

## 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 generally monitor progress toward achieving this goal, this section compares the latest available total student unduplicated headcounts and enrollments of first-time freshmen to fall 2005 within the context of 10-year trends and estimated 11-year trends.

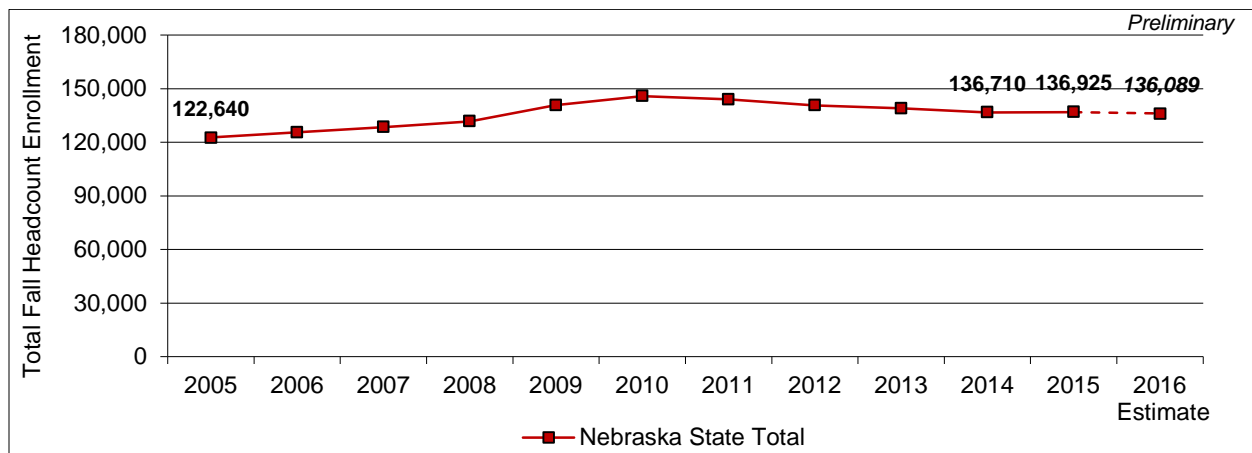
The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education is the official source of the enrollment data summarized for fall 2005 through fall 2015. Enrollments for fall 2016 are preliminary, based on estimates that institutions reported directly to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

#### Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment

- Total headcount—the count of all students taking courses for credit—at Nebraska’s public, independent, and for-profit postsecondary institutions increased steadily from 122,640 in fall 2005 to 145,893 in fall 2010. However, total enrollment decreased 6.1% between fall 2010 and fall 2015. Furthermore, it is estimated that enrollment decreased 0.6% between fall 2015 and fall 2016. As a result, total headcount enrollment increased from 122,640 in fall 2005 to 136,925 in fall 2015, for a 10-year increase of 11.6%, as shown in [Figure 1.1](#). In the context of estimated 11-year trends, total fall enrollment increased 11.0% between 2005 and 2016.

**Figure 1.1**

**Total Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions  
Fall 2005 through Fall 2016**



*Note.* See [Table A1.1](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

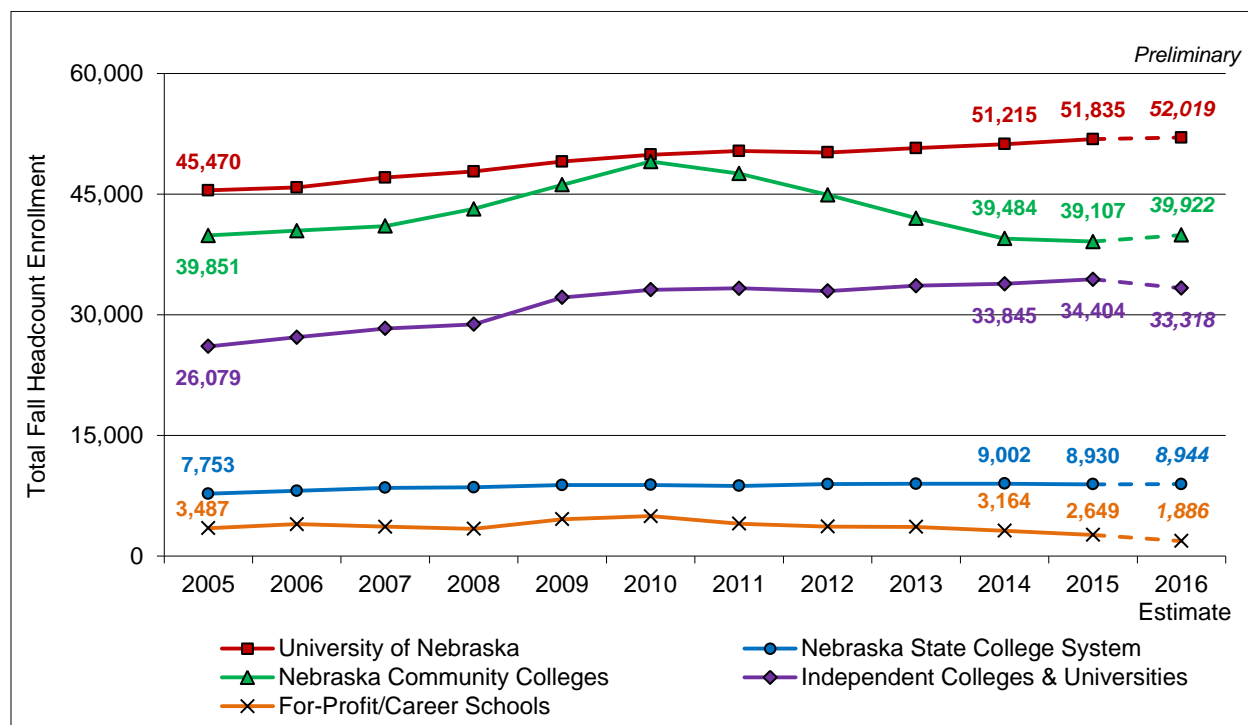
## Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector

- 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 2005. However, based on preliminary data for fall 2016, enrollments at Nebraska's community colleges were almost unchanged, while the for-profit/career schools experienced substantial decreases in enrollments between fall 2005 and fall 2016.
- By sector, Nebraska's postsecondary enrollment has changed as follows:

Sector	1-Year Change 2014 to 2015	Est. 1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	10-Year Change 2005 to 2015	Est. 11-Year Change 2005 to 2016
University of Nebraska	1.2%	0.4%	14.0%	14.4%
Nebraska State College System	-0.8%	0.2%	15.2%	15.4%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-1.0%	2.1%	-1.9%	0.2%
Independent Colleges & Universities	1.7%	-3.2%	31.9%	27.8%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-16.3%	-28.8%	-24.0%	-45.9%

Figure 1.2

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector  
Fall 2005 through Fall 2016



Note. See Table A1.2 in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

## 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 2005 to fall 2016.

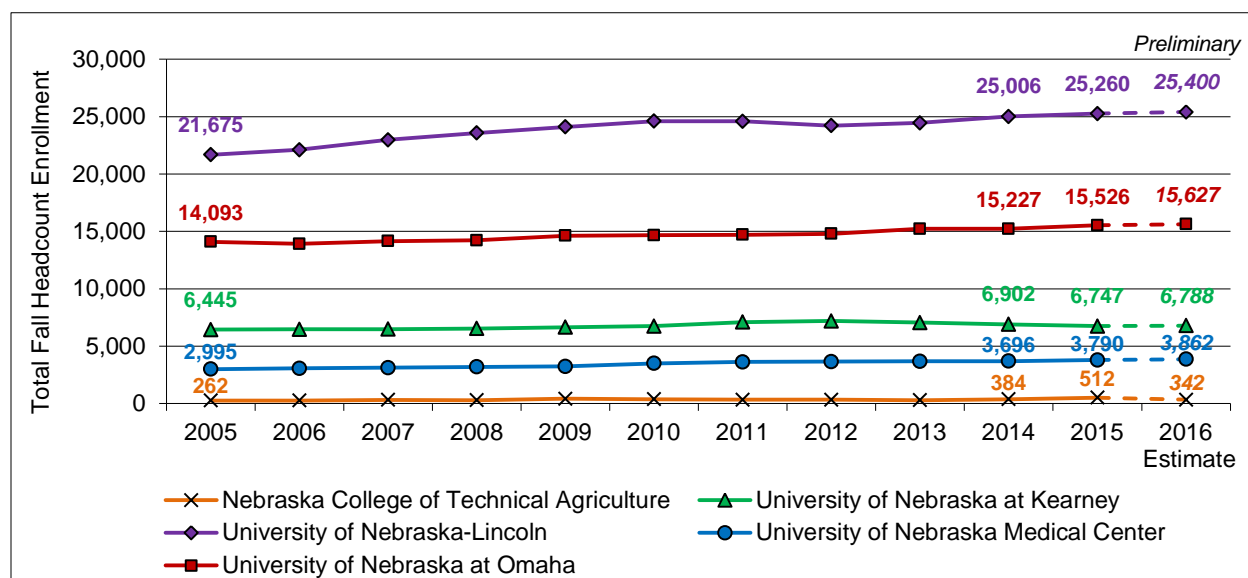
### University of Nebraska

- From fall 2005 to fall 2016, fall enrollment increased an estimated 14.4% at the University of Nebraska. All institutions experienced increases during this 11-year period, with the largest increase seen at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (30.5%).
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2005 and fall 2016, at the institutions constituting the University of Nebraska:

Institution	1-Year Change 2014 to 2015	Est. 1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	10-Year Change 2005 to 2015	Est. 11-Year Change 2005 to 2016
Neb. College of Technical Agriculture	33.3%	-33.2%	95.4%	30.5%
University of Nebraska at Kearney	-2.2%	0.6%	4.7%	5.3%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	1.0%	0.6%	16.5%	17.2%
University of Neb. Medical Center	2.5%	1.9%	26.5%	28.9%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	2.0%	0.7%	10.2%	10.9%

Figure 1.3

Fall Headcount Enrollment at the University of Nebraska by Institution  
Fall 2005 through Fall 2016



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

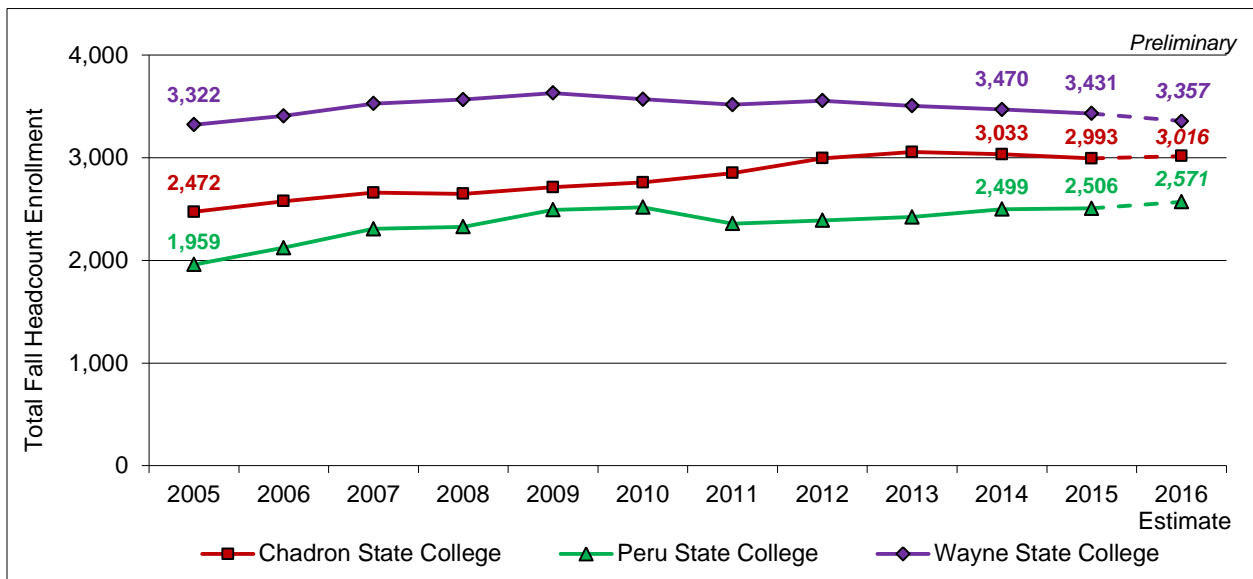
## Nebraska State College System

- From fall 2005 to fall 2016, fall enrollment increased an estimated 15.4% within the Nebraska State College System. All institutions experienced increases during this 11-year period, ranging from 1.1% at Wayne State College to 31.2% at Peru State College.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2005 and fall 2016, at the institutions constituting the Nebraska State College System:

Institution	1-Year Change 2014 to 2015	Est. 1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	10-Year Change 2005 to 2015	Est. 11-Year Change 2005 to 2016
Chadron State College	-1.3%	0.8%	21.1%	22.0%
Peru State College	0.3%	2.6%	27.9%	31.2%
Wayne State College	-1.1%	-2.2%	3.3%	1.1%

Figure 1.4

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska State College System by Institution  
Fall 2005 through Fall 2016



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

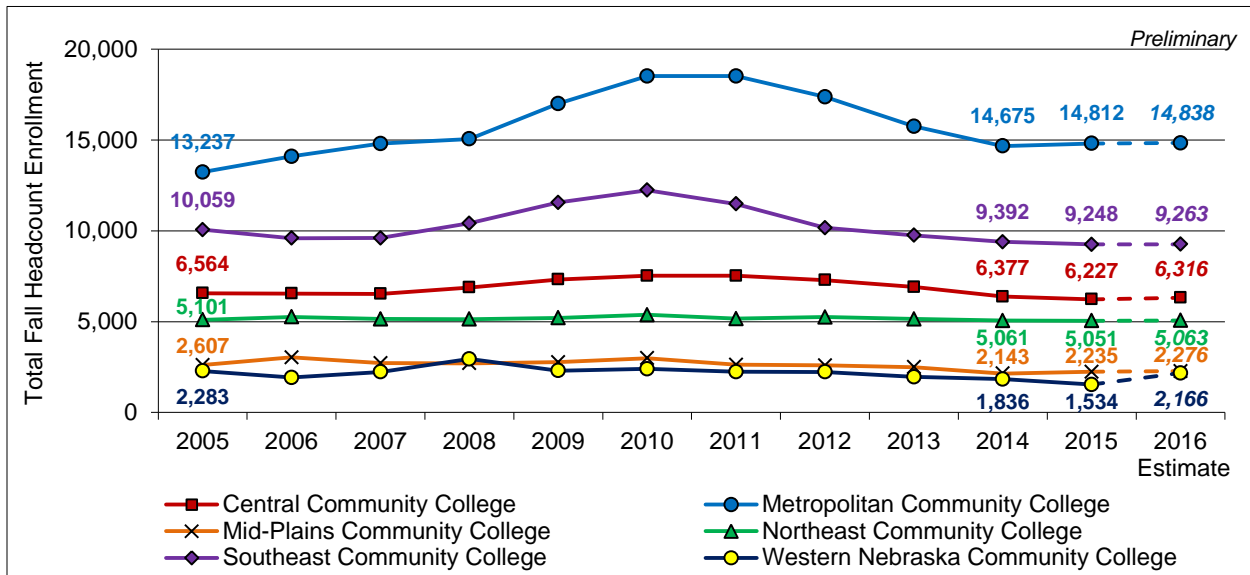
## Nebraska Community Colleges

- From fall 2005 to fall 2016, total fall enrollment increased an estimated 0.2% 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.
- Notably, all of the community colleges reported estimated one-year increases between fall 2015 and fall 2016, ranging 0.2% at Metro, Northeast, and Southeast, to 41.2% at Western Nebraska.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2005 and fall 2016, at Nebraska's six community colleges:

Institution	1-Year Change 2014 to 2015	Est. 1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	10-Year Change 2005 to 2015	Est. 11-Year Change 2005 to 2016
Central Community College	-2.4%	1.4%	-5.1%	-3.8%
Metropolitan Community College	0.9%	0.2%	11.9%	12.1%
Mid-Plains Community College	4.3%	1.8%	-14.3%	-12.7%
Northeast Community College	-0.2%	0.2%	-1.0%	-0.7%
Southeast Community College	-1.5%	0.2%	-8.1%	-7.9%
Western Neb. Community College <sup>3</sup>	-16.4%	41.2%	-32.8%	-5.1%

Figure 1.5

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Community Colleges by Institution  
Fall 2005 through Fall 2016



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

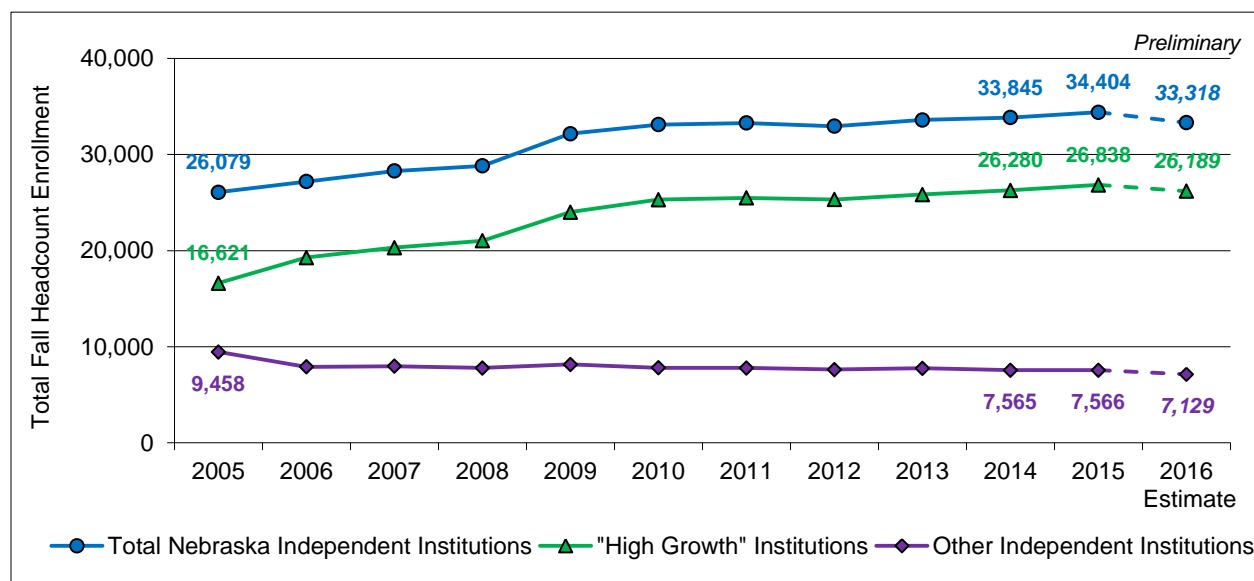
<sup>3</sup> Western Nebraska Community College's (WNCC) credit headcount increased significantly between fall 2015 and fall 2016 as a result of increased dual credit enrollment and credit allied health offerings through WNCC's Business and Industry Department.

## Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities: Fall Enrollment

- From fall 2005 to fall 2016, total fall enrollment increased an estimated 27.8% at Nebraska's independent colleges and universities.
- The following institutions accounted for nearly all of the sector's growth between fall 2005 and fall 2016: Bellevue University, Bryan College of Health Sciences, Clarkson College, Concordia University-Seward, Creighton University, Doane College-Lincoln,<sup>4</sup> Midland University, and Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing and Allied Health.
- The combined enrollment of these "high growth" institutions increased an estimated 57.6% between fall 2005 and fall 2016. Meanwhile, the total enrollment of the remaining schools decreased an estimated 24.6% over the same period.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 1.6

### Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities Fall 2005 through Fall 2016



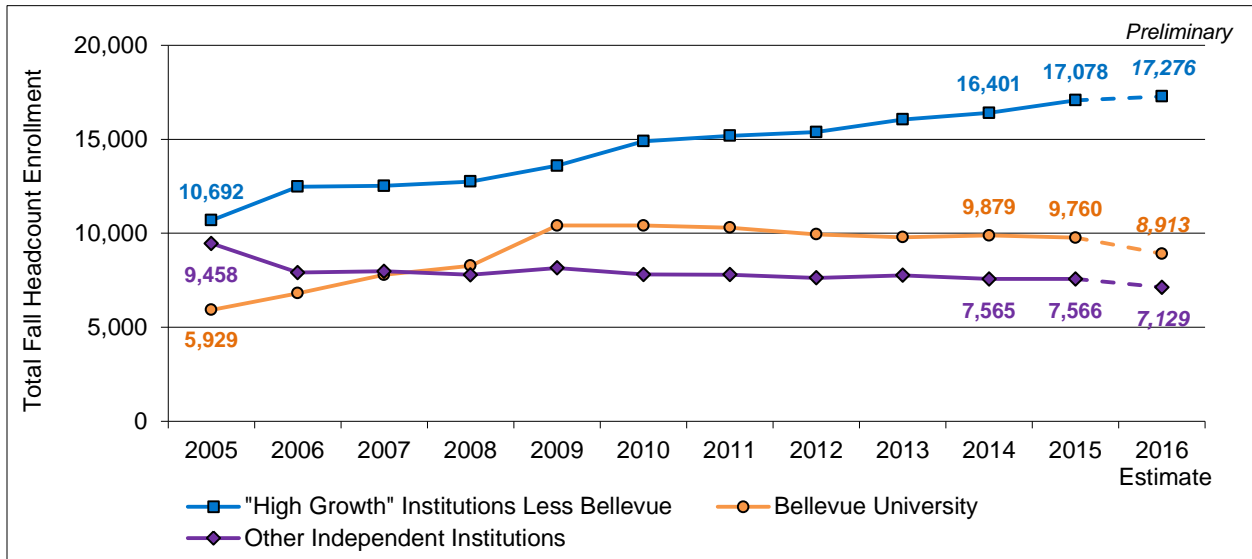
Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

- As shown in [Figure 1.7](#), Bellevue University's fall 2016 estimated headcount enrollment was 8,913 students, or roughly one-half of the combined enrollments of the other seven growth institutions.
- Between fall 2005 and fall 2016, Bellevue's enrollment increased an estimated 50.3%. Fall enrollments for the other growth institutions in the independent sector increased 61.6% during this same time.
- Between fall 2015 and fall 2016, Bellevue's enrollment decreased an estimated 8.7%. Fall enrollments for the other growth institutions in the independent sector increased 1.2% during this same time.

<sup>4</sup> Doane College-Lincoln became a reporting institution as of 2006.

<sup>5</sup> An institution is categorized by the Commission as "high growth" if the institution reported an increase of at least 200 students between fall 2005 and fall 2016. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data.

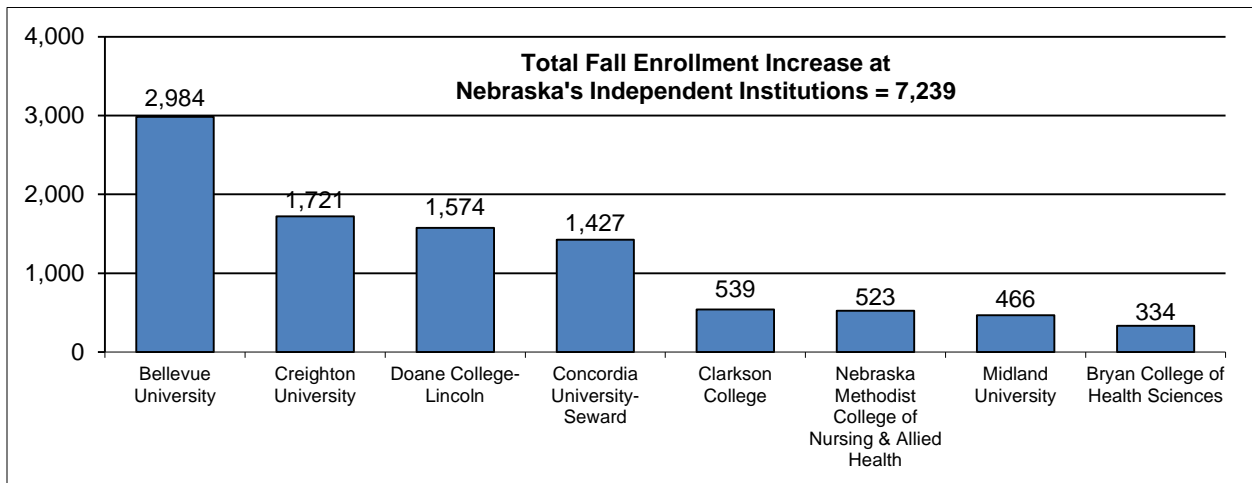
**Figure 1.7**  
**Fall Headcount Enrollment of Bellevue University**  
**Compared to Other Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities**  
**Fall 2005 through Fall 2016**



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

- As shown in Figure 1.8, Bellevue University alone accounted for 2,984, or 41.2%, of the estimated net increase of 7,239 students in the independent sector between fall 2005 and fall 2016. Meanwhile, Creighton University's fall enrollment increased by 1,721 students, accounting for 23.8% of the sector's growth.

**Figure 1.8**  
**Highest 11-Year Increases in Fall Headcount Enrollment**  
**at Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities**  
**Fall 2005 through Fall 2016**



Note. Doane College-Lincoln became a reporting institution as of 2006. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 survey. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

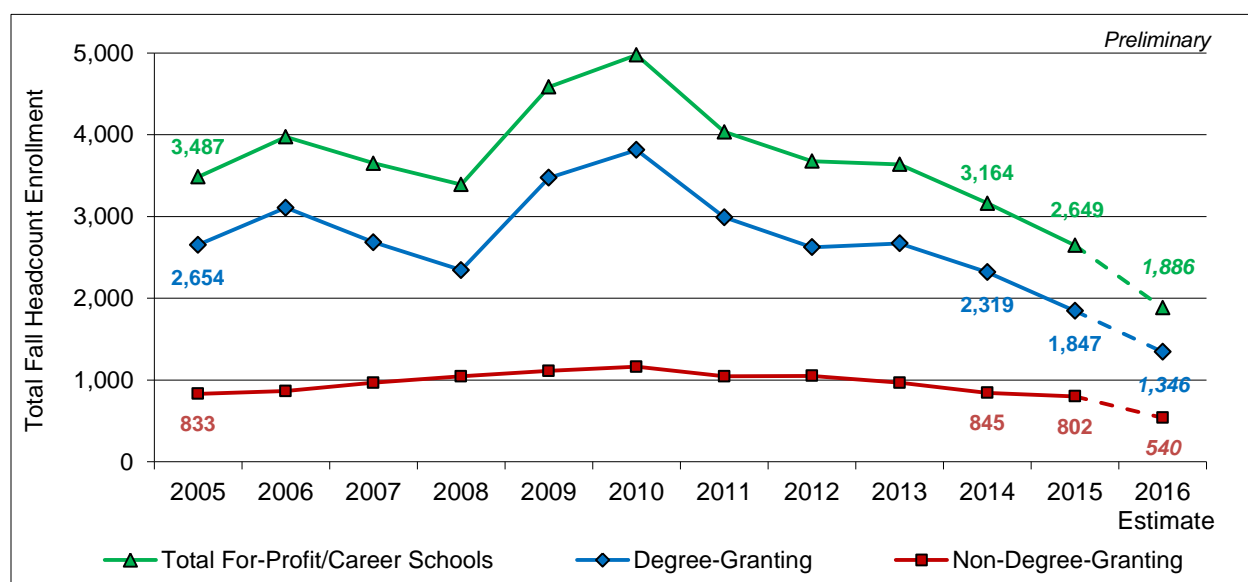
## Nebraska For-Profit/Career Schools: Fall Enrollment

All of the institutions in the for-profit/career school sector are operated for profit *except* for three schools of radiologic technology, which are operated by not-for-profit hospitals or medical centers. This category is also referred to as the “private career school” sector. While this sector includes a variety of career schools, some of the institutions in this category have broadened their missions to include the offering of bachelor’s or more advanced degrees.

- As shown in [Figure 1.9](#), enrollment decreased 45.9% between fall 2005 and fall 2016 at the for-profit/career schools.
- The degree-granting schools within the for-profit/career school sector include a variety of institutions. As illustrated in [Figure 1.9](#), total headcount enrollment at the degree-granting schools has fluctuated between fall 2005 and fall 2016, decreasing an estimated 49.3% over this period.
- As also shown in [Figure 1.9](#), enrollment decreased 35.2% between fall 2005 and fall 2016 at the non-degree-granting schools, which consist of eight for-profit schools of hair design and one of the state’s three not-for-profit schools of radiologic technology.
- Notably, fall enrollment with the for-profit/career school sector decreased an estimated 28.8% between 2015 and 2016 (-27.1% at degree-granting schools and -32.7% at non-degree-granting schools). The closing of ITT Technical Institute accounted for nearly 41% of this one-year decline.
- See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for a list of the schools in the for-profit sector and their total fall enrollments from 2005 to 2016.

Figure 1.9

### Total Fall Headcount Enrollment within the Nebraska For-Profit/Career School Sector Fall 2005 through Fall 2016



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.



## **Nebraska Fall Headcount Enrollment Summary by Sector**

- Nebraska's total postsecondary headcount enrollment increased from 122,640 in fall 2005 to 136,089 in fall 2016, based on preliminary counts.
- As shown in [Table 1.1](#), the net effect of the changes in enrollment that occurred between fall 2005 and fall 2016 is that enrollments at the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State College System, and the independent colleges and universities accounted for a higher percentage of Nebraska's total postsecondary enrollment in fall 2016 than they did in fall 2005.

<b>Table 1.1 Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector 2005 and 2016</b>				
Enrollment Sector	Fall 2005		<i>Estimated Fall 2016</i>	
	Enrollment	% of Enrollment	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>% of Enrollment</i>
University of Nebraska	45,470	37.1%	<i>52,019</i>	<i>38.2%</i>
Nebraska State College System	7,753	6.3%	<i>8,944</i>	<i>6.6%</i>
Nebraska Community Colleges	39,851	32.5%	<i>39,922</i>	<i>29.3%</i>
Total Public Colleges and Universities	93,074	75.9%	<i>100,885</i>	<i>74.1%</i>
Independent Colleges and Universities	26,079	21.3%	<i>33,318</i>	<i>24.5%</i>
For-Profit/Career Schools	3,487	2.8%	<i>1,886</i>	<i>1.4%</i>
Total Nebraska Postsecondary Headcount Enrollment	122,640	100.0%	<i>136,089</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
Data sources: For 2005 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 survey. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.				

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

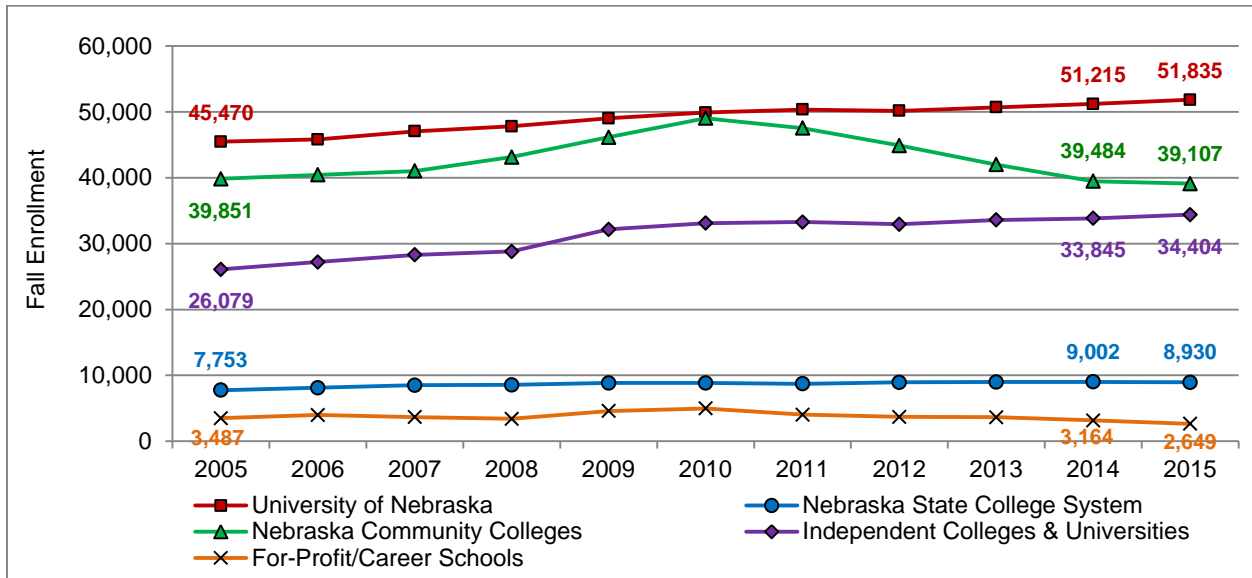
Fall headcount enrollment is the best available indicator of enrollment trends across all of the sectors of postsecondary education in Nebraska because it is reported by and can be analyzed by race/ethnicity, gender, enrollment status (part-time/full-time), level of study (undergraduate/ graduate), and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

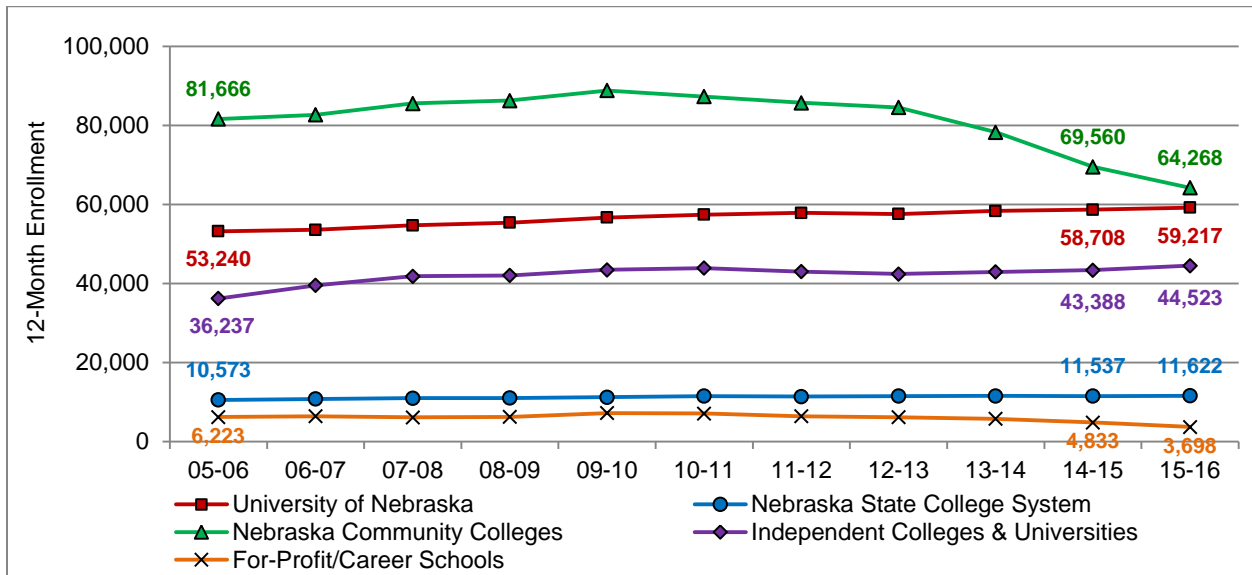
- Figure 1.10 shows total fall enrollment by sector from fall 2005 through fall 2015, the latest period for which official data are available from the NCES. Figure 1.11 shows the comparable 12-month enrollments reported to the NCES for the 2005–2006 academic year through the 2015–2016 academic year.
- The fall and 12-month enrollments shown in Figure 1.10 and Figure 1.11 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 1.10, the University of Nebraska enrolls a higher number of students than Nebraska's six community colleges. In fall 2015, for example, the University of Nebraska enrolled 51,835 students compared to enrollment of 39,107 students at the community colleges.
- The 12-month enrollments summarized in Figure 1.11, 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 2015–2016, the community colleges served a total of 64,268 students over the course of the academic year, while the University of Nebraska served 59,217 students. This is not surprising, given the differences in the institutional missions and programs offered by these two sectors.

**Figure 1.10**  
**Fall Headcount Enrollment**  
**at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector**  
**Fall 2005 through Fall 2015**



Note. See Table A1.1 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys.

**Figure 1.11**  
**12-Month Unduplicated Headcount**  
**at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector**  
**2005–2006 Academic Year through 2015–2016 Academic Year**

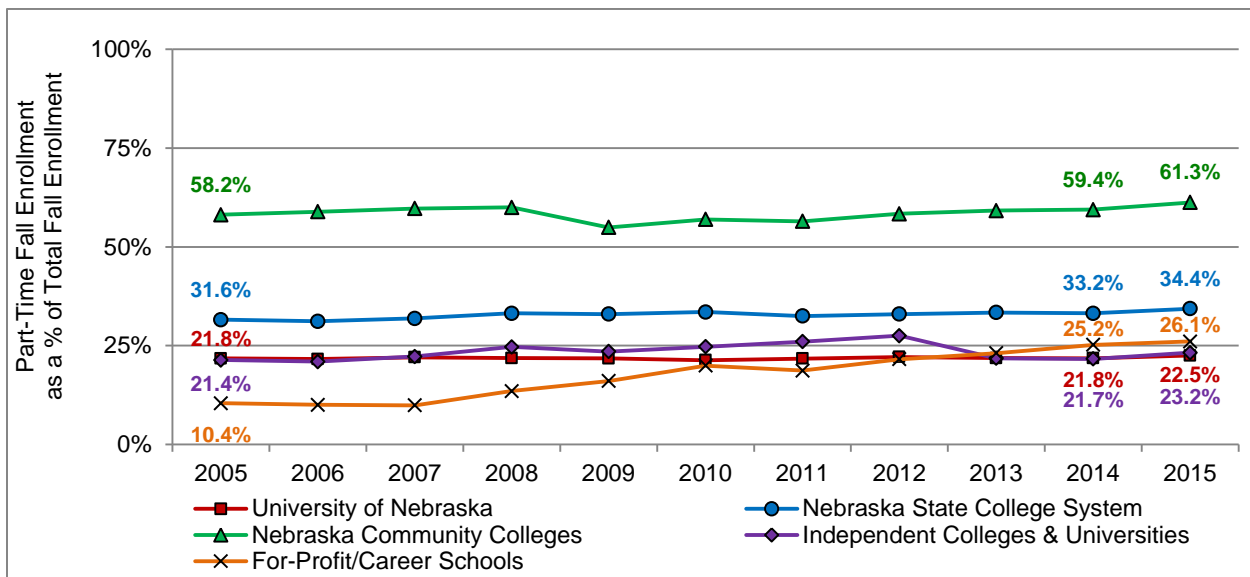


Note. See Table A1.3 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2006 through 2016 surveys.

- 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 1.12](#), part-time students accounted for 61.3% of total fall enrollment at the community colleges in fall 2015. In comparison, part-time students accounted for 22.5% of the University of Nebraska’s fall 2015 enrollment, 34.4% of the fall enrollment at the state colleges, 23.2% at the independent institutions, and 26.1% at the for-profit/career schools.<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 1.12**

**Part-Time Fall Enrollment as a Percentage of Total Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector Fall 2005 through Fall 2015**



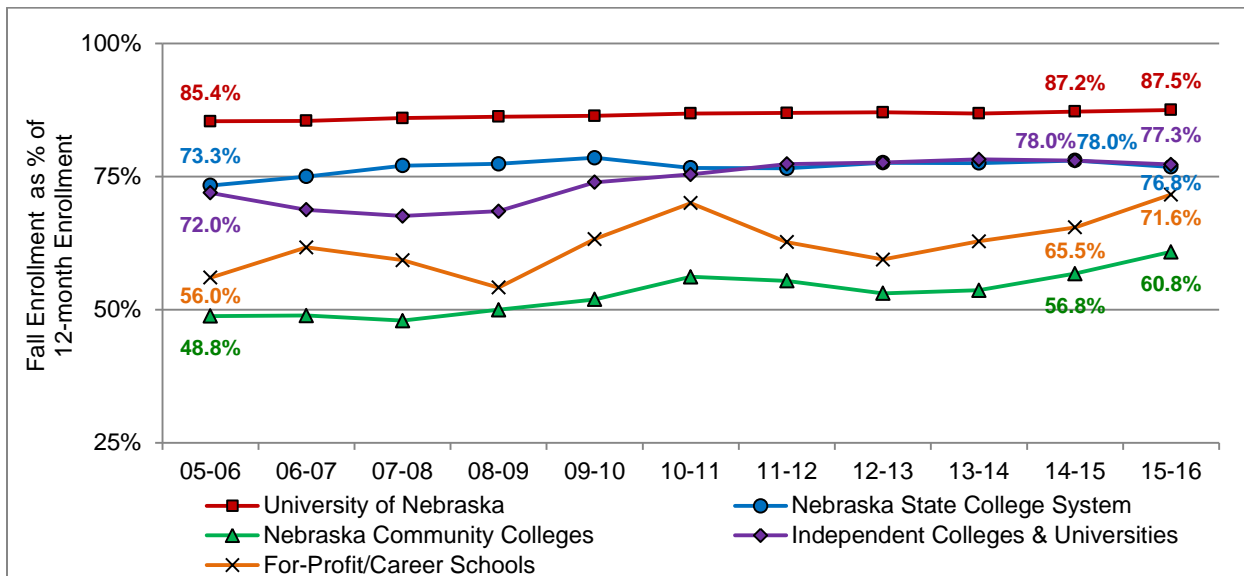
Note. For supporting data, see the *2016 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment* on the Commission’s website at: [ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports). Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys.

- [Figure 1.13](#) 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 2015 accounted for 87.5%, 77.3%, 76.8%, and 71.6% of 12-month enrollment during the 2015–2016 academic year at the University of Nebraska, the independent sector, the Nebraska State College System, and the for-profit/career school sector, respectively. In contrast, fall enrollments accounted for 60.8% 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>6</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 1.13

Fall Headcount Enrollment as a Percentage of 12-Month Unduplicated Headcount at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector 2005–2006 Academic Year through 2015–2016 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 2006 through 2016 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 2005 enrollments of first-time freshmen to estimated first-time freshmen enrollment in fall 2016. Enrollments for fall 2016 are preliminary, based on estimates that institutions reported directly to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

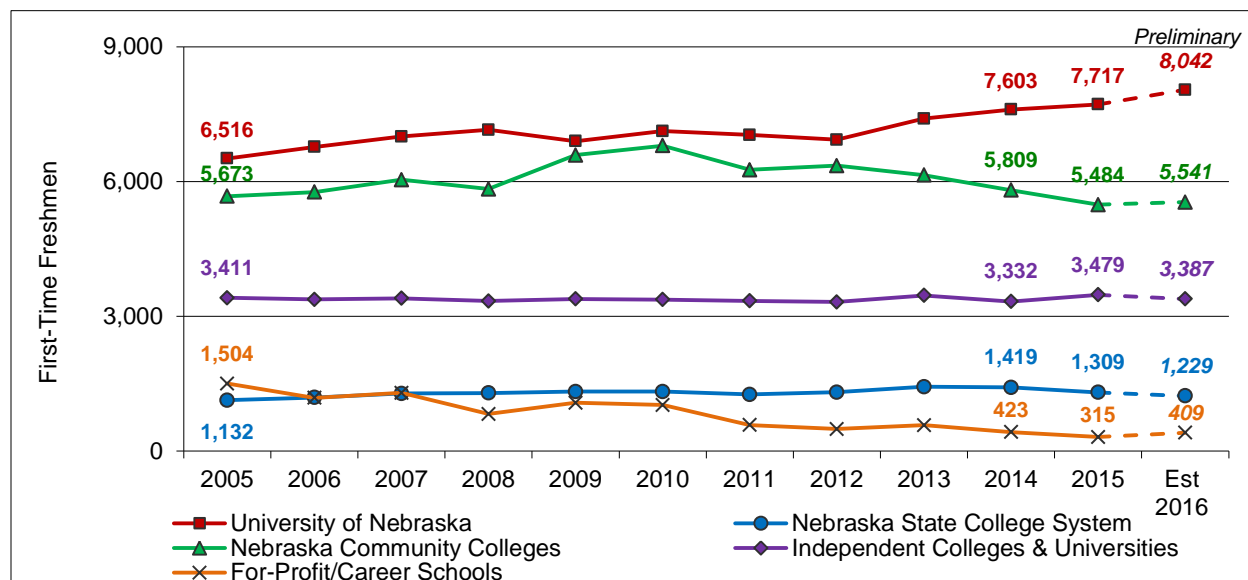
### Nebraska Total Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Sector

- As shown in [Figure 1.14](#), the University of Nebraska has enrolled more first-time freshmen than any other sector since fall 2005.
- 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 2005 and fall 2016:

Sector	1-Year Change 2014 to 2015	Est. 1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	10-Year Change 2005 to 2015	Est. 11-Year Change 2005 to 2016
University of Nebraska	1.5%	4.2%	18.4%	23.4%
Nebraska State College System	-7.8%	-6.1%	15.6%	8.6%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-5.6%	1.0%	-3.3%	-2.3%
Independent Colleges & Universities	4.4%	-2.6%	2.0%	-0.7%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-25.5%	29.8%	-79.1%	-72.8%
Total Nebraska	-1.5%	1.7%	0.4%	2.0%

Figure 1.14

Nebraska Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector  
Fall 2005 through Fall 2016

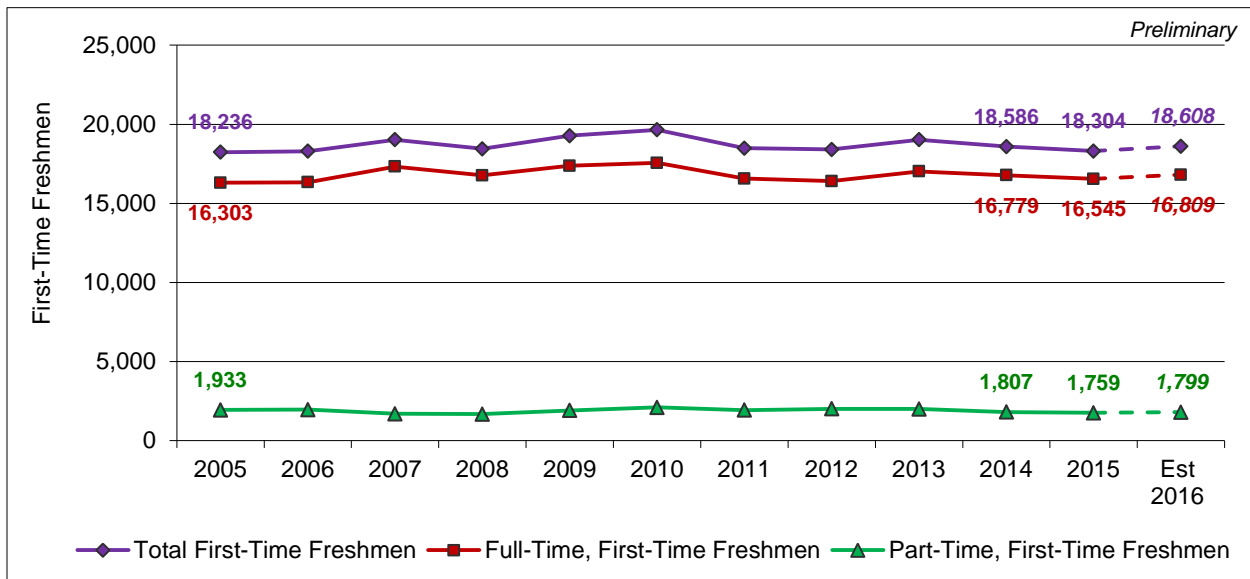


Note. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

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

- As shown in [Figure 1.15](#), total enrollment of first-time freshmen at all of Nebraska's colleges and universities, including for-profit/career schools, increased an estimated 2.0% between fall 2005 and fall 2016.
- Full-time first-time freshmen accounted for an estimated 90.3% of the first-time freshmen attending postsecondary institutions in Nebraska in fall 2016, up from 89.4% in fall 2005.
- Full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 3.1% over the 11-year period between fall 2005 and fall 2016. Meanwhile, part-time first-time freshmen enrollment decreased an estimated 6.9% over the 11-year period, despite an estimated increase of 2.3% between fall 2015 and fall 2016.
- Analyzing the actual changes in fall enrollment between 2005 and 2015 reveals that Nebraska's total first-time freshmen enrollment increased 0.4% while full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased 1.5% and part-time first-time freshmen enrollment decreased 9.0%.

**Figure 1.15**  
**Nebraska Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Full- and Part-Time Student Status**  
**Fall 2005 through Fall 2016**



*Note.* See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

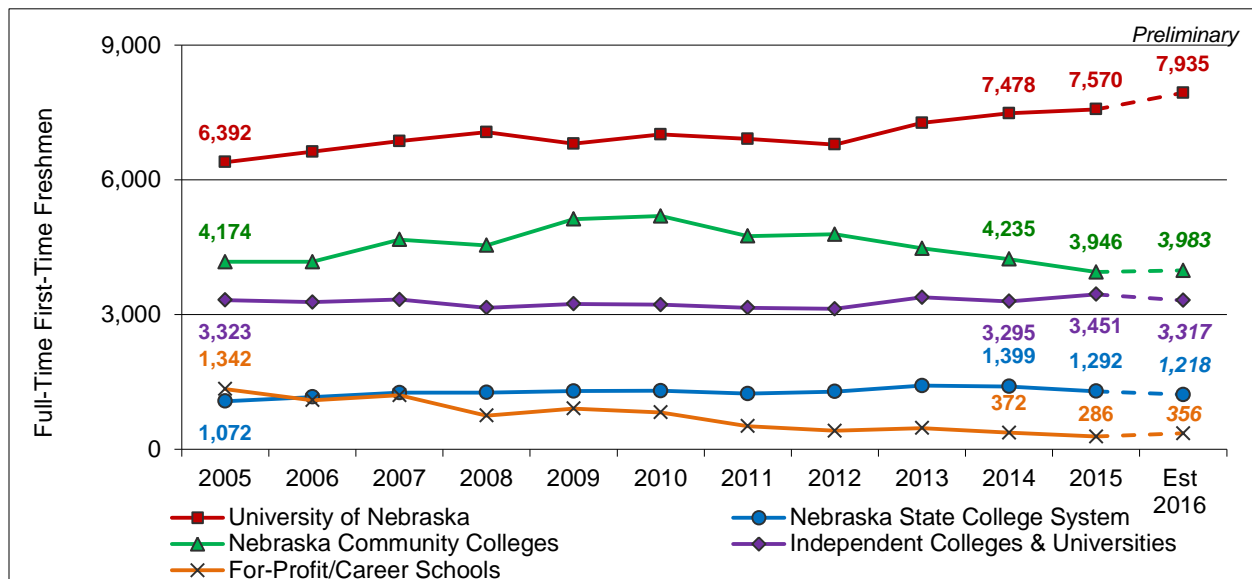
## Nebraska Enrollment of Full- and Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen by Sector

- From fall 2005 to fall 2016, full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased an estimated 3.1%. As illustrated in [Figure 1.16](#), 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 2005 and fall 2016:

Sector	1-Year Change 2014 to 2015	Est. 1-Year Change 2015 to 2016	10-Year Change 2005 to 2015	Est. 11-Year Change 2005 to 2016
University of Nebraska	1.2%	4.8%	18.4%	24.1%
Nebraska State College System	-7.6%	-5.7%	20.5%	13.6%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-6.8%	0.9%	-5.5%	-4.6%
Independent Colleges & Universities	4.7%	-3.9%	3.9%	-0.2%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-23.1%	24.5%	-78.7%	-73.5%
Total Nebraska Full-Time First-Time	-1.4%	1.6%	1.5%	3.1%

Figure 1.16

### Nebraska Total Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector Fall 2005 through Fall 2016



Note. See Table A1.4 in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

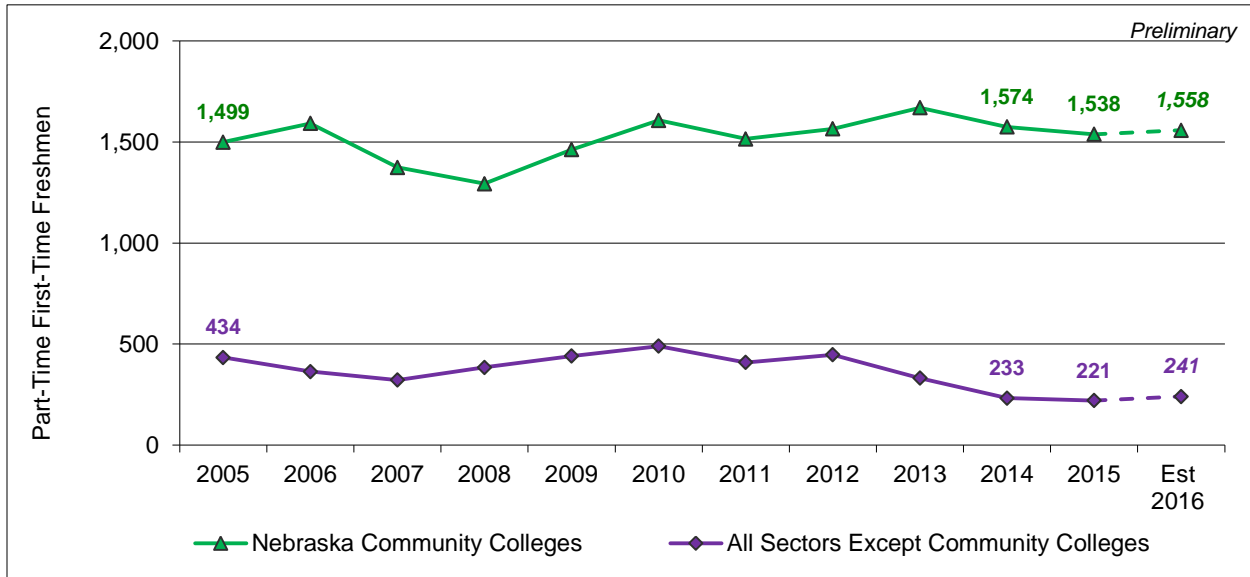
- As shown in [Figure 1.17](#), Nebraska's community colleges account for the majority of first-time freshmen who attend school part-time (77.5% of the state total in fall 2005 and 86.6% in fall 2016).
- Enrollment of part-time first-time freshmen at Nebraska's community colleges increased an estimated 1.3% from fall 2015 to fall 2016, resulting in an estimated 11-year increase of 3.9%.



- The number of part-time first-time freshmen enrolled at other types of institutions increased an estimated 9.0% from fall 2015 to fall 2016, resulting in an estimated 11-year decrease of 44.5%.

**Figure 1.17**

**Nebraska Total Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector  
Fall 2005 through Fall 2016**



*Note.* See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2005 through 2015 data, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2005 through fall 2015 surveys. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2016 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2016.

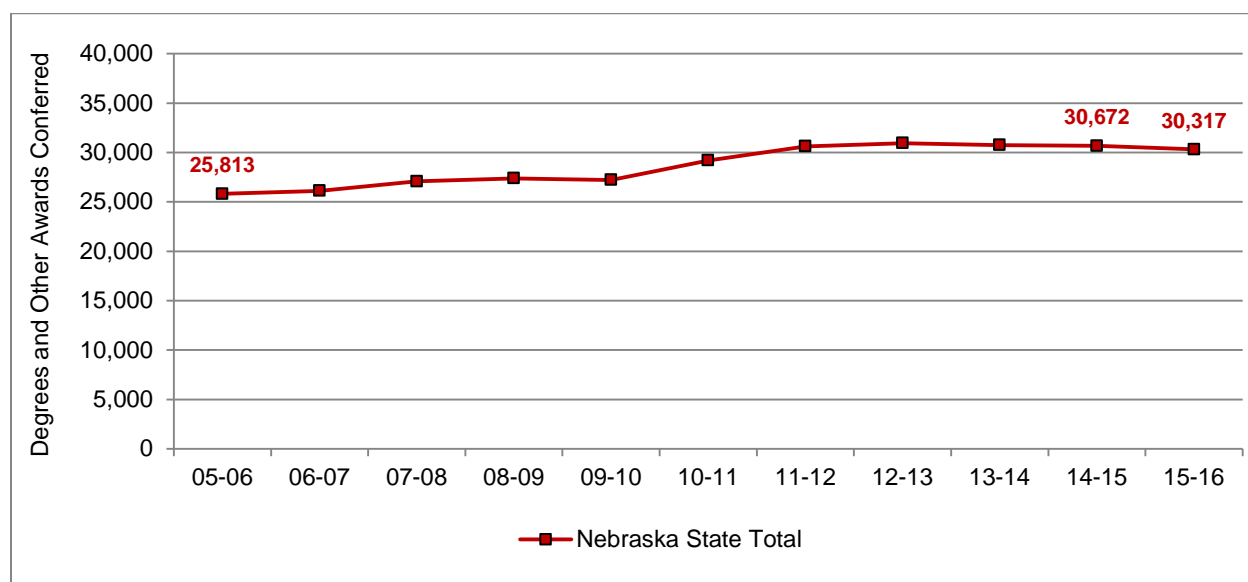
## **Number of Degrees Conferred at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions**

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 1.18](#), the total number of degrees and awards conferred by Nebraska institutions increased 17.4% from 25,813 in 2005–2006 to 30,317 in 2015–2016.

**Figure 1.18**

### **Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Nebraska Public and Independent Institutions and For-Profit/Career Schools 2005–2006 Academic Year through 2015–2016 Academic Year**



Note. For supporting data, see the *2016 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 2006 through 2016 surveys.

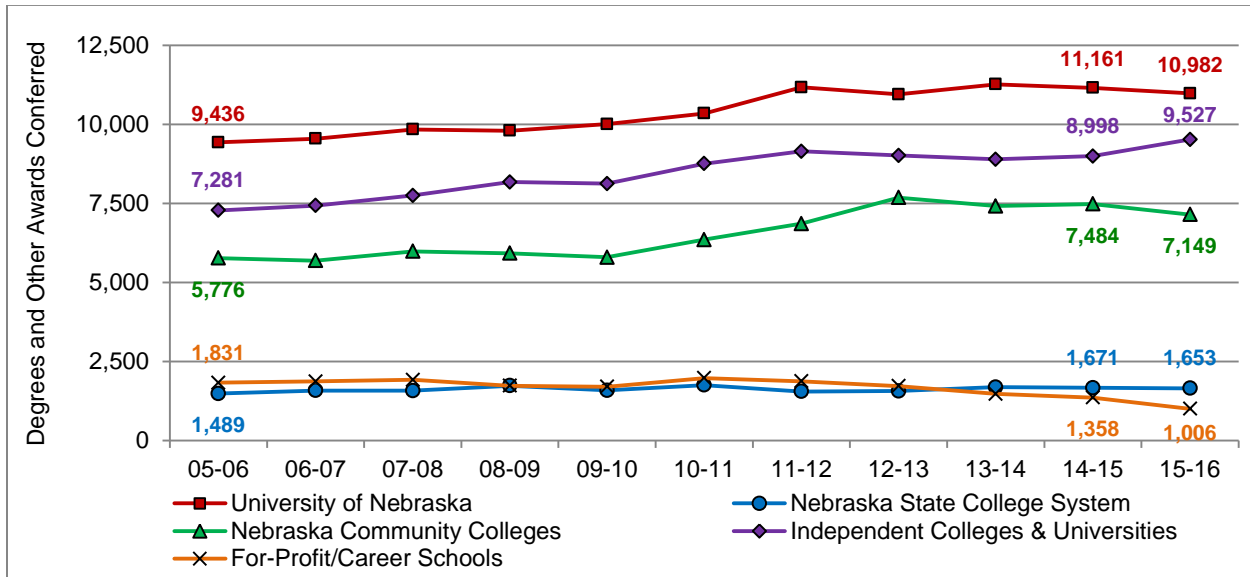
- [Figure 1.19](#) summarizes the number of degrees and other awards conferred by sector. As shown in this chart, all sectors, except for the independent sector, awarded fewer degrees and other awards in 2015–2016 than in 2014–2015. However, all sectors, except for the for-profit/career school sector, awarded more degrees and other awards in 2015–2016 than in 2005–2006.

Sector	1-Year Change 14-15 to 15-16	10-Year Change 05-06 to 15-16
University of Nebraska	-1.6%	16.4%
Nebraska State College System	-1.1%	11.0%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-4.5%	23.8%
Independent Colleges & Universities	5.9%	30.8%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-25.9%	-45.1%

- [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 2005–2006 to 2015–2016, the highest growth was 39.3% at the master’s level while the smallest growth rate was 2.6% at the less-than-four-year certificate level.

Figure 1.19

**Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Sector  
2005–2006 Academic Year through 2015–2016 Academic Year**



Note. For supporting data, see the 2016 *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 2006 through 2016 surveys.

**Table 1.2  
Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Award Level  
Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions  
2005–2006 Academic Year through 2015–2016 Academic Year**

Award Level	05–06	06–07	07–08	08–09	09–10	10–11	11–12	12–13	13–14	14–15	15–16	10-Yr. Chg.
Less-than-Four-Year Certificates	3,200	3,118	3,450	3,251	2,975	3,261	3,227	3,746	3,404	3,383	3,282	2.6%
Associate Degrees	4,926	4,919	4,837	4,763	4,862	5,352	5,765	5,944	5,755	5,712	5,144	4.4%
Bachelor’s Degrees & Post-Baccalaureate Certificates	12,355	12,640	12,775	13,017	13,091	14,061	14,548	14,523	15,028	14,514	14,564	17.9%
Master’s Degrees & Post-Master’s Certificates	4,040	4,135	4,696	4,979	4,914	5,163	5,692	5,244	5,068	5,480	5,628	39.3%
Doctor’s Degrees	1,292	1,320	1,330	1,371	1,392	1,371	1,392	1,495	1,503	1,583	1,699	31.5%
<b>Total Degrees Conferred</b>	<b>25,813</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>30,672</b>	<b>30,317</b>	<b>17.4%</b>

Note. For supporting data, see the 2016 *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 2006 through 2016 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.