

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 2015-2016 academic year. Completion data for students who finished their degree programs in 2016-2017 will not be available for analysis until mid-2018. Consequently, the following analysis focuses on how 2015-2016 graduation rates for Nebraska institutions compare to 2005-2006 rates. **Throughout this analysis, the terms “completion rate” and “graduation rate” are used interchangeably.**

Based on the same cohorts as graduation rates, the 2015-2016 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.

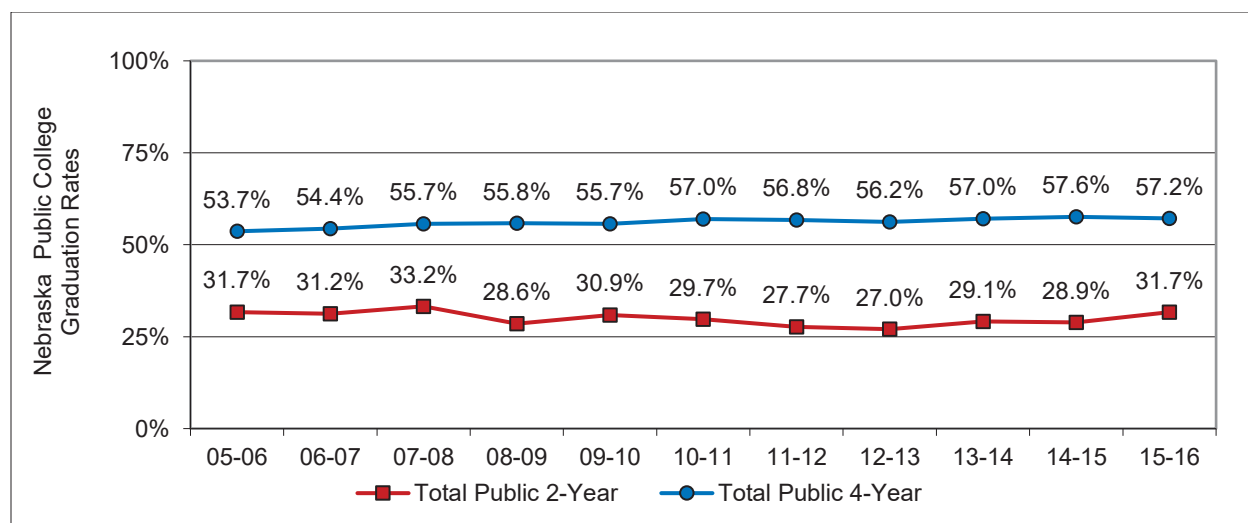
Generally, baccalaureate graduation and transfer rates are based on a six-year time frame, while rates for associate degrees are based on three years. In all cases, rates are calculated only for students who enrolled in degree programs as full-time, first-time freshmen. See Explanatory Note A10.1 in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

Overall Public College Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Nebraska

- As shown in Figure 2.2.1 the statewide graduation rate for Nebraska’s public four-year postsecondary institutions increased from 53.7% in 2006-2007 to 57.2% in 2016-2017. Meanwhile, the statewide graduation rate for Nebraska’s public two-year institutions was 31.7% in 2005-2006 and 2015-2016

Figure 2.2.1

Overall Public College Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Nebraska 2005-2006 through 2015-2016



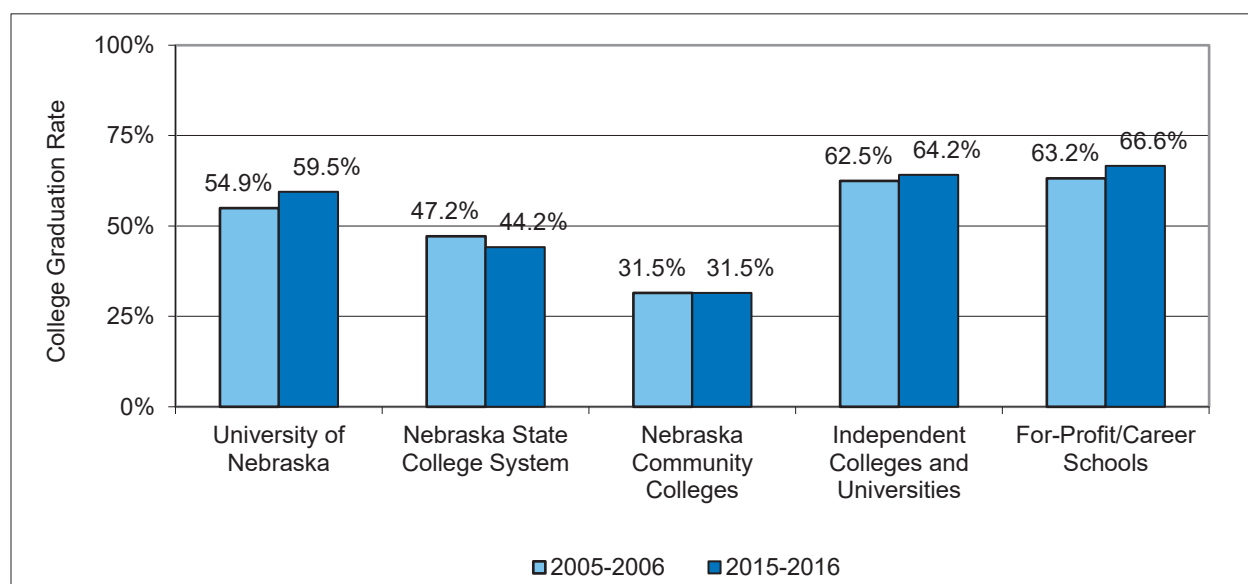
Note. See Table A10.1 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 through 2016 surveys.

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 54.9% in 2005-2006 to 59.5% in 2015-2016. The highest graduation rate within this sector in 2015-2016 was at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (66.7%) while the lowest rate was at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (42.9%).
- The overall graduation rate for the [Nebraska State College System](#) decreased from 47.2% in 2005-2006 to 44.2% in 2015-2016. The highest graduation rate within this sector in 2015-2016 was at Wayne State College (47.9%) while the lowest rate was at Peru State College (35.4%).
- The overall graduation rate for [Nebraska’s community colleges](#) was 31.5% in 2005-2006 and 2015-2016. The highest graduation rate within this sector in 2015-2016 was at Northeast Community College (53.0%) while the lowest rate was at Metropolitan Community College (13.1%).
- Within the [independent sector](#), the graduation rate increased from 62.5% in 2005-2006 to 64.2% in 2015-2016. The highest graduation rate in the independent sector in 2015-2016 was at Summit Christian College (100%). Meanwhile, Nebraska Indian Community College reported the lowest graduation rate (6.1%).
- The overall graduation rate for the [for-profit/career schools](#) increased from 63.2% in 2005-2006 to 66.6% in 2015-2016. The highest graduation rates within this sector were at Paul Mitchell the School Lincoln (100.0%) and the Universal College of Healing Arts (100.0%) while the lowest rate was at Kaplan University-Lincoln (22.2%).

Figure 2.2.2

Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector 2015-2016 Compared to 2005-2006



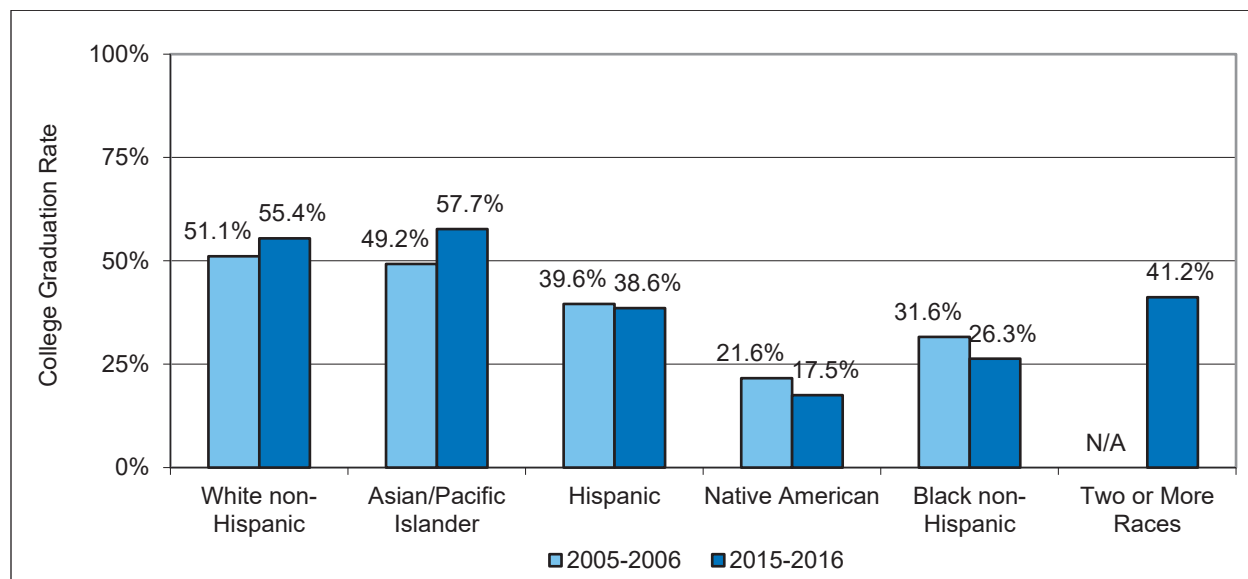
Note. See [Table A10.2](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.

- 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 indicant of the performance of any particular school.
- See [Table A10.3](#) for the 2005-2006 and 2015-2016 completion rates by institution and by sector. See [Table A10.4](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for the data used to calculate the completion rates by institution and by sector for 2005-2006 through 2015-2016.

College Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time by Race/Ethnicity

- As shown in [Figure 2.2.3](#), the 2005-2006 and 2015-2016 graduation rates for white non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders were significantly higher than the graduation rates for Hispanics, Native Americans, black non-Hispanics, and multiracial students.²⁹
- Between 2005-2006 and 2015-2016, graduation rates increased for white non-Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders but decreased for Hispanics, Native Americans, and black non-Hispanics.
- See [Table A10.5](#) and [Table A10.6](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data.

Figure 2.2.3
Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time
for Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Race/Ethnicity
2015-2016 Compared to 2005-2006



Note. See [Table A10.5](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.

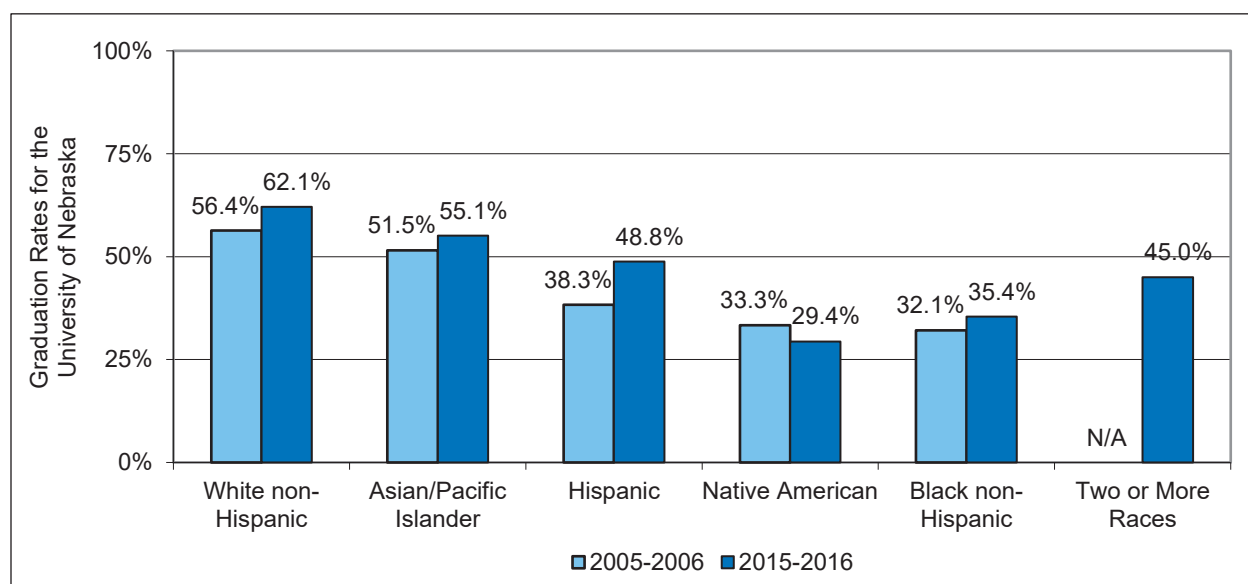
²⁹ The race/ethnicity category 'two or more races' was an optional reporting category for graduation rates reported for 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010. Adoption of the category was mandatory beginning with graduation rate data reported for 2010-2011.

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 2005-2006 and 2015-2016 within each sector of higher education in Nebraska.
- Segmenting college graduation rates by sector and by race/ethnicity results in graduation rates for 30 subgroups. For some subgroups, the cohorts are very small and graduation rates should be interpreted with caution. For example, the 2015-2016 graduation rate for Native Americans at for-profit/career schools was 0%, but the cohort consisted of only three students. See [Table A10.7](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for more information.
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.4](#), graduation rates at the University of Nebraska decreased for Native Americans but increased for all other racial/ethnic groups.
- At the state colleges, graduation rates decreased for white non-Hispanics, remained the same for Asian/Pacific Islanders, and increased for all other racial/ethnic groups (see [Figure 2.2.5](#)).
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.6](#), graduation rates at Nebraska’s community colleges decreased for Hispanics and Native Americans but increased for all racial/ethnic groups.
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.7](#), graduation rates at Nebraska’s independent institutions decreased for Hispanics and black non-Hispanics, remained the same for Native Americans, and increased for white non-Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- Meanwhile, graduation rates at the for-profit/career schools decreased for Hispanics and Native Americans but increased for all other racial/ethnic groups (see [Figure 2.2.8](#)).

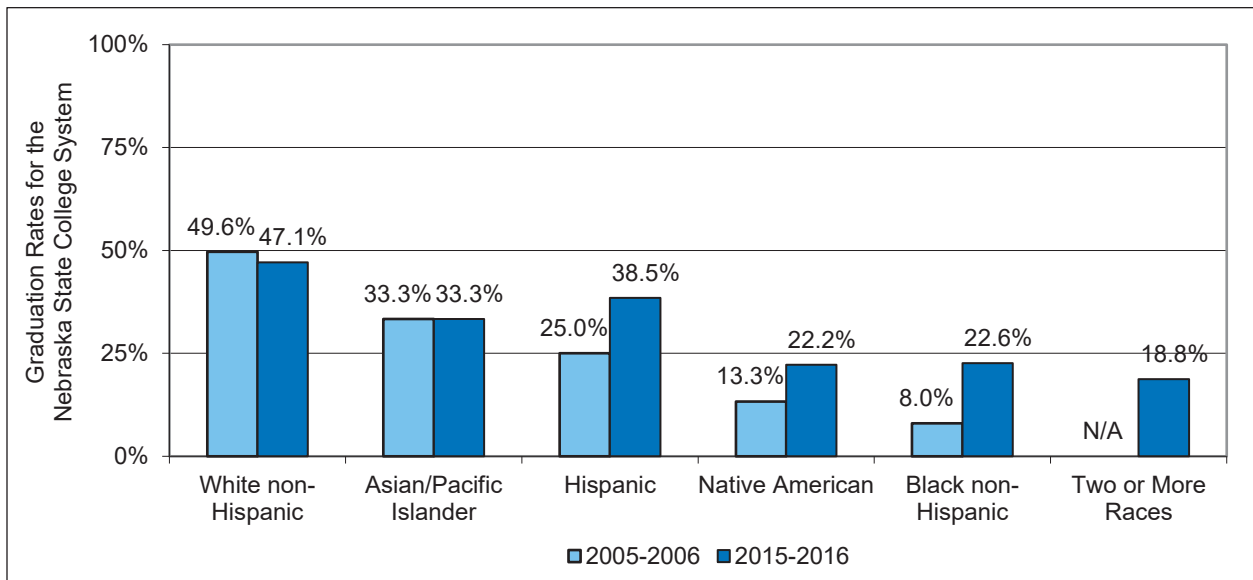
Figure 2.2.4

Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for the University of Nebraska by Race/Ethnicity 2015-2016 Compared to 2005-2006



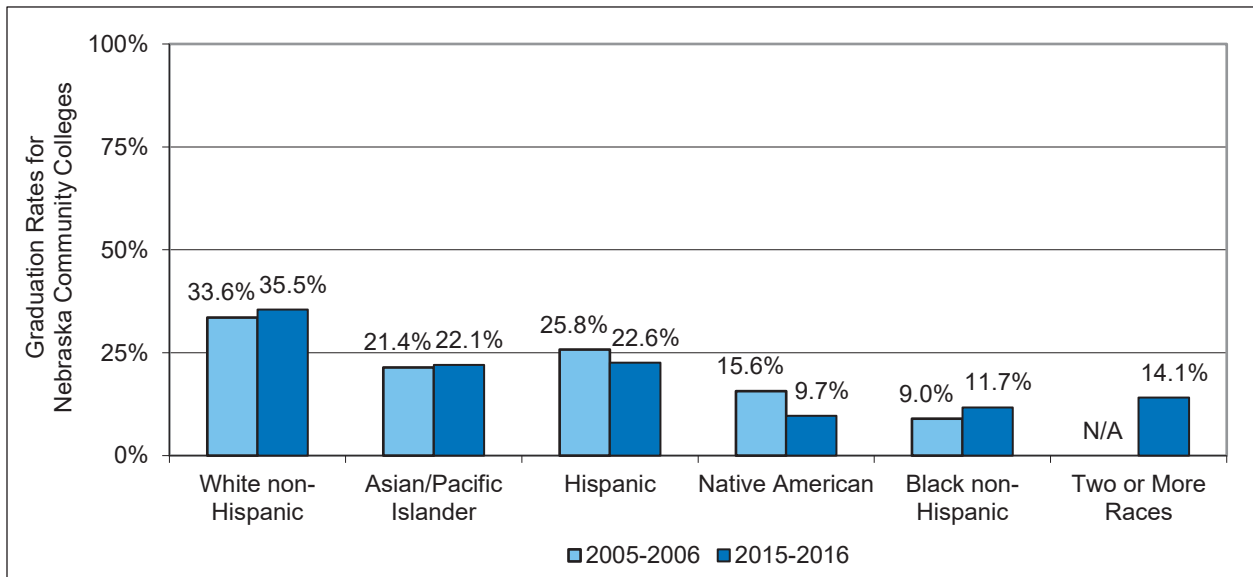
Note. See [Table A10.7](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.

Figure 2.2.5
Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time
for the Nebraska State College System by Race/Ethnicity
2015-2016 Compared to 2005-2006



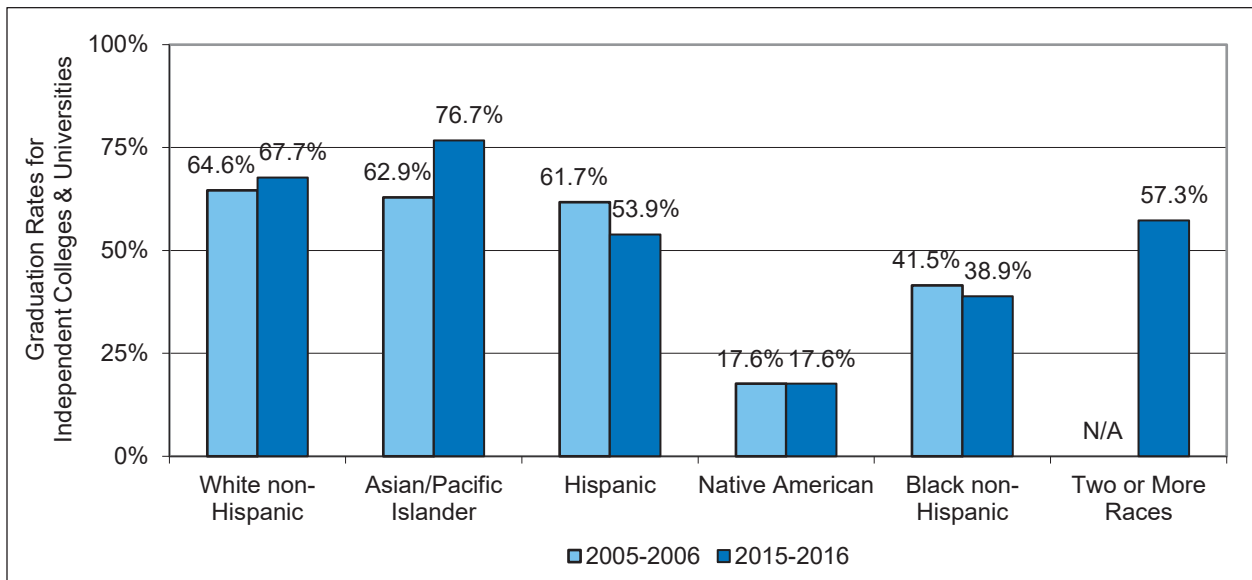
Note. See Table A10.7 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.

Figure 2.2.6
Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time
for Nebraska Community Colleges by Race/Ethnicity
2015-2016 Compared to 2005-2006



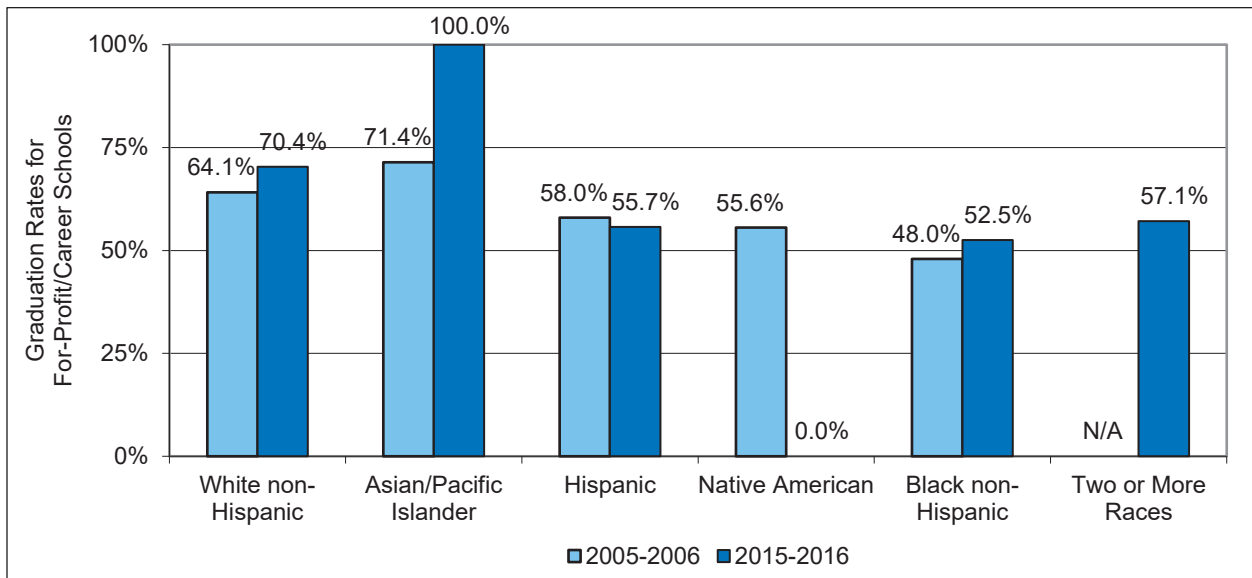
Note. See Table A10.7 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.

Figure 2.2.7
Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time
for Independent Colleges and Universities by Race/Ethnicity
2015-2016 Compared to 2005-2006



Note. See [Table A10.7](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.

Figure 2.2.8
Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time
for For-Profit/Career Schools by Race/Ethnicity
2015-2016 Compared to 2005-2006



Note. See [Table A10.7](#) in [Appendix 10](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.

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

Beginning with the *2018 Progress Report*, the Commission has obtained IPEDS college graduation rates 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.³⁰ 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 2015-2016 graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients were generally 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 generally 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.

Institutions	Pell Grant Graduation Rate	Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate ^a	Did Not Receive a Pell Grant or Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate	Total Graduation Rate
Neb. College of Technical Agr.	48.6%	27.3%	41.7%	42.9%
Central Community College	34.0%	37.5%	43.5%	37.7%
Metropolitan Community College	10.9%	13.5%	15.8%	13.1%
Mid-Plains Community College	25.8%	31.6%	41.9%	33.7%
Northeast Community College	45.2%	58.0%	63.0%	53.0%
Southeast Community College	24.9%	47.5%	35.4%	30.6%
Western Neb. Community College	22.2%	20.8%	39.3%	29.8%
Total Two-Year Public Institutions	26.6%	40.4%	36.6%	31.7%
<i>Note.</i> See Table A10.8 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys.				
^a Only includes recipients that did not receive a Pell Grant.				

³⁰ 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 and Subsidized Stafford Loan recipients were generally lower than the total graduation rates for Nebraska’s four-year public institutions, while graduation rates for students who did not receive Pell Grants or Subsidized Stafford Loans were generally higher than the total graduation rates for two-year public institutions.

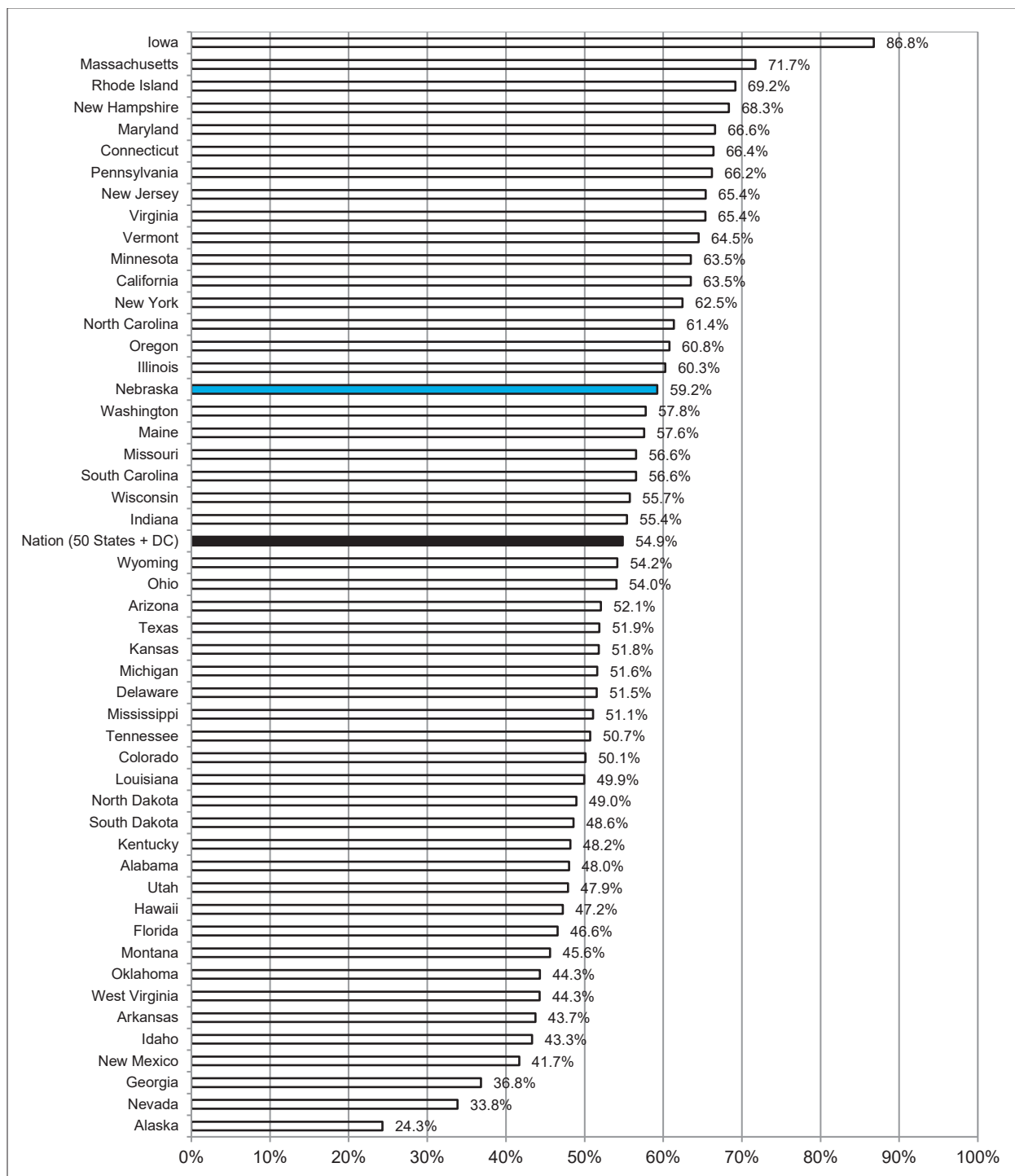
Table 2.2.2 Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Four-Year Public Institutions by Financial Aid Received 2015-2016				
Institutions	Pell Grant Graduation Rate	Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate ^a	Did Not Receive a Pell Grant or Subsidized Stafford Loan Graduation Rate	Total Graduation Rate
University of Nebraska at Kearney	49.9%	54.3%	64.1%	56.9%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	56.0%	61.3%	73.5%	66.7%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	40.6%	40.1%	49.0%	45.2%
Chadron State College	47.8%	34.3%	40.4%	43.2%
Peru State College	34.2%	23.7%	41.5%	35.4%
Wayne State College	41.3%	46.3%	55.6%	47.9%
Total Four-Year Public Institutions	48.9%	54.0%	64.1%	57.6%
<i>Note.</i> See Table A10.9 in Appendix 10 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 and 2016 surveys. ^a Only includes recipients that did not receive a Pell Grant.				

Nebraska Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time Compared to the Graduation Rates of Other States

- [Figure 2.2.9](#) and [Figure 2.2.10](#) show how the graduation rates of Nebraska’s four-year and two-year institutions compare to the rates calculated for other states and the United States as a whole. These rates are calculated for all of the degree-granting institutions within each state, including public, private (not-for-profit), and for-profit schools. Institutions classified as non-degree-granting are not included in these comparisons. These rates are for all awards conferred. For example, the graduation rate for Nebraska’s two-year schools encompasses awards of diplomas and certificates as well as two-year associate degrees.
- As shown in [Figure 2.2.9](#), the graduation rate for Nebraska’s four-year institutions was 59.2% for 2015-2016, or 17th highest among the 50 states and 4.3 percentage points above the 54.9% graduation rate for all four-year institutions in the United States.
- As illustrated in [Figure 2.2.10](#), the graduation rate for Nebraska’s two-year institutions was 31.9%, or 16th highest among the 50 states, and 1.5 percentage points higher than the graduation rate of 30.4% for all two-year institutions in the United States.

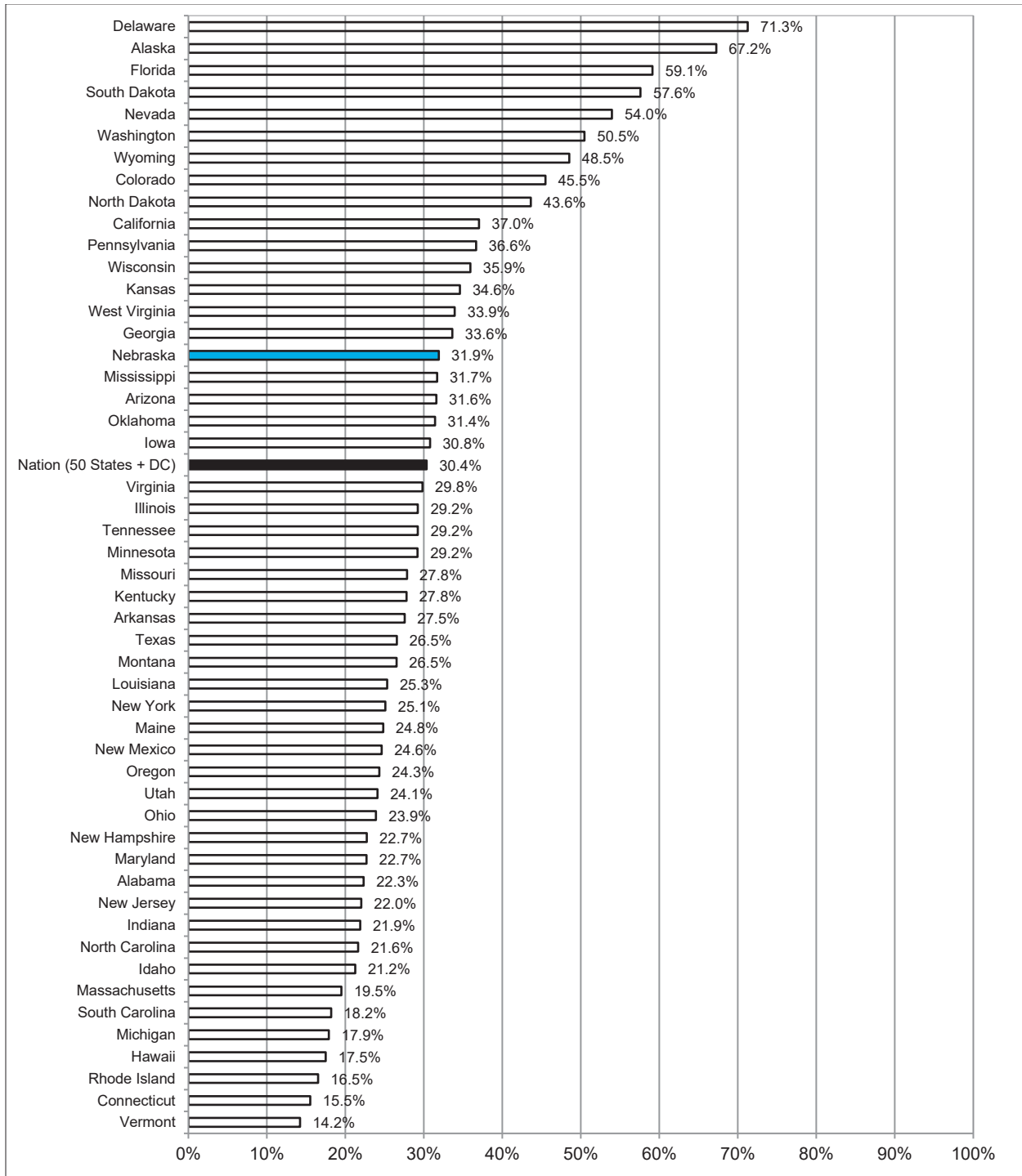
Figure 2.2.9

2014-2015 Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for Degree-Granting Four-Year Institutions by State



Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2016 survey. Graduation rates obtained from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), January 2018.

Figure 2.2.10
2014-2015 Graduation Rates within 150% of Normal Time for
Degree-Granting Two-Year Institutions by State



Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2016 survey. Graduation rates obtained from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), January 2018.

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.

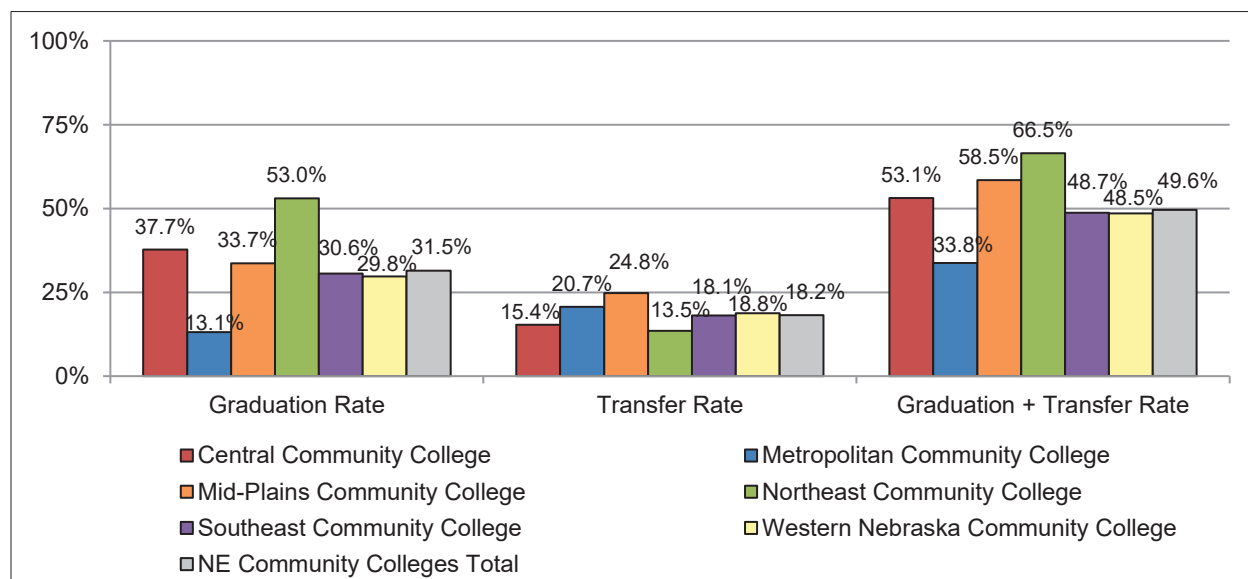
Institutions are not required to report the number of students in their freshmen cohorts who transfer to other institutions unless the mission of the institution, "...includes providing substantial preparation for students to enroll in another eligible institution..." (IPEDS Graduation Rates Full Instructions). 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 2.2.11](#) compares the 2015-2016 graduation rates, transfer rates, and graduation plus transfer rates for Nebraska's six community colleges.

- As shown in [Figure 2.2.11](#), the overall graduation rate for Nebraska's community colleges in 2015-2016 was 31.5% while the overall transfer rate was 18.2%.
- The 2015-2016 graduation rates for the community colleges ranged from 13.1% at Metropolitan Community College to 53.0% at Northeast Community College.
- Meanwhile, the schools' transfer rates ranged from 13.5% at Northeast Community College to 24.8% at Mid-Plains Community College.
- The rates produced by combining each institution's graduation rates and transfer rates ranged from 33.8% at Metropolitan Community College to 66.5% at Northeast Community College.

Figure 2.2.11

2015-2016 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 2016 survey.