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Turtle Mountain College Prospectus

Turtle Mountain Reservation and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

The Turtle Mountain Reservation is home to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Native American Tribe of Ojibwe based on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in Belcourt, ND. It is located in the Turtle Mountains near the Canadian border and is close to the International Peace Garden. The land in this region was shaped by glaciers which left rolling hills and many lakes and streams.

A treaty was signed in 1863 that established the Turtle Mountain Reservation. In 1882, the size of the reservation was reduced to a rectangular area measuring just 12 miles east-to-west by 6 miles north-to-south. The U.S. government had not counted the Métis as part of the Chippewa population at that time, so the reservation was much too small. In order to meet the needs of all the people, an area about 250 miles west of the Turtle Mountain Reservation was later established. This region is called the “Trenton Service Area” and provides services mostly for Chippewa and Métis people. Part of this Indian service area extends into Montana.

In Canada, the Métis are considered a separate tribe, but in North Dakota they are part of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Through the years, many of the Métis developed their own lifestyles which blended parts of both the Indian and the French cultures. They dressed in a combination of Indian and European clothing, and their language was influenced by both of their cultures.

Traditionally, the Chippewa people were primarily a hunting and gathering society. They hunted various animals for food and clothing. They gathered berries, nuts, roots, vegetables, fruits, and wild rice for food and medicinal purposes. The Chippewa have a legend about mun-dam-in (Corn) which indicates that they were sedentary to a degree. They coexisted in harmony with nature and had a special relationship to animals evident in the structure of tribal society which centered around the clan system. Each clan is symbolized by animals. Their legends describe nature’s phenomena. There are many factors that facilitated the transition and evolution of the Turtle Mountain people into the unique culture that exists today. The transition of the people from the woodlands to the plains vastly influenced the culture of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa. Food, transportation, clothing, and housing were all adapted to meet the needs of the people and the tribe. In addition, the blending of other cultures greatly impacted their language and lifeways from social structure and language to customs and dance.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2010 population of the Turtle Mountain Reservation was 8,656. This was a 4 percent increase over the 2000 population of 8,307. Rolette County had a 2010 population of 13,937. The people of the Turtle Mountains are their own greatest resource. The Turtle Mountain Reservation has approximately 31,000 enrolled members. There are approximately 14,500 tribal members living on or near the reservation.

The Turtle Mountain Reservation has a labor force of 5,222 tribal members and of that 2,474 of these were not in the labor force or unemployed. According to the U.S. Census, 71.5 percent of reservation's adult residents had completed high school while 11.7 percent had completed four or more years of college. The Turtle Mountain Reservation has a relatively well-educated population. The labor force has different and diversified employment skills, training and experience. These trades include: truck driver, carpenter, welder, farmer, farm or ranch hand, nurse or aide, construction worker, restaurant or retail business employee, bookkeeper or accountant, and a number of other skills. The labor force has accumulated many skills for various economic activities.

The weather varies from severe winters to moderate summers. In the winter, the temperature averages from 0 to 2 degrees F. The winter days average about nine hours of sunlight, while summer daylight stretches to 18 hours. Most of the rain occurs during the growing season which is anywhere from 90 to 116 days.

Rolette County unemployment rate is 4% while on the Reservation it is 55-69% according to the Pride of the Great Plains Third Round Promise Zone Designee report. The poverty rate on the reservation is 38.93% according to the same report.

Turtle Mountain College

College History

The college began as Turtle Mountain Community College and in 2024 changed their name to Turtle Mountain College (TMC) to reflect its growth. TMC is one of the original six tribal colleges established by various Indian Tribes in the early 1970's. The Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe chartered the college in 1972. The Turtle Mountain College is located in north central North Dakota in the historical wooded, hilly, and lake-filled area known as the Turtle Mountains. In addition to being the home of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa, the area is the home of the world-renowned International Peace Garden.

Campus Development

In its brief history, the college has emerged as a leader among this nation's 35 tribal colleges. Its origin was humble. For the first few years, the college operated out of two offices on the third floor of a former Catholic Convent. The college operated out of the basement of an abandoned IHS facility for a short period. In 1977 the college moved into an abandoned tribal building and a BIA facility that had been moved to Belcourt's main street by a tribal member who had converted the building into a café and dance hall. It was on Belcourt's main street that the college later purchased and renovated several old buildings and as funding became available built a series of primarily metal buildings.

Facility

In May 1999, the college moved to a new campus and a new facility. The new facility is located 2 1/2 miles north of Belcourt. Trees and vegetation surround the new site that overlooks Belcourt Lake. Turtle

Mountain College's main campus includes a 145,000-sq/ft building located on an approximately 123-acre site. The facility includes state-of-the-art technology, a fiscal area, general classrooms, science, mathematics, and engineering classrooms and labs, a library and archives, learning resource centers, a faculty area, a student services area, a gymnasium, and mechanical systems. A new auditorium with a seating capacity of 1000 opened in 2003.

The former main campus in Belcourt, now referred to as the south campus, is a conglomerate of buildings that provide 66,000 square feet of space. Both campuses are being used for college or community use. The two campuses house all college functions except for some off-campus community-responsive training programs. Turtle Mountain College is a commuter campus and maintains no residence halls.

The Anishinabe Wellness Center is set on 102 wooded acres between the south campus and the main campus. The complex includes a cemetery, beachfront, playground area, nature trails, fitness confidence course, medicine wheel, and a total of 15 buildings: five cabins, a wellness center, roundhouse, straw bale, maintenance garage, boat house, office building, A-frame building, the former trading post, and a small barn. In 2024, TMC Anishinabe Wellness Center added a freestanding 1920 square foot all-seasons greenhouse. It holds 24 folding benches with a drip irrigation system.

Community Impact

Since its beginning, the college has grown from a fledgling institution serving less than sixty students per year to its current status of serving over 650 full-time equivalents and outreach programs to approximately 250 high school and middle school students. Indeed, Turtle Mountain College has demonstrated success in enrolling and graduating students. The college supports the tribal community in various ways. Through its diverse programs, it helps build local capacity for positive systemic change by enhancing educational opportunities at all levels for tribal members, as well as promoting the public and private economic sustainability of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa.

Institutional Mission Statement

Turtle Mountain College is an autonomous Tribal College focusing on post-secondary education and scholarly research creating an academic environment in which the culture, language, and social heritage of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa is integrated throughout the curriculum.

Institutional Goals

Turtle Mountain College hereby establishes the following goals:

1. A learning environment stressing the application of academic concepts to concrete problems;
2. Academic preparation for learning as a life-long process of discovery of knowledge embedded in the intellectual disciplines and the traditions of the tribe;
3. In and out of class opportunities to discover the nature of Indian society, its history, variation, current and future patterns, and needs, and to serve as a contributing member toward its maintenance and betterment;



4. A curriculum wherein Indian tribal studies are an integral part of all courses offered as well as the history, values, methods, and culture of Western society;
5. Continuous assessment of institutional programs and student academic achievement for the purpose of continuous improvement of student learning;
6. Baccalaureate, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science degrees, and certificate programs of study;
7. Cooperation with locally Indian-owned business and stimulation of economic development for the service area;
8. Continued independent accreditation;
9. Community service and leadership.

Institutional Philosophy

Turtle Mountain College is a tribal community college with obligations of direct community service to the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe. Under this unifying principle, the college seeks to maintain, seek out, and provide comprehensive higher education services in fields needed for true Indian self-determination.

The Seven Teachings of the Anishinabe People

The philosophical foundation of the college is embedded in the system of values that stem from the heritage and culture of the Anishinabe people and are expressed in the Seven Teachings of the Tribe.

- To cherish knowledge is to know WISDOM
- To know LOVE is to know peace
- To honor all of Creation is to have RESPECT
- BRAVERY is to face the foe with integrity
- HONESTY in facing a situation is to be brave
- HUMILITY is to know yourself as a sacred part of Creation
- TRUTH is to know all of these things
- The Turtle Mountain College physical plant continues to experience steady growth.

Accreditation

The Higher Learning Commission has provided accreditation to the College since 1980.

Strategic Plan:

1. Goal One: Expansion and Growth for the Future
2. Goal Two: Expand Language and Culture Preservation Programs
3. Goal Three: Advance, Expand, Increase TMCC Effectiveness/Assessment

To view the complete strategic plan visit the following link.

<https://www.tm.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/TMCC-strategic-plan-2019-2024-1.pdf>

Programs Offered

Turtle Mountain College offers Certificate programs, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Science degrees and one Masters degree program. TMC offers courses in person, online, and using hybrid formats. Undergraduate students check their textbooks out and return them at the end of the semester for a small usage fee. Graduate students purchase their textbooks. For more information, follow this link to the 2024-2025 catalog <https://tm.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/undergraduate-and-graduate-catalog/>

Cost of Attendance 2024-2025

Academic Year 24-25						
Credits	Tuition	Student Fee	Technology fee	Registration Fee	Classroom/ Textbook	Grand Total
					Fee	
1	91	9	6	25	25	156
2	182	18	12	25	25	262
3	273	27	18	25	25	368
4	364	36	24	25	50	499
5	455	45	30	25	50	605
6	546	54	36	25	50	711
7	637	63	42	25	75	842
8	728	72	48	25	75	948
9	819	81	54	25	75	1,054
10	910	90	60	25	75	1,160
11	1,001	99	66	25	75	1,266
12	1,092	108	72	25	100	1,397

Graduate 24-25					
Credits	Tuition	Student Fee	Technology fee	Registration Fee	Grand Total
1	300	12	72	25	409
2	600	24	72	25	721
3	900	36	72	25	1,033
4	1,200	48	72	25	1,345
5	1,500	60	72	25	1,657
6	1,800	72	72	25	1,969
7	2,100	84	72	25	2,281
8	2,400	96	72	25	2,593
9	2,700	108	72	25	2,905



Student Demographics

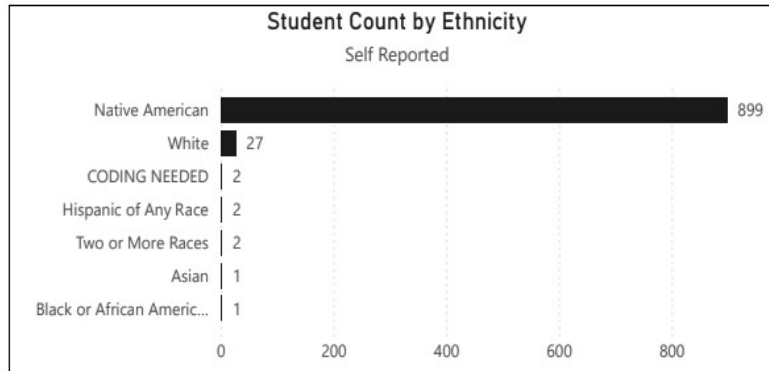
For the academic year 23-24

All Students AY2023
Non-CEU Students
934

Native American/Alaska
Native Students AY2023
Non-CEU Students
884

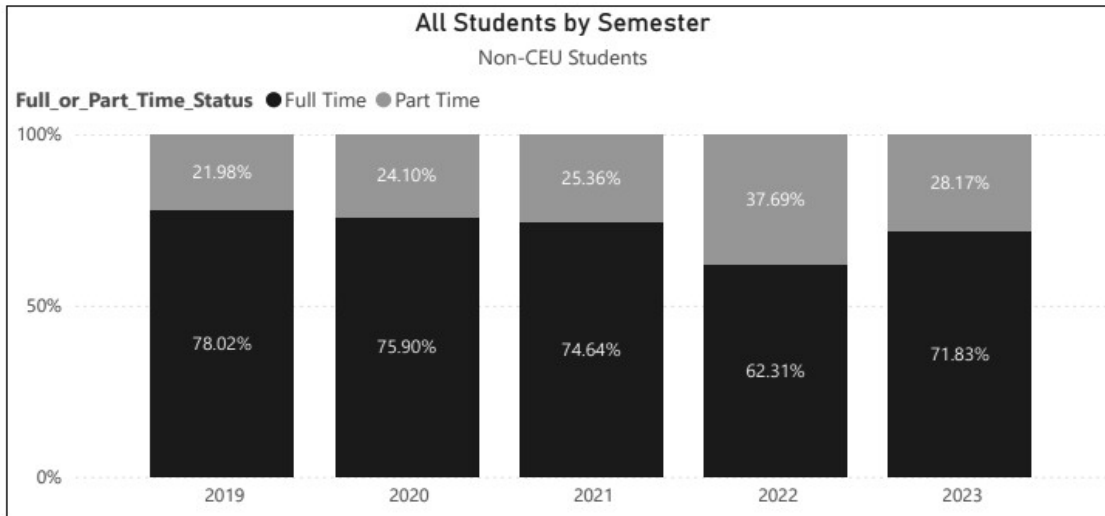
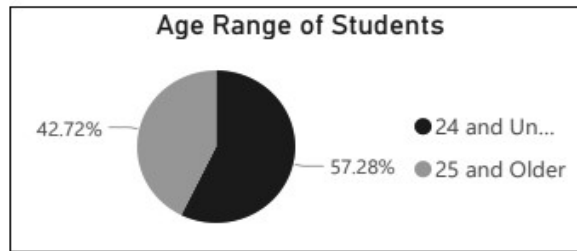
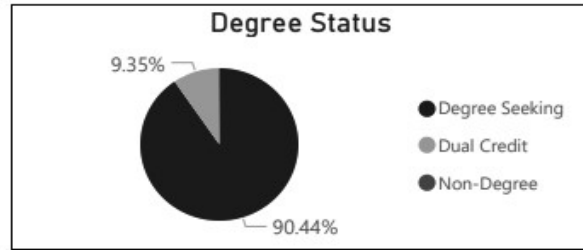
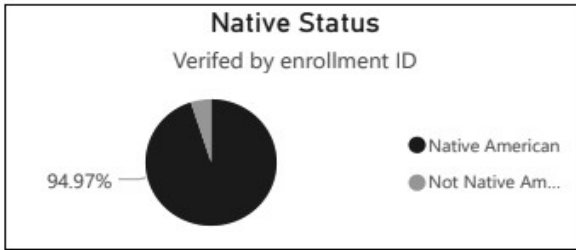
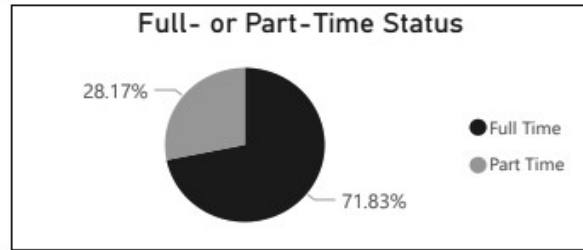
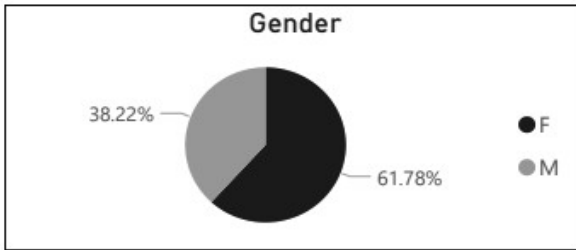
Turtle Mountain Band
Students AY2023
Non-CEU Students
853

CEU Students AY2023
334



All Students by Semester
Non-CEU Students

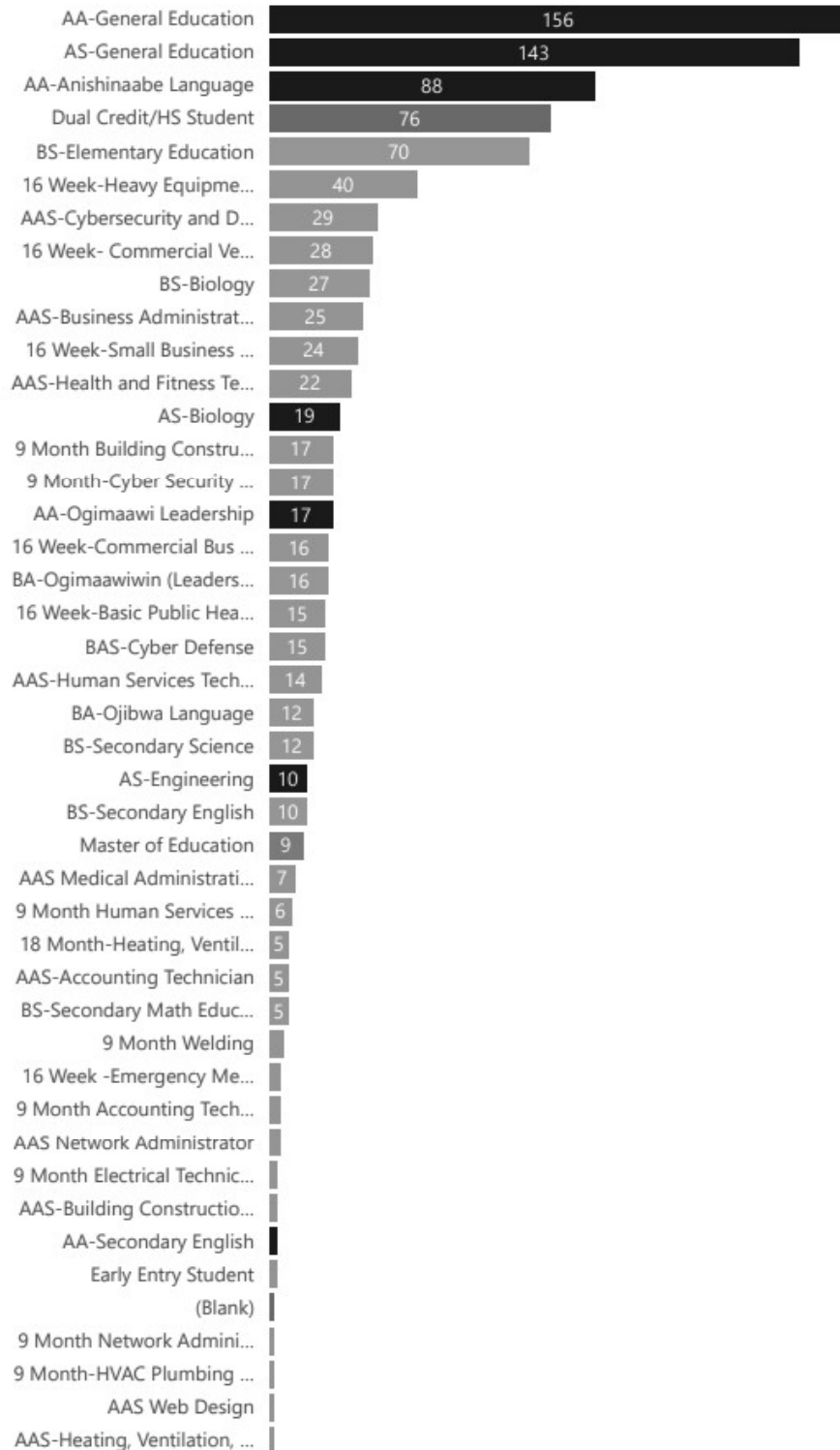
YR_CDE	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester	Total
2022	599	610	241	950
2023	698	632	256	934
2020	585	433	149	733
2021	472	438	227	716
2019	517	515	96	704
Total	1737	1638	739	2272



Student Count by Degree AY2022

Non-CEU Students

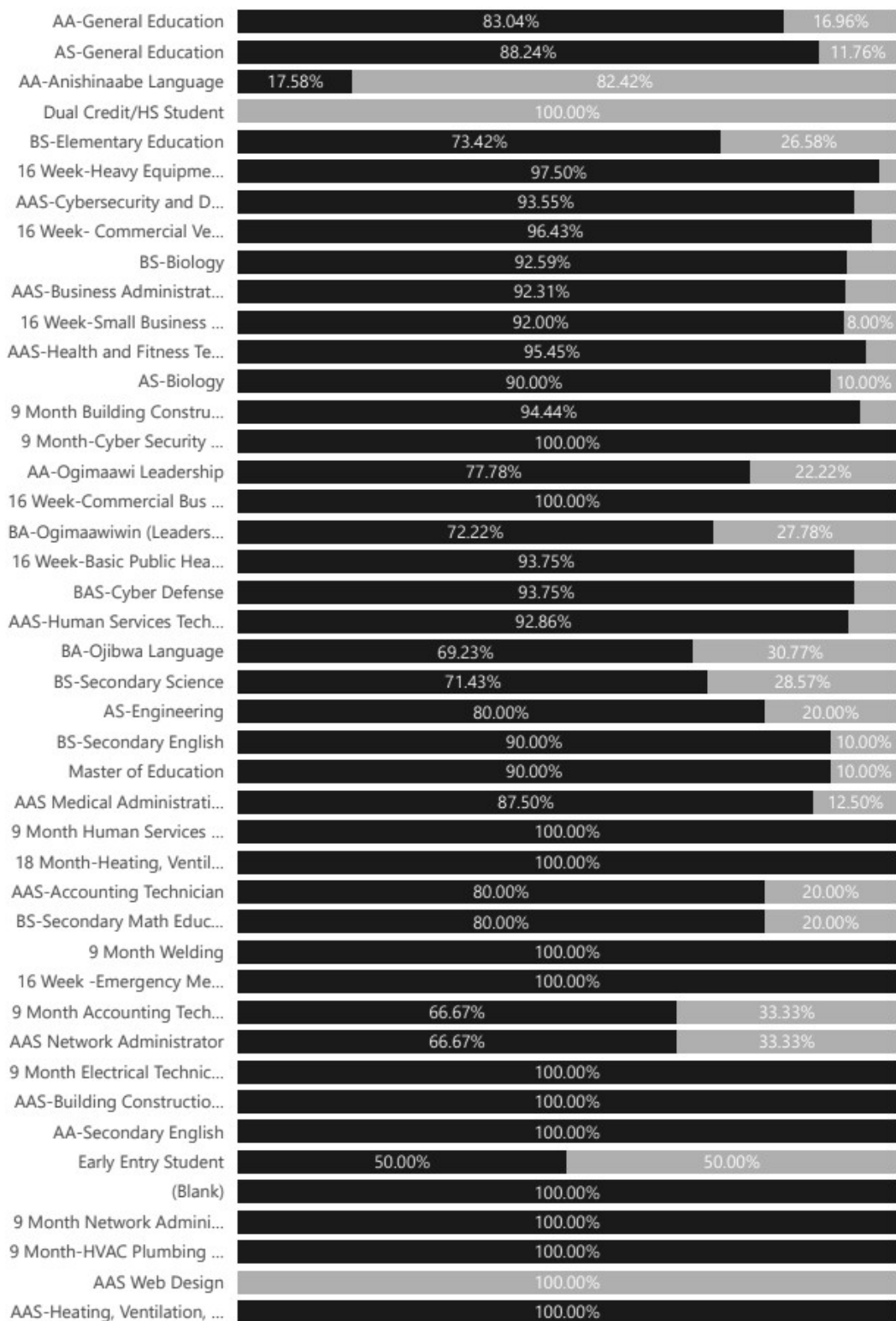
Degree Level ● (Blank) ● Associate's ● Bachelor's ● Certificate ● Master's



Degrees by Percentage Full or Part Time AY2022

Non-CEU Students

Full_or_Part_Time_Status ● Full Time ● Part Time





Operating Budget

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Academic Support	129,500
Athletics	259,324
Board of Directors	80,610
Board of Trustees	121,847
Facility	868,392
Fiscal	1,999,795
Human Relations	40,900
Instruction	450,250
Library	30,000
Marketing	33,000
President	124,000
Salary/Fringe	5,351,183
Student Services	88,400
Technology	324,420
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	9,901,621
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