

Section A Enrollment

Executive Summary of Data

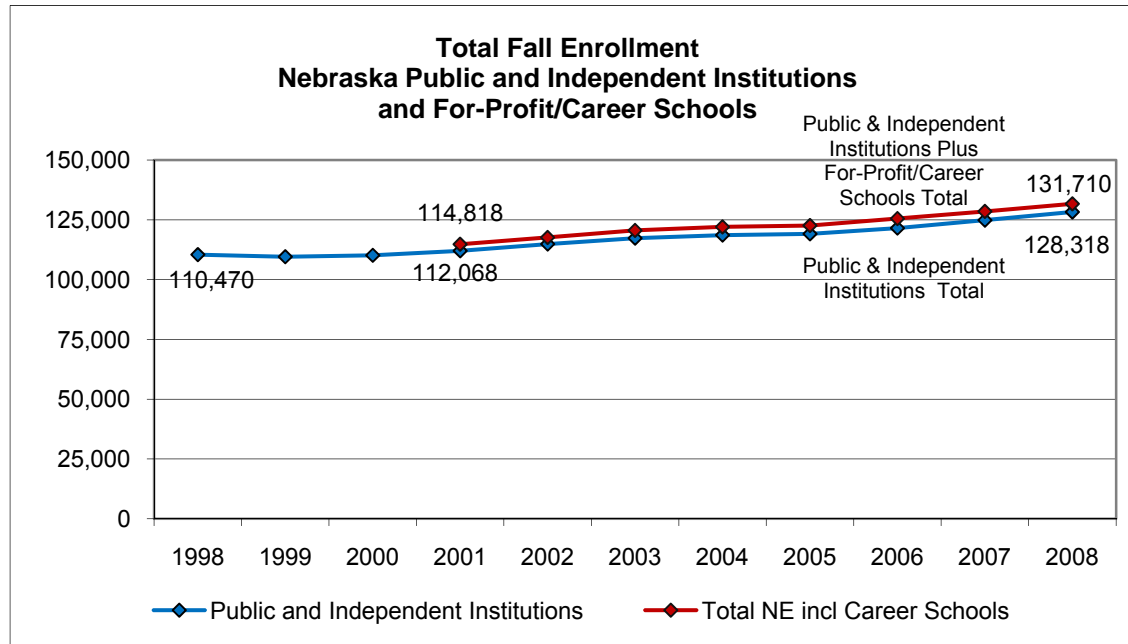
Section A of the *Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska* summarizes data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) surveys of Nebraska's public and independent (not-for-profit) colleges and universities and for-profit/career schools. Ten-year trends are based on the IPEDS survey data submitted by Nebraska's public and independent colleges and universities. Seven-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

Enrollment Fall 1998 - Fall 2008

Total Fall Enrollment¹

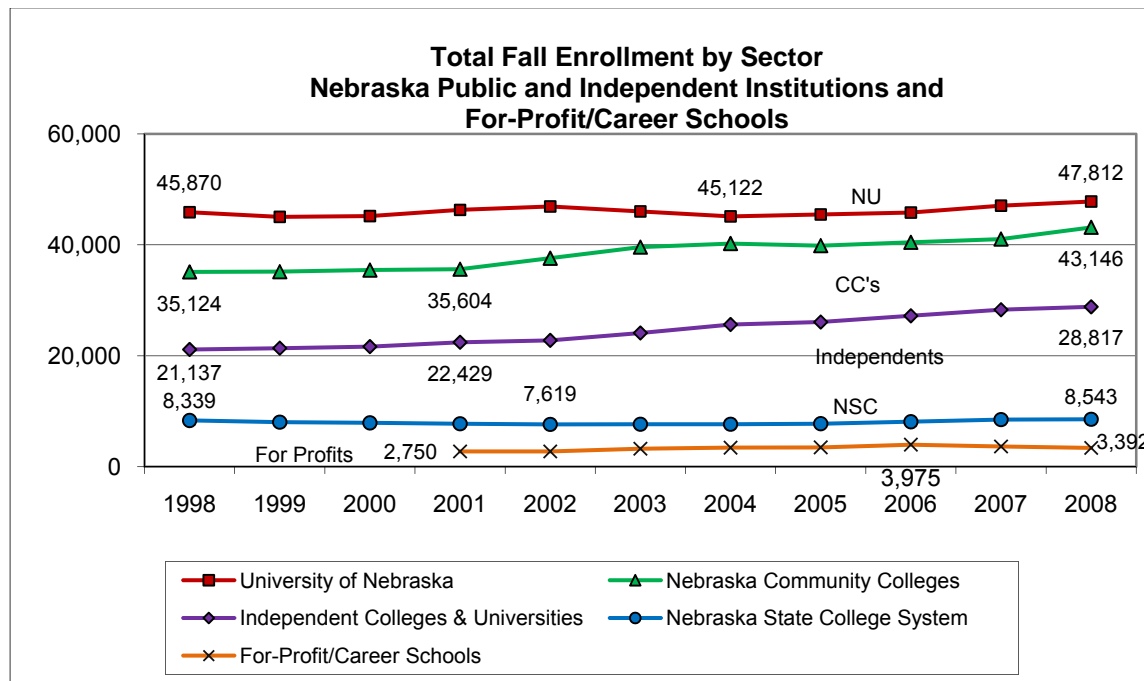
- Different rates of growth occurred in the total headcount enrollment at Nebraska’s public and independent colleges and universities over the 10-year period between fall 1998 and fall 2008. There was less than 0.5% annual growth from fall 1998 to fall 2001, but total fall enrollment increased 14.5%, or an average of 2.1% per year, between fall 2001 and fall 2008.
- Including the for-profit/career schools, statewide fall enrollment increased 14.7% from 114,818 in 2001 to 131,710 in fall 2008. Between fall 2007 and fall 2008, statewide enrollment increased 2.5%.



¹Reported 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 1.6% decline in total fall enrollment from fall 1998 to fall 2004, but increased enrollment 6.0% between fall 2004 and fall 2008.
- Total enrollment at Nebraska's community colleges (▲) increased 1.4% between fall 1998 and fall 2001. Between 2001 and 2008, the community college sector enjoyed a 21.2% increase in fall headcount. Full-time enrollment decreased 4.5% from fall 2006 to fall 2007 but increased 7.0% from fall 2007 to fall 2008.
- Independent colleges and universities (◆) steadily increased fall enrollments 36.3% over the ten-year period between fall 1998 and fall 2008, primarily as a result of increased enrollments of full-time students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- The Nebraska State College System (●) experienced a 8.6% decline in enrollments between fall 1998 and fall 2002, but total headcount at the state colleges increased 12.1% or 924 students from fall 2002 to fall 2008.
- Over the seven-year period for which reliable data are available for the for-profit/career schools (×), total fall enrollment at these schools increased 44.5% between fall 2001 and fall 2006 but decreased 7.1% between fall 2006 and fall 2008.



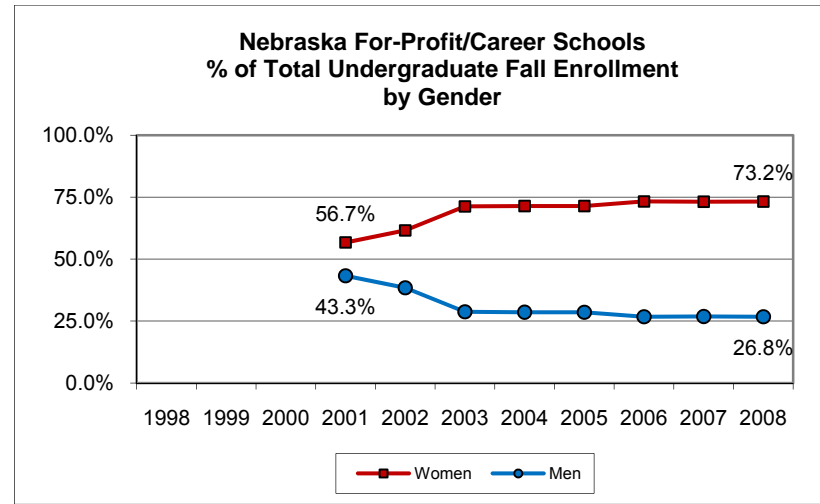
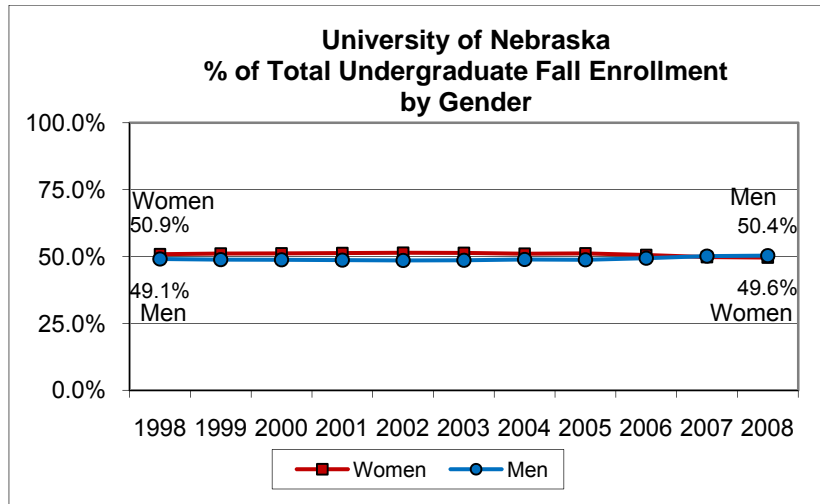
Total Fall Enrollment by Student Level¹

- Between fall 2001 and fall 2008, statewide undergraduate enrollment was up 12.7%, while graduate enrollment increased 27.1%.
- From fall 2007 to fall 2008, enrollment of undergraduates going to school part time increased 4.8% or by 1,706 students, while full-time fall enrollment increased 0.9% or by 624 undergraduates.
- Total graduate enrollment began to increase after 1999 when 7,261 students were enrolled in graduate programs full time and 7,366 graduate students were enrolled part time. By fall 2008, enrollment of full-time graduate students had increased 50.1% to 10,900 and part-time graduate had risen 33.6% to 9,840.
- 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 2008 than in fall 1998.

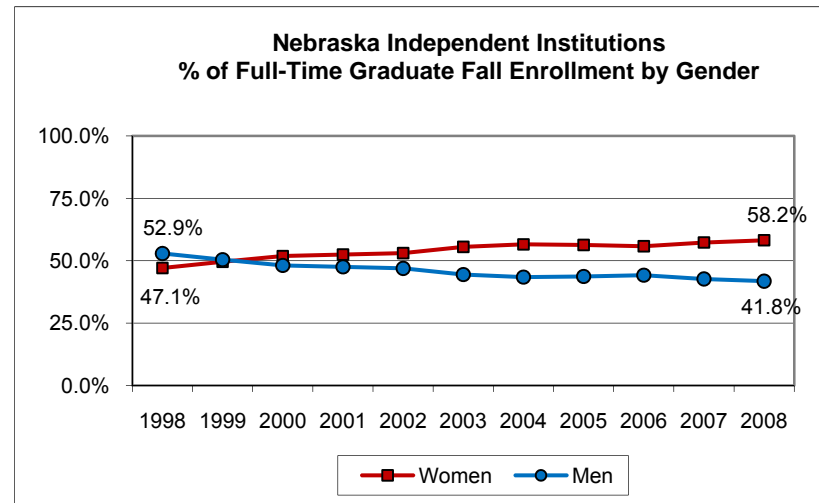
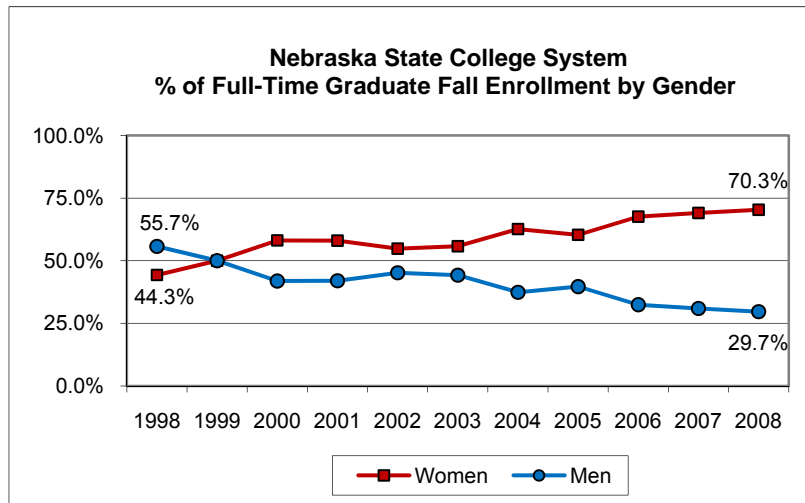
Fall Enrollment by Gender

- The gender gap between men and women was almost the same in fall 2008 as in fall 2001. In 2001, women accounted for 55.0% of the state's total postsecondary enrollment, compared to 54.9% in 2008.
- As shown in the first chart on the next page, the smallest gender gap among undergraduates in fall 2008 was at the University of Nebraska, where 49.6% of the students were women.
- As shown in the second chart on the next page, the largest gender gap was at the for-profit/career schools, where 73.2% of the students were women. The increased difference between the percentage fall enrollments of men and women at for-profit/career schools is due primarily to increased enrollments of women at degree-granting schools such as Kaplan University, Vatterott College, and ITT Technical Institute.

¹Beginning in fall 2008, students are classified into two categories: undergraduate and graduate. Students in programs previously classified as "first professional" are now counted in the graduate student category for all years of data reported.



- 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 in graduate programs at the Nebraska state colleges and the independent institutions that offer opportunities for graduate study.

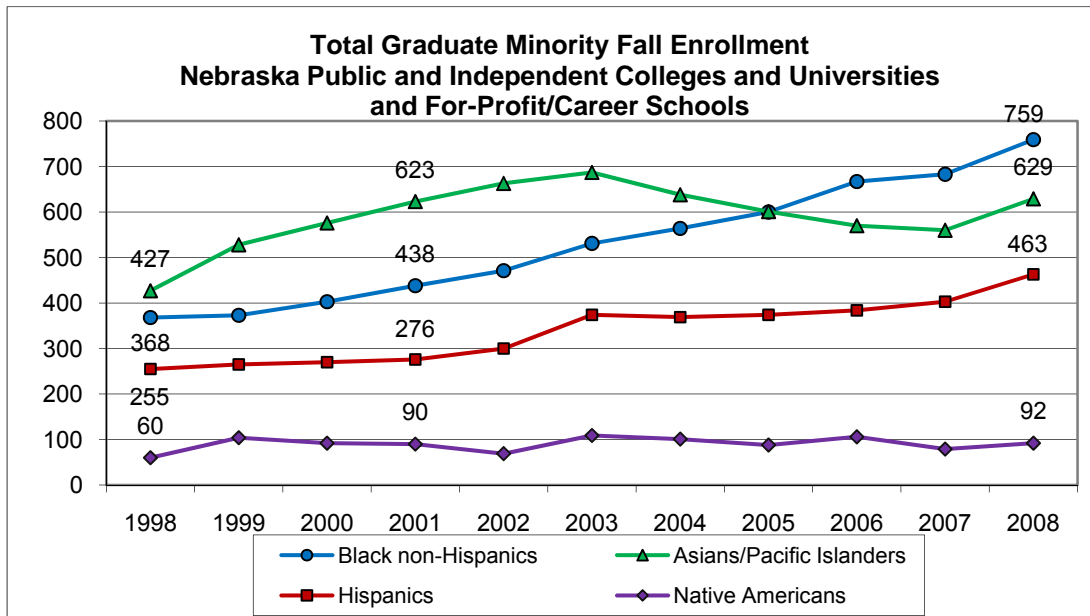
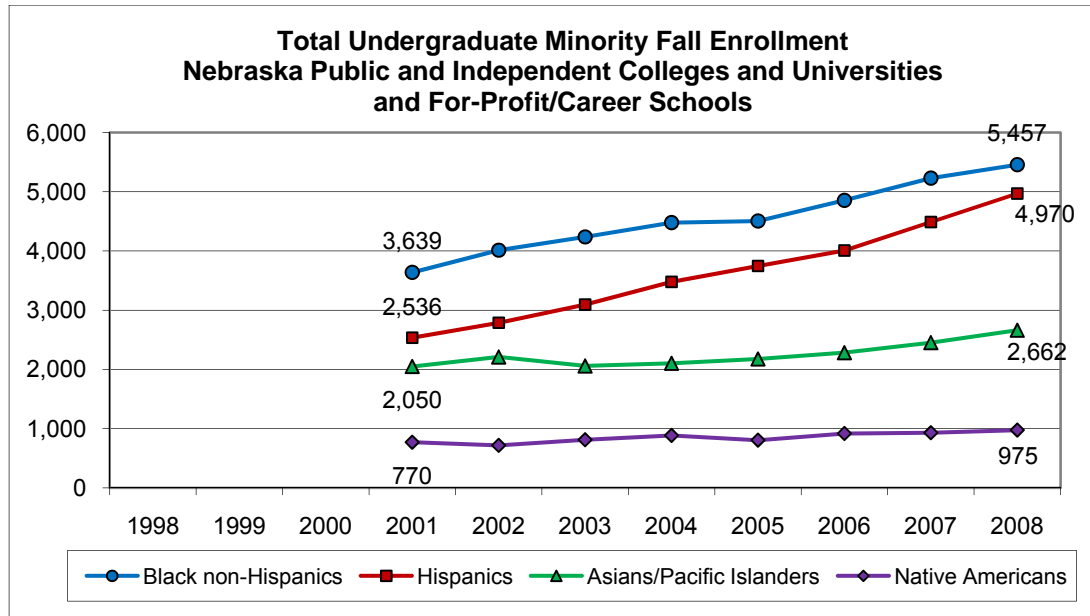


Fall Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

- Students of unknown race/ethnicity increased from 3.2% of total headcount in fall 2001 to 4.4% in fall 2008. The remaining findings in this section focus on students of known race/ethnicity, who accounted for 95.6% of total headcount in fall 2008.
- Minorities students—consisting of black non-Hispanics, Hispanics, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans—accounted for 12.7% of total postsecondary enrollment in fall 2008. Foreign students made up 2.9% of fall enrollment. White non-Hispanics accounted for 84.4%, down from 87.5 in fall 2001.
- From 2001 to 2008, enrollment of minorities increased in total and at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. As shown in the chart below, growth rates varied by race/ethnicity and by level over the seven-year period.

Race/Ethnicity	Total Enrollment Change 2001-08	Undergraduate Enrollment Change 2001-08	Graduate Enrollment Change 2001-08
Black non-Hispanic	52.5%	50.0%	73.3%
Hispanic	93.2%	96.0%	67.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	23.1%	29.9%	1.0%
Native American	24.1%	26.6%	2.2%

- The two charts on the following page summarize minority enrollment growth at the undergraduate and graduate levels.



Fall Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

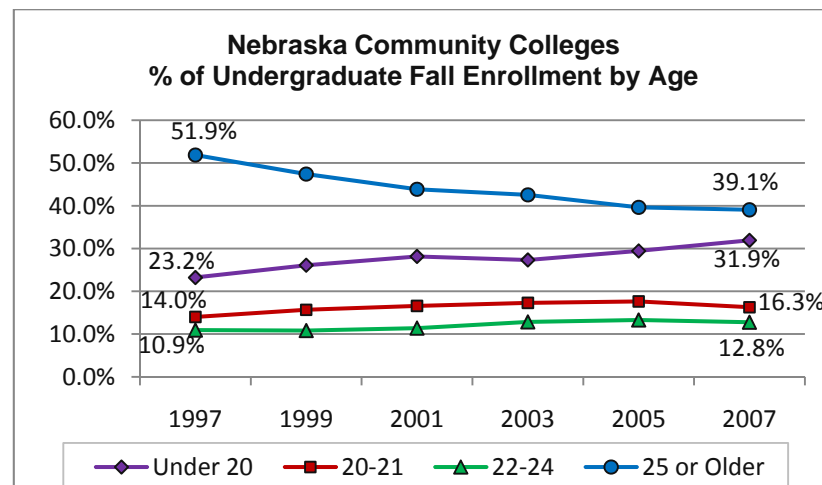
- For fall 2008, the total enrollment gender distribution by race/ethnicity was as follows:

Race/Ethnicity	Women	Men
Native American	61.0%	39.0%
White non-Hispanic	55.4%	44.6%
Black non-Hispanic	55.6%	44.4%
Hispanic	54.3%	45.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	53.8%	46.2%

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.
- Consistent with national trends, 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 now captures only 48% of the students who attend Nebraska’s community colleges at some time during the academic year.

