

## 2.2 College Graduation and Transfer Rates within 150% of Normal Time

(Based on IPEDS Data)

**Increase the percentage of students who complete associate degrees within three years and baccalaureate degrees within six years**

The college graduation rates reported in this section are based on data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The latest available data are for undergraduates who completed degree programs during the 2017-2018 academic year. Completion data for students who finished their degree programs in 2018-2019 will not be available for analysis until mid-2020. Consequently, the following analysis focuses on how 2017-2018 graduation rates for Nebraska institutions compare to 2007-2008 rates. **Throughout this analysis, the terms “completion rate” and “graduation rate” are used interchangeably.**

Based on the same cohorts as graduation rates, the 2017-2018 transfer rates for Nebraska’s six community colleges are presented at the end of this section. Presenting these rates provides an important supplement to the graduation rates reported for these institutions.

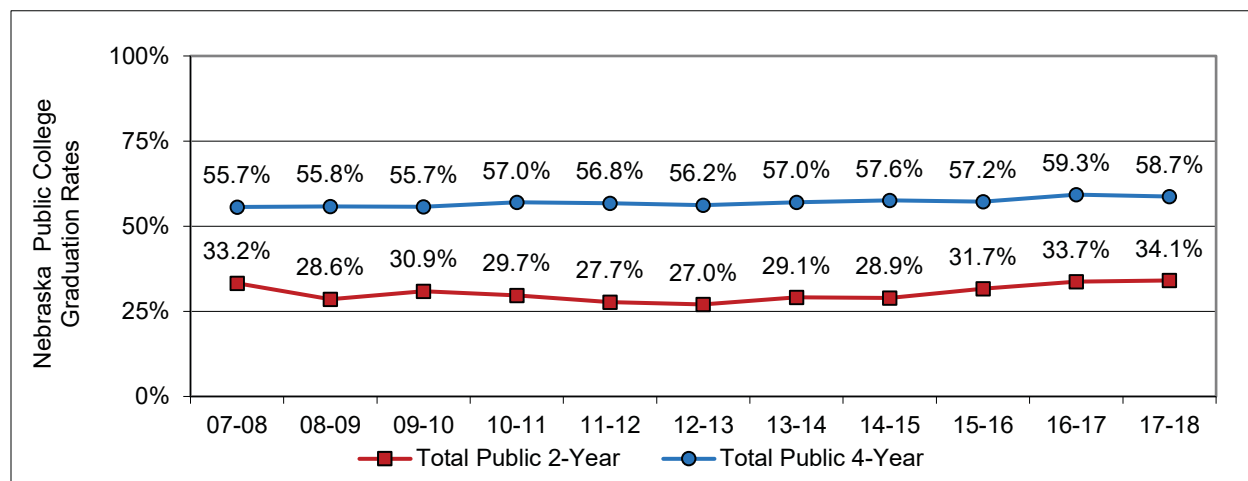
**Generally, baccalaureate graduation and transfer rates are based on a six-year time frame, while rates for associate degrees are based on three years.** In all cases, rates are calculated only for students who enrolled in degree programs as full-time, first-time freshmen. See Explanatory Note A10.1 in Appendix 10 and Explanatory Note A11.1 in Appendix 11 for further information on how completion and transfer rates are calculated.

### College Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions

- As shown in Figure 2.2.1 the statewide graduation rate for Nebraska’s public four-year postsecondary institutions increased from 55.7% in 2007-2008 to 58.7% in 2017-2018. Meanwhile, the statewide graduation rate for Nebraska’s public two-year institutions increased from 33.2% in 2007-2008 to 34.1% in 2017-2018.

**Figure 2.2.1**

**Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time  
for Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions  
2007-2008 through 2017-2018**

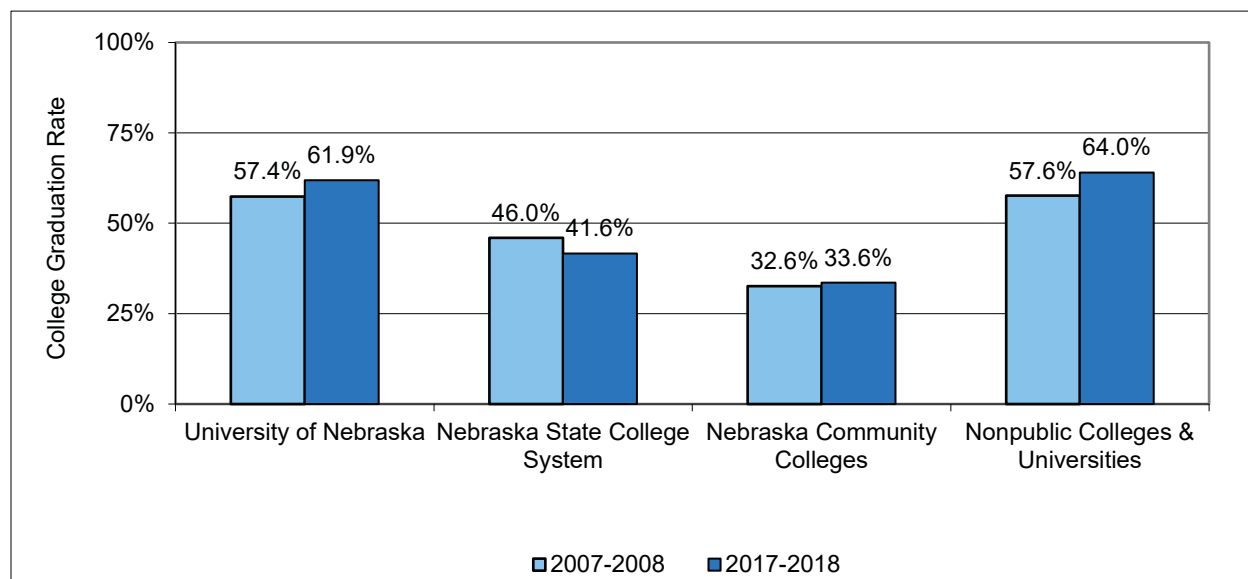


Note. See Table A10.1 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 through 2018 surveys.

## **College Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time by Sector and by Institution**

- Completion rates by sector varied noticeably, as shown in [Figure 2.2.2](#).
- The overall graduation rate for the University of Nebraska system increased from 57.4% in 2007-2008 to 61.9% in 2017-2018. The highest graduation rate within this sector in 2017-2018 was at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (68.7%) while the lowest rate was at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (48.5%).
- The overall graduation rate for the Nebraska State College System decreased from 46.0% in 2007-2008 to 41.6% in 2017-2018. The highest graduation rate within this sector in 2017-2018 was at Chadron State College (43.4%) while the lowest rate was at Peru State College (34.5%).
- The overall graduation rate for Nebraska’s community colleges increased from 32.6% in 2007-2008 to 33.6% in 2017-2018. The highest graduation rate within this sector in 2017-2018 was at Northeast Community College (48.5%) while the lowest rate was at Metropolitan Community College (15.7%).
- Within the nonpublic sector, the graduation rate increased from 57.6% in 2007-2008 to 64.0% in 2017-2018. The highest graduation rate in the nonpublic sector in 2017-2018 was at the Universal College of Healing Arts (100.0%). Meanwhile, Bellevue University and National American University-Bellevue reported the lowest graduation rates (0.0%). For some institutions, the cohorts are very small and graduation rates should be interpreted with caution. For example, while the 2017-2018 graduation rate for Bellevue University was 0.0%, the cohort consisted of only two students. See [Table A10.4](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for more information.

**Figure 2.2.2**  
**Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time**  
**for Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector**  
**2017-2018 Compared to 2007-2008**



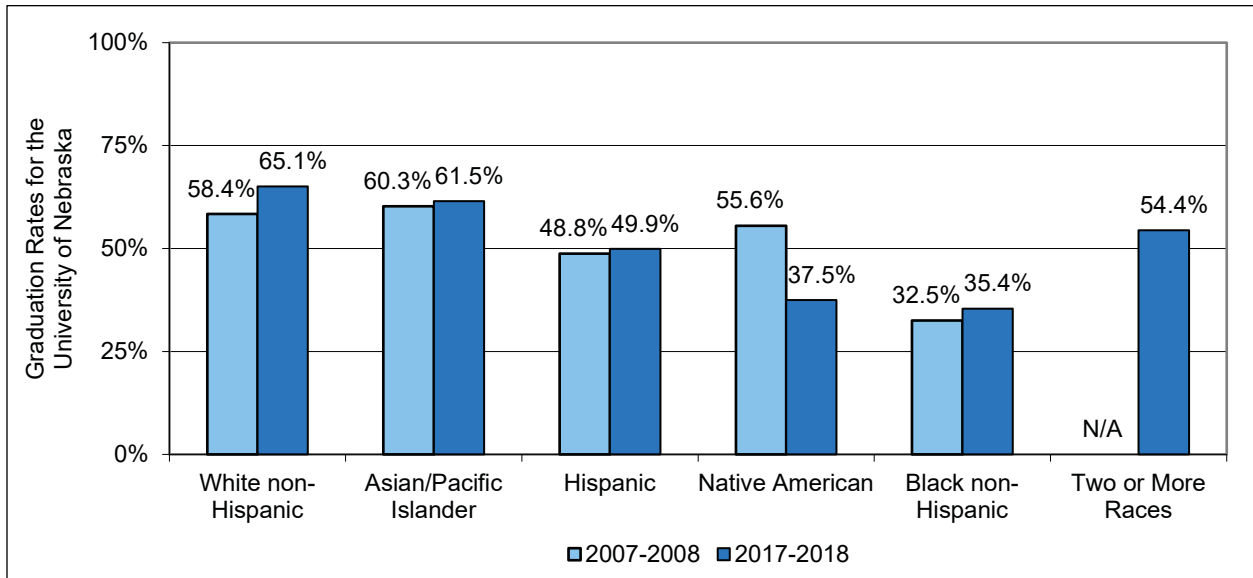
*Note.* See [Table A10.2](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 and 2018 surveys.

- Within all of the sectors, some schools showed significant changes in their completion rates. Consequently, the sector completion rates shown in [Figure 2.2.2](#) should not be interpreted as an indicator of the performance of any particular school.
- See [Table A10.3](#) for the 2007-2008 and 2017-2018 completion rates by institution and by sector. See [Table A10.4](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for the data used to calculate the graduation rates by institution and by sector for 2007-2008 through 2017-2018.

### **College Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time by Sector and by Race/Ethnicity**

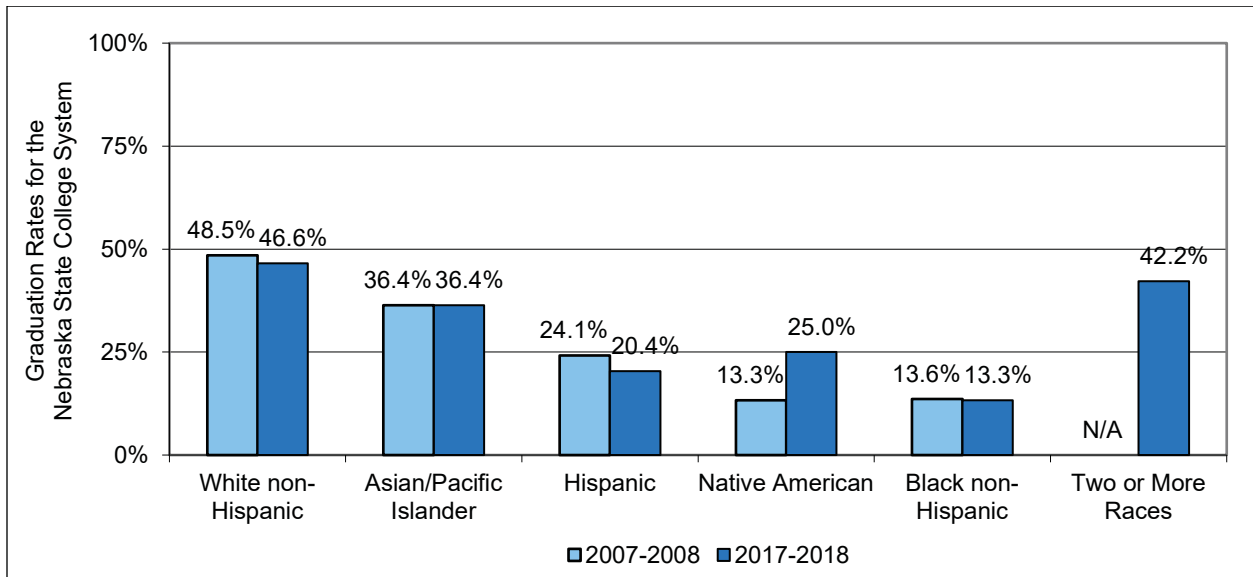
- The following charts show how the graduation rates for each racial/ethnic group varied and changed between 2007-2008 and 2017-2018 within each sector of higher education in Nebraska.
- Segmenting college graduation rates by sector and by race/ethnicity results in graduation rates for 24 subgroups. For some subgroups, the cohorts are very small and graduation rates should be interpreted with caution. For example, the 2017-2018 graduation rate for Asian/Pacific Islanders at the state colleges was 36.4%, but the cohort consisted of only 11 students. See [Table A10.5](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for more information.
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.3](#), graduation rates at the University of Nebraska increased for all racial/ethnic groups except for Native Americans.
- At the state colleges, graduation rates increased for Native Americans but decreased or were unchanged for the other racial/ethnic groups (see [Figure 2.2.4](#)).
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.5](#), graduation rates at Nebraska's community colleges decreased for Asian/Pacific Islanders and black non-Hispanics but increased for all other racial/ethnic groups.
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.6](#), graduation rates at Nebraska's nonpublic institutions increased for all racial/ethnic groups except for Native Americans.

**Figure 2.2.3**  
**Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time**  
**for the University of Nebraska by Race/Ethnicity**  
**2017-2018 Compared to 2007-2008**



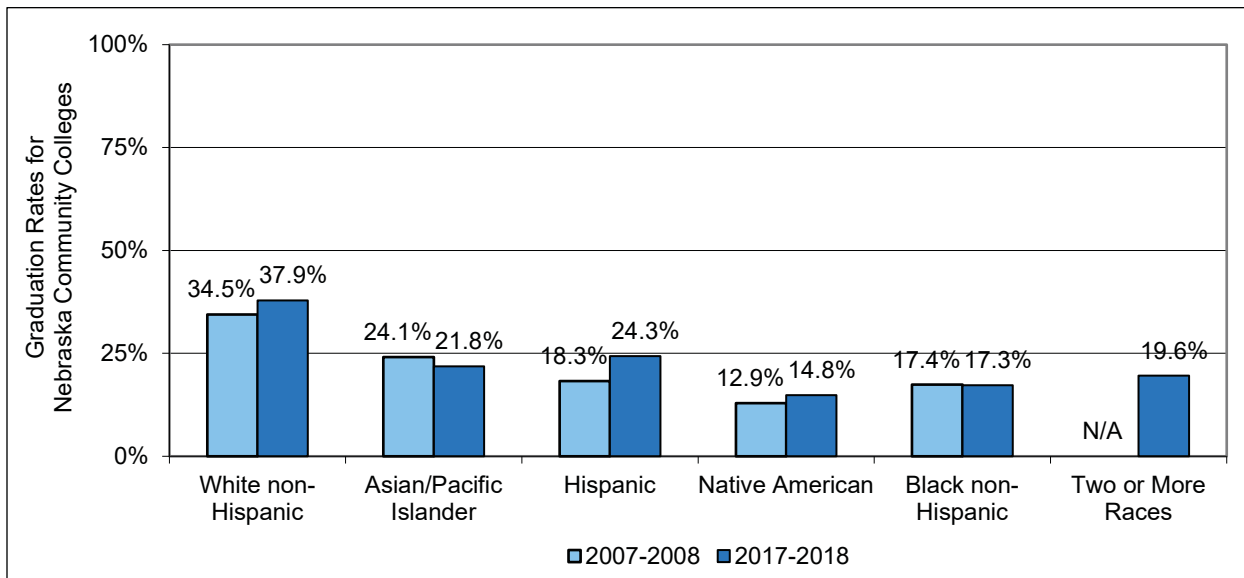
Note. See [Table A10.5](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 and 2018 surveys.

**Figure 2.2.4**  
**Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time**  
**for the Nebraska State College System by Race/Ethnicity**  
**2017-2018 Compared to 2007-2008**



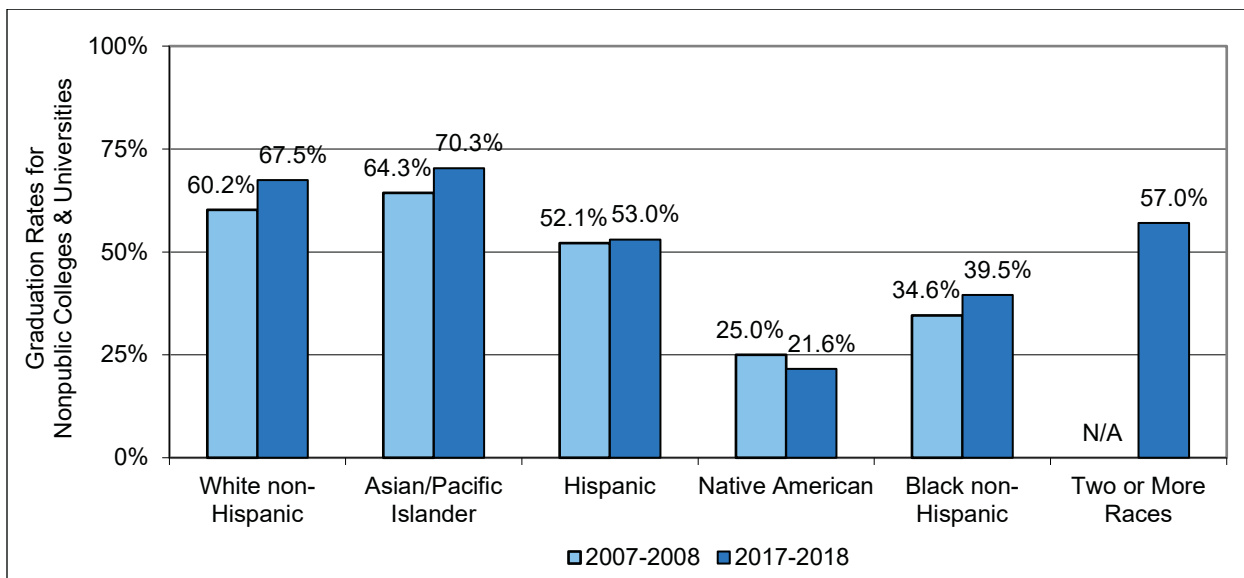
Note. See [Table A10.5](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 and 2018 surveys

**Figure 2.2.5**  
**Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time**  
**for Nebraska Community Colleges by Race/Ethnicity**  
**2017-2018 Compared to 2007-2008**



Note. See Table A10.5 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 and 2018 surveys

**Figure 2.2.6**  
**Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time**  
**for Nonpublic Colleges and Universities by Race/Ethnicity**  
**2017-2018 Compared to 2007-2008**



Note. See Table A10.5 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2008 and 2018 surveys.

## **College Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time by Financial Aid Received**

IPEDS college graduation rates are also reported for Pell Grant recipients, Subsidized Stafford Loan recipients that did not receive Pell Grants, and students that did not receive Pell Grants or Subsidized Stafford Loans.<sup>29</sup> Students are placed into one of these mutually exclusive subgroups based on the financial aid the student received and used upon their entry into the institution. If a student received and used their Pell Grant or Subsidized Stafford Loan *after* their initial entry into the institution, they would be counted in the ‘did not receive a Pell Grant or Subsidized Stafford Loan’ subgroup. A student does not need to receive the aid throughout their time at the institution to be counted as part of these subgroups. As long as the student received and used their aid upon entry, they do not need to continue to be awarded that aid during their time at the institution to be counted as part of these subgroups.

Graduation rates by financial aid received are shown separately for two-year public institutions and four-year public institutions. For graduation rates from two-year public institutions, students who completed an award within 150% of normal time are included. For graduation rates from four-year public institutions, students who completed a bachelor’s or equivalent degree within 150% of normal time are included.

- As shown in [Table 2.2.1](#), the 2017-2018 graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients were lower than the total graduation rates for two-year public institutions, while graduation rates for students who did not receive Pell Grants or Subsidized Stafford Loans were higher than the total graduation rates for two-year public institutions. Meanwhile, graduation rates for students that received Subsidized Stafford Loans were sometimes higher and sometimes lower than the total graduation rates for two-year public institutions.

<b>Table 2.2.1 Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Two-Year Public Institutions by Financial Aid Received 2017-2018</b>				
Institutions	Pell Grant Graduation Rate	Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate <sup>a</sup>	Did Not Receive a Pell Grant or Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate	Total Graduation Rate
Neb. College of Technical Agr.	45.9%	75.0%	62.2%	56.7%
Central Community College	37.2%	44.1%	46.7%	41.2%
Metropolitan Community College	14.4%	15.4%	17.0%	15.7%
Mid-Plains Community College	47.4%	33.3%	51.3%	48.5%
Northeast Community College	42.9%	46.0%	54.6%	48.4%
Southeast Community College	26.8%	37.9%	33.2%	31.2%
Western Neb. Community College	16.5%	37.5%	31.9%	25.9%
Total Two-Year Public Institutions	30.2%	39.3%	36.9%	34.1%
<i>Note.</i> See <a href="#">Table A10.6</a> in <a href="#">Appendix 10</a> for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2017 survey.				
<sup>a</sup> Only includes recipients that did not receive a Pell Grant.				

<sup>29</sup> Federal Pell Grants and Subsidized Stafford Loans are awarded to students who have demonstrated financial need, and they serve as a proxy for low-income status. See [Explanatory Note A8.1](#) in [Appendix 8](#) for more information on Federal Pell Grants and Subsidized Stafford Loans.

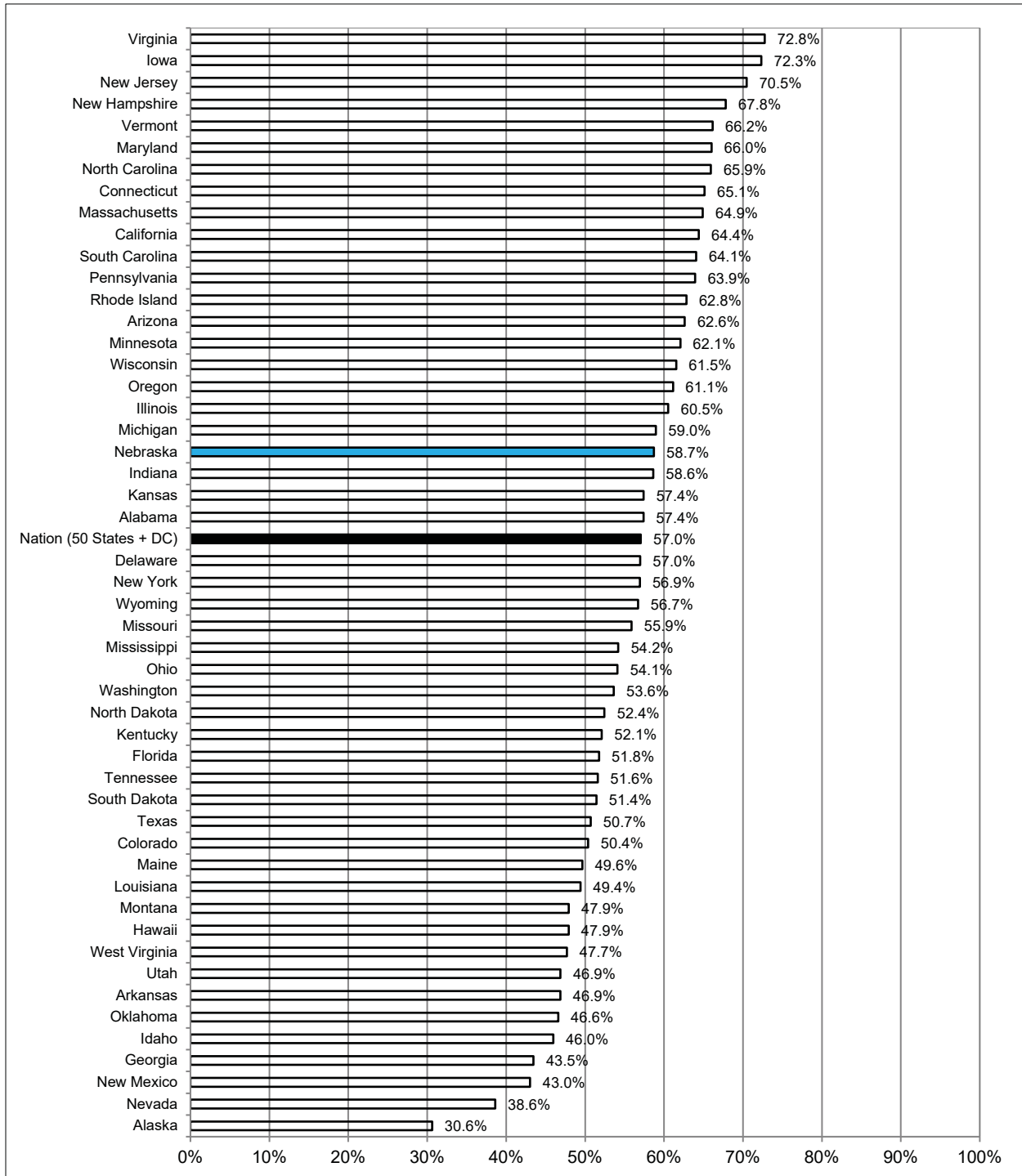
- As shown in [Table 2.2.2](#), graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients were lower than the total graduation rates for Nebraska’s four-year public institutions. Meanwhile, with the exception of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, graduation rates for students who did not receive Pell Grants or Subsidized Stafford Loans were higher than the total graduation rates for four-year public institutions. Graduation rates for students that received Subsidized Stafford Loans were sometimes higher and sometimes lower than the total graduation rates for four-year public institutions.

<b>Table 2.2.2</b> <b>Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time</b> <b>for Four-Year Public Institutions by Financial Aid Received</b> <b>2017-2018</b>				
Institutions	Pell Grant Graduation Rate	Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate <sup>a</sup>	Did Not Receive a Pell Grant or Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate	Total Graduation Rate
University of Nebraska at Kearney	57.2%	61.9%	57.9%	58.4%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	58.8%	62.4%	74.7%	68.7%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	40.0%	49.1%	55.6%	49.1%
Chadron State College	38.6%	27.9%	50.2%	43.4%
Peru State College	22.2%	47.1%	44.3%	34.5%
Wayne State College	32.3%	37.8%	55.1%	42.6%
Total Four-Year Public Institutions	48.4%	56.7%	66.1%	59.1%
<i>Note.</i> See <a href="#">Table A10.7</a> in <a href="#">Appendix 10</a> for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2017 survey. <sup>a</sup> Only includes recipients that did not receive a Pell Grant.				

### **Nebraska Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time Compared to Those of Other States**

- [Figure 2.2.7](#) and [Figure 2.2.8](#) show how the graduation rates of Nebraska’s public four-year and public two-year institutions compare to the rates calculated for other states and the United States as a whole. These rates are calculated for all public degree-granting institutions within each state. These rates are for all awards conferred. For example, the graduation rate for Nebraska’s public two-year schools encompasses awards of diplomas and certificates as well as two-year associate degrees.
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.7](#), the graduation rate for Nebraska’s public four-year institutions was 58.7% for 2017-2018, or 20<sup>th</sup> highest nationally and 1.7 percentage points above the 57.0% graduation rate for all public four-year institutions in the United States.
- As illustrated in [Figure 2.2.8](#), the graduation rate for Nebraska’s public two-year institutions was 34.1%, or 10<sup>th</sup> highest nationally, and 7.1 percentage points higher than the graduation rate of 27.0% for all public two-year institutions in the United States.

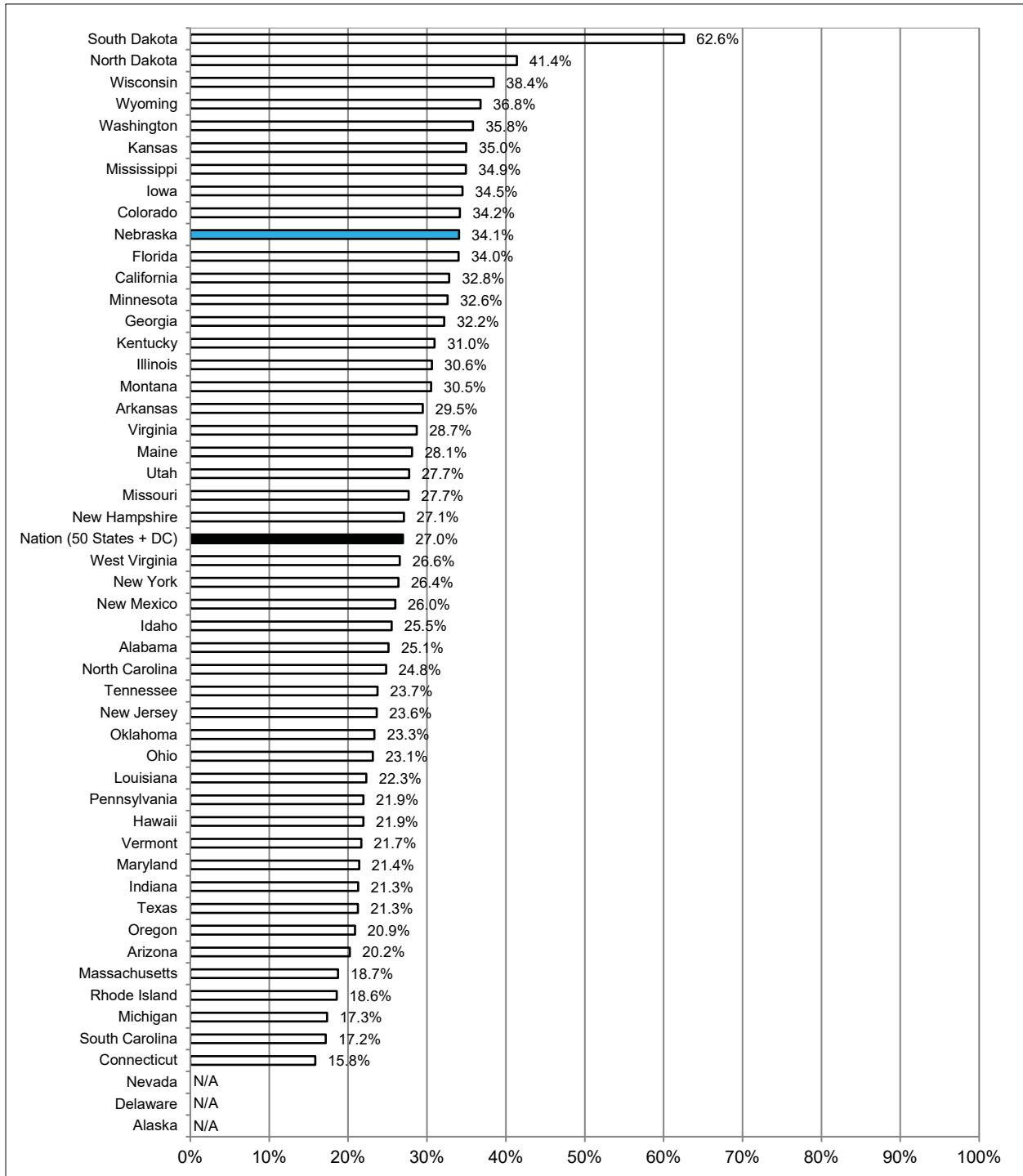
**Figure 2.2.7**  
**2017-2018 Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for**  
**Four-Year Public Institutions by State**



Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2018 survey.



**Figure 2.2.8**  
**2017-2018 Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for**  
**Two-Year Public Institutions by State**



Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2018 survey.

## **Transfer Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Nebraska Community Colleges**

A college’s graduation and transfer rates are based on the same full-time, first-time freshmen cohort. Consequently, a college’s graduation and transfer rates can be added together to determine the total percentage of the full-time, first-time freshmen who either completed their programs or transferred to other schools within 150% of the time specified for normal program completion.

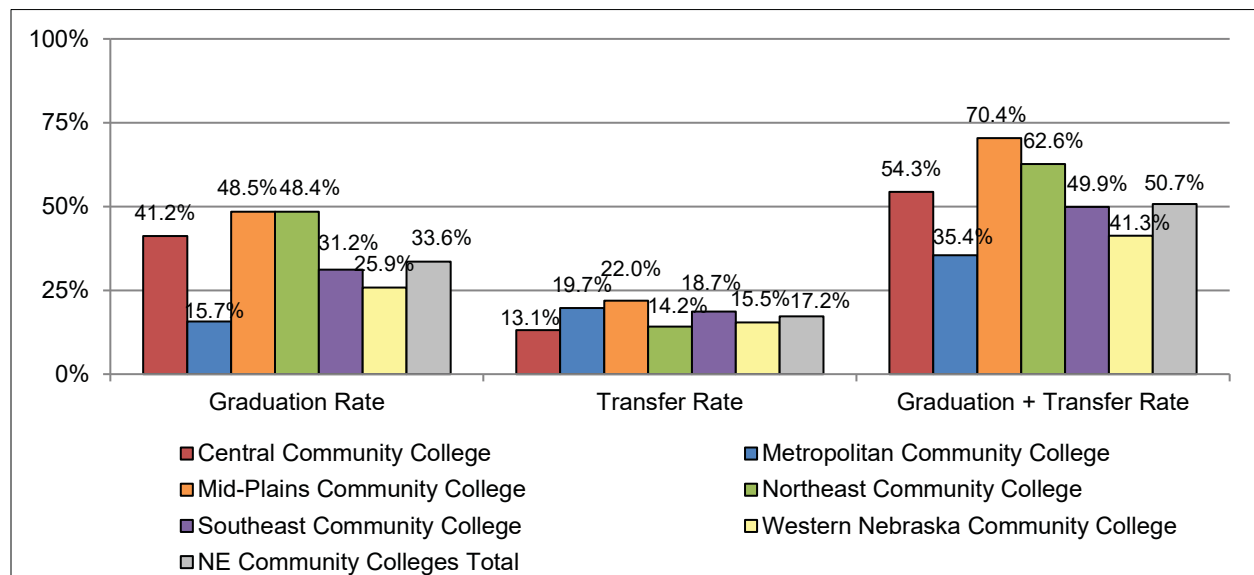
Institutions are not required to report the number of students in their freshmen cohorts who transfer to other institutions unless the mission of the institution, “...includes providing substantial preparation for students to enroll in another eligible institution...” (IPEDS Graduation Rates Full Instructions). Since 2010-2011, all six of Nebraska’s community colleges have reported transfer data. (For more information about computed college transfer rates based on IPEDS data, see [Explanatory Note A11.1](#) in [Appendix 11](#).)

[Figure 2.2.9](#) compares the 2017-2018 graduation rates, transfer rates, and graduation plus transfer rates for Nebraska’s six community colleges.

- As shown in [Figure 2.2.9](#), the overall graduation rate for Nebraska’s community colleges in 2017-2018 was 33.6% while the overall transfer rate was 17.2%.
- The 2017-2018 graduation rates for the community colleges ranged from 15.7% at Metropolitan Community College to 48.5% at Mid-Plains Community College.
- Meanwhile, the schools’ transfer rates ranged from 13.1% at Central Community College to 22.0% at Mid-Plains Community College.
- The rates produced by combining each institution’s graduation rates and transfer rates ranged from 35.4% at Metropolitan Community College to 70.4% at Mid-Plains Community College.

**Figure 2.2.9**

**2017-2018 Graduation Rates and Transfers Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Nebraska Community Colleges**



Note. See [Table A10.4](#) in [Appendix 10](#) and [Table A11.1](#) and [Table A11.2](#) in [Appendix 11](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2018 survey.