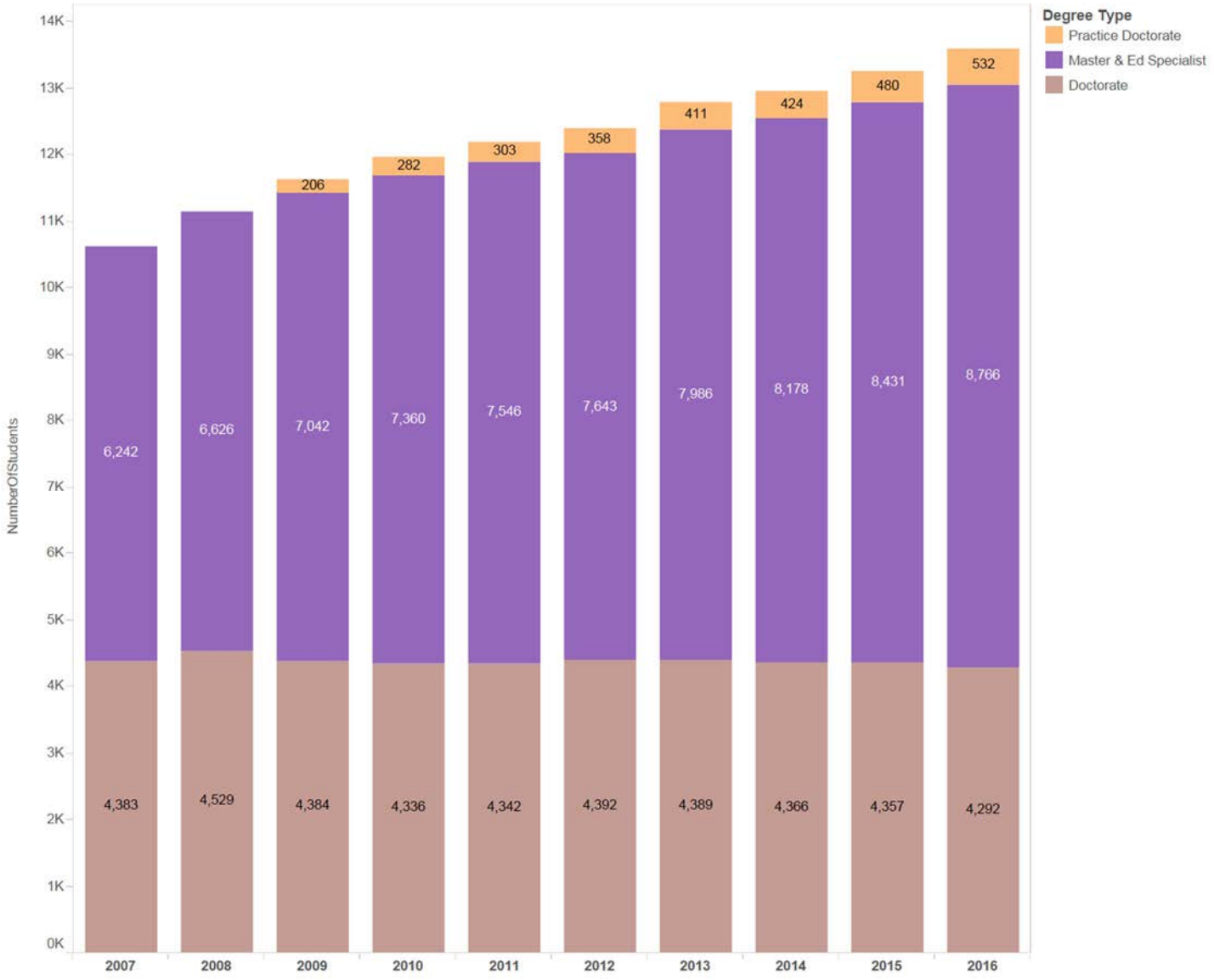
Graduate Student Enrollment & Admissions Report

Autumn Quarter 2012-2016

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

Graduate student enrollment continues to rise, driven by master's and practice doctoral enrollment in spite of recent declines in research doctoral enrollment. Total enrollment is 13,590 rising 2.4% from Autumn 2015 – master's enrollment grew 4% from Autumn 2015 and currently accounts for 64% of total enrollment, while research doctoral enrollment declined by 1.5% and accounts for 32% of total enrollment. This is notable in light of national trends that show total enrollment has remained relatively flat from the last few years. There has been a 28% growth rate in enrollment between 2007 and 2016.

FIGURE 1. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Degree Type



The proportion of international enrollment and URM enrollment continues to rise.

FIGURE 2A. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Residency

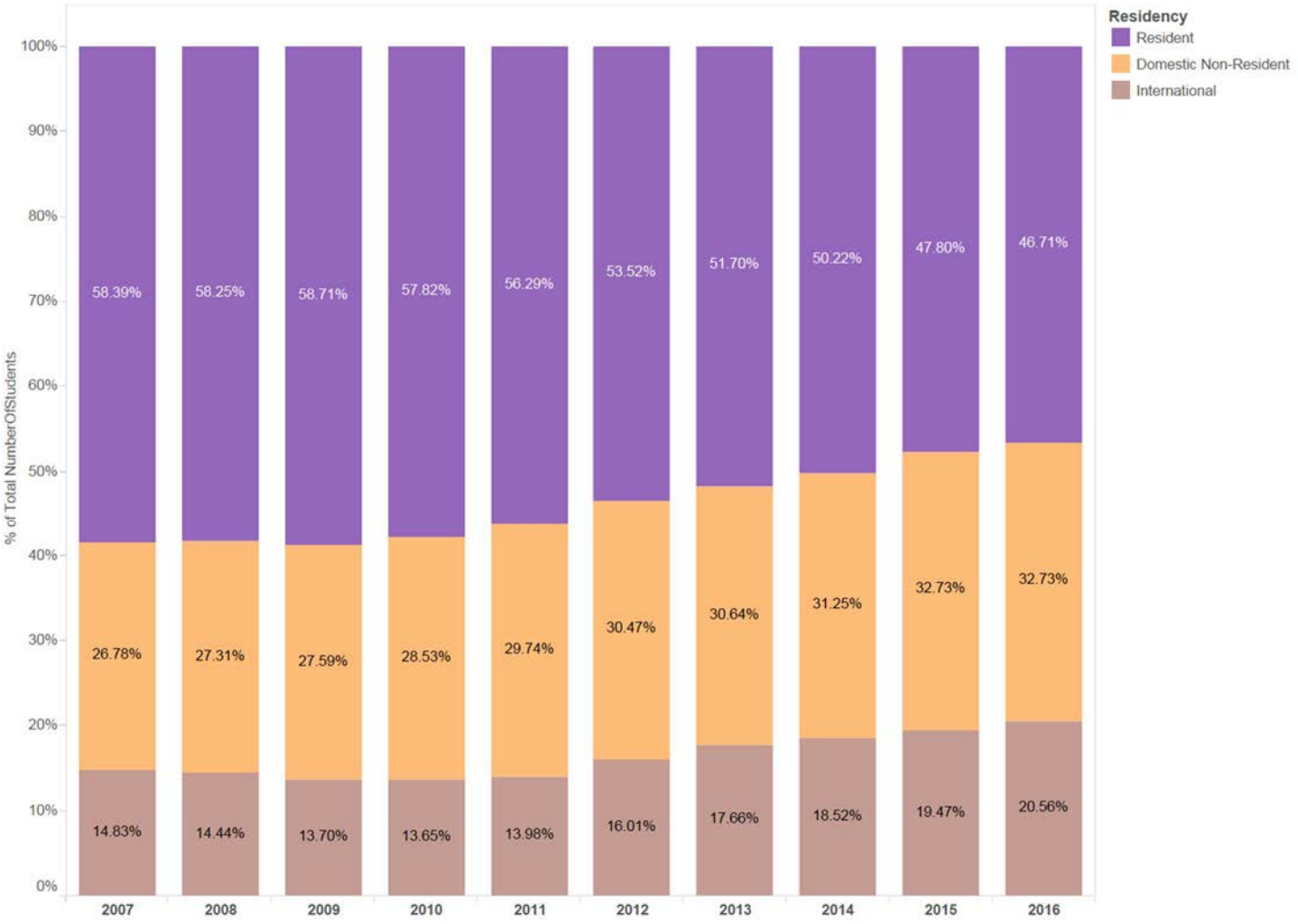
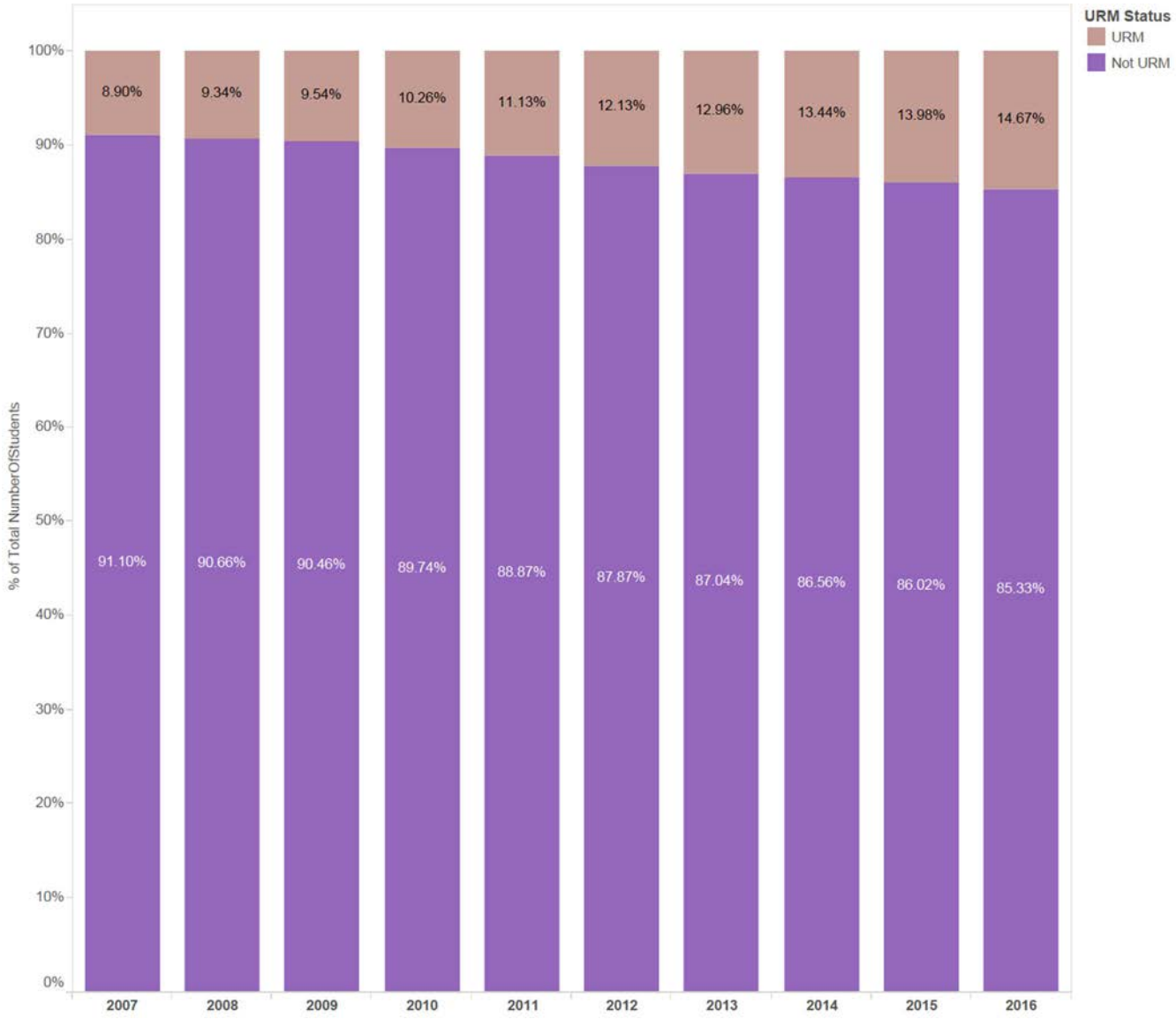


FIGURE 2B. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by URM Status (excludes international students)



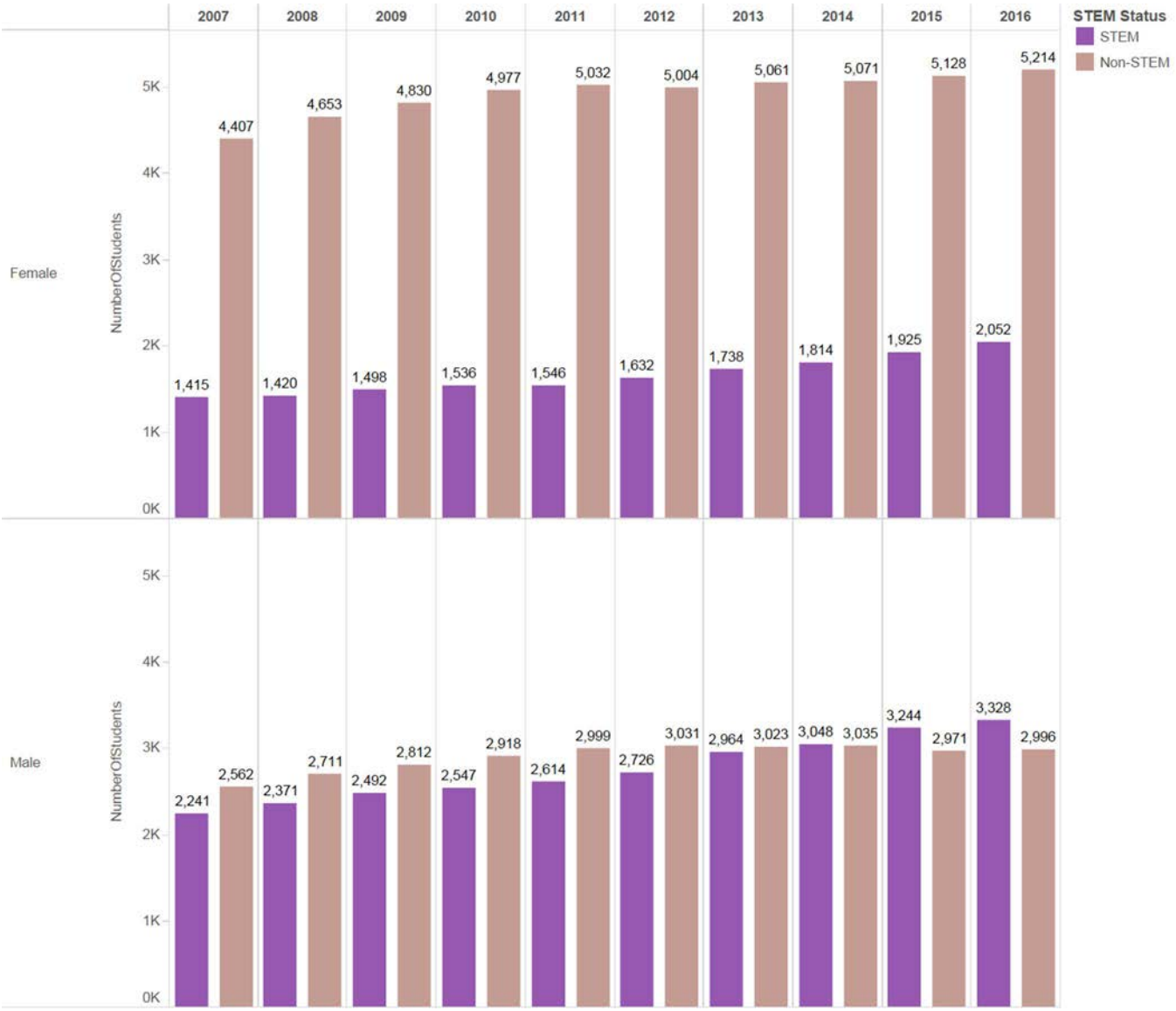
In the last 10 years, the largest increases in ethnic groups have been among Hispanic (122%) and Asian American students (52%). There has been a notable decrease (77%) in the number of students with unknown ethnicity.

FIGURE 3. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Ethnicity

		2007	2016
African American	Number of Students	297	387
	% Difference		30.30%
American Indian	Number of Students	97	61
	% Difference		-37.11%
Asian American	Number of Students	916	1,393
	% Difference		52.07%
Caucasian	Number of Students	6,072	7,242
	% Difference		19.27%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Number of Students	29	24
	% Difference		-17.24%
Hispanic	Number of Students	382	850
	% Difference		122.51%
Unknown	Number of Students	1,256	286
	% Difference		-77.23%

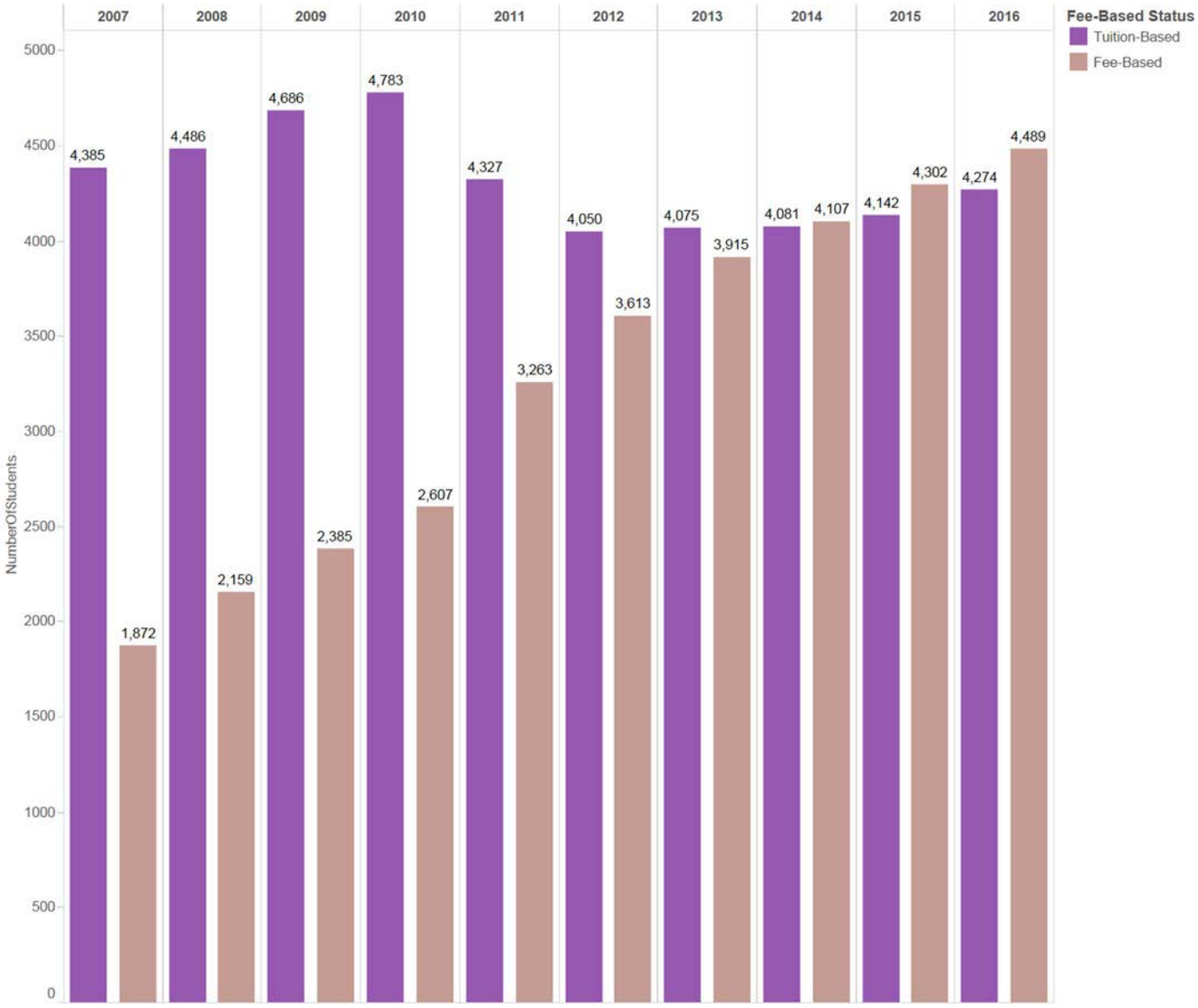
While females comprise more than half of all graduate enrollment (54% in 2016), they only account for 38% of STEM graduate enrollment.

FIGURE 4. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Gender/STEM



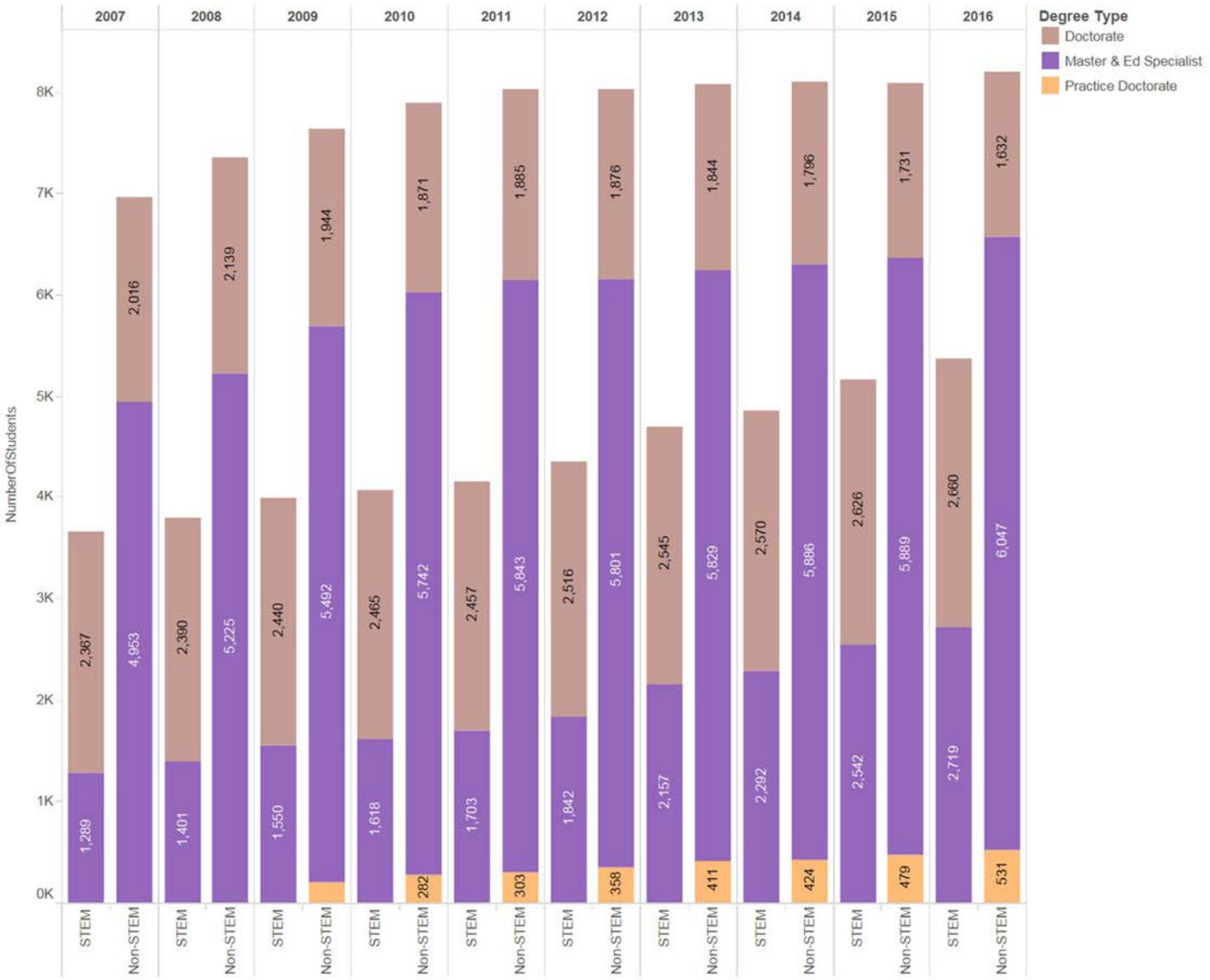
Total enrollment in master's fee-based programs has consistently risen for the past 10 years, and for the 3rd straight year, accounts for more than half of all master's enrollments. The largest fee-based programs are found in Business, the Information School, Health Services, Civil Engineering, and Social Work and collectively account for 42% of all current fee-based master's enrollment. It is believed that the increase in fee-based enrollment is due to reductions in state funding and expansion of professional programs.

FIGURE 5. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by masters Fee-Based/Tuition-Based



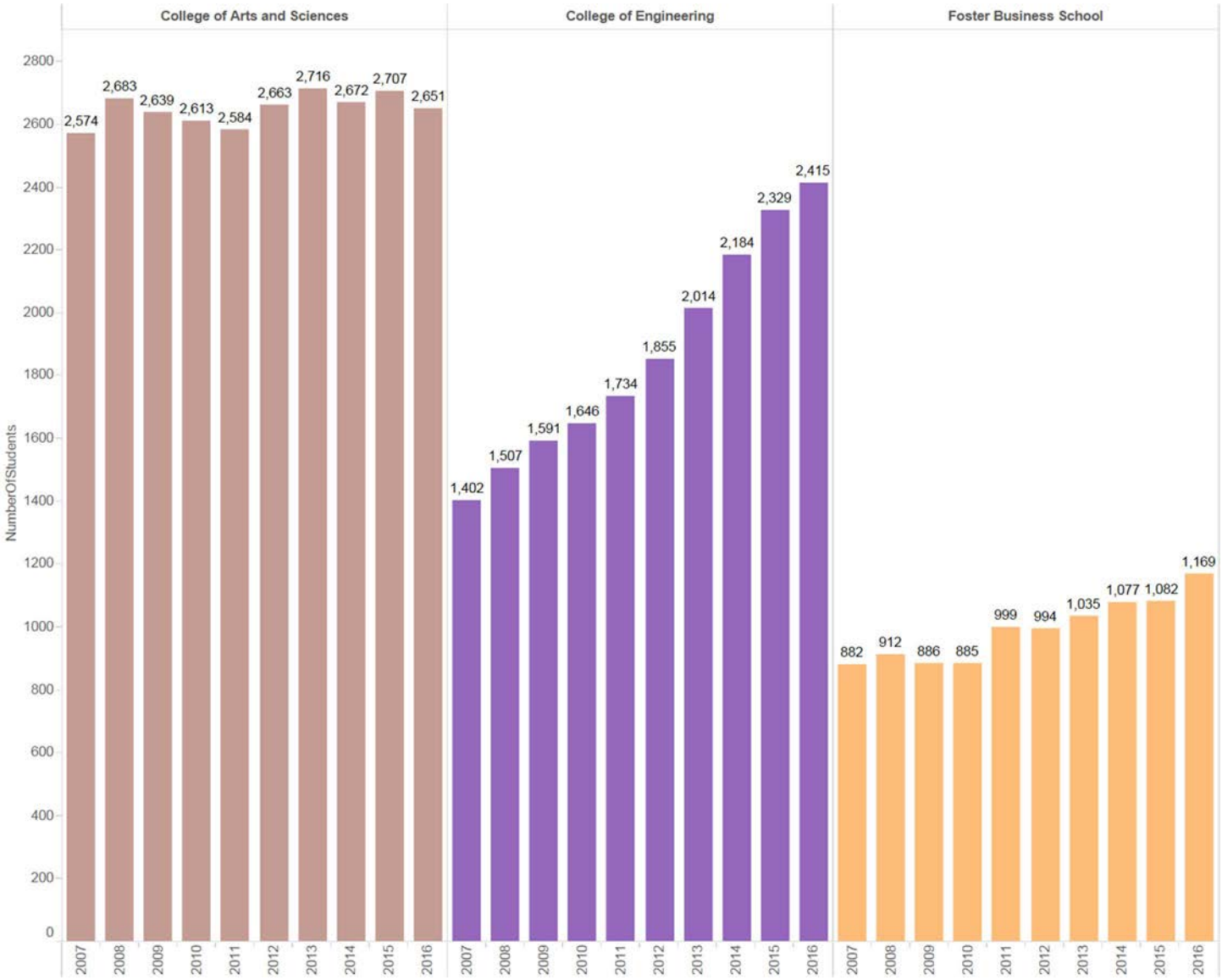
STEM total enrollment grew at a faster pace (4%) than non-STEM enrollment between Autumn 2015 and 2016 and has increased nearly 30% since Autumn 2011. master's enrollment in STEM programs between Autumn 2015 and 2016 grew 7% while research doctoral enrollment in STEM programs grew 1.3% despite an overall decline in total doctoral enrollment – enrollment in master's STEM programs has increased nearly 60% since 2011. Overall, STEM enrollment represent 39% of the UW graduate student body. Non-STEM enrollment for research doctoral programs actually declined for Autumn 2016.

FIGURE 6. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by STEM



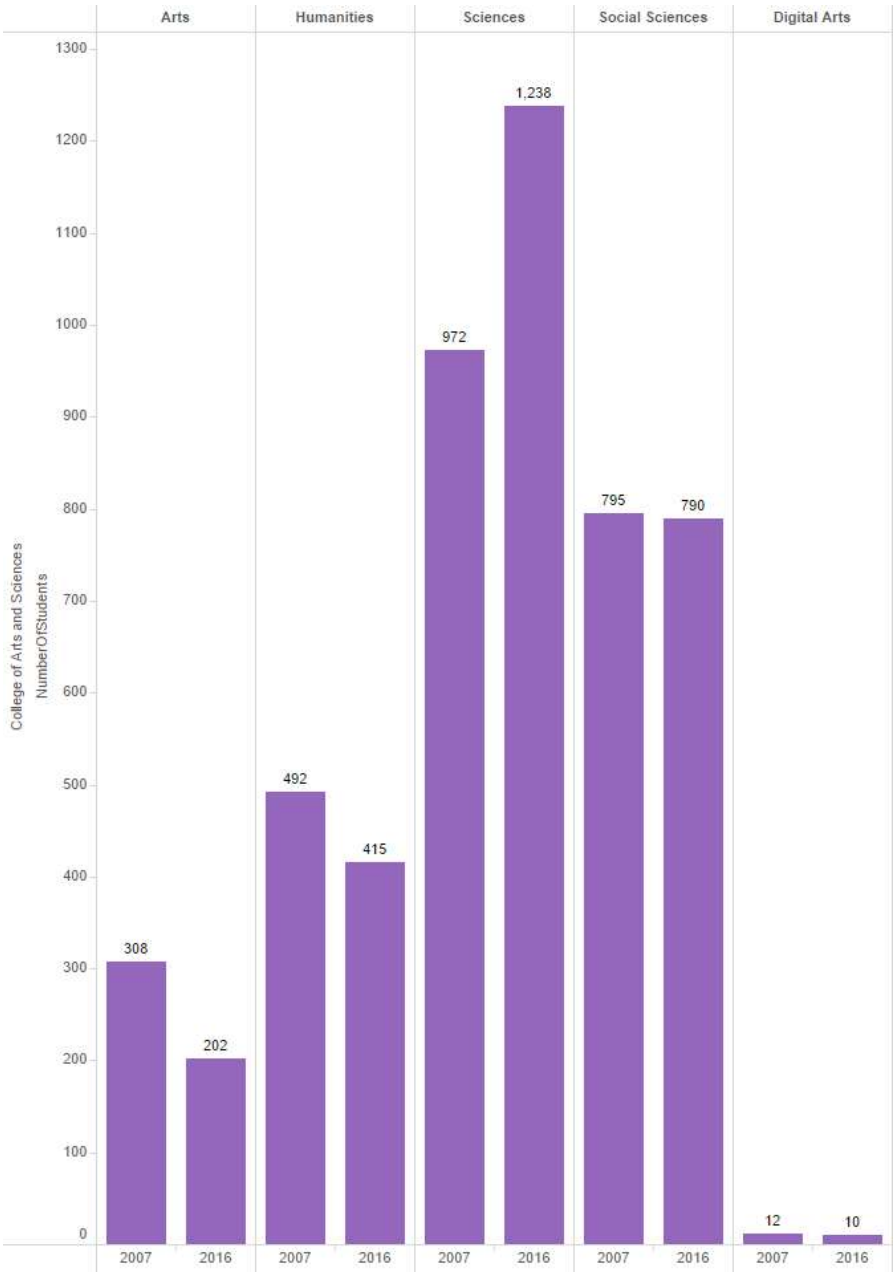
Among the three largest UW colleges, enrollment trends are mixed over the last 10 years. Both Engineering and the Foster School of Business continue to grow but there is a decline in Arts & Sciences.

FIGURE 7. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by 3 Largest Colleges



Within that decline in the College of Arts & Sciences, the largest decline has been in the Arts division (-34%). Despite the overall decline in enrollment, the Sciences division has grown nearly 28%.

FIGURE 8. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by College of Arts & Sciences' divisions



The colleges with the highest percentage growth over the last 5 years were STEM (Bothell), Institute of Technology (Tacoma), and Engineering (Seattle).

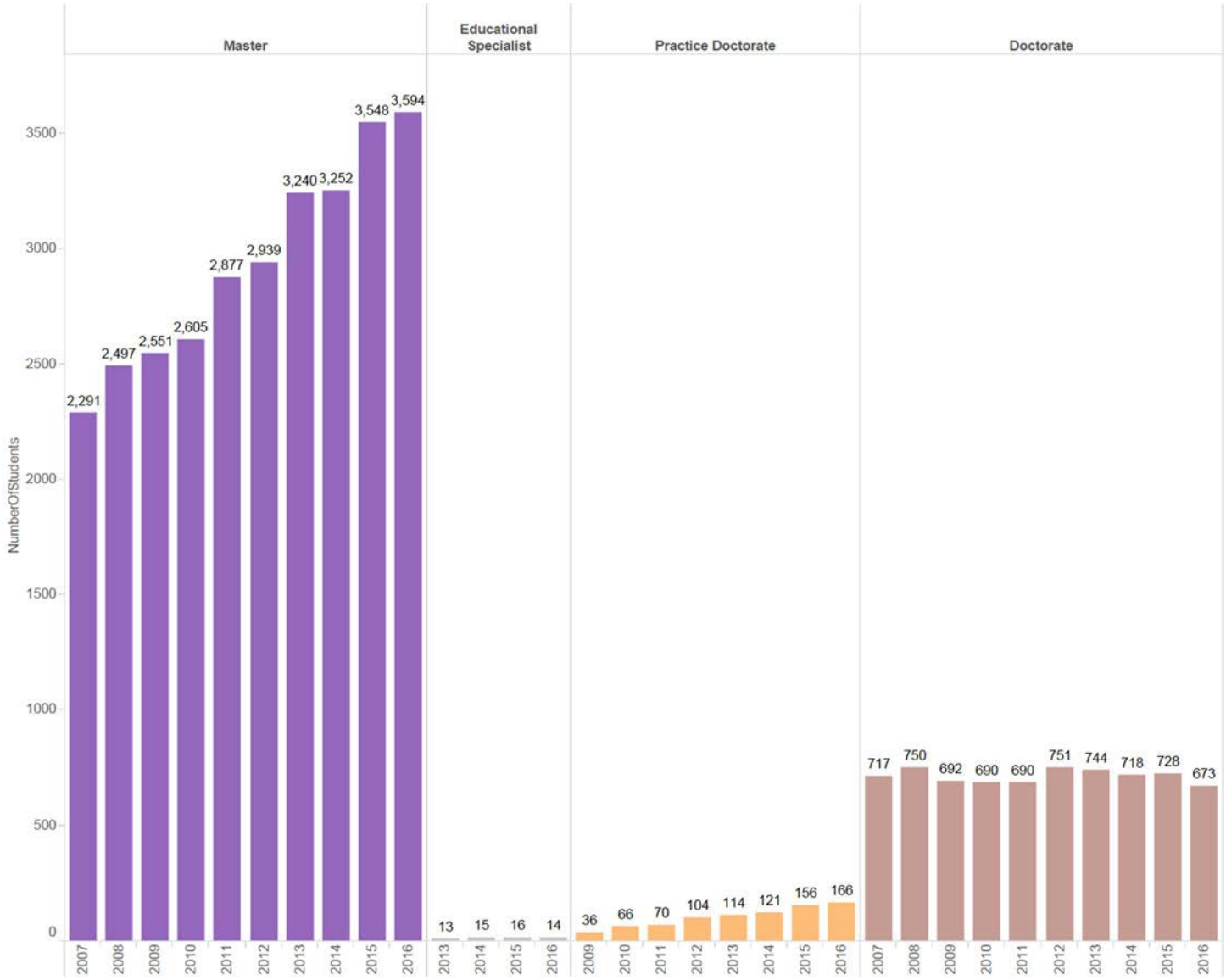
FIGURE 9. Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter (Growth) by Campus and College

CampusName	CollegeName	NumberOfStudents 2012	NumberOfStudents 2016	5 year % Difference (from 2012) 2012	5 year % Difference (from 2012) 2016
Bothell Campus	Business	123	146		18.70%
	Educational Studies	131	121		-7.63%
	Interdisciplinary Arts and Scie..	83	87		4.82%
	Nursing and Health Studies	95	71		-25.26%
	Science Technology Engineeri..	59	154		161.02%
Seattle Campus	Built Environments	452	514		13.72%
	College of Arts and Sciences	2,663	2,651		-0.45%
	College of Education	819	792		-3.30%
	College of Engineering	1,855	2,415		30.19%
	College of the Environment	549	493		-10.20%
	Evans School of Public Affairs	483	495		2.48%
	Foster Business School	994	1,169		17.61%
	Graduate School	425	496		16.71%
	School of Dentistry	88	83		-5.68%
	School of Law	186	234		25.81%
	School of Medicine	973	1,077		10.69%
	School of Nursing	381	418		9.71%
	School of Pharmacy	130	132		1.54%
	School of Public Health	844	897		6.28%
	School of Social Work	502	536		6.77%
	The Information School	592	610		3.04%
Tacoma Campus	Education	180	184		2.22%
	Institute of Technology	56	169		201.79%
	Interdisciplinary Arts and Scie..	33	27		-18.18%
	Milgard School of Business	76	86		13.16%
	Nursing	74	52		-29.73%
	Social Work	130	146		12.31%
	Urban Studies		33		

NEW ENROLLMENT

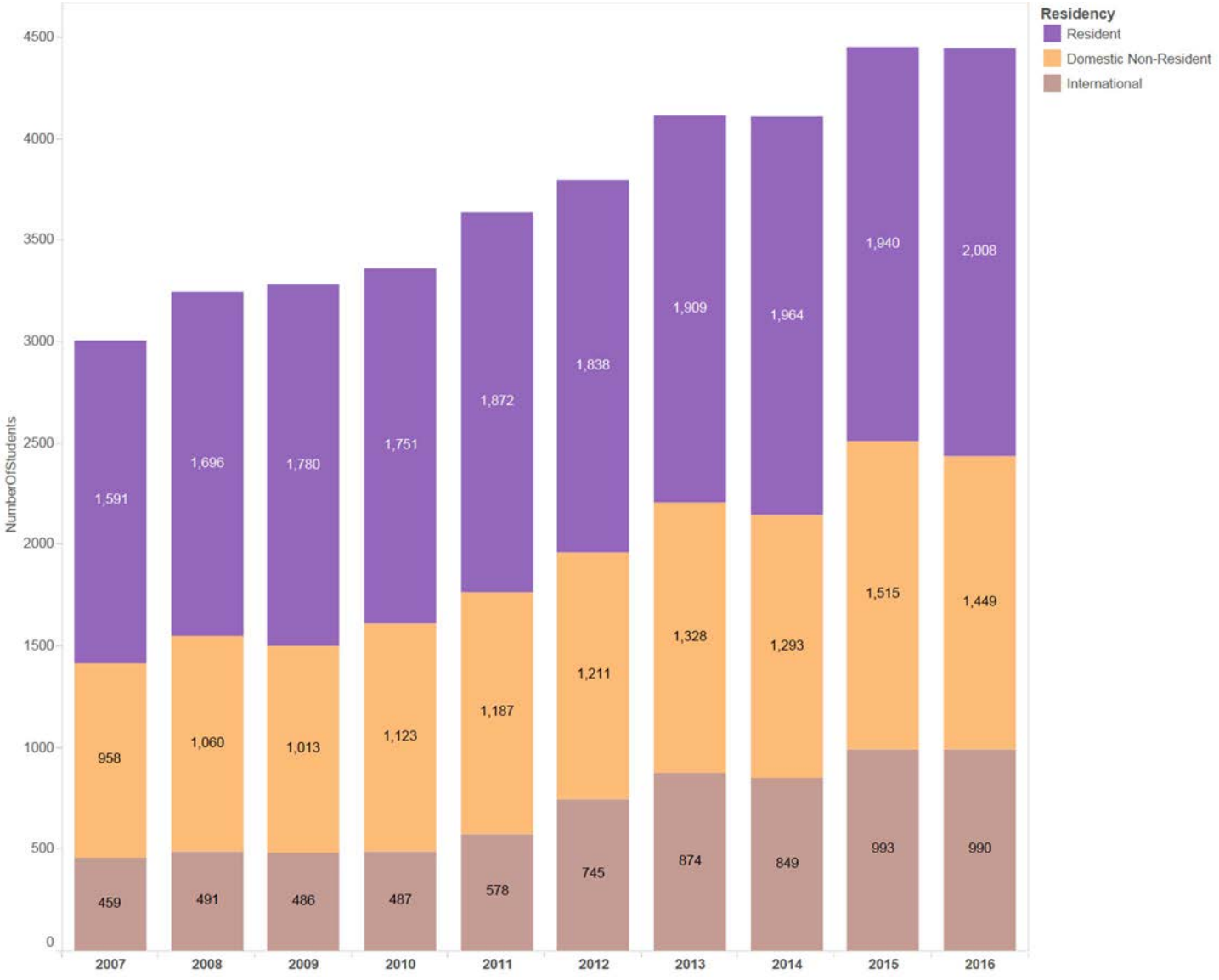
New enrollment, which is the bellwether for future trends, held steady in 2016 despite a general trend of increases over the decade – driven largely by master's new enrollment in relation to relatively flat doctoral new enrollment, which mirrors national trends. Roughly 81% of new students are enrolled in master's program, versus 83% nationally.

FIGURE 10. New Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Degree Type



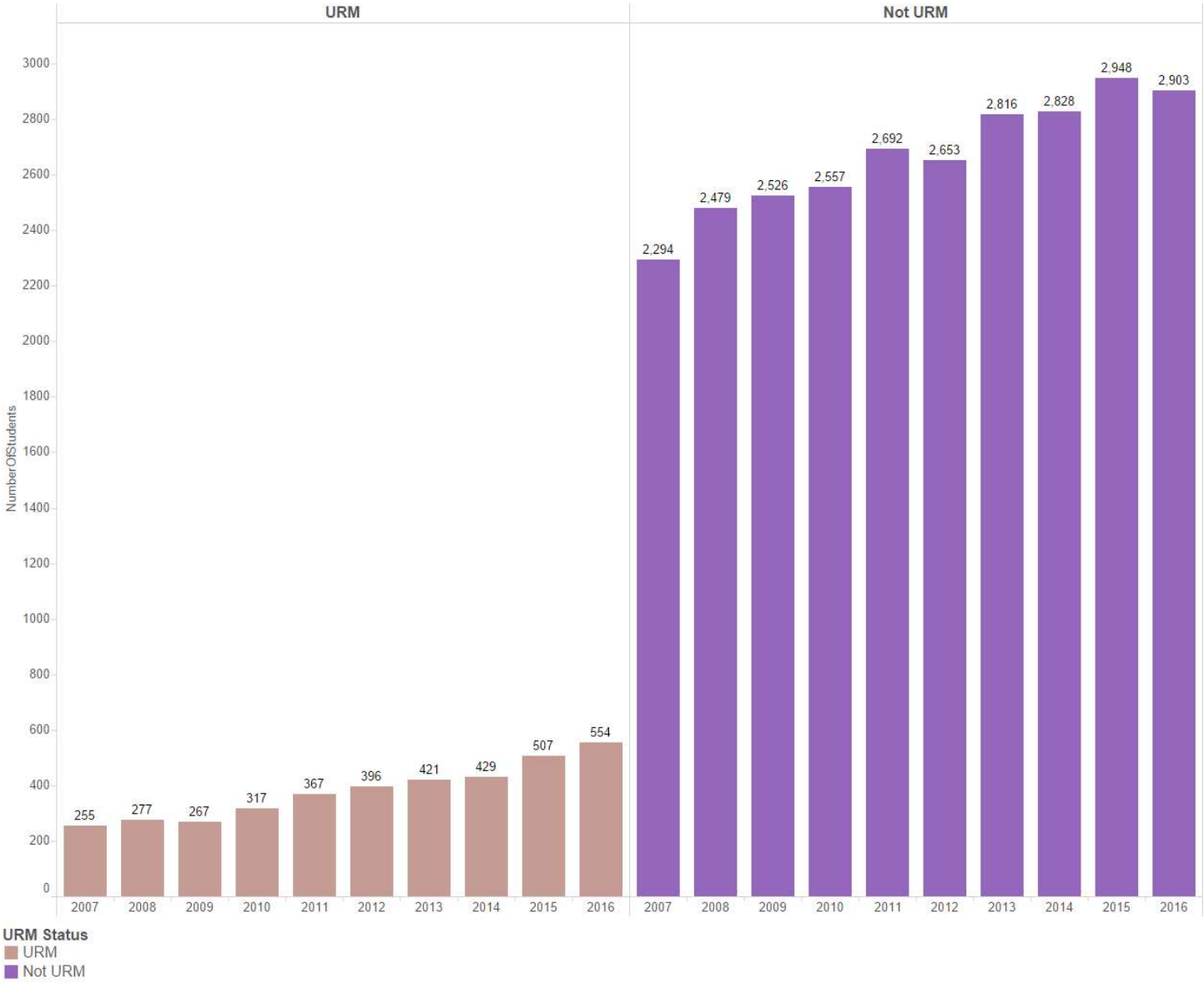
Similar to national trends, domestic first-time graduate enrollment is generally increasing while international new enrollment has slightly declined. WA resident new enrollment continued to increase despite slight declines in non-WA domestic and international new enrollment in 2016. The UW closely matches new enrollment figures with regard to domestic vs. International students – about 77% of first-time graduate students are U.S. residents.

FIGURE 11. New Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Residency



The UW also experienced strong growth in URM first-time graduate enrollment (9%) even as non-URM new enrollment declined last year (-1.5%). Over a 10-year period, the UW experienced a 117% increase in new URM enrollment. However, the UW lags national trends of overall URM vs. Non-URM new enrollment – just 16% at the UW vs. 22.5% nationally this last year.

FIGURE 12. New Enrollment Autumn Quarter by URM Status (excludes international students)



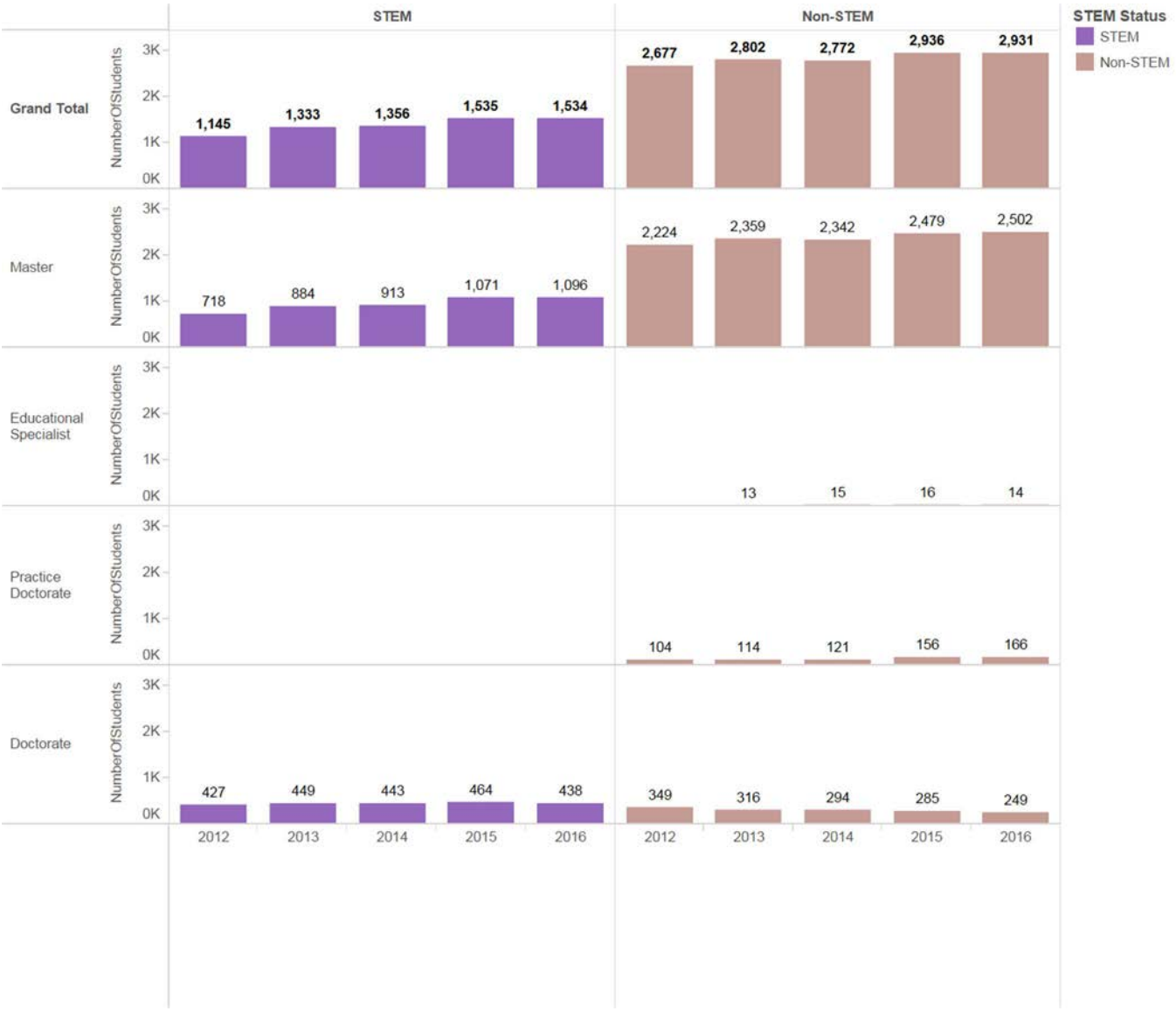
Most colleges have experienced modest or no growth in new enrollment, though a few have seen declines. Notably, there are more new students in the College of Engineering vs. the College of Arts & Sciences for the third year in a row.

FIGURE 13. New Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Campus and College

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Bothell Campus	Business	59	56	51	69	61
	Educational Studies	32	44	54	38	44
	Interdisciplinary Arts and Scie..	47	48	33	42	45
	Nursing and Health Studies	36	24	30	23	36
	Science Technology Engineeri..	19	26	33	52	76
Seattle Campus	Built Environments	123	176	160	177	190
	College of Arts and Sciences	667	709	662	727	644
	College of Education	235	181	191	205	226
	College of Engineering	590	635	690	726	718
	College of the Environment	115	135	121	121	124
	Evans School of Public Affairs	194	204	206	205	207
	Foster Business School	423	478	441	503	478
	Graduate School	134	147	138	146	193
	School of Dentistry	6	1	2		4
	School of Law	112	142	126	154	125
	School of Medicine	187	205	196	202	258
	School of Nursing	77	94	118	135	146
	School of Pharmacy	34	34	34	27	36
	School of Public Health	273	291	299	308	316
	School of Social Work	160	185	195	186	208
	The Information School	250	252	247	261	243
Tacoma Campus	Education	8	6	5	8	12
	Institute of Technology	33	40	52	107	67
	Interdisciplinary Arts and Scie..	9	9	6	8	12
	Milgard School of Business	41	40	52	39	44
	Nursing	20	29	15	19	15
	Social Work	43	44	45	46	46
	Urban Studies			17	18	31

With the exception of 2016, new enrollment in STEM programs has generally increased in light of overall decreases in non-STEM new enrollment. This also mirrors national trends.

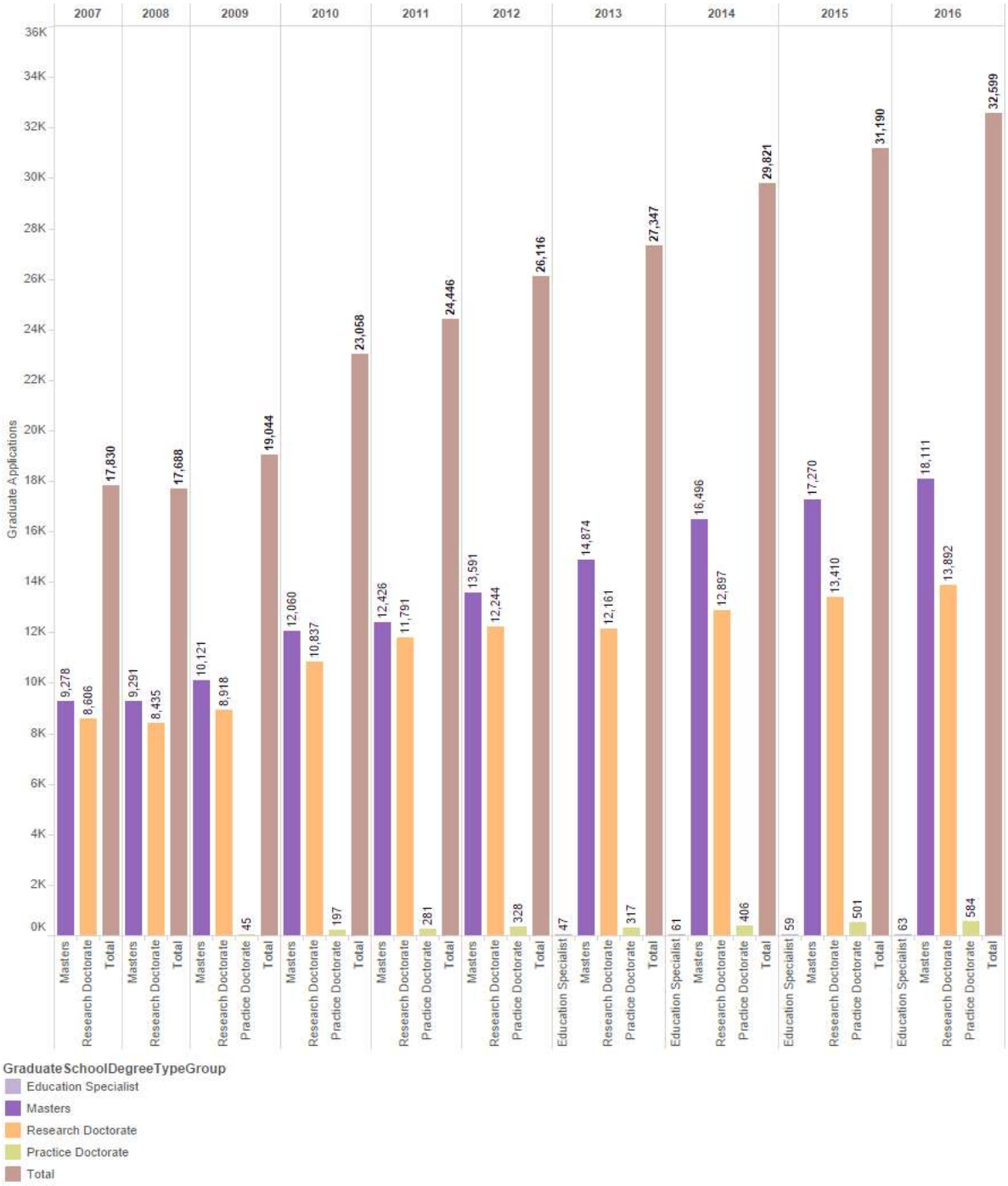
FIGURE 14. New Enrollment Autumn Quarter by STEM



ADMISSIONS

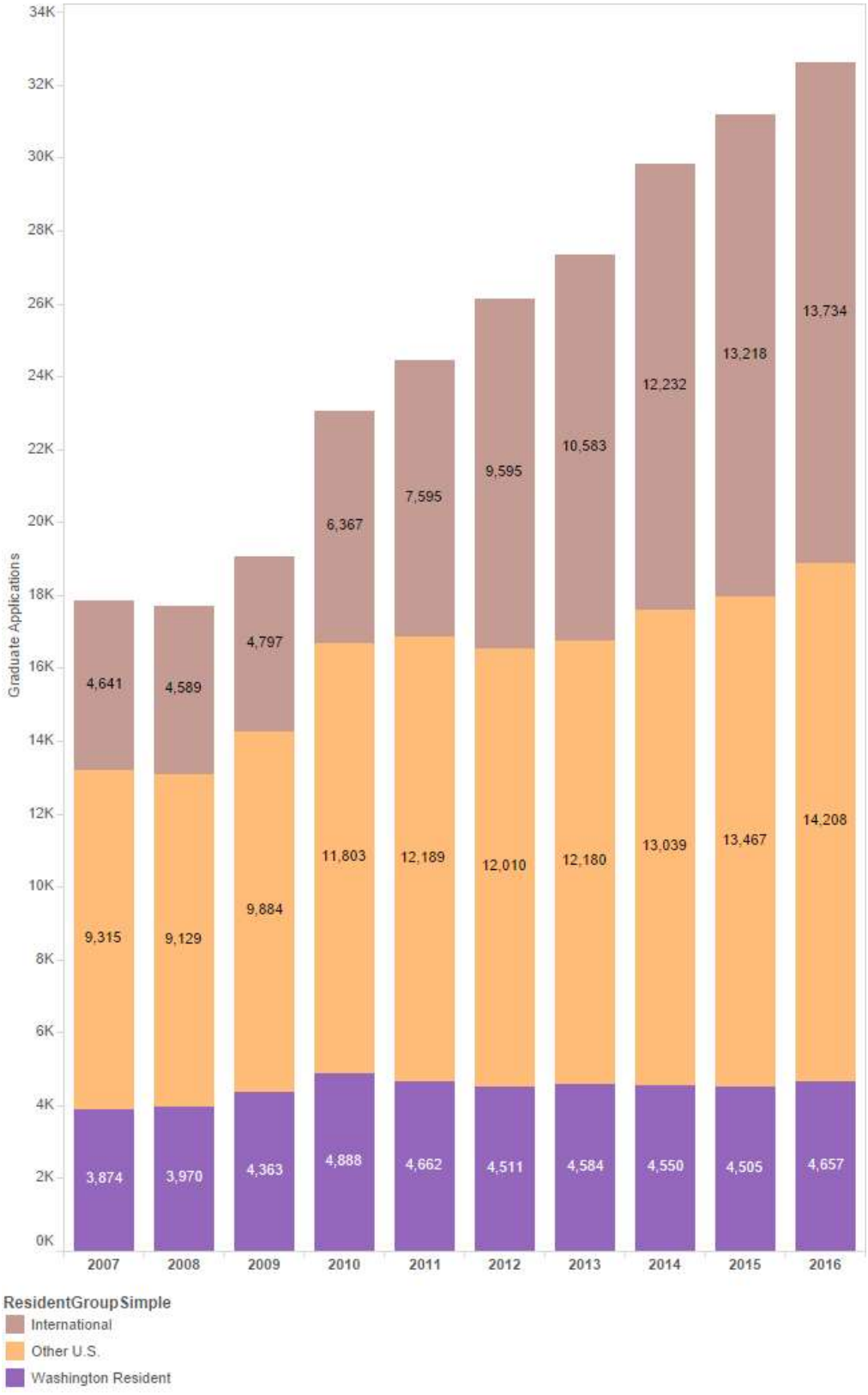
The number of submitted applications continues to steadily increase, up 4.5% from the previous year and up 25% from 2012 and 82% from 2007. For the tenth year in a row, applications to master's programs exceed that for doctoral programs.

FIGURE 15. Applications for Autumn Quarter by Degree Type



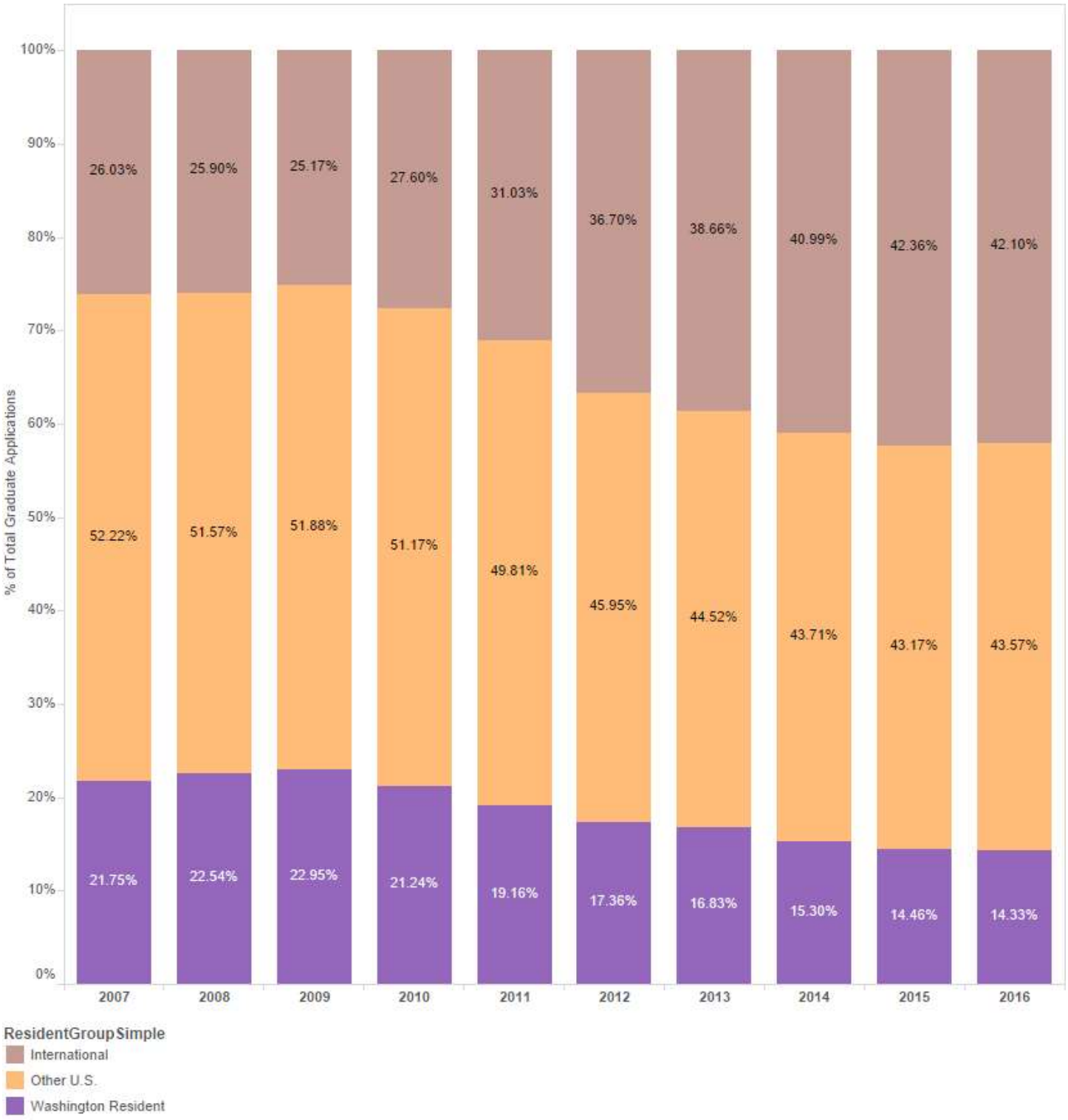
Notably, applications from WA residents has remained relatively steady while applications from residents outside the state has increased, and dramatically so in the case of international applications. Proportionally, applications from WA residents accounted for 22% of submitted applications in 2007 but only 14% in 2016.

FIGURE 16A. Applications Autumn Quarter by Residency



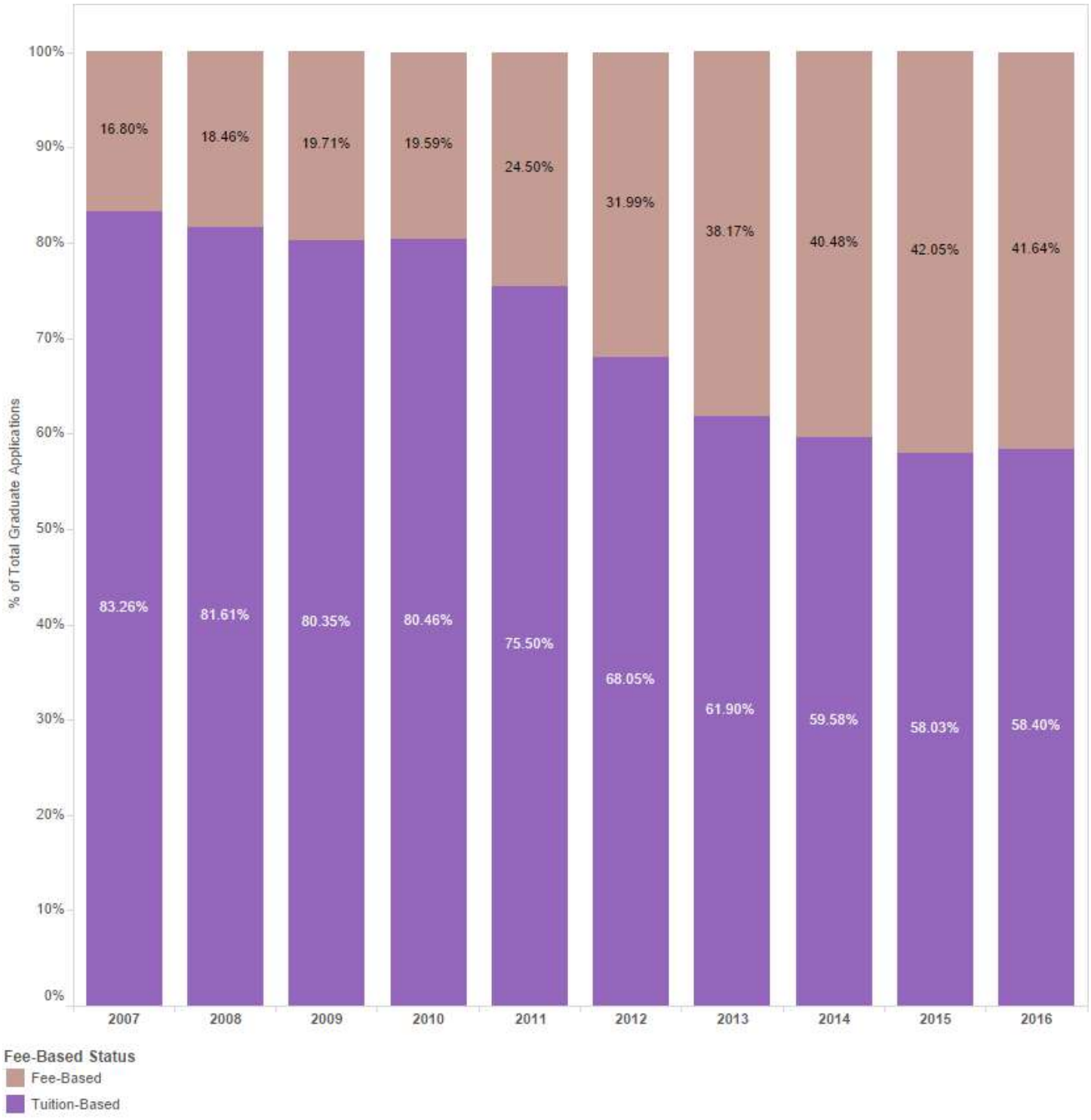
Proportionally, the fewest number of applications come from WA residents – 86% of applications are submitted by residents outside the state or country.

FIGURE 16B Applications Autumn Quarter by Residency (proportionally)



Among applications to master's programs, there has been very little change in recent years in the ratio of applicants seeking fee-based vs. tuition-based programs. However, that ratio has more than doubled over the last ten years.

FIGURE 17. Applications Autumn Quarter by Fee-Based/Tuition-Based master's programs



Applications submitted by URM applicants has grown steadily for both master's and doctoral programs in STEM and non-STEM fields.

FIGURE 18A. Applications Autumn Quarter by STEM and Degree Type and URM (excludes international applicants)

		DHS Federal STEM		Not DHS Federal STEM			
		Masters	Research Doctorate	Education Specialist	Masters	Practice Doctorate	Research Doctorate
2012	Not URM	1,772	3,857		6,011	267	2,724
	URM	179	399		885	46	398
2013	Not URM	1,999	3,894	32	5,787	262	2,718
	URM	219	430	7	929	48	455
2014	Not URM	2,125	4,209	49	5,818	338	2,742
	URM	263	554	5	997	52	461
2015	Not URM	2,121	4,238	46	5,933	407	2,788
	URM	286	537	7	1,036	77	519
2016	Not URM	2,409	4,431	49	6,001	466	2,771
	URM	323	646	10	1,131	100	548

The current acceptance rate (percentage of applicants that are offered admission, aka "selectivity") is generally similar for URM students than non-URM students, for both STEM and non-STEM programs. The exception to this (non-STEM) education specialist programs.

FIGURE 18B. Acceptance Rate (selectivity) Autumn Quarter by STEM and Degree Type and URM (excludes international applicants)

		DHS Federal STEM		Not DHS Federal STEM			
CalendarYear	URM	Masters	Research Doctorate	Education Specialist	Masters	Practice Doctorate	Research Doctorate
2012	Not URM	53.33 %	23.67 %		50.17 %	69.29 %	14.24 %
	URM	53.63 %	25.56 %		49.27 %	67.39 %	14.07 %
2013	Not URM	55.98 %	24.68 %	68.75 %	53.55 %	75.19 %	14.13 %
	URM	51.60 %	22.33 %	28.57 %	53.28 %	70.83 %	17.14 %
2014	Not URM	56.42 %	22.67 %	59.18 %	52.01 %	67.46 %	12.91 %
	URM	52.47 %	16.61 %	60.00 %	51.15 %	36.54 %	11.71 %
2015	Not URM	58.98 %	23.29 %	39.13 %	52.35 %	58.97 %	13.67 %
	URM	54.90 %	20.67 %	71.43 %	54.15 %	46.75 %	13.68 %
2016	Not URM	57.53 %	19.93 %	48.98 %	53.06 %	53.65 %	11.01 %
	URM	58.82 %	23.99 %	30.00 %	53.14 %	57.00 %	10.58 %

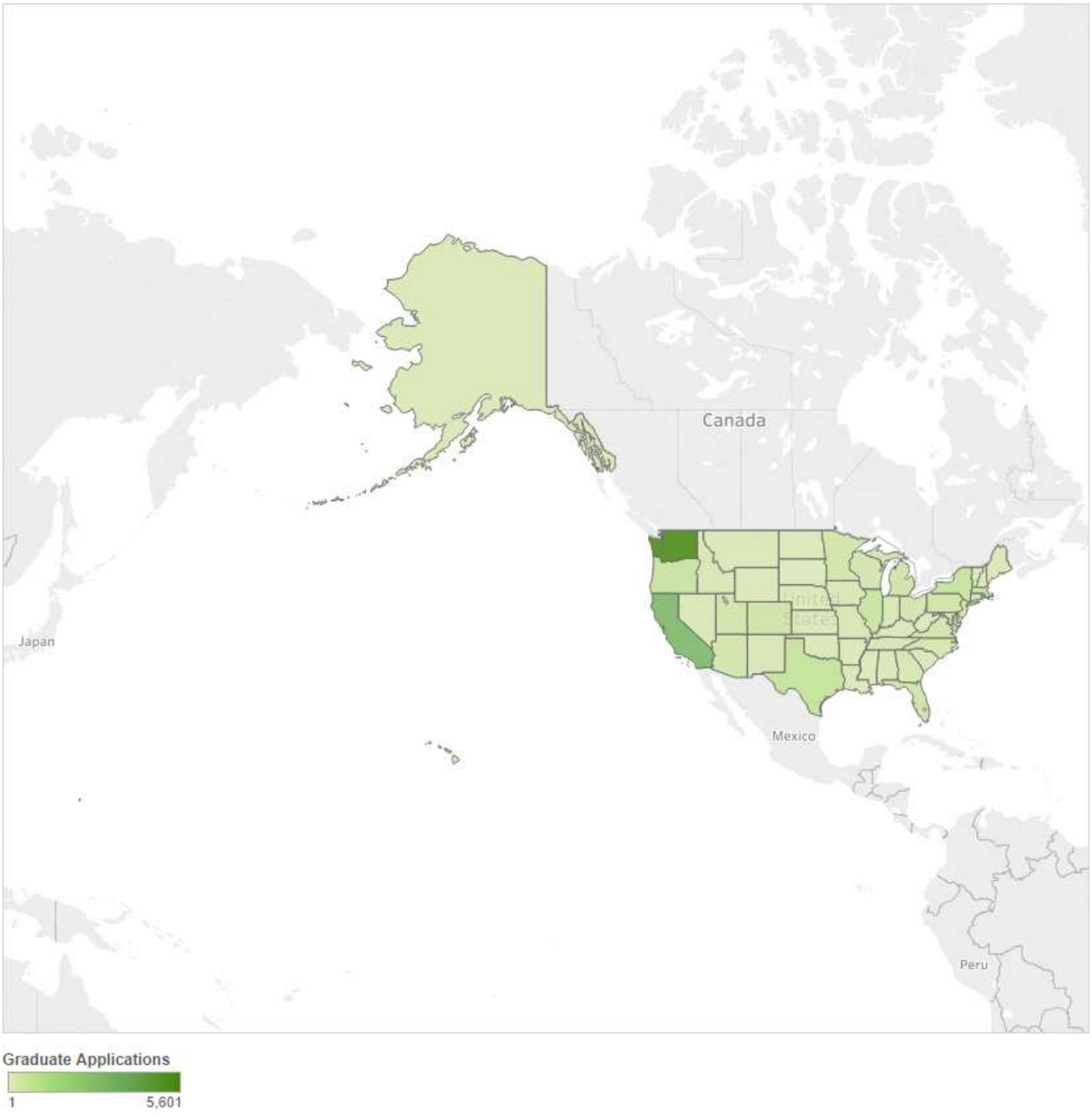
Yield rates (the percentage of students who accept the offer of admission and thus enroll) is similar for URM and non-URM students in both STEM and non-STEM programs, though currently 10% higher for masters STEM programs and 15% higher for Practice Doctorate non-STEM programs, while 17% lower in Education Specialist (non-STEM) programs.

FIGURE 18C. Yield Rates Autumn Quarter by STEM and URM (excludes international applicants)

		DHS Federal STEM		Not DHS Federal STEM			
CalendarYear	URM	Masters	Research Doctorate	Education Specialist	Masters	Practice Doctorate	Research Doctorate
2012	Not URM	48.57 %	33.19 %		54.01 %	49.73 %	44.07 %
	URM	52.08 %	34.31 %		62.39 %	64.52 %	51.79 %
2013	Not URM	50.58 %	31.84 %	54.55 %	51.98 %	50.76 %	46.61 %
	URM	56.64 %	31.25 %	50.00 %	58.38 %	61.76 %	56.41 %
2014	Not URM	50.13 %	34.91 %	37.93 %	55.95 %	50.44 %	47.74 %
	URM	52.17 %	31.52 %	66.67 %	59.02 %	73.68 %	57.41 %
2015	Not URM	50.52 %	31.41 %	50.00 %	57.37 %	57.92 %	42.26 %
	URM	57.32 %	37.84 %	60.00 %	57.22 %	55.56 %	52.11 %
2016	Not URM	51.15 %	31.94 %	50.00 %	55.34 %	54.40 %	39.67 %
	URM	61.58 %	30.97 %	33.33 %	60.07 %	70.18 %	39.66 %

Applications are received from undergraduate residents in every single state of the country.

FIGURE 19. Applications Autumn Quarter by State



And the UW receives applications from international students all over the world, the largest number coming from China, India, South Korea, Taiwan, and Iran.

FIGURE 20. International Applications Autumn Quarter by Country

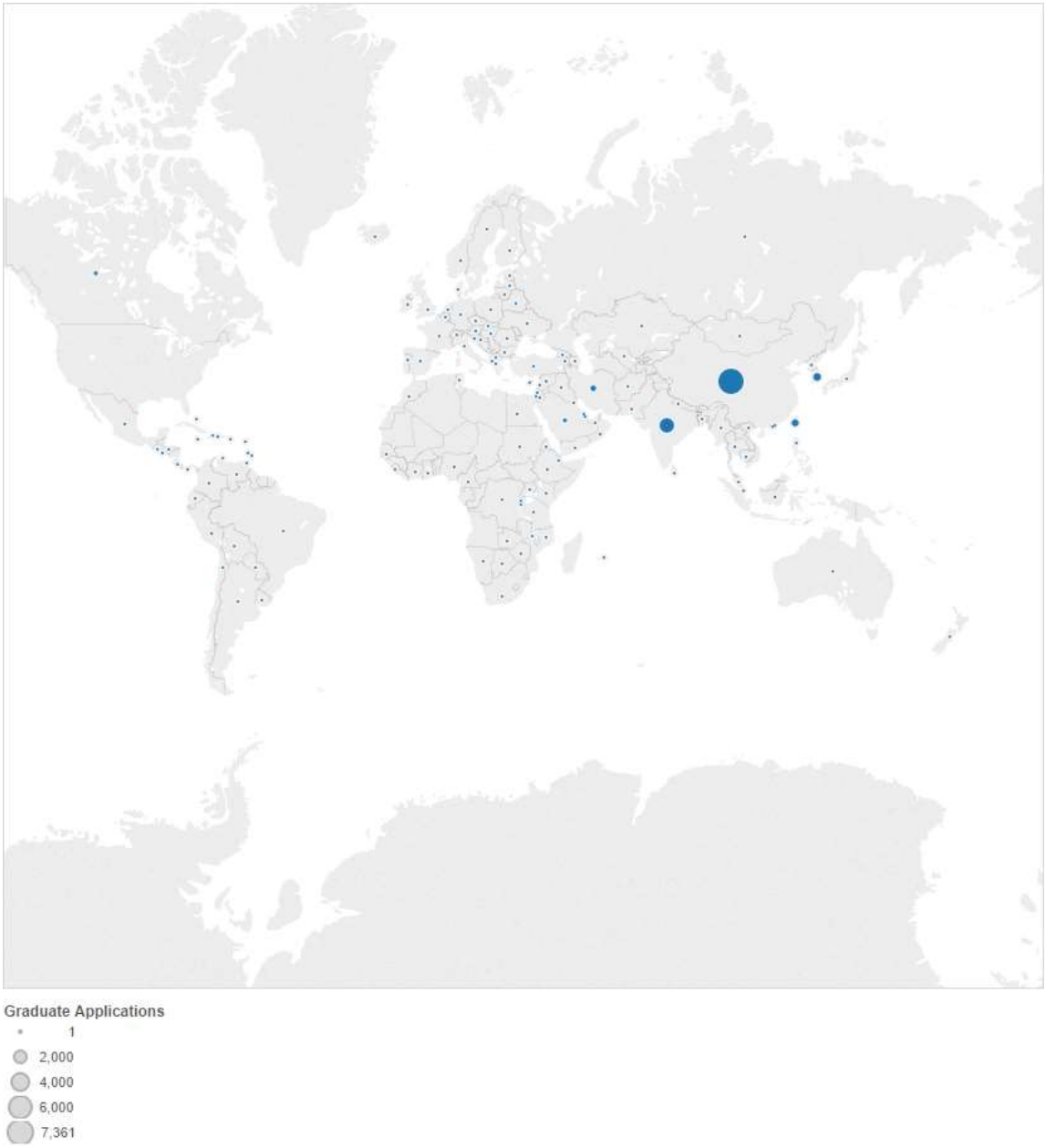


FIGURE 22. International Applications Autumn Quarter by Top 5 Countries

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
China	5,074	5,807	6,649	6,941	7,361
India	929	1,246	1,854	2,308	2,396
South Korea	816	663	694	754	691
Taiwan	639	598	562	611	564
Iran	345	310	348	347	355
Grand Total	7,803	8,624	10,107	10,961	11,367

DATA SOURCES AND NOTES

Data for this report were derived from the UW Enterprise Data Warehouse.

Enrollment

The UW Profile Tableau Student Data Model was used for enrollment data. Census day data were used for autumn quarter enrollment. Counts listed are for headcounts except when broken out by any discipline attribute. Since graduate students can enroll concurrently for multiple majors in a given academic quarter, not all bar segments will add up to the total number of students enrolled. For example, in Figure 1 Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter by Degree Type the sum of all segments for 2016 will not match the sum of all colleges in Figure 9 Total Enrollment Autumn Quarter (Growth) by Campus and College since concurrent students are listed in each college for which they have an enrolled major but are only counted once in Figure 1.

Admissions

The EDW UWSDBDatastore was used for graduate admission tabulations, specifically the APPLHIST tables that are date-stamped on census day of the quarter. The same issues that apply to enrolled students also pertain to applicants since they can apply in a single application for concurrent majors. In addition, applicants can submit multiple applications for a given academic quarter. Since we are counting applicants we generally are counting unique people when we break out by demographics but not when we break out by attributes of the discipline.