

CURRENT

# Term Enrollment ESTIMATES

FALL 2020



National Student Clearinghouse™  
Research Center<sup>SM</sup>

*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 2018, 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.

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

As with the previous reports, the *Fall 2020 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 2018 to fall 2020. 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.

## Overview : Fall 2020 Enrollment Estimates

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Overall postsecondary enrollments declined 2.5 percent in fall 2020, nearly twice the rate of enrollment decline reported in fall 2019 (see **Figure 1** for historical enrollment trends). Undergraduate enrollment was the primary driver for this decline, decreasing 3.6 percent or over 560,200 students from 2019 (see **Table 3**).

Most notable is the public two-year sector, which suffered the most from enrollment decline this fall while all other major institutional sectors had more positive enrollment outcomes than they did last fall. In a bright spot for fall 2020, graduate enrollment increased by over 98,800 students, or 3.6 percent from the previous fall (see Table 3). Graduate enrollment increases were evident across all institutional sectors, with the largest increase seen at public four-year institutions (over 62,500 students, 4.6% increase).

Public two-year institutions, in line with what we have documented throughout this fall, recorded enrollment losses of over 544,200 students or 10.1% over last year. Private nonprofit four-year institutions also saw slight declines, though not to the same magnitude of public two-year colleges (over 3,400 students, 0.1% decrease). In contrast, public four-year institutions' enrollment increased 0.2 percent (an additional 14,300 students) from last fall, driven by the growth in graduate enrollment (over 62,500 students) and undergraduate-level certificate or other non-degree program enrollments (nearly 17,000 students; see Table 3). Meanwhile, private for-profit four-year institutions grew by 5.3 percent over last year and was the only sector to demonstrate enrollment growth at both the undergraduate and graduate levels (see Table 3). This sector accounts for a small share of postsecondary enrollment (4.4%).

Public college enrollment (two-year and four-year combined), which enrolls 7 out of 10 postsecondary students, declined by 4 percent or nearly 530,000 students this fall, mainly due to decreases at public two-year institutions.

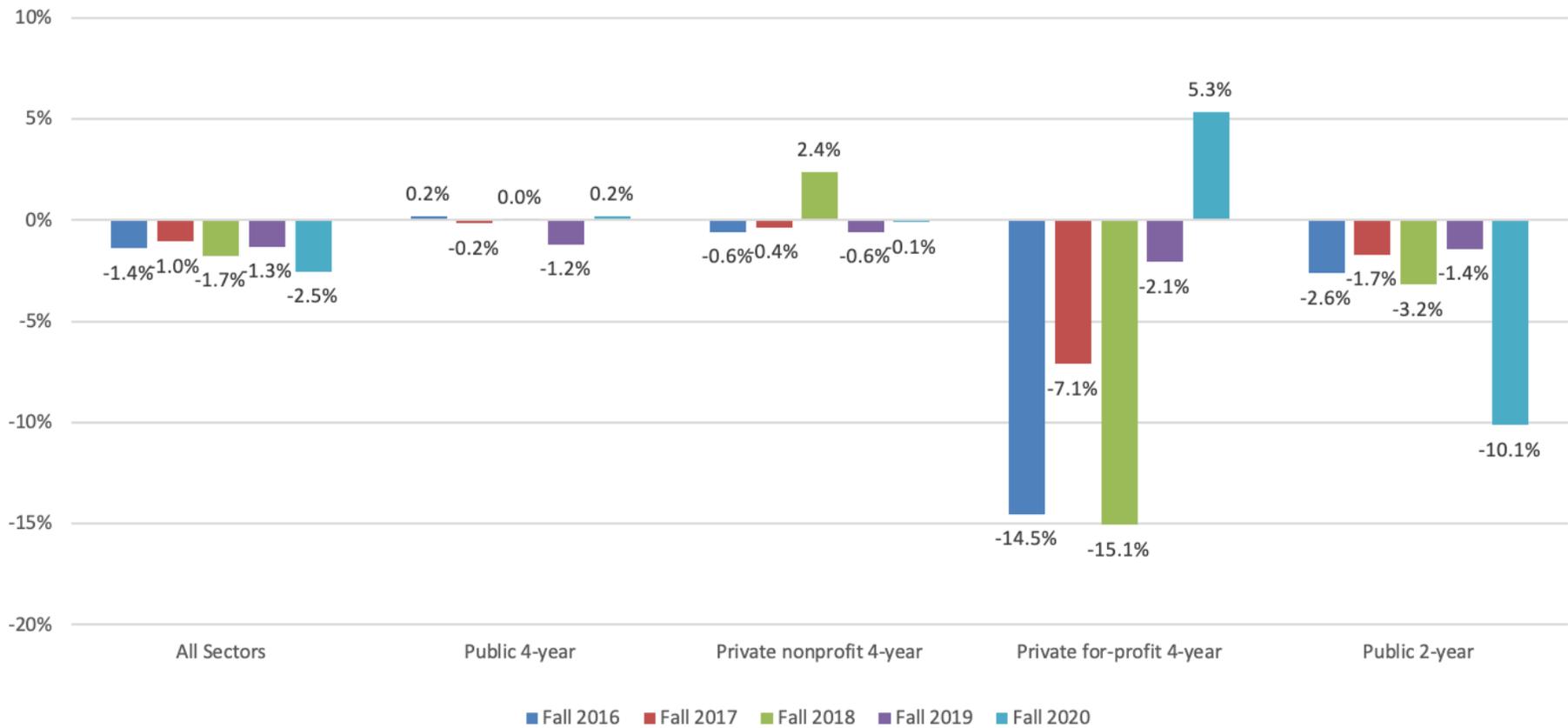
The first-time student enrollment decline of 13.1 percent (or over 327,500 students) over last fall is unprecedented (see **Table 2**). Sharp declines at public two-year institutions (over 207,200 students, 21% decrease) contributed the most to the decline, falling at a rate almost 20 times higher than the prior year's decline (pre-pandemic). Private nonprofit four-year colleges also saw double-digit declines (over 45,500 students, 10.5% decrease), followed by public four-year institutions (over 81,600 students, 8.1% decrease). While private for-profit institutions showed an increase in first time enrollment (9.5%), the added enrollment counts are small (3,178 students).

Unlike in spring 2020, when dual enrollments grew 6.9 percent from the previous year, this fall's growth rate fell to 0.8% or 8,400 dual enrollees (see **Table 5**). Public two-year institutions still enrolled most dual enrollees (61.9%), but this proportion is 0.8 percentage points below last year's share. Public four-year institutions made the most gains in dual enrollments (over 10,200 students, +3.3% increase), and now comprise 30.5 percent of all dual enrollments in fall 2020.

Sharp declines in public two-year colleges are linked to corresponding drops in popular major fields in this sector (see **Table 11**). The largest enrollment decline occurred in Liberal Arts/General Studies (209,400 students, 11.9% decrease), followed by Business/Management (over 52,300 students, 9.2% decrease). Health Professions/Related majors fell only slightly over last year (approximately 18,600 students, 2.3% decrease).



**Figure 1.** Percent Change in Enrollment from Previous Year by Institutional Sector: 2016 to 2020





**Table 1.** Estimated National Enrollment by Institutional Sector: 2018 to 2020

Sector	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
Total Enrollment (All Sectors)	17,778,484	-2.5%	18,239,874	-1.3%	18,482,391	-1.7%
Public 4-year	8,004,360	0.2%	7,989,984	-1.2%	8,087,410	0.0%
Private nonprofit 4-year	3,839,485	-0.1%	3,842,930	-0.6%	3,864,957	2.4%
Private for-profit 4-year	789,888	5.3%	749,885	-2.1%	765,596	-15.1%
Public 2-year	4,824,204	-10.1%	5,368,470	-1.4%	5,445,562	-3.2%
<b>Unduplicated Student Headcount (All Sectors)</b>	<b>17,491,813</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>	<b>17,965,287</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>18,196,846</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>

## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Table 1** provides counts of fall term enrollments submitted to the Clearinghouse by November 19th. Enrollments represent 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 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 Postsecondary Student Enrollment by Institutional Sector: 2018 to 2020

Sector	Age Group	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	All Ages	2,174,518	-13.1%	2,502,031	-1.4%	2,538,767	-4.3%
	24 or Younger	2,034,145	-11.6%	2,301,227	-1.0%	2,325,090	-3.2%
	Over 24	140,374	-30.1%	200,804	-6.0%	213,677	-14.8%
Public 4-year	All Ages	929,878	-8.1%	1,011,568	-1.9%	1,031,459	0.6%
	24 or Younger	904,776	-7.0%	973,157	-1.8%	990,950	-0.4%
	Over 24	25,103	-34.6%	38,411	-5.2%	40,509	29.8%
Private nonprofit 4-year	All Ages	390,007	-10.5%	435,544	-3.6%	451,910	1.3%
	24 or Younger	369,812	-10.1%	411,209	-3.5%	425,940	-0.2%
	Over 24	20,195	-17.0%	24,335	-6.3%	25,970	33.6%
Private for-profit 4-year	All Ages	36,598	9.5%	33,420	-1.0%	33,773	-37.2%
	24 or Younger	18,363	6.0%	17,324	-0.8%	17,466	-36.2%
	Over 24	18,235	13.3%	16,096	-1.3%	16,307	-38.3%
Public 2-year	All Ages	779,328	-21.0%	986,623	0.9%	977,911	-8.7%
	24 or Younger	702,453	-18.8%	865,173	1.9%	848,884	-7.3%
	Over 24	76,875	-36.7%	121,450	-5.9%	129,027	-16.9%

## 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 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. Although this enhancement to the methodology (see italicized) helps identify the freshman enrollment more accurately, our analysis found little change to the results. As in the past, former dual enrollment students, first-time college students who had enrolled in college courses while still in high school, are included in the counts of first-time students for a fall term.



**Table 3.** Estimated National Enrollment by Institutional Sector and Program Level: 2018 to 2020

Sector	Program Level	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Undergraduate (All)	14,906,750	-3.6%	15,467,001	-1.7%	15,730,458	-2.1%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	4,638,801	-8.4%	5,064,657	-2.8%	5,212,591	-2.0%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	8,470,450	-0.9%	8,548,717	-0.9%	8,626,366	-2.1%
	Other Undergraduate	1,797,499	-3.0%	1,853,626	-2.0%	1,891,501	-2.5%
	Graduate/Professional	2,871,734	3.6%	2,772,873	0.8%	2,751,933	0.5%
Public 4-year	Undergraduate (All)	6,596,078	-0.7%	6,644,260	-1.7%	6,757,862	-0.3%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	557,260	-5.9%	592,162	-6.6%	633,749	-1.6%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	5,618,174	-0.5%	5,648,249	-1.4%	5,728,062	0.1%
	Other Undergraduate	420,644	4.2%	403,849	2.0%	396,050	-3.0%
	Graduate/Professional	1,408,282	4.6%	1,345,724	1.2%	1,329,548	1.5%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Undergraduate (All)	2,619,271	-1.4%	2,655,124	-1.0%	2,680,946	1.0%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	99,328	-4.0%	103,520	-5.3%	109,344	-5.3%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	2,401,737	-1.3%	2,434,579	-0.7%	2,452,567	1.9%
	Other Undergraduate	118,206	1.0%	117,025	-1.7%	119,036	-8.4%
	Graduate/Professional	1,220,214	2.7%	1,187,806	0.3%	1,184,010	5.5%
Private for-profit 4-year	Undergraduate (All)	587,289	6.4%	551,873	-2.7%	567,162	-12.2%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	104,131	5.4%	98,768	-5.7%	104,751	-5.0%
	Bachelor's Degree-Seeking	408,174	-0.1%	408,563	-0.4%	410,267	-16.1%
	Other Undergraduate	74,984	68.3%	44,542	-14.6%	52,144	12.2%
	Graduate/Professional	202,599	2.3%	198,013	-0.2%	198,434	-22.3%
Public 2-year	Undergraduate (All)	4,824,204	-10.1%	5,368,470	-1.4%	5,445,562	-3.2%
	Associate Degree-Seeking	3,776,979	-10.0%	4,198,108	-1.5%	4,261,054	-1.8%
	Other Undergraduate	1,047,225	-10.5%	1,170,362	-1.2%	1,184,509	-7.7%



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## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**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: 2018 to 2020

Sector	Enrollment Intensity	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Full-Time	11,473,724	-2.2%	11,734,219	-0.9%	11,839,952	-1.1%
	Part-Time	6,304,760	-3.1%	6,505,655	-2.1%	6,642,439	-2.9%
Public 4-year	Full-Time	5,902,439	-0.8%	5,947,219	-0.8%	5,994,271	0.4%
	Part-Time	2,101,921	2.9%	2,042,764	-2.4%	2,093,139	-1.1%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Full-Time	3,015,537	-1.3%	3,056,173	-0.1%	3,058,708	3.2%
	Part-Time	823,949	4.7%	786,758	-2.4%	806,249	-0.8%
Private for-profit 4-year	Full-Time	484,685	6.1%	456,846	-3.5%	473,293	-16.5%
	Part-Time	305,202	4.2%	293,039	0.3%	292,303	-12.6%
Public 2-year	Full-Time	1,823,674	-10.6%	2,039,841	-1.1%	2,063,308	-4.7%
	Part-Time	3,000,529	-9.9%	3,328,629	-1.6%	3,382,254	-2.2%

## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**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: 2018 to 2020

Sector	Age Group	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Under 18	1,050,968	0.8%	1,042,526	3.4%	1,008,261	2.3%
	18 to 24	10,593,139	-3.7%	10,999,757	-1.0%	11,105,568	-2.5%
	Over 24	6,134,378	-1.0%	6,197,591	-2.7%	6,368,562	-1.0%
Public 4-year	Under 18	320,102	3.3%	309,867	0.5%	308,430	3.0%
	18 to 24	5,502,534	-0.7%	5,538,723	-0.7%	5,580,066	0.2%
	Over 24	2,181,724	1.9%	2,141,394	-2.6%	2,198,914	-0.8%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Under 18	74,228	-3.0%	76,517	-2.0%	78,078	-2.8%
	18 to 24	2,223,668	-1.9%	2,266,855	-0.2%	2,270,647	0.9%
	Over 24	1,541,590	2.8%	1,499,558	-1.1%	1,516,233	5.0%
Private for-profit 4-year	Under 18	2,727	12.3%	2,428	-5.1%	2,558	-9.1%
	18 to 24	155,500	10.7%	140,496	-1.3%	142,389	-12.0%
	Over 24	631,661	4.1%	606,962	-2.2%	620,648	-15.8%
Public 2-year	Under 18	650,965	-0.5%	654,116	5.9%	617,456	5.9%
	18 to 24	2,574,266	-11.9%	2,923,214	-1.5%	2,968,717	-4.7%
		1,598,973	-10.7%	1,791,139	-3.7%	1,859,389	-3.5%

## 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: 2016 to 2020

Program Level	Sector	Average Age (Years)									
		Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018		Fall 2017		Fall 2016	
		Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Undergraduate (All)	All Sectors	21.9	26.8	21.8	27.2	21.9	27.3	22.0	27.5	22.1	27.6
	Public 4-year	21.0	26.7	21.0	27.1	21.0	27.2	21.1	27.2	21.1	27.3
	Private nonprofit 4-year	22.1	31.2	22.0	31.4	22.0	31.7	21.8	31.7	21.8	31.7
	Private for-profit 4-year	31.8	33.2	31.8	33.5	31.7	33.7	31.6	33.7	32.2	33.6
	Public 2-year	22.4	25.8	22.3	26.3	22.5	26.5	22.5	26.6	22.8	26.8
Graduate/ Professional	All Sectors	29.7	34.8	29.7	34.9	29.7	34.8	29.7	34.8	29.7	34.8
	Public 4-year	28.3	34.0	28.2	34.0	28.2	34.0	28.2	33.9	28.1	34.0
	Private nonprofit 4-year	30.1	35.3	30.1	35.3	30.1	35.2	29.6	35.1	29.6	35.1
	Private for-profit 4-year	38.0	39.2	38.1	39.4	38.2	39.3	38.4	39.3	38.6	39.0

## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**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: 2019 to 2020

Program Level	Sector	Fall 2020				Fall 2019			
		Men		Women		Men		Women	
		Median (yrs.)	Average (yrs.)						
Undergraduate (All)	All Sectors	21	23.2	21	24.1	21	23.3	21	24.2
	Public 4-year	21	22.2	20	22.5	21	22.2	20	22.6
	Private nonprofit 4-year	20	23.2	21	24.0	20	23.1	20	23.9
	Private for-profit 4-year	31	32.3	31	32.5	31	32.4	31	32.6
	Public 2-year	20	23.7	21	25.1	20	24.1	21	25.4
Graduate/ Professional	All Sectors	28	31.4	28	31.8	28	31.4	28	31.8
	Public 4-year	28	30.5	28	30.7	28	30.5	28	30.7
	Private nonprofit 4-year	29	31.7	28	31.9	28	31.6	28	31.9
	Private for-profit 4-year	37	38.9	37	38.3	38	39.2	37	38.3

## 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 2018 to fall 2019 (the 2018 data 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: 2018 to 2020

Sector	Gender	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
All Sectors	Men	7,217,092	-5.1%	7,606,756	-2.0%	7,765,697	-3.2%
	Women	10,561,392	-0.7%	10,633,118	-0.8%	10,716,694	-0.7%
Public 4-year	Men	3,420,654	-1.6%	3,477,314	-2.0%	3,547,455	-1.1%
	Women	4,583,706	1.6%	4,512,670	-0.6%	4,539,955	0.9%
Private nonprofit 4-year	Men	1,520,695	-1.0%	1,535,530	-1.2%	1,553,477	0.7%
	Women	2,318,791	0.5%	2,307,400	-0.2%	2,311,480	3.5%
Private for-profit 4-year	Men	248,600	3.2%	240,952	-4.0%	251,076	-15.6%
	Women	541,288	6.4%	508,933	-1.1%	514,520	-14.8%
Public 2-year	Men	1,923,969	-14.7%	2,256,354	-2.2%	2,307,301	-4.6%
	Women	2,900,235	-6.8%	3,112,115	-0.8%	3,138,262	-2.1%

## 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 in the report.



**Table 9.** Estimated Enrollment by State of Institution: 2018 to 2020

State	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
Alabama	277,494	-3.1%	286,421	-1.1%	289,738	-0.3%
Alaska	20,234	-9.1%	22,268	-10.6%	24,910	-4.1%
Arizona	458,346	0.4%	456,543	1.8%	448,323	-0.7%
Arkansas	136,514	-5.1%	143,895	-4.9%	151,238	-2.4%
California	2,298,754	-6.1%	2,446,867	-0.8%	2,466,138	-2.0%
Colorado	278,603	-3.2%	287,781	-2.2%	294,234	0.8%
Connecticut	177,519	-3.5%	183,981	-1.6%	187,010	-0.1%
Delaware	54,577	-3.2%	56,388	0.3%	56,196	0.5%
District of Columbia	72,763	2.9%	70,717	-4.2%	73,813	-0.2%
Florida	945,471	1.3%	933,180	-5.3%	985,508	-1.7%
Georgia	520,271	0.3%	518,826	1.5%	511,152	3.9%
Hawaii	50,407	-0.6%	50,697	-2.6%	52,043	-1.7%
Idaho	101,446	1.2%	100,270	-0.7%	100,937	0.1%
Illinois	556,155	-4.8%	583,960	-2.4%	598,316	-3.0%
Indiana	330,373	-3.6%	342,615	-2.0%	349,547	1.3%
Iowa	180,201	-5.3%	190,209	-3.2%	196,511	-2.5%
Kansas	170,584	-4.5%	178,623	-3.3%	184,721	-1.1%
Kentucky	246,329	1.2%	243,299	1.5%	239,774	0.4%
Louisiana	220,529	-2.4%	225,868	0.6%	224,534	0.9%
Maine	62,186	-1.7%	63,259	-1.7%	64,383	-1.5%
Maryland	336,038	0.5%	334,442	-1.0%	337,683	-2.5%
Massachusetts	411,052	-4.0%	427,958	-1.3%	433,745	-2.5%
Michigan	437,480	-9.2%	482,058	-2.9%	496,668	-3.8%



**Table 9.** Estimated Enrollment by State of Institution: 2018 to 2020 (continued)

State	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
Minnesota	345,450	-0.5%	347,114	-2.2%	354,820	-2.1%
Mississippi*	153,428	-6.4%	163,966	0.3%	163,428	-1.6%
Missouri	310,414	-4.0%	323,361	-4.4%	338,230	-2.6%
Montana	43,460	-4.5%	45,492	-2.4%	46,610	-2.5%
Nebraska	128,694	1.2%	127,113	0.4%	126,561	-0.8%
Nevada	106,158	-3.8%	110,348	0.3%	109,995	-0.1%
New Hampshire	182,020	15.8%	157,248	3.4%	152,065	2.9%
New Jersey	358,630	-4.2%	374,348	-1.4%	379,812	-1.0%
New Mexico	99,900	-9.5%	110,427	-1.3%	111,916	-3.3%
New York	1,001,361	-4.1%	1,044,388	-1.8%	1,063,775	-2.6%
North Carolina	514,671	-1.9%	524,679	0.6%	521,522	-0.2%
North Dakota	48,008	-2.0%	48,966	-0.7%	49,329	-3.4%
Ohio*	556,354	-6.3%	593,527	-0.9%	599,111	-0.6%
Oklahoma	177,360	-0.6%	178,411	-2.2%	182,507	-2.7%
Oregon	182,820	-7.9%	198,518	-2.7%	204,007	-3.4%
Pennsylvania	619,699	-3.1%	639,366	-2.3%	654,165	-4.2%
Rhode Island	64,596	-6.0%	68,739	0.3%	68,503	-1.5%
South Carolina	223,796	-2.8%	230,256	0.1%	229,940	-2.9%
South Dakota	44,592	-3.1%	46,019	-2.0%	46,980	0.8%
Tennessee	288,999	-5.0%	304,279	0.6%	302,520	0.7%
Texas	1,459,543	-2.1%	1,490,953	0.3%	1,485,924	-0.3%
Utah	378,855	4.8%	361,652	4.9%	344,895	8.5%
Vermont	37,424	-2.0%	38,207	-4.4%	39,965	-0.1%
Virginia	496,911	2.8%	483,606	-0.5%	486,141	0.3%



**Table 9.** Estimated Enrollment by State of Institution: 2018 to 2020 (continued)

State	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
Washington*	292,382	-7.0%	314,380	-0.8%	316,814	0.2%
West Virginia	139,521	1.3%	137,665	-2.1%	140,558	-2.9%
Wisconsin	282,038	-4.5%	295,341	-3.0%	304,478	-1.0%
Wyoming	27,412	-0.8%	27,644	-4.4%	28,904	-1.5%
Multi-State Institutions	665,119	1.7%	653,948	-2.0%	667,390	-8.7%

\*Due to data submission variability in fall 2020, use caution for the 2020 data for MS, OH, and WA.

## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Table 9** 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: 2018 to 2020

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Title	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
52	Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support	1,569,669	-0.7%	1,580,972	-2.1%	1,614,068	-0.6%
51	Health Professions and Related Programs	1,116,965	1.4%	1,101,730	-2.1%	1,125,110	0.1%
24	Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities (includes undeclared)	1,043,201	-6.2%	1,112,378	-7.1%	1,196,897	-4.2%
26	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	620,920	0.1%	620,429	-0.9%	625,976	1.6%
14	Engineering	583,208	-2.0%	595,142	-1.6%	604,598	-0.6%
11	Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	501,205	5.6%	474,573	4.5%	454,204	5.2%
42	Psychology	492,305	6.9%	460,602	3.8%	443,737	1.3%
13	Education	466,227	2.2%	456,274	-2.3%	467,109	-1.0%
45	Social Sciences	416,890	-1.6%	423,552	-1.6%	430,278	-0.2%
50	Visual and Performing Arts	396,891	-2.2%	405,682	1.3%	400,551	0.9%
09	Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	297,878	-4.6%	312,373	-2.1%	319,107	-2.2%
43	Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services	285,250	-0.3%	285,989	-1.3%	289,733	-1.5%
31	Parks, Recreation, Leisure and Fitness Studies	234,117	1.2%	231,375	-1.9%	235,899	-0.6%
30	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	232,684	-0.8%	234,609	-2.0%	239,283	-1.3%
44	Public Administration and Social Service Professions	132,871	-0.2%	133,117	-2.4%	136,406	-2.2%



**Table 10.** Estimated Undergraduate Enrollment by Major at Four-Year Institutions: 2018 to 2020 (continued)

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Title	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
40	Physical Sciences	130,557	-5.2%	137,675	-4.6%	144,278	-3.5%
23	English Language and Literature/Letters	120,097	-7.3%	129,606	-5.0%	136,497	-4.4%
15	Engineering Technologies and Engineering-Related Fields	100,675	-3.9%	104,749	-1.9%	106,739	-0.1%
01	Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	89,968	-1.7%	91,498	-1.9%	93,260	-0.8%
19	Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	86,121	-5.7%	91,361	-3.0%	94,223	-2.9%
27	Mathematics and Statistics	85,805	-2.9%	88,371	-1.2%	89,474	1.6%
03	Natural Resources and Conservation	82,773	0.5%	82,333	2.0%	80,691	2.2%
54	History	80,240	-1.9%	81,831	-2.4%	83,851	-0.4%
16	Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	49,068	-8.5%	53,651	-3.7%	55,719	7.0%
04	Architecture and Related Services	45,992	3.1%	44,589	3.3%	43,147	4.5%
49	Transportation and Materials Moving	35,133	6.9%	32,860	9.4%	30,046	6.8%
38	Philosophy and Religious Studies	29,361	-5.4%	31,029	-3.7%	32,209	1.1%
39	Theology and Religious Vocations	25,890	-2.3%	26,500	-9.1%	29,141	-2.3%
22	Legal Professions and Studies	25,019	5.4%	23,735	-1.4%	24,067	0.0%
05	Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	22,808	-7.5%	24,646	2.1%	24,130	3.8%



**Table 10.** Estimated Undergraduate Enrollment by Major at Four-Year Institutions: 2018 to 2020 (continued)

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Title	Fall 2020		Fall 2019		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
10	Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	20,500	-4.7%	21,506	7.8%	19,946	3.9%
12	Personal and Culinary Services	16,076	6.4%	15,111	-6.6%	16,181	-12.9%
47	Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	14,575	-1.8%	14,841	-5.1%	15,647	-1.4%
46	Construction Trades	8,215	-4.3%	8,583	-0.6%	8,633	6.4%
41	Science Technologies/Technicians	7,295	-14.0%	8,479	-2.6%	8,703	11.4%
48	Precision Production	4,728	-16.0%	5,627	7.5%	5,234	-3.8%

## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**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: 2018 to 2020

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Title	Fall 2020		Fall 2019*		Fall 2018	
		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)	1,550,498	-11.9%	1,759,898	-4.4%	1,840,242	-8.6%
51	Health Professions and Related Programs	802,489	-2.3%	821,100	-2.5%	841,868	4.0%
52	Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support	518,941	-9.2%	571,303	-2.9%	588,411	-0.9%
11	Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	211,488	-4.2%	220,669	1.0%	218,487	0.9%
43	Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services	162,080	-14.7%	190,019	-4.1%	198,179	-3.8%
50	Visual and Performing Arts	128,999	-14.2%	150,357	0.7%	149,281	1.4%
30	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	115,600	-12.6%	132,243	-3.2%	136,618	-4.5%
26	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	113,581	-1.2%	115,017	3.7%	110,884	9.1%
13	Education	103,121	-6.7%	110,516	-2.2%	112,969	-3.8%
15	Engineering Technologies and Engineering-Related Fields	99,590	-14.5%	116,467	-2.8%	119,853	-3.5%
42	Psychology	97,024	4.4%	92,936	7.8%	86,212	8.9%
47	Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	91,201	-15.9%	108,490	1.4%	106,977	-1.7%
19	Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	76,707	-11.6%	86,793	-5.2%	91,584	2.1%
14	Engineering	75,018	-9.3%	82,727	-1.6%	84,048	-5.6%
45	Social Sciences	68,274	-9.8%	75,663	-2.2%	77,388	2.0%



**Table 11.** Estimated Undergraduate Enrollment by Major at Two-Year Institutions: 2018 to 2020 (continued)

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Title	Fall 2020		Fall 2019*		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
46	Construction Trades	54,496	-10.9%	61,180	8.6%	56,314	6.4%
12	Personal and Culinary Services	53,116	-17.2%	64,179	-2.1%	65,527	9.1%
48	Precision Production	48,204	-18.4%	59,038	1.8%	58,010	-0.6%
31	Parks, Recreation, Leisure and Fitness Studies	45,816	-6.7%	49,106	1.6%	48,350	-0.4%
09	Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	41,225	-11.6%	46,647	-0.4%	46,845	-1.3%
44	Public Administration and Social Service Professions	32,470	-5.4%	34,324	-4.2%	35,821	-6.1%
40	Physical Sciences	32,191	-17.3%	38,933	-4.6%	40,791	5.3%
01	Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	28,777	-2.2%	29,438	-6.5%	31,483	-3.1%
10	Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	26,572	-16.2%	31,725	2.6%	30,937	0.7%
22	Legal Professions and Studies	26,237	-2.4%	26,896	1.9%	26,387	0.8%
23	English Language and Literature/Letters	24,640	-14.3%	28,760	-4.8%	30,214	-2.3%
41	Science Technologies/Technicians	22,715	-2.6%	23,331	24.3%	18,767	16.5%
27	Mathematics and Statistics	19,146	-8.5%	20,934	1.5%	20,617	2.7%
16	Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	17,905	-5.0%	18,849	-4.7%	19,785	2.6%



**Table 11.** Estimated Undergraduate Enrollment by Major at Two-Year Institutions: 2018 to 2020 (continued)

Major (CIP Code)	CIP Title	Fall 2020		Fall 2019*		Fall 2018	
		Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
54	History	11,498	-3.9%	11,971	-2.5%	12,282	2.2%
03	Natural Resources and Conservation	9,572	-2.0%	9,765	1.0%	9,673	-3.7%
49	Transportation and Materials Moving	8,565	-10.8%	9,603	-0.5%	9,648	4.3%
32	Basic Skills and Developmental/Remedial Education	7,613	-37.0%	12,084	-0.4%	12,130	-6.5%
04	Architecture and Related Services	7,190	-1.7%	7,316	6.1%	6,898	4.3%

\*Data for fall 2019 has been revised to correct an error since publishing the fall 2019 report. The current table shows the corrected 2019 data.

## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**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

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### National Coverage of the Data

As of fall 2018, 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 2019 IPEDS enrollments at the time of publication, fall 2018 IPEDS enrollments were used as the basis for calculating the fall 2019 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

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.



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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 Status

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 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. Although this enhancement to the methodology (see italicized) helps identify the freshman enrollment more accurately, our analysis found little change to the results.