

**1.4 Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Gender and by Race/Ethnicity**

**Increase the number and proportion of Nebraska postsecondary students who have been underrepresented in the state’s higher education system.**

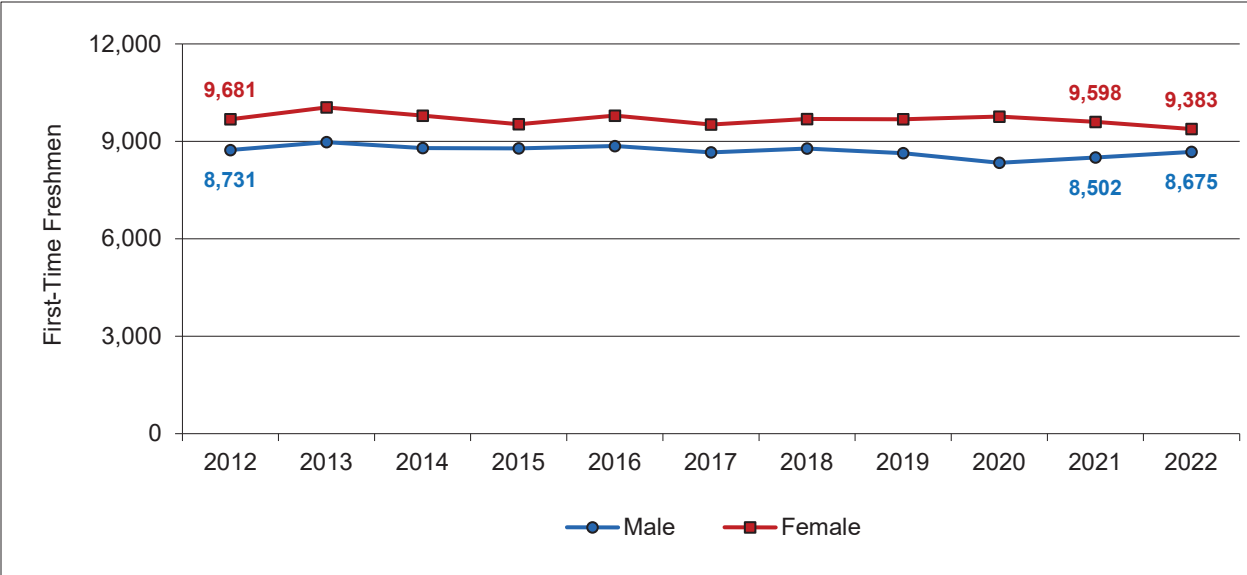
Increasing the number and percentage of students who have been underrepresented in Nebraska’s higher education system is another recommended approach to increasing the state’s postsecondary enrollment. To determine the extent to which this strategic objective is being achieved, the following analysis focuses on (1) the changes that have occurred since 2012 in the number of students by gender and by race/ethnicity who have been enrolled as *first-time freshmen* at Nebraska colleges, and (2) the extent to which each gender and each racial/ethnic group was represented in the state’s postsecondary education system in fall 2022, the latest period for which data are available. (Estimated enrollments for fall 2023 are not available by gender or by race/ethnicity; therefore, enrollments by race/ethnicity for fall 2023 will be reported in the *2025 Progress Report*.)

**Changes in the Numbers of First-Time Freshmen Enrolled at Nebraska Institutions**

- As shown in [Figure 1.4.1](#), more female first-time freshmen have enrolled at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions than male first-time freshmen. Since 2012 women have accounted for 52.0% (fall 2022) to 53.9% (fall 2020) of first-time freshmen enrollments.
- Since fall 2012, male first-time freshmen enrollments declined 0.6% while female first-time freshmen enrollments declined 3.1%.

**Figure 1.4.1**

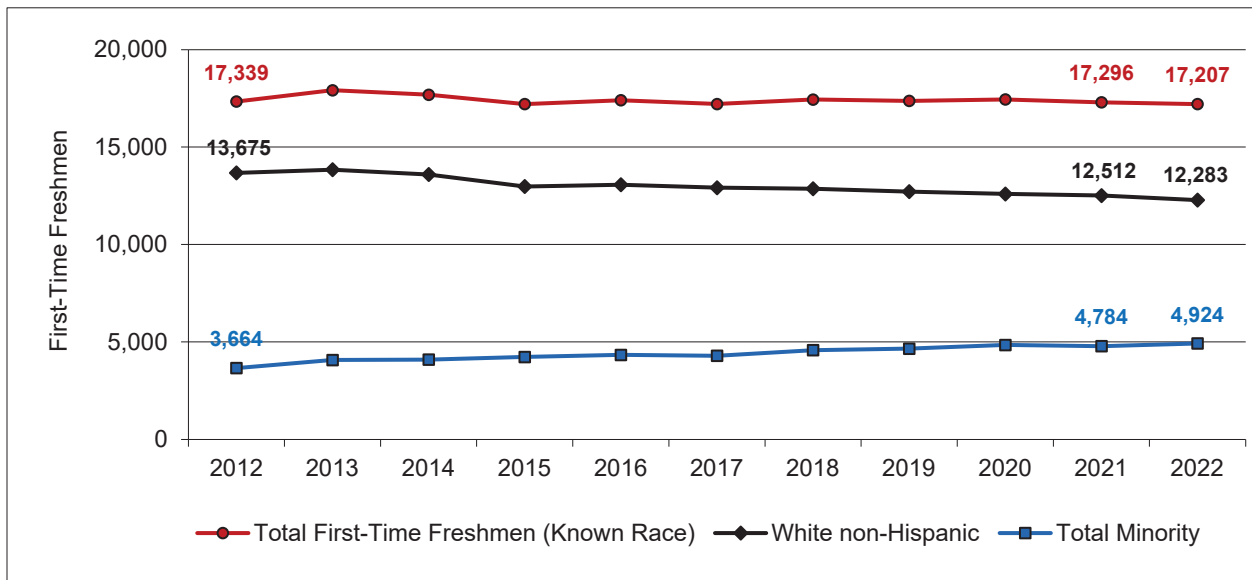
**First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Gender  
Fall 2012 through Fall 2022**



*Note.* Counts include full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2012 through fall 2022 surveys.

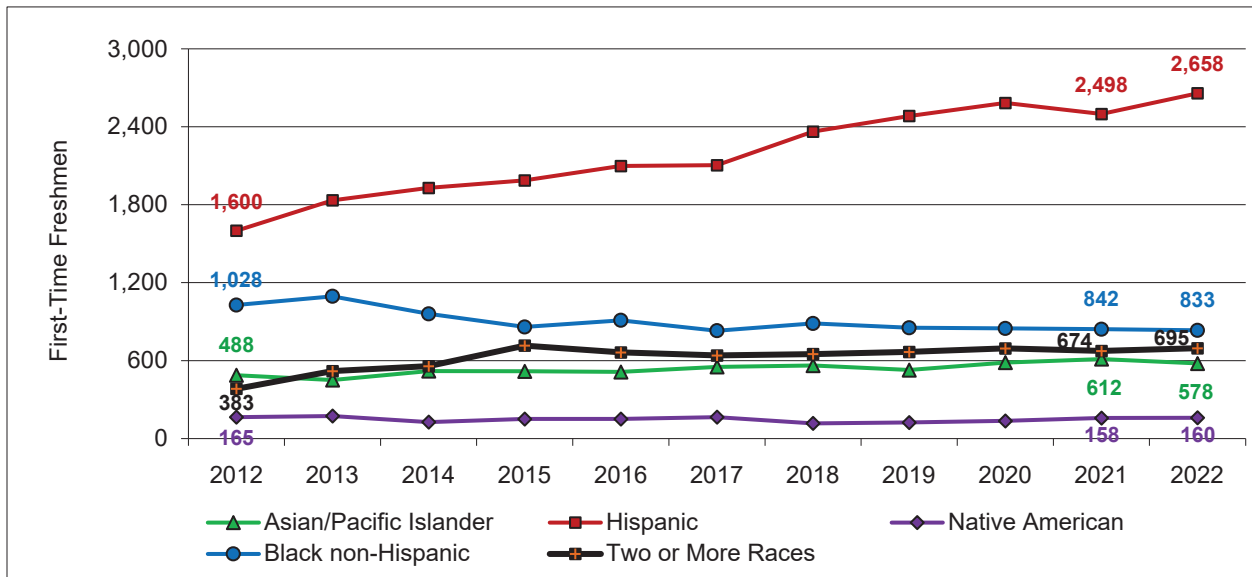
- As shown in [Figure 1.4.2](#), 17,207 first-time freshmen of known race/ethnicity were enrolled at Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions in fall 2022, a 0.8% decrease from the 17,339 first-time freshmen of known race/ethnicity enrolled in fall 2012.

**Figure 1.4.2**  
**Numbers of White Non-Hispanic and Minority First-Time Freshmen**  
**at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions**  
**Fall 2012 through Fall 2022**



Note. Counts include full-time and part-time students. Counts do not include U.S. Nonresidents or students of unknown race/ethnicity. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2012 through fall 2022 surveys.

**Figure 1.4.3**  
**Numbers of Minority Students Enrolled as First-Time Freshmen**  
**at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions**  
**Fall 2012 through Fall 2022**



Note. Includes full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.1](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for supporting data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2012 through fall 2022 surveys.

- In fall 2012, White non-Hispanics accounted for 78.9% of the first-time freshmen, while minorities accounted for 21.1%. Of the first-time freshmen enrolled in fall 2022, 71.4% were White non-Hispanics, while 28.6% were minorities.<sup>15</sup>
- As shown in [Figure 1.4.3](#), higher numbers of Asians/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and multiracial students were enrolled in college in fall 2022 than in fall 2012. However, the numbers of Black non-Hispanic and Native-American first-time freshmen decreased since fall 2012.
- The net effect of these changes is that there were **1,260 more minority students** attending Nebraska colleges as first-time freshmen in fall 2022 than in fall 2012, an increase of 34.4%. In comparison, there were **1,392 fewer White non-Hispanic** first-time freshmen in fall 2022 than in fall 2012, a decrease of 10.2%.

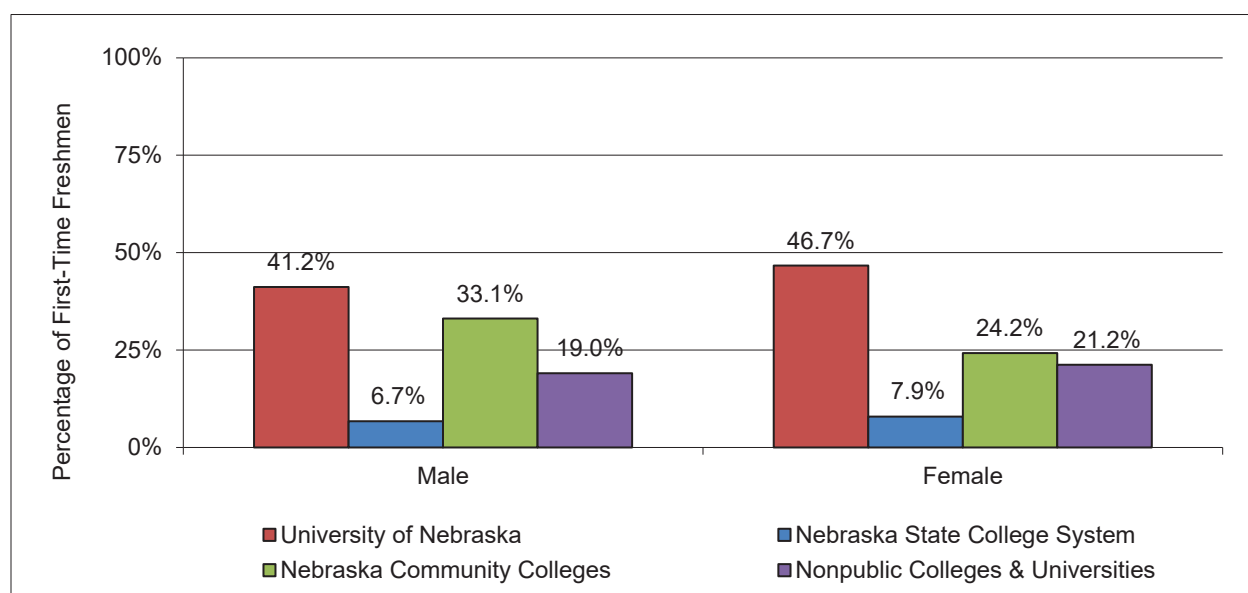
### **Types of Institutions Most Frequently Attended by Each Gender and Racial/Ethnic Group**

Another approach to analyzing the representation of gender and racial/ethnic groups is to examine the percentage of students in each group who attend each of the institutional sectors within Nebraska’s postsecondary education system.

- [Figure 1.4.4](#) shows the percentages, by sector, of male and female first-time freshmen who attended institutions within Nebraska’s postsecondary education system in fall 2022.
- As evidenced in [Figure 1.4.4](#), both male and female students most frequently enrolled as first-time freshmen at the University of Nebraska. However, male first-time freshmen were much more likely to enroll at the community colleges than female first-time freshmen.

**Figure 1.4.4**

**First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions by Gender and by Sector Fall 2022**

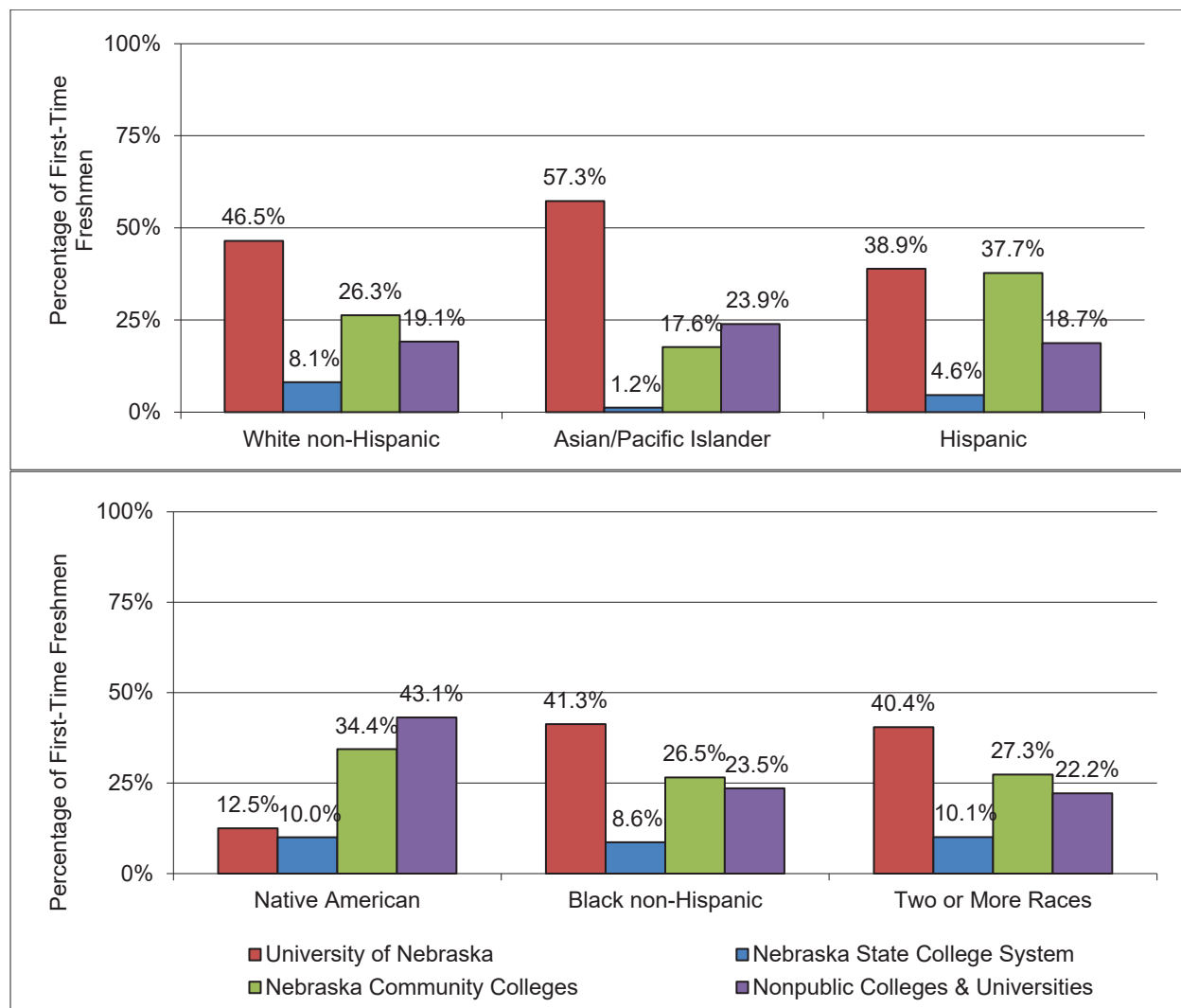


*Note.* Counts include full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.2](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2012 through fall 2022 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2022 survey.

<sup>15</sup> Minority students are defined as students from the following race/ethnicity categories: Asian/Pacific Islander, Black non-Hispanic, Hispanic, Native American, and two or more races.

- [Figure 1.4.5](#) shows the percentages of the first-time freshmen in each of the six major racial/ethnic groups who attended, by sector, institutions within Nebraska’s postsecondary education system in fall 2022.
- As evidenced in [Figure 1.4.5](#), White non-Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Black non-Hispanics, and multiracial students most frequently enrolled as first-time freshmen at the University of Nebraska. Native American first-time freshmen were most likely to enroll at the nonpublic colleges and universities.
- As shown in [Table A7.3](#) in [Appendix 7](#), 52 (32.5%) of the 160 Native Americans who were first-time freshmen in fall 2022 attended Little Priest Tribal College (27) or Nebraska Indian Community College (25).

**Figure 1.4.5**  
**First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions**  
**by Race/Ethnicity and by Sector**  
**Fall 2022**

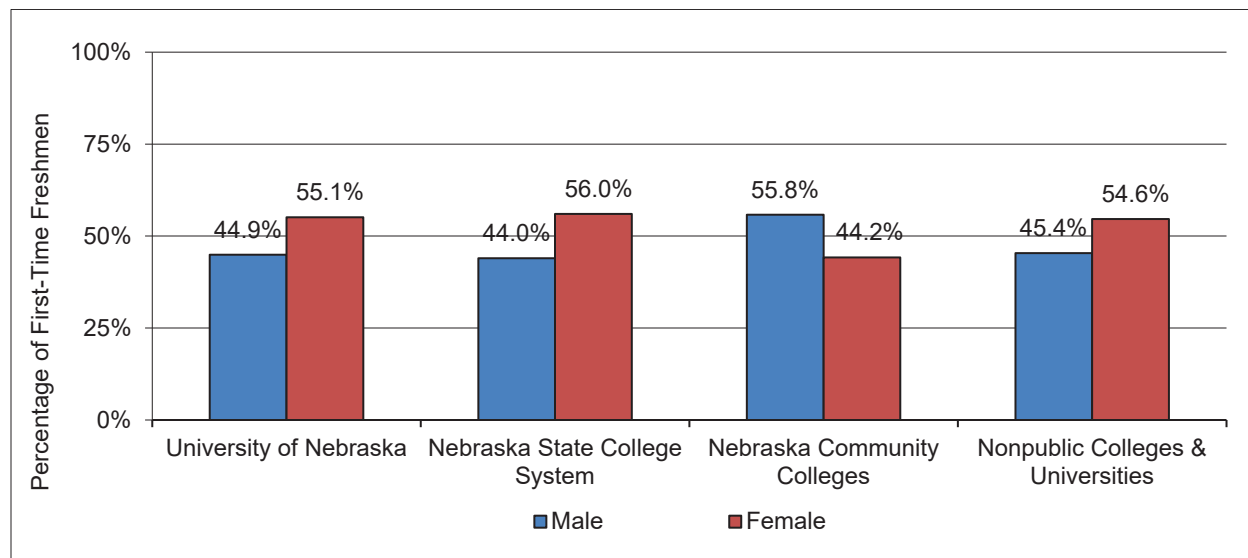


*Note.* Counts include full-time and part-time students. Counts do not include U.S. Nonresidents or students of unknown race/ethnicity. The two native tribal colleges, Little Priest Tribal College and Nebraska Indian Community College, are included under nonpublic colleges and universities. See [Table A7.3](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2012 through fall 2022 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2022 survey.

## Representation of Gender and Racial/Ethnic Groups by Sector

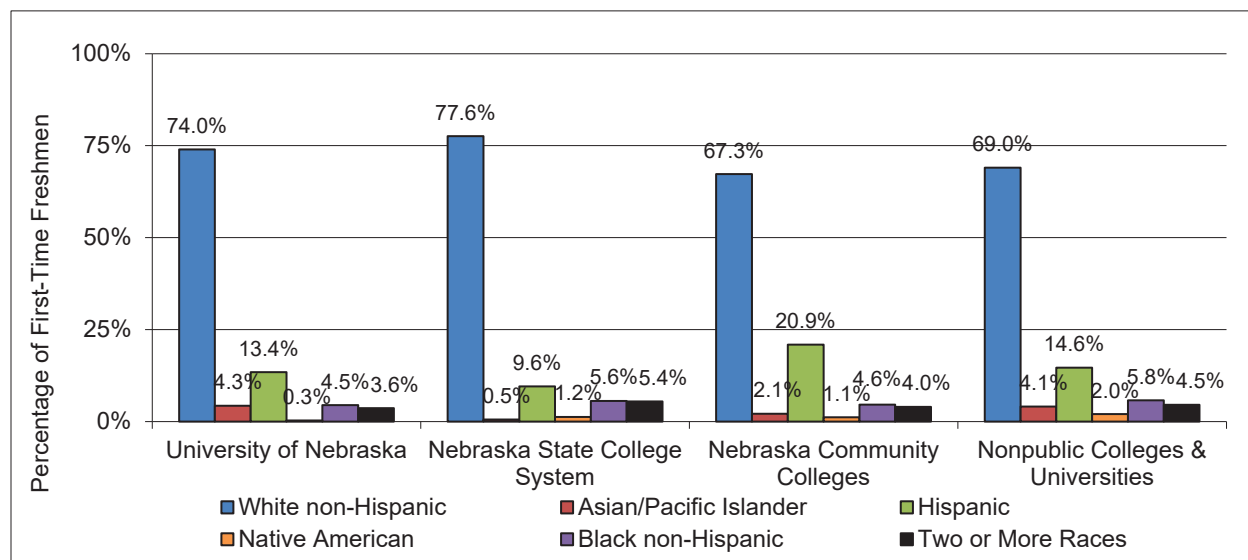
Representation of each gender and racial/ethnic group varied across the sectors of higher education, as shown in [Figure 1.4.6](#) and [Figure 1.4.7](#).

**Figure 1.4.6**  
**First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions**  
**By Sector and by Gender**  
**Fall 2022**



*Note.* Includes full-time and part-time students. See [Table A7.4](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2012 through fall 2022 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2022 survey.

**Figure 1.4.7**  
**First-Time Freshmen Enrollments at Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions**  
**By Sector and by Race/Ethnicity**  
**Fall 2022**



*Note.* Includes full-time and part-time students. Does not include U.S. Nonresidents or students of unknown race/ethnicity. See [Table A7.5](#) in [Appendix 7](#) for fall 2012 through fall 2022 data. Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS fall 2022 survey.