



Overview: Fall 2021 Enrollment Estimates

Current Term Enrollment Estimates Report Series is published every December and May by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. It provides national enrollment estimates by degree level, institutional sector, enrollment intensity, age group, gender, major field as well as state-level enrollment estimates.

Enrollment estimates are adjusted for Clearinghouse data coverage rates by institutional sector, state, and year. As of fall 2019, postsecondary institutions actively submitting enrollment data to the Clearinghouse account for 97 percent of the total enrollments at Title IV, degree-granting institutions in the U.S. Most institutions submit enrollment data several times per term, resulting in highly current data. Moreover, since the Clearinghouse collects data at the student level, it is possible to report an unduplicated student headcount, which avoids double-counting students who are simultaneously enrolled at multiple institutions.

Total postsecondary enrollment declined by 2.7 percent or 476,100 students in fall 2021, for a total two-year decline of 5.1 percent or 937,500 students since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (see **Table 1** and **Figure 1** for historical trends). Undergraduate enrollment alone fell by 3.1 percent or 465,300 students over last year while graduate enrollment is down less than half a percent (-0.4% or 10,800 students; see **Table 3**).

Undergraduate enrollment declined across all institution sectors, with private for-profit four-year colleges suffering the steepest percentage drop (-11.1% or 65,500 students) and public four-year institutions losing the largest number of students (251,400 or -3.8%) compared to the previous year (Table 3). Enrollment declines at community colleges were less severe this fall (-3.4% or 161,800 students) than in 2020, but the number of associate degree-seeking students enrolled at four-year institutions fell much more steeply compared to the previous year (-11.0% at public four-year, -6.2% at private nonprofit four-year, and -11.9% at private for-profit four-year institutions). Public two-year colleges remain the hardest hit sector since the start of the pandemic (-13.2% or 706,100 students over 2019). Private nonprofit four-year undergraduate enrollment decreased by 2.2 percent or 58,700 students this fall. Public institutions (two-year and four-year combined), which enroll three out of every four undergraduates, showed a 3.1 percent decline or nearly 398,600 student losses.

Freshman enrollment stabilized this fall following a precipitous decline last year, up about 0.4% or 8,100 students (see **Table 2**). However, far from recovering from last year's drop, this fall's freshman class was 9.2 percent smaller (or 213,400 fewer students) compared to pre-pandemic levels in fall 2019. Notably, private nonprofit four-year colleges led this fall's freshmen increase (+2.9% or 11,600 students), followed by public two-year colleges (+0.4% or 3,000 students). Freshman enrollment continued to decline in other sectors this fall.

Nationally, full-time enrollment decreased by 2.9 percent or 327,300 students and part-time enrollment by 2.4 percent or 148,800 students (see **Table 4**). While full-time enrollment declined more steeply than part-time enrollment in public colleges, private colleges experienced the opposite trend.

Adult students (age 24 and older) saw the sharpest relative enrollment decline this fall (-3.4% or 210,800 students), largely driven by steep declines at four-year colleges (see **Table 5**). Traditional college-age students (18-24) declined by 2.4 percent or 254,100 students, with the sharpest declines in the public two-year college sector (-5.3% or 135,400 students). Dual enrolled high school students (under 18) increased at public two-year institutions but fell at public and private nonprofit four-year institutions (+1.5%, -6.9%, and -1.1%, respectively).



Difference from the [COVID-19 Stay Informed report](#) series

As with the previous reports, the *Fall 2021 CTEE* provides estimated postsecondary enrollment numbers based on the Clearinghouse universe of institutions, after accounting for data coverage rates. This differs from the *Stay Informed* report series that is designed to quantify the immediate effects of COVID-19 by analyzing year-over-year percentage change in unadjusted, preliminary data for fixed panels of institutions that reported data in the same month each year from fall 2019 to fall 2021. The estimated enrollment numbers presented in the CTEE report may differ from the results of the *Stay Informed* reports due to the difference in methodology and institution coverage.

This fall, larger differences appeared between the year-over-year percentage changes reported in the two series compared to the year before. These variances are primarily due to a larger number of institutions that submitted data eligible for the CTEE report—33 percent more institutions than the panel of institutions used in the *Stay Informed* report released in Nov 2021. Some of the added institutions had atypical enrollment changes from 2020 to 2021.

By state, fall enrollment dropped in all but four states (Arizona, Colorado, New Hampshire, and South Carolina). State-level enrollment trends are also shown by institution sector (see **Tables 9a** and **9b**).

Enrollment in each of the five largest undergraduate majors at four-year colleges fell steeply this year (Business, Health, Liberal Arts, Biology, and Engineering). Liberal Arts declined the most (-7.6%), while Computer Sciences and Psychology (the 6th and 7th largest majors) grew by 1.3 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively (see **Table 10**). Among largest two-year college majors, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services declined the most (-7.4%), while Computer Sciences and Engineering increased (+2.9% and +1.5%, respectively; see **Table 11**).



Figure 1. Percent Change in Total Enrollment from Previous Year by Institutional Sector: 2017 to 2021

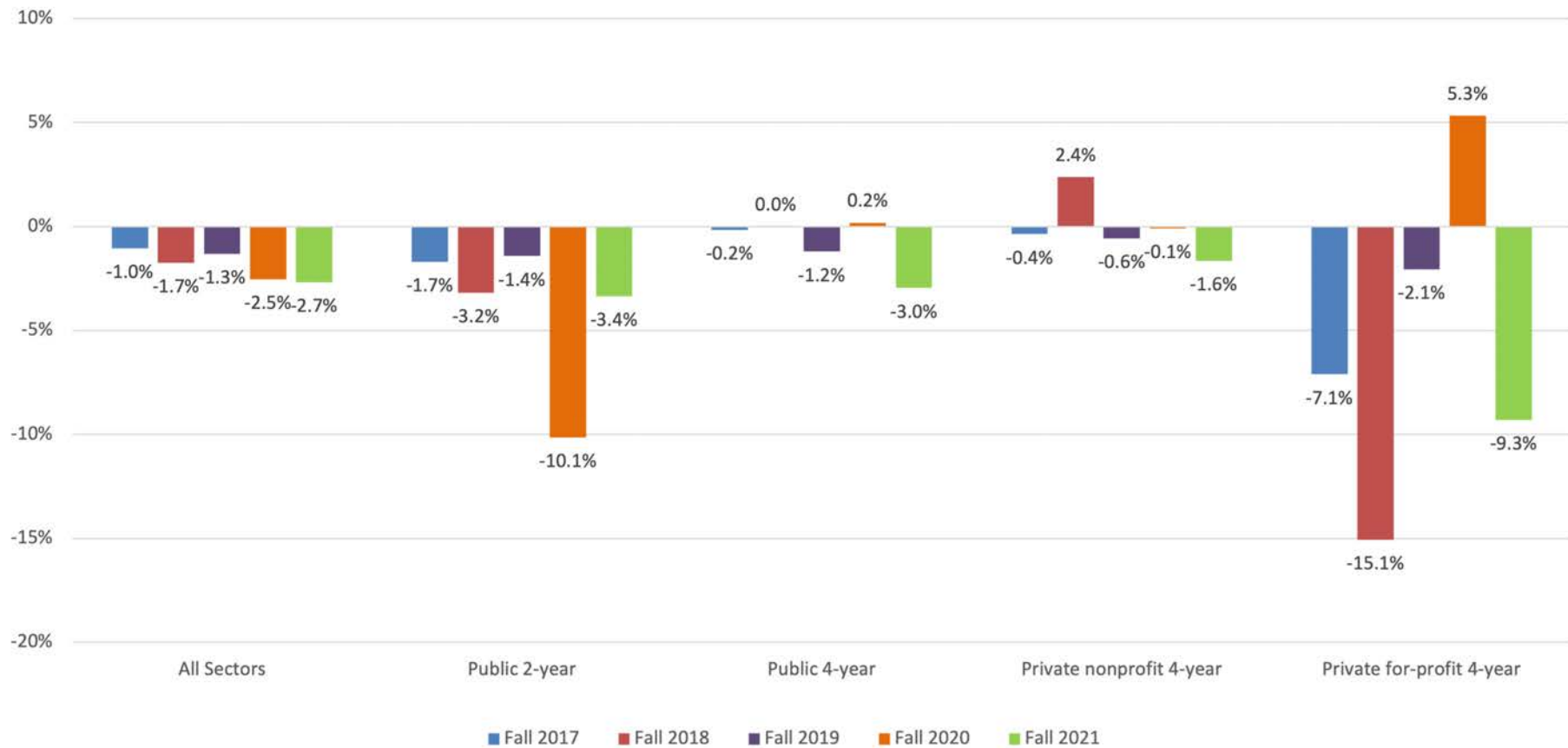




Table 1. Estimated National Enrollment by Institutional Sector: 2019 to 2021

Sector	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
Total Enrollment (All Sectors)	17,302,364	-2.7%	17,778,484	-2.5%	18,239,874	-1.3%
Public 4-year	7,767,617	-3.0%	8,004,360	0.2%	7,989,984	-1.2%
Private nonprofit 4-year	3,776,285	-1.6%	3,839,485	-0.1%	3,842,930	-0.6%
Private for-profit 4-year	716,472	-9.3%	789,888	5.3%	749,885	-2.1%
Public 2-year	4,662,364	-3.4%	4,824,204	-10.1%	5,368,470	-1.4%
Unduplicated Student Headcount (All Sectors)	17,054,375	-2.5%	17,491,813	-2.6%	17,965,287	-1.3%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 1 provides counts of total fall term enrollments (undergraduate and graduate) submitted to the Clearinghouse by November each year. Enrollments are headcounts (full-time and part-time), representing one student in one institution, and thus would count twice a student enrolled simultaneously at two institutions. The unduplicated headcount provides the number of unique students with no double-counting. This figure can be used to determine the percentage of concurrent enrollments in any given year. In each term, fewer than 2.0 percent of total enrollments can be accounted for by students enrolling in more than one institution.

Institutional classifications for the current term are based on the most recently available IPEDS institutional characteristics for control and highest credential awarded, at the time of publication. Less-than-two-year institutions have been aggregated with two-year institutions. Private nonprofit two-year and for-profit two-year enrollments are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from these sectors are included in the overall totals. Additional notes on data and coverage are included at the end of this report.



Table 2. Estimated First-Time Freshman Enrollment by Institutional Sector: 2015 to 2021

Sector	Age Group	Fall 2021		Fall 2020*		Fall 2019*		Fall 2018*		Fall 2017*		Fall 2016*		Fall 2015*
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment
All Sectors	All Ages	2,116,631	0.4%	2,108,579	-9.5%	2,330,022	-1.8%	2,372,541	-4.4%	2,481,066	-2.2%	2,537,955	-2.1%	2,592,703
	24 or Younger	1,955,529	-0.1%	1,957,665	-8.6%	2,143,023	-1.4%	2,172,855	-3.4%	2,248,636	-0.9%	2,269,512	-1.3%	2,299,438
	Over 24	161,103	6.8%	150,914	-19.3%	186,999	-6.4%	199,686	-14.1%	232,430	-13.4%	268,444	-8.5%	293,265
Public 4-year	All Ages	907,878	-0.5%	912,840	-5.3%	964,340	-2.0%	984,330	0.4%	980,177	-0.8%	988,016	-0.7%	994,912
	24 or Younger	878,208	-0.9%	885,807	-4.5%	927,723	-1.9%	945,672	-0.5%	950,363	-0.3%	953,444	-0.3%	956,695
	Over 24	29,669	9.8%	27,033	-26.2%	36,618	-5.3%	38,658	29.7%	29,814	-13.8%	34,571	-9.5%	38,217
Private nonprofit 4-year	All Ages	407,814	2.9%	396,228	-6.3%	423,064	-3.6%	438,777	1.4%	432,697	-2.4%	443,121	-1.3%	448,839
	24 or Younger	385,304	3.6%	371,912	-6.9%	399,426	-3.4%	413,562	-0.1%	413,851	-1.4%	419,931	-0.5%	421,886
	Over 24	22,510	-7.4%	24,316	2.9%	23,638	-6.3%	25,215	33.8%	18,845	-18.7%	23,190	-14.0%	26,953
Private for-profit 4-year	All Ages	35,846	-21.1%	45,446	36.6%	33,266	-1.0%	33,615	-37.2%	53,550	-9.3%	59,072	-23.2%	76,944
	24 or Younger	16,963	-22.4%	21,867	26.8%	17,245	-0.8%	17,384	-36.2%	27,239	-5.4%	28,804	-23.6%	37,687
	Over 24	18,884	-19.9%	23,579	47.2%	16,022	-1.3%	16,230	-38.3%	26,311	-13.1%	30,268	-22.9%	39,257
Public 2-year	All Ages	711,717	0.4%	708,735	-18.2%	866,286	-0.1%	866,912	-9.7%	960,165	-2.4%	984,030	-2.6%	1,010,633
	24 or Younger	626,017	-1.4%	634,931	-16.4%	759,649	0.9%	752,530	-8.3%	821,045	-0.7%	826,555	-2.0%	843,375
	Over 24	85,700	16.1%	73,804	-30.8%	106,637	-6.8%	114,382	-17.8%	139,120	-11.7%	157,474	-5.8%	167,257

* Please note that freshmen data for 2015-2020 have been revised to correct a weighting error. The current table shows the corrected most accurate data currently available. Errata have been issued for all previously published freshmen data in the earlier CTEE reports in which they appeared.



UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 2 provides counts of fall term enrollments for undergraduate students entering college for the first time. Starting with the fall of 2020, first-time students are defined as those who had no enrollment or degree and/or certificate award records at a Title IV U.S. institution prior to fall 2020, unless the previous enrollment record was before a student turned 18 years old, or *before the student graduated from high school* (dual enrollment). For years prior to 2020, counts of first-time freshman students are limited to students who had no college enrollment at age 18 or above prior to the beginning of the fall term and had not completed a college credential prior to the beginning of the fall term. The addition of high school graduation data helps to identify freshmen more accurately than age alone, but is typically only available for less than half of the most recent graduating classes and leads to relatively small changes in the results. As in the past, former dual enrollment students, first-time college students who had previously enrolled in college courses while still in high school, are included in the counts of first-time students.



Table 3. Estimated National Enrollment by Institutional Sector and Program Level: 2019 to 2021

Sector	Program Level	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Undergraduate (All)	14,441,432	-3.1%	14,906,750	-3.6%	15,467,001	-1.7%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	4,351,630	-6.2%	4,638,801	-8.4%	5,064,657	-2.8%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	8,214,854	-3.0%	8,470,450	-0.9%	8,548,717	-0.9%
	Other Undergraduate	1,874,949	4.3%	1,797,499	-3.0%	1,853,626	-2.0%
	Graduate/Professional	2,860,932	-0.4%	2,871,734	3.6%	2,772,873	0.8%
Public 4-year	Undergraduate (All)	6,344,722	-3.8%	6,596,078	-0.7%	6,644,260	-1.7%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	496,095	-11.0%	557,260	-5.9%	592,162	-6.6%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	5,449,437	-3.0%	5,618,174	-0.5%	5,648,249	-1.4%
	Other Undergraduate	399,189	-5.1%	420,644	4.2%	403,849	2.0%
	Graduate/Professional	1,422,895	1.0%	1,408,282	4.6%	1,345,724	1.2%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Undergraduate (All)	2,560,584	-2.2%	2,619,271	-1.4%	2,655,124	-1.0%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	93,203	-6.2%	99,328	-4.0%	103,520	-5.3%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	2,359,235	-1.8%	2,401,737	-1.3%	2,434,579	-0.7%
	Other Undergraduate	108,146	-8.5%	118,206	1.0%	117,025	-1.7%
	Graduate/Professional	1,215,700	-0.4%	1,220,214	2.7%	1,187,806	0.3%
Private for-profit 4-year	Undergraduate (All)	521,824	-11.1%	587,289	6.4%	551,873	-2.7%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	91,716	-11.9%	104,131	5.4%	98,768	-5.7%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	363,878	-10.9%	408,174	-0.1%	408,563	-0.4%
	Other Undergraduate	66,230	-11.7%	74,984	68.3%	44,542	-14.6%
	Graduate/Professional	194,648	-3.9%	202,599	2.3%	198,013	-0.2%
Public 2-year	Undergraduate (All)	4,662,364	-3.4%	4,824,204	-10.1%	5,368,470	-1.4%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	3,569,983	-5.5%	3,776,979	-10.0%	4,198,108	-1.5%
	Other Undergraduate	1,092,382	4.3%	1,047,225	-10.5%	1,170,362	-1.2%



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Table 3 provides enrollment counts by program level. The other *undergraduate* category includes: Undergraduate certificate/diploma, teacher preparation and special non-credential programs that have been classified by institutions as undergraduate programs, as well as enrollments that are not part of any structured program. The *graduate/professional* category includes: post-baccalaureate certificate, master's degree, doctoral degree, first-professional degree, graduate/professional certificate, and special non-credential programs that have been specifically classified by institutions as graduate-level programs.



Table 4. Estimated National Enrollment by Institutional Sector and Enrollment Intensity: 2019 to 2021

Sector	Enrollment Intensity	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Full-Time	11,146,385	-2.9%	11,473,724	-2.2%	11,734,219	-0.9%
	Part-Time	6,155,980	-2.4%	6,304,760	-3.1%	6,505,655	-2.1%
Public 4-year	Full-Time	5,710,815	-3.2%	5,902,439	-0.8%	5,947,219	-0.8%
	Part-Time	2,056,802	-2.1%	2,101,921	2.9%	2,042,764	-2.4%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Full-Time	2,978,550	-1.2%	3,015,537	-1.3%	3,056,173	-0.1%
	Part-Time	797,735	-3.2%	823,949	4.7%	786,758	-2.4%
Private for-profit 4-year	Full-Time	444,800	-8.2%	484,685	6.1%	456,846	-3.5%
	Part-Time	271,672	-11.0%	305,202	4.2%	293,039	0.3%
Public 2-year	Full-Time	1,690,677	-7.3%	1,823,674	-10.6%	2,039,841	-1.1%
	Part-Time	2,971,688	-1.0%	3,000,529	-9.9%	3,328,629	-1.6%

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Table 4 provides enrollment counts by the enrollment intensity of the student. The part-time category includes enrollments reported to the Clearinghouse as three-quarter time, half-time, and less-than-half-time. Enrollment intensity is defined by the institution and based on the earliest data submitted for a student in any given term. As a result, the intensity generally reflects the student's intended workload at the beginning of the term. Less-than-two-year institutions have been aggregated with two-year institutions. Private nonprofit two-year and for-profit two-year enrollments are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from these sectors are included in the overall totals.



Table 5. Estimated National Enrollment by Institutional Sector and Age Group: 2019 to 2021

Sector	Age Group	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Under 18	1,039,737	-1.1%	1,050,968	0.8%	1,042,526	3.4%
	18 to 24	10,339,034	-2.4%	10,593,139	-3.7%	10,999,757	-1.0%
	Over 24	5,923,593	-3.4%	6,134,378	-1.0%	6,197,591	-2.7%
Public 4-year	Under 18	298,076	-6.9%	320,102	3.3%	309,867	0.5%
	18 to 24	5,357,952	-2.6%	5,502,534	-0.7%	5,538,723	-0.7%
	Over 24	2,111,589	-3.2%	2,181,724	1.9%	2,141,394	-2.6%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Under 18	73,409	-1.1%	74,228	-3.0%	76,517	-2.0%
	18 to 24	2,201,437	-1.0%	2,223,668	-1.9%	2,266,855	-0.2%
	Over 24	1,501,438	-2.6%	1,541,590	2.8%	1,499,558	-1.1%
Private for-profit 4-year	Under 18	2,891	6.0%	2,727	12.3%	2,428	-5.1%
	18 to 24	150,938	-2.9%	155,500	10.7%	140,496	-1.3%
	Over 24	562,643	-10.9%	631,661	4.1%	606,962	-2.2%
Public 2-year	Under 18	660,776	1.5%	650,965	-0.5%	654,116	5.9%
	18 to 24	2,438,875	-5.3%	2,574,266	-11.9%	2,923,214	-1.5%
	Over 24	1,562,714	-2.3%	1,598,973	-10.7%	1,791,139	-3.7%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 5 provides enrollment counts by student age group. This table includes all fall enrollments reported to the Clearinghouse, regardless of whether the student is enrolled in a credential-seeking program. Student age is calculated as of the first day of the term (a date specific to the institution). Less-than-two-year institutions have been aggregated with two-year institutions. Private nonprofit two-year and for-profit two-year enrollments are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from these sectors are included in the overall totals. Additional notes on data and coverage are included in the report.



Table 6. Average Age of Students by Program Level, Institutional Sector, and Enrollment Intensity: 2017 to 2021

Program Level	Sector	Average Age (Years)									
		Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018		Fall 2017	
		Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Undergraduate (All)	All Sectors	22	27	22	27	22	27	22	27	22	27
	Public 4-year	21	27	21	27	21	27	21	27	21	27
	Private nonprofit 4-year	22	31	22	31	22	31	22	32	22	32
	Private for-profit 4-year	32	33	32	33	32	33	32	34	32	34
	Public 2-year	22	26	22	26	22	26	22	26	23	27
Graduate/ Professional	All Sectors	30	35	30	35	30	35	30	35	30	35
	Public 4-year	28	34	28	34	28	34	28	34	28	34
	Private nonprofit 4-year	30	35	30	35	30	35	30	35	30	35
	Private for-profit 4-year	38	39	38	39	38	39	38	39	38	39

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Table 6 provides the average age of students by program level, sector, and enrollment intensity. A student's age is determined as of the first day of his or her enrollment in the current term. The first date of enrollment can vary depending on the academic term used by the institution. The part-time category includes enrollments reported to the Clearinghouse as three-quarter time, half-time, and less-than-half-time. Enrollment intensity is defined by the institution and based on the earliest data submitted for a student in any given term.



Table 7. Average Age of Students by Program Level, Institutional Sector, and Gender: 2020 to 2021

Program Level	Sector	Fall 2021				Fall 2020			
		Men		Women		Men		Women	
		Median (yrs.)	Average (yrs.)	Median (yrs.)	Average (yrs.)	Median (yrs.)	Average (yrs.)	Median (yrs.)	Average (yrs.)
Undergraduate (All)	All Sectors	21	23	21	24	21	23	21	24
	Public 4-year	20	22	20	23	21	22	20	23
	Private nonprofit 4-year	20	23	21	24	20	23	21	24
	Private for-profit 4-year	30	32	31	33	31	32	31	32
	Public 2-year	20	24	21	25	20	24	21	25
Graduate/ Professional	All Sectors	28	31	28	32	28	31	28	32
	Public 4-year	28	31	28	31	28	30	28	31
	Private nonprofit 4-year	28	32	28	32	29	32	28	32
	Private for-profit 4-year	37	39	37	38	37	39	37	38

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 7 provides the median and average ages of students by program level, sector, and gender. There was little change in the average age of students from fall 2019 to fall 2020 (the 2019 data is not shown in the table). A student's age is determined as of the first day of his or her enrollment in the current term. The first date of enrollment can vary depending on the academic term used by the institution. Additional notes on data, coverage, and imputation of gender are included at the end of the report.



Table 8. Estimated National Enrollment by Institutional Sector, and Gender: 2019 to 2021

Sector	Gender	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Men	7,059,178	-2.2%	7,217,092	-5.1%	7,606,756	-2.0%
	Women	10,243,187	-3.0%	10,561,392	-0.7%	10,633,118	-0.8%
Public 4-year	Men	3,296,535	-3.6%	3,420,654	-1.6%	3,477,314	-2.0%
	Women	4,471,082	-2.5%	4,583,706	1.6%	4,512,670	-0.6%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Men	1,485,664	-2.3%	1,520,695	-1.0%	1,535,530	-1.2%
	Women	2,290,620	-1.2%	2,318,791	0.5%	2,307,400	-0.2%
Private for-profit 4-year	Men	239,599	-3.6%	248,600	3.2%	240,952	-4.0%
	Women	476,873	-11.9%	541,288	6.4%	508,933	-1.1%
Public 2-year	Men	1,891,359	-1.7%	1,923,969	-14.7%	2,256,354	-2.2%
	Women	2,771,005	-4.5%	2,900,235	-6.8%	3,112,115	-0.8%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 8 provides enrollment counts by gender. Institutions reported student gender to the Clearinghouse for about one-half of all students. Gender was imputed based on first name for all other students. Less-than-two-year institutions have been aggregated with two-year institutions. Private nonprofit two-year and for-profit two-year enrollments are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from these sectors are included in the overall totals. Additional notes on data, coverage, and imputation of gender are included at the end of the report.

Table 9a. Estimated Enrollment by State of Institution: 2019 to 2021

State	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
Alabama	275,700	-0.6%	277,494	-3.1%	286,421	-1.1%
Alaska	19,551	-3.4%	20,234	-9.1%	22,268	-10.6%
Arizona	465,716	1.6%	458,346	0.4%	456,543	1.8%
Arkansas	131,279	-3.8%	136,514	-5.1%	143,895	-4.9%
California	2,199,735	-4.3%	2,298,754	-6.1%	2,446,867	-0.8%
Colorado	281,579	1.1%	278,603	-3.2%	287,781	-2.2%
Connecticut	174,186	-1.9%	177,519	-3.5%	183,981	-1.6%
Delaware	50,703	-7.1%	54,577	-3.2%	56,388	0.3%
Florida	928,395	-1.8%	945,471	1.3%	933,180	-5.3%
Georgia	514,575	-1.1%	520,271	0.3%	518,826	1.5%
Hawaii	49,401	-2.0%	50,407	-0.6%	50,697	-2.6%
Idaho	98,018	-3.4%	101,446	1.2%	100,270	-0.7%
Illinois	543,628	-2.3%	556,155	-4.8%	583,960	-2.4%
Indiana	317,129	-4.0%	330,373	-3.6%	342,615	-2.0%
Iowa	174,846	-3.0%	180,201	-5.3%	190,209	-3.2%
Kansas	164,245	-3.7%	170,584	-4.5%	178,623	-3.3%
Kentucky	241,099	-2.1%	246,329	1.2%	243,299	1.5%
Louisiana	218,739	-0.8%	220,529	-2.4%	225,868	0.6%
Maine	59,309	-4.6%	62,186	-1.7%	63,259	-1.7%
Maryland	319,069	-5.0%	336,038	0.5%	334,442	-1.0%
Massachusetts	396,236	-3.6%	411,052	-4.0%	427,958	-1.3%
Michigan	430,017	-1.7%	437,480	-9.2%	482,058	-2.9%
Minnesota	338,183	-2.1%	345,450	-0.5%	347,114	-2.2%
Mississippi*	148,561	-3.2%	153,428	-6.4%	163,966	0.3%
Missouri	298,402	-3.9%	310,414	-4.0%	323,361	-4.4%
Montana	42,719	-1.7%	43,460	-4.5%	45,492	-2.4%
Nebraska	127,210	-1.2%	128,694	1.2%	127,113	0.4%
Nevada	103,746	-2.3%	106,158	-3.8%	110,348	0.3%
New Hampshire	198,988	9.3%	182,020	15.8%	157,248	3.4%
New Jersey	339,232	-5.4%	358,630	-4.2%	374,348	-1.4%
New Mexico	94,334	-5.6%	99,900	-9.5%	110,427	-1.3%
New York	949,456	-5.2%	1,001,361	-4.1%	1,044,388	-1.8%
North Carolina	508,274	-1.2%	514,671	-1.9%	524,679	0.6%
North Dakota	47,091	-1.9%	48,008	-2.0%	48,966	-0.7%
Ohio*	529,239	-4.9%	556,354	-6.3%	593,527	-0.9%
Oklahoma	170,291	-4.0%	177,360	-0.6%	178,411	-2.2%
Oregon	173,878	-4.9%	182,820	-7.9%	198,518	-2.7%
Pennsylvania	598,437	-3.4%	619,699	-3.1%	639,366	-2.3%
Rhode Island	63,921	-1.0%	64,596	-6.0%	68,739	0.3%
South Carolina	226,167	1.1%	223,796	-2.8%	230,256	0.1%
South Dakota	43,210	-3.1%	44,592	-3.1%	46,019	-2.0%
Tennessee	286,287	-0.9%	288,999	-5.0%	304,279	0.6%
Texas	1,428,231	-2.1%	1,459,543	-2.1%	1,490,953	0.3%
Utah	378,964	0.0%	378,855	4.8%	361,652	4.9%
Vermont	34,954	-6.6%	37,424	-2.0%	38,207	-4.4%
Virginia	490,883	-1.2%	496,911	2.8%	483,606	-0.5%
Washington*	261,315	-10.6%	292,382	-7.0%	314,380	-0.8%
West Virginia	133,296	-4.5%	139,521	1.3%	137,665	-2.1%
Wisconsin	274,494	-2.7%	282,038	-4.5%	295,341	-3.0%
Wyoming	25,727	-6.1%	27,412	-0.8%	27,644	-4.4%
Multi-State Institutions	601,006	-9.6%	665,119	1.7%	653,948	-2.0%

*Large declines between 2019 and 2020 are due to a single institution with relatively large enrollments that has not submitted data as of 11/19/2020.

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Table 9a provides enrollment counts by the state where the institution is located. Institutions that span multiple states have been included in a separate line called “multi-state institutions.” Enrollments for these institutions are not included in any of the other state-level totals.

Table 10. Estimated Undergraduate Enrollment by Major at Four-Year Institutions: 2019 to 2021

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Title	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
52	Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support	1,513,307	-3.6%	1,569,669	-0.7%	1,580,972	-2.1%
51	Health Professions and Related Programs	1,063,304	-4.8%	1,116,965	1.4%	1,101,730	-2.1%
24	Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities (includes undeclared)	964,427	-7.6%	1,043,201	-6.2%	1,112,378	-7.1%
26	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	594,879	-4.2%	620,920	0.1%	620,429	-0.9%
14	Engineering	562,129	-3.6%	583,208	-2.0%	595,142	-1.6%
11	Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	507,492	1.3%	501,205	5.6%	474,573	4.5%
42	Psychology	504,552	2.5%	492,305	6.9%	460,602	3.8%
13	Education	451,320	-3.2%	466,227	2.2%	456,274	-2.3%
50	Visual and Performing Arts	401,352	1.1%	396,891	-2.2%	405,682	1.3%
45	Social Sciences	398,495	-4.4%	416,890	-1.6%	423,552	-1.6%
09	Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	273,086	-8.3%	297,878	-4.6%	312,373	-2.1%
43	Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services	262,838	-7.9%	285,250	-0.3%	285,989	-1.3%
30	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	232,599	0.0%	232,684	-0.8%	234,609	-2.0%
31	Parks, Recreation, Leisure and Fitness Studies	226,650	-3.2%	234,117	1.2%	231,375	-1.9%
44	Public Administration and Social Service Professions	125,063	-5.9%	132,871	-0.2%	133,117	-2.4%
40	Physical Sciences	121,222	-7.2%	130,557	-5.2%	137,675	-4.6%
23	English Language and Literature/Letters	112,682	-6.2%	120,097	-7.3%	129,606	-5.0%
01	Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	96,517	7.3%	89,968	-1.7%	91,498	-1.9%
15	Engineering Technologies and Engineering-Related Fields	95,629	-5.0%	100,675	-3.9%	104,749	-1.9%
03	Natural Resources and Conservation	83,193	0.5%	82,773	0.5%	82,333	2.0%
27	Mathematics and Statistics	80,984	-5.6%	85,805	-2.9%	88,371	-1.2%
54	History	77,937	-2.9%	80,240	-1.9%	81,831	-2.4%
19	Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	77,159	-10.4%	86,121	-5.7%	91,361	-3.0%
16	Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	51,188	4.3%	49,068	-8.5%	53,651	-3.7%
04	Architecture and Related Services	47,426	3.1%	45,992	3.1%	44,589	3.3%
49	Transportation and Materials Moving	34,438	-2.0%	35,133	6.9%	32,860	9.4%
38	Philosophy and Religious Studies	30,056	2.4%	29,361	-5.4%	31,029	-3.7%
39	Theology and Religious Vocations	24,885	-3.9%	25,890	-2.3%	26,500	-9.1%
10	Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	24,340	18.7%	20,500	-4.7%	21,506	7.8%
22	Legal Professions and Studies	23,579	-5.8%	25,019	5.4%	23,735	-1.4%
05	Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	22,807	0.0%	22,808	-7.5%	24,646	2.1%
12	Personal and Culinary Services	17,193	7.0%	16,076	6.4%	15,111	-6.6%
47	Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	13,743	-5.7%	14,575	-1.8%	14,841	-5.1%
46	Construction Trades	6,876	-16.3%	8,215	-4.3%	8,583	-0.6%
41	Science Technologies/Technicians	6,225	-14.7%	7,295	-14.0%	8,479	-2.6%
48	Precision Production	4,665	-1.3%	4,728	-16.0%	5,627	7.5%

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Table 10 provides college enrollment totals disaggregated by Classification of Instructional Program Family codes. The table excludes the following CIP family codes, each of which had total enrollments of less than 5,000: 25 (Library Science), 28 (Military Science, Leadership, and Operational Art), 29 (Military Technologies and Applied Sciences), 32 (Basic Skills and Developmental/Remedial Education), 33 (Citizenship Activities), 34 (Health-Related Knowledge and Skills), 35 (Interpersonal and Social Skills), 36 (Leisure and Recreational Activities), 37 (Personal Awareness and Self-Improvement), 53 (High School/Secondary Diplomas and Certificates), 60 (Residency Programs).

Table 11. Estimated Undergraduate Enrollment by Major at Two-Year Institutions: 2019 to 2021

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Family Title	Fall 2021		Fall 2020		Fall 2019	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
24	Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities (includes undeclared)	1,472,937	-5.0%	1,550,498	-11.9%	1,759,898	-4.4%
51	Health Professions and Related Programs	785,020	-2.2%	802,489	-2.3%	821,100	-2.5%
52	Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support	516,031	-0.6%	518,941	-9.2%	571,303	-2.9%
11	Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	217,705	2.9%	211,488	-4.2%	220,669	1.0%
43	Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services	150,032	-7.4%	162,080	-14.7%	190,019	-4.1%
50	Visual and Performing Arts	129,780	0.6%	128,999	-14.2%	150,357	0.7%
30	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	113,134	-2.1%	115,600	-12.6%	132,243	-3.2%
26	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	107,272	-5.6%	113,581	-1.2%	115,017	3.7%
15	Engineering Technologies and Engineering-Related Fields	101,041	1.5%	99,590	-14.5%	116,467	-2.8%
13	Education	99,549	-3.5%	103,121	-6.7%	110,516	-2.2%
42	Psychology	98,567	1.6%	97,024	4.4%	92,936	7.8%
47	Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	97,587	7.0%	91,201	-15.9%	108,490	1.4%
19	Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	74,369	-3.0%	76,707	-11.6%	86,793	-5.2%
14	Engineering	72,282	-3.6%	75,018	-9.3%	82,727	-1.6%
46	Construction Trades	64,051	17.5%	54,496	-10.9%	61,180	8.6%
45	Social Sciences	63,228	-7.4%	68,274	-9.8%	75,663	-2.2%
12	Personal and Culinary Services	56,396	6.2%	53,116	-17.2%	64,179	-2.1%
48	Precision Production	52,958	9.9%	48,204	-18.4%	59,038	1.8%
31	Parks, Recreation, Leisure and Fitness Studies	43,694	-4.6%	45,816	-6.7%	49,106	1.6%
01	Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	40,513	40.8%	28,777	-2.2%	29,438	-6.5%
09	Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	37,400	-9.3%	41,225	-11.6%	46,647	-0.4%
44	Public Administration and Social Service Professions	31,710	-2.3%	32,470	-5.4%	34,324	-4.2%
40	Physical Sciences	26,556	-17.5%	32,191	-17.3%	38,933	-4.6%
22	Legal Professions and Studies	26,555	1.2%	26,237	-2.4%	26,896	1.9%
10	Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	26,307	-1.0%	26,572	-16.2%	31,725	2.6%
23	English Language and Literature/Letters	22,600	-8.3%	24,640	-14.3%	28,760	-4.8%
41	Science Technologies/Technicians	22,104	-2.7%	22,715	-2.6%	23,331	24.3%
16	Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	17,079	-4.6%	17,905	-5.0%	18,849	-4.7%
27	Mathematics and Statistics	16,724	-12.6%	19,146	-8.5%	20,934	1.5%
54	History	11,248	-2.2%	11,498	-3.9%	11,971	-2.5%
03	Natural Resources and Conservation	9,615	0.4%	9,572	-2.0%	9,765	1.0%
49	Transportation and Materials Moving	9,739	13.7%	8,565	-10.8%	9,603	-0.5%
32	Basic Skills and Developmental/Remedial Education	8,780	15.3%	7,613	-37.0%	12,084	-0.4%
04	Architecture and Related Services	7,604	5.8%	7,190	-1.7%	7,316	6.1%

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Table 11 provides college enrollment totals disaggregated by Classification of Instructional Program Family codes. The table excludes the following CIP family codes, each of which had total enrollments of less than 5,000: 05 (Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies), 25 (Library Science), 28 (Military Science, Leadership, and Operational Art), 29 (Military Technologies and Applied Sciences), 33 (Citizenship Activities), 34 (Health-Related Knowledge and Skills), 35 (Interpersonal and Social Skills), 36 (Leisure and Recreational Activities), 37 (Personal Awareness and Self-Improvement), 38 (Philosophy and Religious Studies), 39 (Theology and Religious Vocations), 53 (High School/Secondary Diplomas and Certificates), 60 (Residency Programs).



Methodological Notes

National Coverage of the Data

As of fall 2019, institutions actively submitting enrollment data to the Clearinghouse account for 97 percent of all enrollments at Title IV, degree-granting institutions in the U.S. Because Clearinghouse participation grew over the period covered by this report, and because coverage of institutions (i.e., percentage of all institutions participating in the Clearinghouse) is not 100 percent for any individual year, weights were applied by institutional sector and state to better approximate enrollments at all institutions nationally. Using the IPEDS Title IV, degree-granting institutions as the base study population, weights for each institution type and state were calculated using the inverse of the rate of enrollment coverage for that sector or state in the relevant year. Given the unavailability of fall 2020 IPEDS enrollments at the time of publication, fall 2019 IPEDS enrollments were used as the basis for calculating the Clearinghouse coverage rates. For detailed statistics on enrollment coverage, as well as other aspects of Clearinghouse data, view [“Working With Our Data.”](#)

Differences from IPEDS Data

National Student Clearinghouse data are non-adjudicated, administrative data that come directly from college and university registrars. The data differ from IPEDS survey data in several important ways:

1. Term definition: Most institutions use an October 15 census date when counting fall enrollments for IPEDS, but institutions have some flexibility in determining whether a given term should be counted as a fall term. For Clearinghouse reporting, institutions provide the start- and end-dates for each enrollment, rather than formally designating fall or spring terms. Fall terms included in the Current Term Enrollment Estimates are those that:

- a) began between August 15 and October 31, inclusive or
- b) ended between September 15 and November 30, inclusive or
- c) began before August 15 AND ended after November 30.

2. Degree-granting status: When referencing IPEDS enrollment counts, it is important to distinguish counts limited to degree-granting institutions from those that also include non-degree-granting institutions. NCES publishes both of these counts in IPEDS First-Look Reports. The Clearinghouse counts in this report are limited to Title IV, degree-granting institutions.

3. Enrollment status changes: Institutions submit data to the Clearinghouse throughout a given term, capturing changes in enrollment status from one submission to the next. The counts in this report include all students whose institution submitted at least one enrollment record showing the student enrolled as either full time, three-quarters time, half time, or less than half time during the term. For IPEDS reporting, an institution generally counts a student according to the student's enrollment status as of the institution's IPEDS census date.



4. International students: As the Clearinghouse continues to enhance its data collections to better support the needs of the education community, enrollment records for international students are starting to become more complete than in past years. Because this is a recent development, in order to ensure consistent year-to-year comparisons, international students have been excluded from this report. In recent years, IPEDS enrollments in the nonresident alien category have accounted for nearly five percent of all IPEDS enrollments.

Gender Imputation

Institutions reported student gender to the Clearinghouse for about one-half of all students included in this report. The genders for the remaining students were imputed using a table of name-gender pairs that the Research Center developed using data publicly available from the Census Bureau and the Social Security Administration as well as the institution-reported data. The imputation used only those pairs in which the name had at least two instances and was associated with a single-gender in at least 95 percent of the instances. The imputation is accurate in 99.6 percent of the cases where gender was reported by institutions. A detailed document describing this approach resides on the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center's ["Working With Our Data"](#) page.

First-Time Freshman Students

Starting with the fall of 2020, first-time students are defined as those who had no enrollment or degree and/or certificate award records at a Title IV U.S. institution prior to fall 2020, unless the previous enrollment record was before a student turned 18 years old, *or before the student graduated from high school* (dual enrollment). For years prior to 2020, counts of first-time freshman students are limited to students who had no college enrollment at age 18 or above prior to the beginning of the applicable fall term and had not completed a college credential prior to the beginning of the same fall term. The addition of high school graduation data helps to identify freshmen more accurately than age alone but is typically only available for less than half of the most recent high school graduating classes and leads to relatively small changes in the results.