

Section 1 Increasing Postsecondary Enrollment

Priority 1. Increasing 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 2003 baselines within the context of 11-year trends.

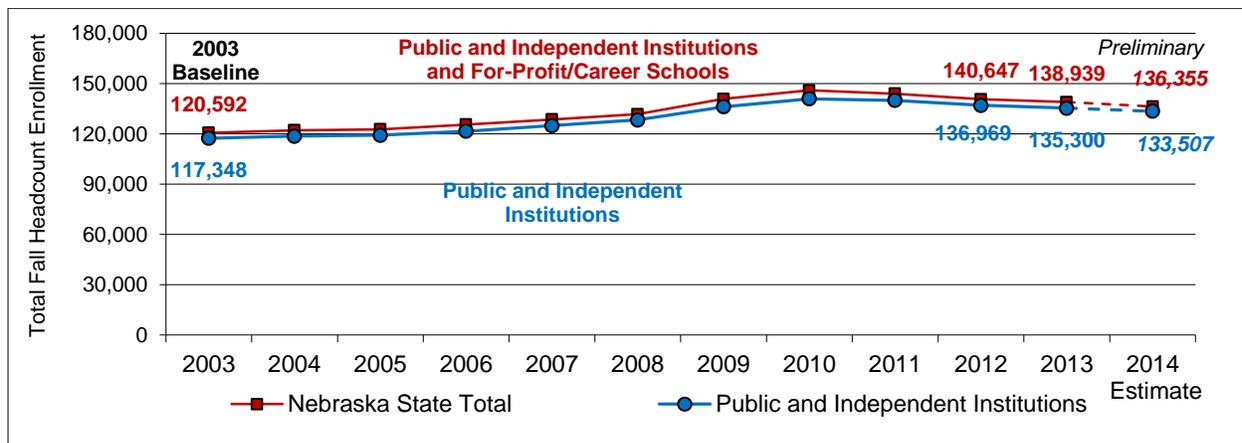
The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education is the official source of the enrollment data summarized for fall 2003 through fall 2013. Enrollments for fall 2014 are preliminary, based on estimates that institutions reported directly to the Coordinating Commission 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 120,592 in fall 2003, which is the baseline for this report, to 145,893 in fall 2010. However, total enrollment decreased 4.8% between fall 2010 and fall 2013, and based on reported estimates, decreased another 1.9% between fall 2013 and fall 2014. As a result, total headcount enrollment increased from 120,592 in fall 2003 to an estimated 136,355 in fall 2014, for an 11-year increase of 13.1%, as shown in [Figure 1.1](#).
- Fall enrollment at all IPEDS-reporting institutions in the United States increased 22.5% between fall 2003 and fall 2013. Fall enrollment at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions increased 15.2% during this same period. (Estimated fall enrollments are no longer collected through IPEDS; therefore, fall 2013 enrollments are the latest available data.)

Figure 1.1

**Total Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Fall 2003–Fall 2014**



Note. See [Table A1.1](#) and [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

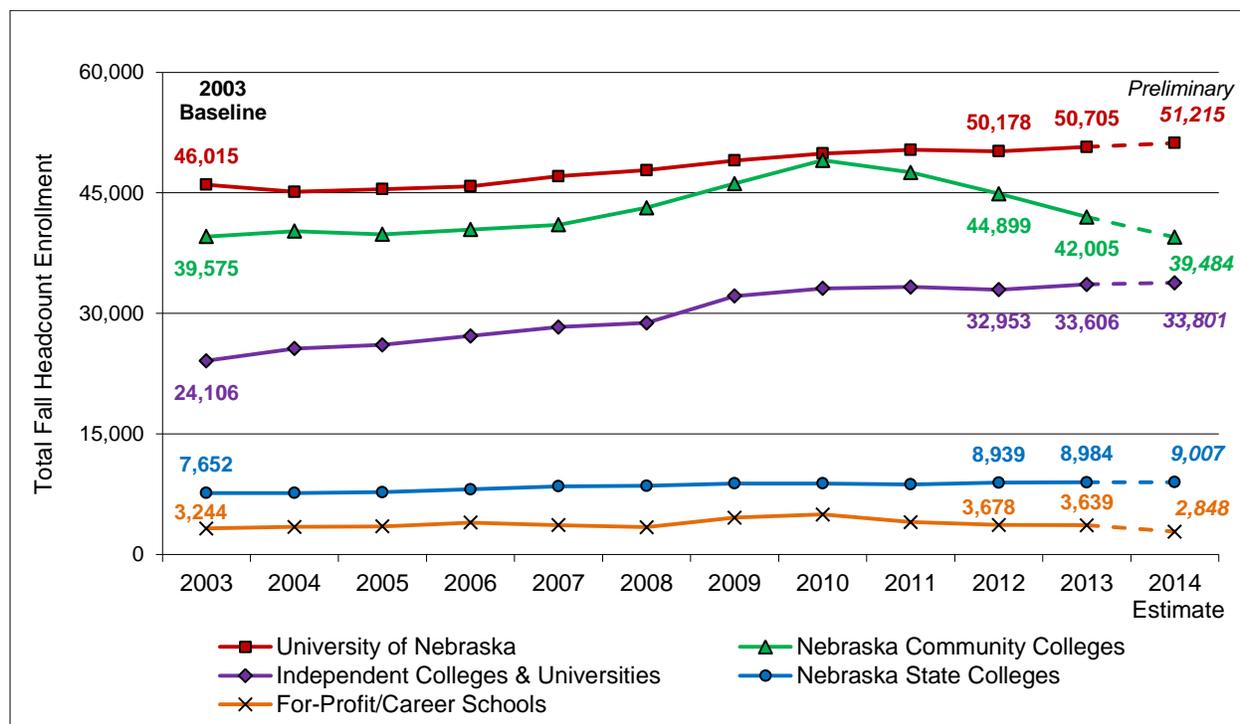
Nebraska Total Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector

- 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, community colleges, independent (not-for-profit) institutions and for-profit/career schools have also contributed positively to the state's increased enrollment since 2003. However, based on fall 2013 enrollments and preliminary data for fall 2014, noticeable decreases in enrollment occurred within the community college and for-profit sectors between 2010 and 2014.
- By sector, Nebraska's postsecondary enrollment has changed as follows:

Sector	1-Year Change 2012 to 2013	Est. 1-Year Change 2013 to 2014	10-Year Change 2003 to 2013	Est. 11-Year Change 2003 to 2014
University of Nebraska	1.1%	1.0%	10.2%	11.3%
Nebraska State College System	0.5%	0.3%	17.4%	17.7%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-6.4%	-6.0%	6.1%	-0.2%
Independent Colleges & Universities	2.0%	0.6%	39.4%	40.2%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-1.1%	-21.7%	12.2%	-12.2%

Figure 1.2

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Sector
Fall 2003–Fall 2014



Note. See Table A1.2 in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

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 11-year enrollment trends of the institutions in each public sector from 2003 through 2013, plus the estimated enrollment for 2014. Within this context, fall 2003 baseline enrollments are shown in comparison to the estimated total enrollments for fall 2014.

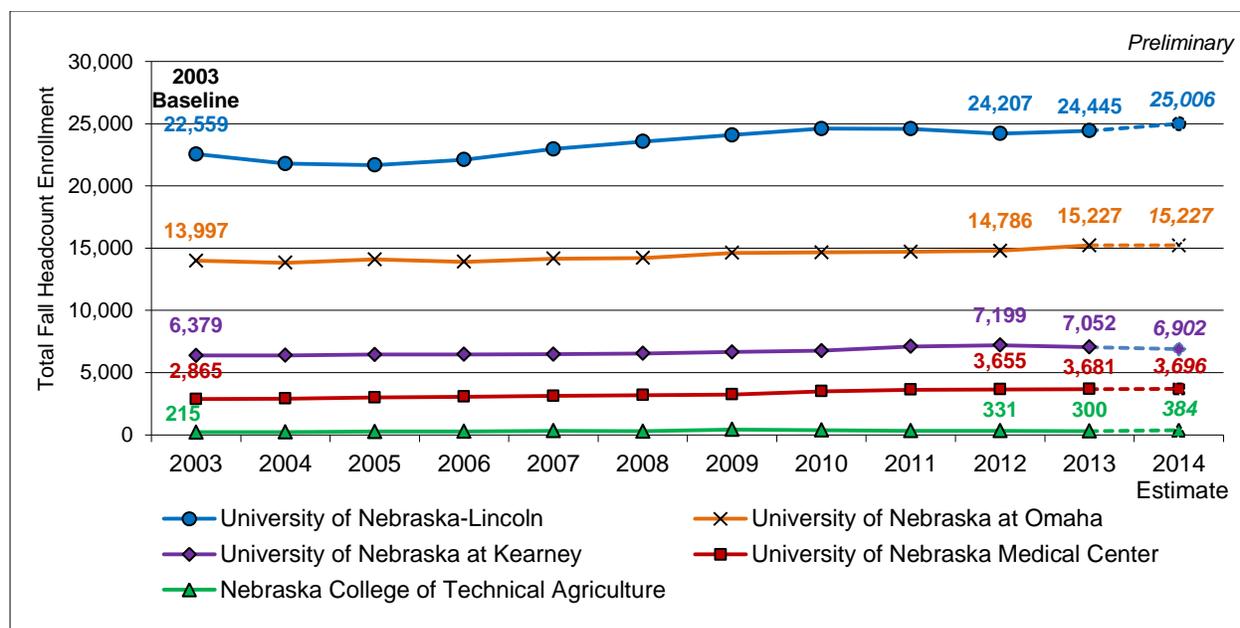
University of Nebraska

- From fall 2003 to fall 2014, fall enrollment increased an estimated 11.3% at the University of Nebraska. All institutions experienced modest increases during this 11-year period, with the largest increase seen at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (78.6%).
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2003 and fall 2014, at the institutions constituting the University of Nebraska:

Sector	1-Year Change 2012 to 2013	Est. 1-Year Change 2013 to 2014	10-Year Change 2003 to 2013	Est. 11-Year Change 2003 to 2014
Neb. College of Technical Agriculture	-9.4%	28.0%	39.5%	78.6%
University of Nebraska at Kearney	-2.0%	-2.1%	10.6%	8.2%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	1.0%	2.3%	8.4%	10.8%
University of Nebraska Medical Center	0.7%	0.4%	28.5%	29.0%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	3.0%	0.0%	8.8%	8.8%

Figure 1.3

Fall Headcount Enrollment at the University of Nebraska by Institution
Fall 2003–Fall 2014



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

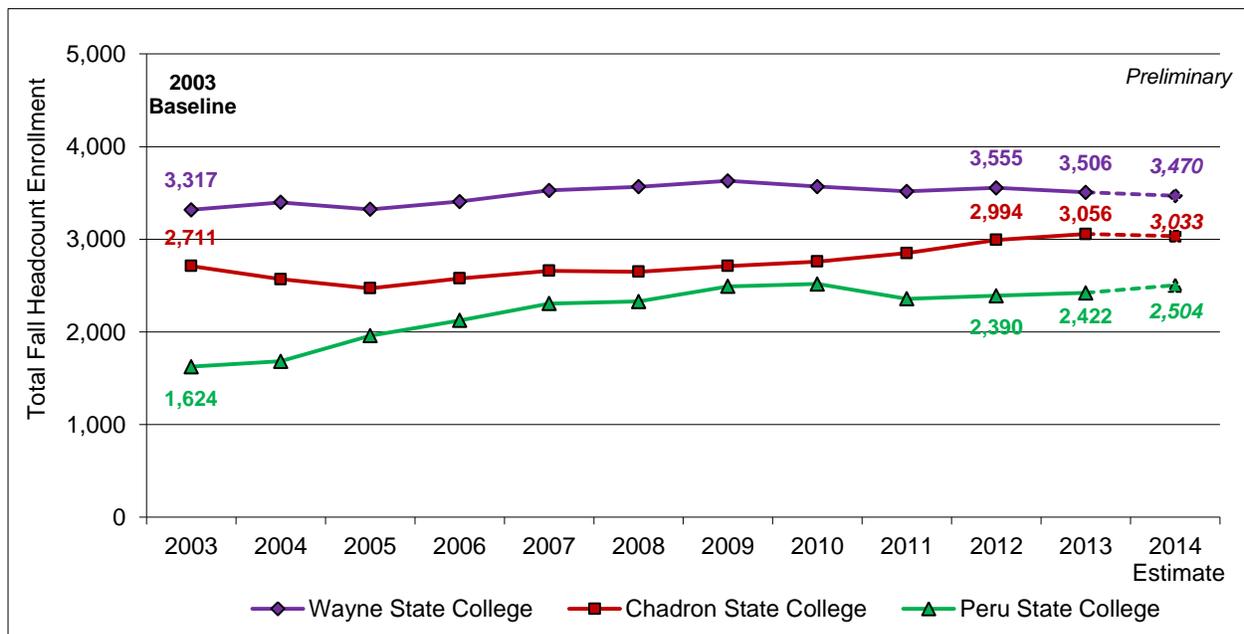
Nebraska State College System

- From fall 2003 to fall 2014, fall enrollment increased an estimated 17.7% within the Nebraska State College System. All institutions experienced increases during this 11-year period, ranging from 4.6% at Wayne State College to 54.2% at Peru State College.
- Meanwhile, total fall enrollment at Chadron State College increased a total of 11.9% from fall 2003 to fall 2014.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2003 and fall 2014, at the institutions constituting the Nebraska State College System:

<u>Sector</u>	<u>1-Year Change 2012 to 2013</u>	<u>Est. 1-Year Change 2013 to 2014</u>	<u>10-Year Change 2003 to 2013</u>	<u>Est. 11-Year Change 2003 to 2014</u>
Chadron State College	2.1%	-0.8%	12.7%	11.9%
Peru State College	1.3%	3.4%	49.1%	54.2%
Wayne State College	-1.4%	-1.0%	5.7%	4.6%

Figure 1.4

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska State College System by Institution Fall 2003–Fall 2014



Note. See Table A1.2 in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

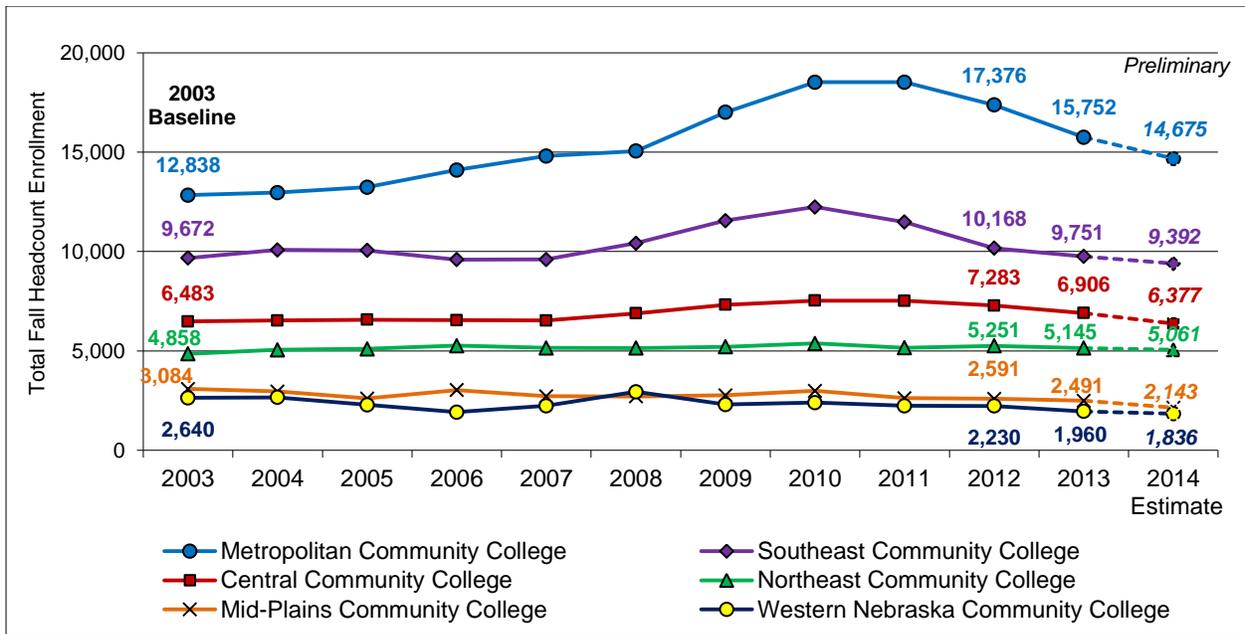
Nebraska Community Colleges

- From fall 2003 to fall 2014, total fall enrollment decreased an estimated 0.2% at the community colleges. Both Western Nebraska Community College and Mid-Plains Community College experienced 30.5% decreases during this time. At Central Community College, fall enrollment decreased 1.6% during this 11-year period.
- Meanwhile, total fall enrollment at Northeast increased a total of 4.2% from fall 2003 to fall 2014 while fall enrollment at Metro increased 14.3%.
- Notably, all of the community colleges reported declines in fall enrollment between 2012 and 2013, and estimates for 2014 indicate that all six institutions also experienced declines between fall 2013 and fall 2014.
- Following are the most recent one-year changes in enrollment, as well as the total changes in enrollment between fall 2003 and fall 2014, at Nebraska's six community colleges:

Sector	1-Year Change 2012 to 2013	Est. 1-Year Change 2013 to 2014	10-Year Change 2003 to 2013	Est. 11-Year Change 2003 to 2014
Central Community College	-5.2%	-7.7%	6.5%	-1.6%
Metropolitan Community College	-9.3%	-6.8%	22.7%	14.3%
Mid-Plains Community College	-3.9%	-14.0%	-19.2%	-30.5%
Northeast Community College	-2.0%	-1.6%	5.9%	4.2%
Southeast Community College	-4.1%	-3.7%	0.8%	-2.9%
Western Nebraska Community College	-12.1%	-6.3%	-25.8%	-30.5%

Figure 1.5

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Community Colleges by Institution
Fall 2003–Fall 2014



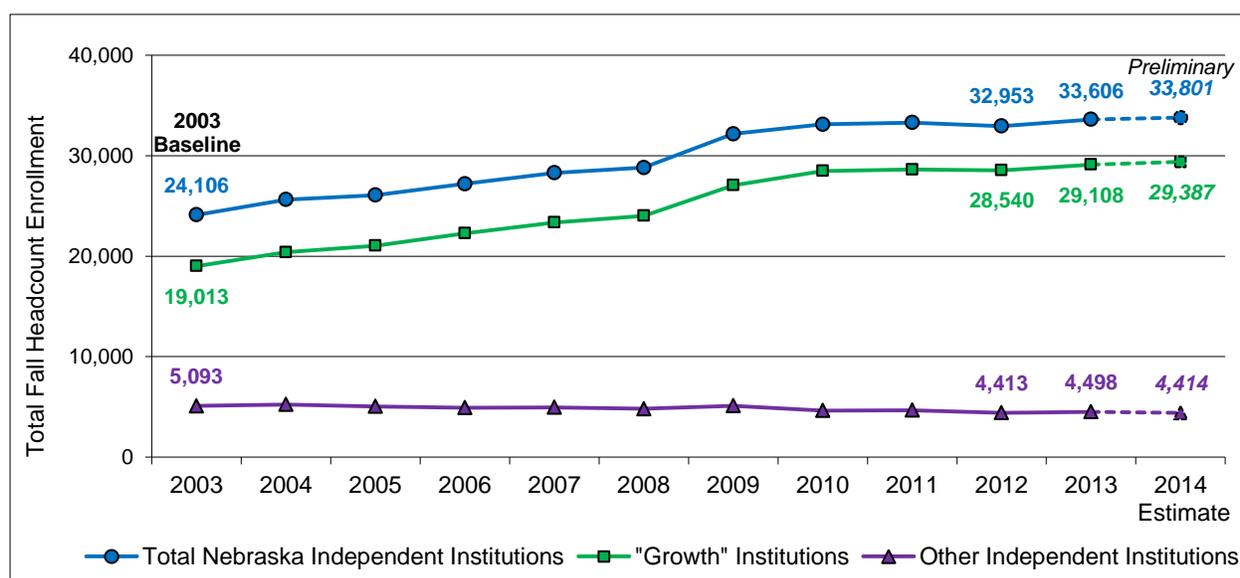
Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities

- From fall 2003 to fall 2014, total fall enrollment increased an estimated 40.2% at Nebraska’s independent colleges and universities.
- The following institutions accounted for nearly all of the sector’s growth between fall 2003 and fall 2014: Bellevue University, Bryan College of Health Sciences, Clarkson College, Concordia University-Seward, Creighton University, Doane College³, Midland University, Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing and Allied Health, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.⁴
- The combined enrollment of these “growth” institutions increased an estimated 54.6% between 2003 and 2014. Meanwhile, the total enrollment of the remaining schools decreased an estimated 13.3% over the same period.

Figure 1.6

Fall Headcount Enrollment at Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities
Fall 2003–Fall 2014



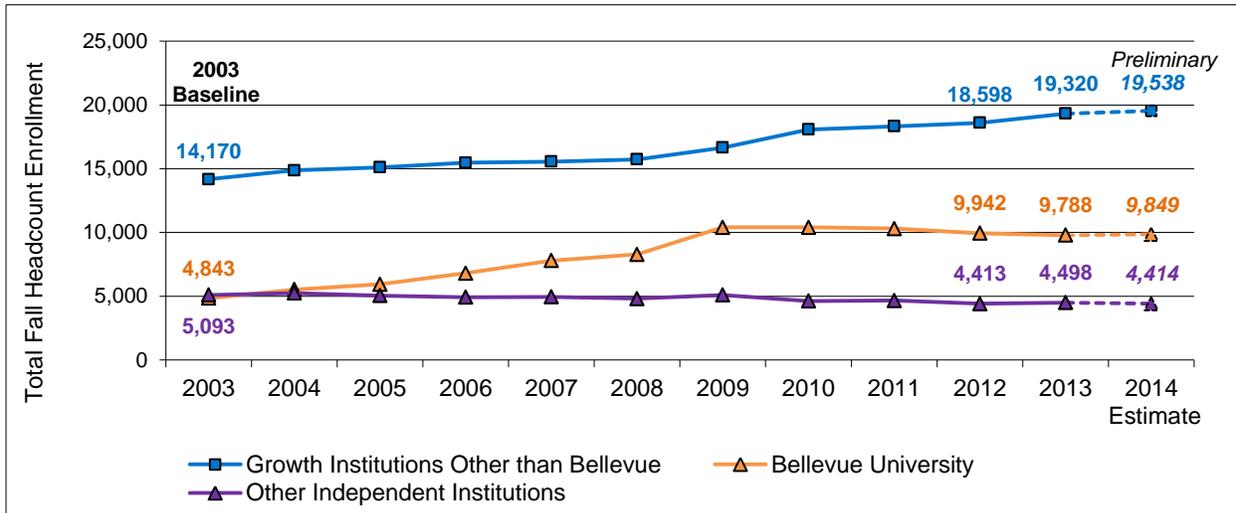
Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

- As shown in [Figure 1.7](#), Bellevue University’s fall 2014 estimated headcount enrollment was 9,849 full- and part-time students, or more than one-half of the combined enrollment of the other eight growth institutions.
- Between fall 2003 and fall 2014, Bellevue’s enrollment has increased an estimated 103.4%. Fall enrollment for the other growth institutions in the independent sector increased 37.9% during this same time, while fall enrollment for the non-growth institutions decreased 13.3%.

³ Beginning in 2006, Doane College-Lincoln became a reporting institution, separate from Doane College. For the purposes of this report, the two campuses are considered to be a single institution.

⁴ Aforementioned institutions are categorized by the Commission as “growth” institutions because these institutions had higher 11-year increases in total fall headcount enrollment between 2003 and 2014 than other institutions in the independent sector. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data.

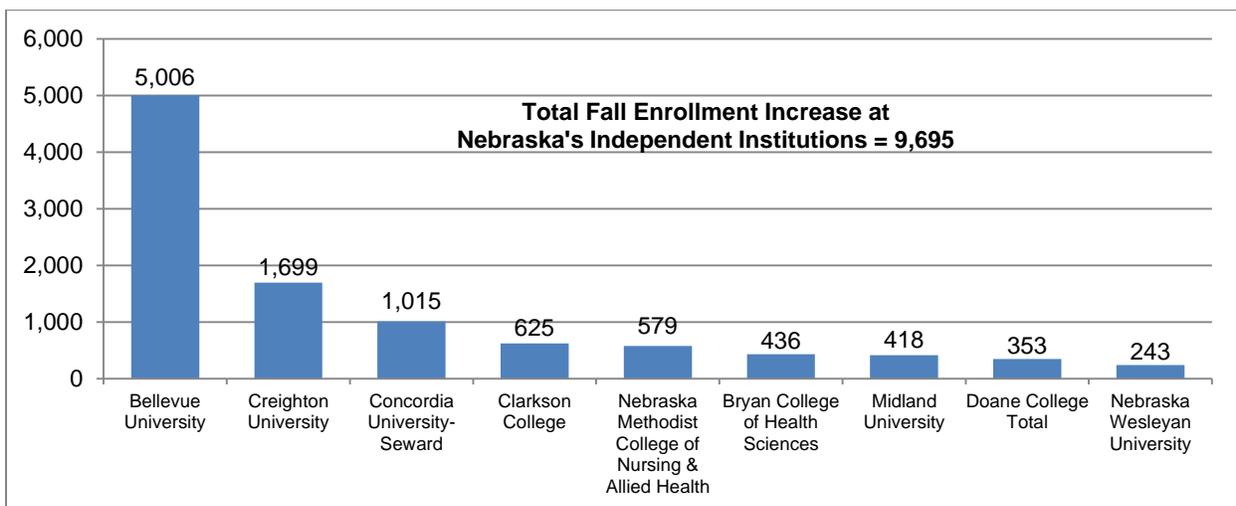
Figure 1.7
Fall Headcount Enrollment of Bellevue University
Compared to Other Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities
Fall 2003–Fall 2014



Note. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

- As shown in Figure 1.8, Bellevue University alone accounted for 5,006, or 51.6%, of the estimated net increase of 9,695 students in the independent sector between fall 2003 and fall 2014. Creighton University’s fall enrollment increased by 1,699 students over the same 11-year period, accounting for 17.5% of the sector’s growth.

Figure 1.8
The Highest 11-Year Increases in Fall Headcount Enrollment
at Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities
Fall 2003–Fall 2014



Note. Totals for fall 2014 are preliminary estimates. See Table A1.2 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

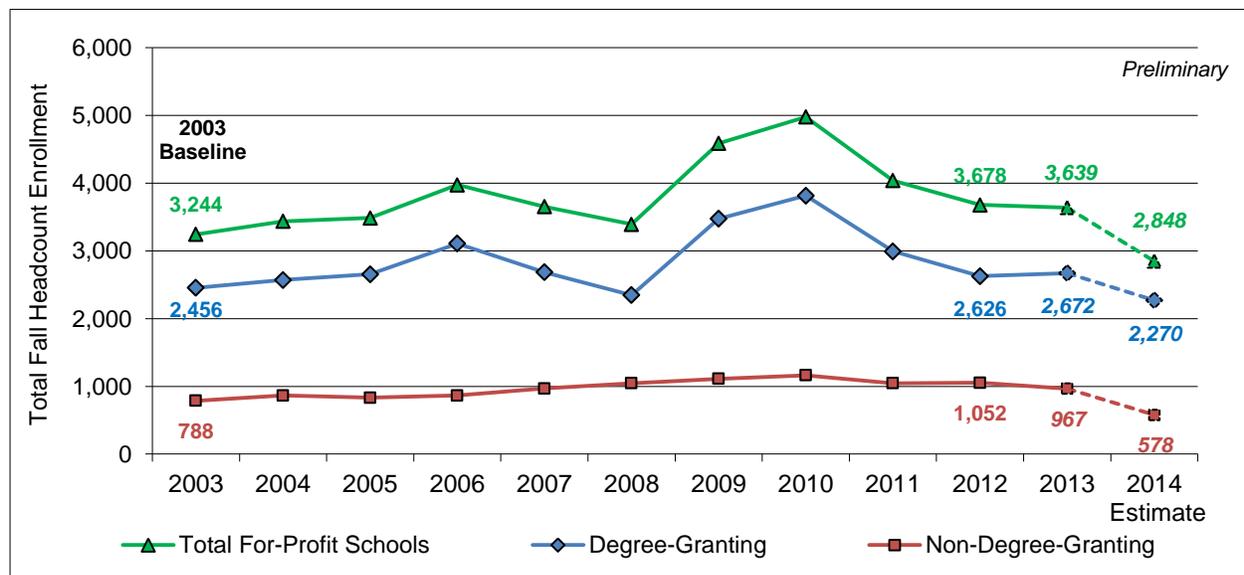
The For-Profit/Career School Sector

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 previously has been referred to as “private career schools.” While this sector still 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.

- The degree-granting schools within the for-profit sector include a variety of institutions. As illustrated in [Figure 1.9](#), total headcount enrollment at the degree-granting schools has fluctuated between fall 2003 and fall 2014, decreasing an estimated 7.6% over this period.
- As also shown in [Figure 1.9](#), enrollment decreased 26.6% between fall 2003 and fall 2014 at the non-degree-granting schools, which consist of six for-profit schools of hair design and one of the state’s three not-for-profit schools of radiologic technology.
- Notably, fall enrollment decreased an estimated 15.0% at the degree-granting schools between fall 2013 and fall 2014. Meanwhile, at the non-degree-granting schools, fall enrollment decreased an estimated 40.2% during this same one-year period.
- See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for a list of the schools in the for-profit sector and their total headcount enrollments from fall 2003 to fall 2014.

Figure 1.9

Total Fall Headcount Enrollment within the Nebraska For-Profit/Career School Sector Fall 2003–Fall 2014



Note. See [Table A1.2](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

Nebraska Fall Headcount Enrollment Summary by Sector

- Including the enrollments at for-profit schools, Nebraska’s total postsecondary headcount enrollment increased from 120,592 in fall 2003 to 136,355 in fall 2014, based on preliminary counts.
- As shown in [Table 1.1](#), the net effect of the changes in enrollment that occurred between the fall 2003 baseline and fall 2014 is that the enrollments at the independent colleges and universities accounted for a higher percentages of Nebraska’s total postsecondary enrollment in 2014 than they did in 2003. At the same time, the combined enrollment of the public institutions accounted for a lower percentage of the state’s total enrollment.

Enrollment Sector	Fall 2003		<i>Estimated Fall 2014</i>	
	Enrollment	% of Enrollment	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>% of Enrollment</i>
University of Nebraska	46,015	38.2%	<i>51,215</i>	<i>37.6%</i>
Nebraska State Colleges	7,652	6.3%	<i>9,007</i>	<i>6.6%</i>
Nebraska Community Colleges	39,575	32.8%	<i>39,484</i>	<i>29.0%</i>
Total Public Colleges and Universities	93,242	77.3%	<i>99,706</i>	<i>73.1%</i>
Independent Colleges and Universities	24,106	20.0%	<i>33,801</i>	<i>24.8%</i>
For-Profit Schools	3,244	2.7%	<i>2,848</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
Total Nebraska Postsecondary Headcount Enrollment	120,592	100.0%	<i>136,355</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

Note. The for-profit/career school sector includes three non-profit career schools of radiologic technology. See [Table A1.1](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

12-Month Unduplicated Headcounts at Nebraska’s Public 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 can be analyzed by race/ethnicity, gender, enrollment status (part-time/full-time), or level of study (undergraduate/graduate). 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.

Although fall enrollment is currently the most reliable measure to track higher education enrollment trends across all of the sectors of higher education, 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. For this measure, each student is counted only once per academic year. If a student was enrolled in the fall and spring semester, for example, the student is counted only once for the entire 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 captures the total number of students an institution serves during the course of an 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 number of students enrolled in the fall is about half of the number of students served over the course of an academic year.

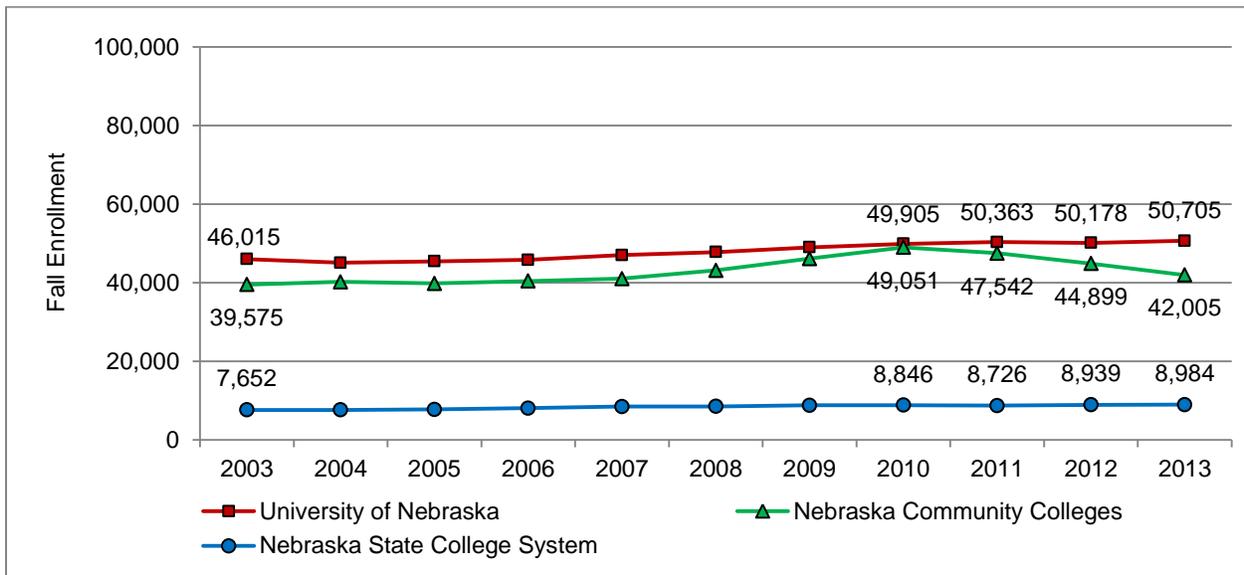
The following analysis compares fall and 12-month unduplicated headcounts for Nebraska’s three public sectors of higher education: the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State College System, and Nebraska’s six community colleges. For comparisons of the fall and 12-month enrollments of each of the institutions within these sectors, see the *2013–2014 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska - Enrollment*, which is available on the Commission’s website, www.ccpe.ne.gov.

Figure 1.10 shows the total fall enrollments for the three public sectors from fall 2003 through fall 2013, 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 2003–2004 academic year through the 2012–2013 academic year. Official 12-month enrollment data for the 2013–2014 academic year, which are comparable to fall 2013 enrollments, are not yet available from the NCES. For this reason, direct comparisons of fall and 12-month enrollments in this discussion are limited to 2003–2004 through 2012–2013.

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.

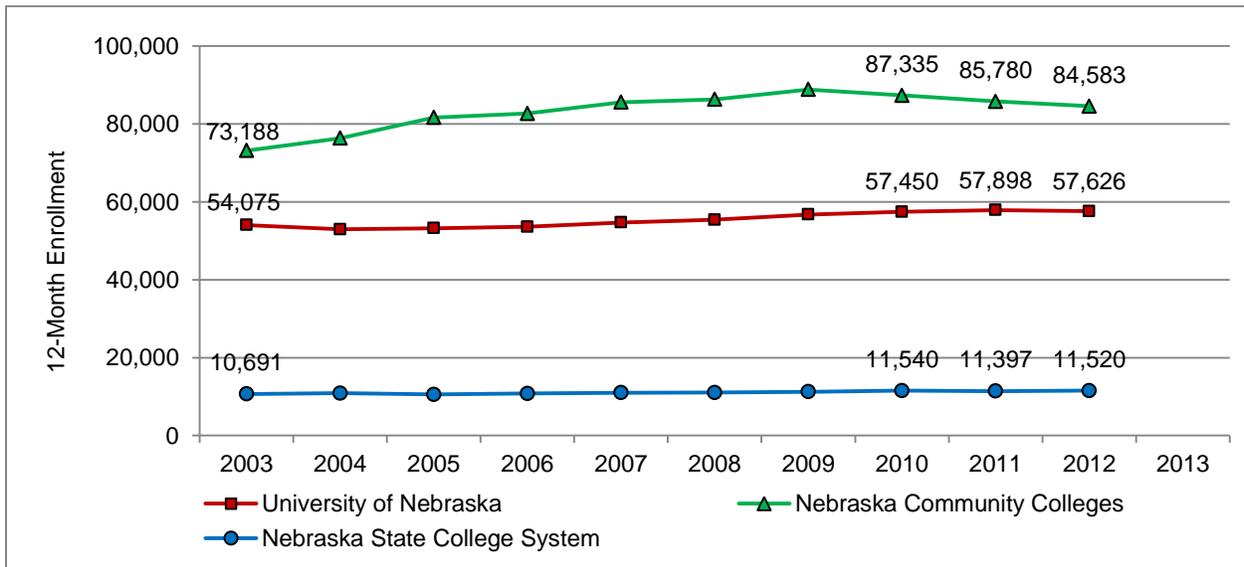
Based on the fall enrollments charted in Figure 1.10, the University of Nebraska enrolls a higher number of students than Nebraska’s six community colleges. In fall 2012, for example, the University of Nebraska enrolled 50,178 students compared to enrollment of 44,899 students at the community colleges.

Figure 1.10
Fall Headcount Enrollment
at Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions by Sector
Fall 2003–Fall 2013



Note. See Table A1.1 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) (2004–2014).

Figure 1.11
12-Month Unduplicated Headcount
at Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions by Sector
2003–2004 Academic Year through 2012–2013 Academic Year

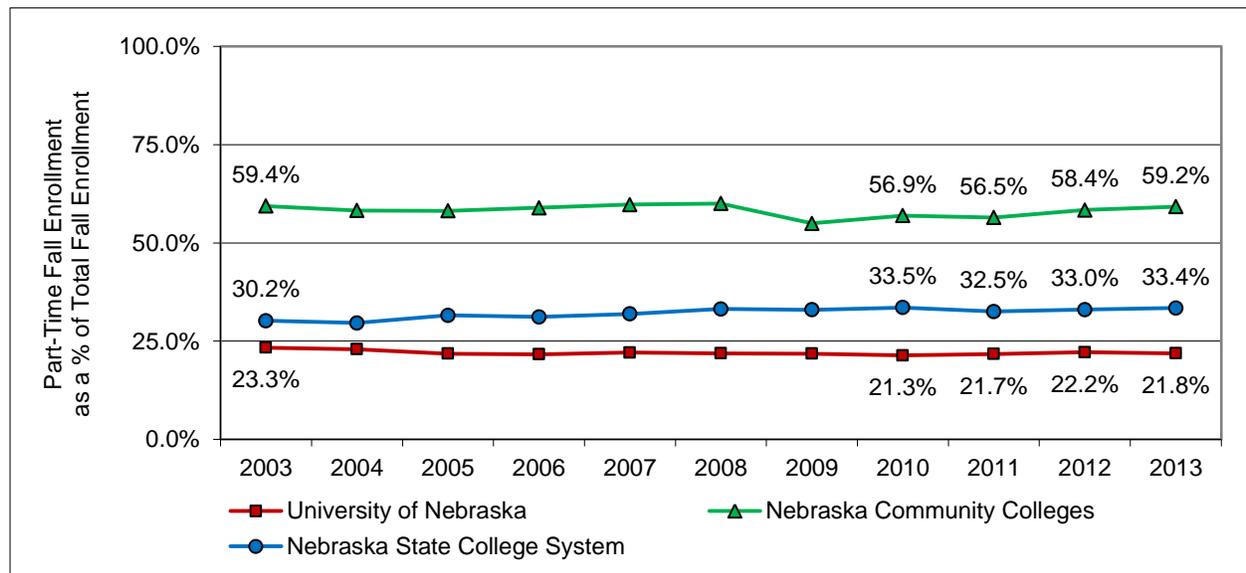


Note. See Table A1.3 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) (2004–2014).

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 2012–2013, the community colleges served a total of 84,583 students over the course of the academic year, while the University of Nebraska served 57,626 students. This is not surprising, given the differences in the institutional missions and programs offered by these two sectors.

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 or state colleges. As shown in [Figure 1.12](#), part-time students accounted for 59.2% of total fall enrollment at the community colleges in fall 2013. In comparison, part-time students accounted for 21.8% of the university’s fall 2013 enrollment and for 33.4% of the fall enrollment at the state colleges.⁵

Figure 1.12
Part-Time Fall Enrollment as a Percentage of Total Fall Headcount Enrollment
at Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions by Sector
Fall 2003–Fall 2013



Note. For supporting data, see the Excel workbook for the 2013–2014 *Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment* on the Commission’s website at: www.ccpe.ne.gov. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) (2004–2014).

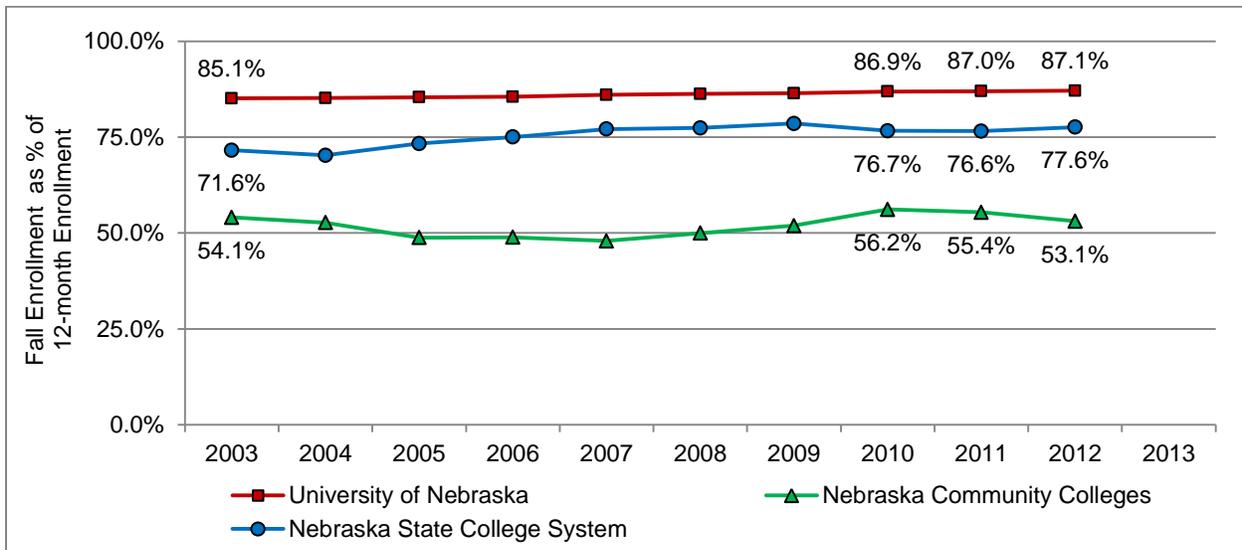
[Figure 1.13](#) shows fall enrollment as a percentage of 12-month enrollment as a means of directly comparing these two headcounts. As shown in this chart, fall enrollment in fall 2012 accounted for 87.1% and 77.6% of 12-month enrollment during the 2012–2013 academic year at the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State College System, respectively. In contrast, fall enrollments account for 53.1% of the students served annually by the state’s six community colleges.

⁵ 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.

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.

Figure 1.13

Fall Headcount Enrollment as a Percentage of 12-Month Unduplicated Headcount at Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions by Sector 2003–2004 Academic Year through 2012–2013 Academic Year



Note. See [Table A1.1](#) and [Table A1.3](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) (2004–2014).

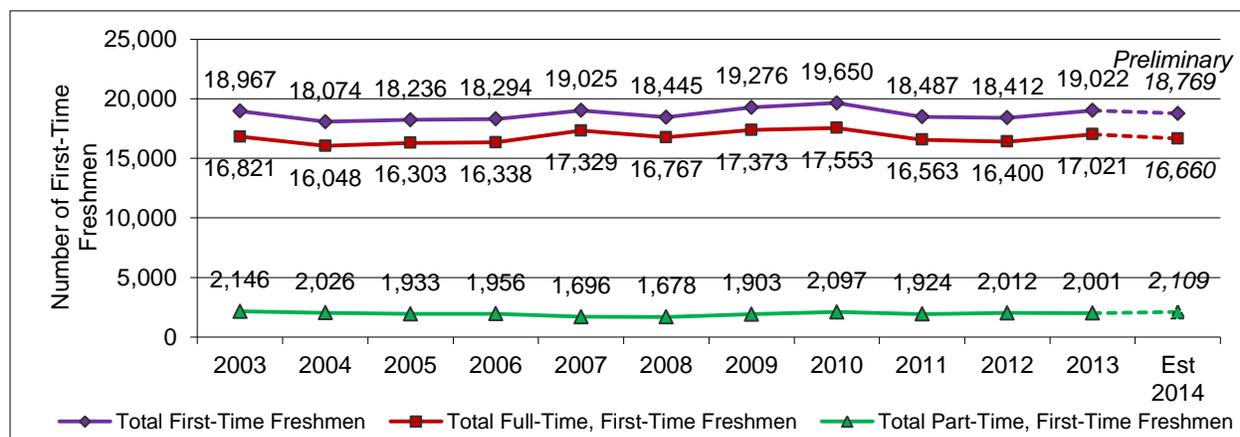
Nebraska First-Time Freshmen Enrollments

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 2003 baseline enrollments of first-time freshmen to freshmen enrollments in fall 2013 and fall 2014. First-time freshmen enrollments for fall 2014 are preliminary. Official enrollments for fall 2014 will be available in May 2015 and reported in the *2016 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report*.

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

- As shown in [Figure 1.14](#), full-time freshmen accounted for 88.8% of the first-time freshmen attending postsecondary institutions in Nebraska in fall 2014, up slightly from 88.7% in fall 2003.
- Total enrollment of first-time freshmen at all of Nebraska’s colleges and universities, including for-profit/career schools, decreased an estimated 1.0% between fall 2003 and fall 2014.
- *Full-time*, first-time freshmen enrollment decreased an estimated 1.0% over the 11-year period between fall 2003 and fall 2014. Meanwhile, *part-time*, first-time freshmen enrollment decreased 1.7% over the 11-year period, despite an estimated increase of 5.4% between fall 2013 and fall 2014.
- Analyzing the actual changes in fall enrollment between 2003 and 2013 reveals that Nebraska’s total first-time freshmen enrollment increased 0.3% while full-time first-time freshmen enrollment increased 1.2% and part-time first-time freshmen enrollment decreased 6.8%. In comparison, first-time freshmen fall enrollment at all IPEDS-reporting institutions in the United States increased 12.8% between fall 2003 and fall 2013. Full-time first-time freshmen enrollments increased 12.2% nationally during this ten-year period while part-time first-time freshmen enrollments increased 15.7%. (Estimated fall enrollments are no longer collected through IPEDS; therefore, fall 2013 enrollments are the latest available data.)

Figure 1.14
Nebraska Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Full- and Part-Time Student Status
Fall 2003–Fall 2014



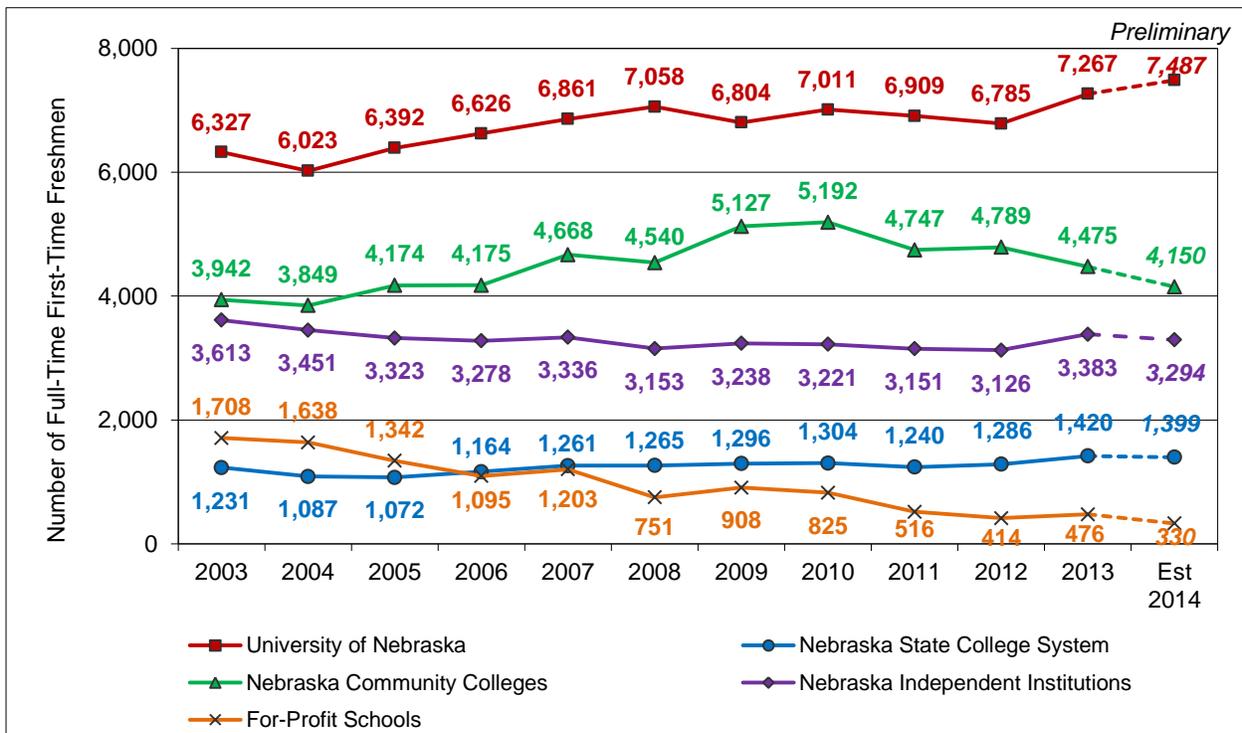
Note. See Table A1.4 in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

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

- As illustrated in [Figure 1.15](#), estimated full-time, first-time freshmen enrollment at the University of Nebraska increased 3.0% between fall 2013 and fall 2014, resulting in a 18.3% 11-year increase since fall 2003. All other sectors saw decreases in fall enrollment between fall 2013 and fall 2014.
- Full-time, first-time freshmen enrollment at Nebraska’s state colleges decreased an estimated 1.5% between fall 2013 and fall 2014, resulting in a 13.6% 11-year increase since fall 2003.
- At Nebraska’s community colleges, full-time first-time freshmen enrollment decreased an estimated 7.3% between fall 2013 and fall 2014, resulting in a 5.3% 11-year increase since fall 2003.
- Full-time, first-time freshmen enrollment at Nebraska’s independent colleges and universities decreased an estimated 2.6% between fall 2013 and fall 2014, resulting in a 8.8% 11-year decrease since fall 2003.
- The for-profit/career schools reported an estimated decrease of 30.7% in full-time, first-time freshmen enrollment between 2013 and 2014, resulting in an 80.7% 11-year decrease since fall 2003.

Figure 1.15

Nebraska Total Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector
Fall 2003–Fall 2014

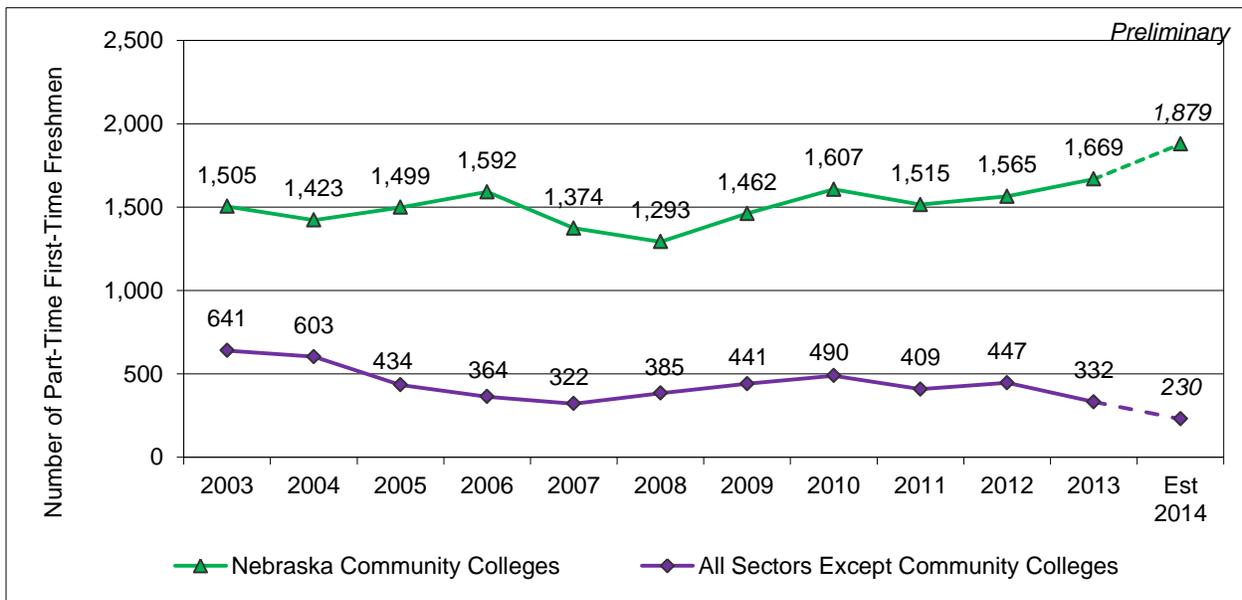


Note. Totals for fall 2014 are preliminary estimates. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

- As shown in [Figure 1.16](#), Nebraska’s community colleges account for the majority of first-time freshmen who attend school part-time (70.1% of the state total in fall 2003 and 89.1% in fall 2014).
- Enrollment of part-time, first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s community colleges increased an estimated 12.6% from fall 2013 to fall 2014, resulting in an 11-year increase of 24.9% from 2003 to 2014.
- The number of part-time, first-time freshmen enrolled at other types of institutions decreased an estimated 30.7% from 2013 to 2014, resulting in an 11-year decrease of 64.1%.

Figure 1.16

**Nebraska Total Part-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector
Fall 2003–Fall 2014**



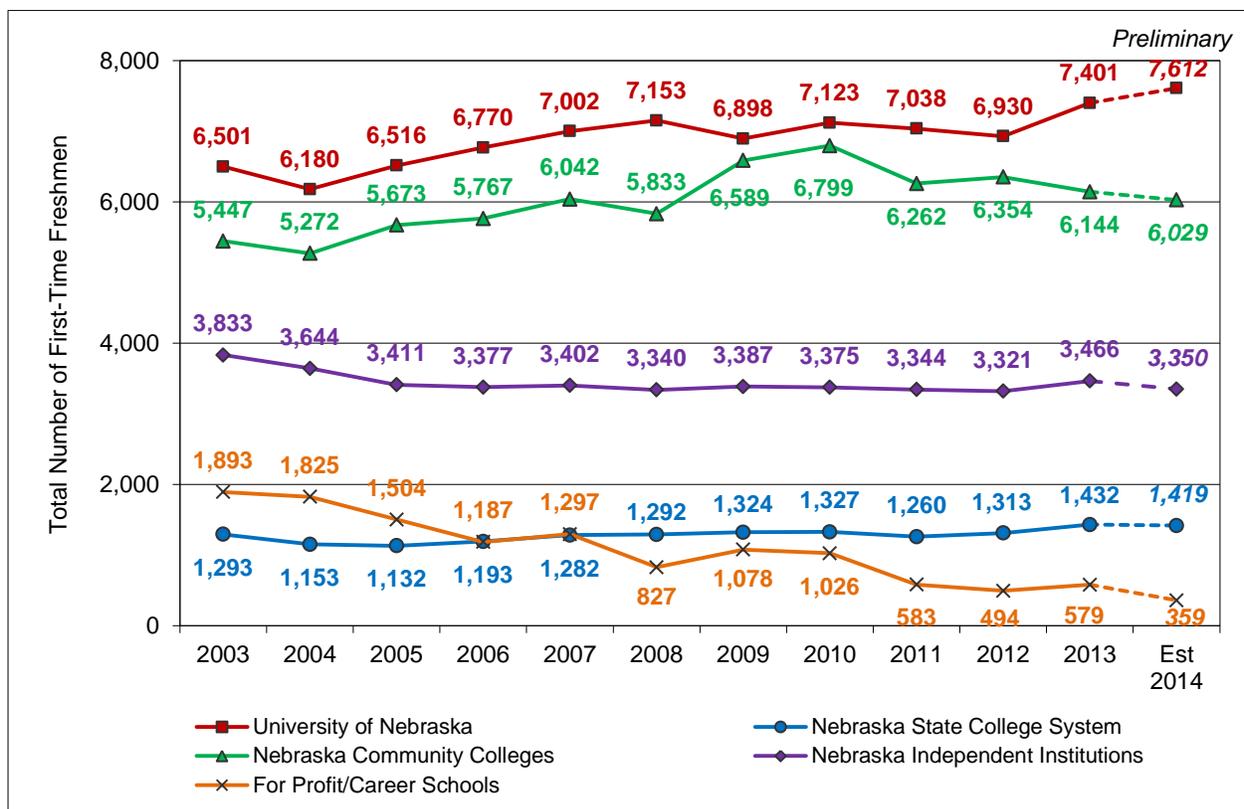
Note. Totals for fall 2014 are preliminary estimates. See [Table A1.4](#) in [Appendix 1](#) for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

Nebraska Total Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Sector

- When full-time and part-time enrollments of first-time freshmen are combined as shown in [Table 1.17](#), the University of Nebraska has enrolled more first-time freshmen than any other sector since fall 2003.
- With an estimated increase of 2.9% between fall 2013 and fall 2014, fall enrollment of first-time freshmen at the University of Nebraska has increased 17.1% between fall 2003 and fall 2014.
- The state colleges experienced an estimated decrease of 0.9% for fall enrollment of first-time freshmen between 2013 and 2014, resulting in an 11-year increase of 9.7% from 2003 to 2014.

- Similarly, Nebraska’s community colleges reported an estimated 1.9% decrease in total first-time freshmen fall enrollment from 2013 to 2014. However, this sector still reported an increase of 10.7% between 2003 and 2014.
- The independent institutions reported an estimated 3.3% decrease in total first-time freshmen fall enrollment from 2013 to 2014, resulting in an 11-year decrease of 12.6% from 2003 to 2014.
- Meanwhile, the for-profit/career schools reported an estimated decrease of 38.0% in total first-time freshmen between fall 2013 and fall 2014, resulting in an 81.0% decrease between 2003 and 2014.

Figure 1.17
Nebraska Total First-Time Freshmen Enrollment by Sector
2003–2014



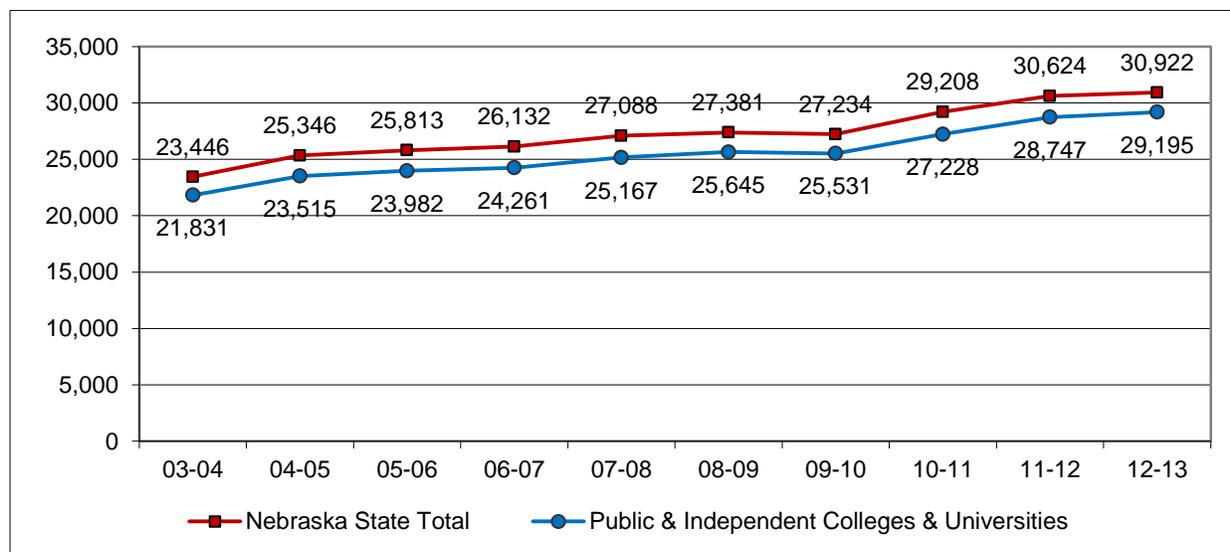
Note. Totals for fall 2014 are preliminary estimates. See Table A1.4 in Appendix 1 for supporting data. Data sources: For 2003–2013 data, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with minor data adjustments as needed for improved data accuracy. Preliminary enrollments for fall 2014 were collected from each institution by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, January 2015.

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 31.9% from 23,446 in 2003–2004 to 30,922 in 2012–2013, the latest year for which data are available. Excluding the for-profit/career schools, the number of conferred degrees and awards increased 33.7%, from 21,831 in 2003–2004 to 29,195 in 2012–2013.

Figure 1.18
Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred
by Nebraska Public and Independent Institutions and For-Profit/Career Schools
2003–2004 through 2012–2013



Note. For supporting data, see the Excel workbook t for the *2013–2014 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska Degrees and Other Awards Section* on the Commission’s website at: www.ccpe.ne.gov. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS surveys (2005–2014).

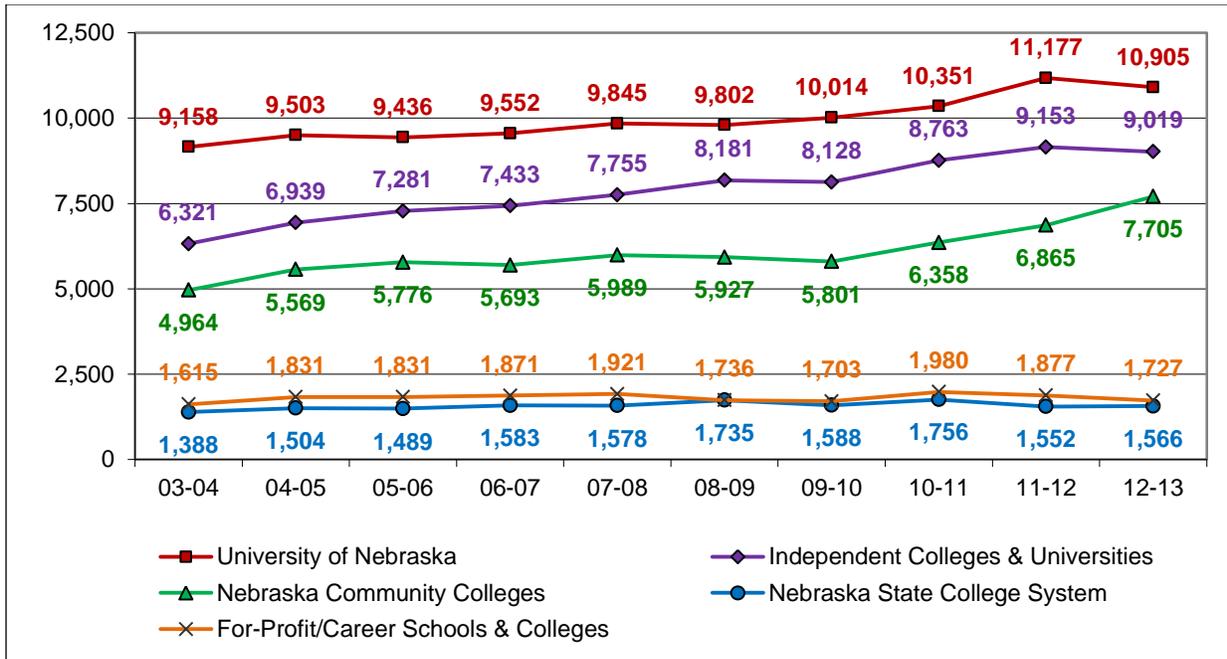
- [Figure 1.19](#) summarizes the number of degrees and other awards conferred by sector. As shown in this chart, all five sectors awarded more degrees and other awards in 2012–2013 than in 2003–2004:

University of Nebraska	up 19.1%
Independent Colleges & Universities	up 42.7%
Nebraska Community College	up 55.2%
For-Profit/Career Schools	up 6.9%
Nebraska State College System	up 12.8%

- [Table 1.2](#) shows, by degree level, the number of degrees conferred by all Nebraska colleges and universities, including the degree-granting and non-degree-granting for-profit schools. Based on these data, from 2003–2004 to 2012–2013, the highest growth was 41.0% at the master’s level. The number of research doctorates and professional practice doctorates increased 21.0%, while the number of associate or other less-than-four-year degrees increased 38.1% and the number of bachelor’s degrees increased 26.3% between 2003–2004 and 2012–2013.

Figure 1.19

**Total Number of Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Sector
2003–2004 through 2012–2013**



Note. For supporting data, see the Excel workbook t for the 2013–2014 *Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska Degrees and Other Awards Section* on the Commission’s website at: www.cpe.ne.gov. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS surveys (2005–2014).

**Table 1.2
Total Number of Degrees Conferred by Degree Level
Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
2003–2004 through 2012–2013**

Degree Level	03–04	04–05	05–06	06–07	07–08	08–09	09–10	10–11	11–12	12–13
Associate Degrees and Other Less than Four Year Degrees	7,029	7,886	8,126	8,037	8,287	8,014	7,837	8,613	8,992	9,709
Bachelor’s Degrees and Post-Baccalaureate Certificates	11,503	12,091	12,355	12,640	12,775	13,017	13,091	14,061	14,548	14,523
Master’s Degrees and Post-Master’s Certificates	3,719	4,013	4,040	4,135	4,696	4,979	4,914	5,163	5,692	5,244
Doctor’s Degrees (Research/Scholarship and Professional Practice)	1,195	1,356	1,292	1,320	1,330	1,371	1,392	1,371	1,392	1,446
Total Degrees Conferred	23,446	25,346	25,813	26,132	27,088	27,381	27,234	29,208	30,624	30,922

Note. Includes the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State College System, Nebraska community colleges, independent colleges and universities, degree-granting for-profit schools, non-degree-granting for-profit schools, and schools of radiologic technology operated by non-profit medical organizations. For supporting data, see the Excel workbook t for the 2013–2014 *Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska Degrees and Other Awards Section* on the Commission’s website at: www.cpe.ne.gov. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS surveys (2005–2014).

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. Throughout this analysis, the latest available data are compared to the baseline statistics that were established and reported in the *2004 Baseline Report for the LR 174 Higher Education Task Force* or the *2005 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report for the LR 75 Legislative Evaluation Task Force*.