

Key Takeaways

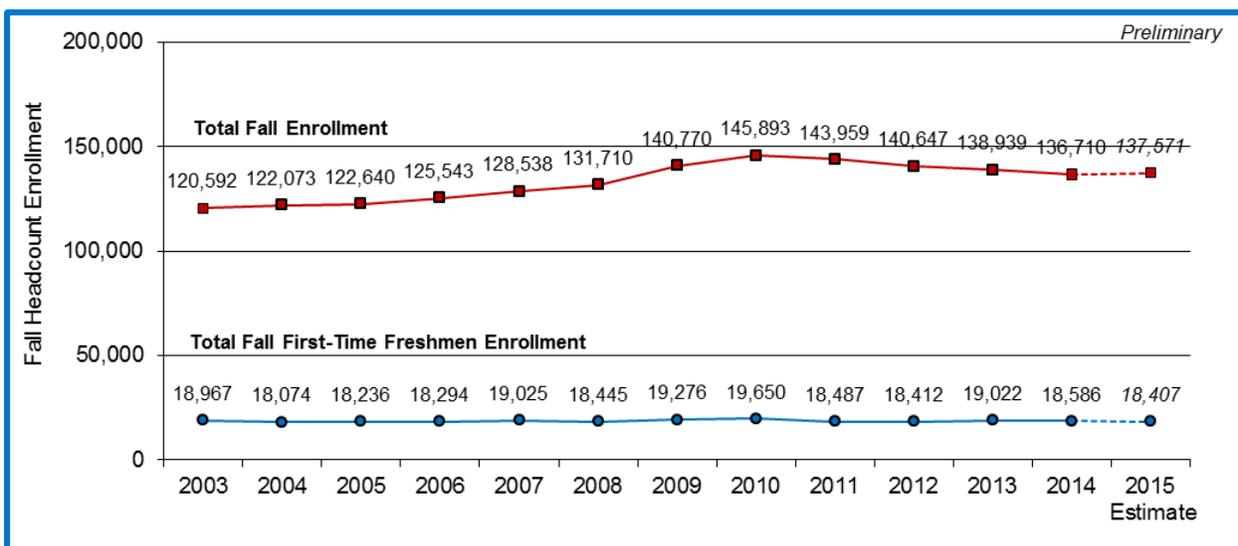
from the
2016 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report

State Priority 1: Increase the Number of Students who Enter Postsecondary Education in Nebraska

Total Fall Enrollment and Full-Time Freshmen (FTF) Enrollment

Total fall enrollments have increased from 120,592 in 2003 to 136,710 in 2014, an increase of 13.4%. It is estimated that fall enrollment increased 0.6% between 2014 and 2015.

Full-time freshmen enrollment—the continuing “life blood” of institutions—decreased from 18,967 in fall 2003 to 18,586 in fall 2014, a decrease of 2.0%. Estimates indicate that FTF enrollment decreased 1.0% between fall 2014 and fall 2015.



High School Graduation Rates

Nebraska's cohort four-year graduation rate has increased from 86% in 2010–2011 to 89% in 2014–2015. While this three percentage point increase is notable, disparities between various racial/ethnic groups are still prevalent. For example, in 2014–2015 the cohort four-year graduation rate for black non-Hispanics was 75% compared to 93% for white non-Hispanics.

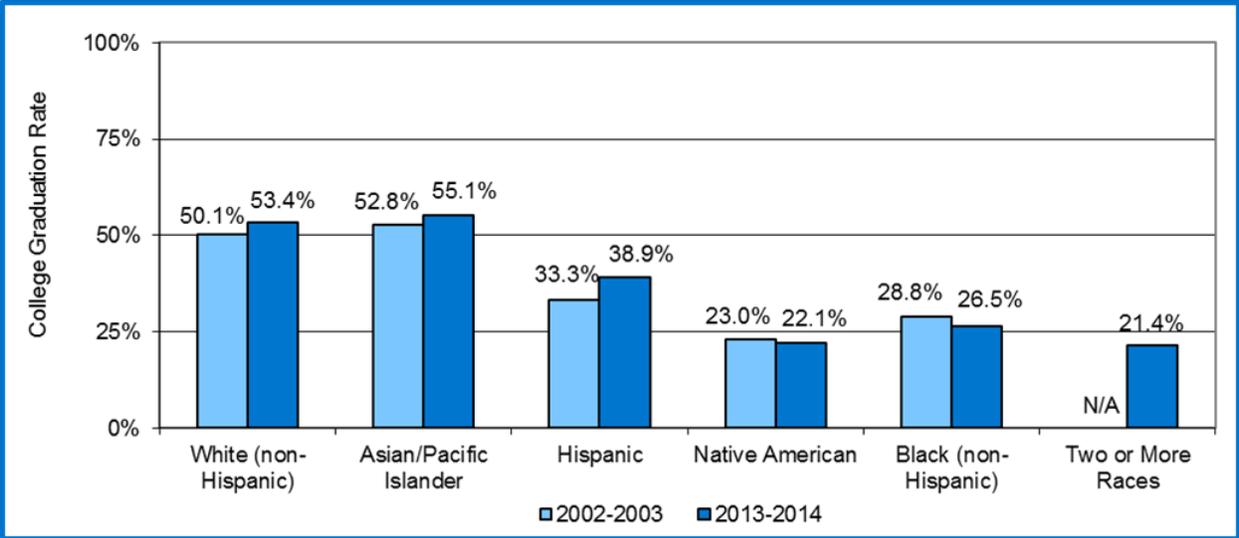
College Continuation Rates

Overall, 71.5% of 2013–2014 Nebraska public high school graduates continued on to college, up from 69.0% for 2007–2008 public high school graduates.

State Priority 2: Increase the Percentage of Students who Enroll and Successfully Complete a Degree

Statewide Graduation Rate (IPEDS Data)

The overall graduation rate for full-time first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions has increased slightly from 48.4% in 2002–2003 to 50.0% in 2013–2014. The state’s graduation rates have varied only slightly from year to year. However, minority graduation rates continue to lag behind graduation rates for white non-Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders.



State Priority 3: Reduce, Eliminate, and then Reverse the Net Out-Migration of Nebraskans with High Levels of Educational Attainment

American Community Survey Migration Data

Data from the most recent American Community Survey in 2014 indicates that there was a net in-migration of working-age adults with less than a high school diploma, high school graduates, and individuals with associate’s degrees. While it can be concluded that Nebraska imported more 22- to 64-year-olds with these levels of education in 2014, the available data are inadequate to precisely determine the magnitude of this negative net migration in 2014.

Conclusion

Attainment Gap

The consequence of the disparities in high school graduation rates, college continuation rates, and college graduation rates is that Nebraska’s gap in educational attainment between white non-Hispanics and minorities (i.e., not white non-Hispanic) is the second largest in the nation. In Nebraska, 54% of 25-to-44-year old, white non-Hispanics have completed an associate’s degree or higher. In comparison, only 26% of 25-to-44-year old minorities have completed an associate’s degree or higher. Nationally, 46% of 25-to-44-year old, white non-Hispanics have completed an associate’s degree or higher. In comparison, only 32% of 25-to-44-year old minorities have completed an associate’s degree or higher.

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