

1.3 Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen Who Enroll at Nebraska Colleges and Net Migration

Increase the number of non-Nebraska high school graduates who pursue postsecondary education in Nebraska.

The 2003 LR 174 Higher Education Task Force recommended that Nebraska’s colleges and universities should more actively recruit high school graduates from outside the state to increase college enrollments in Nebraska. The data required to monitor the total number of out-of-state and foreign students who enroll as first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions are collected every two years through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics.

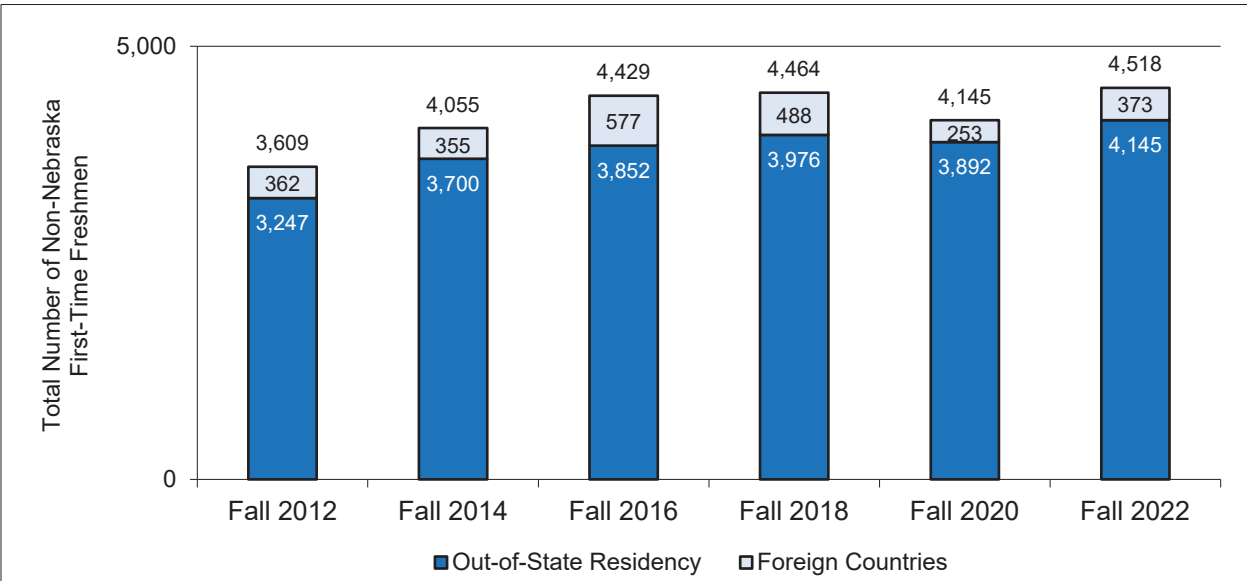
In this section, the latest available data, which are for fall 2022, are compared to the data for fall 2012, fall 2014, fall 2016, fall 2018, and fall 2020. Emphasis is primarily on the comparison of the findings for fall 2022 to those for fall 2012.

Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen Who Attend Nebraska Colleges and Universities

- As shown in [Figure 1.3.1](#), Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions attracted 909, or 25.2%, more non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen in fall 2022 than in fall 2012.
- While the number of first-time freshmen with out-of-state residency increased 27.7%, the number of first-time freshmen from foreign countries increased 3.0%. Notably, between fall 2020 and fall 2022, the number of first-time freshmen from foreign countries increased 47.4%. However, it remains 23.6% lower than fall 2018.

Figure 1.3.1

Total Number of Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions Fall 2012 through Fall 2022



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students as well as students from foreign countries. Does not include students with reported unknown states of residence and students for whom no residence information was reported. See [Table A6.5](#) and [Table 6.6](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 surveys.

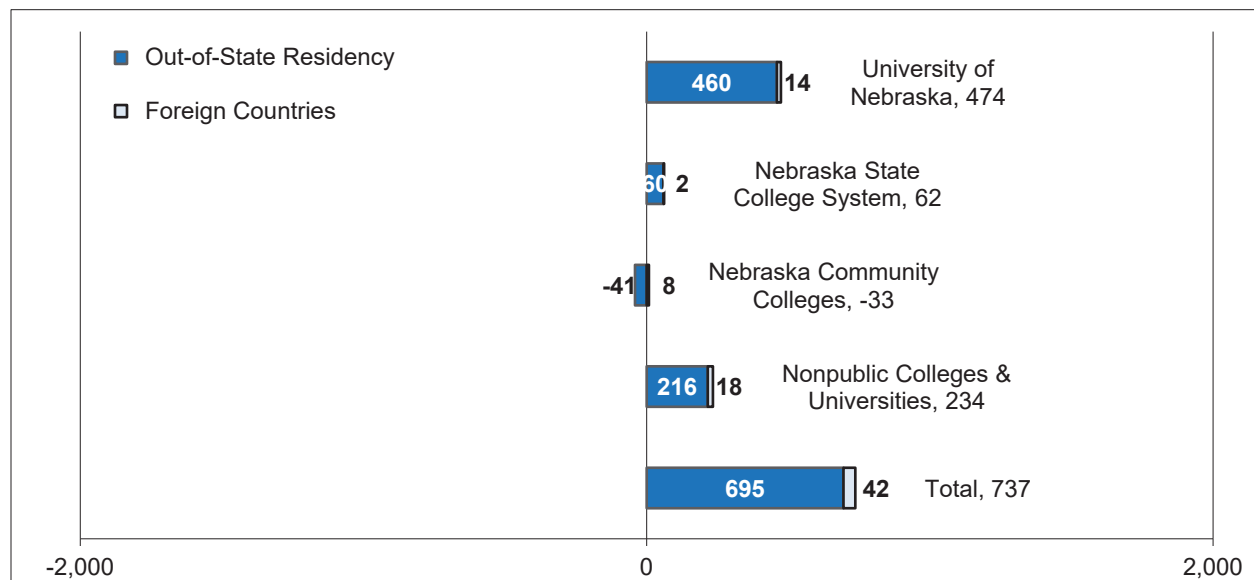
- The University of Nebraska-Lincoln enrolled 1,250 (27.7%) of the non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen in fall 2022, up from 863 in fall 2012. Creighton University enrolled 795 (17.6%) of the non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen in fall 2022, up from 729 in fall 2012. Together, these two institutions accounted for 45.3% of non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen enrolled at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions in fall 2022. (See Table A6.8 in Appendix 6 for supporting data on total non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen by institution.)
- As shown in Table 1.3.1, the total enrollment of out-of-state and foreign first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions increased by 909 students, or 25.2%, between fall 2012 and fall 2022.

Table 1.3.1
Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen
Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Classified by Length of Time Since High School Graduation
Fall 2012 through Fall 2022

Length of Time Since High School Graduation	Fall 2012		Fall 2014		Fall 2016		Fall 2018	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Graduated During the 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	2,981	82.6%	3,488	86.0%	3,957	89.3%	4,064	91.0%
Graduated More than 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	628	17.4%	567	14.0%	472	10.7%	400	9.0%
Total	3,609	100.0%	4,055	100.0%	4,429	100.0%	4,464	100.0%
Length of Time Since High School Graduation	Fall 2020		Fall 2022			Δ Since Fall 2012		
	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Graduated During the 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	3,754	90.6%	3,718	82.3%		737	24.7%	
Graduated More than 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	391	9.4%	800	17.7%		172	27.4%	
Total	4,145	100.0%	4,518	100.0%		909	25.2%	
<p><i>Note.</i> Includes full-time and part-time students as well as students from foreign countries. Does not include students with reported unknown states of residence and students for whom no residence information was reported. Δ = change. See <u>Table A6.5</u> and <u>Table A6.6</u> in <u>Appendix 6</u> for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 surveys.</p>								

- As shown in [Figure 1.3.2](#), 64.3% of the net increase of 737 students who started college within 12 months of high school graduation is attributable to the increased number of non-Nebraskans who attended the University of Nebraska.
- The Nebraska State College System and Nebraska’s nonpublic institutions also experienced gains in the number of non-Nebraskans that they attracted.
- While the number of first-time freshmen with out-of-state residency increased 24.6%, the number of first-time freshmen from foreign countries increased 27.1%. As shown in [Table A6.5](#) in [Appendix 6](#), the University of Nebraska enrolled the largest percentage of first-time freshmen from foreign countries (54.3%), while Nebraska’s nonpublic colleges enrolled the largest percentage of first-time freshmen with out-of-state residency (43.2%).
- See [Table A6.6](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for information on the enrollment of non-Nebraskan first-time freshmen who enrolled at Nebraska colleges more than a year after high school graduation.
- [Table A6.7](#) in [Appendix 6](#) provides detailed listings *by institution* of the numbers of first-time freshmen with Nebraska, out-of-state, and foreign residencies who were enrolled at Nebraska’s colleges and universities *within 12 months of high school graduation* from fall 2012 through fall 2022.

Figure 1.3.2
Changes in the Numbers of Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen
Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Within 12 Months of Graduation from High School
Fall 2022 Compared to Fall 2012



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students as well as students from foreign countries. Does not include students with reported unknown states of residence and students for whom no residence information was reported. See [Table A6.5](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2012 and fall 2022 surveys.

Net Migration of Nebraska and Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen

Data summarized in the preceding sections can be used to calculate the net migration of first-time freshmen who attended postsecondary institutions within one year of high school graduation. Students with foreign residency are excluded from the calculation of net migration.¹⁴

- As shown in [Table 1.3.2](#), in fall 2012, fall 2014, fall 2016, fall 2018, fall 2020, and fall 2022, more first-time freshmen *came to Nebraska* to attend college within 12 months of high school graduation than *left Nebraska* to go to school out of state.
- Notably, out-migration of Nebraska’s first-time freshmen increased 28.9% between fall 2020 and fall 2022 while in-migration decreased 2.2%. Further analyses reveal that 46.0% of the increase in out-migration is attributable to out-migration to Iowa. Specifically, Nebraska first-time freshmen at Iowa Western Community College nearly tripled, increasing from 155 to 434 students.

Table 1.3.2 Net Migration of First-Time Freshmen Who Attended Postsecondary Institutions <u>Within 12 Months of High School Graduation</u> Fall 2012 through Fall 2022								
Student Residency and Where They Attended College	Fall 2012	Fall 2014	Fall 2016	Fall 2018	Fall 2020	Fall 2022	Δ Since Fall 2012	
							N	%
<u>In-Migration</u> Non-Nebraska, Non-Foreign Students Enrolled at Nebraska Colleges and Universities	2,826	3,294	3,621	3,772	3,602	3,521	695	24.6%
<u>Out-Migration</u> Resident Nebraska Students Enrolled at Out-of-State Colleges and Universities	2,800	2,692	2,725	2,752	2,650	3,416	616	22.0%
Net Migration	26	602	896	1,020	952	105		
<p><i>Note.</i> Includes full-time and part-time students. Does not include students with foreign residency, reported unknown states of residence, or students for whom no residence information was reported. Δ = change. Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education discovered an error with migration data for one out-of-state institution, Texas State Technical College (TSTC). TSTC reported 403 Nebraska first-time freshmen attended TSTC in fall 2022 within 12 months of high school graduation. Internal analysis of National Student Clearinghouse data reveals that no on-time Nebraska public high school graduates attended TSTC between June 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023. Furthermore, in the 10 years prior to 2022, TSTC did not report any Nebraska students attending within 12 months of high school graduation. Therefore, the Commission has overridden TSTC’s fall 2022 migration to zero Nebraska students. See Table A6.1 and Table A6.5 in Appendix 6 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 surveys.</p>								

¹⁴ While IPEDS data captures the in-migration of first-time freshmen from foreign countries, it does not capture the out-migration of first-time freshmen with Nebraska residency that enrolled in college in foreign countries.