »](#)

[External Benchmarking Resources »](#)



Graduate Enrollment and Degrees

The CGS Graduate Enrollment and Degrees report, published annually since 1986, presents the findings of the CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees, is a joint project of the Council of Graduate Schools and the [Graduate Record Examinations \(GRE\) Board](#).

The latest report, [Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 2010 to 2020](#), includes more than 100 figures and data tables, as well as interpretative text, on applications for admission to graduate school, first-time and total graduate student enrollment, and graduate degrees and certificates conferred. Current year and trend data are presented by broad field, gender, race/ethnicity, citizenship, attendance status, institutional characteristics, and more.

Access the report

The current survey report is available to the public online:

[Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 2010 to 2020](#)

[Appendix A: Definitions](#)

[Appendix B: Data Tables, Fall 2020 Data](#)

[Appendix C: Data Tables, Trends between 2010 and 2020](#)

[Appendix D: Taxonomy of Fields of Study](#)

[Downloadable Figures and Data Tables](#)

[Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Report by Fine Field: 2010 to 2020 \(Members Only -- Coming Soon\)](#)

[Press Release for the 2020 Report](#)

[Home](#) / [Graduate Enrollment and Degrees, 2010-2020: Downloadable Figures and Tables](#)



Graduate Enrollment and Degrees, 2010-2020: Downloadable Figures and Tables

Below are downloadable figures and tables from Graduate Enrollment and Degrees, 2010-2020. Each figure is available as a PDF. Each table is available as an Excel file and a PDF.

+ [Figures](#)

- [Data Tables for Graduate Applications, First-Time Enrollment, and Total Enrollment, Fall 2020; and Degrees Conferred, 2019-2020](#)

Table B.1 Applications for Admission to Graduate School by Institution Type, Carnegie Classification, and Degree Level, Fall 2020 ([Excel](#), [PDF](#))

Table B.2 Applications for Admission to Graduate School by Broad Field and Degree Level, Fall 2020 ([Excel](#), [PDF](#))

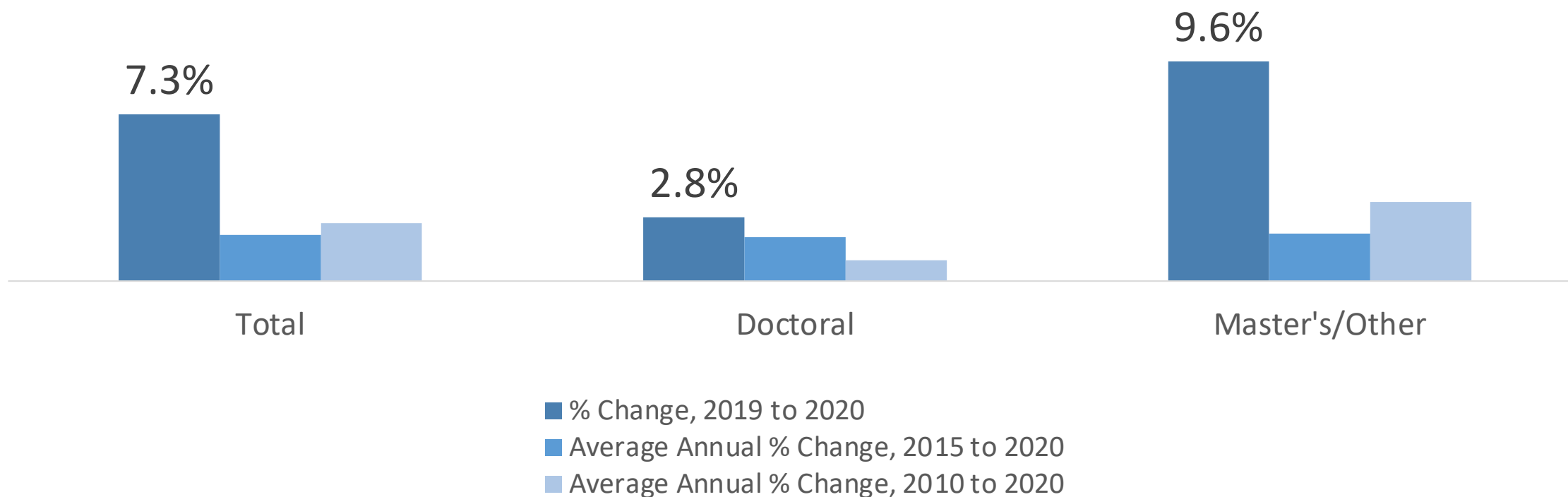
Table B.3 First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Institution Type, Carnegie Classification, Gender, and Attendance Status, Fall 2020 ([Excel](#), [PDF](#))

Table B.4 First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Broad Field, Gender, and Attendance Status, Fall 2020 ([Excel](#), [PDF](#))

Applications for admission

Both master's and doctoral application counts increased between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.

Annual Percent Changes in Applications for Admission to Graduate School by Degree Level, Fall 2010 to Fall 2020

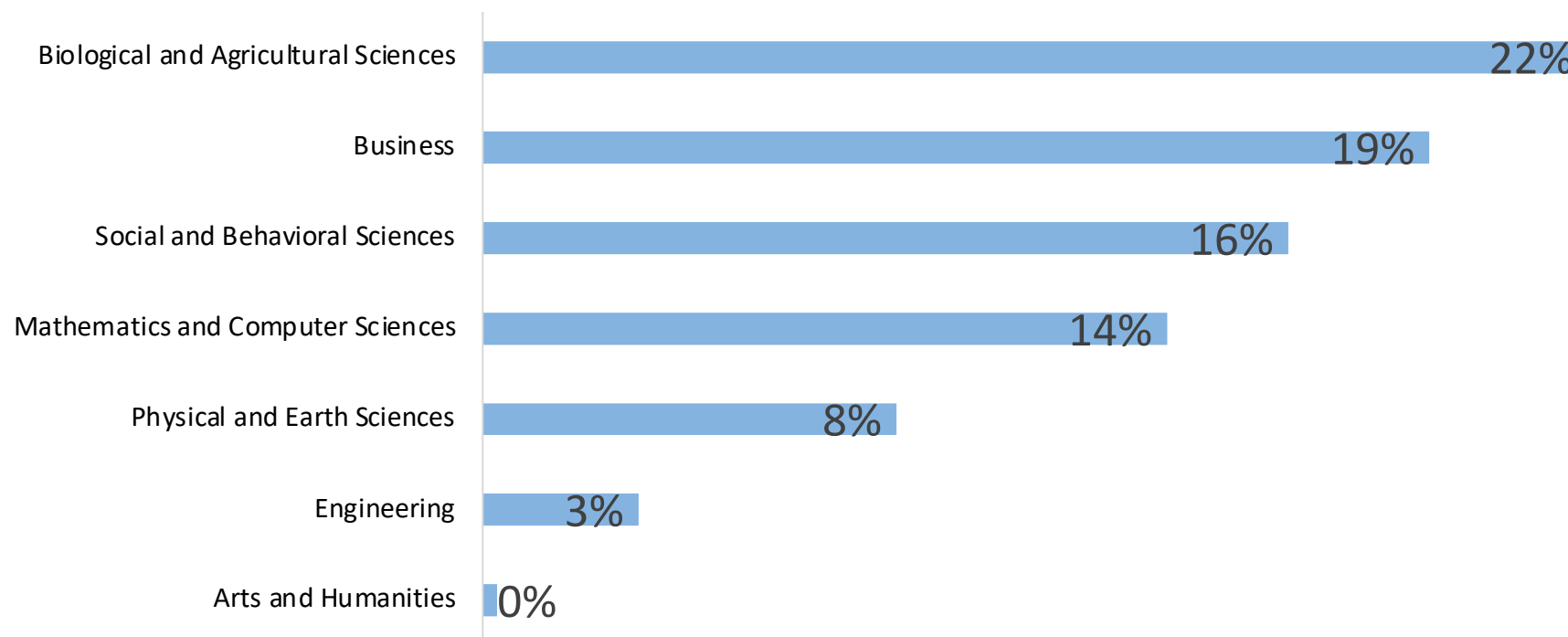


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

Applications for admission

At the master's level, Biological and Agricultural Sciences had the highest one-year increase in the number of applications.

Annual Percent Changes in Master's/Other Applications by Field, Fall 2019 to Fall 2020

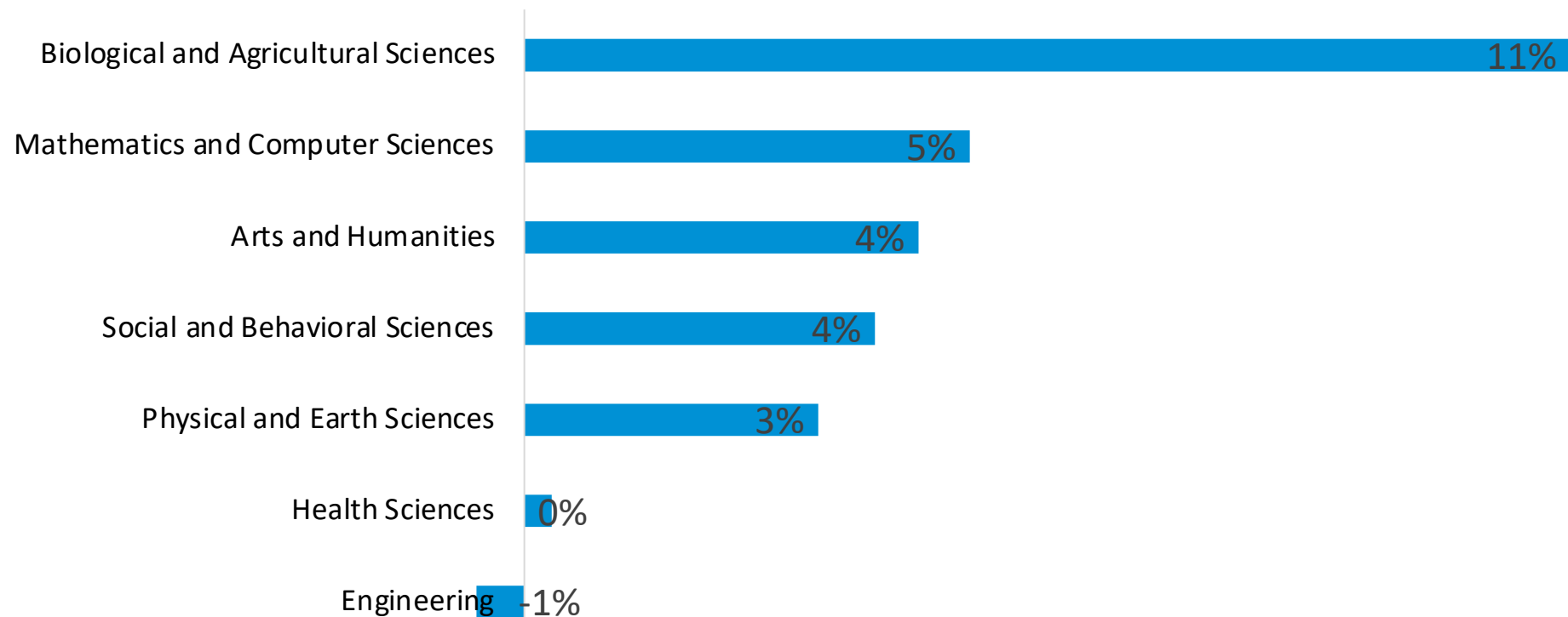


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

Applications for admission

Biological and Agricultural Sciences had the largest one-year increase at the doctoral level.

Annual Percent Changes in Doctoral Applications by Field, Fall 2019 to Fall 2020

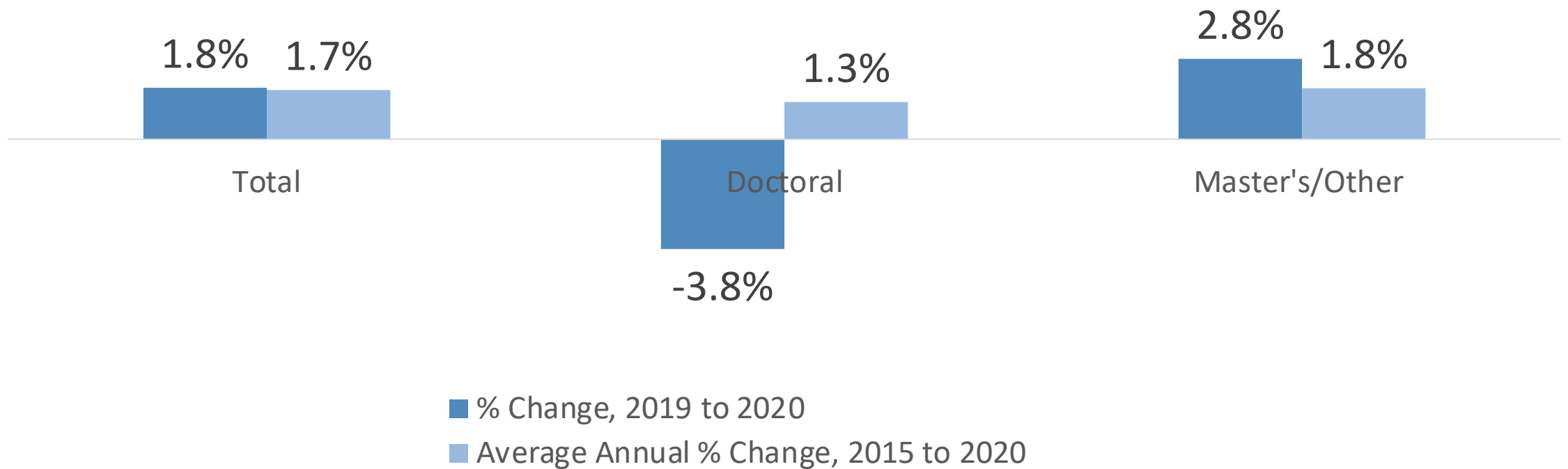


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment

Doctoral first-time enrollment decreased slightly between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020; however, master's first-time enrollment increased.

Annual Percent Changes in First-time Enrollment by Degree Level, Fall 2015 to Fall 2020

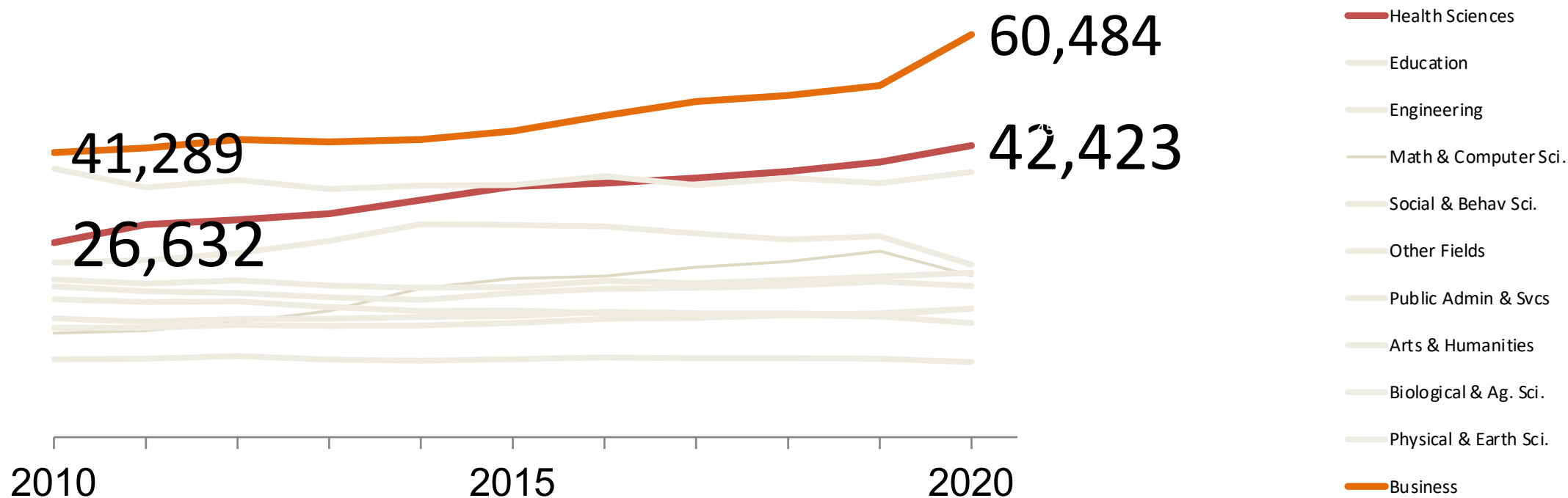


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment by field of study

Business and Health Sciences continue to grow.

Trends in First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Broad Field of Study, Fall 2010 to Fall 2020

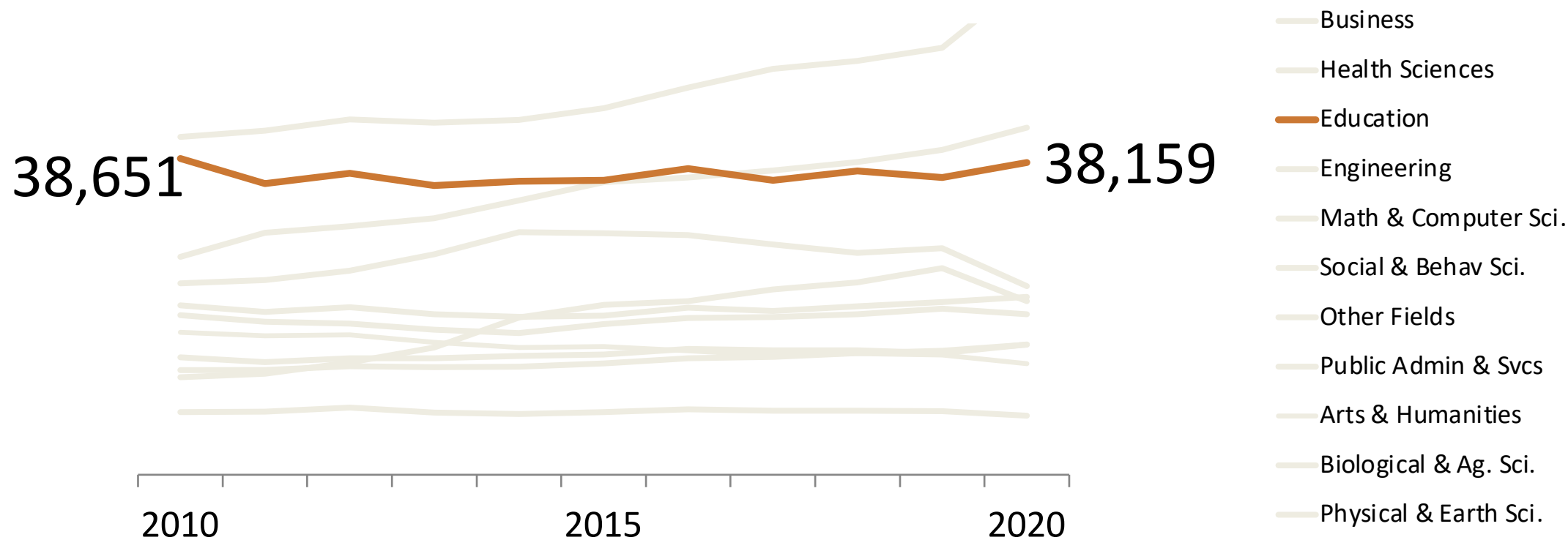


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, Master's Admission Attributes Project, Survey of Master's Program Directors, 2020

First-time enrollment by field of study

The first-time enrollment for Education appears to be rebounding.

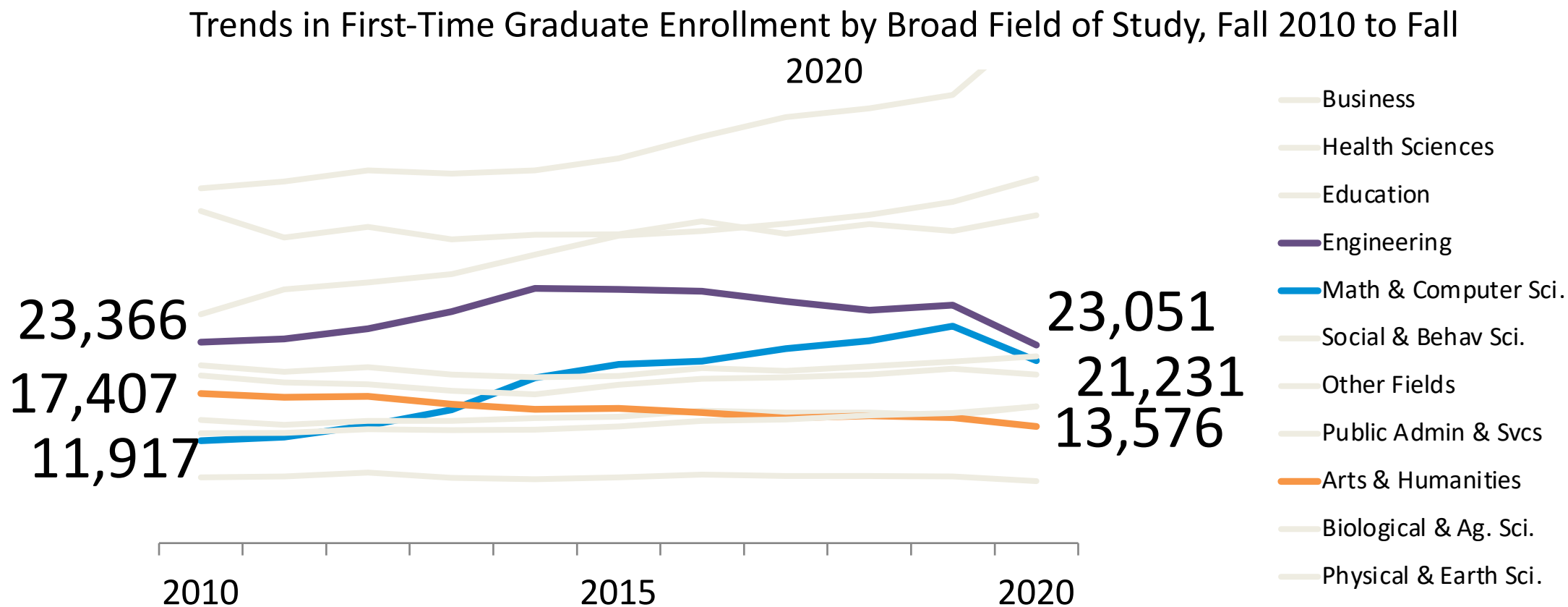
Trends in First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Broad Field of Study, Fall 2010 to Fall 2020



Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, Master's Admission Attributes Project, Survey of Master's Program Directors, 2020

First-time enrollment by field of study

Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Sciences, and Arts & Humanities continue to decline.

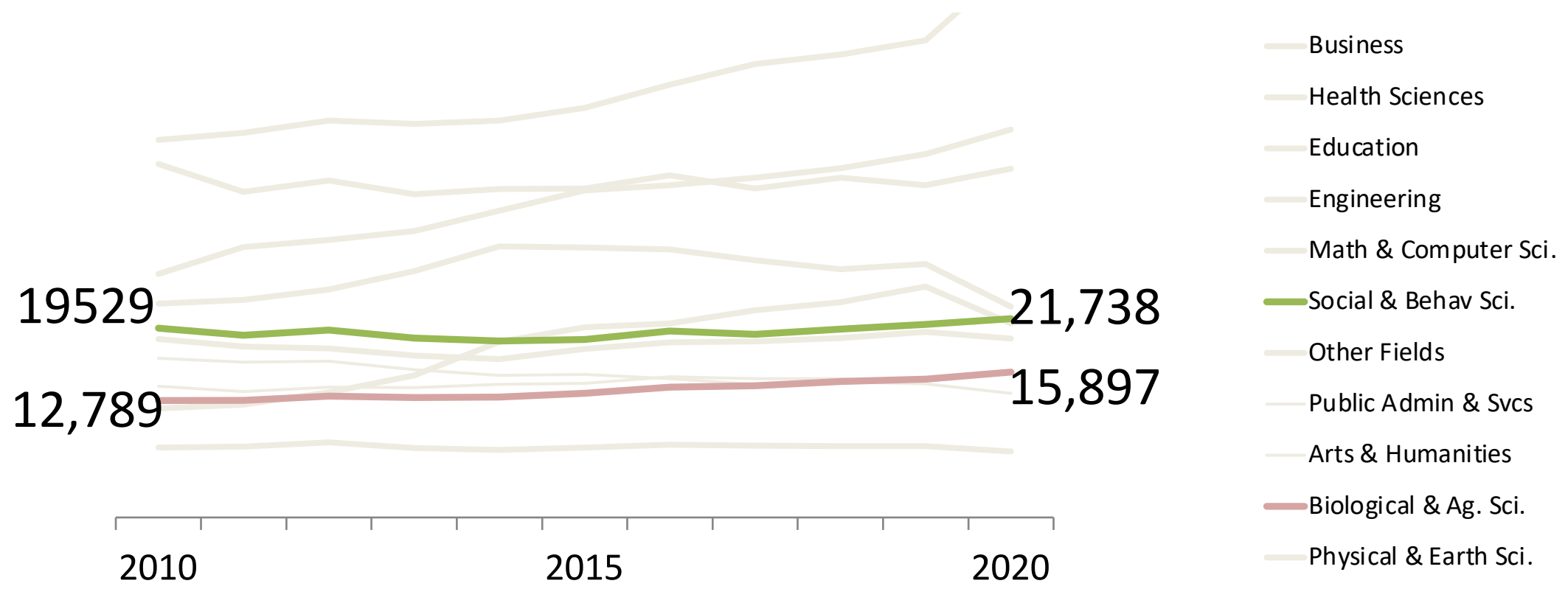


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, Master's Admission Attributes Project, Survey of Master's Program Directors, 2020

First-time enrollment by field of study

First-time enrollment in Social & Behavior Sci. and Biological & Agricultural Sci. remains flat.

Trends in First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Broad Field of Study, Fall 2010 to Fall 2020

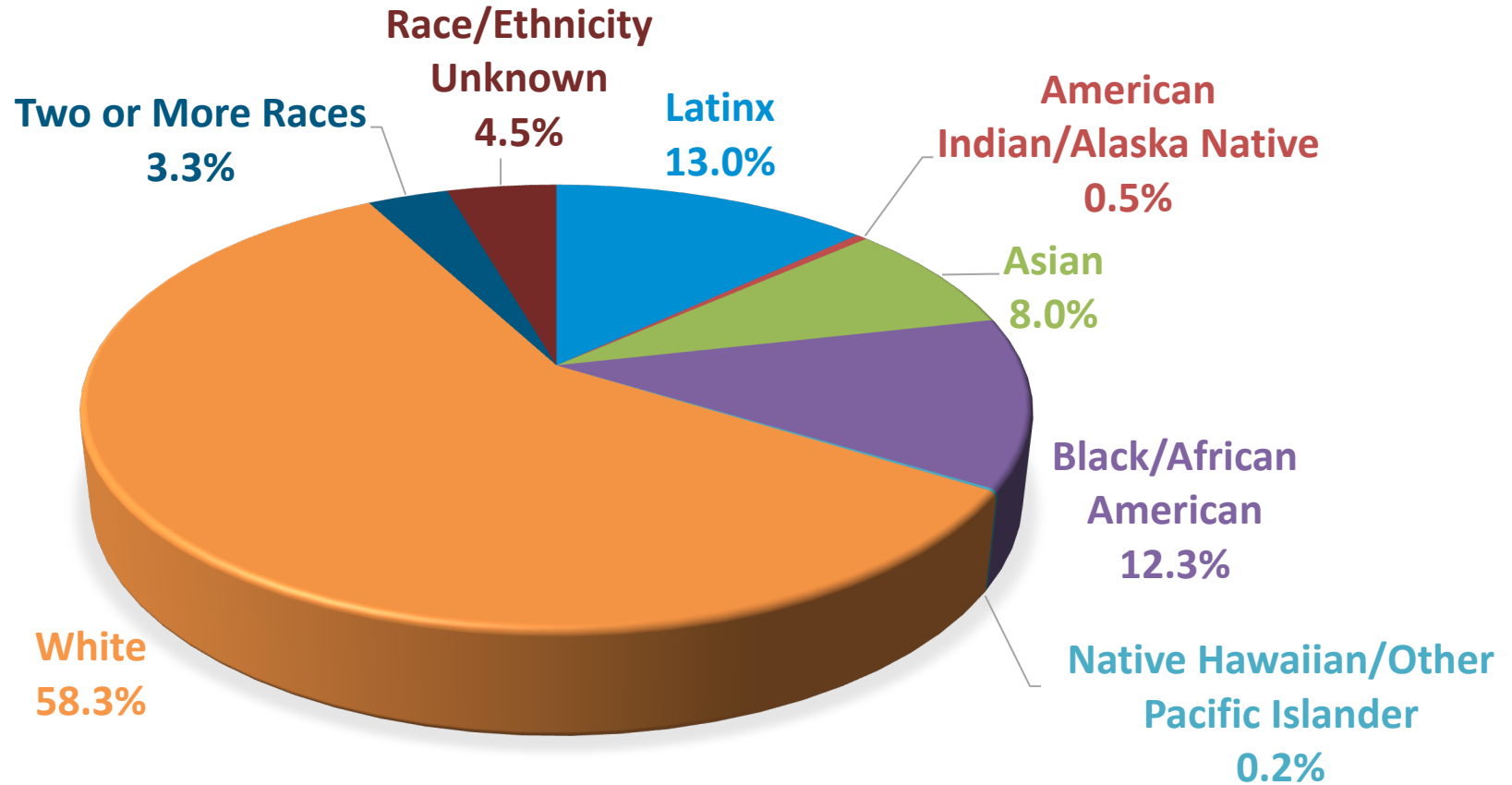


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, Master's Admission Attributes Project, Survey of Master's Program Directors, 2020

First-time enrollment by race/ethnicity

Among U.S. citizens and permanent residents, underrepresented minorities (URM) constitutes 25.9% of first-time graduate enrollment in Fall 2020, slightly increased from previous years.

COMPARISON OF U.S. DOMESTIC, FIRST-TIME GRADUATE ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY, FALL 2020

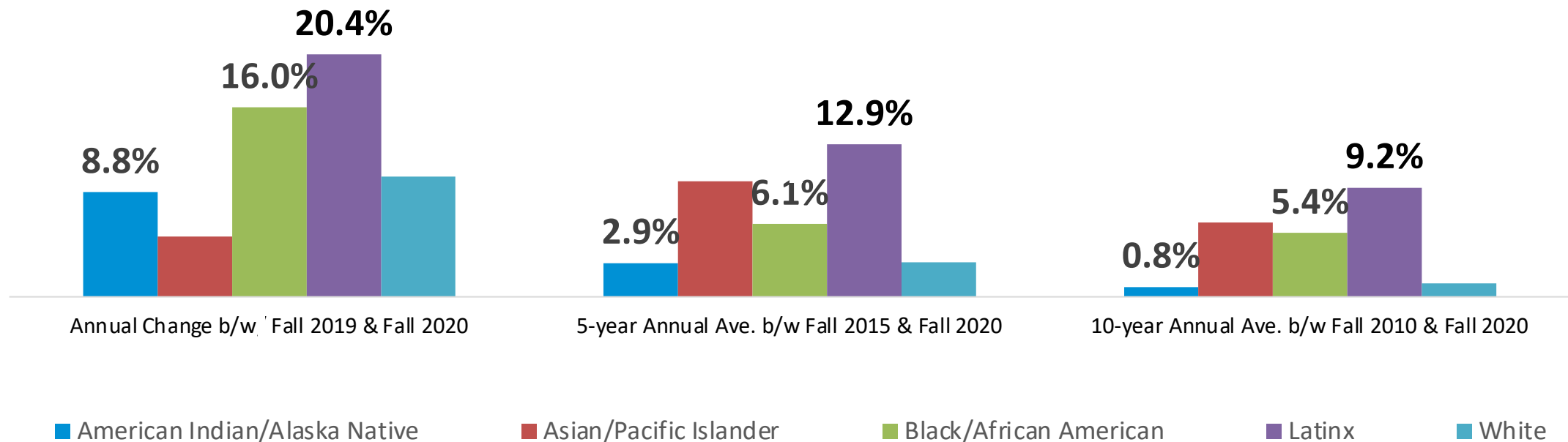


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment by race/ethnicity

The number of first-time graduate students of color grew at faster rates than White students.

Comparisons of Average Annual Percent Changes in First-time, U.S. Domestic Graduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2010 to Fall 2020

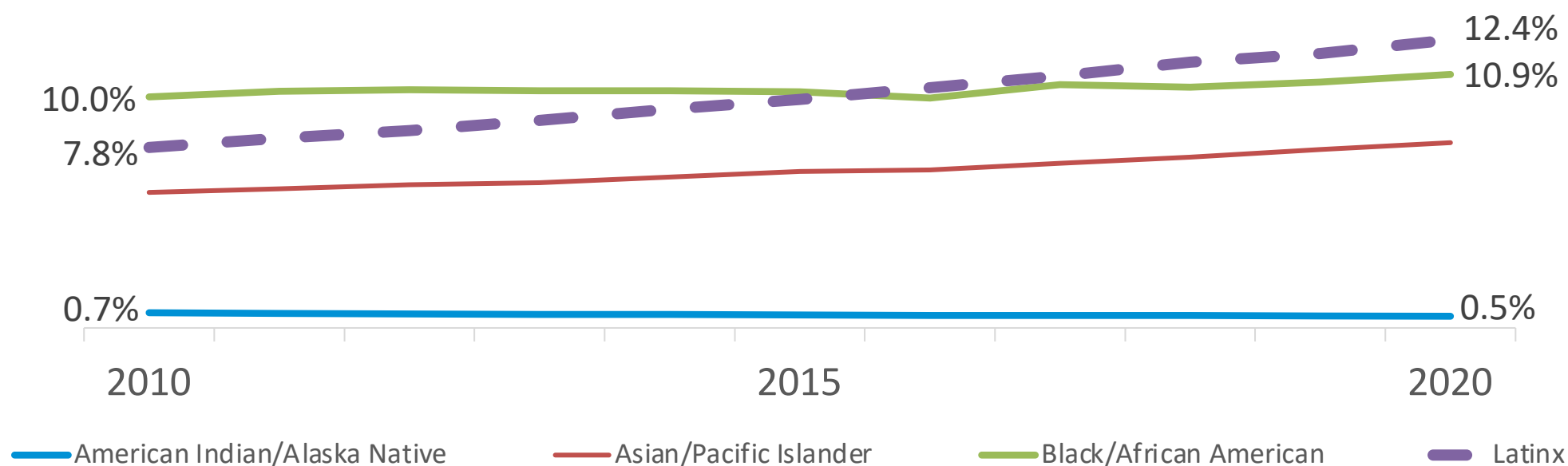


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

Total graduate enrollment by race/ethnicity

URM groups did not reach their proportional shares among total domestic graduate enrollment as much.

Percentage Shares in Total Graduate Enrollment of U.S. Citizens and Permanent residents by Selected Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2010 to Fall 2020

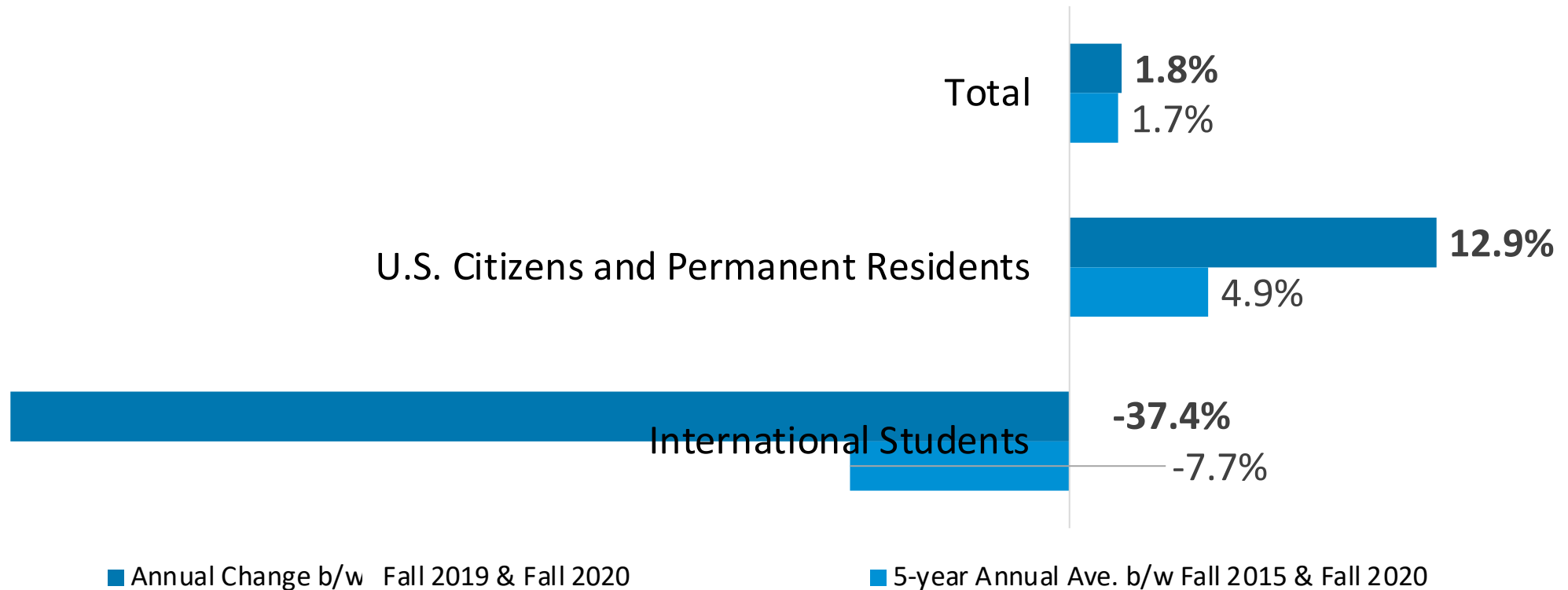


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment by citizenship status

Domestic graduate first-time enrollment increased between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.

First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Broad Field and Citizenship, Fall 2015 to Fall 2020

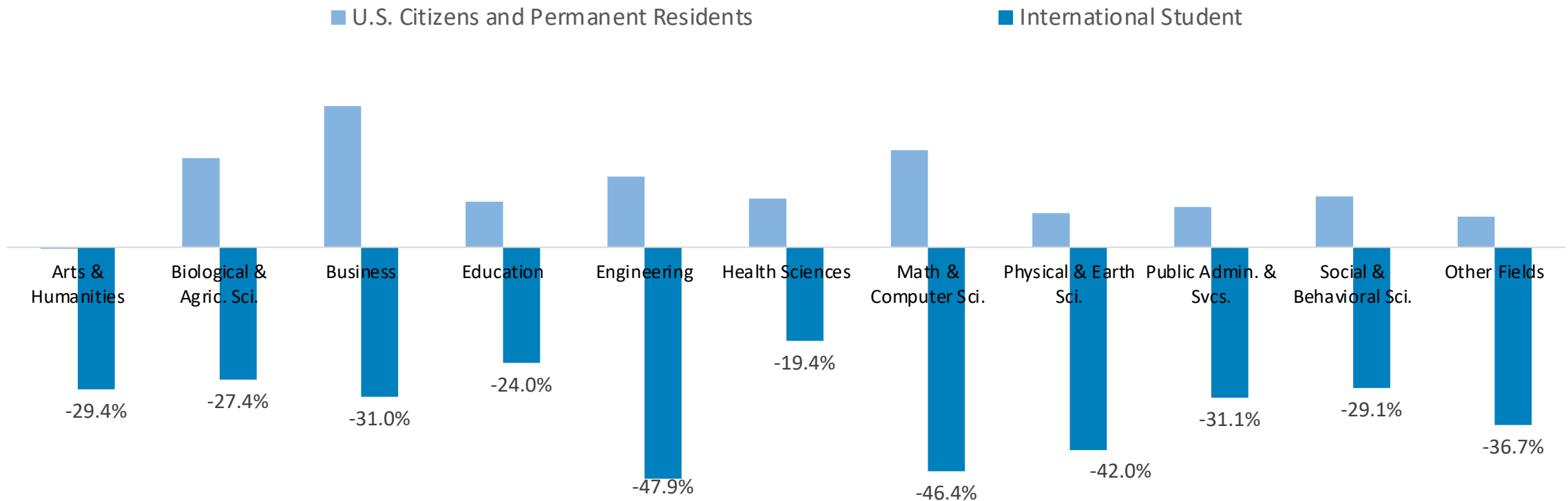


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment by citizenship status

International graduate first-time enrollment decreased across fields of study.

Annual % Changes in First-time Graduate Enrollment between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 by Broad Field of Study and Citizenship Status

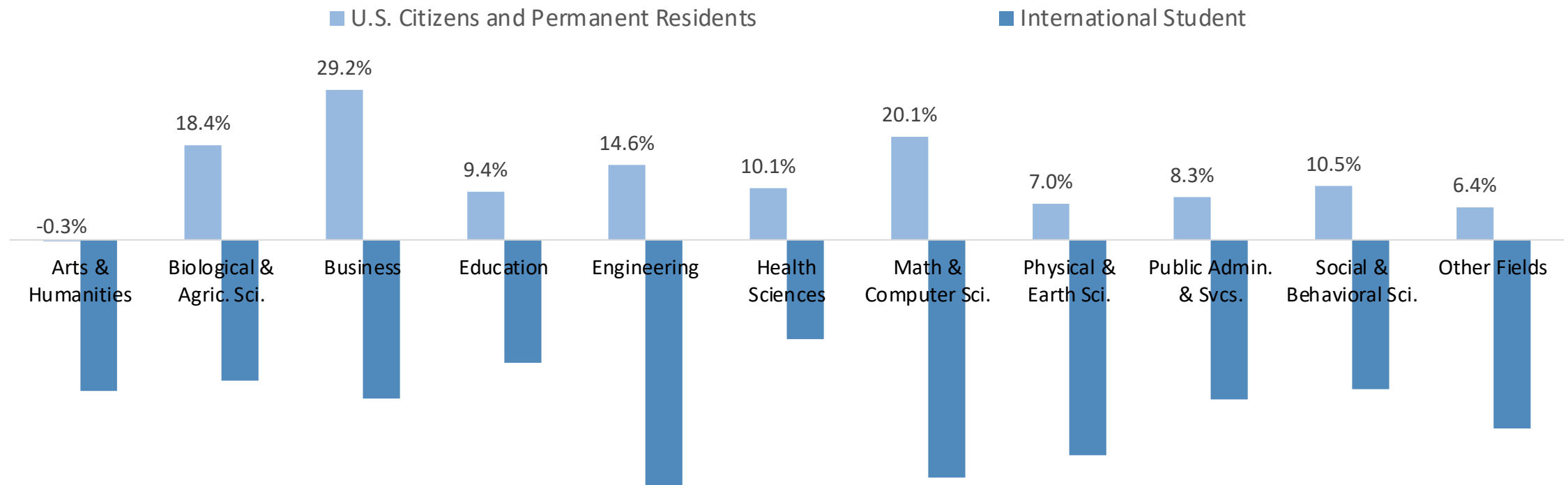


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment by citizenship status

Domestic graduate first-time enrollment increased across most of fields.

Annual % Changes in First-time Graduate Enrollment between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 by Broad Field of Study and Citizenship Status

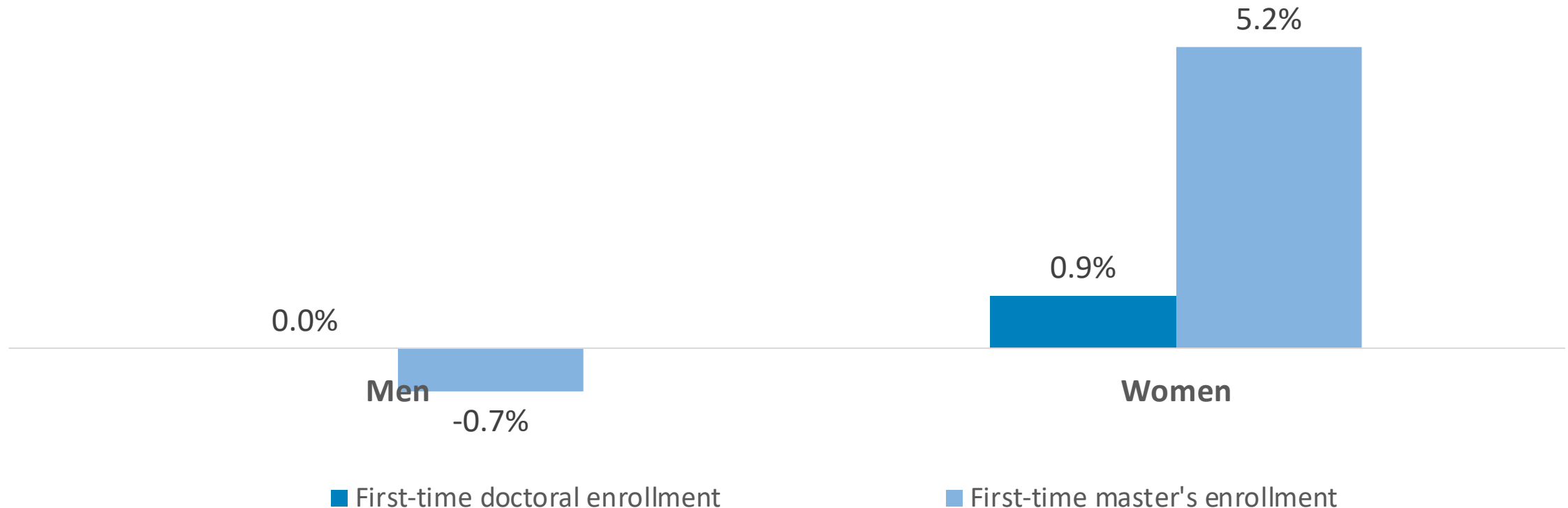


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2018

First-time enrollment by degree level and gender

Men master's first-time enrollment decreased slightly between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020; however, Women master's first-time enrollment increased.

Annual Percent Changes in First-time Enrollment by Degree Level and Gender, Fall 2019 to Fall 2020

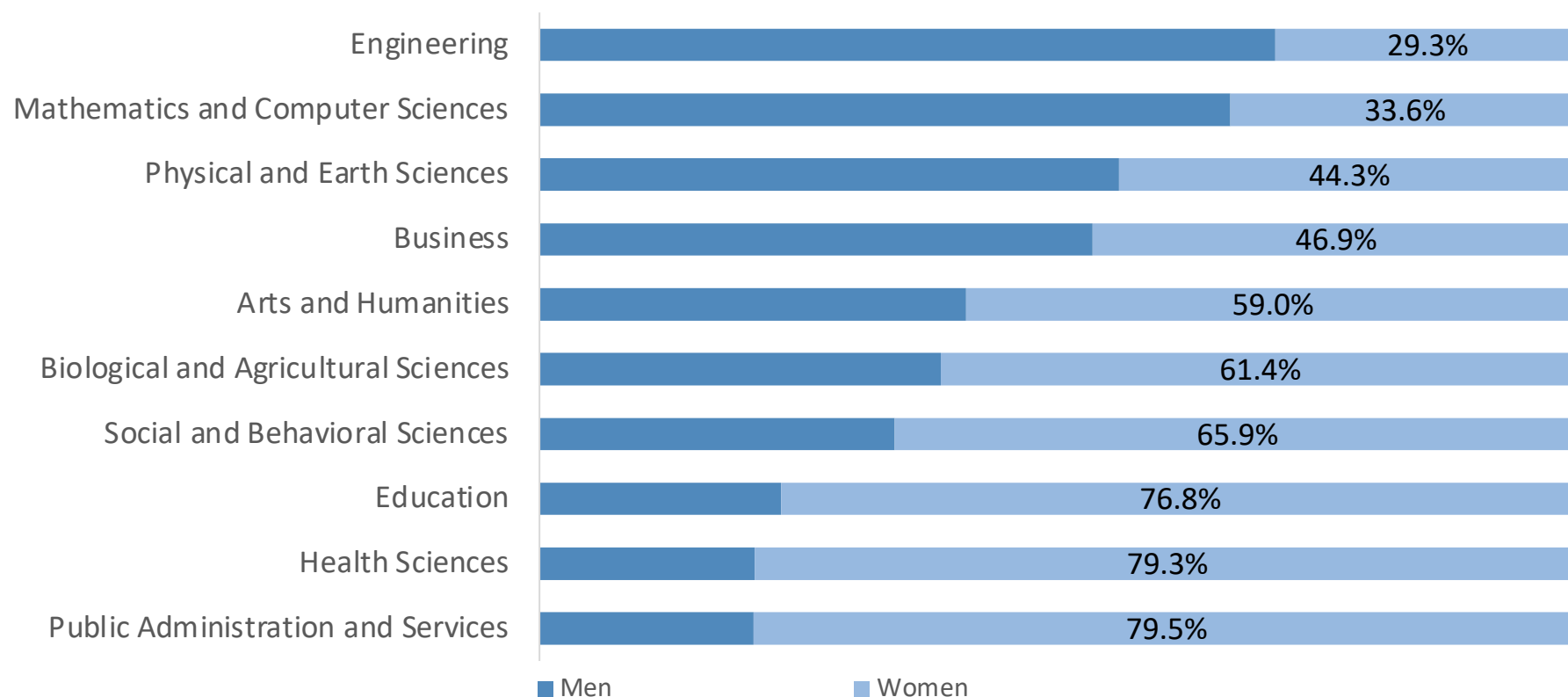


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment by broad field and gender

Although, the overall majority of graduate students are women, they still are underrepresented in Engineering, Math & Computer Sciences, and Physical & Earth Sciences..

First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Broad Field and Gender, Fall 2020

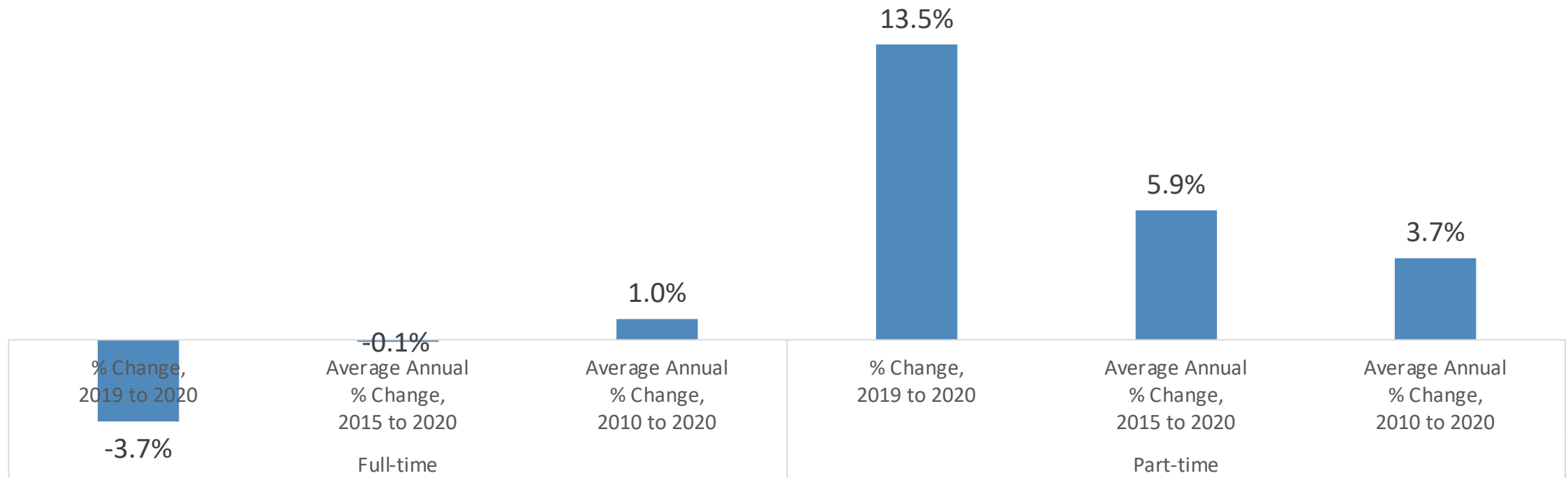


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020

First-time enrollment by attendance status

First-time enrollment of part-time graduate students increased between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.

Annual Percent Changes in First-time Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall 2010 to Fall 2020



Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2020



Respondent Remarks

Laurence Bray

Associate Provost for Graduate Education, George Mason University

Preselfannie E. Whitfield McDaniels

Dean, Division of Graduate Studies, Jackson State University



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

In response to the 2020 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees

Laurence Bray, Associate Provost for Graduate Education, George Mason University

lbray2@gmu.edu



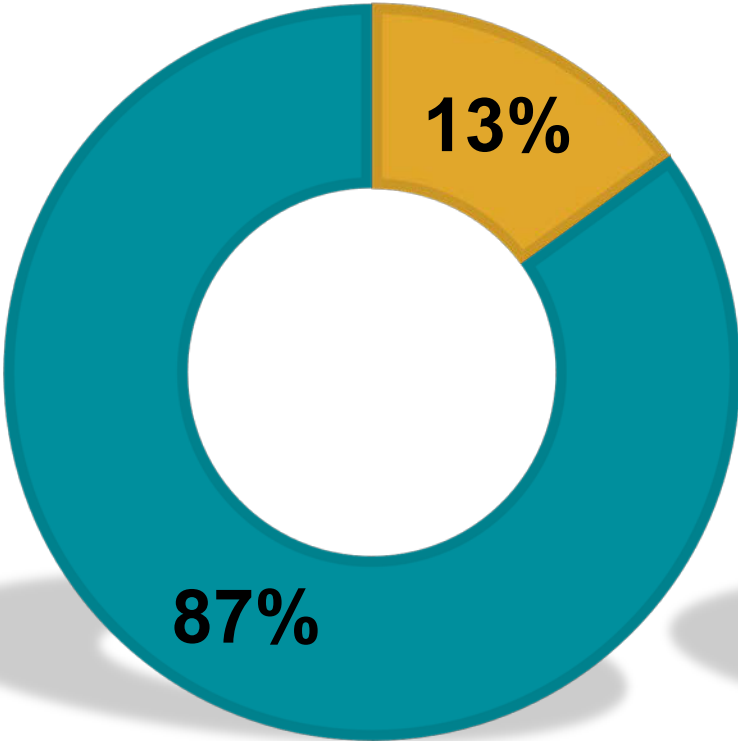
Mason is the largest public research university, most diverse and innovative in Virginia

- Located in Fairfax, Va., 15 miles from Washington, D.C.
- *Times Higher Education*: Best U.S. university under 50 years old
- *NSF*: 10th among U.S. public universities in research growth over the past decade
- 95 master's, 38 doctoral programs
- Over 10,000 graduate students, including graduate certificate students:
 - 23% doctoral
 - 63% part-time
 - 69% in-state
- Students from 130 countries, 50 states

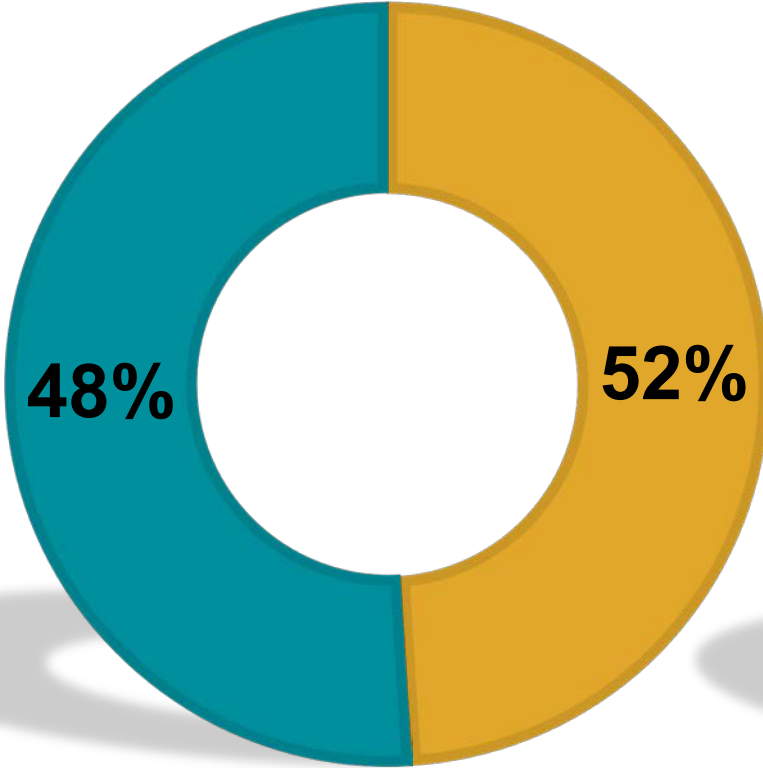


Fall 2020 Graduate Student Population by Headcount: ~9,660*

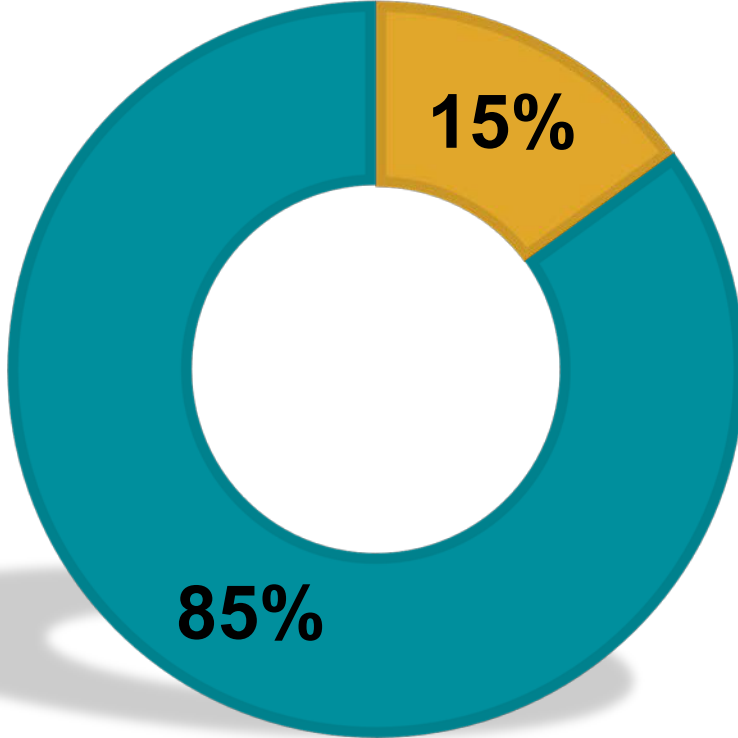
■ International
■ Other



■ Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic
■ Other



■ First Generation
■ Other



*Master's and Doctoral Degree-Seeking Students only

Applications for Admission

	# Apps	# Apps	# Apps
App Term	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Master's	Baseline	+19.7%	-1.5%
Doctoral	Baseline	+10.6%	+6.5
Total	Baseline	+17.6%	+0.5%

- Aligned with National Trends
- Even more significant increases, especially at the doctoral level

- Increased in research portfolio and funding opportunities
- New research institutes and transdisciplinary centers
 - New School of Computing
- More innovative online programs
 - Online education partnerships with Wiley and Online Virginia Network
 - Flexible learning opportunities

Enrollment

First-Time Enrollment

	Final	Final	Current
Term	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Master's	Baseline	+10%	-0.9%
Doctoral	Baseline	+4.8%	-4.9%
Total	Baseline	+9.7%	-1.4%

Total Enrollment

	Final	Final	Current
Term	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Master's	Baseline	+3.9%	+2.2%
Doctoral	Baseline	+2.1%	+1.2%
Total	Baseline	3.5%	+1.9%

- Mason Campus just a few miles from Amazon's new headquarters
 - Commitment to increasing and retaining graduates from computing-related fields (Already the producer of the most tech talent in Virginia)
 - Access to global corporations, government, international agencies, NGOs
 - Internship and employment opportunities

More Insights on Enrollment

- International Student Enrollment:
 - Significant decrease between F19 and F20, but larger increase in F21

	Final	Final	Current
App Term	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
International Students	Baseline	-10%	+24%

- Under-represented Minorities:
 - 19.8% of Mason graduate students are Black/African Americans or LatinX

	Final	Final	Current
App Term	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Black African Am.	Baseline	+9.1%	+4.5%
LatinX	Baseline	+17.5%	+3.8%



Access to traditional and non-traditional graduate students

Jackson State University

Preselfannie W. McDaniels, Ph.D.
Dean, Division of Graduate Studies

Jackson State University
Mississippi's Premier Urban
Research University

Historically Black College
and University (HBCU)
Carnegie: R2

Programs:
Master's 34
Education Specialist – 1
Doctoral – 13

Race/Ethnicity:
Black-91.1%,
White – 5.5%,
Asian - .8%,
American Indian - .4%,
Multi-racial – 1.1%

Total Enrollment:
Fall 2019 – 7,020
Fall 2020 – 6,921

International :
2019 – 3.32% (233 students)
2020 – 3.1% (211 students)

JSU Graduate Enrollment and Applications

Consistent with National Trends

JSU GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

Fall 2019: Graduate – 1,868 (26.61% of enrollment)
506 first-time graduate students

Fall 2020: Graduate – 2,253 (32.55% of enrollment)
958 first-time graduate students

GRADUATE APPLICATIONS

Fall 2019: 1,240

Fall 2020: 1,885

	Fall 2020	Fall 2019
Educational Administration	102	95
Public Health	92	71
Public Administration	86	81
Urban Higher Education	84	70
Urban and Regional Planning	41	36
Clinical Psychology	35	33
Computational Data Enabled Sciences and Engineering	27	34
Early Childhood Education	23	29
Business Administration	21	19
Environmental Science	20	16
Social Work	19	17
Chemistry	19	23
Engineering	18	16
TOTAL	587	540

JSU GRADUATE
ENROLLMENT
EXAMPLE

DOCTORAL
PROGRAMS

Increased Enrollment

Factors to Consider

Pandemic Challenges

Employment Status

Standardized Test Waivers (GRE, GMAT, PRAXIS)

EXAMPLE

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and PRAXIS Waiver:

MAT ENROLLMENT

Fall 2019: 72 Fall 2020: 455

**Increased
Graduate
Enrollment**

**Pertinent
Support
Services**

**Academic Affairs Lunch and Learn Series
(for Faculty/Staff)**

The Expert: The Classroom Professor

The Richard Wright Writing Center

Canvas Tools

Council of Graduate Schools' Recommendations

GradSchools.com Tips

Upcoming CGS Surveys

- Fall 2021 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey is in the field. The deadline is **Friday, November 12, 2021.**
- If you have not received the survey invitation, please contact research@cgs.nche.edu.
- Fall 2021 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees will launch in coming weeks.



Upcoming Events

- **Building a Graduate Enrollment Ecosystem:
Experienced Leaders Share Best Practices**
Thursday, October 28, 2021, 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern
- **Mitigating the Caregiving Burden among Graduate
Students: Policies, Programs and Practices**
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 from 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern
- **CGS 61st Annual Meeting**
December 1-4, 2021
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA

