

1.4 Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity

Increase the number and proportion of Nebraska postsecondary students who have been underrepresented in the state's higher education system.

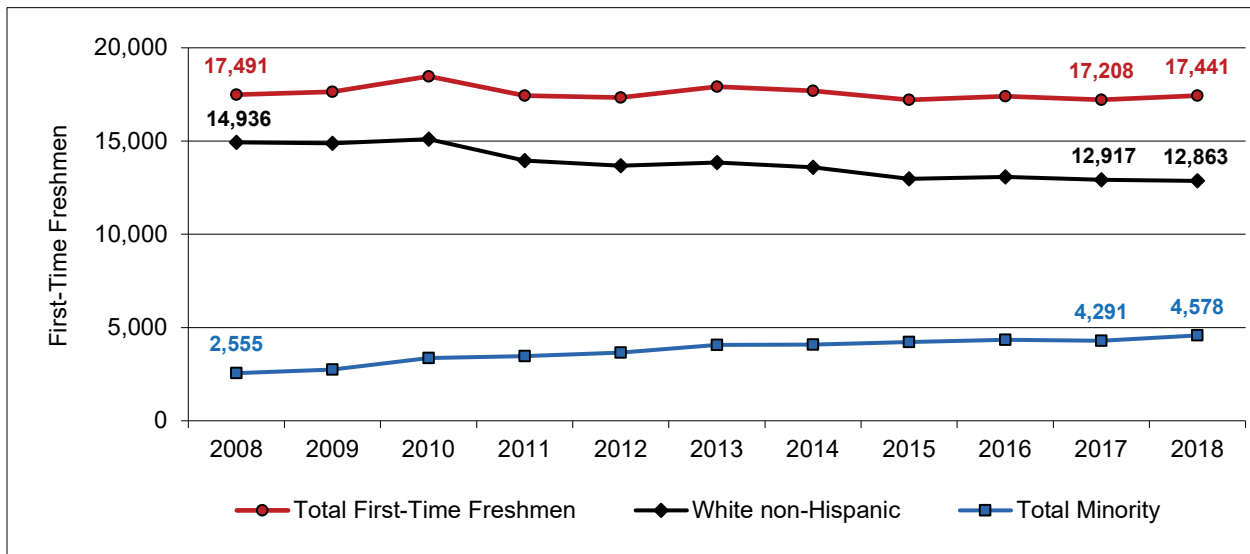
Increasing the number and percentage of students who have been underrepresented in Nebraska's higher education system is another recommended approach to increasing the state's postsecondary enrollment. To determine the extent to which this strategic objective is being achieved, the following analysis focuses on (1) the changes that have occurred since 2008 in the numbers of white non-Hispanics and minority students who have been enrolled as *first-time freshmen* at Nebraska colleges and (2) the extent to which each racial/ethnic group was represented in the state's postsecondary education system in fall 2018, the latest period for which data are available. (Estimated enrollments for fall 2019 are not available by race/ethnicity; therefore, enrollments by race/ethnicity for fall 2019 will be reported in the *2021 Progress Report*.)

Changes in the Numbers of First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Nebraska Institutions

- As shown in [Figure 1.4.1](#), 17,441 first-time freshmen of known race/ethnicity were enrolled at Nebraska's postsecondary institutions in fall 2018, a 0.3% decrease from the 17,491 first-time freshmen of known race/ethnicity enrolled in fall 2008.
- Between fall 2017 and fall 2018, total enrollment of first-time freshmen of known race/ethnicity increased 1.4%.
- In fall 2008, white non-Hispanics accounted for 85.4% of the first-time freshmen, while minorities accounted for 14.6%. Of the first-time freshmen enrolled in fall 2018, 73.8% were white non-Hispanics, while 26.2% were minorities.¹⁶
- As shown in [Figure 1.4.2](#), higher numbers of Asians/Pacific Islanders, black non-Hispanics, and Hispanics were enrolled in college in fall 2018 than in fall 2008. However, the numbers of Native-American first-time freshmen decreased since fall 2008.
- The net effect of these changes is that there were **2,023 more minority students** attending Nebraska colleges as first-time freshmen in fall 2018 than in fall 2008, an increase of 79.2%. In comparison, there were **2,073 fewer white non-Hispanic** first-time freshmen in fall 2018 than in fall 2008, a decrease of 13.9%.

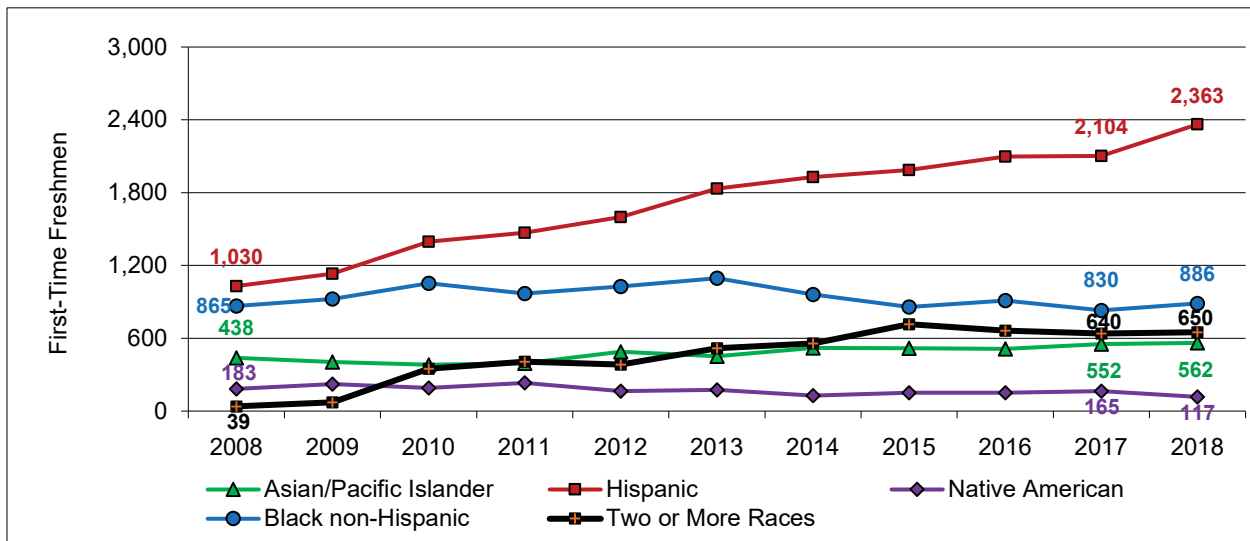
¹⁶ Minority students are defined as students from the following race/ethnicity categories: Asian/Pacific Islander, black non-Hispanic, Hispanic, Native American, and two or more races. Figures do not include nonresident aliens or students of unknown race/ethnicity.

Figure 1.4.1
Numbers of White Non-Hispanic and Minority First-Time Freshmen
at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Fall 2008 through Fall 2018



Note. Counts include full-time and part-time students. Counts do not include nonresident aliens or students of unknown race/ethnicity. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys.

Figure 1.4.2
Numbers of Minority Students Enrolled as First-Time Freshmen
at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Fall 2008 through Fall 2018



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. The race/ethnicity category 'two or more races' was an optional reporting category for enrollments reported for fall 2008 and fall 2009. Adoption of the category was mandatory beginning with data reported for fall 2010. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys.

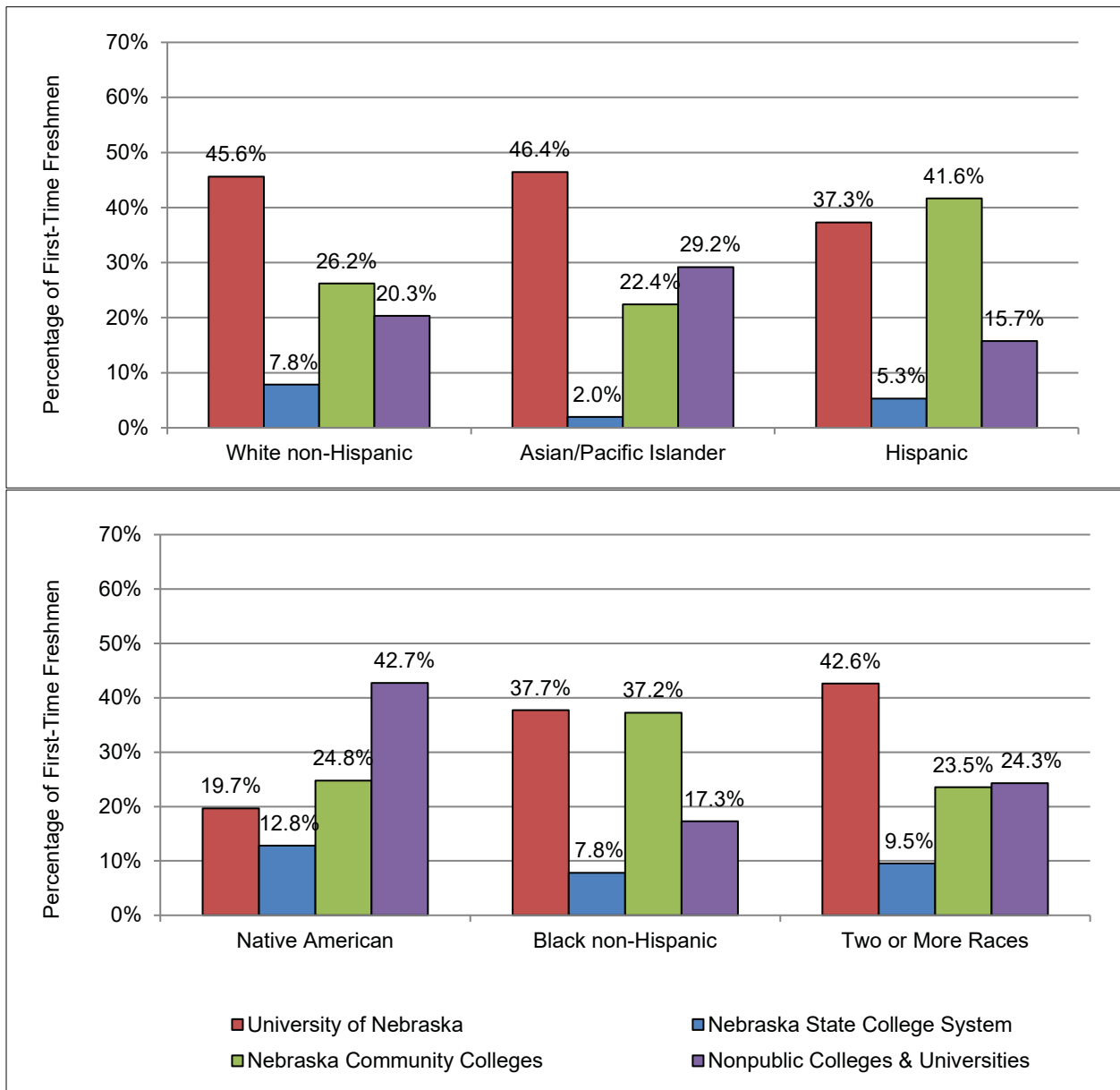
Types of Institutions Most Frequently Attended by Each Racial/Ethnic Group

Another approach to analyzing the representation of racial/ethnic groups is to examine the percentage of students in each racial/ethnic group who attend each of the institutional sectors within Nebraska's postsecondary education system.

- Figure 1.4.3 shows the percentages of the first-time freshmen in each of the six major racial/ethnic groups who attended, by sector, institutions within Nebraska's postsecondary education system in fall 2018.
- As evidenced in Figure 1.4.3, white non-Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, black non-Hispanics, and multiracial students most frequently enrolled as first-time freshmen at the University of Nebraska. Hispanic first-time freshmen were most likely to enroll at the state's community colleges. Native American first-time freshmen were most likely to enroll at the nonpublic colleges and universities.
- As shown in Table A7.2 in Appendix 7, 37 (31.6%) of the 117 Native Americans who were first-time freshmen in fall 2018 attended Little Priest Tribal College (20) or Nebraska Indian Community College (17).

Figure 1.4.3

**First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
by Race/Ethnicity and by Sector
Fall 2018**

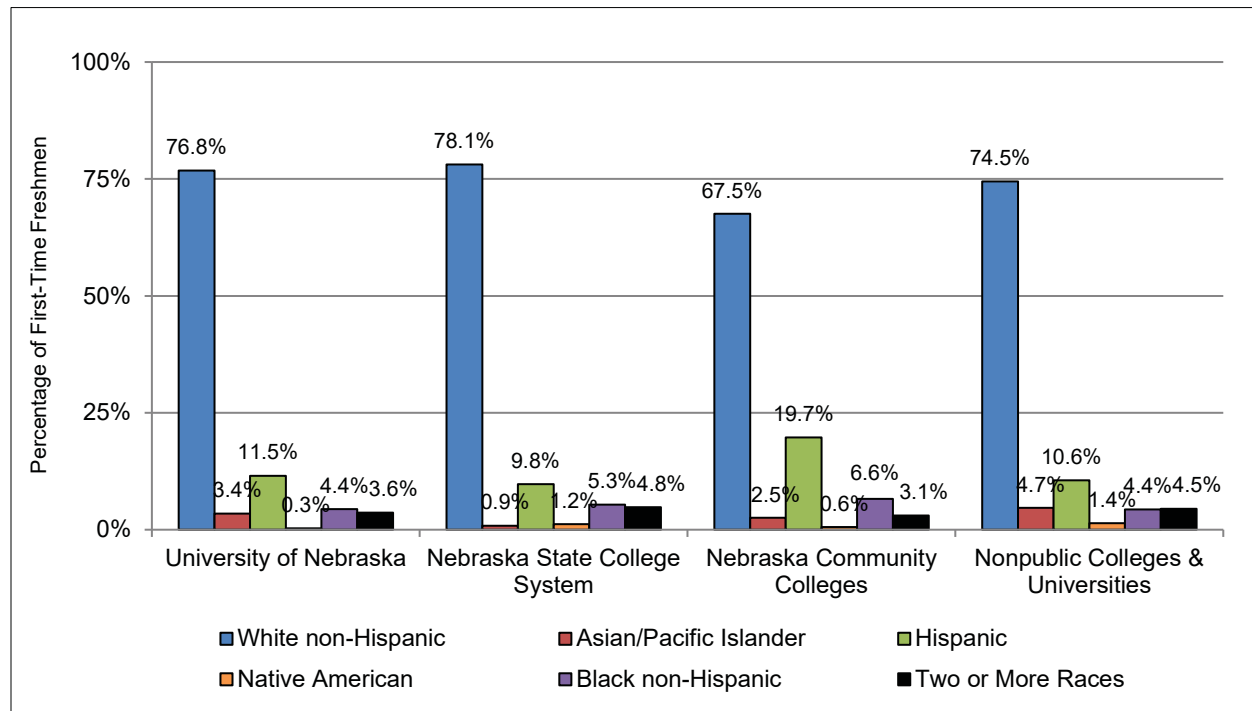


Note. Counts include full-time and part-time students. Counts do not include nonresident aliens or students of unknown race/ethnicity. The two native tribal colleges, Little Priest Tribal College and Nebraska Indian Community College, are included under nonpublic colleges and universities. See [Table A7.2](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2008 through fall 2018 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2018 survey.

Representation of Racial/Ethnic Groups by Sector

Representation of each racial/ethnic group varied across the sectors of higher education, as shown in [Figure 1.4.4](#).

Figure 1.4.4
First-Time Freshmen Racial/Ethnic Enrollments by Sector
Fall 2018



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. Does not include nonresident aliens or students of unknown race/ethnicity. See [Table A7.3](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2008 through fall 2018 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2018 survey.