

Section 1 Increasing Postsecondary Enrollment

Priority 1. Increase the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska.

The first priority recommended by the 2003 LR 174 Task Force is to increase the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska. To monitor progress toward achieving this goal, this section compares the latest available total student unduplicated headcounts and enrollments of first-time freshmen to fall 2008 within the context of 10-year trends and estimated 11-year trends.

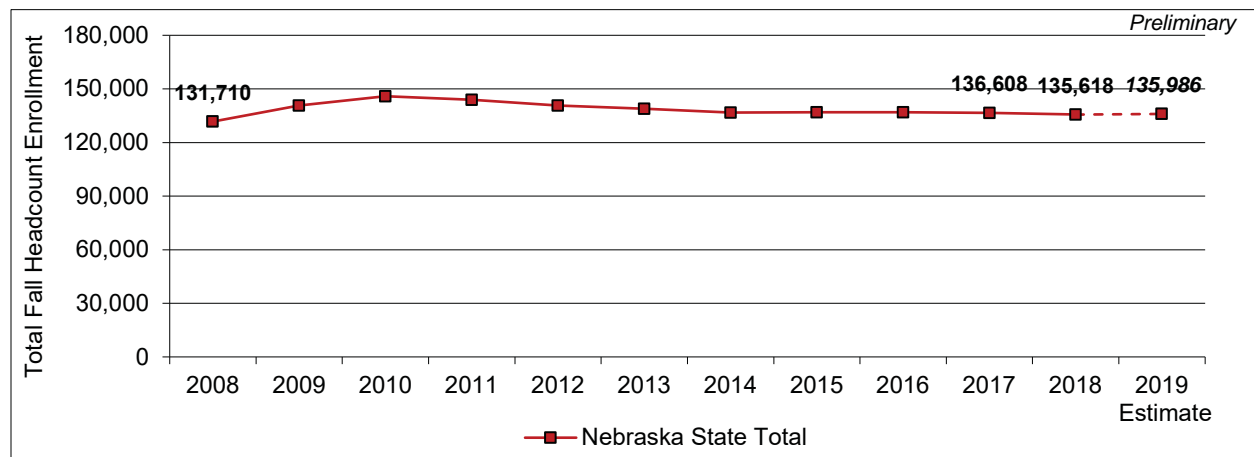
The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education is the official source of the enrollment data summarized for fall 2008 through fall 2018. Enrollments for fall 2019 are preliminary, based on estimates that institutions reported directly to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment

- Total headcount—the count of all students taking courses for credit—at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions increased from 131,710 in fall 2008 to 145,893 in fall 2010. However, total enrollment decreased 7.0% between fall 2010 and fall 2018. It is estimated that enrollment increased 0.3% between fall 2018 and fall 2019. As a result, total headcount enrollment increased from 131,710 in fall 2008 to 135,618 in fall 2018, for a 10-year increase of 3.0%, as shown in [Figure 1.1](#). In the context of estimated 11-year trends, total fall enrollment increased 3.2% between 2008 and 2019.

Figure 1.1

**Total Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019**



Note. See [Table A1.1](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

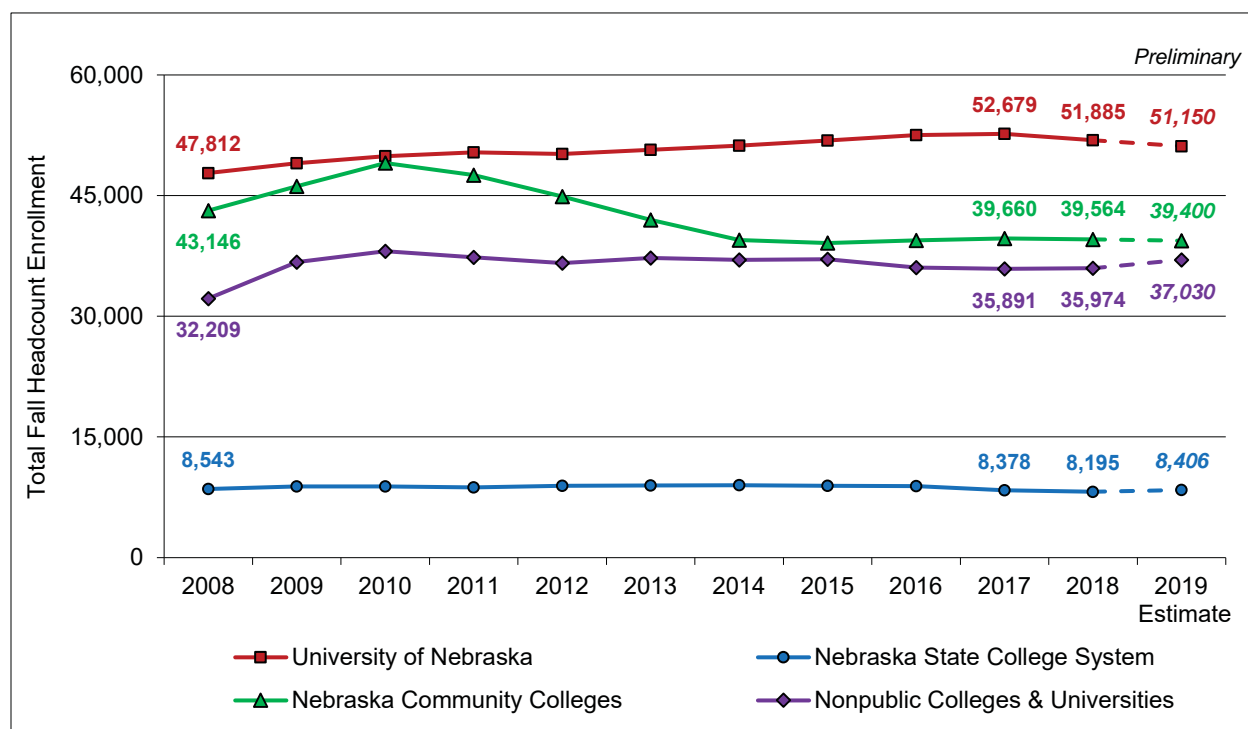
Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector

- The University of Nebraska continues to lead the state’s higher education system in terms of fall headcount enrollment. As shown in [Figure 1.2](#), Nebraska’s nonpublic institutions have also contributed positively to the state’s increased enrollment since 2008. However, based on preliminary data for fall 2019, enrollments at Nebraska’s state colleges and community colleges declined between fall 2008 and fall 2019.
- By sector, Nebraska’s postsecondary enrollment has changed as follows:

Sector	1-Year Change 2017 to 2018	Est. 1-Year Change 2018 to 2019	10-Year Change 2008 to 2018	Est. 11-Year Change 2008 to 2019
University of Nebraska	-1.5%	-1.4%	8.5%	7.0%
Nebraska State College System	-2.2%	2.6%	-4.1%	-1.6%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-0.2%	-0.4%	-8.3%	-8.7%
Nonpublic Colleges & Universities	0.2%	2.9%	11.7%	15.0%

Figure 1.2

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

Nebraska Public Colleges and Universities: Fall Enrollment by Institution

Within all sectors, changes in enrollment vary from one institution to another. The charts in this section show the enrollment trends of the institutions in each public sector from fall 2008 to fall 2019.

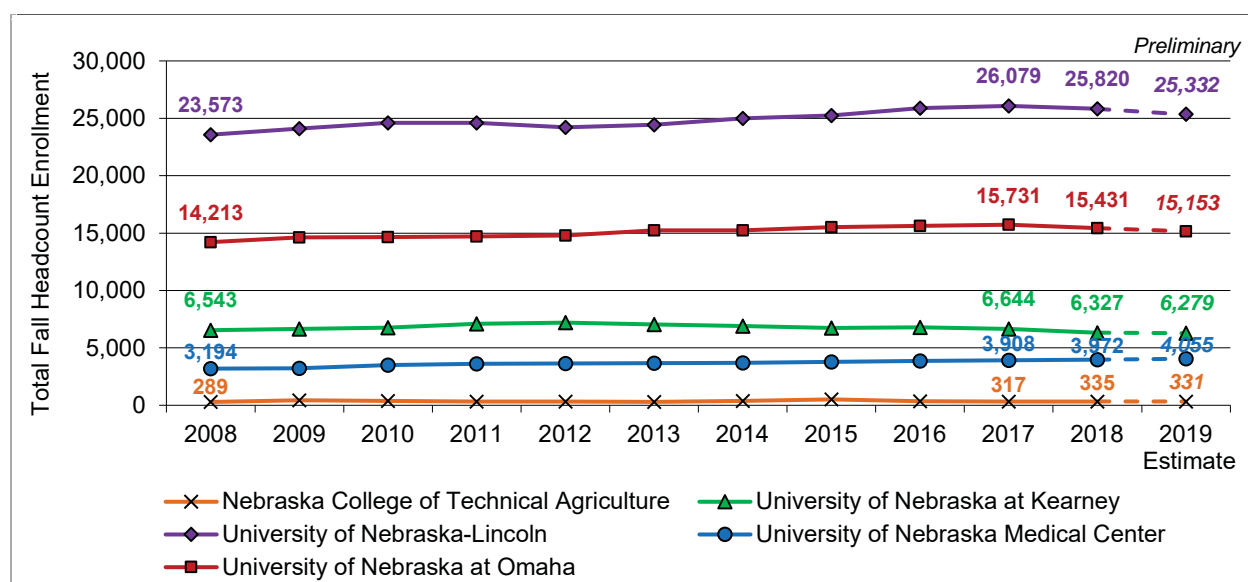
University of Nebraska

- From fall 2008 to fall 2019, fall enrollment increased an estimated 7.0% at the University of Nebraska. While the University of Nebraska at Kearney experienced a decrease during this 11-year period, all other institutions experienced increases. The largest increase was seen at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (27.0%).
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2008 and fall 2019, at the institutions constituting the University of Nebraska:

Institution	1-Year Change 2017 to 2018	Est. 1-Year Change 2018 to 2019	10-Year Change 2008 to 2018	Est. 11-Year Change 2008 to 2019
Neb. College of Technical Agriculture	5.7%	-1.2%	15.9%	14.5%
University of Nebraska at Kearney	-4.8%	-0.8%	-3.3%	-4.0%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	-1.0%	-1.9%	9.5%	7.5%
University of Neb. Medical Center	1.6%	2.1%	24.4%	27.0%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	-1.9%	-1.8%	8.6%	6.6%

Figure 1.3

Fall Headcount Enrollment at the University of Nebraska by Institution
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

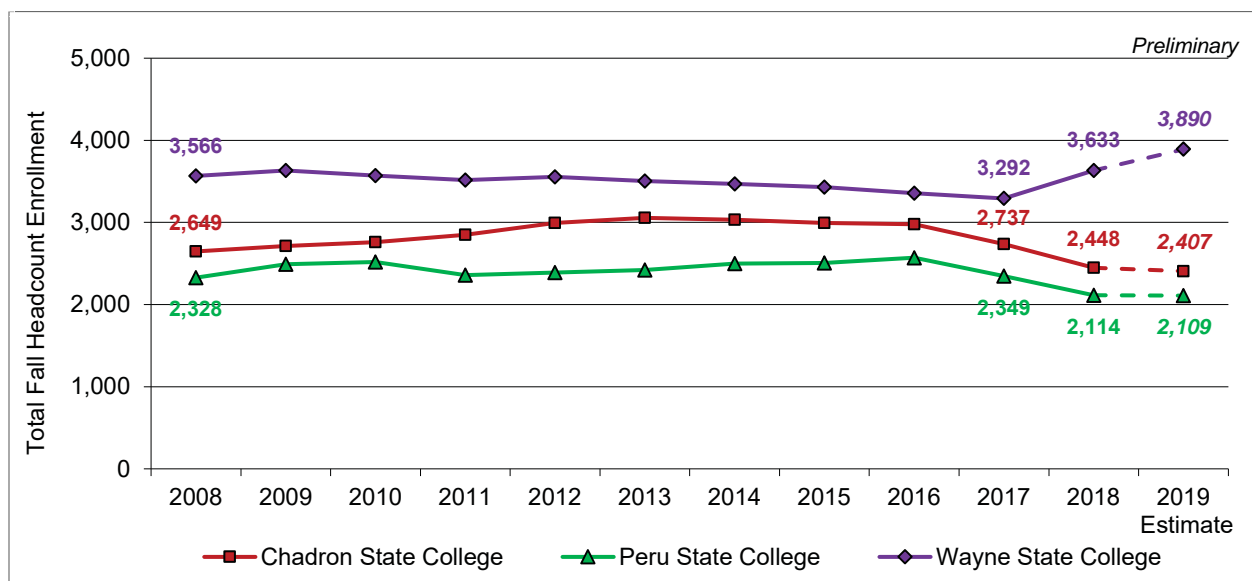
Nebraska State College System

- From fall 2008 to fall 2019, fall enrollment decreased an estimated 1.6% within the Nebraska State College System. While Wayne State College experienced a 9.1% increase during this 11-year period, Chadron State College and Peru State College experienced decreases of 9.1% and 9.4%, respectively.
- Notably, since fall 2016, Chadron State College decreased an estimated 19.1% while Peru State College decreased an estimated 18.0%.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2008 and fall 2019, at the institutions constituting the Nebraska State College System:

Institution	1-Year Change 2017 to 2018	Est. 1-Year Change 2018 to 2019	10-Year Change 2008 to 2018	Est. 11-Year Change 2008 to 2019
Chadron State College	-10.6%	-1.7%	-7.6%	-9.1%
Peru State College	-10.0%	-0.2%	-9.2%	-9.4%
Wayne State College	10.4%	7.1%	1.9%	9.1%

Figure 1.4

**Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska State College System by Institution
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019**



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

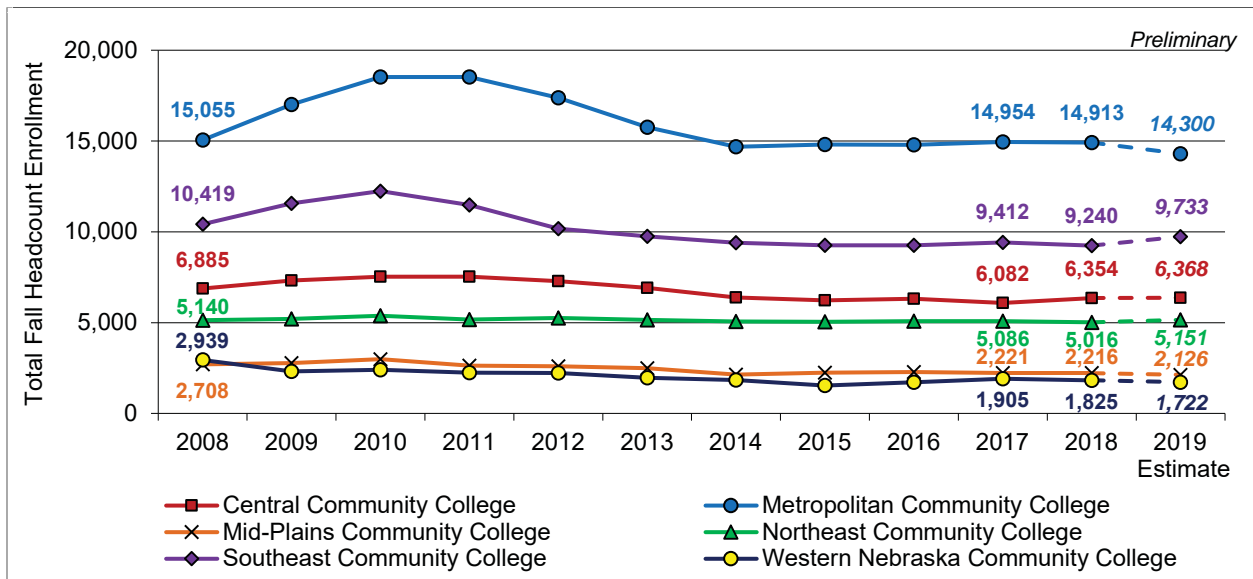
Nebraska Community Colleges

- From fall 2008 to fall 2019, total fall enrollment decreased an estimated 8.7% at the community colleges. Five out of six of Nebraska's community colleges experienced decreases during this 11-year period while enrollments at Northeast Community College were virtually unchanged.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2008 and fall 2019, at Nebraska's six community colleges:

Institution	1-Year Change 2017 to 2018	Est. 1-Year Change 2018 to 2019	10-Year Change 2008 to 2018	Est. 11-Year Change 2008 to 2019
Central Community College	4.5%	0.2%	-7.7%	-7.5%
Metropolitan Community College	-0.3%	-4.1%	-0.9%	-5.0%
Mid-Plains Community College	-0.2%	-4.1%	-18.2%	-21.5%
Northeast Community College	-1.4%	2.7%	-2.4%	0.2%
Southeast Community College	-1.8%	5.3%	-11.3%	-6.6%
Western Neb. Community College	-4.2%	-5.6%	-37.9%	-41.4%

Figure 1.5

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Community Colleges by Institution
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

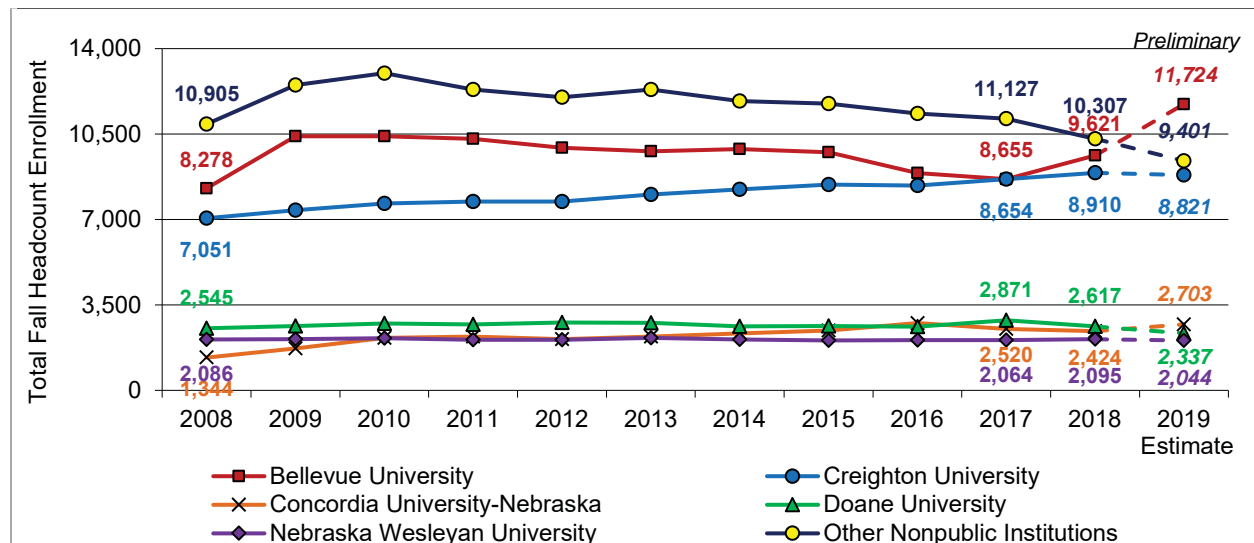
Nebraska Nonpublic Colleges and Universities: Fall Enrollment

- From fall 2008 to fall 2019, total fall enrollment increased an estimated 15.0% at Nebraska’s nonpublic colleges and universities.
- The following five nonpublic institutions are estimated to have enrolled the highest number of students within the nonpublic sector in fall 2019: Bellevue University, Creighton University, Concordia University-Nebraska, Doane University, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2007 and fall 2018, at Nebraska’s nonpublic institutions. (See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for more information on fall enrollments at Nebraska’s nonpublic institutions.)

Institution	1-Year Change 2017 to 2018	Est. 1-Year Change 2018 to 2019	10-Year Change 2008 to 2018	Est. 11-Year Change 2008 to 2019
Bellevue University	11.2%	21.9%	16.2%	41.6%
Creighton University	3.0%	-1.0%	26.4%	25.1%
Concordia University-Nebraska	-3.8%	11.5%	80.4%	101.1%
Doane University	-8.8%	-10.7%	2.8%	-8.2%
Nebraska Wesleyan University	1.5%	-2.4%	0.4%	-2.0%
Other Nonpublic Institutions	-7.4%	-8.8%	-5.5%	-13.8%

Figure 1.6

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Nonpublic Colleges and Universities
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

Nebraska Fall Headcount Enrollment Summary by Sector

- As shown in [Table 1.1](#), the net effect of the changes in enrollment that occurred between fall 2008 and fall 2019 is that enrollments at the University of Nebraska and the nonpublic colleges and universities accounted for a higher percentage of Nebraska's total postsecondary enrollment in fall 2019 than they did in fall 2008.

Table 1.1 Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector 2008 and 2019				
Enrollment Sector	Fall 2008		<i>Estimated Fall 2019</i>	
	Enrollment	% of Enrollment	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>% of Enrollment</i>
University of Nebraska	47,812	36.3%	<i>51,150</i>	<i>37.6%</i>
Nebraska State College System	8,543	6.5%	<i>8,406</i>	<i>6.2%</i>
Nebraska Community Colleges	43,146	32.8%	<i>39,400</i>	<i>29.0%</i>
Nonpublic Colleges & Universities	32,209	24.5%	<i>37,030</i>	<i>27.2%</i>
Total Nebraska Postsecondary Headcount Enrollment	131,710	100.0%	<i>135,986</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
Data sources: For 2008 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 survey. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.				

12-Month Unduplicated Headcounts at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions Compared to Fall Headcount Enrollment

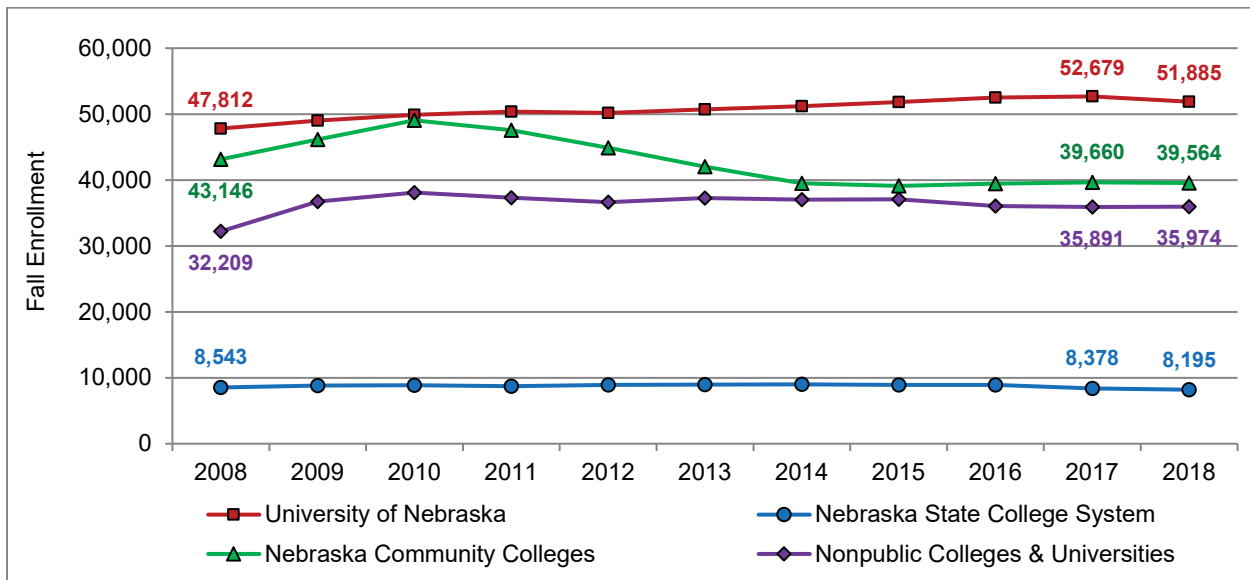
Fall headcount enrollment is the best available indicator of enrollment trends across all of the sectors of postsecondary education in Nebraska because it is reported by and can be analyzed by race/ethnicity, gender, enrollment status (part-time/full-time), level of study (undergraduate/ graduate), and distance enrollment status. However, fall enrollment totals provide only a snapshot of the number of students at an institution on a specific date during the fall of the academic year. As a result, fall enrollment totals do not include students who enrolled later in the fall or who were enrolled in college only during the spring or summer of the academic year.

Nebraska's postsecondary institutions also report 12-month unduplicated headcounts to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Also referred to as 12-month enrollment, a 12-month unduplicated headcount is the total number of students who were enrolled at an institution at any time during the academic year. Each student is counted only once per academic year. For example, if a student was enrolled in the fall and spring semester at Wayne State College, that student would be counted only once for the entire academic year. The advantage of this count is that it captures students who were enrolled any time during the year. In this way, 12-month enrollment is designed to capture the total number of students an institution serves throughout the academic year.

For some institutions, fall enrollment is about the same or only slightly lower than the school's 12-month unduplicated headcount. However, for other institutions, fall enrollment is considerably lower than the total number of students the school serves over the course of an academic year. This is particularly true for Nebraska's community colleges, where the percentage of students enrolled in the fall is about 50% to 66% of the students served over the course of an academic year. The following analysis compares fall and 12-month unduplicated headcounts for Nebraska's five sectors of higher education.

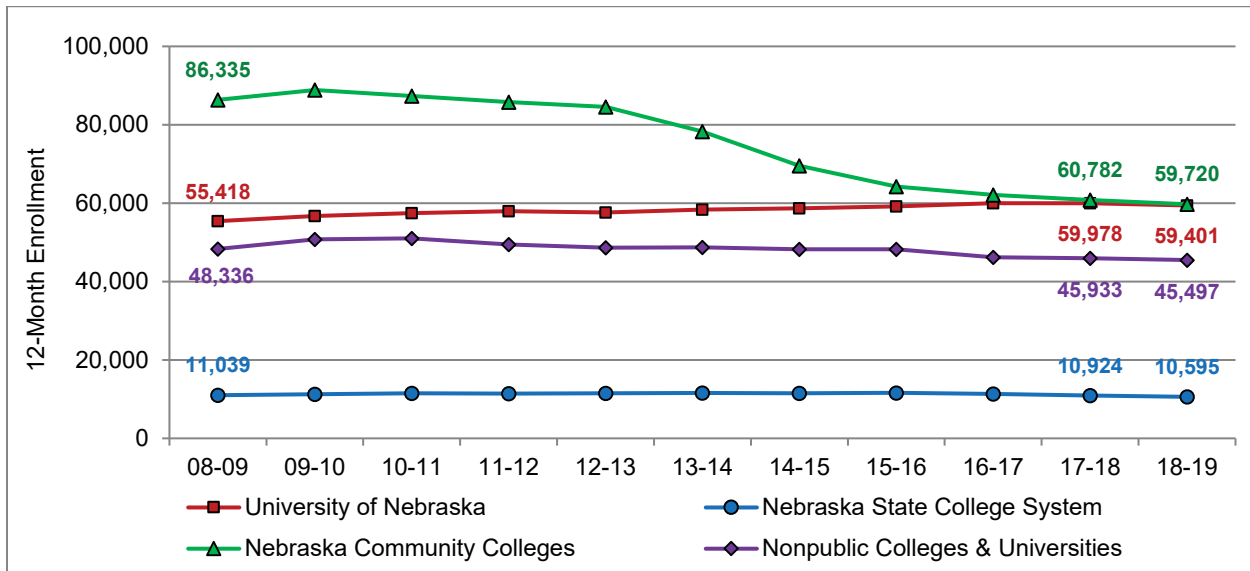
- Figure 1.8 shows total fall enrollment by sector from fall 2008 through fall 2018, the latest period for which official data are available from the NCES. Figure 1.9 shows the comparable 12-month enrollments reported to the NCES for the 2008-2009 academic year through the 2018-2019 academic year.
- The fall and 12-month enrollments shown in Figure 1.8 and Figure 1.9 are both valid measures for determining whether sector enrollments are generally increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same. However, the two headcounts provide different information about sector enrollments.
- Based on the fall enrollments charted in Figure 1.8, the University of Nebraska enrolls a higher number of students than Nebraska's six community colleges. In fall 2018, for example, the University of Nebraska enrolled 51,885 students compared to enrollment of 39,564 students at the community colleges.
- The 12-month enrollments summarized in Figure 1.9, on the other hand, show that Nebraska's community colleges serve a greater number of students than the University of Nebraska over the course of an academic year. In 2018-2019, the community colleges served a total of 59,720 students over the course of the academic year, while the University of Nebraska served 59,401 students. This is not surprising given the differences in the institutional missions and programs offered by these two sectors.

Figure 1.8
Fall Headcount Enrollment
at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector
Fall 2008 through Fall 2018



Note. See Table A1.1 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys.

Figure 1.9
12-Month Unduplicated Headcount
at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector
2008-2009 Academic Year through 2018-2019 Academic Year

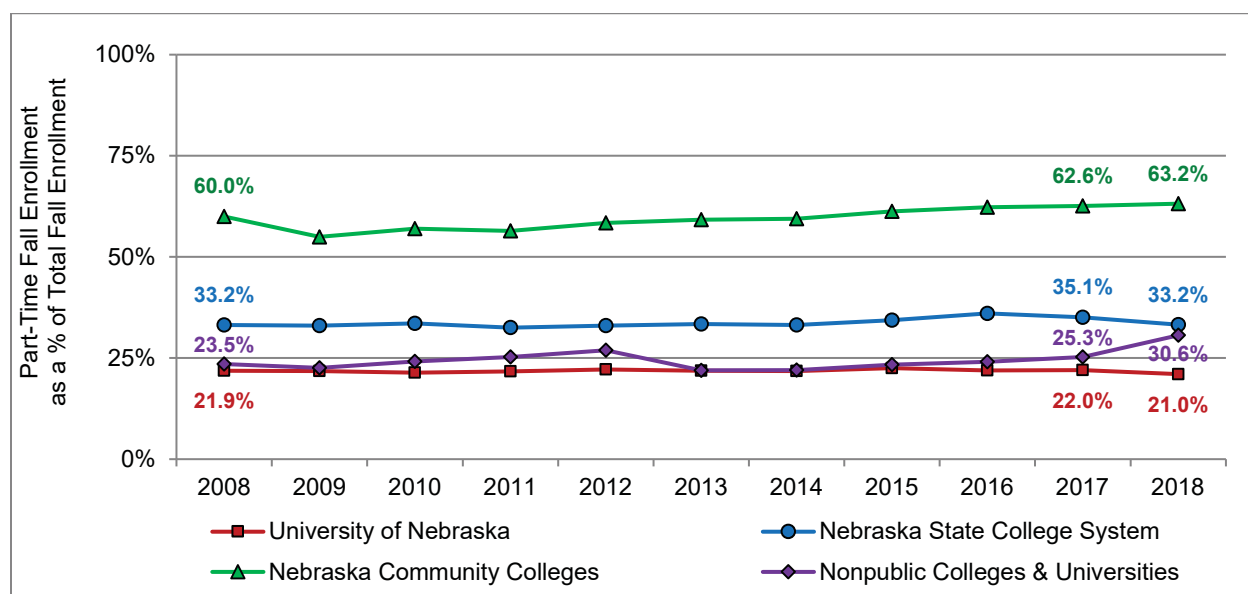


Note. See Table A1.3 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2009 through 2019 surveys.

- The higher 12-month headcount of the community colleges reflects the fact that these colleges serve many students who take courses only one semester or quarter of the academic year. Furthermore, the community colleges enroll more part-time students than the University of Nebraska, Nebraska state colleges, and nonpublic colleges and universities. As shown in [Figure 1.10](#), part-time students accounted for 63.2% of total fall enrollment at the community colleges in fall 2018. In comparison, part-time students accounted for 21.0% of the University of Nebraska’s fall 2018 enrollment, 33.2% of the fall enrollment at the state colleges, and 30.6% at the nonpublic institutions.²

Figure 1.10

Part-Time Fall Enrollment as a Percentage of Total Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector Fall 2008 through Fall 2018



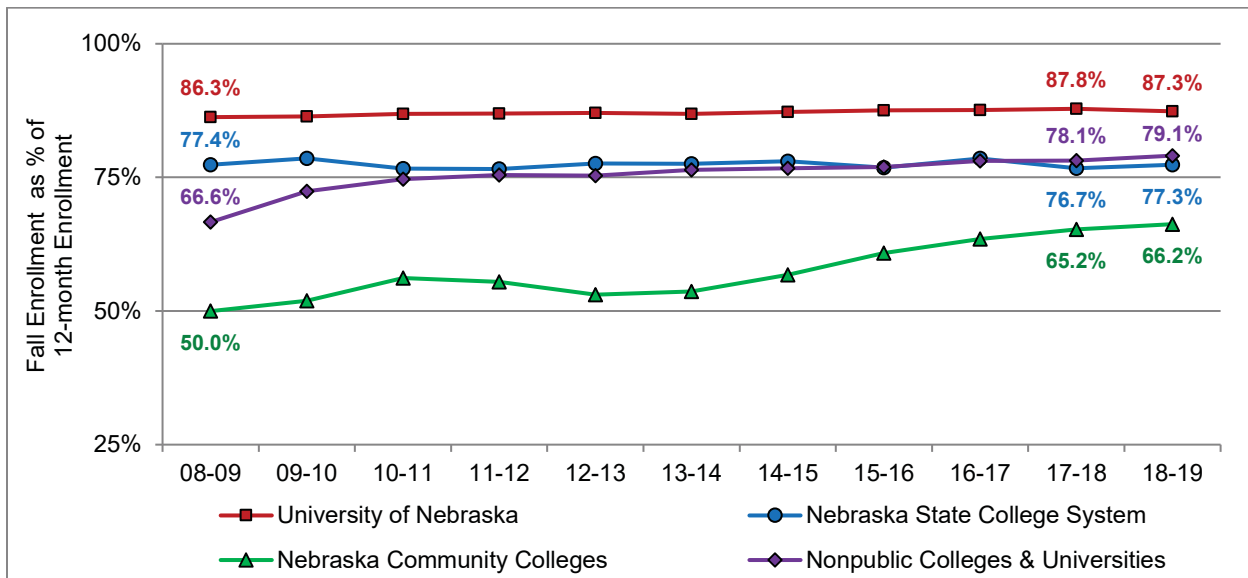
Note. For more information, see the *2019 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment* on the Commission’s website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys.

- [Figure 1.11](#) shows fall enrollment as a percentage of 12-month enrollment as a means of directly comparing these two headcounts. As shown in this chart, fall enrollment in 2018 accounted for 87.3%, 79.1%, and 77.3% of 12-month enrollment during the 2018-2019 academic year at the University of Nebraska, the nonpublic sector, and the Nebraska State College System, respectively. Meanwhile, fall enrollments accounted for 66.2% of the students served annually by the state’s six community colleges.
- The Commission will continue to use fall unduplicated headcounts as the primary measure of the number of students enrolled at colleges and universities in Nebraska. However, fall headcount enrollments should be interpreted with the understanding that there are many more students who are served by Nebraska’s postsecondary education system over the course of any given academic year, and this is especially true in the case of the state’s community colleges and for-profit/career schools.

² The NCES does not ask institutions to report 12-month unduplicated headcounts by full-time/part-time enrollment status. Consequently, the numbers and percentages of students who attend any institution on a part-time basis are available only for fall headcount enrollments.

Figure 1.11

Fall Headcount Enrollment as a Percentage of 12-Month Unduplicated Headcount at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector 2008-2009 Academic Year through 2018-2019 Academic Year



Note. See Table A1.1 and Table A1.3 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2009 through 2019 surveys.

First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions

First-time freshmen enrollments are indicators of the general direction undergraduate enrollments are headed as well as general measures of the numbers of high school graduates who go on to college in Nebraska. Consequently, this section compares fall 2008 enrollments of first-time freshmen to estimated first-time freshmen enrollment in fall 2019. Enrollments for fall 2019 are preliminary, based on estimates that institutions report directly to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

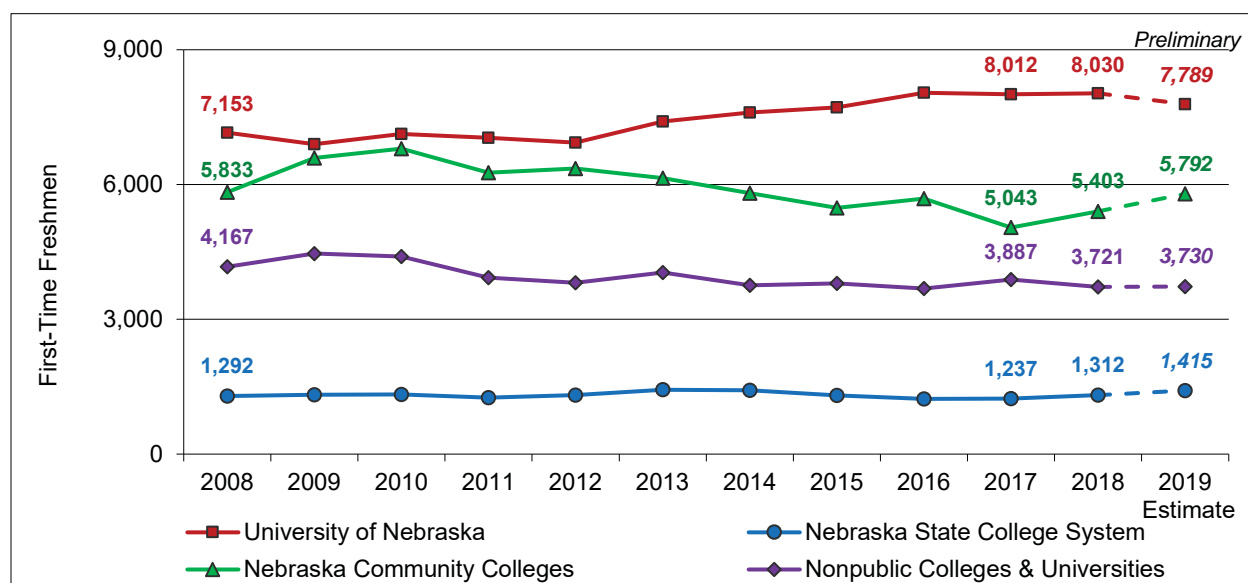
Total Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Sector

- As shown in [Figure 1.12](#), the University of Nebraska has enrolled more first-time freshmen than any other sector since fall 2008.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in first-time freshmen enrollments, as well as the total changes in first-time freshmen enrollments, between fall 2008 and fall 2019:

Sector	1-Year Change 2017 to 2018	Est. 1-Year Change 2018 to 2019	10-Year Change 2008 to 2018	Est. 11-Year Change 2008 to 2019
University of Nebraska	0.2%	-3.0%	12.3%	8.9%
Nebraska State College System	6.1%	7.9%	1.5%	9.5%
Nebraska Community Colleges	7.1%	7.2%	-7.4%	-0.7%
Nonpublic Colleges & Universities	-4.3%	0.2%	-10.7%	-10.5%
Total Nebraska	0.2%	-3.0%	12.3%	8.9%

Figure 1.12

**Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019**

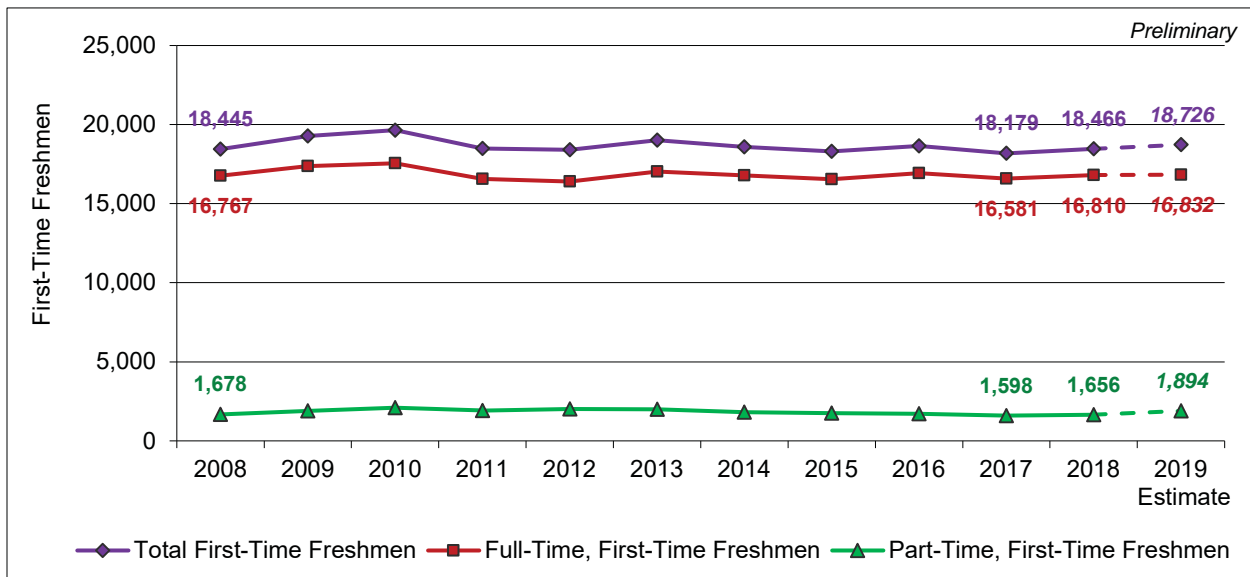


Note. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

Total Enrollment of Full- and Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen

- As shown in [Figure 1.13](#), total enrollment of first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions increased an estimated 1.5% between fall 2008 and fall 2019.
- Full-time first-time freshmen accounted for an estimated 89.9% of the first-time freshmen attending postsecondary institutions in Nebraska in fall 2019, down from 90.9% in fall 2008.
- Full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 0.4% over the 11-year period between fall 2008 and fall 2019. Meanwhile, part-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 12.9% over the 11-year period.
- Analyzing the actual changes in fall enrollment between 2008 and 2018 reveals that Nebraska’s total first-time freshmen enrollment increased slightly (0.1%). Full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased 0.3% while part-time first-time freshmen enrollment decreased 1.3%.

Figure 1.13
Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Full- and Part-Time Student Status
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019



Note. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

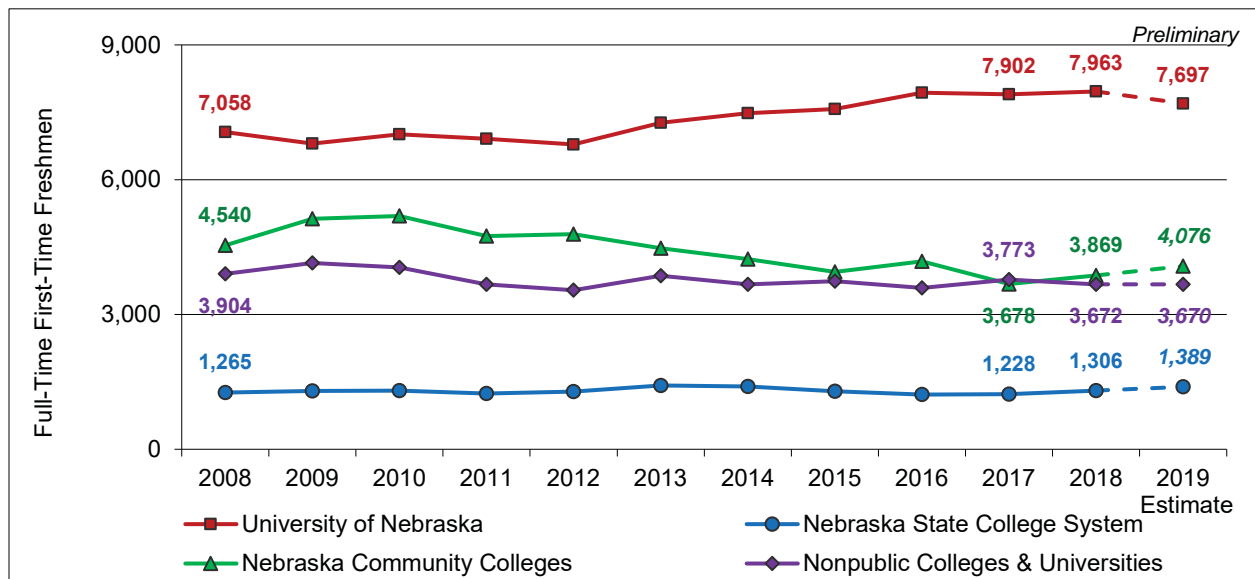
Enrollment of Full- and Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen by Sector

- From fall 2008 to fall 2019, full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 0.4%. As illustrated in [Figure 1.14](#), full-time first-time freshmen enrollments varied by sector.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in full-time first-time freshmen enrollments, as well as the total changes in full-time first-time freshmen enrollments, between fall 2008 and fall 2019:

Sector	1-Year Change 2017 to 2018	Est. 1-Year Change 2018 to 2019	10-Year Change 2008 to 2018	Est. 11-Year Change 2008 to 2019
University of Nebraska	0.8%	-3.3%	12.8%	9.1%
Nebraska State College System	6.4%	6.4%	3.2%	9.8%
Nebraska Community Colleges	5.2%	5.4%	-14.8%	-10.2%
Nonpublic Colleges & Universities	-2.7%	-0.1%	-5.9%	-6.0%
Total Nebraska Full-Time First-Time	1.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%

Figure 1.14

**Total Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019**

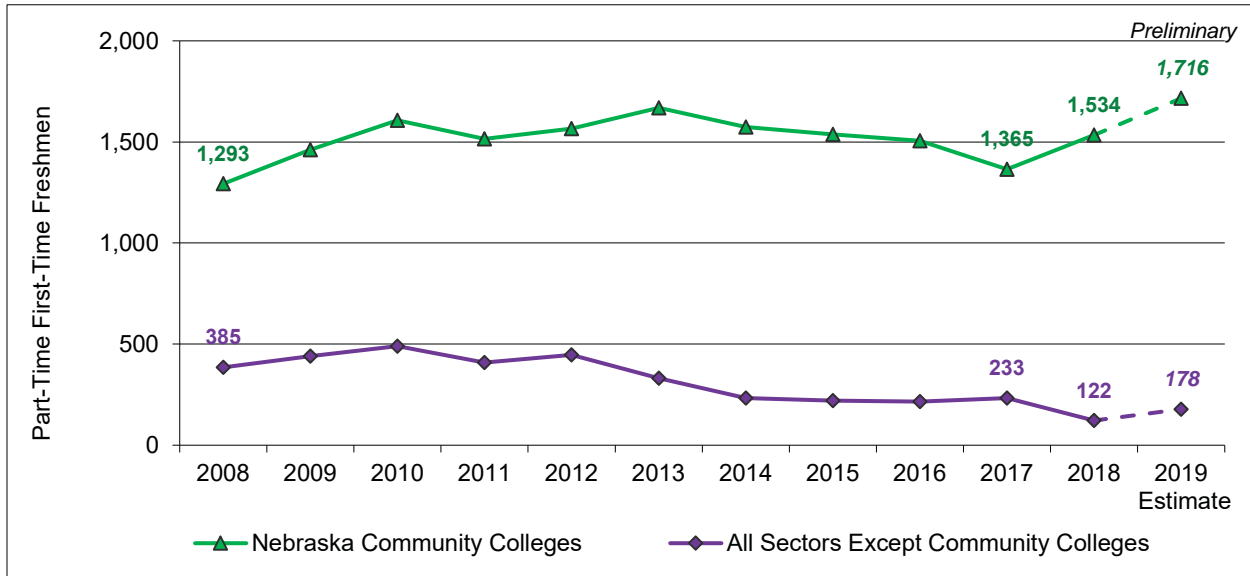


Note. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

- As shown in [Figure 1.15](#), Nebraska's community colleges account for the majority of first-time freshmen who attend school part-time (77.1% of the state total in fall 2008 and an estimated 90.6% in fall 2019).
- From fall 2008 to fall 2019, part-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 12.9%.

- Enrollment of part-time first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s community colleges increased an estimated 11.9% from fall 2018 to fall 2019, resulting in an estimated 11-year increase of 32.7%.
- The number of part-time first-time freshmen enrolled at other types of institutions increased an estimated 45.9% from fall 2018 to fall 2019. However, part-time enrollments decreased an estimated 53.8% over the 11-year period.

Figure 1.15
Total Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector
Fall 2008 through Fall 2019



Note. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2008 through 2018 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2008 through fall 2018 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2019 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

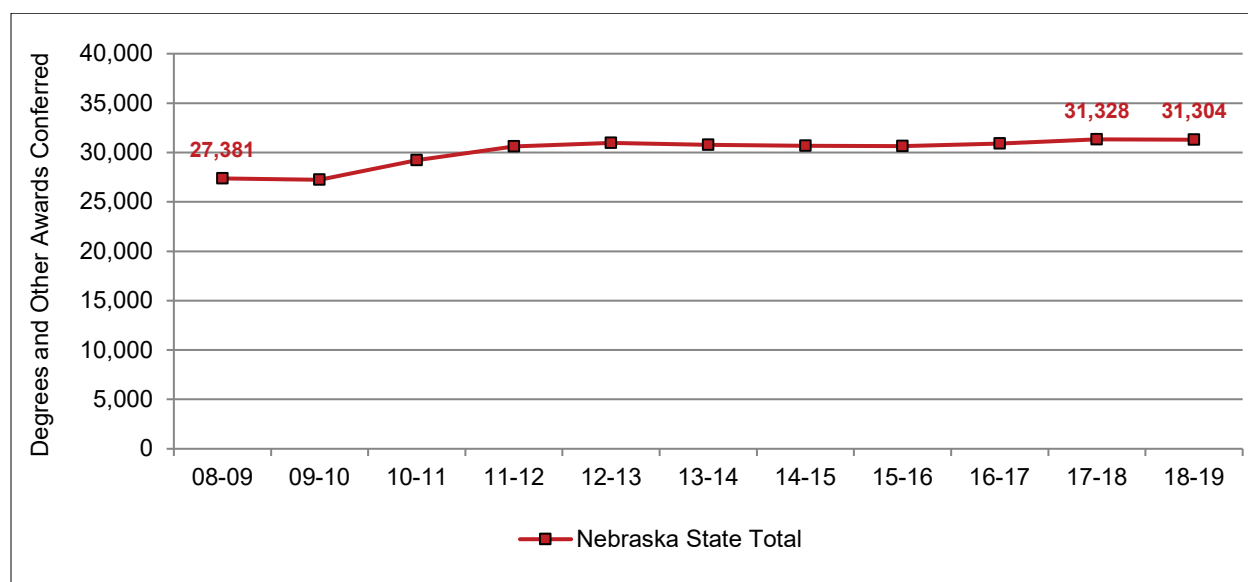
Number of Degrees Conferred at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions

Although not specified as a state priority by the 2003 LR 174 Higher Education Task Force, increasing the number of degrees is a logical outcome of increasing enrollment and increasing the percentage of students who complete degree programs.

- As shown in [Figure 1.16](#), the total number of degrees and awards conferred by Nebraska institutions increased 14.3% from 27,381 in 2008-2009 to 31,304 in 2018-2019.

Figure 1.16

Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions 2008-2009 Academic Year through 2018-2019 Academic Year



Note. For more information, see the *2019 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards* on the Commission’s website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2009 through 2019 surveys.

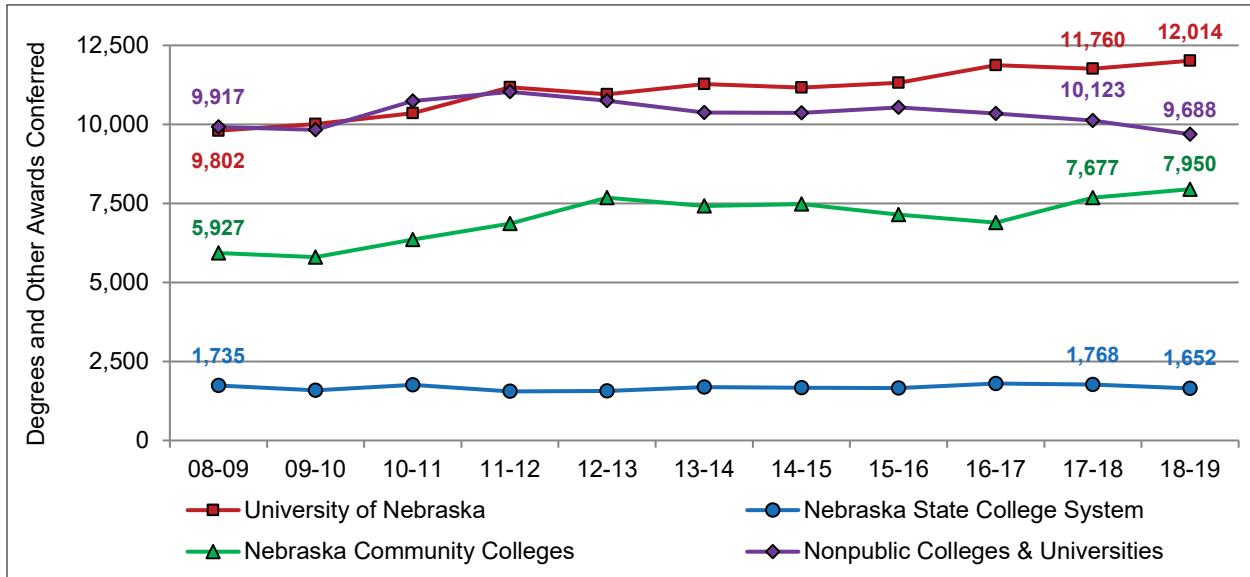
- As shown in [Figure 1.17](#), the University of Nebraska and the community colleges awarded more degrees and other awards in 2018-2019 than in 2008-2009.
- By sector, the number of degrees and other awards conferred by Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions changed as follows:

Sector	1-Year Change 17-18 to 18-19	10-Year Change 08-09 to 18-19
University of Nebraska	2.2%	22.6%
Nebraska State College System	-6.6%	-4.8%
Nebraska Community Colleges	3.6%	34.1%
Nonpublic Colleges & Universities	-4.3%	-2.3%

- [Table 1.2](#) shows, by award level, the number of degrees and other awards conferred by all Nebraska colleges and universities. Based on these data, from 2008-2009 to 2018-2019, the largest percentage point increase was at the doctoral level (29.8%).

Figure 1.17

**Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Sector
2008-2009 Academic Year through 2018-2019 Academic Year**



Note. For more information, see the *2019 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards* on the Commission’s website at cpe.nebraska.gov/reports. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 through 2018 surveys.

**Table 1.2
Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Award Level
Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
2008-2009 Academic Year through 2018-2019 Academic Year**

Award Level	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	10-Yr. Chg.
Less-than-Four-Year Certificates	3,251	2,975	3,261	3,227	3,746	3,404	3,393	3,282	3,009	4,032	3,868	19.0%
Associate Degrees	4,763	4,862	5,352	5,765	5,944	5,755	5,712	5,144	5,067	4,703	5,007	5.1%
Bachelor’s Degrees & Post-Baccalaureate Certificates	13,017	13,091	14,061	14,548	14,523	15,022	14,514	14,734	14,965	14,950	15,012	15.3%
Master’s Degrees & Post-Master’s Certificates	4,979	4,914	5,163	5,692	5,244	5,074	5,481	5,788	6,268	5,980	5,638	13.2%
Doctor’s Degrees	1,371	1,392	1,371	1,392	1,495	1,503	1,583	1,699	1,607	1,663	1,779	29.8%
Total Awards Conferred	27,381	27,234	29,208	30,624	30,952	30,758	30,683	30,647	30,916	31,328	31,304	14.3%

Note. For more information, see the *2019 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards* on the Commission’s website at cpe.nebraska.gov/reports. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 through 2018 surveys.

Strategic Objectives to Increase Postsecondary Enrollment Recommended by the 2003 LR 174 Task Force

Given the first priority **to increase the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska**, the 2003 LR 174 Task Force recommended a series of strategic objectives to increase college enrollments. For the purposes of establishing baseline statistical indicators and monitoring progress toward achieving these objectives, they are stated as follows:

- 1.1 Increase the proportion of PK-12 students who graduate from high school, enroll in postsecondary education and are adequately prepared to proceed through postsecondary degree completion.**
- 1.2 Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who pursue their postsecondary education in Nebraska.**
- 1.3 Increase the number of non-Nebraska high school graduates who pursue postsecondary education in Nebraska.**
- 1.4 Increase the number and proportion of Nebraska postsecondary students who have been underrepresented in the state's higher education system.**
- 1.5 Increase need-based financial aid in order to improve access to higher education for Nebraskans with limited financial means.**

Following this outline, the remainder of this section focuses on the extent to which each of these measurable objectives is being achieved.