

# Welcome to Athabasca University

Athabasca University 

Canada's  Open University™

# Mission:

Athabasca University, Canada's Open University, is dedicated to the removal of barriers that restrict access to, and success in, university-level studies and to increasing equality of educational opportunity for adult learners worldwide.

We are committed to excellence in teaching, research and scholarship, and to being of service to the general public.

# History:

- In 1970 AU opened its doors in Edmonton for the first time with:
  - 5 offices, a reception area, a boardroom; and
  - 4 fields of study.
- 1971 Dr. Tim Byrne appointed president.
  - Interim Governing Authority Appointed to develop 'academic concept'.
  - Change of government results in a freeze on new buildings – 'Athabasca University Dead' was the headline.

## 1975 to 1984

- 1975 Independent report on pilot project recommends continuation.
- 1978 Order in Council promulgates AU and appoints unicameral Governing Council.
- March 1980 Minister announces decision to relocate the University to the town of Athabasca.
- June 1984 Relocation to Town of Athabasca complete.

# Comparative Table

	1980	1986	1994
<b>Students</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>9,552</b>	<b>11,591</b>
<b>Graduates</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Course Registrations</b>	<b>4,580</b>	<b>13,163</b>	<b>14,860</b>
<b>Courses</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>332</b>
<b>Course Credits</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,095</b>
<b>Degree Programs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Radio and TV Supplemented courses</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Academic Staff</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Professional/Management Staff</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Support Staff</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Tutors</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Academic Sessionals/Contracts</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>Annual Budget (million)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24.3</b>
<b>Percent Government Grant</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>72</b>

\*plus one MBA opened in September

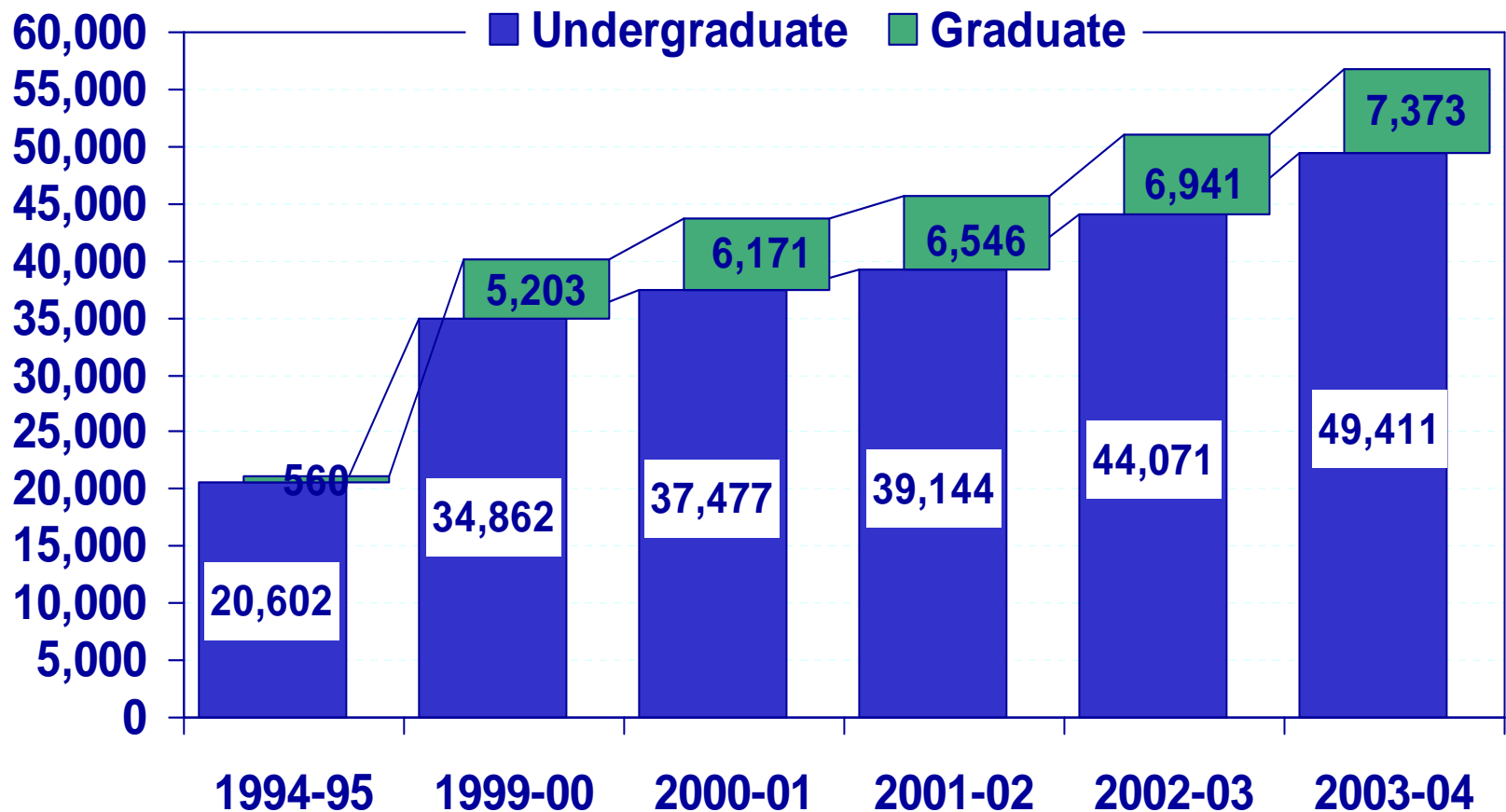
## 1985 to 1994

- 1985 Dr. Morrison becomes president.
- 1988 Strategic Academic Plans commit AU to growth, access and a centre for life-long learning.
- 1993 Government Cutbacks announced –  
Future of AU in question.
  - Cost concerns.
  - Graduation rates questioned.
  - International activities questioned.

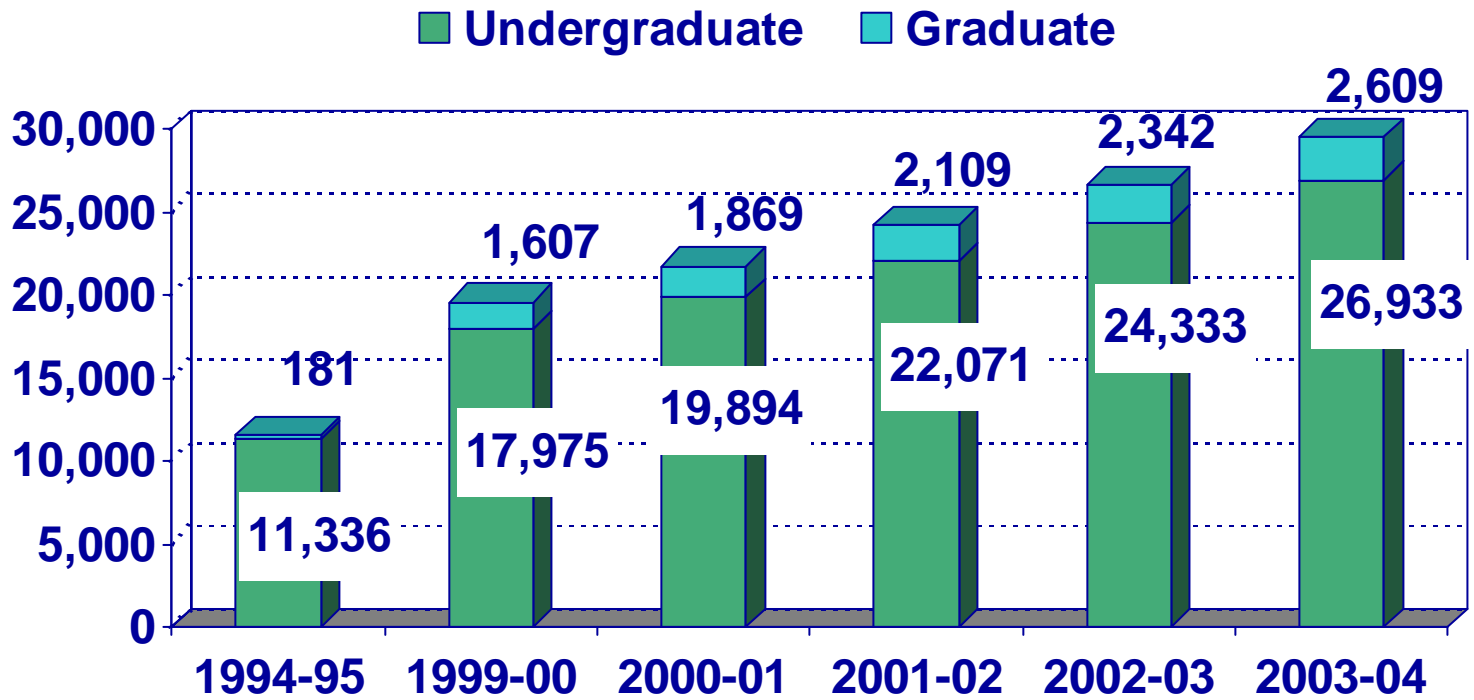
# Responding to the Challenge

- The key strategic response to the challenge was to dramatically increase course and program enrolments.
- In 2004 AU had:
  - it's main campus in Athabasca with smaller centres in Edmonton, Calgary, and St. Albert;
  - 18,731 sq. meters of office space;
  - 23 degree programs and 575 courses; and
  - 29,542 students with 56,784 course registrations.

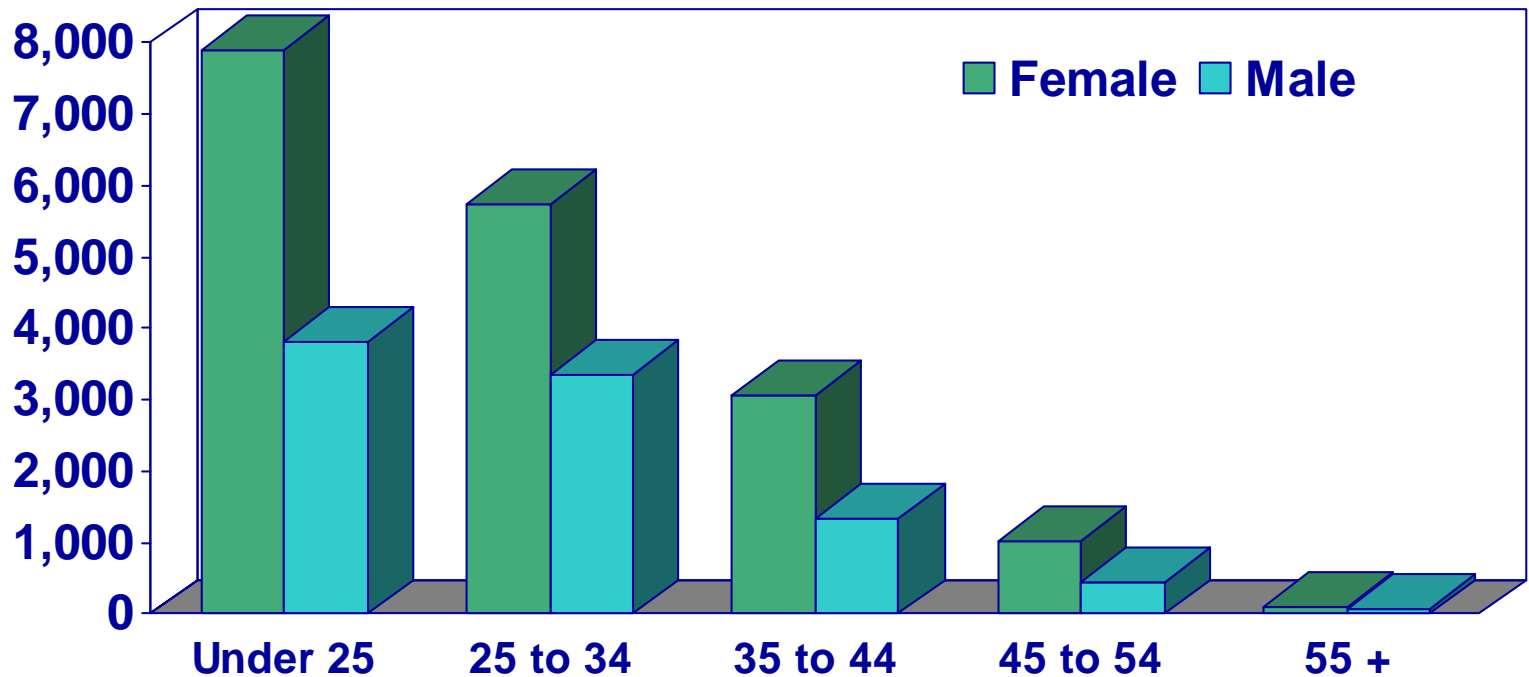
# Growth: Registrations (in 3-Credit Equivalents)



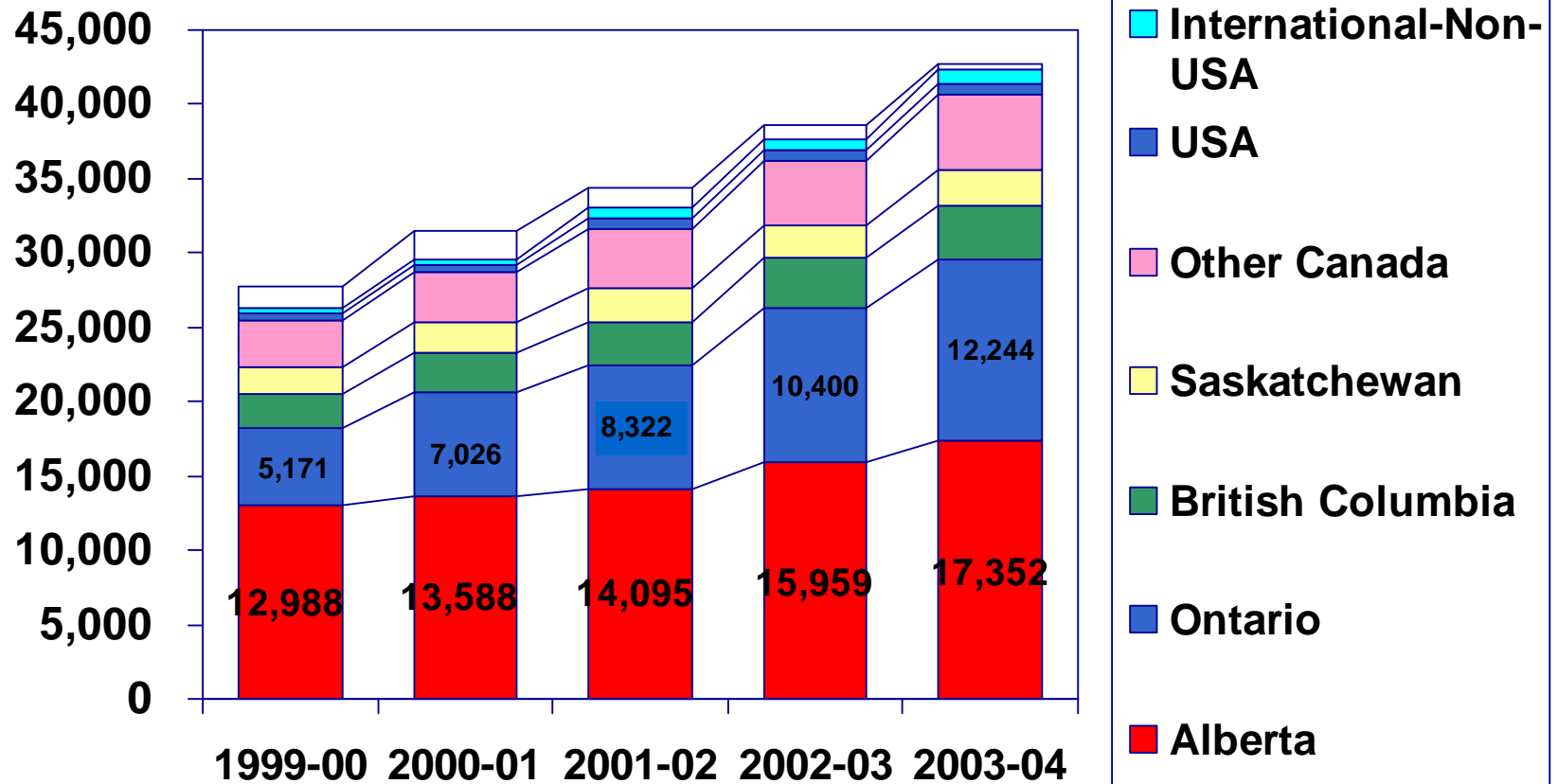
# Growth: Student Headcount



# 2003-04 Undergraduate Age and Gender Balance

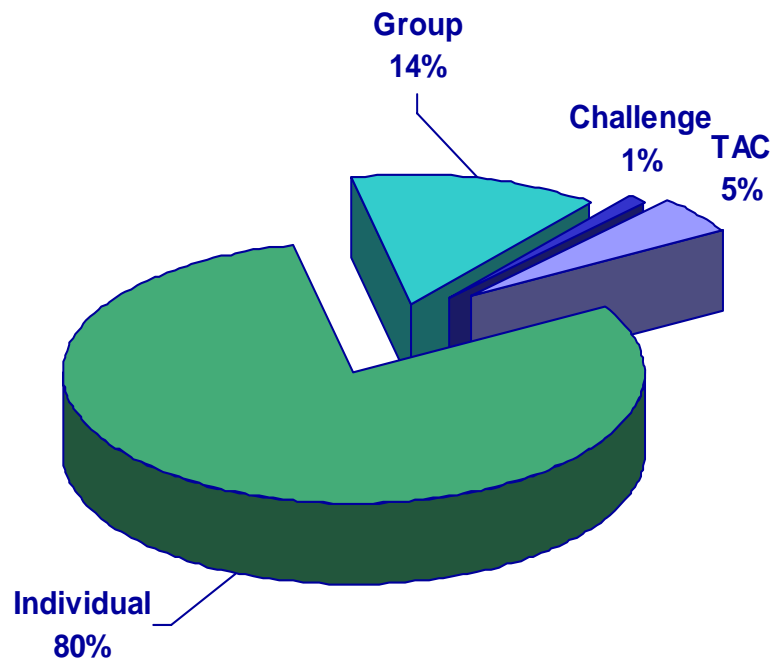


# Undergraduate Individualized Study Registrations by Location

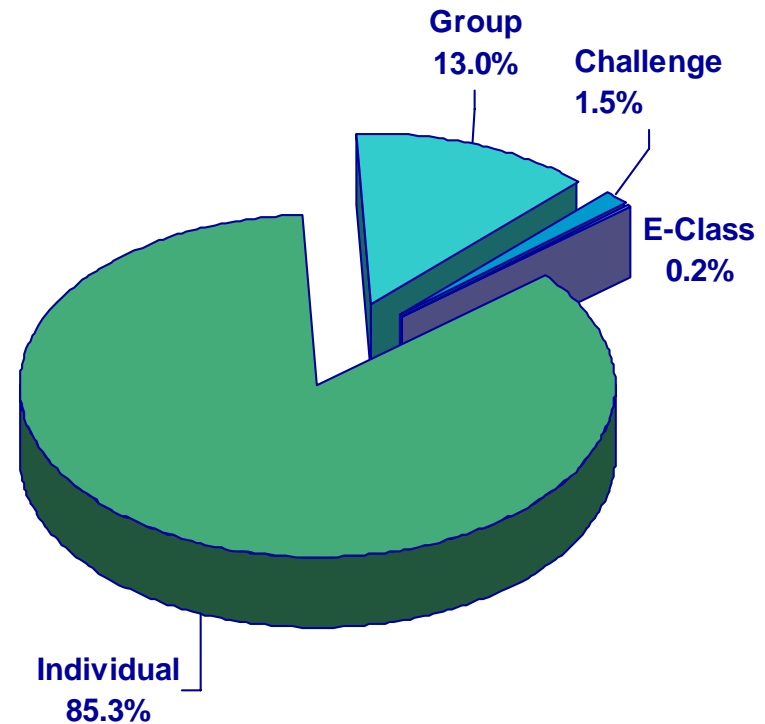


# Undergraduate Registrations by Study Mode 1999-00 and 2003-04

1999-00

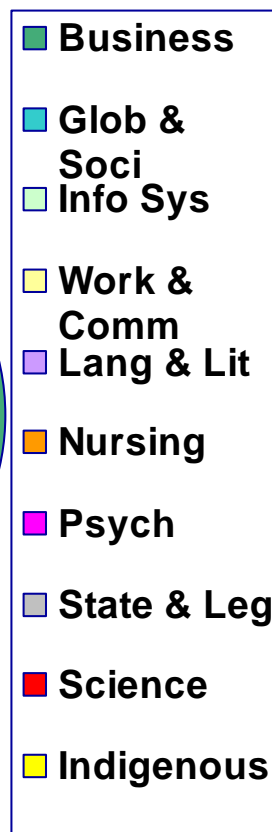
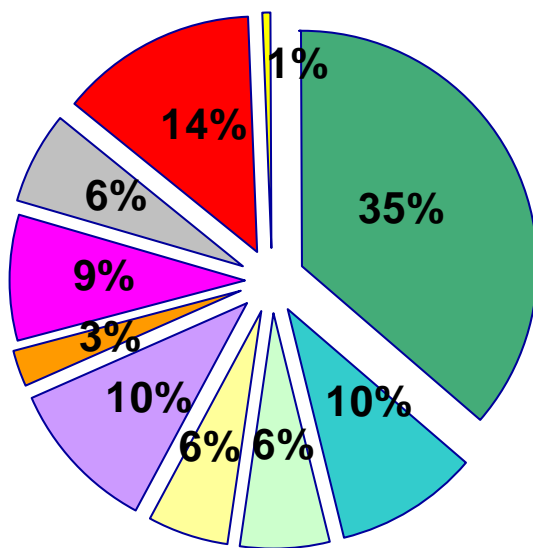


2003-04

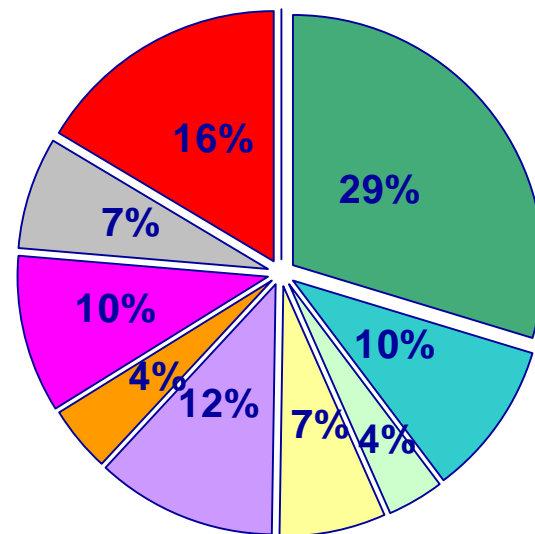


# Undergraduate Registrations by Centre

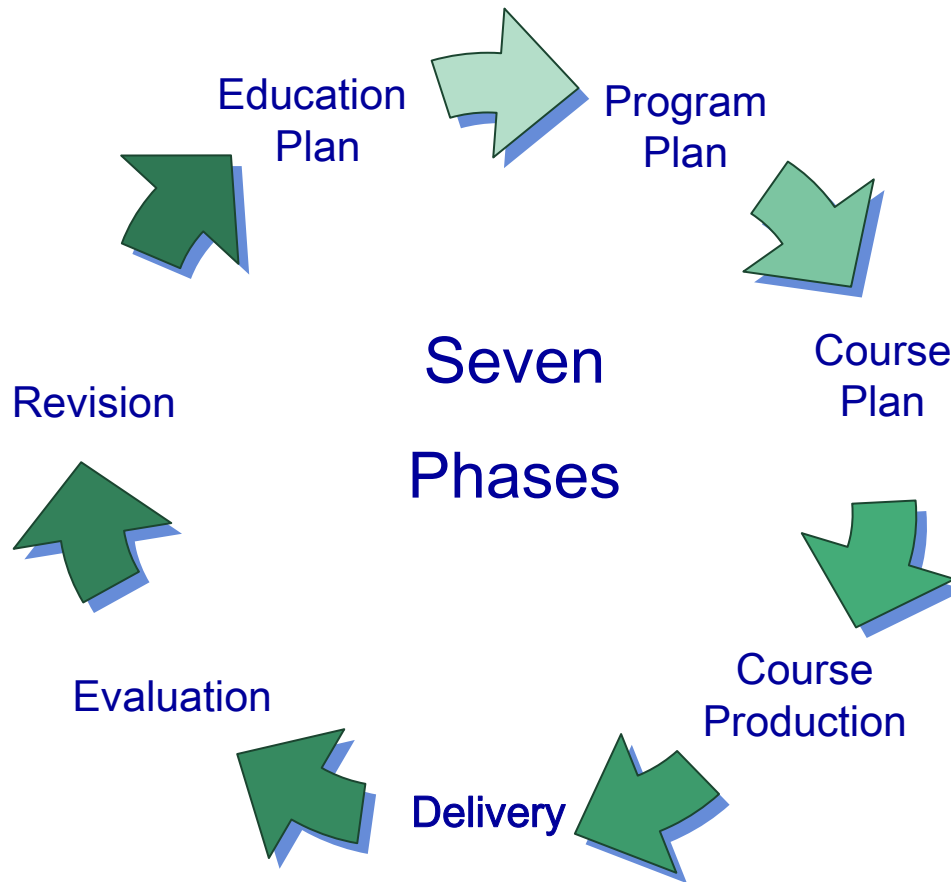
1990-00



2003-04



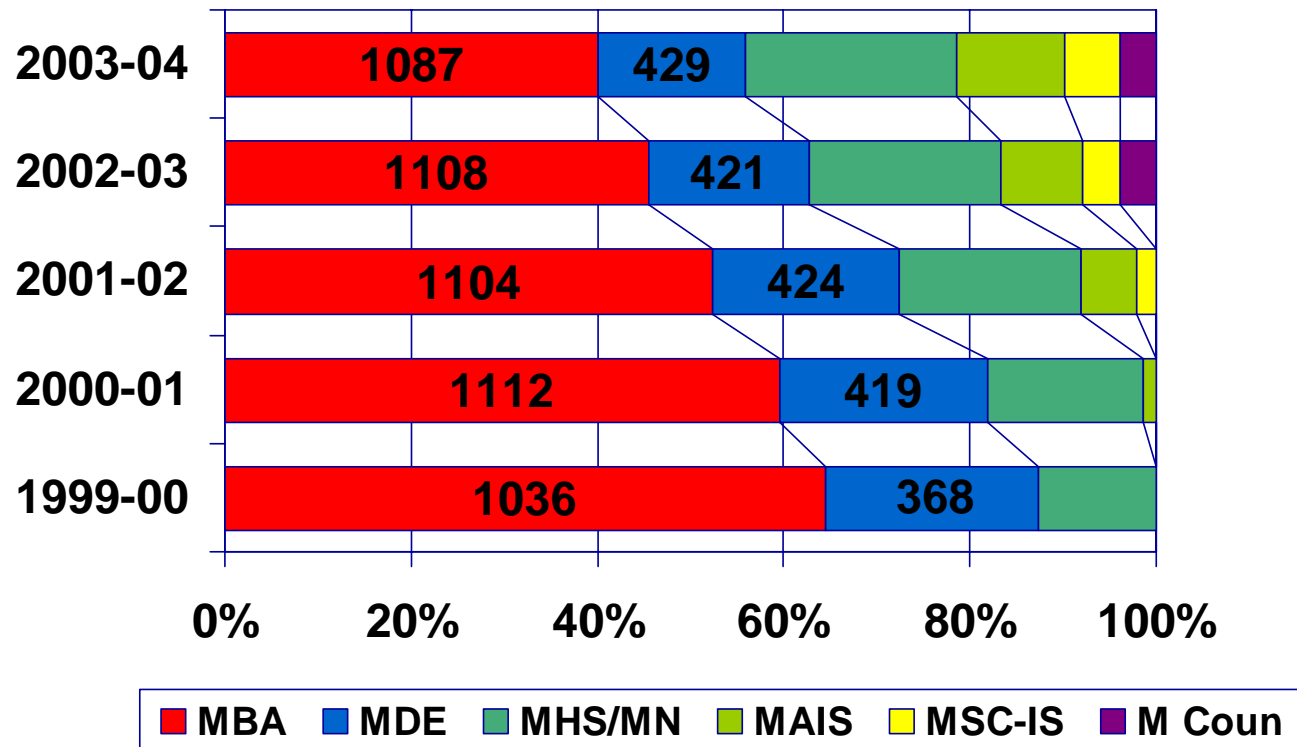
# Undergraduate Course Development



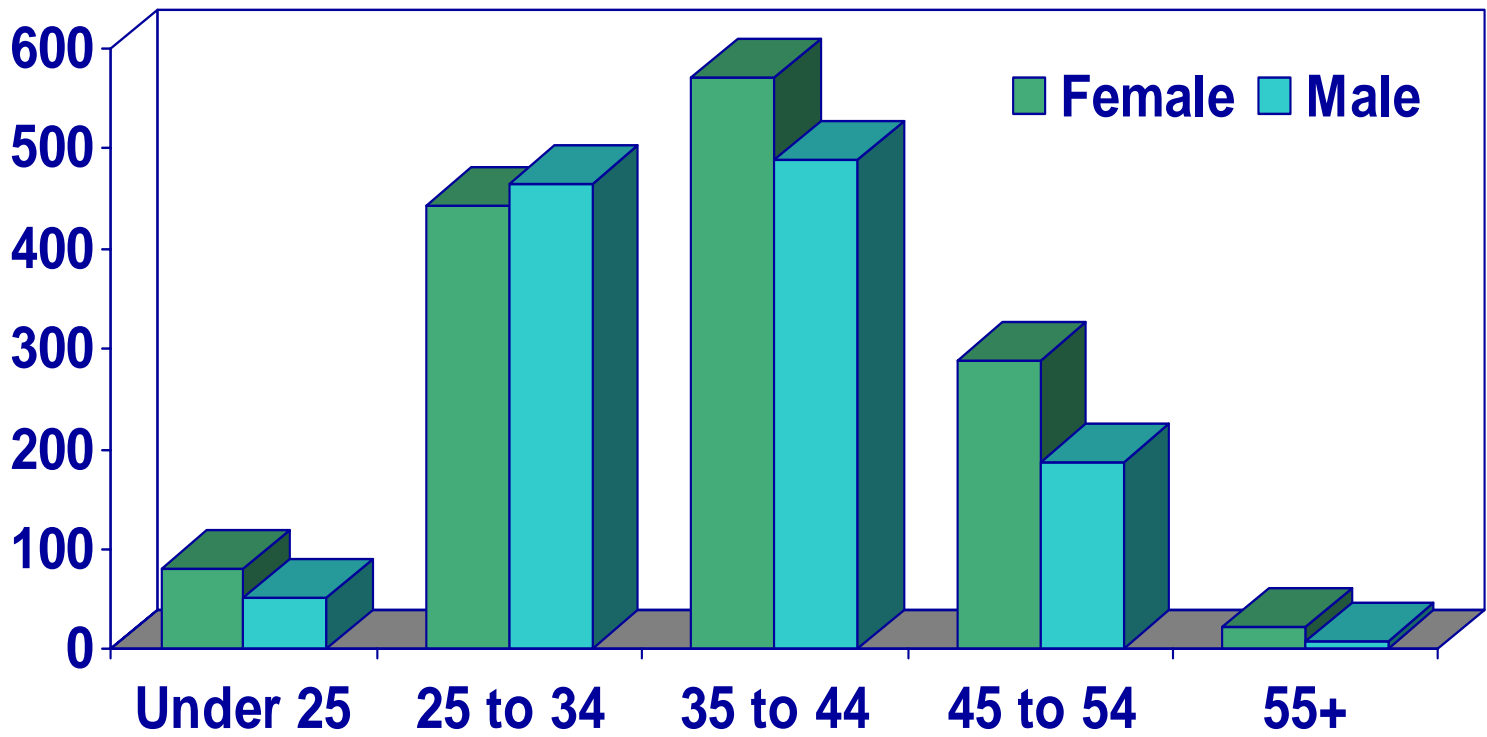
# Undergraduate Curriculum

	1995-96	2002-03
<b>Courses</b>	348	454
<b>Online courses (requires specific system)</b>	22	116
<b>Courses with partial online features (optional)</b>	7	58
<a href="http://intra.athabascau.ca/discussion/accelerator/">http://intra.athabascau.ca/discussion/accelerator/</a>		

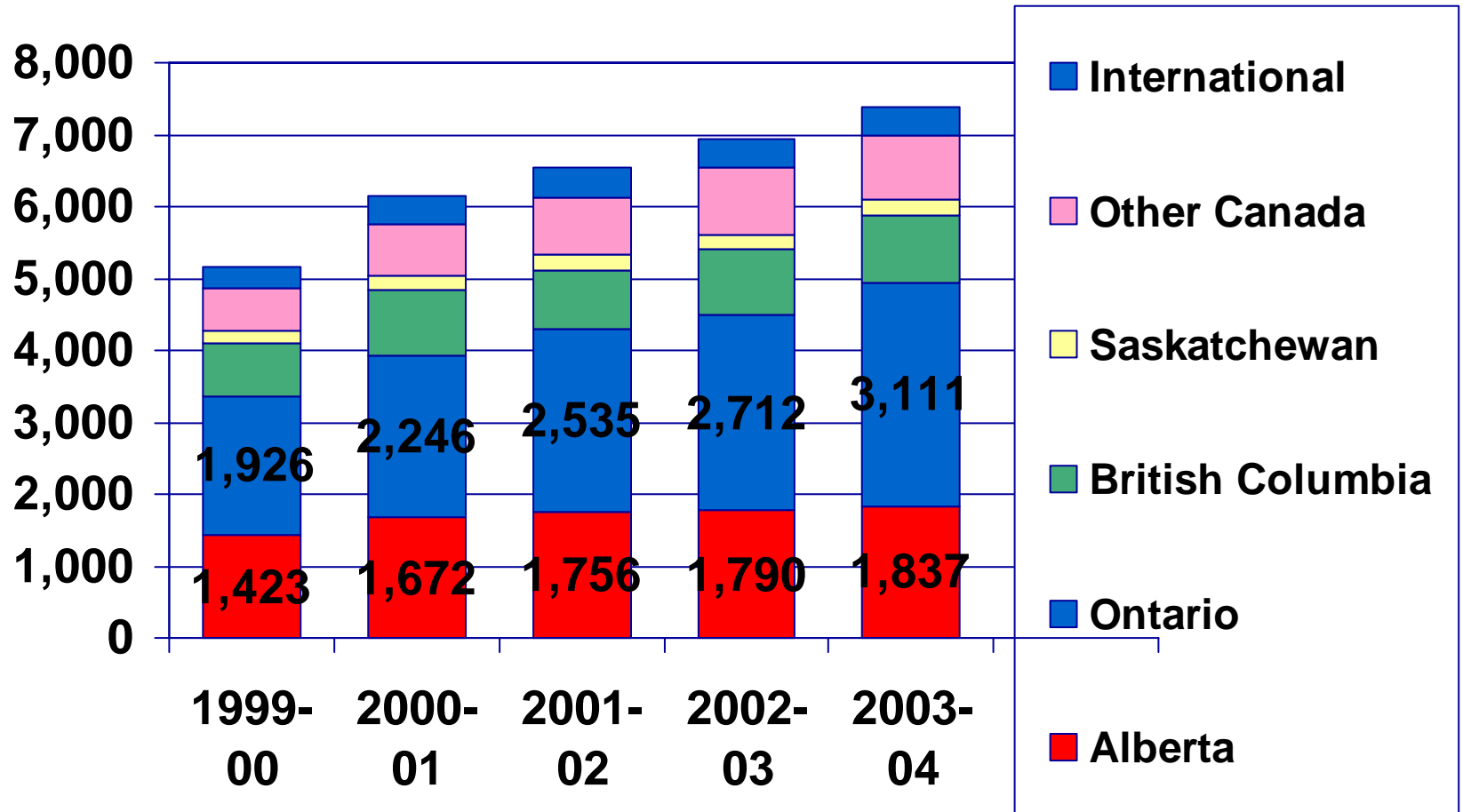
# Graduate Students by Program



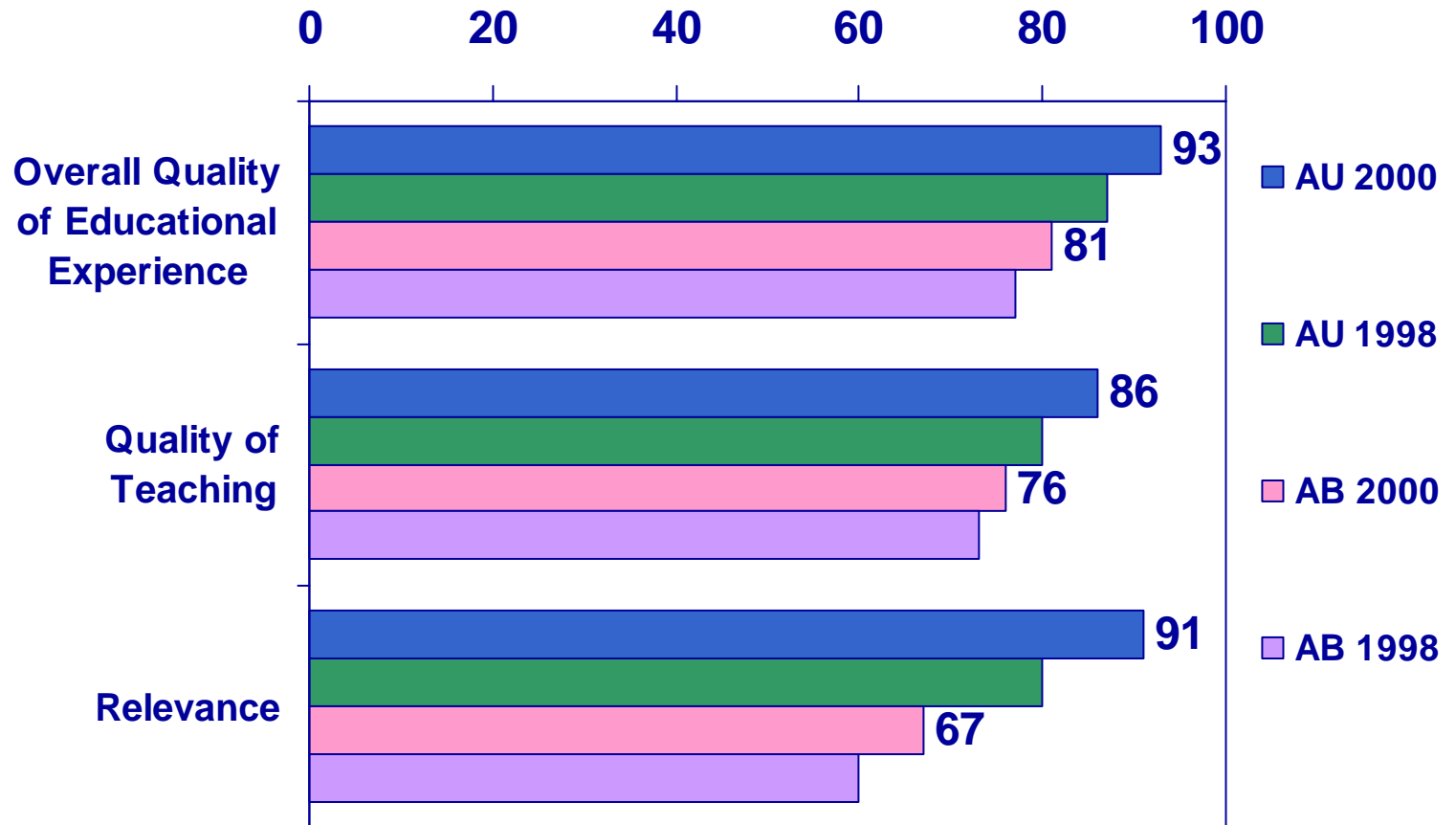
# 2003-04 Graduate Age and Gender Balance



# Graduate Program Registrations by Location



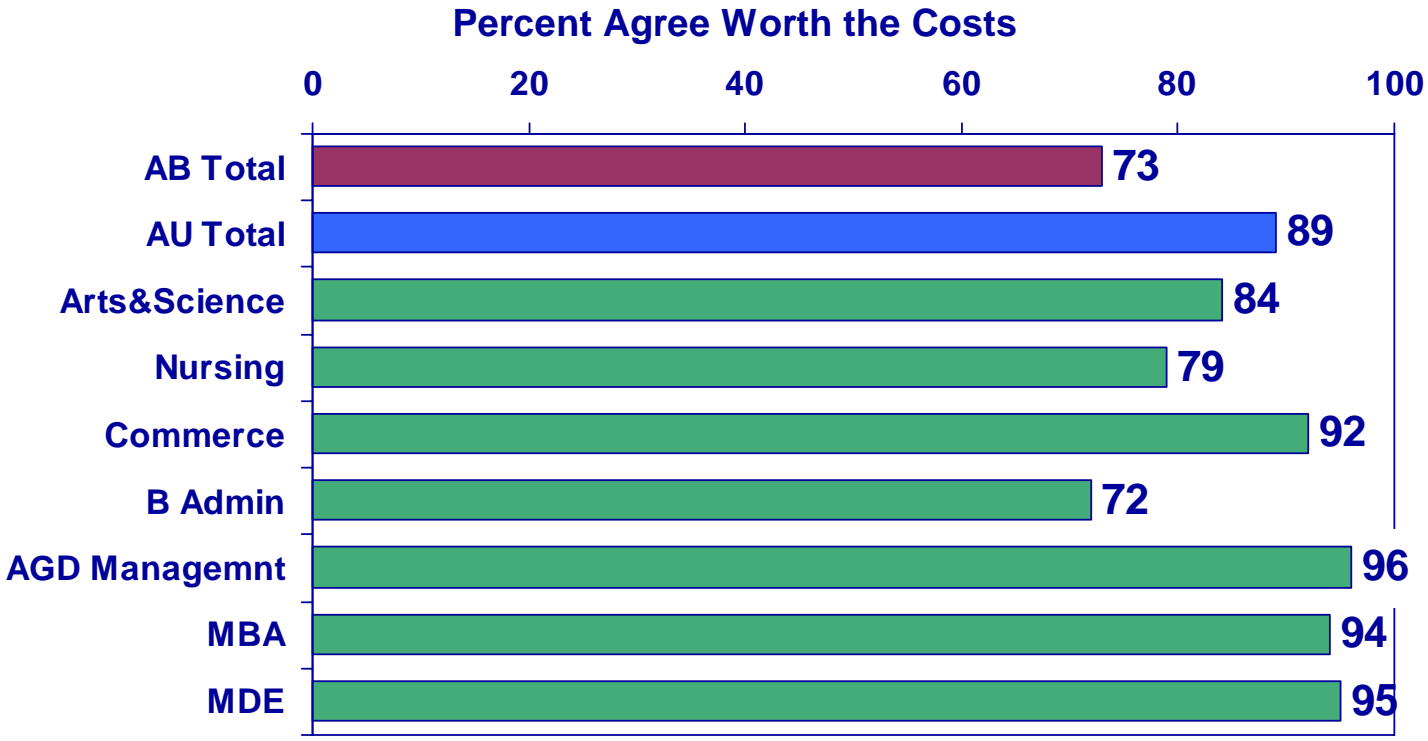
# KPI – Graduate Satisfaction



# Satisfaction with Skills Acquired

<b>Top Five</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Bottom Five</b>	<b>%</b>
<i><b>Independent learning</b></i>	<b>93%</b>	<i>Mathematical skills</i>	37%
<i><b>Independent work</b></i>	<b>89%</b>	<i>Speak effectively</i>	40%
<i><b>Write effectively</b></i>	<b>84%</b>	<i>Conflict-resolution skills</i>	51%
<i><b>Research skills</b></i>	<b>83%</b>	<i>Appreciation of other cultures</i>	53%
<i><b>Problem-solving</b></i>	<b>81%</b>	<i>Interpersonal skills</i>	56%
<i><b>Creative-thinking</b></i>	<b>81%</b>		

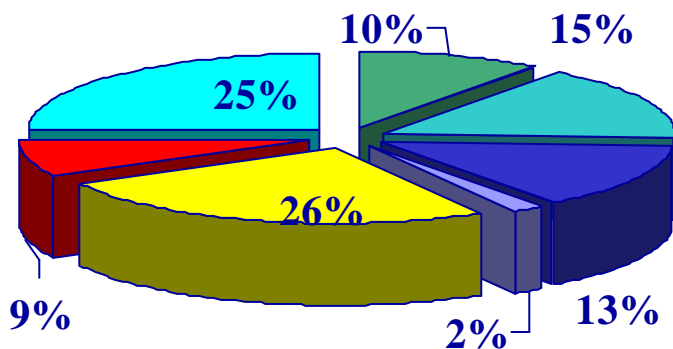
# Cost Benefits



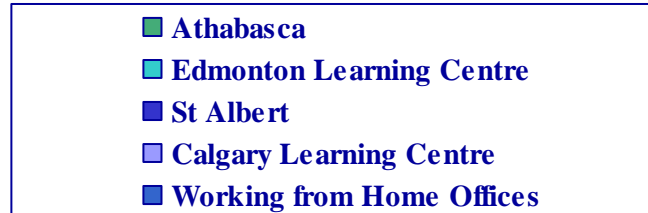
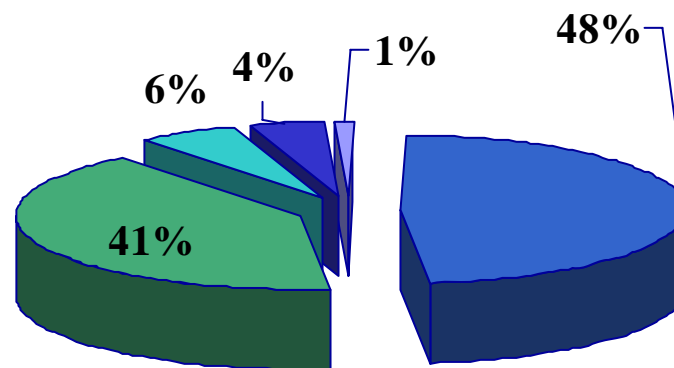
# Staff Complement

- As of March 2004 there were 1,028 employees.

By type



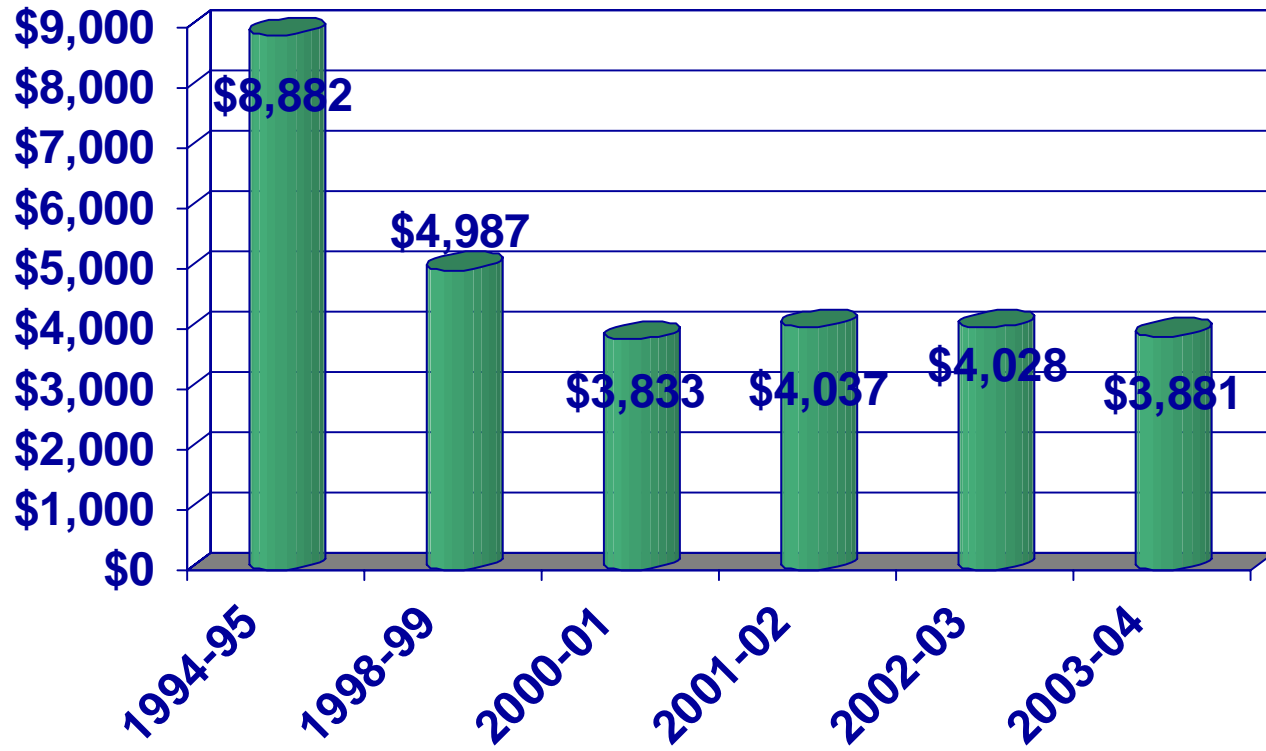
By location



# Research Profile

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Books Authored or Co-Authored	35	42	50
Refereed Publications	82	88	141
Conference Presentations	184	194	256

## Fiscal Policy: Government Grant per FLE



# Revenue by Sources

