

1.3 Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen Who Enroll at Nebraska Colleges and Net Migration

Increase the number of non-Nebraska high school graduates who pursue postsecondary education in Nebraska.

The 2003 LR 174 Higher Education Task Force recommended that Nebraska’s colleges and universities should more actively recruit high school graduates from outside the state to increase college enrollments in Nebraska. The data required to monitor the total number of out-of-state and foreign students who enroll as first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions are collected every two years through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics.

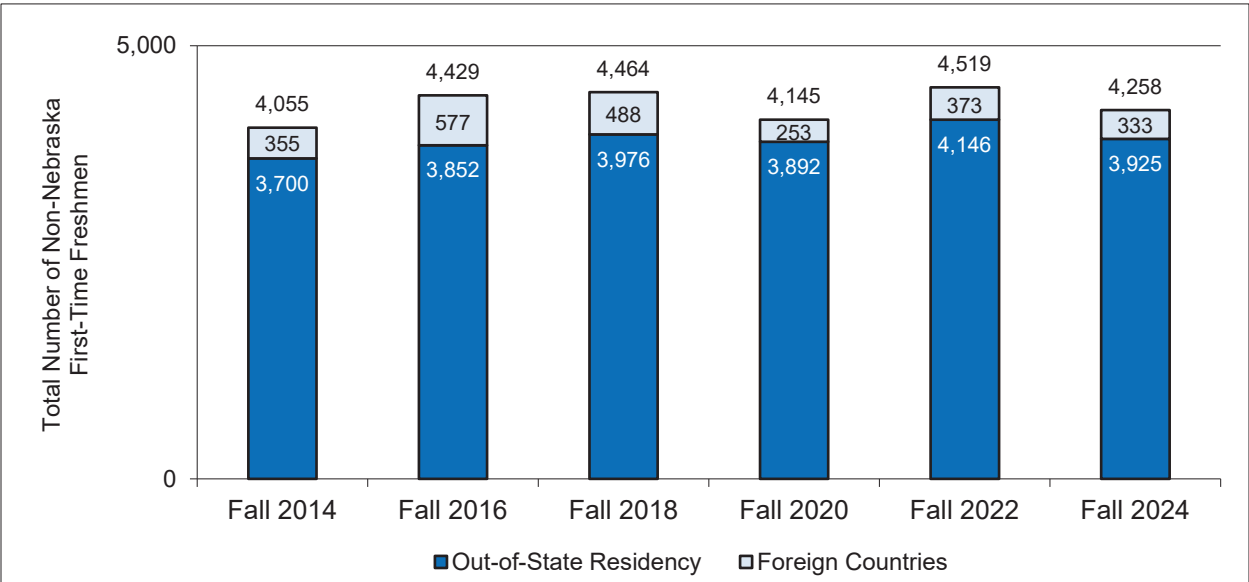
In this section, the latest available data, which are for fall 2024, are compared to the data for fall 2014, fall 2016, fall 2018, fall 2020, and Fall 2022. Emphasis is primarily on the comparison of the findings for fall 2024 to those for fall 2014.

Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen Who Attend Nebraska Colleges and Universities

- As shown in [Figure 1.3.1](#), Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions attracted 203, or 5.0%, more non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen in fall 2024 than in fall 2014.
- While the number of first-time freshmen with out-of-state residency increased 6.1%, the number of first-time freshmen from foreign countries decreased 6.2%.

Figure 1.3.1

Total Number of Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions Fall 2014 through Fall 2024



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students as well as students from foreign countries. Does not include students with reported unknown states of residence and students for whom no residence information was reported. See [Table A6.5](#) and [Table 6.6](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024 surveys.

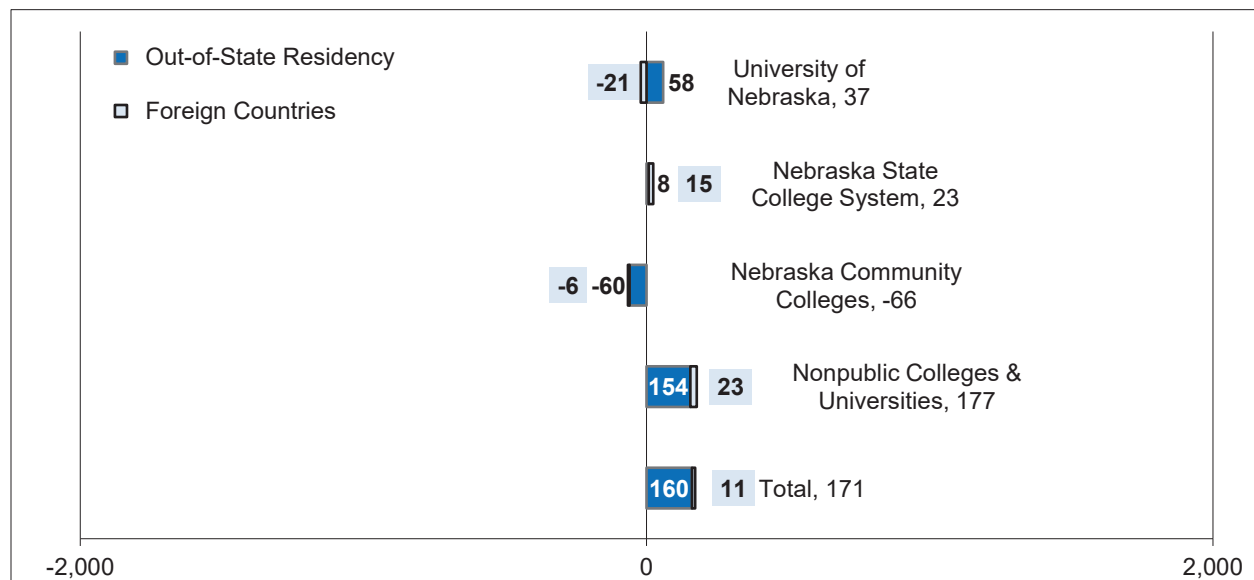
- The University of Nebraska-Lincoln enrolled 1,098 (25.8%) of the non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen in fall 2024, down from 1,208 in fall 2014. Creighton University enrolled 849 (19.9%) of the non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen in fall 2024, up from 791 in fall 2014. Together, these two institutions accounted for 45.7% of non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen enrolled at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions in fall 2024. (See Table A6.8 in Appendix 6 for supporting data on total non-Nebraska, first-time freshmen by institution.)
- As shown in Table 1.3.1, the total enrollment of out-of-state and foreign first-time freshmen at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions increased by 203 students, or 5.0%, between fall 2014 and fall 2024.

Table 1.3.1
Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen
Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Classified by Length of Time Since High School Graduation
Fall 2014 through Fall 2024

Length of Time Since High School Graduation	Fall 2014		Fall 2016		Fall 2018		Fall 2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Graduated During the 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	3,488	86.0%	3,957	89.3%	4,064	91.0%	3,754	90.6%
Graduated More than 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	567	14.0%	472	10.7%	400	9.0%	391	9.4%
Total	4,055	100.0%	4,429	100.0%	4,464	100.0%	4,145	100.0%
Length of Time Since High School Graduation	Fall 2022		Fall 2024			Δ Since Fall 2014		
	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Graduated During the 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	3,697	81.8%	3,659	85.9%		171	4.9%	
Graduated More than 12 Months Prior to College Enrollment	822	18.2%	599	14.1%		32	5.6%	
Total	4,519	100.0%	4,258	100.0%		203	5.0%	
<p><i>Note.</i> Includes full-time and part-time students as well as students from foreign countries. Does not include students with reported unknown states of residence and students for whom no residence information was reported. Δ = change. See <u>Table A6.5</u> and <u>Table A6.6</u> in <u>Appendix 6</u> for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024 surveys.</p>								

- As shown in [Figure 1.3.2](#), the majority of the net increase of 171 students who started college within 12 months of high school graduation is attributable to the increased number of non-Nebraskans who attended nonpublic colleges and universities.
- The University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State College System also experienced gains in the number of non-Nebraskans that they attracted.
- The number of first-time freshmen with out-of-state residency increased 4.9%, and the number of first-time freshmen from foreign countries increased 5.7%. As shown in [Table A6.5](#) in [Appendix 6](#), the University of Nebraska enrolled the largest percentage of first-time freshmen from foreign countries (45.9%), while Nebraska’s nonpublic colleges enrolled the largest percentage of first-time freshmen with out-of-state residency (47.0%).
- See [Table A6.6](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for information on the enrollment of non-Nebraskan first-time freshmen who enrolled at Nebraska colleges more than a year after high school graduation.
- [Table A6.7](#) in [Appendix 6](#) provides detailed listings *by institution* of the numbers of first-time freshmen with Nebraska, out-of-state, and foreign residencies who were enrolled at Nebraska’s colleges and universities *within 12 months of high school graduation* from fall 2014 through fall 2024.

Figure 1.3.2
Changes in the Numbers of Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen
Enrolled at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Within 12 Months of Graduation from High School
Fall 2024 Compared to Fall 2014



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students as well as students from foreign countries. Does not include students with reported unknown states of residence and students for whom no residence information was reported. See [Table A6.5](#) in [Appendix 6](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2014 and fall 2024 surveys.

Net Migration of Nebraska and Non-Nebraska, First-Time Freshmen

Data summarized in the preceding sections can be used to calculate the net migration of first-time freshmen who attended postsecondary institutions within one year of high school graduation. Students with foreign residency are excluded from the calculation of net migration.¹⁴

- As shown in [Table 1.3.2](#), in fall 2014, fall 2016, fall 2018, fall 2020, fall 2022, and fall 2024, more first-time freshmen *came to Nebraska* to attend college within 12 months of high school graduation than *left Nebraska* to go to school out of state.

Student Residency and Where They Attended College	Fall 2014	Fall 2016	Fall 2018	Fall 2020	Fall 2022	Fall 2024	Δ Since Fall 2014	
							N	%
<u>In-Migration</u> Non-Nebraska, Non-Foreign Students Enrolled at Nebraska Colleges and Universities	3,294	3,621	3,772	3,602	3,500	3,454	160	4.9%
<u>Out-Migration</u> Resident Nebraska Students Enrolled at Out-of-State Colleges and Universities	2,692	2,725	2,752	2,650	3,155	3,051	359	13.3%
Net Migration	602	896	1,020	952	345	403		
<p><i>Note.</i> Includes full-time and part-time students. Does not include students with foreign residency, reported unknown states of residence, or students for whom no residence information was reported. Δ = change. Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education discovered an error with migration data for one out-of-state institution, Texas State Technical College (TSTC). TSTC reported 403 Nebraska first-time freshmen attended TSTC in fall 2022 within 12 months of high school graduation. Internal analysis of National Student Clearinghouse data reveals that no on-time Nebraska public high school graduates attended TSTC between June 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023. Furthermore, in the 10 years prior to 2022, TSTC did not report any Nebraska students attending within 12 months of high school graduation. Therefore, the Commission has overridden TSTC’s fall 2022 migration to zero Nebraska students. See Table A6.1 and Table A6.5 in Appendix 6 for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024 surveys.</p>								

¹⁴ While IPEDS data captures the in-migration of first-time freshmen from foreign countries, it does not capture the out-migration of first-time freshmen with Nebraska residency that enrolled in college in foreign countries.