

# Section A Enrollment

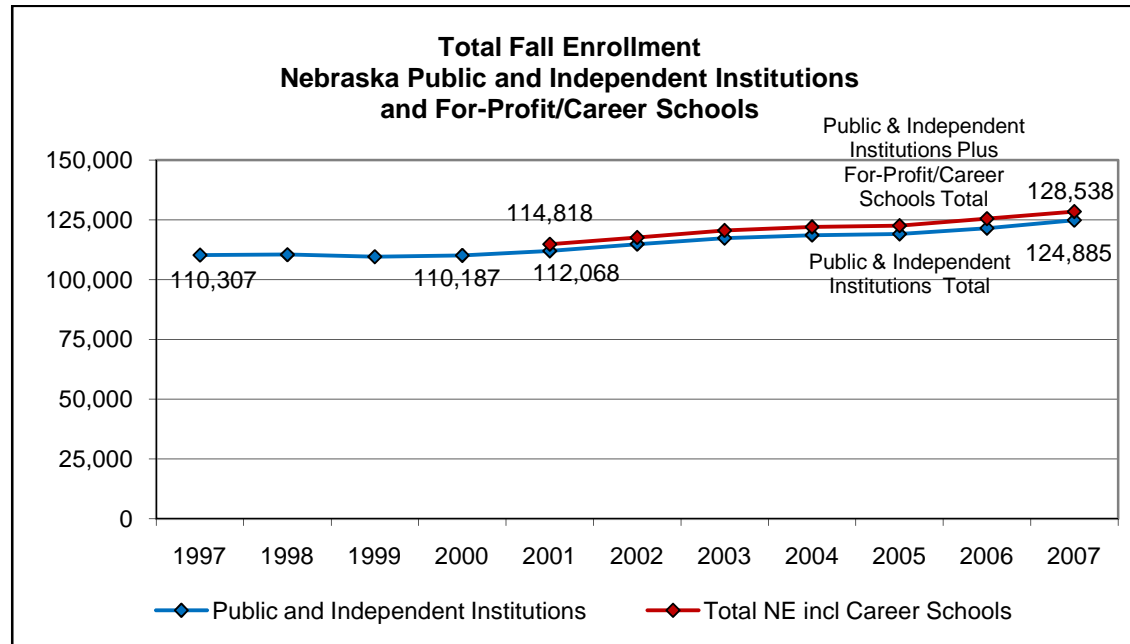
## Executive Summary of Data

Section A of the *Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska* summarizes data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) surveys of Nebraska's public and independent (not-for-profit) colleges and universities and for-profit/career schools. Ten-year trends are based on the 1997-2007 IPEDS surveys of Nebraska public and independent colleges and universities. Six-year trends include Nebraska's for-profit/career schools. In this section, fall enrollments are analyzed by (1) sector and full/part-time classification, (2) student level and full/part-time classification, (3) gender, (4) race/ethnicity, (5) race/ethnicity and gender, and (6) age. Fall enrollments are compared to 12-month enrollments in the last sub-section of this report.

# Executive Summary of Data 1997-2007

## Total Fall Enrollment<sup>1</sup>

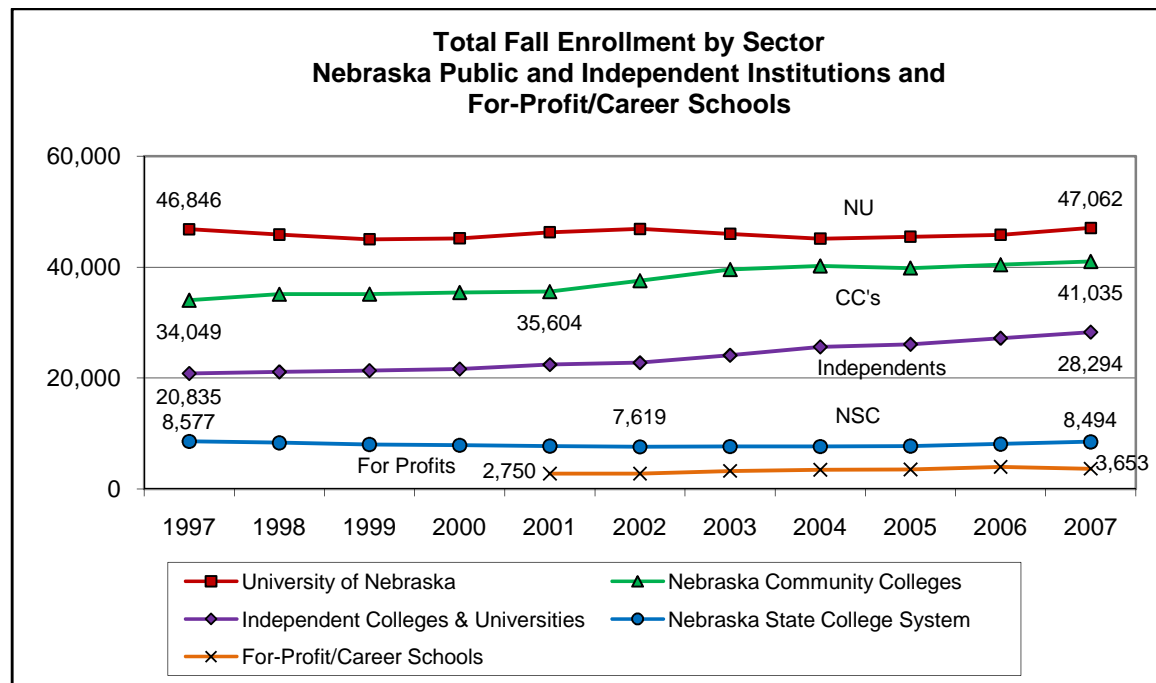
- Different rates of growth occurred in the total headcount enrollment at Nebraska’s public and independent colleges and universities over the 10-year period between fall 1997 and fall 2007. There was little or no growth from fall 1997 to fall 2000, but total fall enrollment increased 13.3%, or an average of 1.9% per year, between fall 2000 and fall 2007.
- Including the for-profit/career schools, statewide fall enrollment increased 11.9% to a total of 125,538 students in fall 2007. Between fall 2006 and fall 2007, statewide enrollment increased 2.4%.



<sup>1</sup>Reported enrollments do not include students who were enrolled in the physician assistant military and distance education programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Since 1998-1999, UNMC has conferred 500 to 600 bachelor’s and master’s degrees each year to graduates of the physician assistant military and distance education programs. These programs serve all branches of the military and most graduates are not residents of Nebraska.

## Total Fall Enrollment by Sector

- The University of Nebraska experienced a 3.7% decline in total fall enrollment from fall 1997 to fall 2004, but increased enrollment 4.3% between 2004 and 2007.
- The Nebraska State College System experienced a 11.2% decline in enrollments between fall 1997 and fall 2002, but total headcount at the state colleges increased 11.5% from fall 2002 to fall 2007.
- Total enrollment at Nebraska's community colleges increased 4.6% between fall 1997 and fall 2001. Between 2001 and 2007, the community college sector enjoyed a 15.3% increase in fall headcount. However, full-time enrollment decreased 4.5% from 2006 to 2007 while the number of students enrolled part time continued to increase.
- Independent colleges and universities steadily increased fall enrollments 35.8% over the ten-year period between 1997 and 2007, primarily as a result of increased enrollments of full-time students: 28.1% at the undergraduate level and 234.7% at the graduate level.
- Over the six-year period for which reliable data are available for the for-profit/career schools, total fall enrollment at these schools increased 36.1%.

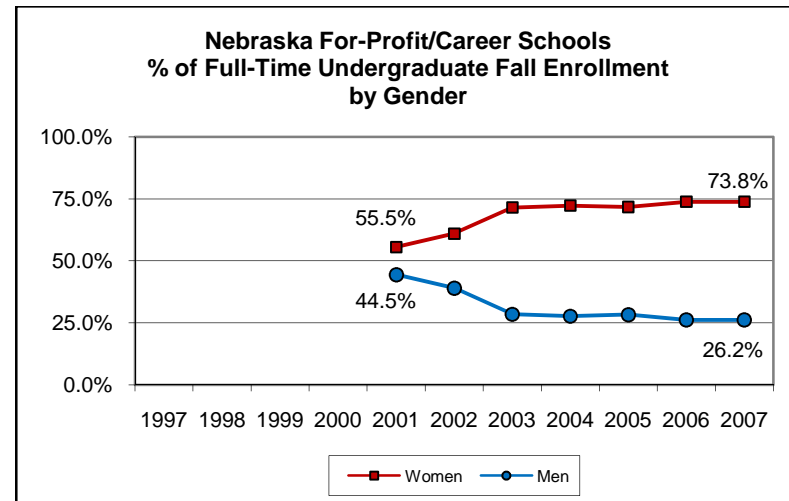
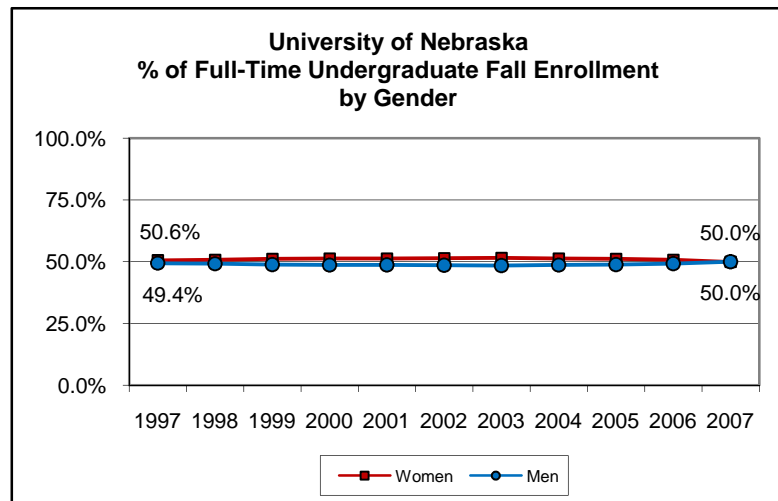


### Total Fall Enrollment by Student Level

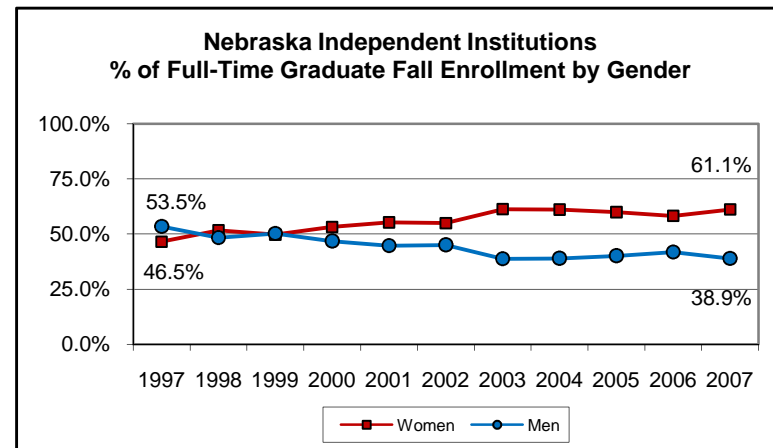
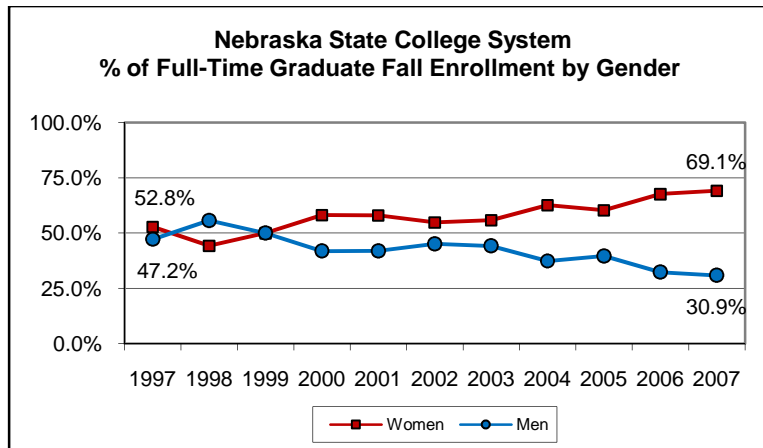
- Between fall 2001 and fall 2007, statewide enrollment by student level increased as follows: undergraduate up 10.4%, graduate up 26.0% and first-professional up 7.0%. *Note: In Nebraska, there are first-professional programs in dentistry (DDS, DMD) medicine (MD), pharmacy and law.*
- Between fall 2006 and fall 2007, enrollment of undergraduates going to school part time increased 5.3% or by 1,778 students, while full-time fall enrollment increased only 0.3% or by 208 undergraduates.
- Total enrollment of full-time graduate students began to increase after 1999 when 4,086 students were enrolled in graduate programs full time. By 2007, enrollment of full-time graduate students had increased 68.5% to 6,886.
- As a result of recent increases in full-time graduate enrollments, graduate students accounted for higher percentages of total enrollment at the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State College System, the independent sector and the for-profit/career school sector in fall 2007 than in fall 1997.

### Fall Enrollment by Gender

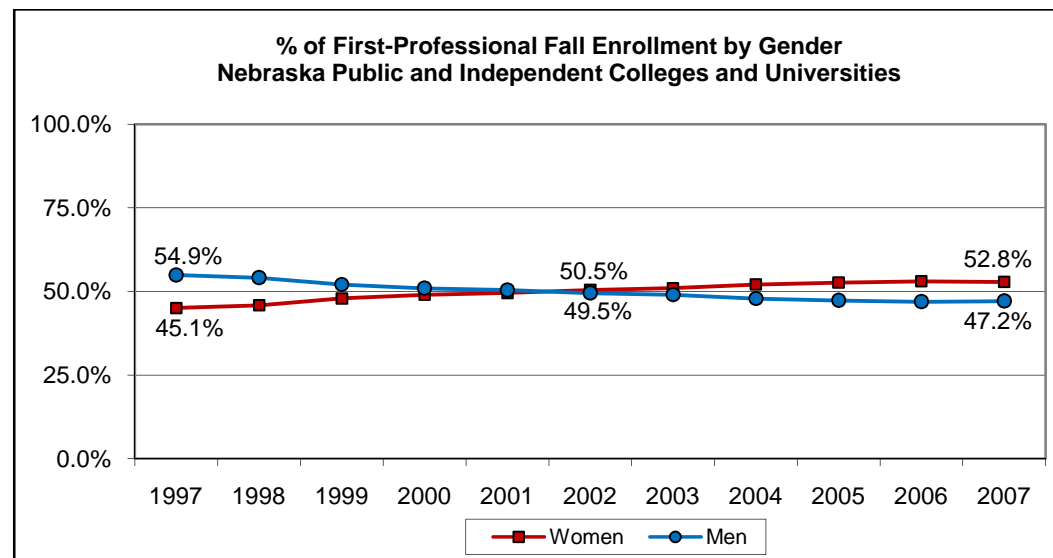
- The gender gap between men and women remained largely unchanged from fall 2001 to fall 2007. In 2001, women accounted for 55.0% of the state's total postsecondary enrollment, compared to a slightly higher 55.2% in 2007.
- The smallest gender gap among undergraduates in fall 2007 was at the University of Nebraska, where 50.0% of the full-time students were women. In comparison, the largest gender gap was at the for-profit/career schools, where 73.8% of the full-time students were women. The increased difference between the percentage full-time fall enrollments of men and women at for-profit/career schools is due to a 22.9% decrease in male enrollment while female enrollment increased 73.6% between 2001 and 2007.



- At the graduate level, women enrolled full time started to outnumber men in 2000. Since 2000, the gender gap has widened, due primarily to increased enrollment of women at the Nebraska state colleges and the independent institutions that offer graduate programs.



Between fall 1997 and fall 2007, the enrollment of men in first-professional programs increased 2.7%, while the enrollment of women increased 40.4%. In 2002, the enrollment of women exceeded the enrollment of men for the first time. By fall 2007, women accounted for 52.8% of all of the students in Nebraska’s first-professional programs.

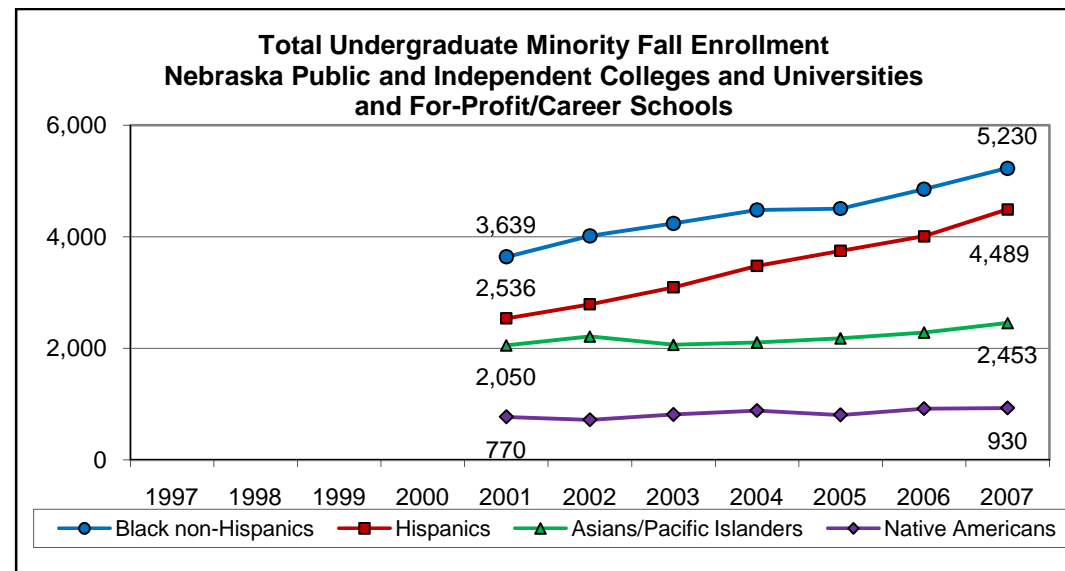


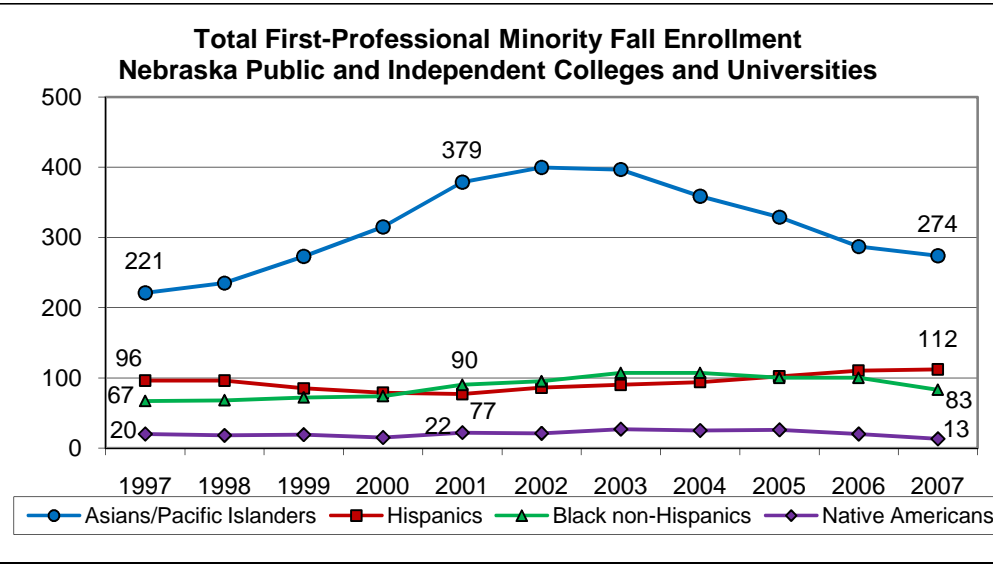
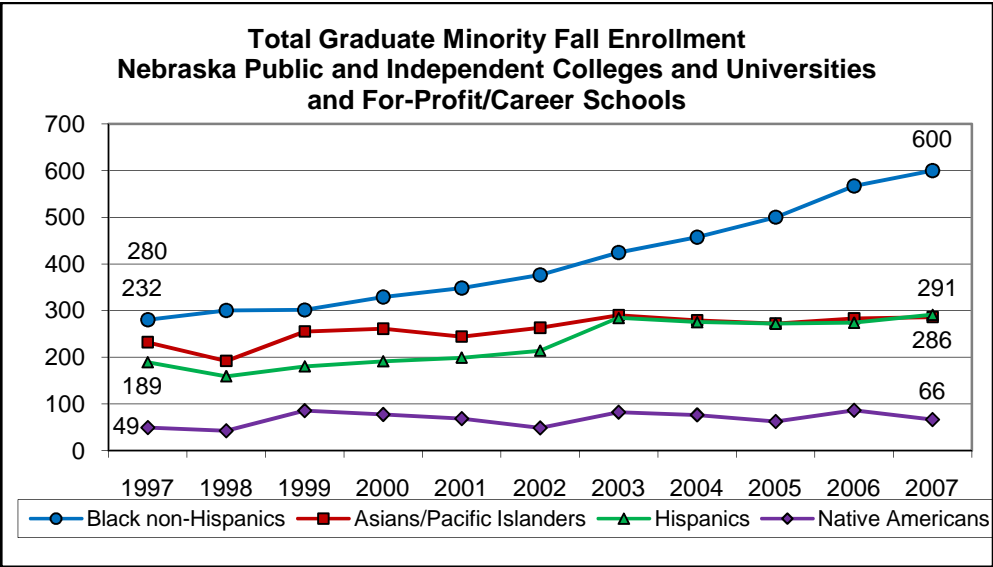
## Fall Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

- Students of unknown race/ethnicity increased from 3.2% of total headcount in fall 2001 to 4.2% in fall 2007. The remaining findings in this section focus on students of known race/ethnicity who accounted for 95.8% of total headcount in fall 2007.
- Minorities students—consisting of black non-Hispanics, Hispanics, Asians/Pacific Islanders and Native Americans—accounted for 12.0% of total postsecondary enrollment in fall 2007. Foreign students made up 2.7% of fall enrollment. White non-Hispanics accounted for 85.2%.
- From 2001 to 2007, black non-Hispanic enrollment increased 45.0%, Asian/Pacific Islander enrollment increased 12.7%, Hispanic enrollment increased 74.0% and Native American enrollment increased 17.3%. When broken down by student level, enrollment growth rates for minorities were as follows for the six-year period between fall 2001 and fall 2007:

Race/Ethnicity	Undergraduate Enrollment Change 2001-07	Graduate Enrollment Change 2001-07	First-Professional Enrollment Change 2001-07
Black non-Hispanic	43.7%	72.4%	- 7.8%
Hispanic	77.0%	46.2%	45.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	19.7%	17.2%	- 27.7%
Native American	20.8%	- 2.9%	- 40.9%

The following three charts summarize minority enrollment growth at the undergraduate, graduate and first-professional levels.





### Fall Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

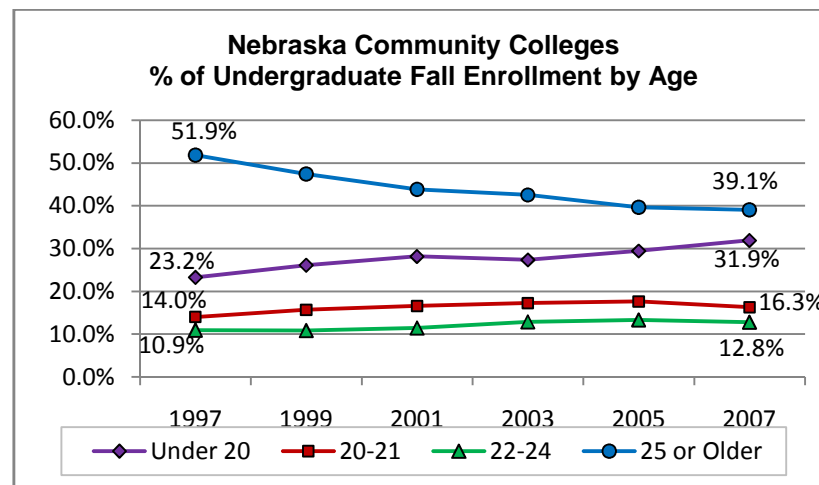
- For fall 2007, the total enrollment gender gap by race/ethnicity was as follows:

Race/Ethnicity	Women	Men
Native	61.1%	38.9%
White	55.8%	44.2%
Black	55.6%	44.4%
Hispanic	54.3%	45.7%
Asian	53.5%	46.5%

### Fall Enrollment by Age

- In fall 2007, students aged 24 and younger made up 64.8% of all students enrolled at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions. Students aged 25 to 29 made up 22.0% and students over 30 accounted for 13.3% of the student body.
- In 2007, the University of Nebraska enrolled the highest percentage of undergraduates under the age of 25, while the for-profit/career schools enrolled the highest percentage of students 25 or older.
- The percentage of students at Nebraska’s community colleges who were 25 years of age or older decreased from 51.9% in fall 1997 to 39.1% in 2007. On the other hand, students under 20 at community colleges increased from 23.2% of fall enrollment in 1997 to 31.9% in fall 2007.

Note: Enrollment by age data are collected every 2 years



### **Fall Enrollment Compared to 12-Month Enrollment**

- Fall enrollment provides a “snapshot” of the total number of students who were enrolled at an institution on October 15 or the institution’s official fall reporting date. In comparison, 12-month enrollment is the total, unduplicated headcount of students who were enrolled at an institution at any time during the academic year.
- In general, fall enrollment and 12-month enrollment follow a similar trend at most of Nebraska’s public institutions. However, the amount of 12-month enrollment that is captured by fall enrollment varies by sector and institution. For example, since 2001, fall enrollment figures have captured 70% or more of the 12-month enrollment reported by the Nebraska State College System. On the other hand, fall enrollment captures only about 50% of the students who attend Nebraska’s community colleges at some time during the academic year.

