

Key Takeaways

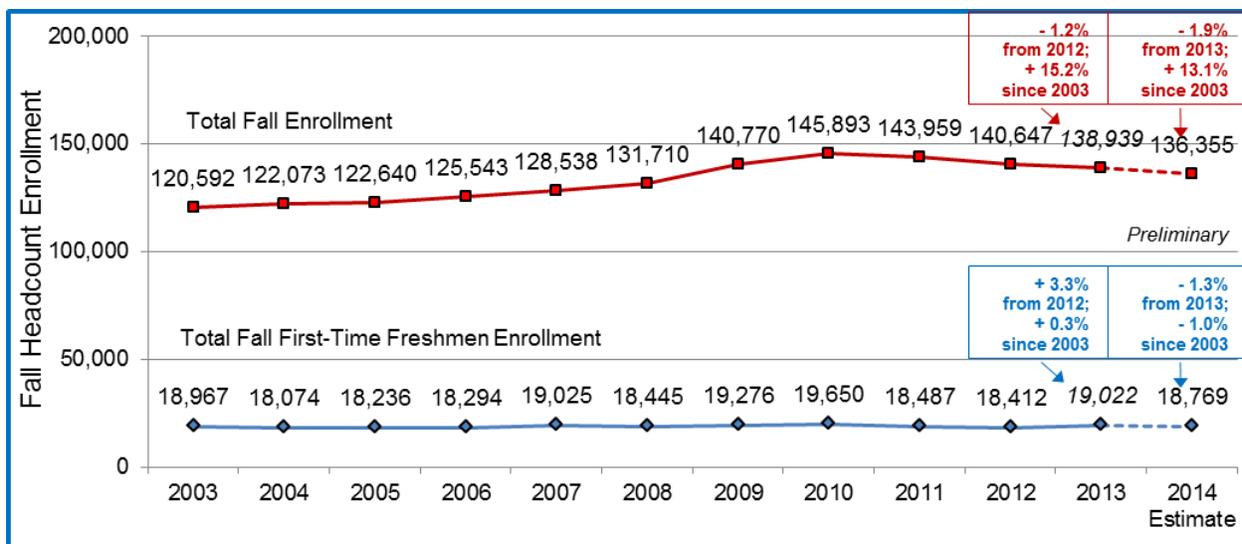
from the
2015 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report

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 138,939 in 2013, an increase of 15.2%. It is estimated that fall enrollment declined 1.9% between 2013 and 2014. Fall enrollments have declined each of the last four years.

Full-time freshmen enrollment – the continuing “life blood” of institutions – increased slightly from 18,967 in fall 2003 to 19,022 in fall 2013, an increase of 0.3%. Estimates indicate that FTF enrollment decreased 1.3% between fall 2013 and fall 2014.



High School Graduation Rates

Nebraska’s cohort four-year graduation rate has increased from 86% in 2010–2011 to 90% in 2013–2014. While this four percentage point increase is notable, disparities between various racial/ethnic groups are still prevalent. For example, in 2013–2014 the cohort four-year graduation rate for Native Americans was 69%, compared to 93% for white non-Hispanics.

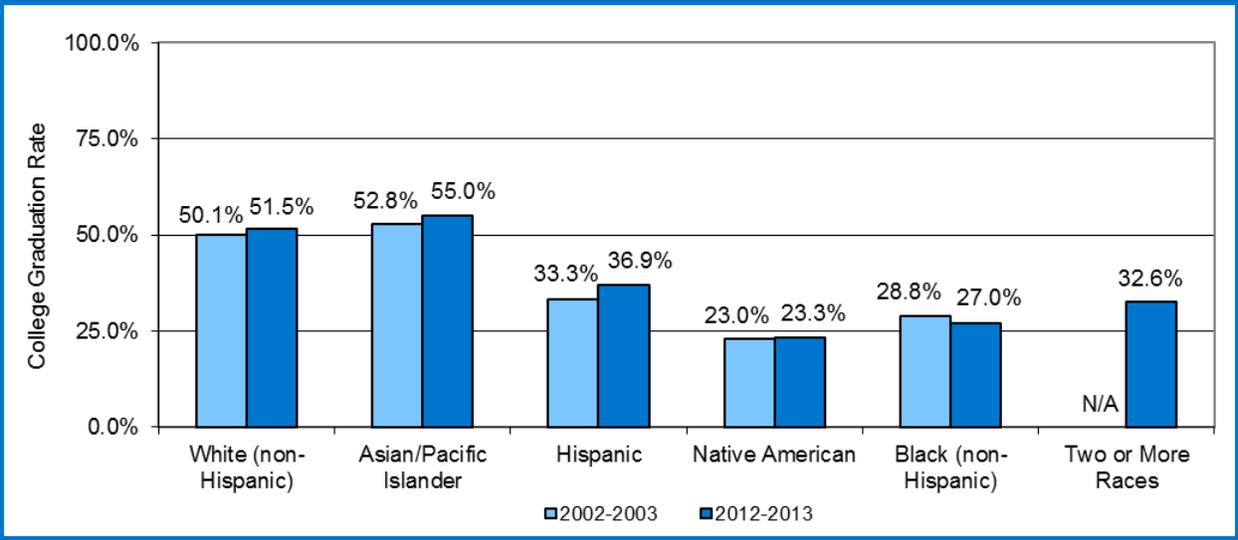
College Continuation Rates

Overall, 70.8% of 2012–2013 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 48.5% in 2012–2013. 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 2013 indicates that there was a net out-migration of working-age adults with bachelor’s degrees. While it can be concluded that Nebraska exported more 22- to 64-year-olds with bachelor’s degrees in 2013, the available data are inadequate to precisely determine the magnitude of this negative net migration in 2013.

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 whites and underrepresented minorities (i.e., blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans) is the third largest in the nation. In Nebraska, 52% of 25-to-44-year old, white non-Hispanics have completed an associate’s degree or higher. In comparison, only 18% of 25-to-44-year old underrepresented minorities have completed an associate’s degree or higher. Nationally, 48% of 25-to-44-year old, white non-Hispanics have completed an associate’s degree or higher. In comparison, only 24% of 25-to-44-year old underrepresented minorities have completed an associate’s degree or higher.

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