

Section 4

Findings of the CCPE County Migration Survey for Fall 2006

This section presents detailed findings of the County Migration Survey for Fall 2006 that was conducted by Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE). All 48 of the postsecondary institutions in Nebraska that admit first-time freshmen participated in the survey.¹

- Based on the data submitted through the survey, 15,616 first-time freshmen from Nebraska were enrolled at the state's postsecondary institutions in fall 2006.²
- Nebraska county of residence was reported for 15,350 (98.3%) of the first-time freshmen attending Nebraska's postsecondary in fall 2006.
- No county of residence was reported for 266 (1.7%) of the students. Of these students, 47 (17.7%) started college within 12 months of the time they graduated from high school, while 219 (82.3%) graduated from high school more than 12 months prior to their first enrollment in college.

Organization of the Survey Findings

Following this introduction, findings of the CCPE County Migration Survey for 2006 are presented for each of the state's public colleges and universities with the exception of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which does not admit first-time freshmen. In general, the survey findings for each public institution are presented with reference to or in the context of the institution's designated geographic service area (GSA) as specified in state statute or Nebraska's Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education.

¹The University of Nebraska Medical Center and the state's three schools of radiologic technology did not participate in the survey because they do not admit first-time freshmen to their programs.

²Five institutions reported slightly higher or lower numbers of first-time freshmen on the CCPE County Migration Survey than they reported on the IPEDS residence and migration survey for fall 2006. As a result, the total number of first-time freshmen reported to IPEDS was 15,629, compared to 15,616 on the CCPE County Migration Survey, a difference of 13 students.

Throughout this analysis, data are summarized separately for freshmen who enrolled within 12 months of high school graduation and those who started college more than 12 months after they finished high school. This was done because the overall enrollment patterns of these two groups of students are significantly different.

The two state maps for each public institution show the numbers of first-time freshmen from each county who enrolled at the institution and the total percentages of students who came from counties within and outside the institution's GSA, which is outlined on the maps. Following the maps, three bar charts show the numbers of first-time freshmen from the counties within the institution's GSA who attended any of the public colleges and universities, independent (not-for-profit) institutions and private (for-profit) schools within Nebraska.

For each public institution, two additional bar charts show the numbers of first-time freshmen from the counties within the institution's GSA who attended the state's public colleges and universities, organized by public sector. These charts are included to more easily visualize how many students within a school's service area are attracted to public supported institutions in the University of Nebraska system, the Nebraska State College System and the sector consisting of the state's six community colleges.

An additional series of 12 bar charts are included at the end of this section to summarize the fall 2006 statewide enrollments of Nebraska-resident, first-time freshmen at the nonpublic postsecondary institutions in Nebraska. These institutions include 20 independent (not-for-profit) colleges and universities, eight degree-granting private (for-profit) schools and seven non-degree-granting private (for-profit) schools.

The statewide enrollments reported for the independent and private institutions in Nebraska include the students with unknown counties of residence. However, by necessity, these students are excluded from the enrollments reported by county or by public institution service area.

Evidenced General Enrollment Patterns

The summary tables on the next page show the percentage of first-time freshmen that each of Nebraska's public institutions enrolled from inside and outside its GSA in fall 2006 with the exception of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, which can be considered to have a statewide service area.

Based on the analysis of the Nebraska-resident freshmen who enroll within 12 months of high school graduation, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) is the only institution that draws a higher percentage (51.0%) of its freshmen from outside its GSA than it enrolls from within its GSA (49.0%). Since UNL's service area does not include Douglas, the higher proportion of freshmen from outside the GSA may be attributed to the number of freshmen coming from the Omaha metropolitan area. However, when Douglas and Lancaster County are excluded from the totals, UNL still draws 51.2% of its first-time freshmen within 12 months of high-school graduation from outside its GSA and 48.8% from within its GSA, confirming that UNL is a statewide institution.

As shown below, other public institutions in the state draw 65% to 95% of their freshmen who have graduated from high school within 12 months of enrollment from within their respective service areas.

Percentage of First-Time Freshmen Who Enrolled within 12 Months of High-School Graduation¹		
Institution	County of Residence within GSA	County of Residence outside GSA
Western Nebraska Community College	94.1%	5.9%
Metropolitan Community College	92.8%	7.2%
Central Community College	89.3%	10.7%
Peru State College	85.1%	14.9%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	79.7%	20.1%
Northeast Community College	78.5%	21.5%
Southeast Community College	72.8%	27.2%
Chadron State College	71.2%	28.8%
Mid-Plains Community College	69.8%	30.2%
Wayne State College	67.7%	32.3%
University of Nebraska at Kearney	65.1%	34.9%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	49.0%	51.0%

Percentage of First-Time Freshmen Who Enrolled More Than 12 Months After High-School Graduation¹		
Institution	County of Residence within GSA	County of Residence outside GSA
Metropolitan Community College	94.7%	5.3%
Chadron State College	94.7%	5.3%
Northeast Community College	91.5%	8.5%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	91.0%	9.0%
Peru State College	90.0%	10.0%
Central Community College	89.4%	10.6%
Western Nebraska Community College	84.5%	15.5%
University of Nebraska at Kearney	83.3%	16.7%
Wayne State College	83.3%	16.7%
Mid-Plains Community College	81.4%	18.6%
Southeast Community College	78.8%	21.2%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	60.5%	39.5%

The second chart on the previous page shows that all of the public institutions draw even higher percentages of their first-time freshmen who start college more than a year after finishing high school from within their GSA's. This analysis confirms that first-time freshmen who delay going to college more than 12 months after high school graduation are most likely to attend an institution whose service area encompasses their county of residence.

An analysis of Nebraska county migration data also shows that the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and Metropolitan Community College (MCC) have enrollment patterns that are similar to the enrollments of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and Southeast Community College (SCC). Specifically, SCC draws the most total freshmen as well as the highest number of first-time freshmen who have started college more than 12 months after high-school graduation from both the UNL and SCC GSAs. Likewise, MCC draws the most total freshmen overall as well as the highest number of first-time freshmen enrolled more than 12 months after high-school graduation from both the UNO and the MCC GSAs.

UNL, on the other hand, draws the most first-time freshmen within 12 months of high-school graduation from both the UNL GSA and the SCC GSA. Similarly, UNO draws the most first-time freshmen within 12 months of high-school graduation from both the UNO GSA and the MCC GSA.

The MCC GSA and the UNO GSA are very similar, since both include Washington, Douglas and Sarpy Counties. The UNO GSA also includes Cass County, while the MCC GSA includes Dodge County.

The SCC GSA and the UNL GSA are quite different, primarily because the SCC GSA is much smaller than the UNL GSA. The only major similarity among all four of these GSAs is that they all have major metropolitan centers within them. This suggests that the reason for the similar enrollment patterns has more to do with urban locations than with the GSA per se.

Compared to other public institutions in Nebraska, Peru State College (PSC) has a particularly challenging GSA. The Peru State College GSA overlaps the MCC and SCC GSAs and is encompassed by the UNL and UNO GSAs. Given its location, PSC faces strong competition since UNL and UNO draw the majority of the first-time freshmen enrolled within 12 months of high-school graduation. MCC and SCC draw the majority of the first-time freshmen who delay going to college for more than a year after high school graduation.