

1.4 Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Sex and by Race/Ethnicity

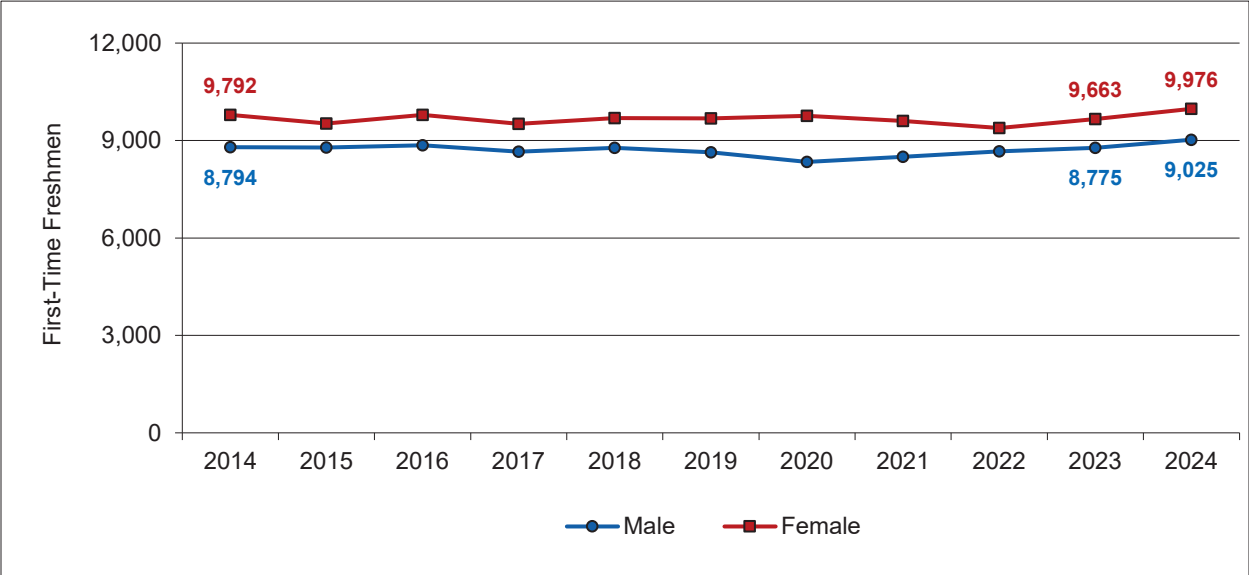
Increase the number and proportion of Nebraska postsecondary students who have been underrepresented in the state’s higher education system.

Increasing the number and percentage of students who have been underrepresented in Nebraska’s higher education system is another recommended approach to increasing the state’s postsecondary enrollment. To determine the extent to which this strategic objective is being achieved, the following analysis focuses on (1) the changes that have occurred since 2014 in the number of students by sex and by race/ethnicity who have been enrolled as *first-time freshmen* at Nebraska colleges, and (2) the extent to which each sex and each racial/ethnic group was represented in the state’s postsecondary education system in fall 2024, the latest period for which data are available. (Estimated enrollments for fall 2025 are not available by sex or by race/ethnicity; therefore, enrollments by race/ethnicity for fall 2025 will be reported in the *2027 Progress Report*.)

Changes in the Numbers of First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Nebraska Institutions

- As shown in [Figure 1.4.1](#), more female first-time freshmen have enrolled at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions than male first-time freshmen. Since 2014 women have accounted for 52.0% (fall 2022) to 53.9% (fall 2020) of first-time freshmen enrollments.
- Since fall 2014, male first-time freshmen enrollments increased 2.6% while female first-time freshmen enrollments increased 1.9%.
- Between fall 2023 and fall 2024, male first-time freshmen enrollments increased 2.8% while female first-time freshmen enrollments increased 3.2%.

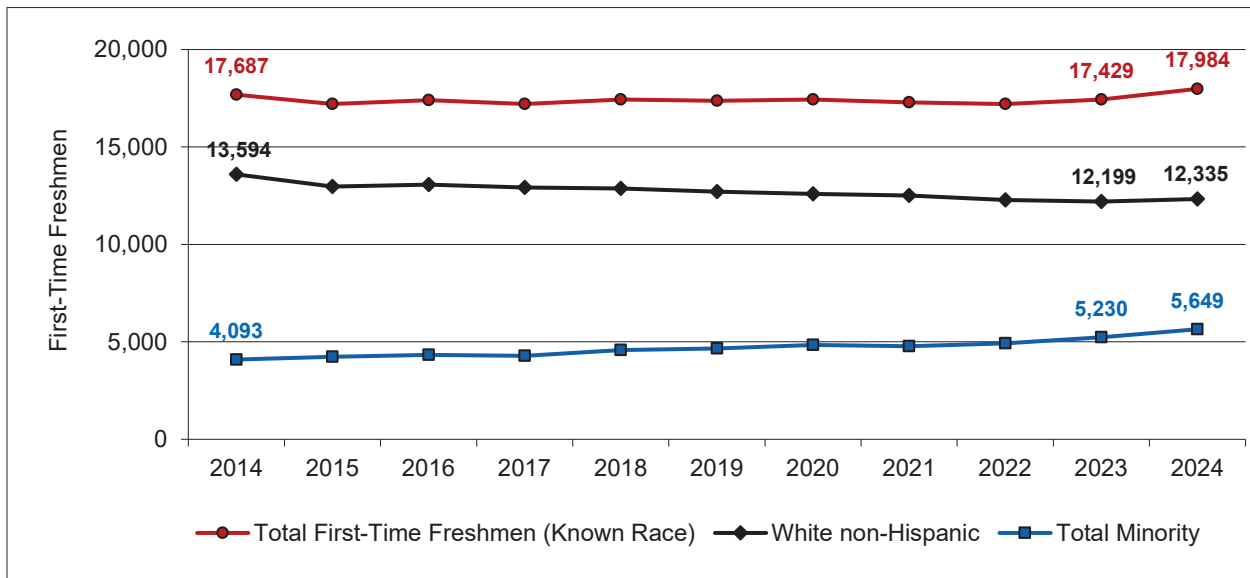
Figure 1.4.1
First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
by Sex
Fall 2014 through Fall 2024



Note. Counts include full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2014 through fall 2024 surveys.

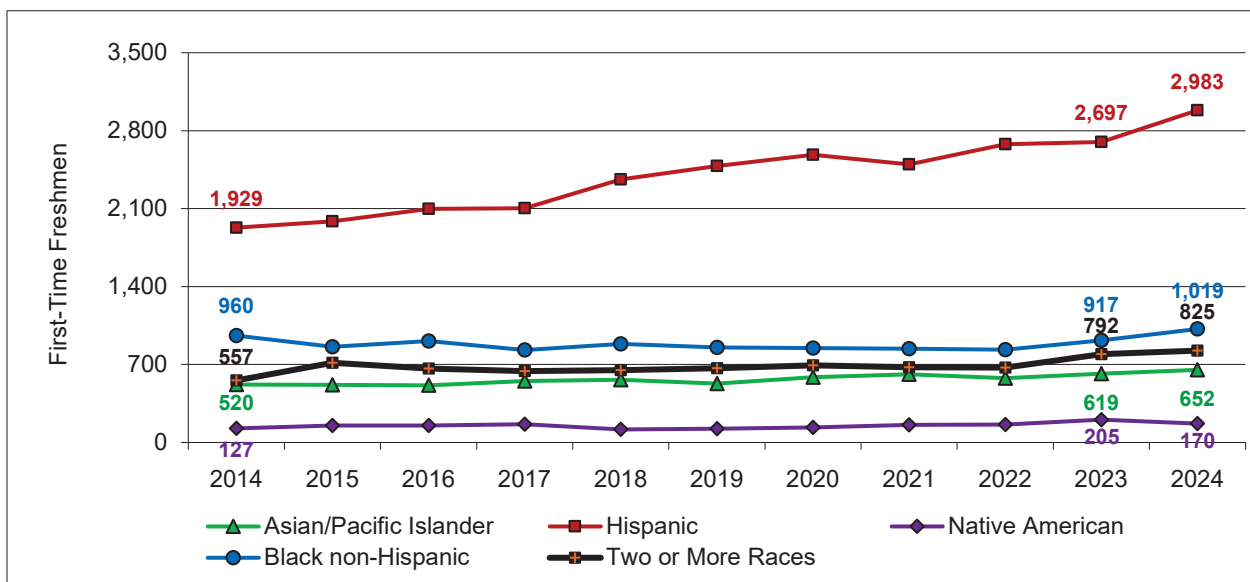
- As shown in [Figure 1.4.2](#), 17,984 first-time freshmen of known race/ethnicity were enrolled at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions in fall 2024, a 1.7% increase from the 17,687 first-time freshmen of known race/ethnicity enrolled in fall 2014.

Figure 1.4.2
Numbers of White Non-Hispanic and Minority First-Time Freshmen
at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Fall 2014 through Fall 2024



Note. Counts include full-time and part-time students. Counts do not include U.S. Nonresidents or students of unknown race/ethnicity. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2014 through fall 2024 surveys.

Figure 1.4.3
Numbers of Minority Students Enrolled as First-Time Freshmen
at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
Fall 2014 through Fall 2024



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2014 through fall 2024 surveys.

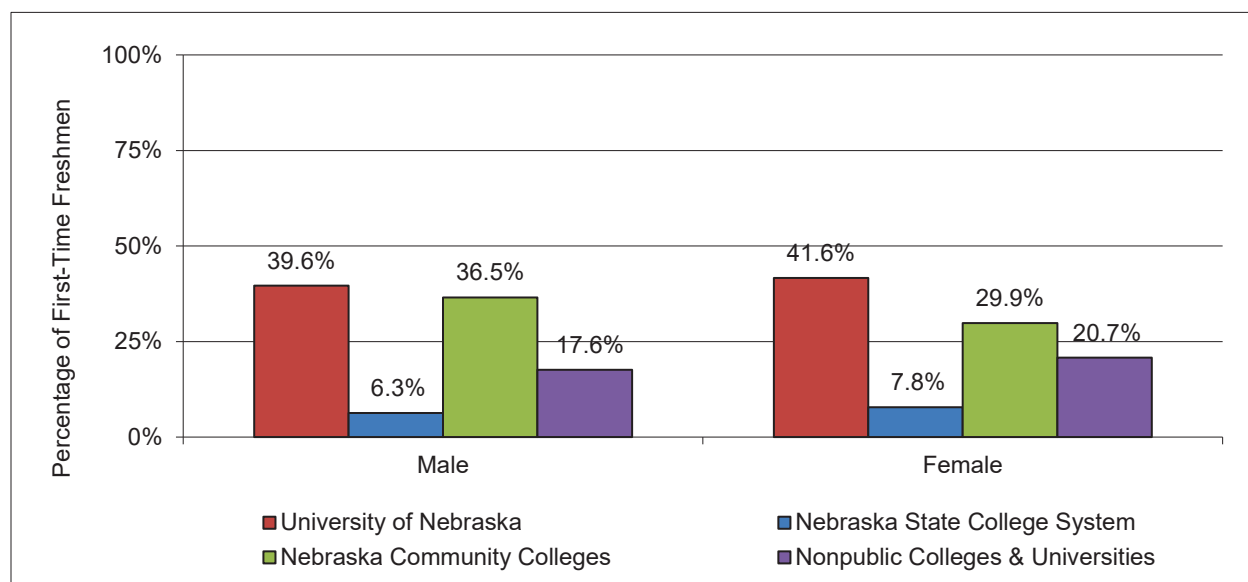
- In fall 2014, White non-Hispanics accounted for 76.9% of the first-time freshmen, while minorities accounted for 23.1%. Of the first-time freshmen enrolled in fall 2024, 68.6% were White non-Hispanics, while 31.4% were minorities.¹⁵
- As shown in [Figure 1.4.3](#), there were increases in the number of first-time freshmen for Asians/Pacific Islanders (25.4%), Hispanics (54.6%), Native Americans (33.9%), Black non-Hispanics (6.1%), and multiracial students (48.1%) between fall 2024 and fall 2014. Meanwhile, the number of White non-Hispanic first-time freshmen decreased 9.3% since fall 2014.
- The net effect of these changes is that there were **1,556 more minority students** attending Nebraska colleges as first-time freshmen in fall 2024 than in fall 2014, an increase of 38.0%. In comparison, there were **1,259 fewer White non-Hispanic** first-time freshmen in fall 2024 than in fall 2014, a decrease of 9.3%.

Types of Institutions Most Frequently Attended by Each Sex and Racial/Ethnic Group

Another approach to analyzing the representation of sex and racial/ethnic groups is to examine the percentage of students in each group who attend each of the institutional sectors within Nebraska’s postsecondary education system.

- [Figure 1.4.4](#) shows the percentages, by sector, of male and female first-time freshmen who attended institutions within Nebraska’s postsecondary education system in fall 2024. Both male and female students most frequently enrolled as first-time freshmen at the University of Nebraska. However, male first-time freshmen were much more likely to enroll at the community colleges than female first-time freshmen.

Figure 1.4.4
First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
by Sex and by Sector
Fall 2024

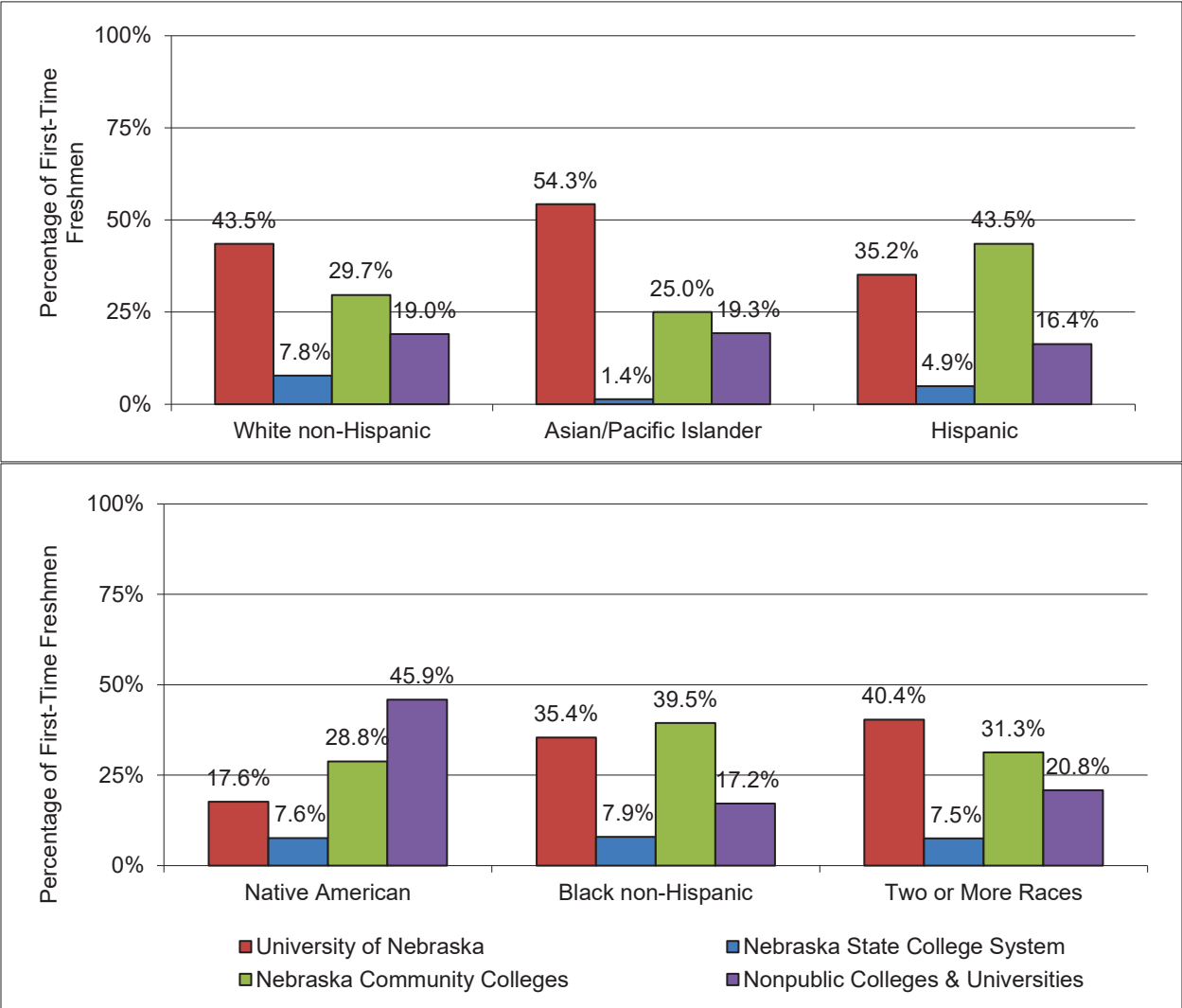


Note. Counts include full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.2 in Appendix 7](#) for fall 2014 through fall 2024 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2024 survey.

¹⁵ Minority students are defined as students from the following race/ethnicity categories: Asian/Pacific Islander, Black non-Hispanic, Hispanic, Native American, and two or more races.

- [Figure 1.4.5](#) shows the percentages of the first-time freshmen in each of the six major racial/ethnic groups who attended, by sector, institutions within Nebraska’s postsecondary education system in fall 2024.
- As evidenced in [Figure 1.4.5](#), White non-Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and multiracial students most frequently enrolled as first-time freshmen at the University of Nebraska. Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic first-time freshmen were most likely to enroll at the community colleges while Native Americans were most likely to enroll at the nonpublic colleges and universities.
- As shown in [Table A7.3](#) in [Appendix 7](#), 62 (36.5%) of the 170 Native Americans who were first-time freshmen in fall 2024 attended Little Priest Tribal College (27) or Nebraska Indian Community College (35).

Figure 1.4.5
First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
by Race/Ethnicity and by Sector
Fall 2024



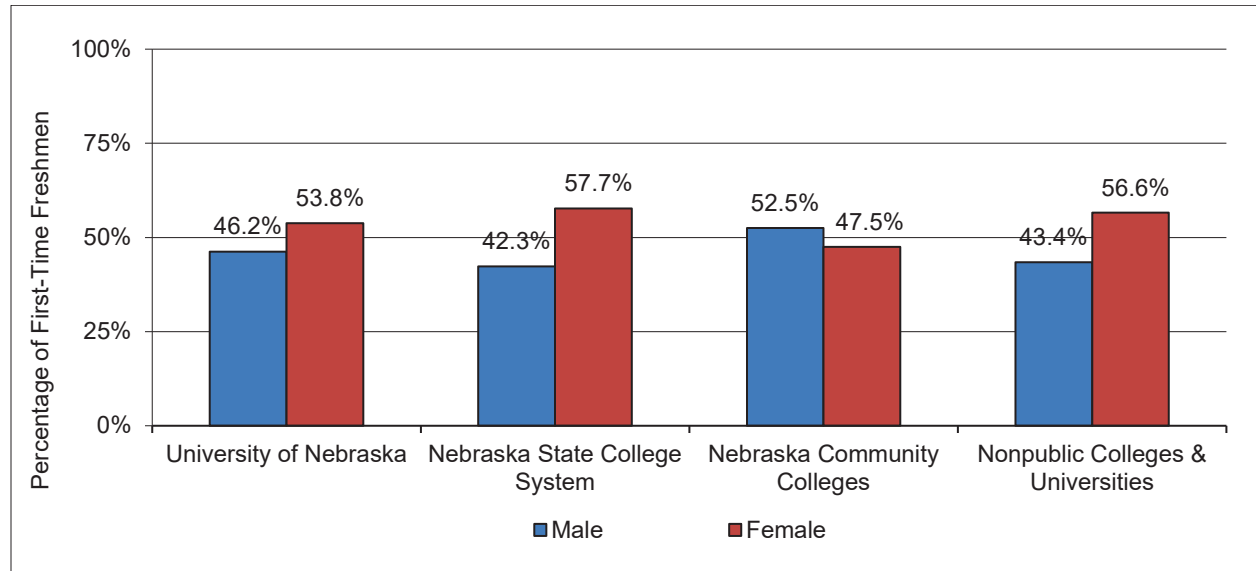
Note. Counts include full-time and part-time students. Counts do not include U.S. Nonresidents or students of unknown race/ethnicity. The two native tribal colleges, Little Priest Tribal College and Nebraska Indian Community College, are included under nonpublic colleges and universities. See [Table A7.3](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2014 through fall 2024 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2024 survey.

Representation of Sex and Racial/Ethnic Groups by Sector

Representation of each sex and racial/ethnic group varied across the sectors of higher education, as shown in [Figure 1.4.6](#) and [Figure 1.4.7](#).

Figure 1.4.6

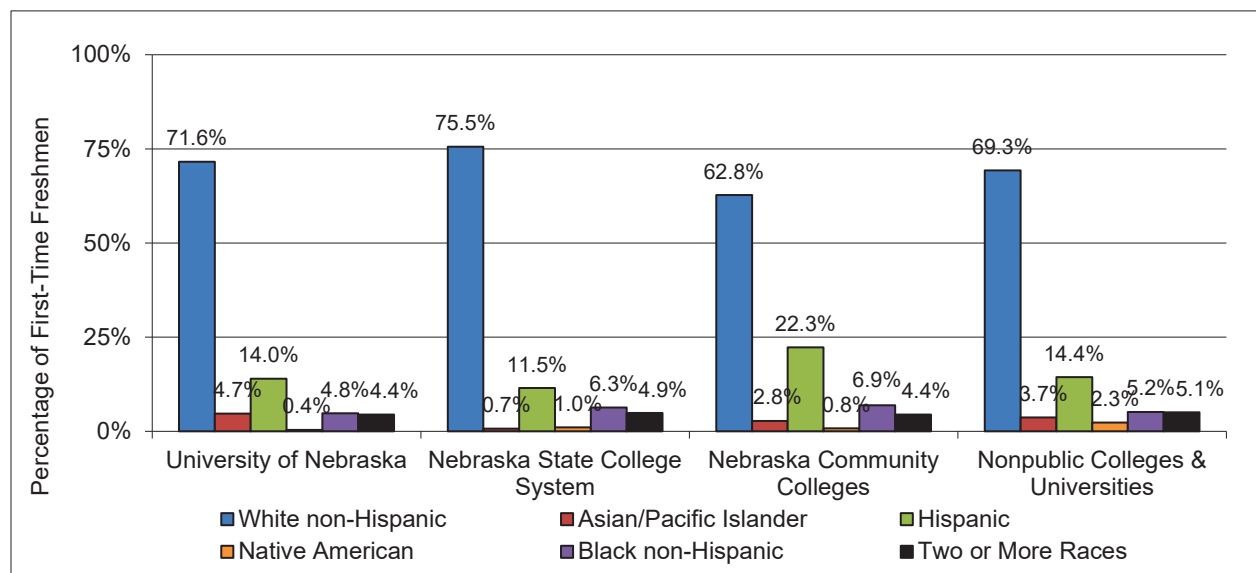
First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions By Sector and by Sex Fall 2024



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.4](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2014 through fall 2024 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2024 survey.

Figure 1.4.7

First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions By Sector and by Race/Ethnicity Fall 2024



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. Does not include U.S. Nonresidents or students of unknown race/ethnicity. See [Table A7.5](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2014 through fall 2024 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2024 survey.