

## 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 2006 within the context of 10-year trends and estimated 11-year trends.

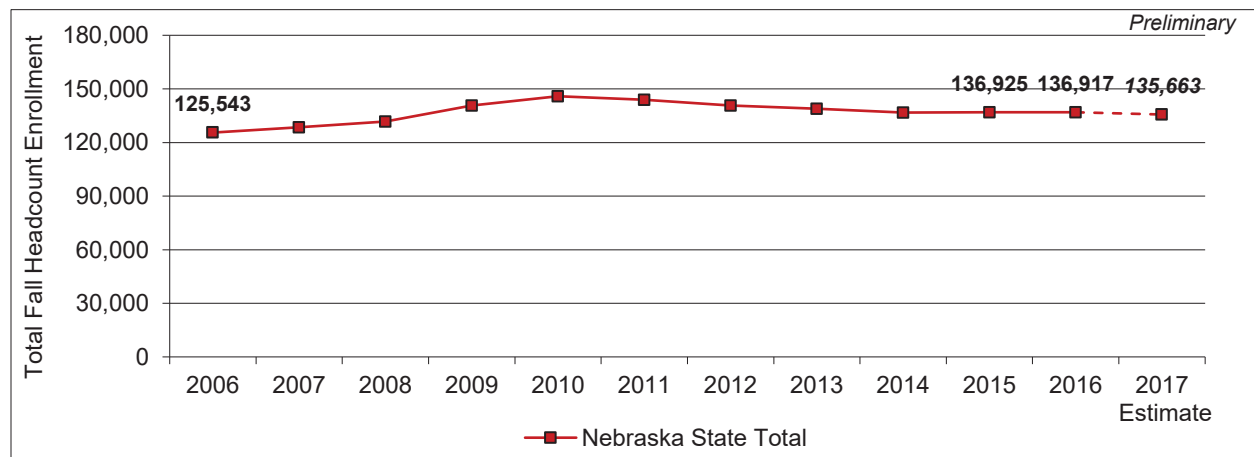
The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education is the official source of the enrollment data summarized for fall 2006 through fall 2016. Enrollments for fall 2017 are preliminary, based on estimates that institutions reported directly to the Coordinating Commission 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 steadily from 125,543 in fall 2006 to 145,893 in fall 2010. However, total enrollment decreased 6.2% between fall 2010 and fall 2016. Furthermore, it is estimated that enrollment decreased 0.9% between fall 2016 and fall 2017. As a result, total headcount enrollment increased from 125,543 in fall 2006 to 136,917 in fall 2016, for a 10-year increase of 9.1%, as shown in [Figure 1.1](#). In the context of estimated 11-year trends, total fall enrollment increased 8.1% between 2006 and 2017.

**Figure 1.1**

**Total Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017**



*Note.* See [Table A1.1](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

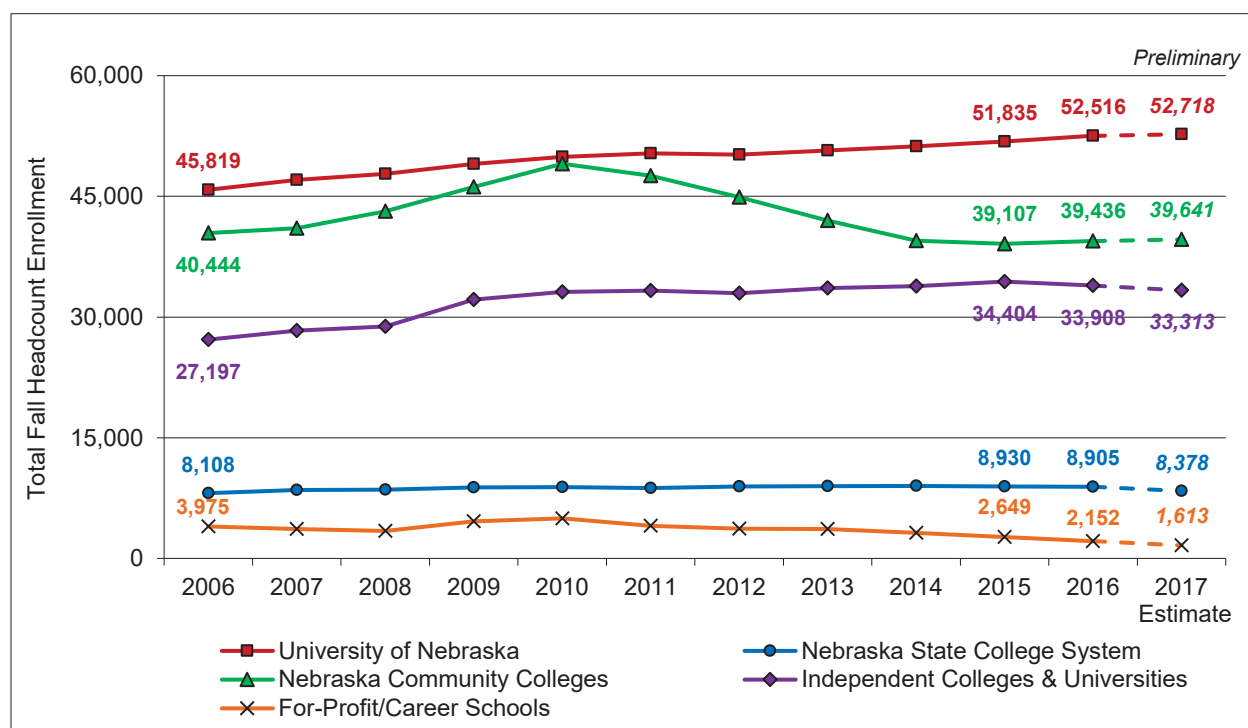
## Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector

- 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 state colleges and independent (not-for-profit) institutions have also contributed positively to the state's increased enrollment since 2006. However, based on preliminary data for fall 2017, enrollments at Nebraska's community colleges declined slightly, while the for-profit/career schools experienced substantial decreases in enrollments between fall 2006 and fall 2017.
- By sector, Nebraska's postsecondary enrollment has changed as follows:

Sector	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
University of Nebraska	1.3%	0.4%	14.6%	15.1%
Nebraska State College System	-0.3%	-5.9%	9.8%	3.3%
Nebraska Community Colleges	0.8%	0.5%	-2.5%	-2.0%
Independent Colleges & Universities	-1.4%	-1.8%	24.7%	22.5%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-18.8%	-25.0%	-45.9%	-59.4%

Figure 1.2

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

## 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 2006 to fall 2017.

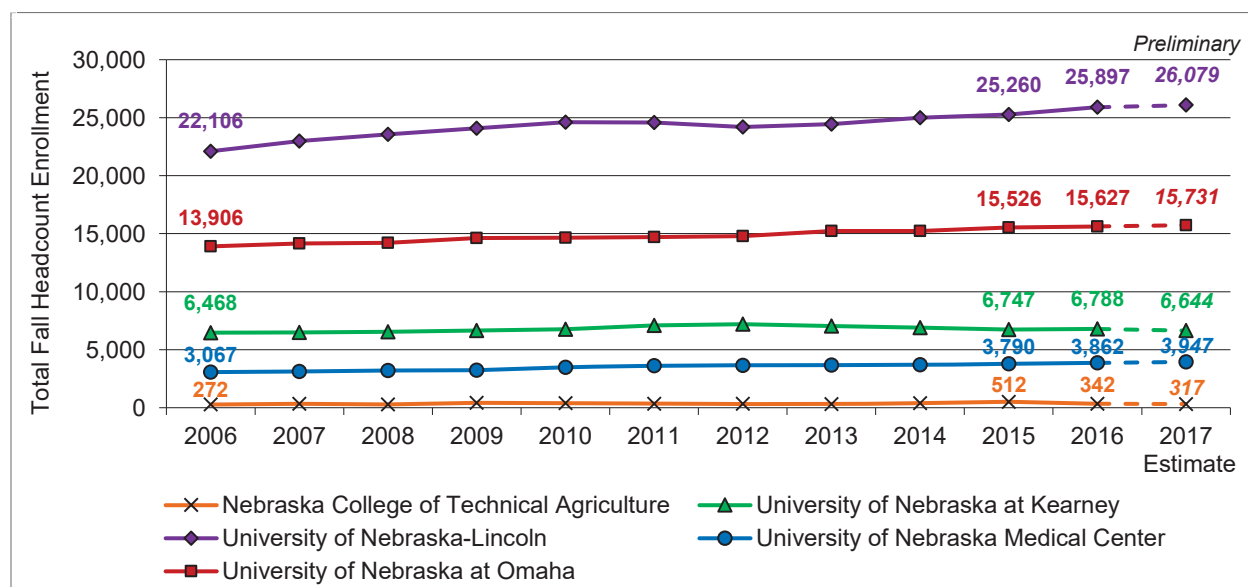
### University of Nebraska

- From fall 2006 to fall 2017, fall enrollment increased an estimated 15.1% at the University of Nebraska. All institutions experienced increases during this 11-year period, with the largest increase seen at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (28.7%).
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2006 and fall 2017, at the institutions constituting the University of Nebraska:

Institution	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
Neb. College of Technical Agriculture	-33.2%	-7.3%	25.7%	16.5%
University of Nebraska at Kearney	0.6%	-2.1%	4.9%	2.7%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	2.5%	0.7%	17.1%	18.0%
University of Neb. Medical Center	1.9%	2.2%	25.9%	28.7%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	0.7%	0.7%	12.4%	13.1%

Figure 1.3

Fall Headcount Enrollment at the University of Nebraska by Institution  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

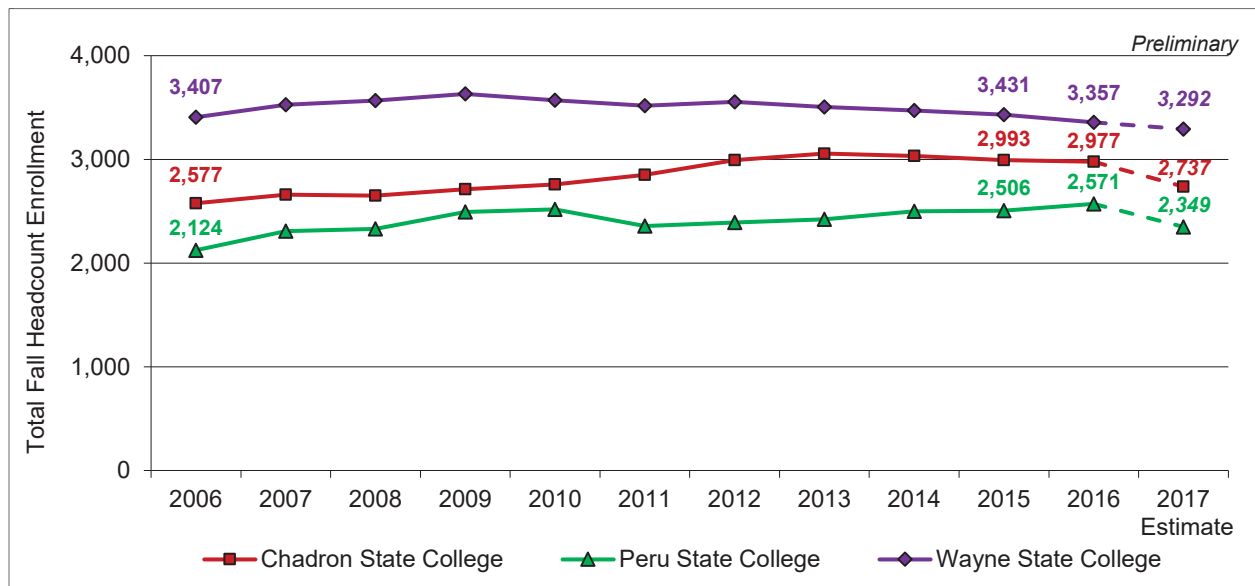
## Nebraska State College System

- From fall 2006 to fall 2017, fall enrollment increased an estimated 3.3% within the Nebraska State College System. While Chadron State College and Peru State College experienced increases during this 11-year period, Wayne State College experienced a decrease of 3.4%.
- Notably, between fall 2016 and fall 2017, all of the state colleges experienced decreases in estimated fall enrollments.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2006 and fall 2017, at the institutions constituting the Nebraska State College System:

Institution	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
Chadron State College	-0.5%	-8.1%	15.5%	6.2%
Peru State College	2.6%	-8.6%	21.0%	10.6%
Wayne State College	-2.2%	-1.9%	-1.5%	-3.4%

Figure 1.4

### Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska State College System by Institution Fall 2006 through Fall 2017



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

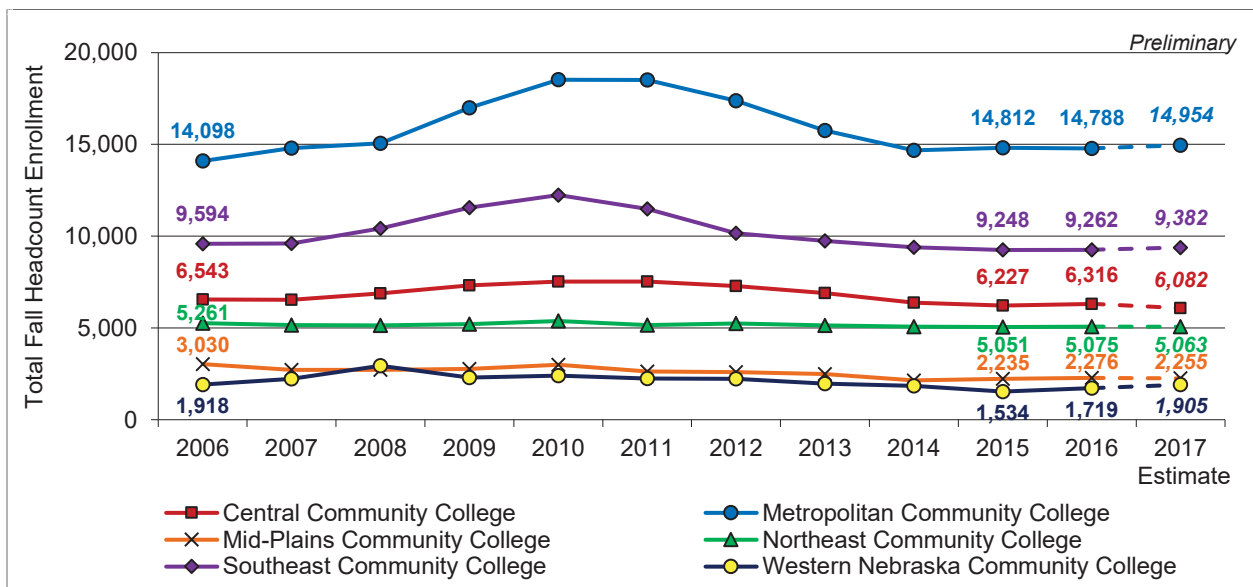
## Nebraska Community Colleges

- From fall 2006 to fall 2017, total fall enrollment decreased an estimated 2.0% at the community colleges. Five out of six of Nebraska's community colleges experienced decreases during this 11-year period. Metropolitan Community College was the only college to report an increase in fall enrollment over the 11-year period.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2006 and fall 2017, at Nebraska's six community colleges:

Institution	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
Central Community College	1.4%	-3.7%	-3.5%	-7.0%
Metropolitan Community College	-0.2%	1.1%	4.9%	6.1%
Mid-Plains Community College	1.8%	-0.9%	-24.9%	-25.6%
Northeast Community College	0.5%	-0.2%	-3.5%	-3.8%
Southeast Community College	0.2%	1.3%	-3.5%	-2.2%
Western Neb. Community College	12.1%	10.8%	-10.4%	-0.7%

Figure 1.5

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Community Colleges by Institution  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

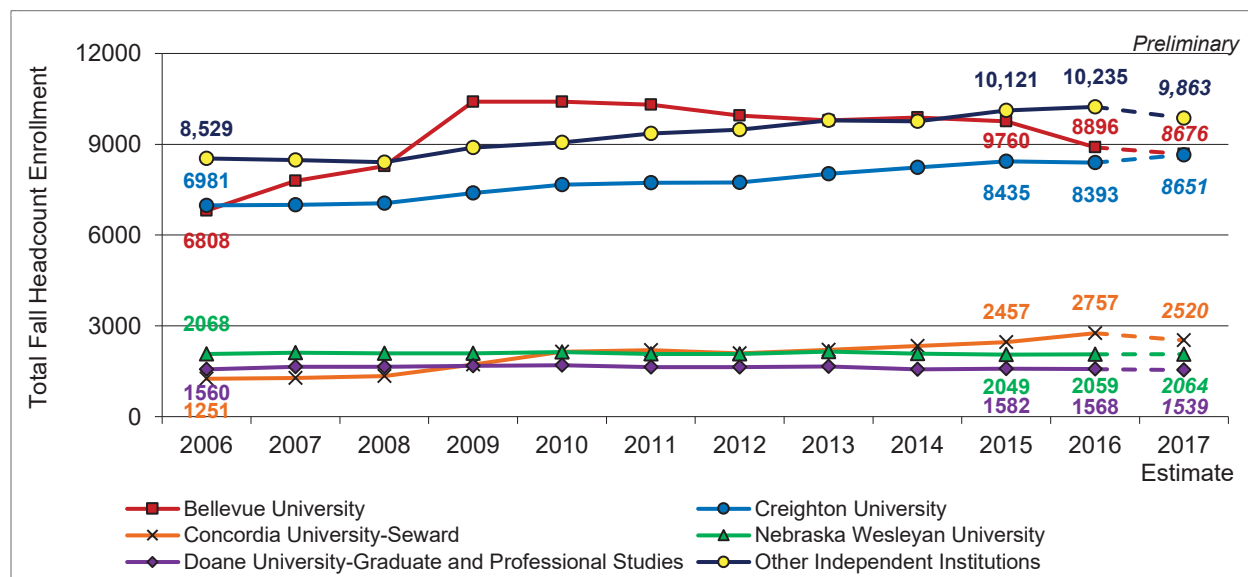
## Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities: Fall Enrollment

- From fall 2006 to fall 2017, total fall enrollment increased an estimated 22.5% at Nebraska’s independent colleges and universities.
- The following five independent institutions are estimated to have enrolled the highest number of students within the independent sector in fall 2017: Bellevue University, Creighton University, Concordia University-Seward, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Doane University-Graduate and Professional Studies.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2006 and fall 2017, at Nebraska’s independent institutions. (See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for more information on fall enrollments at Nebraska’s independent institutions.)

Institution	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
Bellevue University	-8.9%	-2.5%	30.7%	27.4%
Creighton University	-0.5%	3.1%	20.2%	23.9%
Concordia University-Seward	12.2%	-8.6%	120.4%	101.4%
Nebraska Wesleyan University	0.5%	0.2%	-0.4%	-0.2%
Doane University-Graduate and Professional Studies	-0.9%	-1.8%	0.5%	-1.3%
Other Independent Institutions	1.1%	-3.6%	20.0%	15.6%

Figure 1.6

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

## Nebraska For-Profit/Career Schools: Fall Enrollment

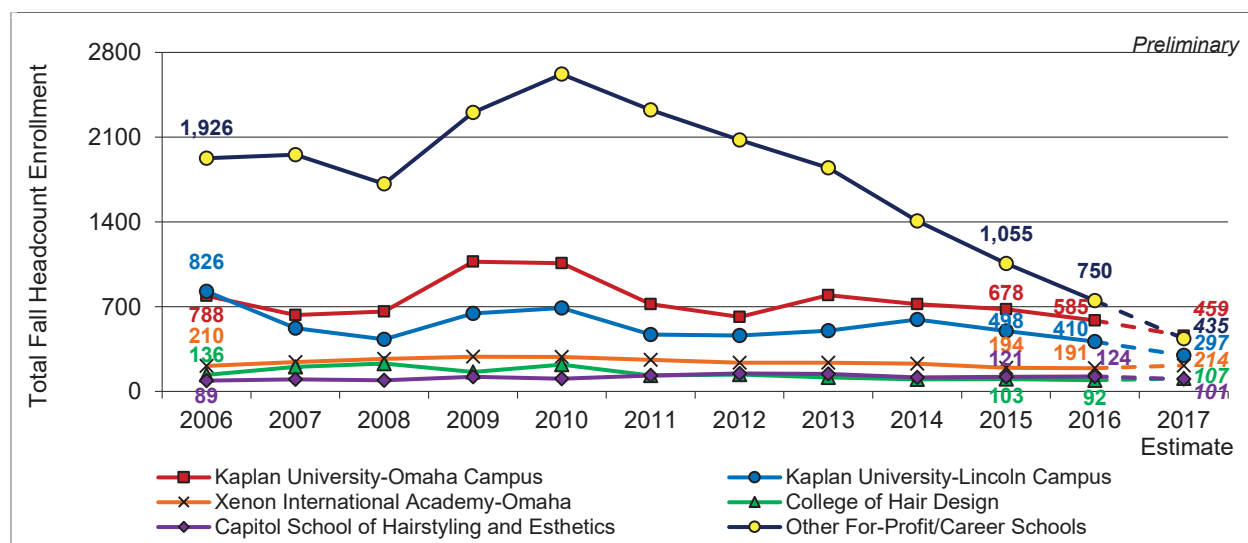
All of the institutions in the for-profit/career school sector are currently operated for profit *except* for three schools of radiologic technology, which are operated by not-for-profit hospitals or medical centers, and Omaha School of Massage and Healthcare of Herzing University.

- From fall 2006 to fall 2017, total fall enrollment decreased an estimated 59.4% at Nebraska’s for-profit/career schools. During this time, several for-profit/career schools closed. See page 138 for a listing of schools that have closed.
- The following five for-profit/career schools are estimated to have enrolled the highest number of students within the for-profit/career school sector in fall 2017: Kaplan University-Omaha Campus, Kaplan University-Lincoln Campus, Xenon International Academy-Omaha, College of Hair Design, and Capitol School of Hairstyling and Esthetics.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2006 and fall 2017, at Nebraska’s for-profit/career schools. (See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for more information on fall enrollments at Nebraska’s for-profit/career schools.)

Institution	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
Kaplan University-Omaha Campus	-13.7%	-21.5%	-25.8%	-41.8%
Kaplan University-Lincoln Campus	-17.7%	-27.6%	-50.4%	-64.0%
Xenon International Academy-Omaha	-1.5%	12.0%	-9.0%	1.9%
College of Hair Design	-10.7%	16.3%	-32.4%	-21.3%
Capitol School of Hairstyling and Esthetics	2.5%	-18.5%	39.3%	13.5%
Other For-Profit/Career Schools	-28.9%	-42.0%	-61.1%	-77.4%

Figure 1.7

Total Fall Headcount Enrollment within the Nebraska For-Profit/Career School Sector  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

## **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 2006 and fall 2017 is that enrollments at the University of Nebraska and the independent colleges and universities accounted for a higher percentage of Nebraska's total postsecondary enrollment in fall 2017 than they did in fall 2006.

<b>Table 1.1 Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector 2006 and 2017</b>				
Enrollment Sector	Fall 2006		<i>Estimated Fall 2017</i>	
	Enrollment	% of Enrollment	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>% of Enrollment</i>
University of Nebraska	45,819	36.5%	<i>52,718</i>	<i>38.9%</i>
Nebraska State College System	8,108	6.5%	<i>8,378</i>	<i>6.2%</i>
Nebraska Community Colleges	40,444	32.2%	<i>39,641</i>	<i>29.2%</i>
Total Public Colleges and Universities	94,371	75.2%	<i>100,737</i>	<i>74.3%</i>
Independent Colleges and Universities	27,197	21.7%	<i>33,313</i>	<i>24.6%</i>
For-Profit/Career Schools	3,975	3.2%	<i>1,613</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
Total Nebraska Postsecondary Headcount Enrollment	125,543	100.0%	<i>135,663</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
Data sources: For 2006 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 survey. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.				



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

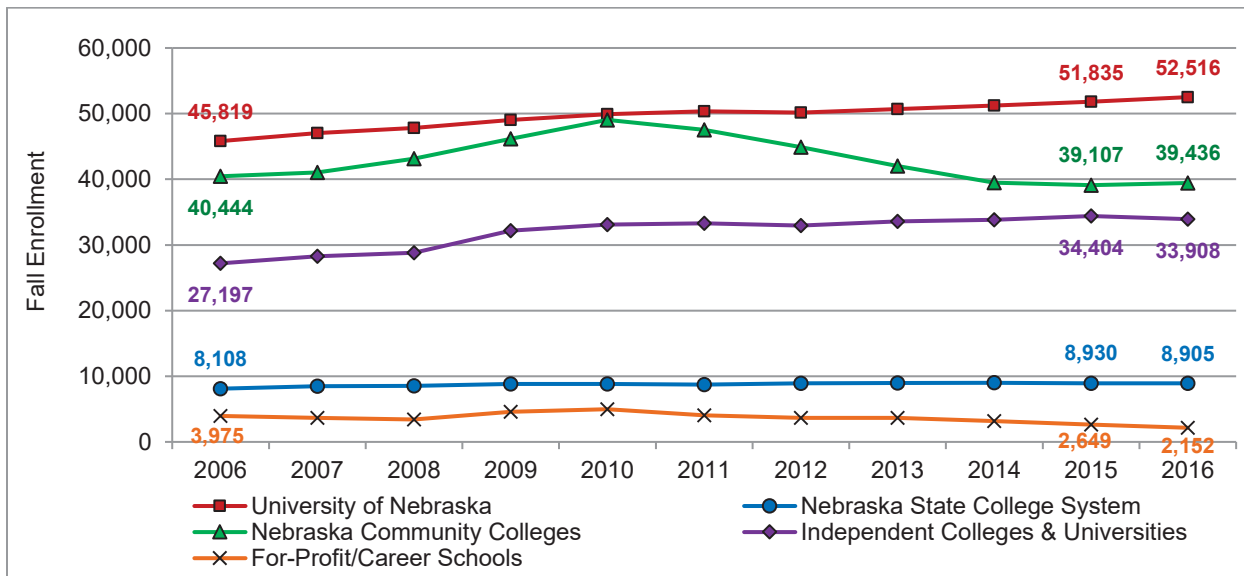
Fall headcount enrollment is the best available indicator of enrollment trends across all of the sectors of postsecondary education in Nebraska because it is reported by and can be analyzed by race/ethnicity, gender, enrollment status (part-time/full-time), level of study (undergraduate/ graduate), and 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 60% 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.

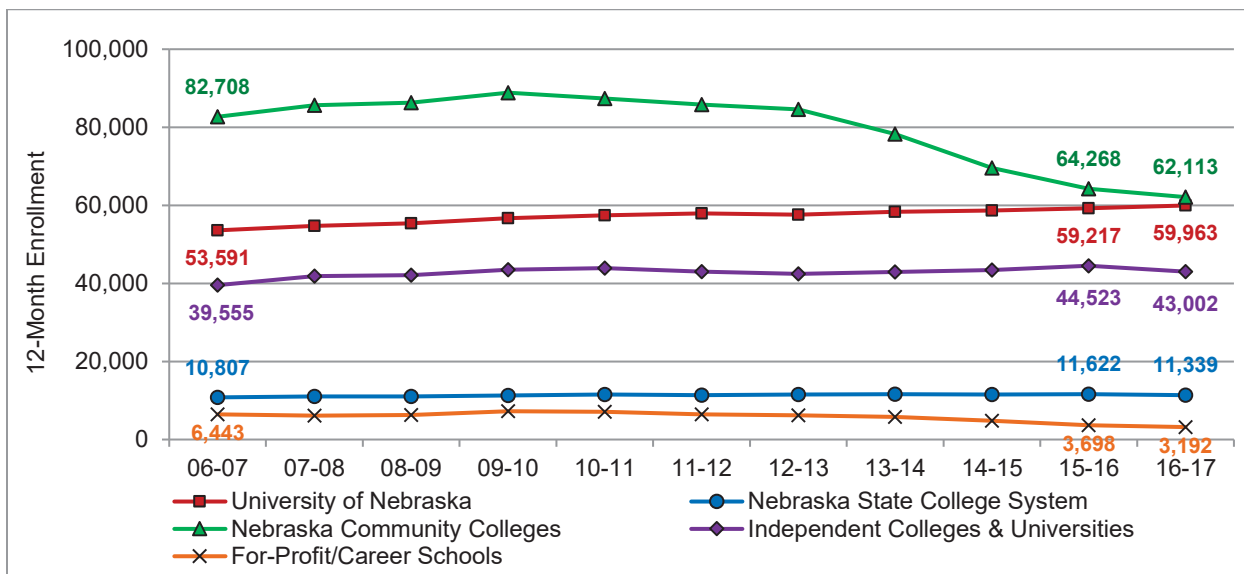
- Figure 1.8 shows total fall enrollment by sector from fall 2006 through fall 2016, the latest period for which official data are available from the NCES. Figure 1.9 shows the comparable 12-month enrollments reported to the NCES for the 2006-2007 academic year through the 2016-2017 academic year.
- 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 2016, for example, the University of Nebraska enrolled 52,516 students compared to enrollment of 39,436 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 2016-2017, the community colleges served a total of 62,113 students over the course of the academic year, while the University of Nebraska served 59,963 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 2006 through Fall 2016**



Note. See Table A1.1 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys.

**Figure 1.9**  
**12-Month Unduplicated Headcount**  
**at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector**  
**2006-2007 Academic Year through 2016-2017 Academic Year**

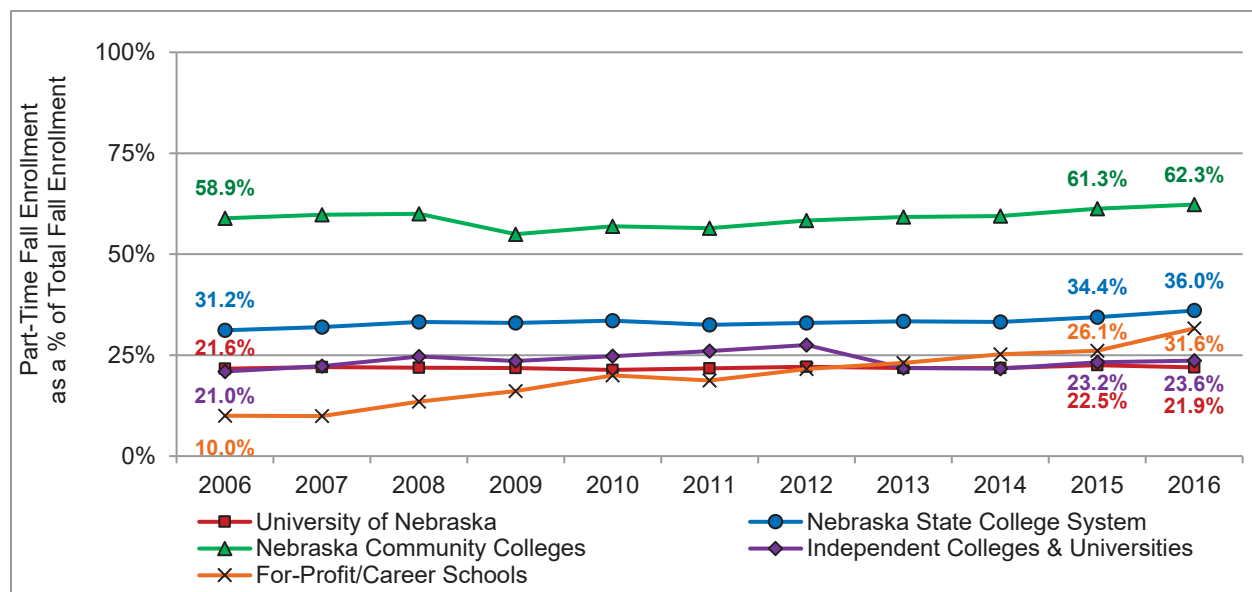


Note. See Table A1.3 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2007 through 2017 surveys.

- 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, independent institutions, and for-profit/career schools. As shown in [Figure 1.10](#), part-time students accounted for 62.3% of total fall enrollment at the community colleges in fall 2016. In comparison, part-time students accounted for 21.9% of the University of Nebraska’s fall 2016 enrollment, 36.0% of the fall enrollment at the state colleges, 23.6% at the independent institutions, and 31.6% at the for-profit/career schools.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 1.10**

**Part-Time Fall Enrollment as a Percentage of Total Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector Fall 2006 through Fall 2016**



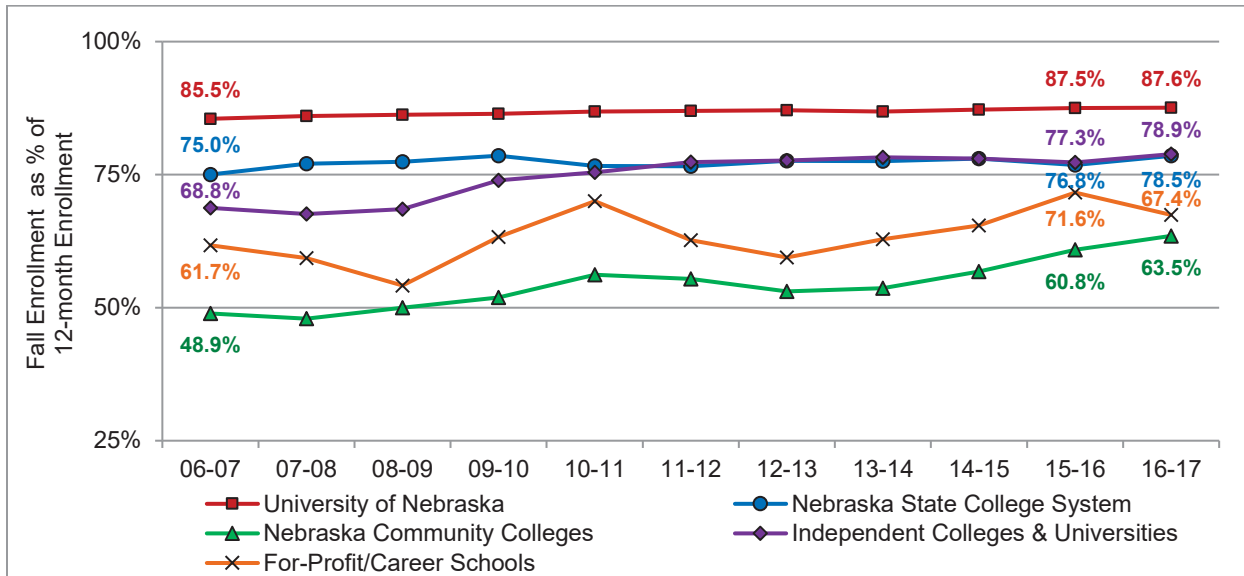
Note. For more information, see the *2017 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment* on the Commission’s website at [ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports). Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys.

- [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 2016 accounted for 87.6%, 78.9%, and 78.5% of 12-month enrollment during the 2016-2017 academic year at the University of Nebraska, the independent sector, and the Nebraska State College System, respectively. In contrast, fall enrollments accounted for 67.4% of the students served annually by the for-profit/career schools and 63.5% 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2006-2007 Academic Year through 2016-2017 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 2007 through 2017 surveys.

## Nebraska First-Time Freshmen Enrollments

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 2006 enrollments of first-time freshmen to estimated first-time freshmen enrollment in fall 2017. Enrollments for fall 2017 are preliminary, based on estimates that institutions report directly to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

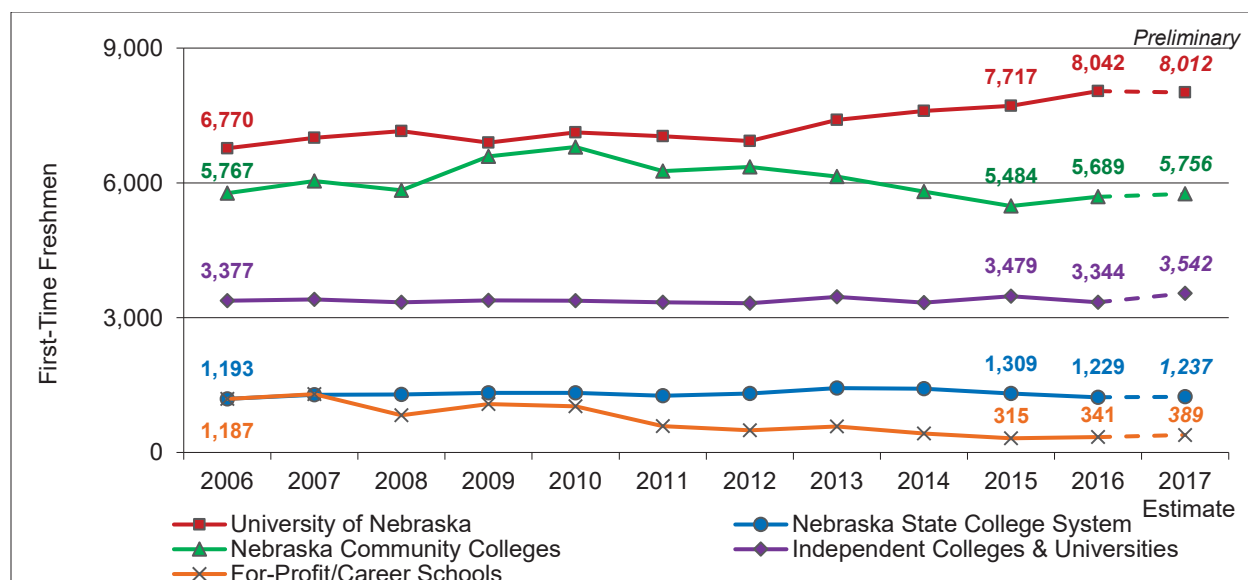
### Nebraska Total Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Sector

- As shown in [Figure 1.12](#), the University of Nebraska has enrolled more first-time freshmen than any other sector since fall 2006.
- 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 2006 and fall 2017:

Sector	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
University of Nebraska	4.2%	-0.4%	18.8%	18.3%
Nebraska State College System	-6.1%	0.7%	3.0%	3.7%
Nebraska Community Colleges	3.7%	1.2%	-1.4%	-0.2%
Independent Colleges & Universities	-3.9%	5.9%	-1.0%	4.9%
For-Profit/Career Schools	8.3%	14.1%	-71.3%	-67.2%
Total Nebraska	1.9%	1.6%	1.9%	3.5%

Figure 1.12

Nebraska Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017

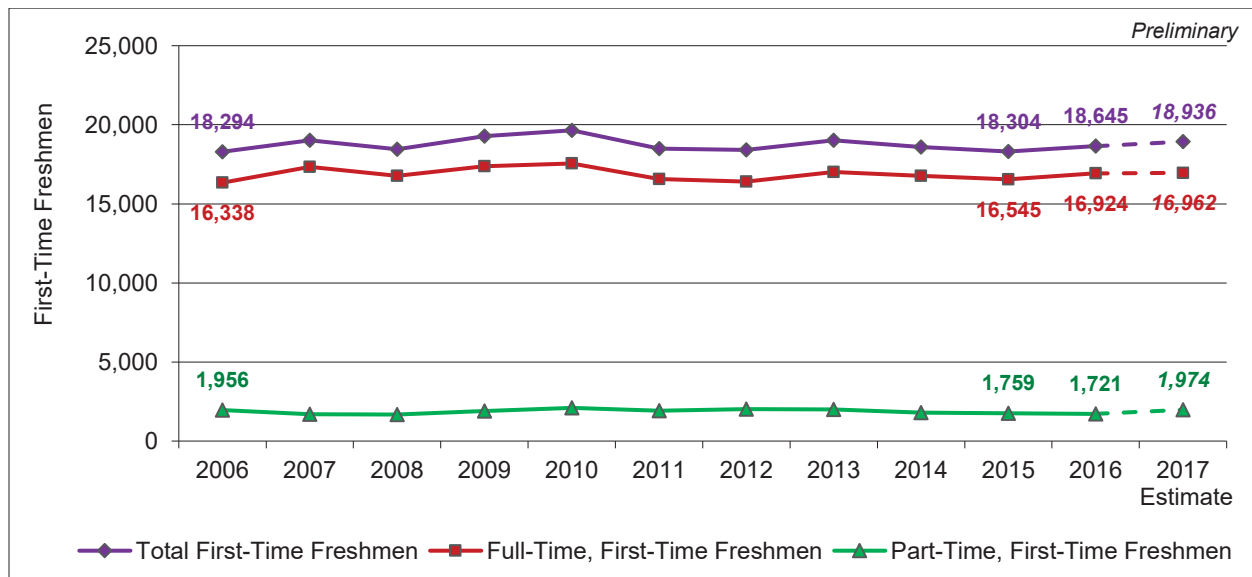


Note. See Table A1.4 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

## Nebraska 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 3.5% between fall 2006 and fall 2017.
- Full-time first-time freshmen accounted for an estimated 89.6% of the first-time freshmen attending postsecondary institutions in Nebraska in fall 2017, up from 89.3% in fall 2006.
- Full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 3.8% over the 11-year period between fall 2006 and fall 2017. Meanwhile, part-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 0.9% over the 11-year period, despite an estimated increase of 14.7% between fall 2016 and fall 2017. (This one-year increase was driven largely by increased enrollments within the community college sector.)
- Analyzing the actual changes in fall enrollment between 2006 and 2016 reveals that Nebraska’s total first-time freshmen enrollment increased 1.9% while full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased 3.6% and part-time first-time freshmen enrollment decreased 12.0%.

**Figure 1.13**  
**Nebraska Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Full- and Part-Time Student Status**  
**Fall 2006 through Fall 2017**



*Note.* See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

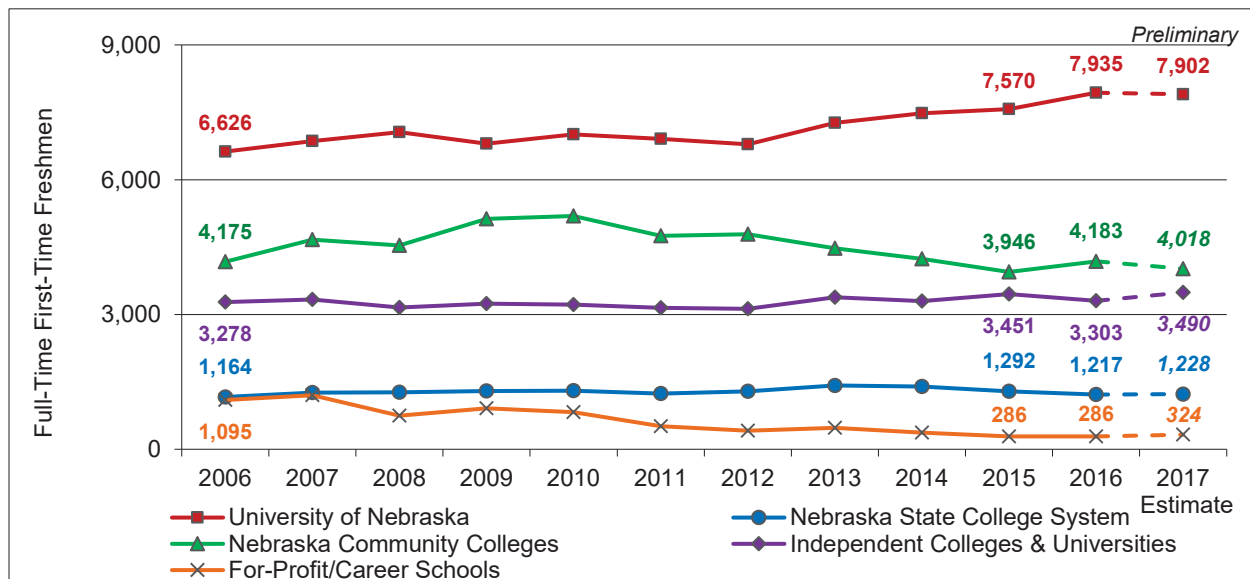
## Nebraska Enrollment of Full- and Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen by Sector

- From fall 2006 to fall 2017, full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 3.8%. 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 2006 and fall 2017:

Sector	1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	Est. 1-Year Change 2016 to 2017	10-Year Change 2006 to 2016	Est. 11-Year Change 2006 to 2017
University of Nebraska	4.8%	-0.4%	19.8%	19.3%
Nebraska State College System	-5.8%	0.9%	4.6%	5.5%
Nebraska Community Colleges	6.0%	-3.9%	0.2%	-3.8%
Independent Colleges & Universities	-4.3%	5.7%	0.8%	6.5%
For-Profit/Career Schools	0.0%	13.3%	-73.9%	-70.4%
Total Nebraska Full-Time First-Time	2.3%	0.2%	3.6%	3.8%

Figure 1.14

### Nebraska Total Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector Fall 2006 through Fall 2017



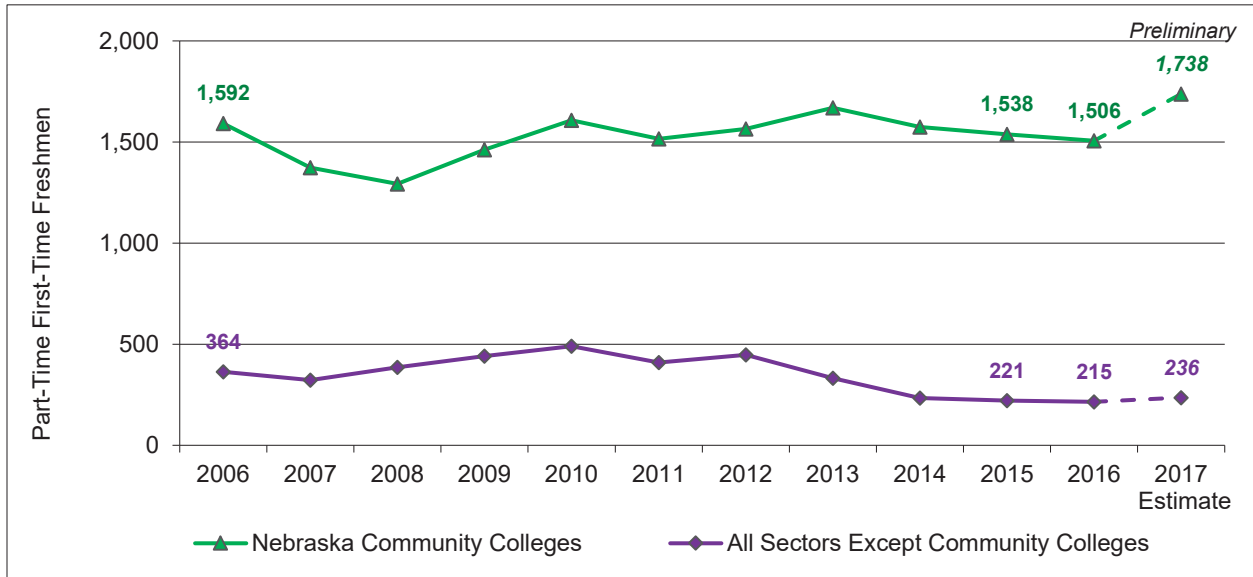
Note. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.

- As shown in [Figure 1.15](#), Nebraska's community colleges account for the majority of first-time freshmen who attend school part-time (81.4% of the state total in fall 2006 and 88.0% in fall 2017).
- Enrollment of part-time first-time freshmen at Nebraska's community colleges increased an estimated 15.4% from fall 2016 to fall 2017, resulting in an estimated 11-year increase of 9.2%.

- The number of part-time first-time freshmen enrolled at other types of institutions increased an estimated 9.8% from fall 2016 to fall 2017, resulting in an estimated 11-year decrease of 35.2%.

**Figure 1.15**

**Nebraska Total Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector  
Fall 2006 through Fall 2017**



Note. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2006 through 2016 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2006 through fall 2016 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2017 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2017.



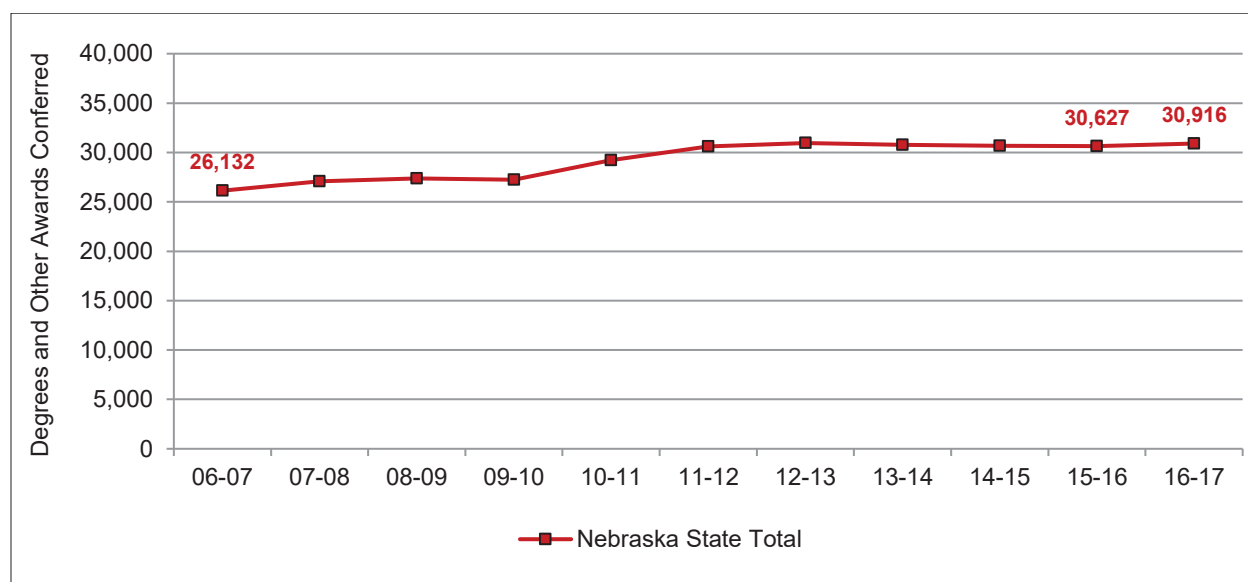
## **Number of Degrees Conferred at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions**

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 18.3% from 26,132 in 2006-2007 to 30,916 in 2016-2017.

**Figure 1.16**

### **Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Nebraska Public and Independent Institutions and For-Profit/Career Schools 2006-2007 Academic Year through 2016-2017 Academic Year**



*Note.* For more information, see the *2017 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards* on the Commission’s website at [ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports). Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2007 through 2017 surveys.

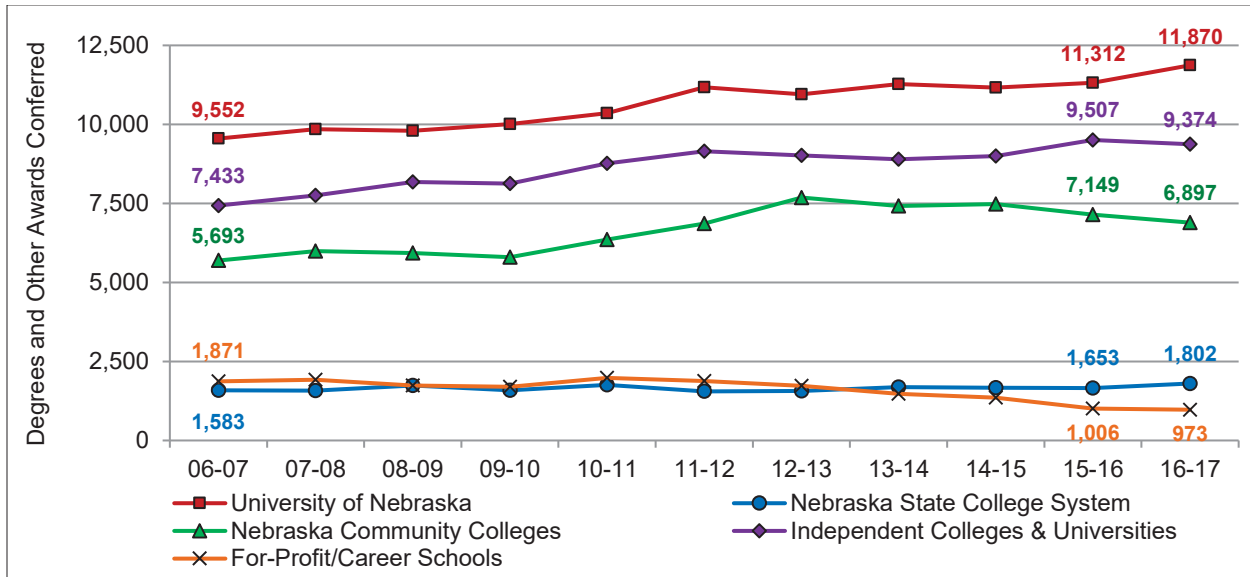
- As shown in [Figure 1.17](#), all sectors, except for the for-profit/career school sector, awarded more degrees and other awards in 2016-2017 than in 2006-2007.
- By sector, the number of degrees and other awards conferred by Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions changed as follows:

Sector	1-Year Change 15-16 to 16-17	10-Year Change 06-07 to 16-17
University of Nebraska	4.9%	24.3%
Nebraska State College System	9.0%	13.8%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-3.5%	21.1%
Independent Colleges & Universities	-1.4%	26.1%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-3.3%	-48.0%

- [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 2006-2007 to 2016-2017, the largest percentage point increase was at the master’s level (51.6%). Meanwhile, less-than-four-year certificates declined 3.5%.

Figure 1.17

**Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Sector  
2006-2007 Academic Year through 2016-2017 Academic Year**



Note. For more information, see the *2017 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards* on the Commission’s website at [ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports). Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2007 through 2017 surveys.

**Table 1.2  
Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Award Level  
Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions  
2006-2007 Academic Year through 2016-2017 Academic Year**

Award Level	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	10-Yr. Chg.
Less-than-Four-Year Certificates	3,118	3,450	3,251	2,975	3,261	3,227	3,746	3,404	3,383	3,282	3,009	-3.5%
Associate Degrees	4,919	4,837	4,763	4,862	5,352	5,765	5,944	5,755	5,712	5,144	5,067	3.0%
Bachelor’s Degrees & Post-Baccalaureate Certificates	12,640	12,775	13,017	13,091	14,061	14,548	14,523	15,022	14,514	14,714	14,965	18.4%
Master’s Degrees & Post-Master’s Certificates	4,135	4,696	4,979	4,914	5,163	5,692	5,244	5,074	5,481	5,788	6,268	51.6%
Doctor’s Degrees	1,320	1,330	1,371	1,392	1,371	1,392	1,495	1,503	1,583	1,699	1,607	21.7%
<b>Total Degrees Conferred</b>	<b>26,132</b>	<b>27,088</b>	<b>27,381</b>	<b>27,234</b>	<b>29,208</b>	<b>30,624</b>	<b>30,952</b>	<b>30,758</b>	<b>30,673</b>	<b>30,627</b>	<b>30,916</b>	<b>18.3%</b>

Note. For more information, see the *2017 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Degrees and Other Awards* on the Commission’s website at [ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports). Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2007 through 2017 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.