

1.2 Nebraska High School Graduates Who Go to College in Nebraska

Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who pursue their postsecondary education in Nebraska.

In addition to increasing college-going rates of Nebraska high school graduates, another approach to increasing college enrollment in Nebraska that was recommended by the 2003 LR 174 Higher Education Task Force is to increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who pursue their postsecondary education in their home state, rather than going out of state to college.

The data required to monitor the proportion of recent Nebraska high school graduates who go to colleges and universities in Nebraska or other states are collected every two years through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System's (IPEDS) Fall Enrollment survey maintained by the National Center of Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education. The latest available data are for fall 2018.

The best available estimate of the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who pursue their postsecondary education in Nebraska is the number of students with Nebraska residency who enroll at Nebraska postsecondary institutions as first-time freshmen within a year of graduating from high school, compared directly to the number who go out of state to college. Consequently, this section provides a detailed analysis of the numbers and percentages of Nebraska high school graduates who attended Nebraska and out-of-state postsecondary institutions as first-time freshmen within 12 months of graduating from high school between fall 2008 and fall 2018.¹⁴

Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen who start college at Nebraska or out-of-state postsecondary institutions *more* than 12 months after they graduated from high school are also of interest. However, since there is no way of knowing exactly when they received their diplomas from Nebraska or out-of-state high schools, these students are considered separately in the analysis reported in this section.

¹⁴ For the purposes of IPEDS reporting, first-time freshmen are defined to be degree/certificate-seeking students. Students taking courses for credit but not seeking degrees are not included in first-time freshmen cohorts.

Changes in the Number of Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Postsecondary Institutions by Length of Time Since High School Graduation

- Between fall 2008 and fall 2018, 431 more Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen attended postsecondary institutions within one year of high school graduation. During the same period, 1,593 fewer Nebraska-resident first-time freshmen enrolled in college more than a year after they graduated from high school, as shown in [Table 1.2.1](#). As a result, the net total enrollment of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen at postsecondary institutions decreased 6.4% (1,162 students) since fall 2008.

**Table 1.2.1
Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen
Enrolled at Nebraska and Out-of-State Postsecondary Institutions
Classified by Length of Time Since High School Graduation
Fall 2008 through Fall 2018**

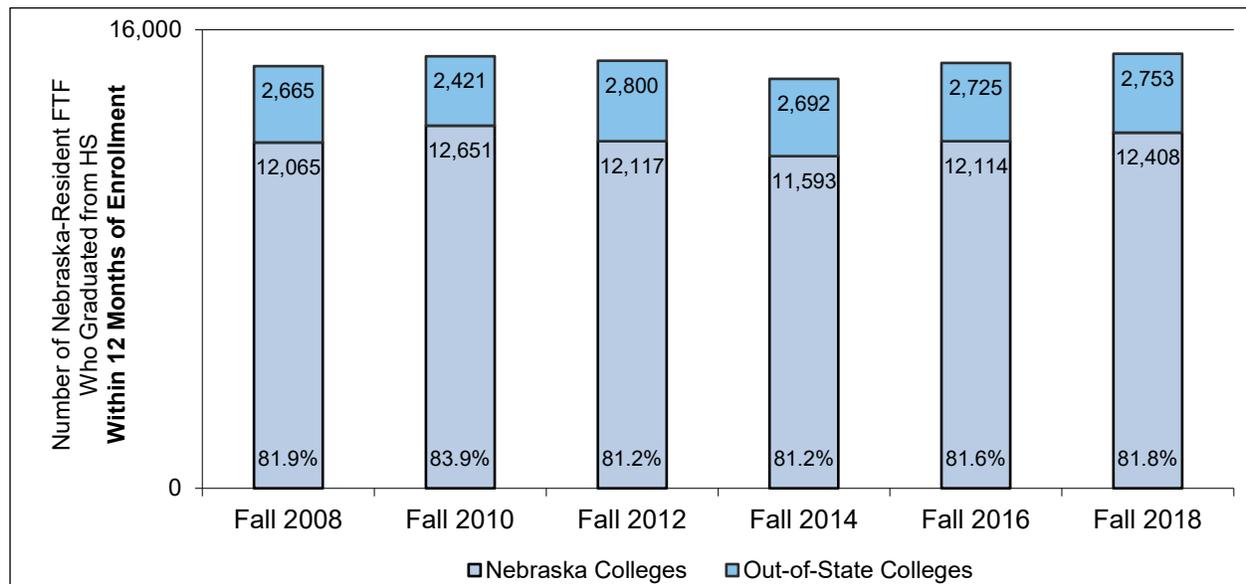
Length of Time Since High School Graduation	Fall 2008		Fall 2010		Fall 2012		Fall 2014	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Graduated During the 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	14,730	80.9%	15,072	79.1%	14,917	83.2%	14,285	81.5%
Graduated More than 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	3,472	19.1%	3,977	20.9%	3,002	16.8%	3,238	18.5%
Total	18,202	100.0%	19,049	100.0%	17,919	100.0%	17,523	100.0%
Length of Time Since High School Graduation	Fall 2016		Fall 2018				Δ Since Fall 2008	
	N	%	N	%			N	%
Graduated During the 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	14,839	86.6%	15,161	89.0%			431	2.9%
Graduated More than 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	2,302	13.4%	1,879	11.0%			-1,593	-45.9%
Total	17,141	100.0%	17,040	100.0%			-1,162	-6.4%

Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. Δ = change. See [Table A6.1](#) and [Table A6.3](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data sources: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 surveys.

In-State and Out-of-State Enrollments of Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen Who Graduated from High School Within 12 Months of College Enrollment

- The net increase between fall 2008 and fall 2018 of 431 students who continued on to college within 12 months of high school graduation, shown in [Table 1.2.1](#), is attributable to an increase of 88 Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen who enrolled at *out-of-state* institutions within 12 months of high school graduation and an increase of 343 students who pursued their postsecondary education at institutions *in Nebraska*.
- Overall, the percent of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen who choose to begin college in Nebraska has remained relatively stable since fall 2008. As illustrated in [Figure 1.2.1](#), 81.8% of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen started college in Nebraska in fall 2018, compared to 81.9% in fall 2008.

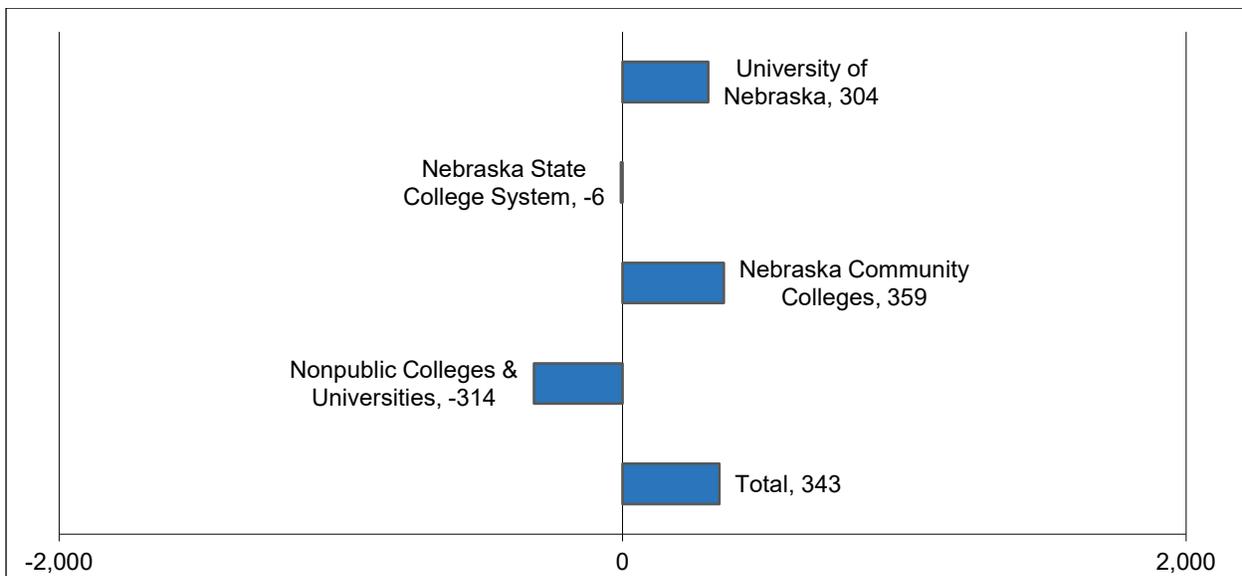
Figure 1.2.1
Number of Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Nebraska and Out-of-State Postsecondary Institutions Within 12 Months of Graduation from High School
Fall 2008 through Fall 2018



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. FTF = first-time freshmen. See [Table A6.1](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 surveys.

- As illustrated in [Figure 1.2.2](#), from fall 2008 to fall 2018, two of the four higher education sectors reported increases in the number of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen who enrolled in college less than a year after high school graduation.
 - The University of Nebraska reported a total increase of 5.4%, while Nebraska’s community colleges reported an increase of 10.5%.
 - Nebraska’s state colleges and nonpublic colleges and universities reported decreases of 0.6% and 15.3%, respectively.
- Overall, the number of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen who enrolled at Nebraska postsecondary institutions within 12 months of high school graduation increased 2.8%, from 12,065 in fall 2008 to 12,408 in fall 2018.
- See [Table A6.2](#) in [Appendix 2](#) for supporting data.

Figure 1.2.2
Changes in the Number of Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen
Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Within 12 Months of Graduation from High School
Fall 2018 Compared to Fall 2008

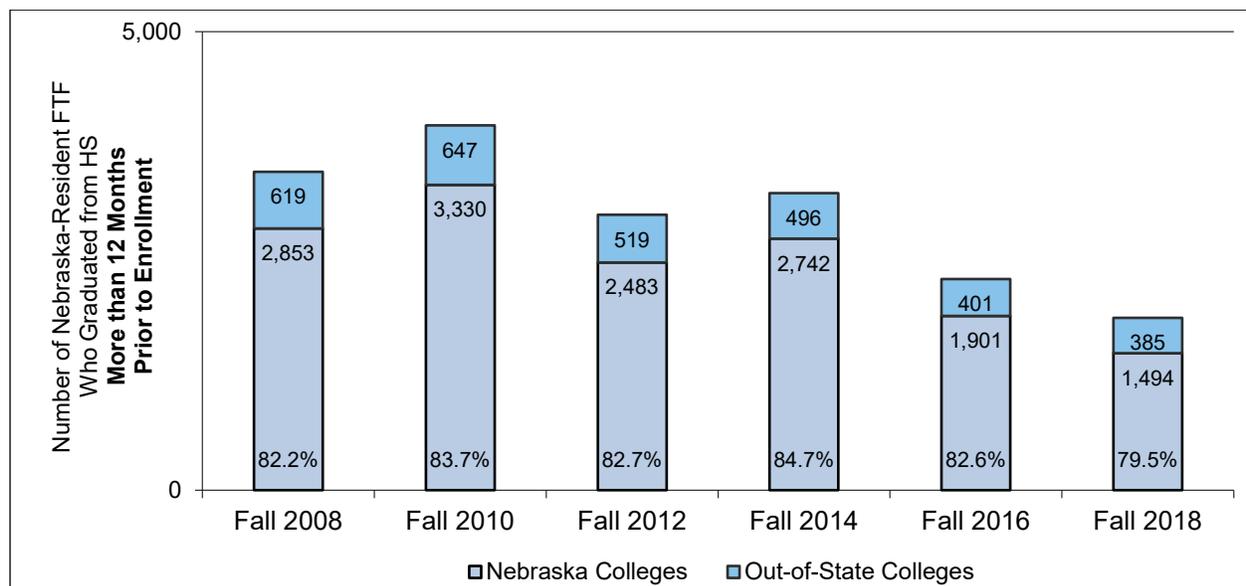


Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. See [Table A6.2](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 and fall 2018 surveys.

In-State and Out-of-State Enrollments of Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen Who Graduated from High School More than 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment

- Between fall 2008 and fall 2018, there was a decrease in the number of first-time freshmen with Nebraska residency who started their postsecondary studies at postsecondary institutions in Nebraska more than a year after they graduated from high school.
- As illustrated in Figure 1.2.3, 1,359 fewer first-time freshmen attended Nebraska colleges in fall 2018 than in fall 2008, a decrease of 47.6%.
- Likewise, between 2008 and 2018, 234 fewer first-time freshmen from Nebraska went to out-of-state colleges more than a year after graduating from high school, a 37.8% decrease.
- As shown in Figure 1.2.3, the net effect of these changes in enrollment was that a lower percentage of the students who graduated from high school more than a year before college enrollment attended Nebraska postsecondary institutions in fall 2018 than in fall 2008, while a higher percentage chose to go out of state. Specifically, 79.5% attended Nebraska colleges in 2018, compared to 82.2% in 2008.
- Total enrollment of first-time freshmen at out-of-state and in-state schools decreased 45.9% (1,593 students) from 3,472 in fall 2008 to 1,879 in fall 2018. (See Table A6.3 in Appendix 6 for supporting data.)

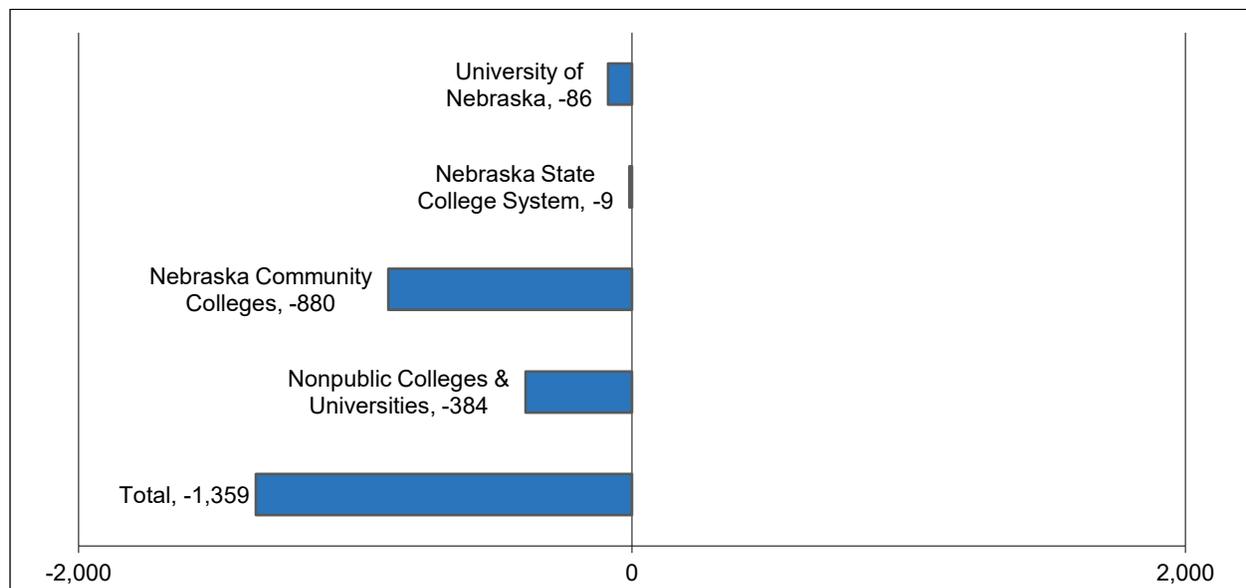
Figure 1.2.3
Number of Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Nebraska and Out-of-State Postsecondary Institutions More than 12 Months After Graduation from High School Fall 2008 through Fall 2018



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. FTF = first-time freshmen. HS = high school. See Table A6.3 in Appendix 6 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 surveys.

- As illustrated in [Figure 1.2.4](#), from fall 2008 to fall 2018, all of the sectors of higher education in Nebraska reported decreases in the number of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen who enrolled in college more than a year after high school graduation.
 - The University of Nebraska and the state colleges reported decreases of 29.5% and 18.0%, respectively.
 - In terms of the number of students enrolled, Nebraska’s community colleges and nonpublic institutions experienced the largest declines between fall 2008 and fall 2018. The community colleges enrolled 880 fewer first-time freshmen, a decrease of 43.8%, while the nonpublic colleges and universities enrolled 384 fewer first-time freshmen, a decrease of 76.6%
- Overall, the number of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen who enrolled at Nebraska postsecondary institutions more than a year after high school graduation decreased 47.6%, from 2,853 in fall 2008 to 1,494 in fall 2018. This decrease of 1,359 students is mostly attributable to reduced enrollments at Nebraska’s community colleges and nonpublic institutions
- See [Table A6.4](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data and a summary of enrollment changes by sector.

Figure 1.2.4
Changes in the Numbers of Nebraska-Resident, First-Time Freshmen
Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
More than 12 Months After Graduation from High School
Fall 2018 Compared to Fall 2008



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. See [Table A6.4](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 and fall 2018 surveys.