


Mobility of International Students in Ontario Colleges

Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer

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Overview

1. Introduction
2. Growth of International Student Enrollment in Ontario
3. Analysis of First Year College Students
4. Analysis of College Graduates
5. Conclusions and Policy Implications

Why Study the Transfer Behaviour of International Students?



- International students have increasingly become an important part of post-secondary education in Canadian colleges and universities.
- The international student growth exceeds that of funded students in Ontario colleges.
- Little is known about the transfer behaviour of this growing group.
- This study is able to compare the transfer experiences of international students to that of their domestic peers.

Policy Backdrop

- Recent policy changes may have changed student transfer behaviour:
 - Creation of off-campus work permits in 2004 (from 2014 on they are no longer required)
 - Streamlining of applications for visas... longer durations approved, allowing for PSE transfer (2005)
 - Post Graduation Work Permit Program allows grads to work for 1 year (2005)
 - Workers to more easily become permanent residents through the “Canadian Experience Class” (2008)
 - Changes in promotion of Canadian PSE abroad...

See: Williams et al, 2015 for a more detailed summary on changes to international student visas.

Williams, K., Williams, G., Arbuckle, A., Walton-Roberts, M., & Hennebry, J. (2015). International Students in Ontario's Postsecondary Education System, 2000-2012: An evaluation of changing policies, populations and labour market entry processes. Toronto: Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario.

Enrollment Trends in Ontario

Domestic vs. International

International Student Growth in Ontario Colleges



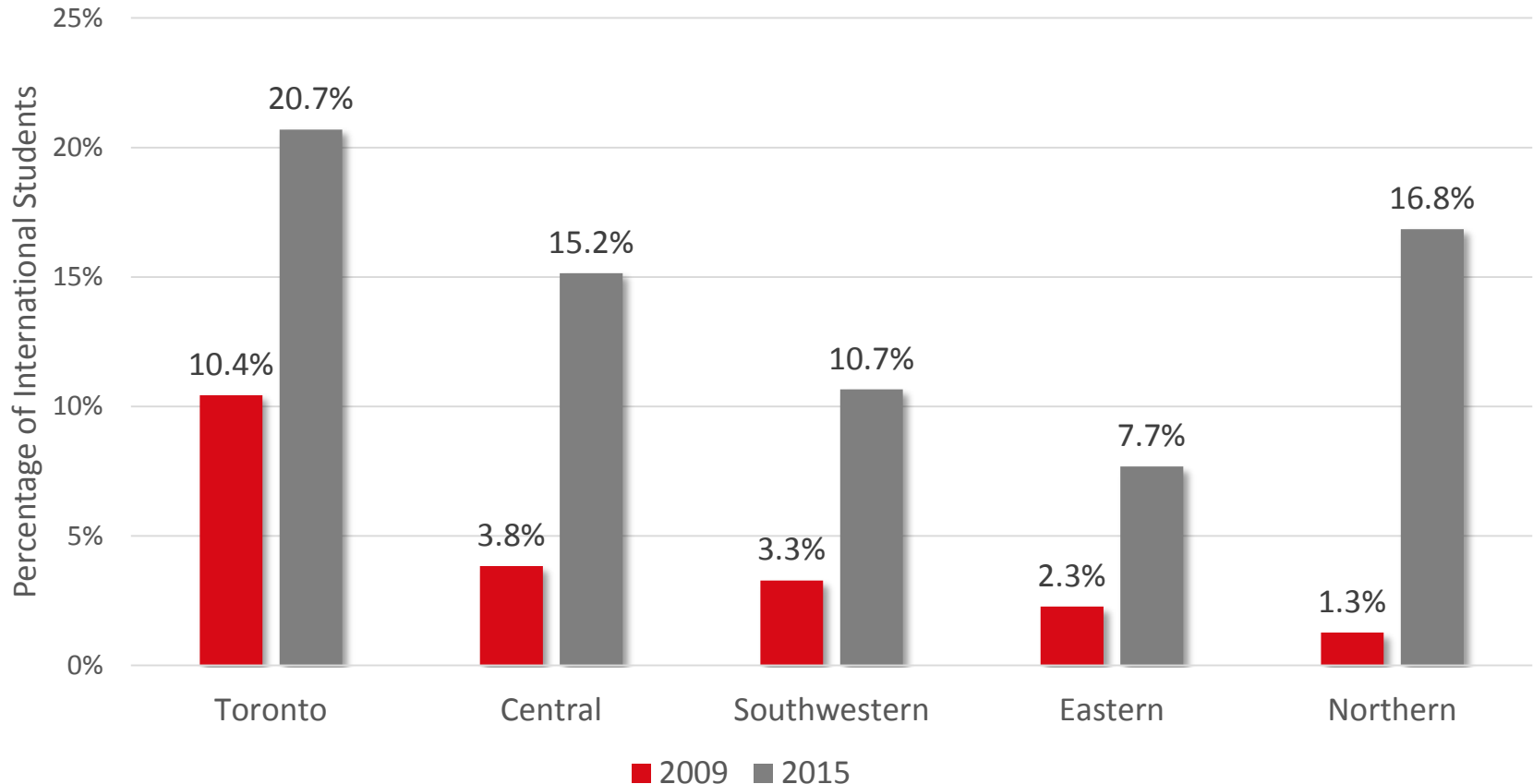
Full Time Enrollment in Ontario Colleges						
	Domestic			International		
REGION	2009	2015	GROWTH	2009	2015	GROWTH
Toronto	54,098	62,485	15.5%	6,303	16,303	158.7%
Central	43,134	49,021	13.6%	1,720	8,753	408.9%
Southwestern	28,497	31,377	10.1%	968	3,746	287.0%
Eastern	29,946	32,805	9.5%	696	2,730	292.2%
Northern	13,472	12,749	-5.4%	174	2,583	1384.5%

Source: RPT0061-Enrolment Report, OCAS data warehouse; retrieved April 11, 2016

International Students Becoming Larger Share of College Population in all Regions



Total student population: 2009 and 2015



Source: RPT0061-Enrolment Report, OCAS data warehouse; retrieved April 11, 2016

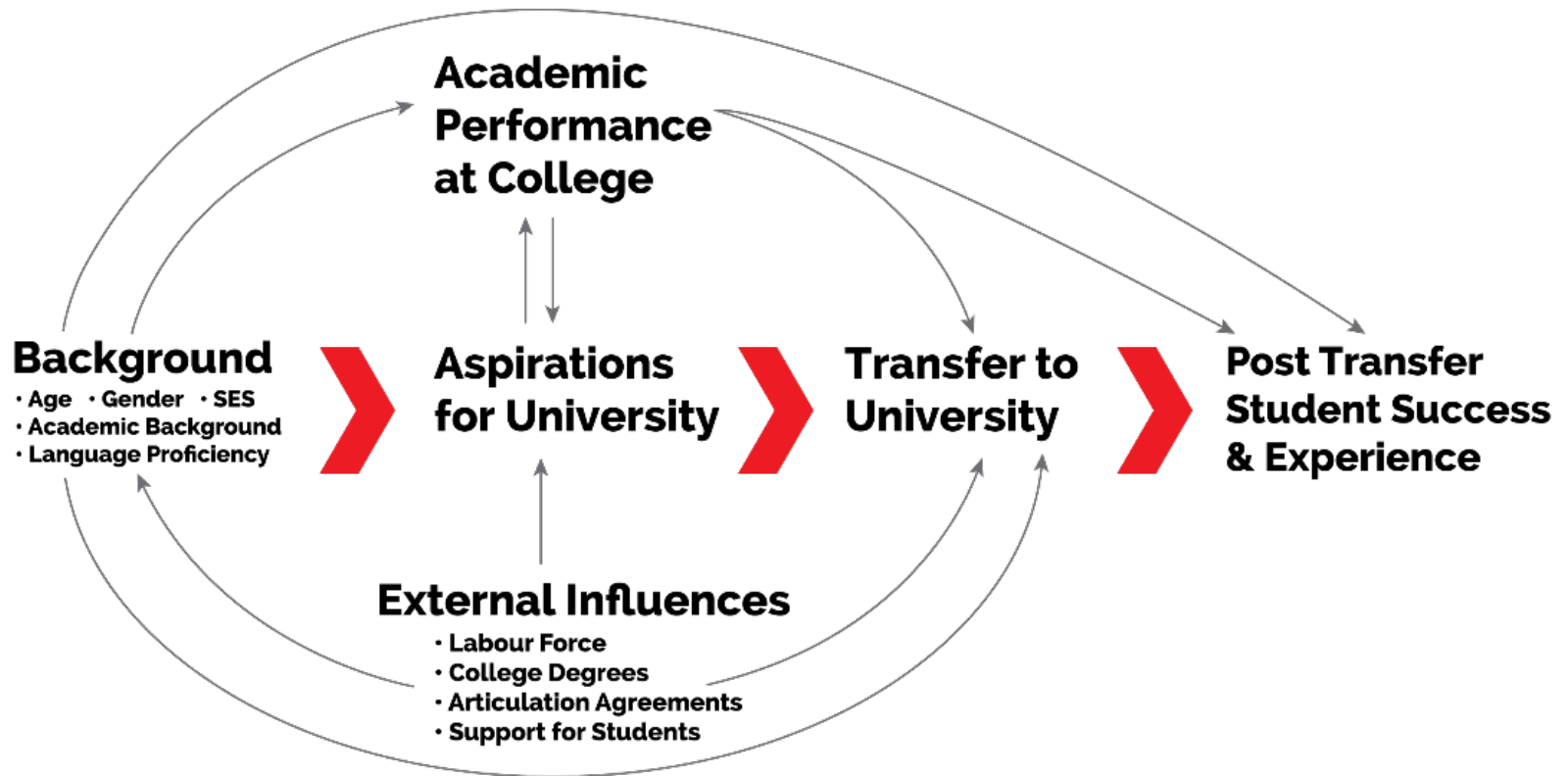
Research Design

Research Questions

1. How do international and domestic students differ in Ontario colleges?
 - **For those with a university credential**, how do outcomes differ?
2. How does **college-to-university** transfer differ for international and domestic students in Ontario?

- ❖ Project funded by the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT).
- ❖ This work is part of a larger province-wide study on transfer.

Influences on Student Transfer and Transfer Outcomes: A Framework



Data Sources

- The Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS) is an in-class survey administered to students in all programs enrolled in Ontario.
 - The survey addresses questions related to teaching, program, college services, and engagement.
 - Self-reported socio-demographic information, and student visa status (since 2011 only).
 - 65% of Ontario college students captured.
- The Ontario Graduate Satisfaction Survey (GSS) is a phone survey administered to all college graduates of a ministry approved program.
 - Contains administrative data on all graduates in Ontario (including Visa status).
 - Survey portion has response rate of 67%.
 - Graduates are asked questions about labour market outcomes, transfer, and questions pertaining to their experience.
 - Survey is administered 6 months after graduation.

Samples of Study

Ontario Student Satisfaction Survey (2011-2014)

	Total	Domestic	International
Total Non-unique Observations in SSS (2011-2014)	539,656	-	-
First Year Survey Respondents Only	275,327	-	-
Observations with Valid International/ Domestic Status	269,389	242,299	27,090

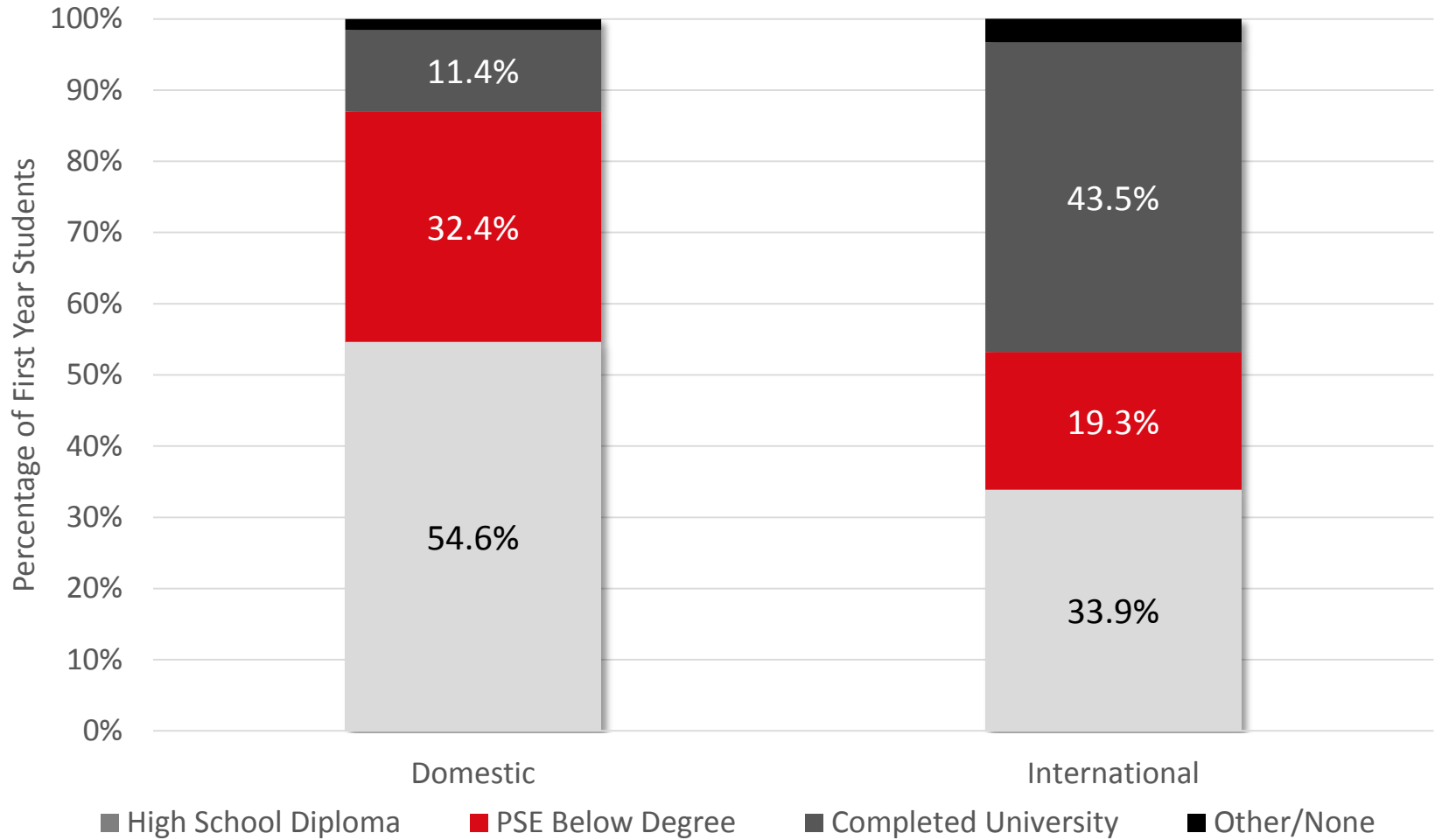
Ontario Graduate Satisfaction Survey (2007-2014)

	Total	Domestic	International
Total Number of Graduates (2007-2014)	598,906	543,164	55,742
Survey Respondents (67%)	399,592	372,039	27,553
Students who Transferred to University	28,156	27,168	988

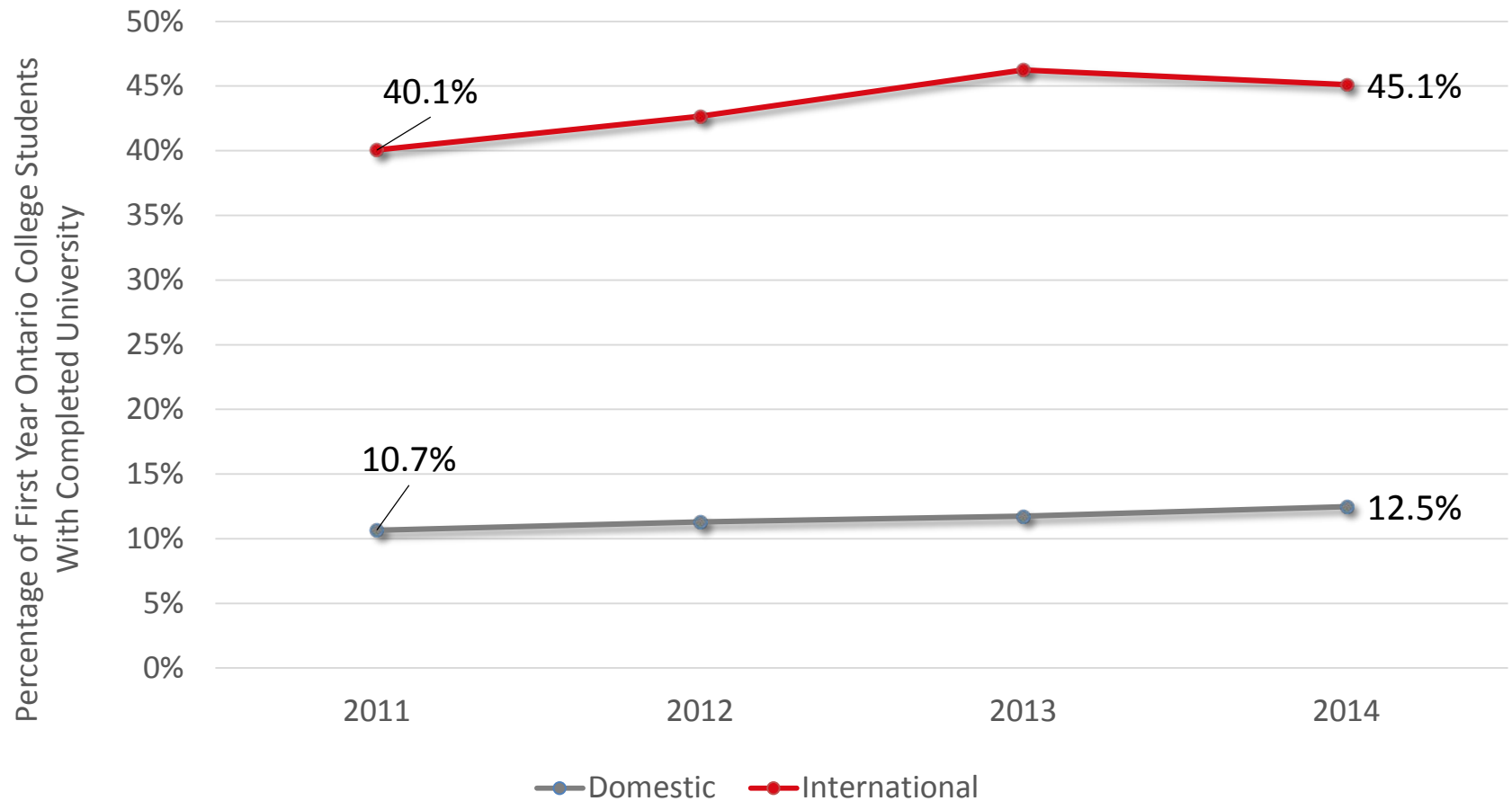
How do Domestic and International Students Differ?

Results from the Student Satisfaction Survey (2011 – 2014)

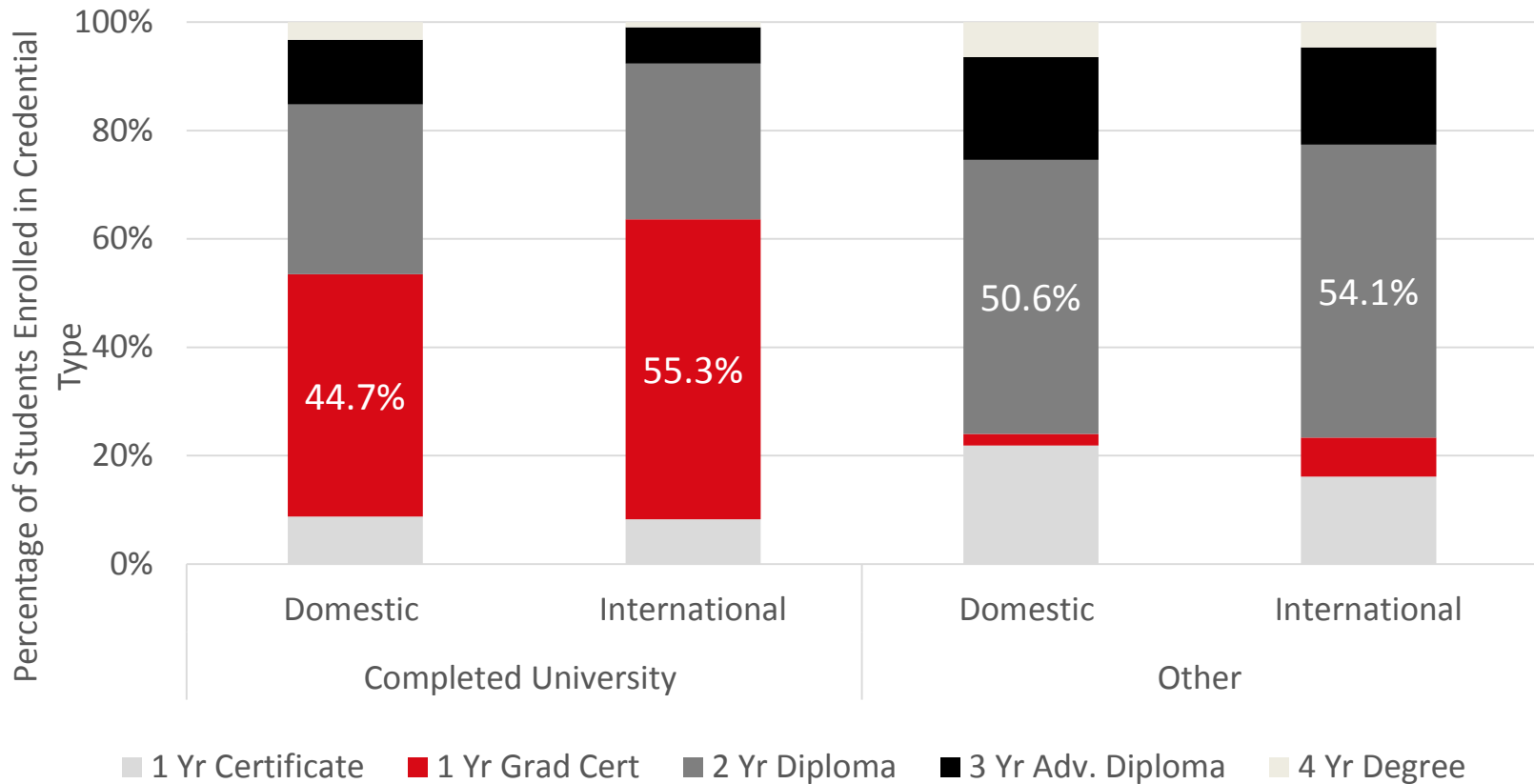
Education Completed Before Entering This Program...



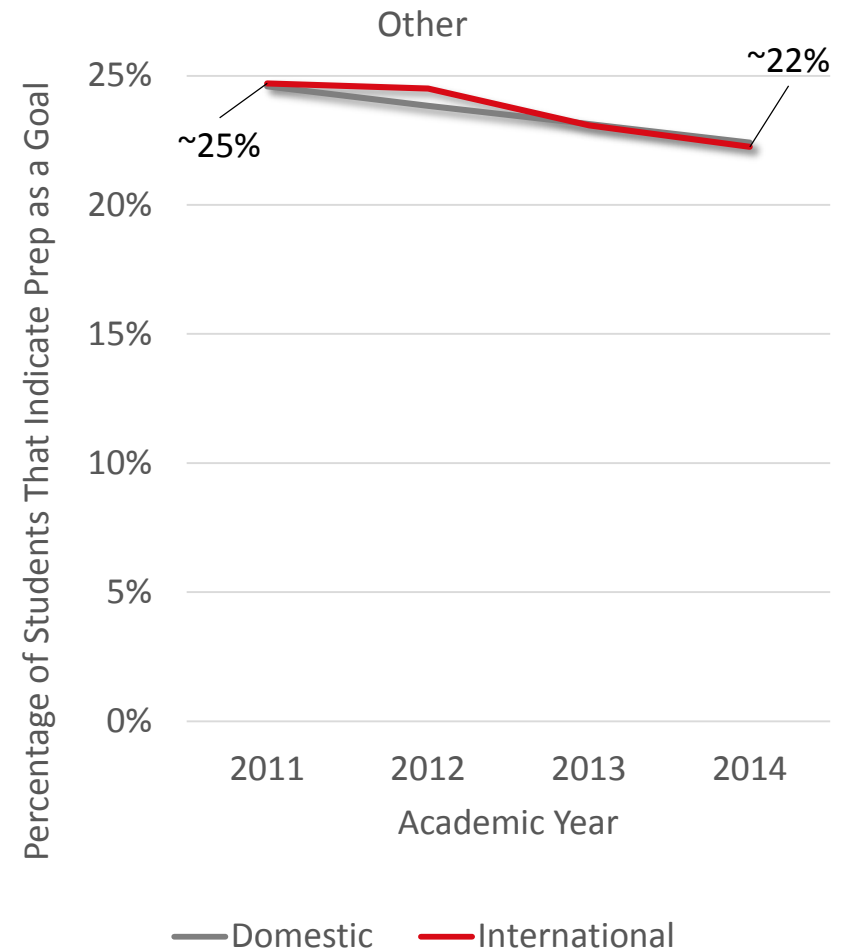
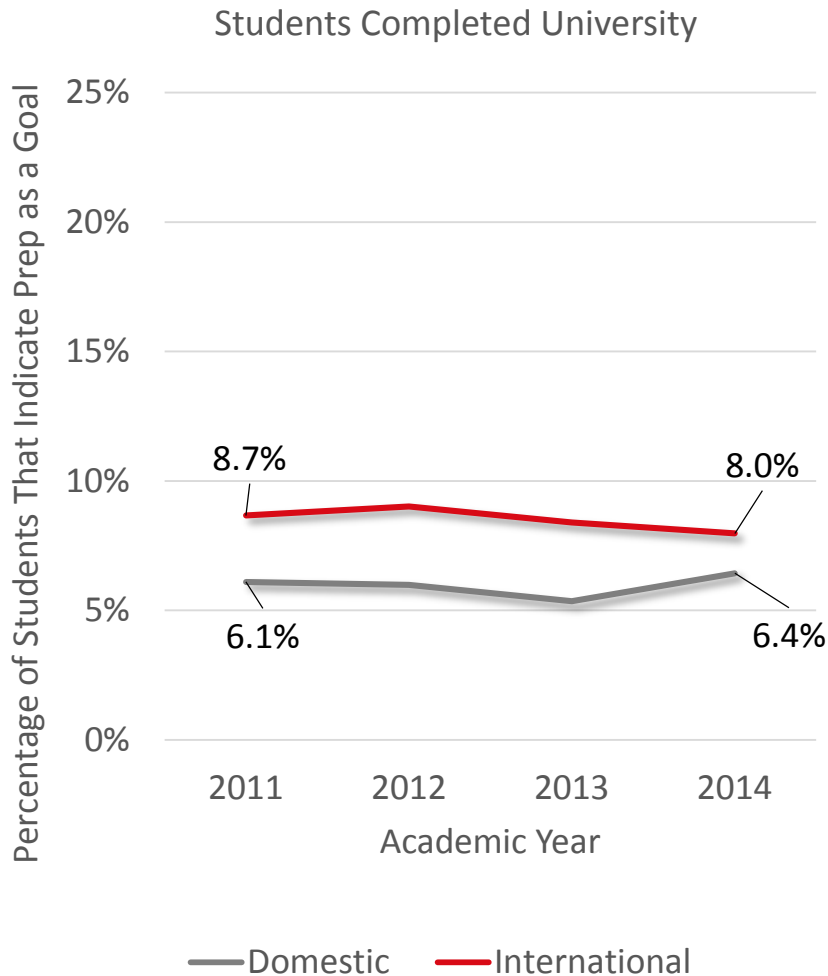
More Students Coming Into College With Completed University



Comparing Credential Choices of International and Domestic Students



Main Goal in Enrollment – Prepare for Further Studies



Top Programs

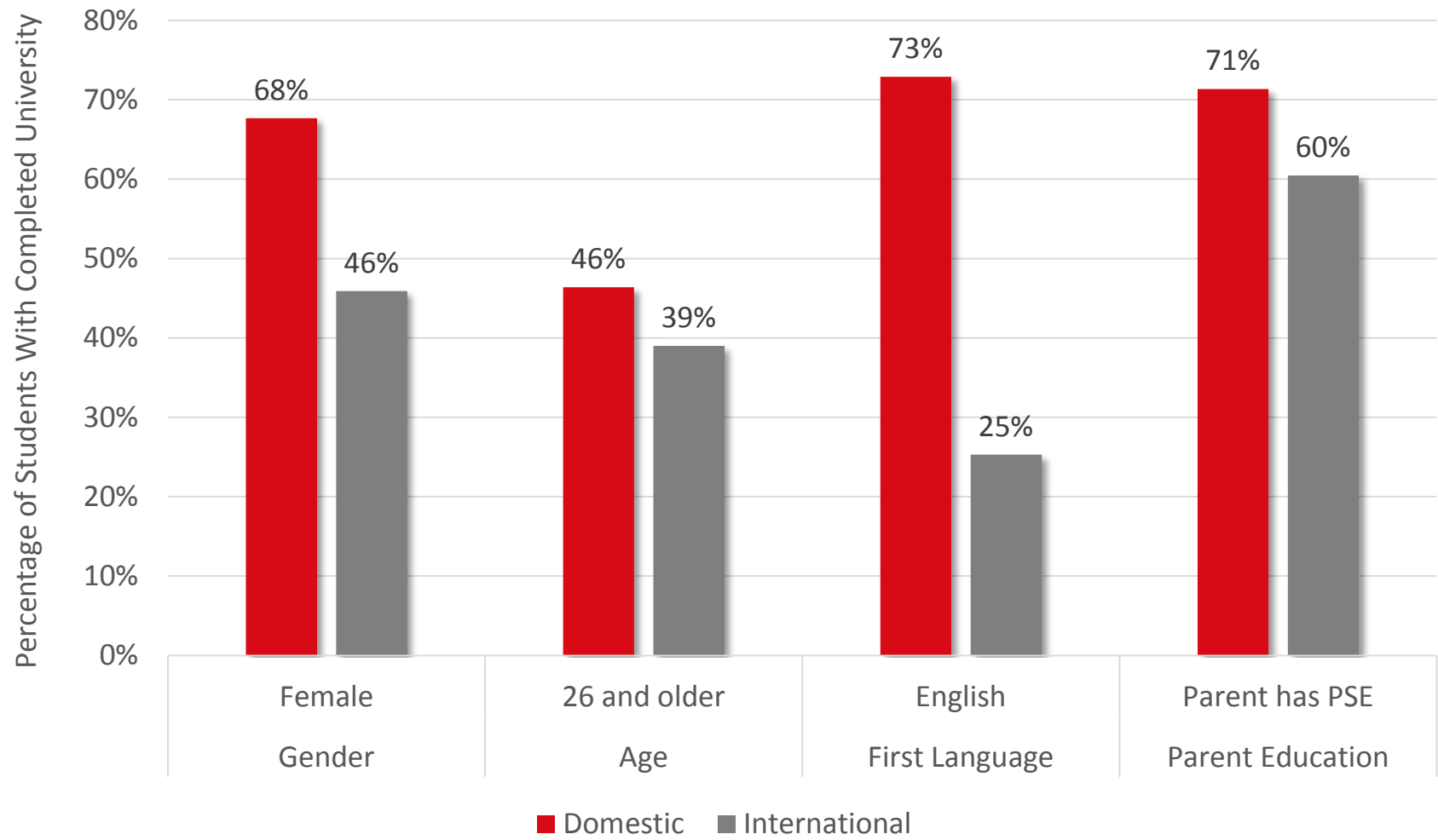
	Completed University	Other
Domestic	1 Human Resources Management*	1 General Arts And Science - One-year
	2 Public Relations*	2 Police Foundations
	3 Practical Nursing	3 Preparatory Health Sciences
	4 Early Childhood Education	4 Early Childhood Education
	5 Collaborative Nursing	5 Practical Nursing
International	1 International Business Management*	1 Hospitality Management
	2 Project Management*	2 Business
	3 Human Resources Management*	3 General Arts And Science - One-year
	4 Global Business Management*	4 Business - Accounting
	5 Personal Financial Services*	5 Early Childhood Education

* Graduate Certificate Program

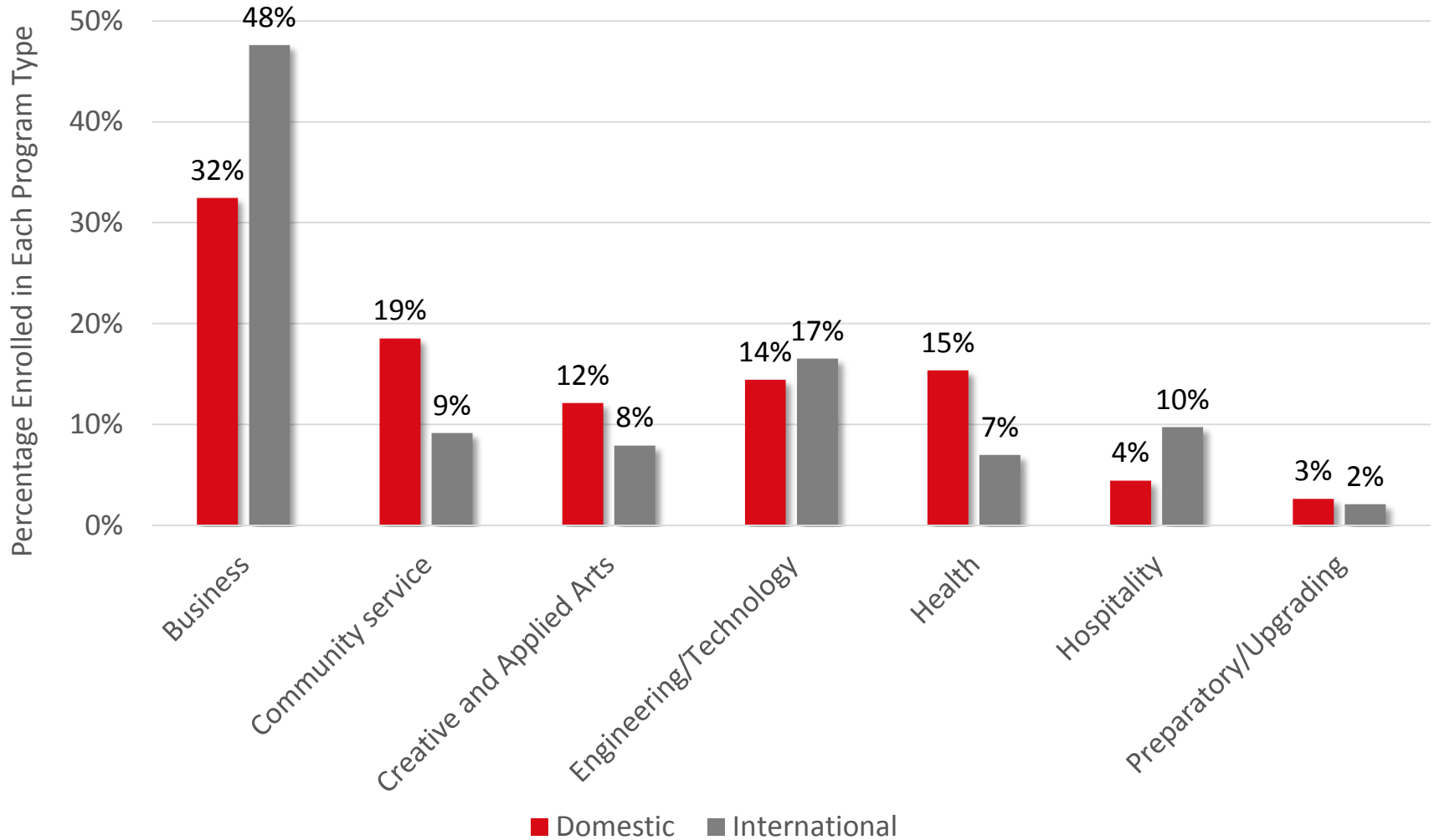
Students With Completed University

Domestic vs. International

Demographic Characteristics of Students With Completed University



University Graduates Choosing Business Programs



International vs. Domestic Students With Completed University



Percentage of Students Reporting Criteria as Being “Important”		
	Domestic	International
Concern of people at this college for your success...	96%	95%
Overall college experience	98%	98%
Helpfulness of teachers outside of class	96%	95%
Quality of Learning Experiences in this program	100%	99%
Overall quality of facilities and resources in college	98%	99%
Program develops your speaking skills	88%	94%
Program develops your ability to work with others	95%	97%
Program develops your writing skills	80%	86%

Satisfaction of Students With Completed University

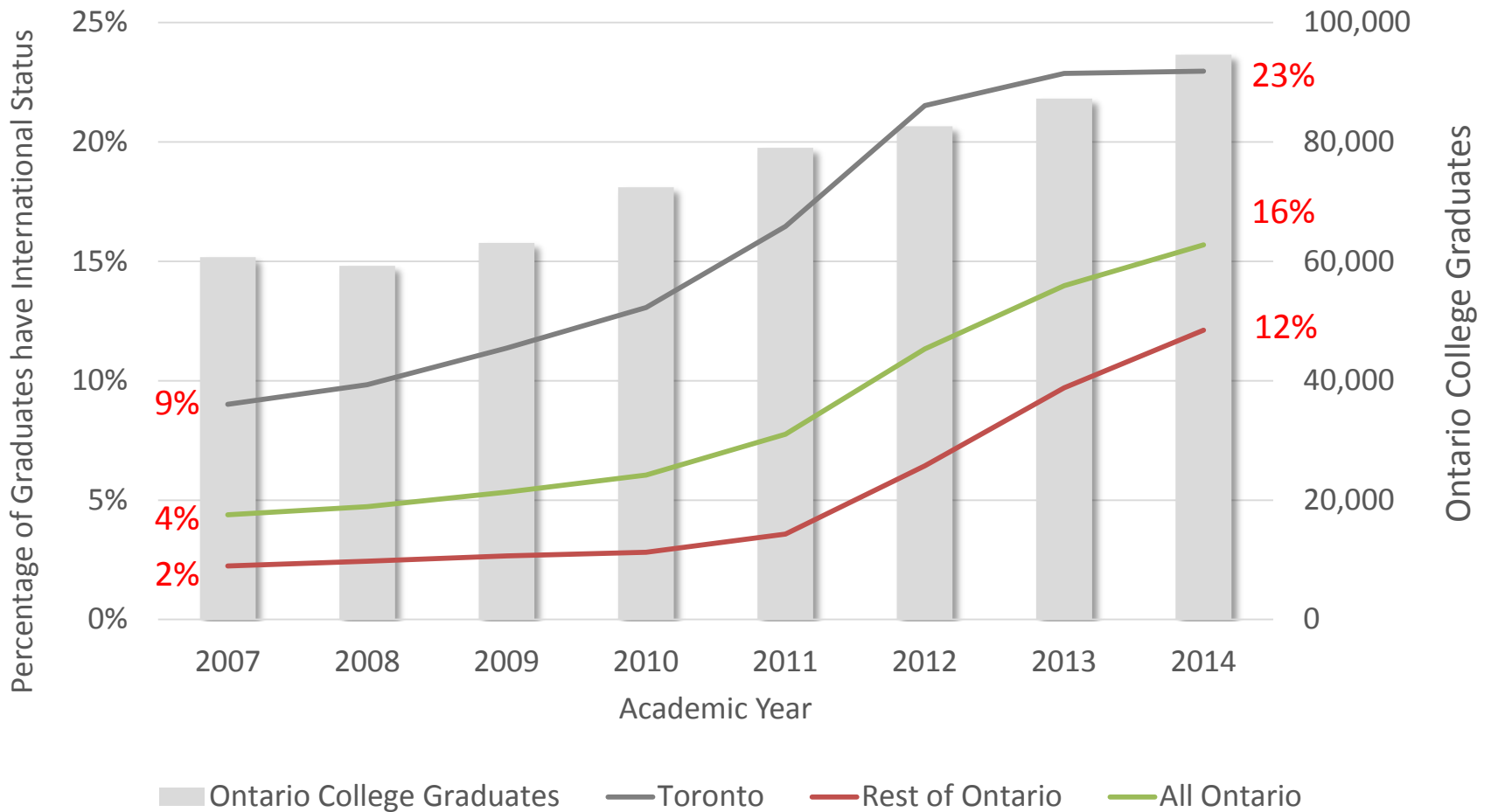


Percentage of Students Reporting Satisfied/Very Satisfied With...		
	Domestic	International
Program develops ability to work with others	83%	84%
Program helps you understand further education opportunities	53%	61%
Program helps develop speaking skills	66%	71%
Program helps develop writing skills	54%	64%
Concern of people at this college for your success	68%	61%
Employment/Placement/Career Services	41%	45%
Overall college experience	72%	75%
Overall quality of facilities and resources in college	70%	82%
Importance of helpfulness of teachers outside of class	71%	68%
Overall quality of services in the college	63%	72%
Overall quality of learning experiences in this program	80%	79%
This college provides information on social opportunities	50%	55%

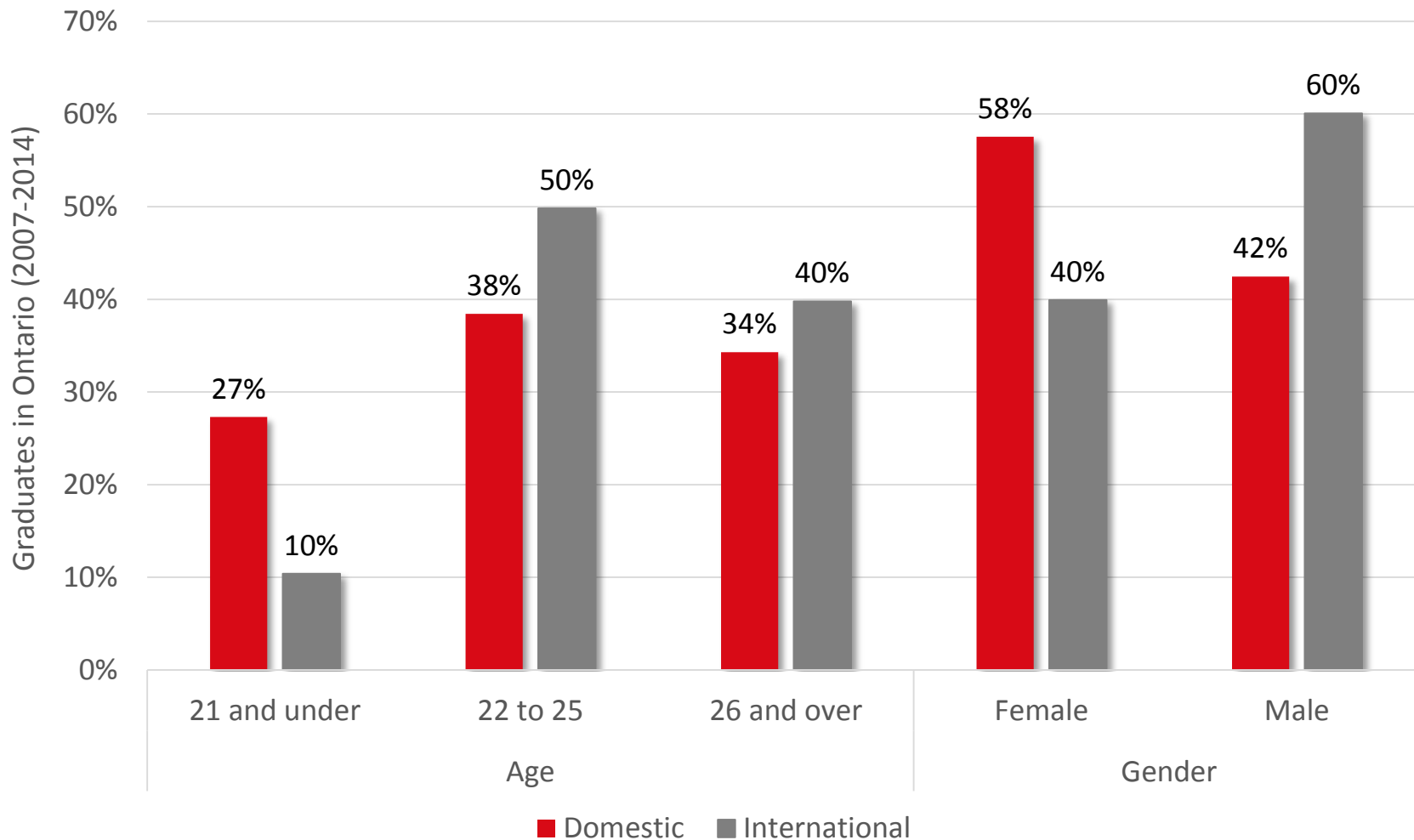
College Graduates in Ontario

International vs. Domestic Trends in Transfer and Employment
6 Months After Graduation (2007-2014)

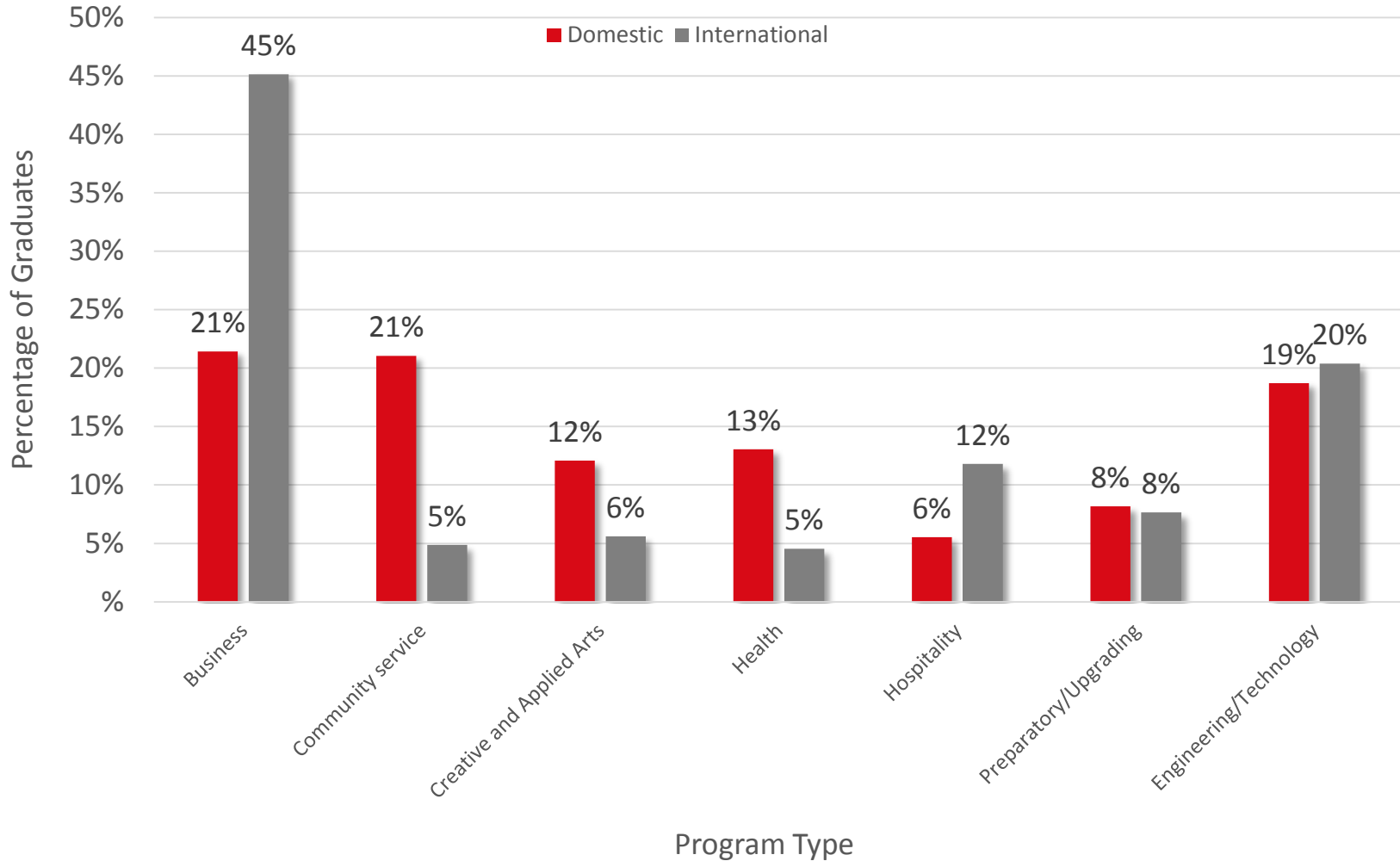
Ontario College Graduates Becoming More International Over Time



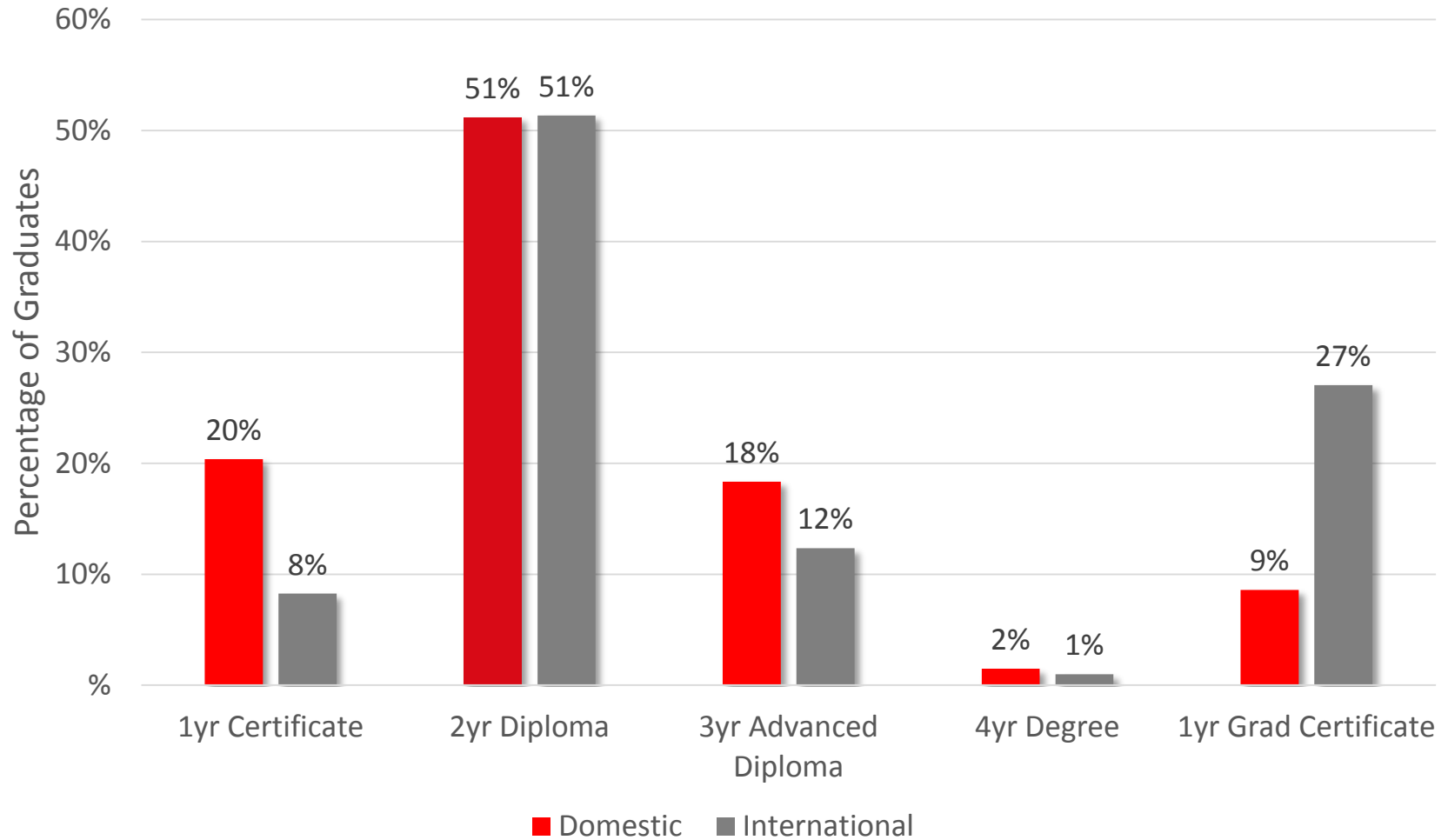
Demographic Characteristics of All Graduates



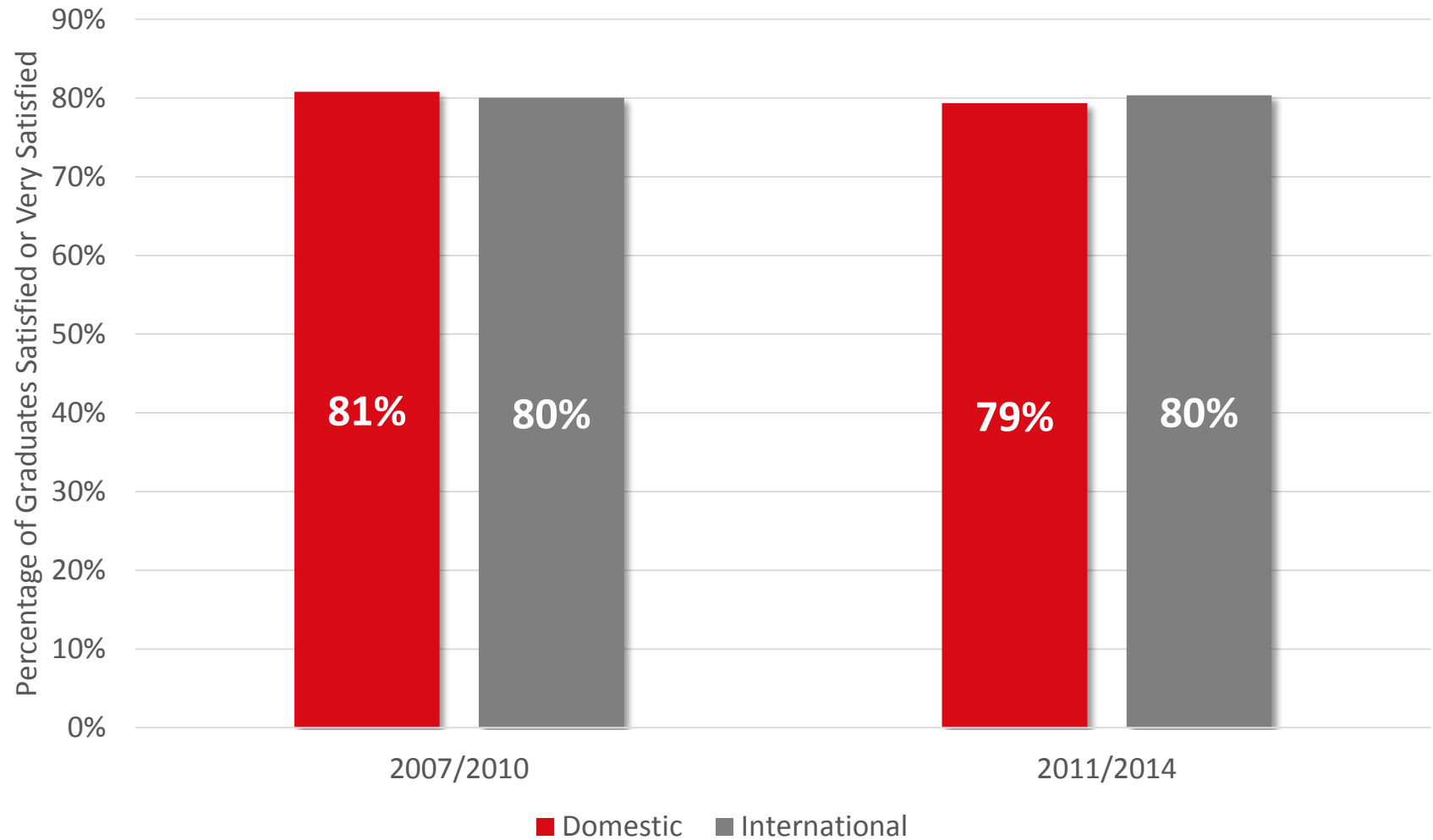
More International Students Graduating From Business and Hospitality Programs



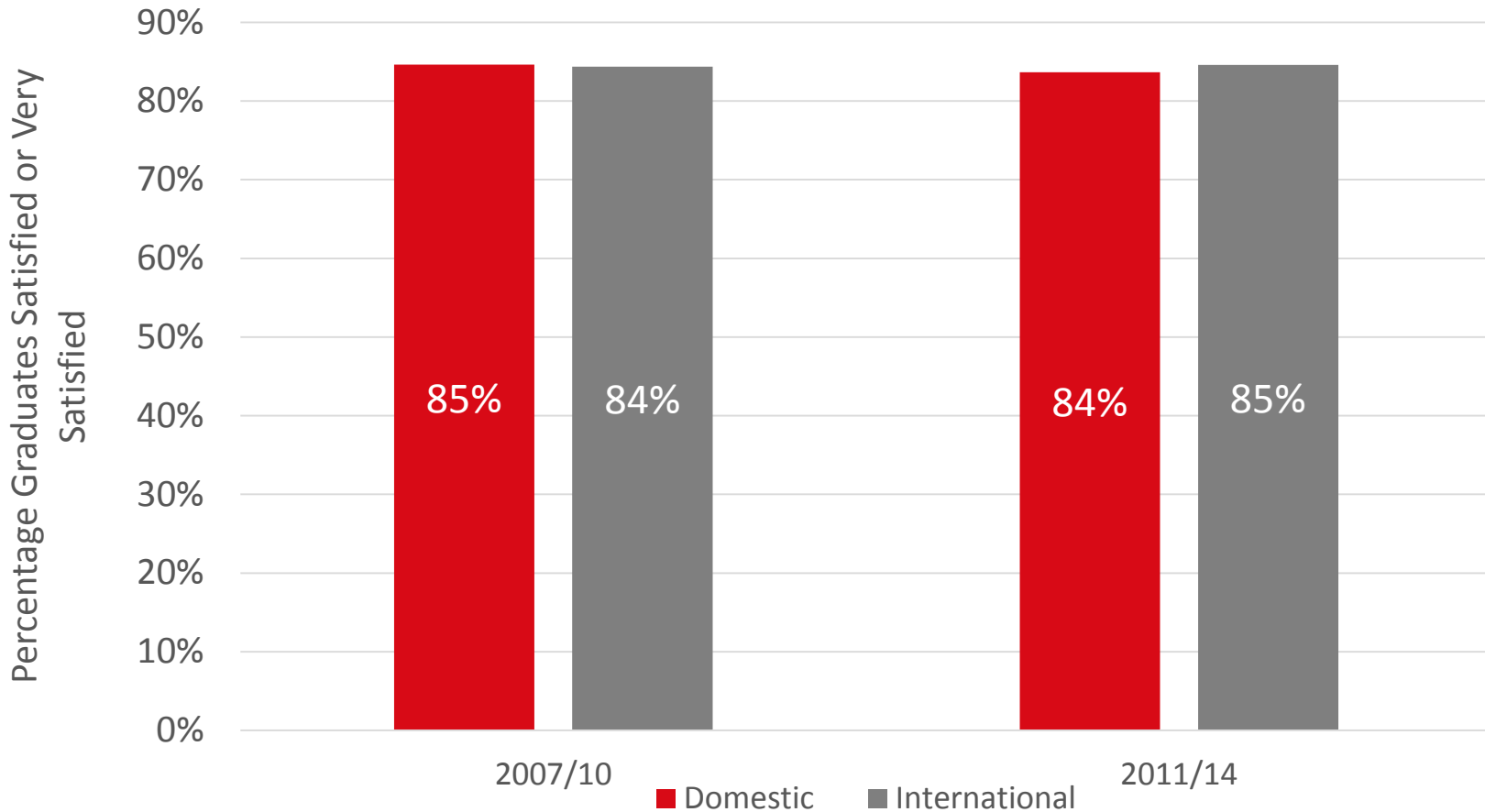
International Graduates More Likely to Come From Graduate Certificate Programs



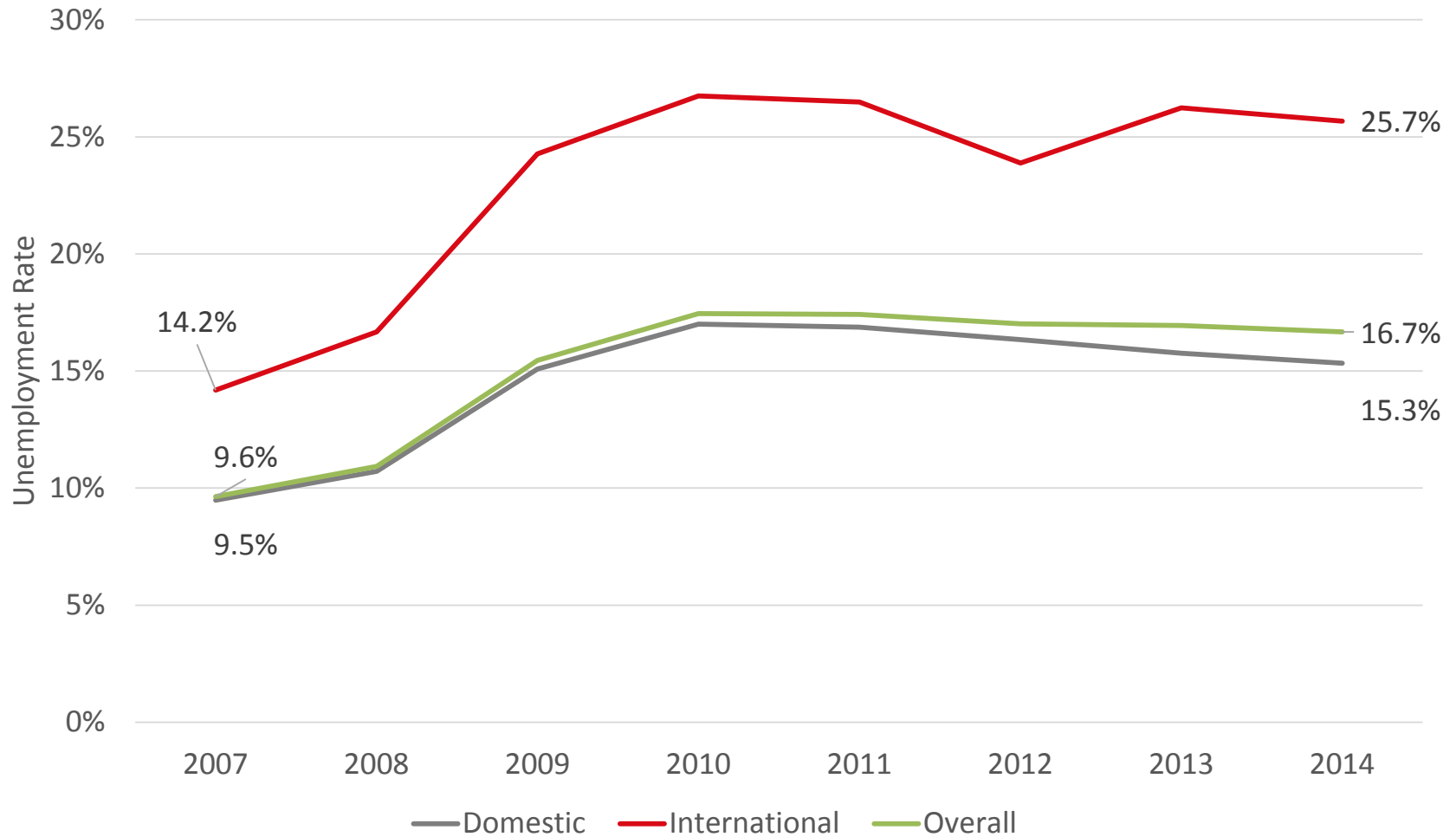
Usefulness of College in Achieving Goals After Graduation



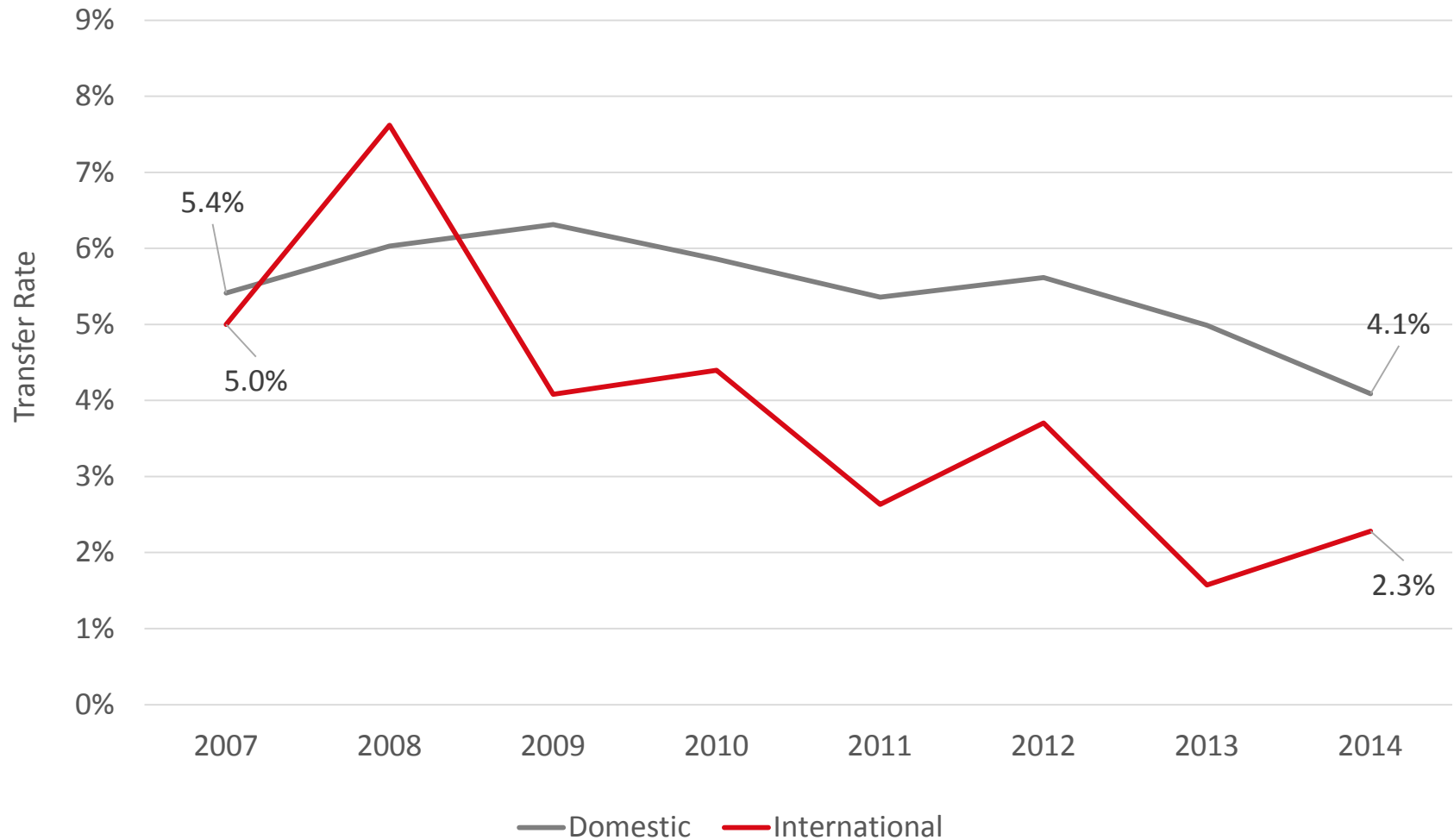
Of Those who are Working... Satisfaction With Preparation for Work



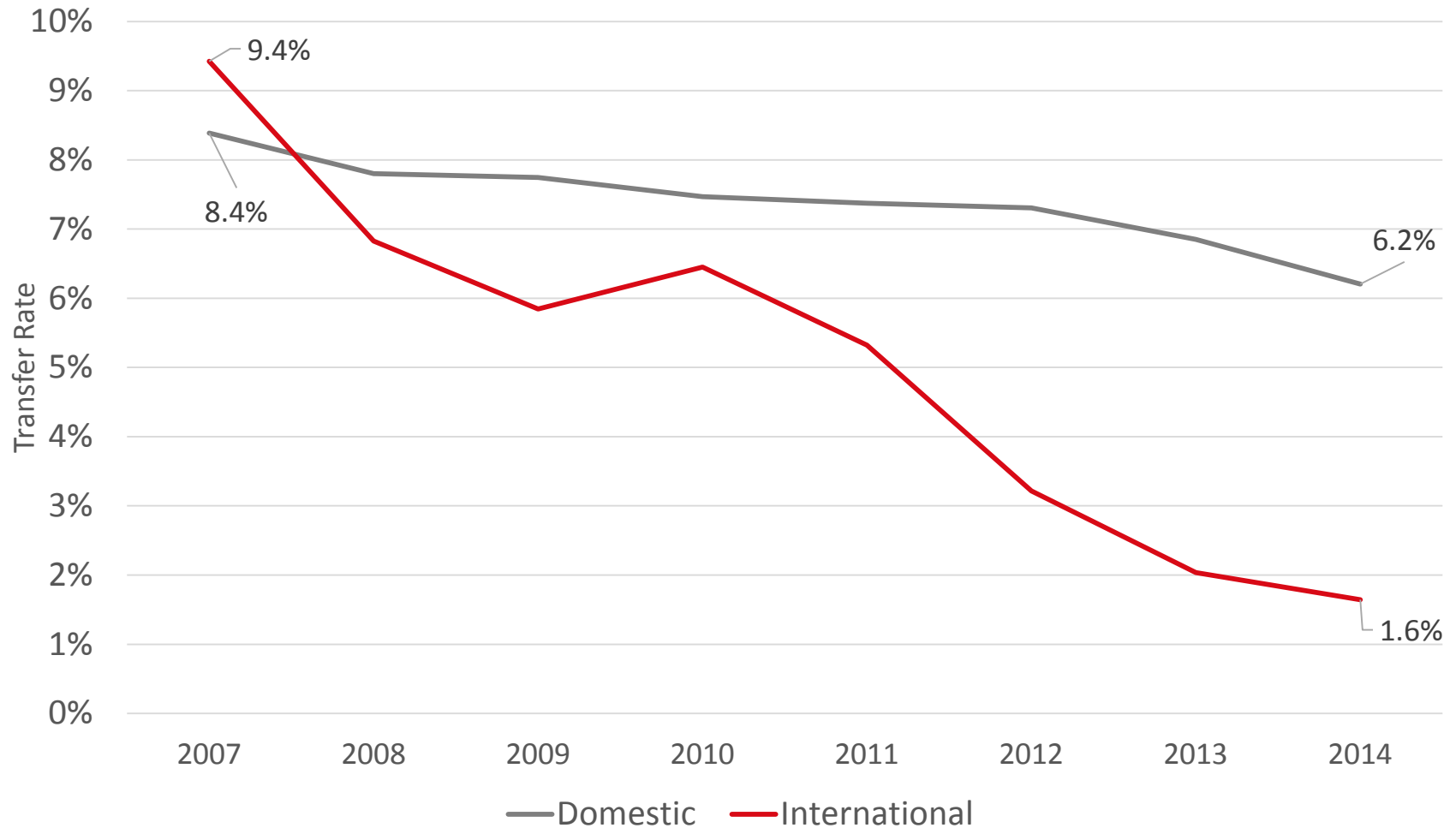
Unemployment Rates Have Increased for Graduates in Ontario



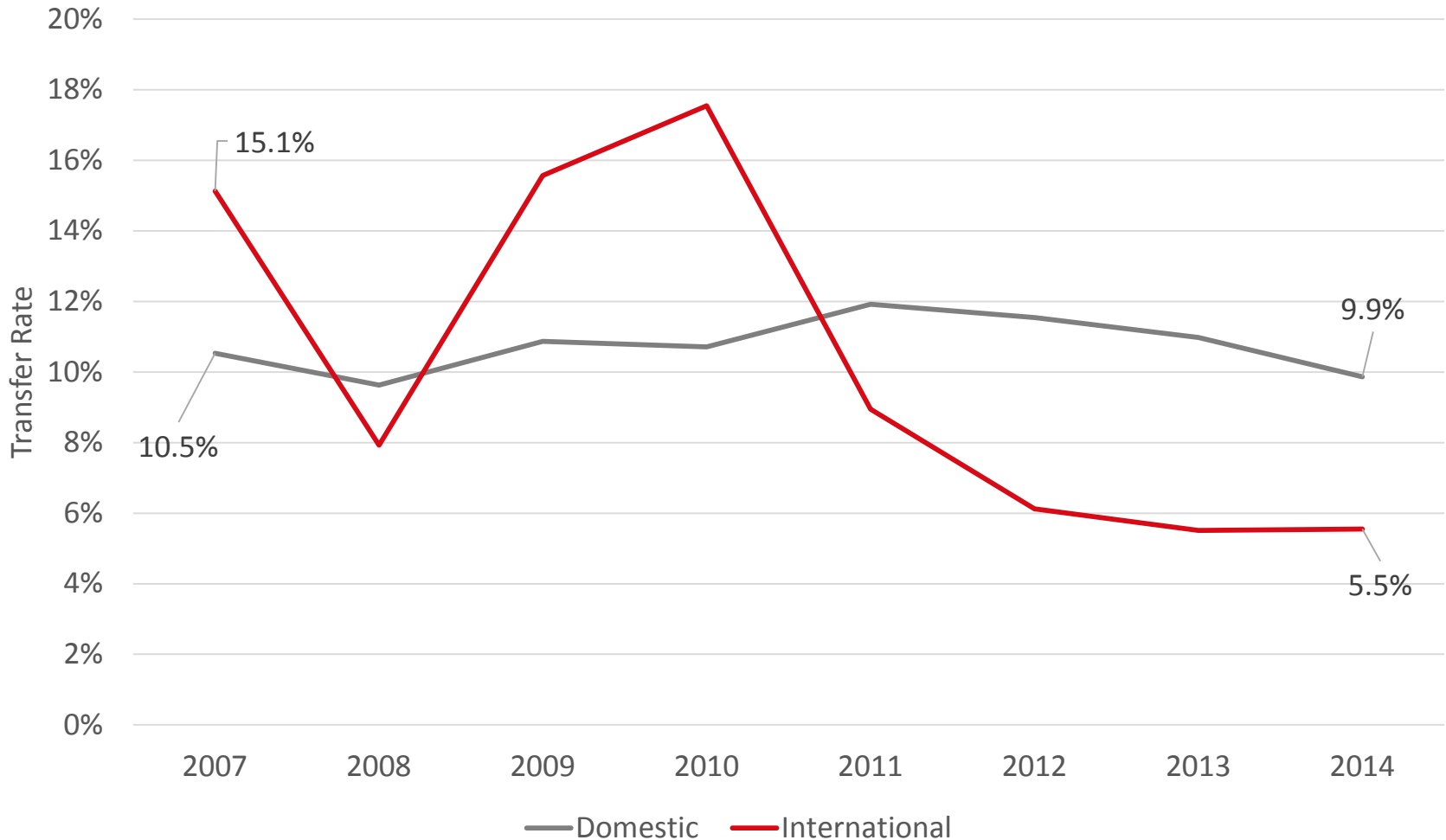
Transfer Rate to University is Declining From One Year Certificate Programs



...and From Two Year Diploma Programs



...and From Three Year Advanced Diploma Programs



Transfer Rate to University by Program Type



Program Type	Domestic		International	
	2007/10	2011/14	2007/10	2011/14
Business	8.3%	8.0%	9.3%	3.7%
Community service	12.6%	11.6%	4.9%	1.8%
Creative and Applied Arts	4.6%	4.1%	3.4%	1.8%
Health	3.2%	2.6%	2.2%	0.4%
Hospitality	2.7%	2.7%	2.2%	1.2%
Preparatory/Upgrading	16.8%	14.0%	9.0%	4.2%
Engineering/Technology	4.0%	4.0%	3.3%	1.6%

Transfer Student Analysis

Examining Experiences of Domestic and International Students
who Transferred to University

Reasons for Transferring to University

	2007/10			2011/14		
	Domestic	International	% pt diff.	Domestic	International	% pt diff.
Potential for higher income	92%	87%	-4%	91%	82%	-9%
No work/ job available in your field of study	43%	45%	2%	45%	47%	2%
To get diploma/ certificate/ degree	96%	95%	-2%	96%	91%	-5%
Interest in further/ more in-depth training in field	92%	86%	-5%	92%	86%	-6%
Interest in pursuing a different field of study	59%	70%	11%	55%	65%	10%
Needed for professional designation	79%	80%	1%	79%	81%	3%
Gain theoretical knowledge/ broader education	95%	86%	-8%	95%	90%	-4%
Encouragement from others (family members, friends, faculty)	75%	71%	-4%	76%	71%	-5%
More opportunities for career advancement	97%	94%	-4%	97%	92%	-5%
Upgrade/ improve skills	94%	94%	0%	94%	94%	0%
There was a formal transfer agreement between your previous and your current program	66%	71%	6%	66%	62%	-5%
Company required/ paid for it	18%	30%	13%	16%	29%	13%

Information Sources for Transfer

	2007/10			2011/14		
	Domestic	International	% pt diff.	Domestic	International	% pt diff.
College website	69%	78%	9%	67%	75%	8%
College hard copy publications	52%	67%	15%	46%	56%	10%
College faculty/ counselors/ program coordinators	73%	74%	1%	73%	72%	-1%
College administration, i.e. registrar's office, student services	63%	73%	11%	63%	72%	9%
University website/ publications	86%	88%	2%	87%	88%	1%
University staff (including registrar's office, faculty, etc.)	74%	80%	6%	75%	81%	6%
Other students (including current and former college and university students)	74%	81%	6%	75%	74%	0%
ONTransfer.ca web site	54%	62%	8%	46%	48%	2%
Parents and family	70%	71%	1%	69%	65%	-5%
College credit transfer advising services	-	-	-	60%	60%	0%
University credit transfer advising services	-	-	-	62%	63%	1%

International Transfer Pathways

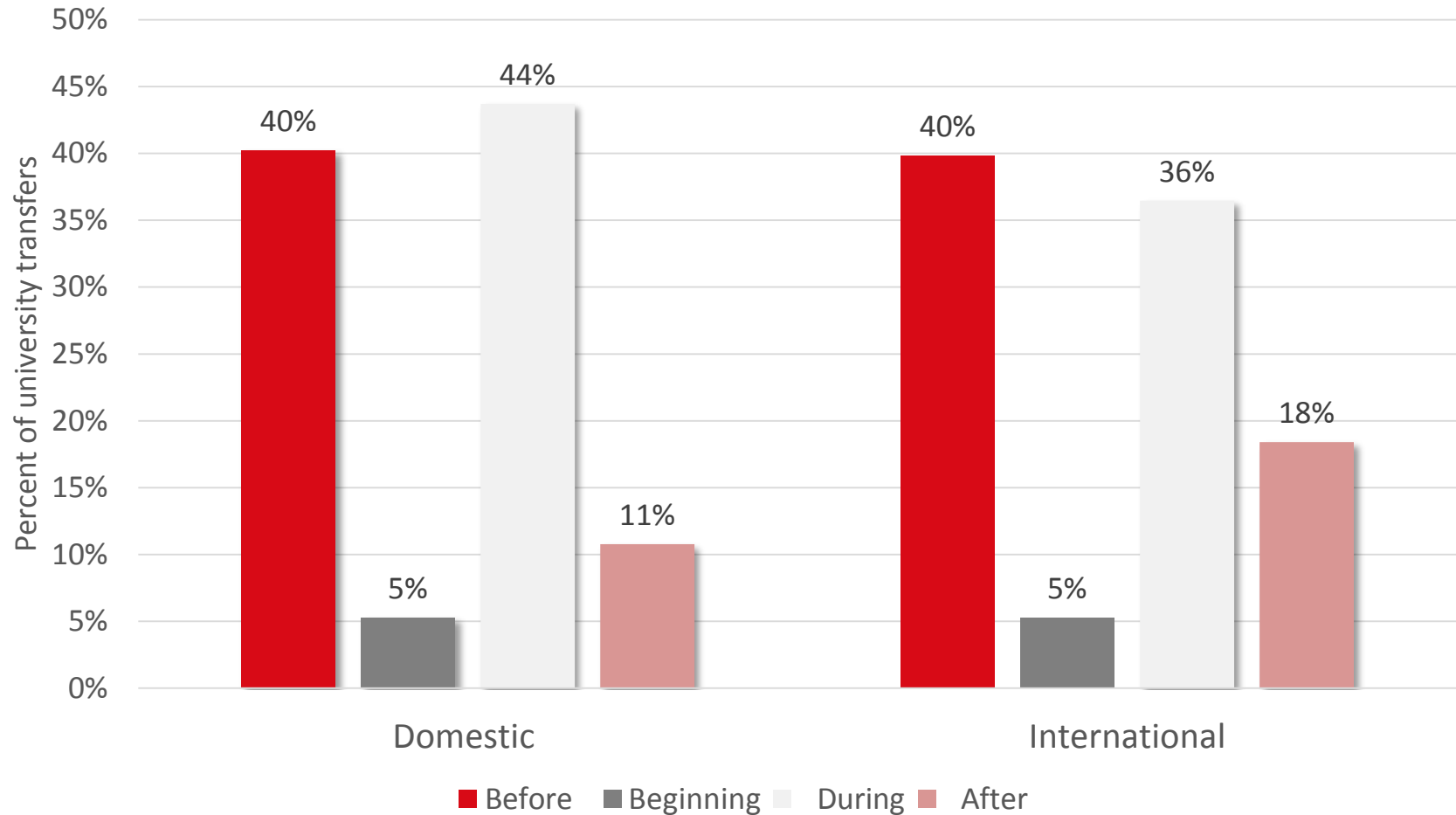
		Destination Program (University)							Total
		Business	Social Science and Related	Humanities and Fine Arts	Math, Phys Ed, and Applied Sciences, Engineering	Ag, Bio, Health	Ed, Phys Ed, Leisure	General/Other	
Sending Program (College)	Business	44%	13%	1%	3%	0%	0%	4%	66%
	Community service	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
	Creative and Applied Arts	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
	Health	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
	Hospitality	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
	Preparatory/Upgrading	1%	3%	1%	3%	2%	0%	1%	11%
	Engineering/Technology	1%	0%	0%	10%	0%	0%	1%	12%
	Total	49%	19%	5%	16%	3%	1%	6%	100%

Domestic Transfer Pathways

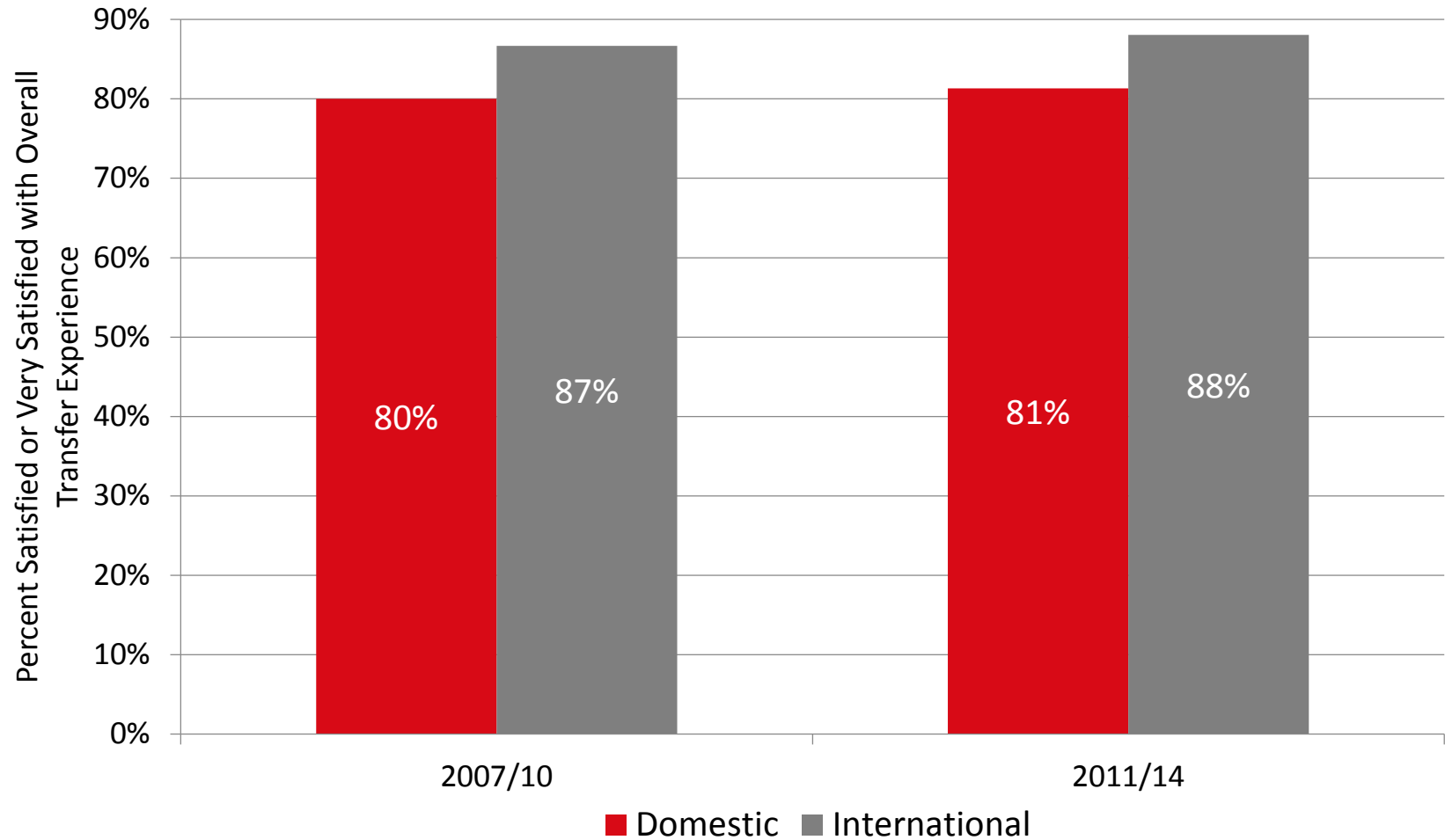
		Destination Program (University)							Total
		Business	Social Science and Related	Humanities and Fine Arts	Math, Phys Ed, and Applied Sciences, Engineering	Ag, Bio, Health	Ed, Phys Ed, Leisure	General/Other	
Sending Program (College)	Business	17%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	24%
	Community service	0%	24%	2%	0%	1%	6%	2%	35%
	Creative and Applied Arts	1%	1%	4%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%
	Health	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	5%
	Hospitality	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
	Preparatory/Upgrading	1%	6%	3%	1%	5%	1%	2%	17%
	Engineering/Technology	1%	1%	0%	7%	1%	0%	1%	10%
	Total	21%	35%	11%	9%	12%	7%	6%	100%

Timing of Decision to Further Education

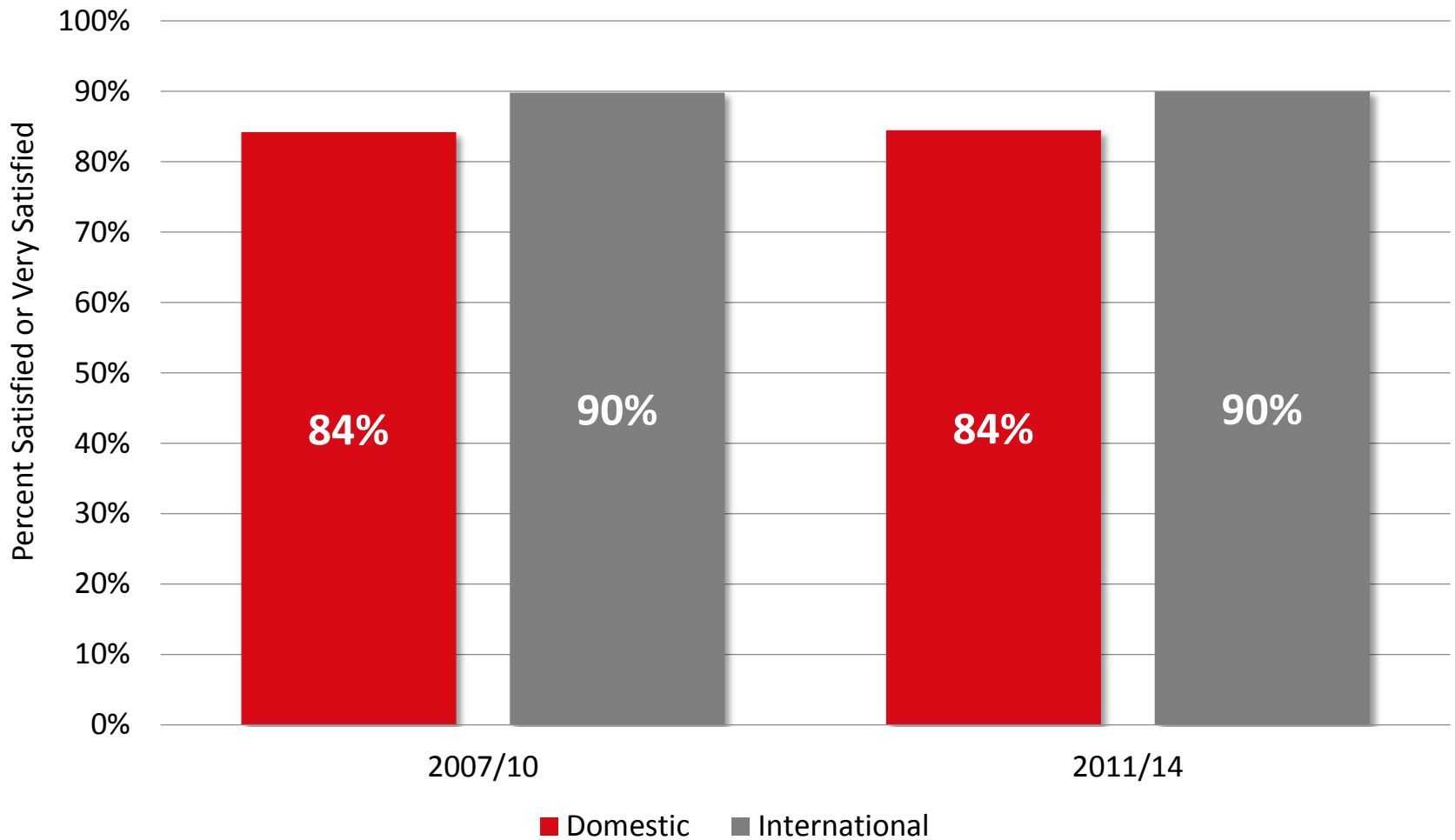
When did you decide that you would further your education after college graduation?



International Students Report Being More Satisfied With Transfer Experience



How Satisfied With Academic Preparation for Current Program of Study?



Summary of Results

- International students are becoming a much larger share of the college population.
- International students are attracted to business programs.
- Almost half of international students with a university degree are selecting into non-grad certificate programs.
- Relative to domestic students, international students are coming in with higher levels of education (specifically university degrees).
- More international students are working for pay and fewer are transferring to university after graduation.

Summary of Results Continued

- Unemployment rates have increased in general for graduates; international students have significantly higher unemployment rates.
- Transfer rates for international graduates are lower than that of their peers, and transfer rates are declining over time.
- International students have higher levels of satisfaction with their transfer experience.
- International students report getting more transfer information from the college, and less from family.

Conclusions

- Because international students are rapidly becoming a larger group within the PSE system, and policy makers need to be receptive and responsive to the needs to this group.
- International students have different characteristics than their peers.
- International students are more likely to use college resources for transfer information and so the college needs to ensure they are serving the needs of these students.
- Given the higher unemployment rate among international graduates, colleges need to investigate how to improve employment outcomes for these graduates.
- Transfer rates to university are dropping for international students, and more work is needed to understand if this is a result of changes to visa rules.

Thank You!



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