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## ABSTRACT

This enrollment profile is a compilation of enrollment information pertinent to postsecondary education planning. The document contains a compilation of enrollment information collected from a variety of state and national data sources including IPEDS and NEEDS surveys. Nebraska's public and private postsecondary institutions have seen a stable enrollment level between fall 1992 and fall 1997. Within that broader number, enrollment at the community colleges of Nebraska increased by 10% in full-time equivalents during the same time period. Nebraska has consistently ranked in the top 10 states in fall headcount enrollment as a percent of resident population and in annual full-time equivalents in public postsecondary institutions. Regularly, about 60% of Nebraska's high school graduates enter college by the age of 19. Enrollments in Nebraska's postsecondary education are expected to increase slightly by the year 2005. There are three main factors that contribute to this expectation: (1) The number of high school graduates in Nebraska are expected to increase as a natural phenomenon of the increase of high school aged individuals; (2) From 1991 to 1995, the participation in postsecondary education by non-traditional age students remained nearly constant at 8.2% of Nebraska's 25-44 year old population; and (3) In 1994, the migration of college freshmen into and out of Nebraska was approximately the same. (TGO)



July, 1999

Coordinating  
Commission  
for  
Postsecondary  
Education

An

ENROLLMENT

PROFILE of

Nebraska

Postsecondary Education

...A Staff Report to the Commission

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# COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*An Enrollment Profile of Nebraska Postsecondary Education* is a compilation of enrollment information pertinent to postsecondary education planning. Its purpose is to serve as a resource for anyone interested in higher education. The information was drawn from IPEDS and NEEDS surveys, as well as various state and national data sources. It compares Nebraska data with U.S. averages and gives Nebraska rankings in the 50 states.

This profile on enrollment is one in a series of profiles on Nebraska postsecondary education. Others in this series include profiles on finance and on student diversity by ethnicity and gender.

### The following are key observations from the report:

- While total headcount enrollment in Nebraska's public and independent colleges and universities remained essentially unchanged from 1992 through 1998, the different sectors did experience enrollment change. In that time period:
  - ⇒ University of Nebraska headcount enrollment decreased by 13%.
  - ⇒ State College enrollment decreased by nearly 2%.
  - ⇒ Community College enrollment increased by 18%.
  - ⇒ Independent Colleges and Universities enrollment increased by approximately 10%.
- For Fall 1998 compared to Fall 1997, headcount enrollment was down 1.5% at the University of Nebraska and down 2.8% for the State Colleges. Community College enrollment was up 3.2%. Enrollment at the Independent Colleges and Universities increased by 1.5%.
- Nebraska enjoys high participation in postsecondary education.
  - ⇒ Regularly, over 60% of Nebraska high school graduates enter college within 12 months of high school graduation.
  - ⇒ Nebraska consistently ranks high nationally in Fall headcount enrollment as a percent of resident population (3rd in 1996-1997) and annual FTE public postsecondary students per 1,000 population (5th in 1997-1998).
- Future enrollment patterns for Nebraska postsecondary education are largely dependent on three indicators:
  - ⇒ The number of high school graduates, which will increase from approximately 20,000 in 1996-1997 to 23,000 in year 2001-2002 and then begin to decrease
  - ⇒ Migration of college students into and out of Nebraska, for which 1994 and 1996 data shows that more college students migrated into Nebraska than left the state.
  - ⇒ Participation in postsecondary education by non-traditional age students, which has been relatively stable through the 1990's.
- More first time college students migrated into Nebraska than left. For those high school graduates who took the ACT test, more left Nebraska to attend colleges and universities.

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education appreciates the efforts of a number of agencies and individuals that have provided data used in this report. Questions about the analytical summaries or data resources used should be directed to Dr. John Ingram, Research Officer.

## An Enrollment Profile of Higher Education in Nebraska

1. Nebraska public and independent college and university total Fall 1998 headcount enrollment was essentially unchanged from Fall 1992. (Headcount enrollment counts all persons who take one or more credits of course work.)

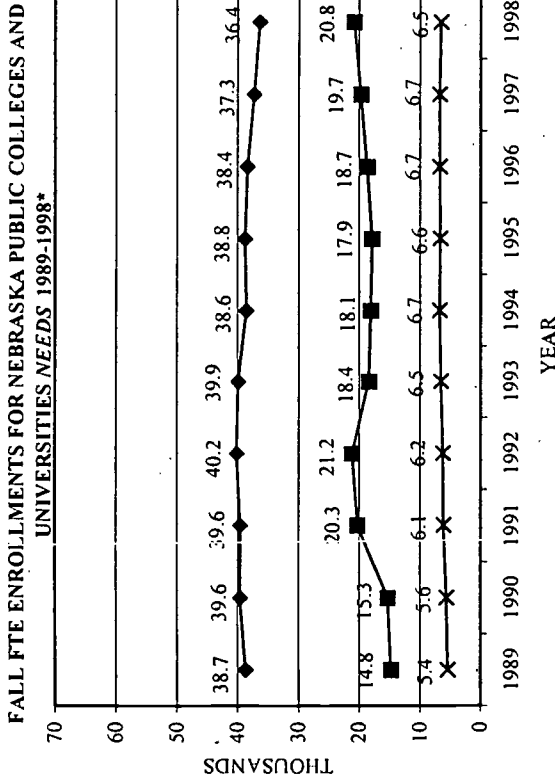
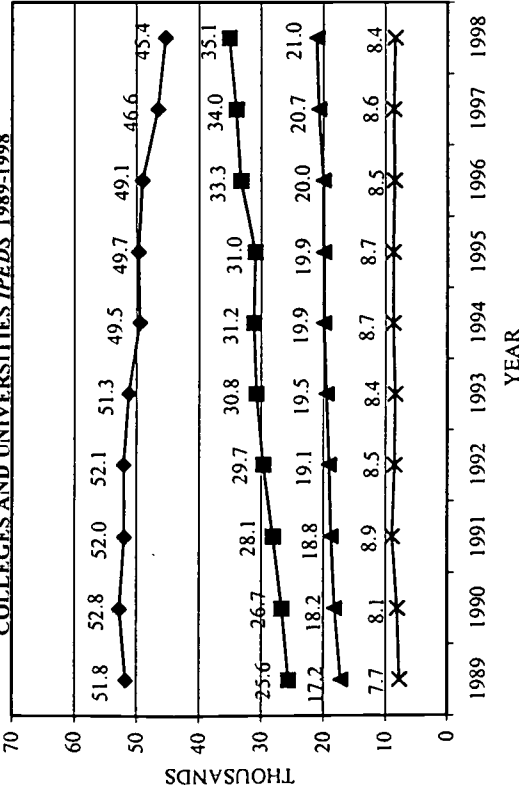
SECTOR OR INSTITUTION	FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENTS			CHANGE 1992-1998	
	1992	1997	1998	NUMBER	PERCENT
University of Nebraska	52,112	46,565	45,390	-6,722	-13
NCTA-Curtis	179	277	261	82	46
University of Nebraska at Kearney	8,374	7,133	6,848	-1,526	-18
University of Nebraska at Lincoln	24,573	22,827	22,408	-2,165	-9
University of Nebraska Medical Center	2,759	2,618	2,599	-160	-6
University of Nebraska at Omaha	16,227	13,710	13,274	-2,953	-18
Nebraska State Colleges	8,478	8,577	8,339	-139	-2
Chadron State College	3,190	2,931	2,809	-381	-12
Peru State College	1,527	1,807	1,695	168	11
Wayne State College	3,761	3,839	3,835	74	2
Nebraska Community College Areas	29,748	34,049	35,123	5,375	18
Central Community College	4,885	6,743	7,474	2,589	53
Metropolitan Community College	10,301	11,213	11,583	1,282	12
Mid-Plains Community College	3,055	2,694	2,486	-569	-19
Northeast Community College	3,257	4,440	4,754	1,497	46
Southeast Community College	6,002	6,951	7,122	1,120	19
Western Nebraska Community College	2,248	2,008	1,704	-544	-24
Nebraska Public Institution Totals	90,338	89,191	88,852	-1,486	-2
Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities Totals	19,142	20,694	21,006	1,864	10
Bellevue University	2,157	2,928	2,929	772	36
Clarkson College	515	597	520	5	1
College of St Mary	1,322	1,001	1,035	-287	-22
Concordia College	870	1,190	1,241	371	43
Creighton University	6,225	6,292	6,226	1	0
Dana College	536	594	552	16	3
Doane College	1,728	1,809	1,982	254	15
Grace University	293	519	533	240	82
Hastings College	963	1,059	1,138	175	18
Midland Lutheran College	962	1,033	1,034	72	7
Nebraska Christian College	134	152	152	18	13
Nebraska Indian Community College	222	223	186	-36	-16
Nebraska Methodist College	474	413	445	-29	-6
Nebraska Wesleyan University	1,734	1,709	1,741	7	0
Platte Valley Bible College	39	75	54	15	38
Union College	558	603	742	184	33
York College	410	497	496	86	21
Nebraska Public and Independent Colleges/Universities Total	109,480	109,885	109,858	378	0

- The Nebraska public colleges and universities total headcount enrollment for Fall 1998 was 2% below Fall 1992.
- Fall headcount enrollment patterns for 1992-1998 varied from sector to sector as follows:
  - ⇒ The university sector total enrollment was down 13% from Fall 1992 and was down 2.5% from Fall 1997.
  - ⇒ The Nebraska State Colleges had a stable, relatively unchanged enrollment. Fall 1998 enrollment was down 1.6% below Fall 1992 and 2.8% below the Fall 1997 enrollment.
  - ⇒ Community College headcount enrollment increased by 18% from Fall 1992 to Fall 1998. There was a 3% increase from Fall 1997 to Fall 1998
  - ⇒ The Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities experienced an increase of 9.7% in enrollment from 1992 to 1998.

Source: IPEDS Fall enrollment surveys for Nebraska, 1992, 1997, and 1998

all 1989-1998 enrollment at Nebraska's public and independent colleges and universities shows different patterns by sector.

TOTAL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FOR NEBRASKA PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, IPEDS, 1989-1998



- Between 1989 and 1998 the Nebraska public college and universities' total Fall headcount and FTE enrollments remained fairly constant.
- From 1989 to 1998, the Community Colleges' Fall headcount enrollment increased 40% and Fall FTE enrollment increased 11.4%, the State Colleges' Fall headcount enrollment was up 24% and FTE enrollment went up 6.5%, and the University Fall headcount enrollment decreased by 9% and FTE enrollment went down 7%

- In Fall 1998, full-time students comprised 73% of the University enrollment, 69% of the State College enrollment, and 77% of the Independent College and University headcount enrollment.
- At the Community Colleges, the majority of students (65%) were part-time.

Source: IPEDS, Fall Enrollment survey for Nebraska, 1988 through 1998  
 NEEDS, Student Credit and Contact Hours by Student Attainment (187 Fall surveys) 1988 through 1997.  
 FTE enrollments are derived from student credit and student contact hours

\* This headcount is derived from the NEEDS 187 Fall surveys. It contains both credit and contact hours.

Nebraska public and independent colleges and universities traditionally have experienced annual enrollment increases.

	2-YEAR PUBLIC % INCREASE IN FALL ENROLLMENT			4-YEAR PUBLIC % INCREASE IN FALL ENROLLMENT			4-YEAR PRIVATE % INCREASE IN FALL ENROLLMENT					
	HEADCOUNT		FTE	HEADCOUNT		FTE	HEADCOUNT		FTE			
	NE	U.S.	NE	U.S.	NE	U.S.	NE	U.S.	NE	U.S.		
1976-1981	60	19	14	9	9	5	10	5	20	12	20	10
1981-1986	24	-1	22	-4	4	3	2	2	-2	1	-10	1
1986-1991	17	22	16	24	10	11	11	12	17	11	20	11
1991-1996	25	3	25	3	-6	-2	-5	-2	6	8	8	6

- For 1976 to 1996, Nebraska's public two-year public institutions' Fall enrollment increased at a greater rate than the U.S. percentage increase and at a faster rate than Nebraska four-year institutions. The Nebraska community college system was created in 1973 and several new campuses were opened at that time, which explains the higher percentage increase for Nebraska's two-year public enrollments for 1976-1981. However, from 1981 to 1996, Nebraska experienced continued high increases in enrollments for two-year public institutions.
- From Fall 1976 to Fall 1991, Nebraska's four-year public postsecondary institutions had enrollment increases similar to the U.S. average.
- From 1991-1996, both the U.S. and Nebraska's four-year public institutions showed slightly decreased headcount and FTE student enrollments.
- Except for 1981-1986, Nebraska's four-year independent colleges and universities experienced increasing enrollments from Fall 1976-1996. The U.S. and Nebraska profiles are largely similar.

NOTE: FTE was determined as full-time plus 1/3 part time head count enrollment as defined by IPEDS.

Source: US Department of Education - NCES, State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969-70 to 1996-97, November 1998.  
 US Department of Education - NCES IPEDS Special Tabulations: Total Enrollment in institutions of Higher Education: 50 States and District of Columbia, Fall 1995  
 Total Full Time Equivalent Enrollment in Institutions of Higher Education: 50 States and District of Columbia, Fall 1996 (both) prepared October 1998.  
 1996 is the most recent data available.

Nebraskans have a high participation rate in postsecondary education.

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AS A PERCENT OF RESIDENT POPULATION					
	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996
Nebraska Percentage	6.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2
National Average	5.1	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4
Nebraska Rank	5.5	2.5	3	3	3

- Since 1990, Nebraska has consistently ranked in the top three states in Fall headcount enrollment as a percent of resident population. This is an improvement over 1985 when Nebraska tied for 5th.

Sources: US Department of Education, NCES - State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969-70 to 1996-97. November 1998 (The most currently available data is 1996.)

ANNUAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS PER 1,000 POPULATION								
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Nebraska	41.2	40.7	42.7	43.4	42.1	41.2	40.4	40.1
National Average	31.7	32.9	32.9	32.5	31.8	31.5	31.3	31.3
Nebraska Rank	5	9	7	5	4	7	6	5

- Since 1990-91 participation in higher education in Nebraska, measured as annual full time equivalent public postsecondary students per 1,000 population, has regularly ranked in the top nine states.

Source: Research Associates of Washington - State Profiles: Financing Public Higher Education 1991 through 1997-98. (1997-98 data is the most current. 1998-99 data will be available in September)

### Migration of freshmen students shows increased in-migration for Fall 1996 compared to Fall 1994.

FALL 1994 AND 1996 COLLEGE FRESHMEN STUDENT ENROLLMENTS BY STATE OF RESIDENCE		
	1994	1996
Students from other states enrolled in Nebraska	2733	3085
Students from Nebraska, enrolled outside Nebraska	2615	2549
Net Effect of Migration on Enrollment	118	536

- In both 1994 and 1996, more first-year students migrated into Nebraska to enroll at Nebraska institutions compared to the number of Nebraska first-time students who enrolled outside Nebraska. (See table at left.)

PERCENT OF ENROLLMENT DUE TO IN AND OUT MIGRATION	
	1996
Percent of students enrolled in Nebraska from other states	18.0%
Percent of Nebraska High School graduates enrolled in other states	15.4%

- The table at left shows the in-migration percentage increased from 16.5% in 1994 to 18.0% in 1996. Meanwhile out-migration (the percent of Nebraska High School graduates enrolled in other states) dropped slightly from 15.9% to 15.4%
- From the next table (Item 6, next page) it appears that the major increase in net migration may be students with below 27 ACT scores and students who did not take the test.

Sources: US Department of Education – NCES, IPEDS, 1994 Fall Enrollment Survey, Part C in Residence and Migration of First-Time Freshmen Enrolled in Higher Education Institutions: Fall 1994, Fall 1996, Published March 1996 and April 1998 Respectively. (1996 is the most currently available data.)  
 Nebraska Department of Education, 1996-97 Nebraska Comparison of Graduates to Fall Membership (includes number graduating during the school year for the years 1978-79 through 1997 through 1997-98 (1998 data is not yet available))



**More top scoring ACT students from Nebraska left the state to enroll in colleges and universities in 1998 than came from other states to enroll in Nebraska institutions.**

The chart below shows ACT composite score ranges for high school graduates enrolled in Nebraska from other states for Fall 1995 through 1998 and Nebraska high school graduates enrolled in other states.

COLLEGE STUDENT ENROLLMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BY RESIDENCE, BY YEAR AND BY ACT COMPOSITE SCORE RANGE (HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO TOOK THE ACT)					
	<18	19-22	23-26	27-36	Totals
1995					
Students from other states enrolled in Nebraska	373	578	513	279	1743
Students from Nebraska, enrolled outside Nebraska	260	531	580	479	1850
Difference	113	47	-67	-200	-107

1996					
Students from other states enrolled in Nebraska	374	612	516	335	1837
Students from Nebraska, enrolled outside Nebraska	203	471	534	451	1659
Difference	171	141	-18	-116	178

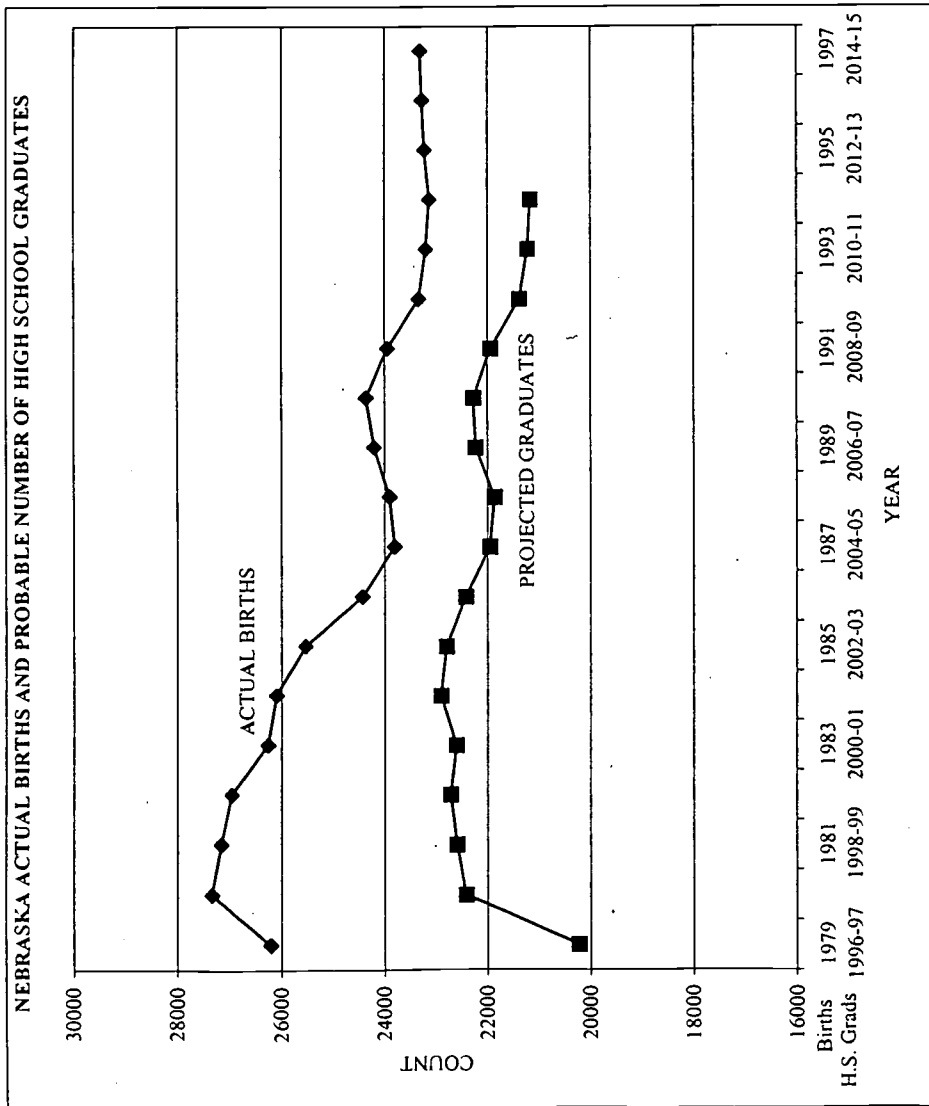
1997					
Students from other states enrolled in Nebraska	289	490	475	323	1577
Students from Nebraska, enrolled outside Nebraska	180	462	518	497	1657
Difference	109	28	-43	-174	-80

1998					
Students from other states enrolled in Nebraska	280	506	542	363	1691
Students from Nebraska, enrolled outside Nebraska	215	423	579	576	1793
Difference	65	83	-37	-213	-102

- Annually over 70% of Nebraska high school graduates take the ACT test.
- For Fall 1995, 200 more ACT tested students in the top score range (27-36) left Nebraska to enroll in other states than entered Nebraska colleges and universities from other states. This appears as -200.
- Similarly for 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 more ACT tested students in the top score range left Nebraska to enroll in other states than entered Nebraska colleges and universities from other states with differences: -200, -116, -174, and -213 respectively.
- Except for 1996, the total difference was a negative number. This means for ACT tested students in 1996 more entered than left the state. In 1995, 1997, and 1998 more left than entered the state.
- The numbers indicate that during most years, Nebraska is losing more ACT-tested beginning students to other states than are entering Nebraska from other states.
- The data about migration of ACT-tested students differs somewhat from the data relating to all students discussed on the previous page.

Source: ACT, Iowa City, Iowa Data Center

Nebraska is experiencing a period of declining birth rates and will probably have a relatively small increase in high school graduates through school year 2011-12.



- In 1996-97, there were approximately 20,000 high school graduates in Nebraska
- The number of Nebraska high school graduates is projected to peak in 2001-2002 at 23,000, up 14.5% from 1996-97.
- In school year 2011-2012, high school graduates will decrease to 21,159, only up 5.8% above the 20,000 base, established in 1996-97.

Sources: Births: 1935-1997: Nebraska Department of Health, 1997 Vital Statistics Report.  
 High School Graduation Projections: NE Department of Education, Membership History, 1993-1994  
 Nebraska Department of Education, Statistics and Facts about Nebraska Schools, 1996-97 (gives 1995-96 data) and 1997-98 (gives 1996-97 data).  
 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, WICHE, High School Graduates: Projections by State 1996 to 2012.

Nebraska high school graduates are motivated to attend postsecondary institutions.

CHARACTERISTICS	1986			1988			1992			1994			1996		
	NEBRASKA	U.S.	NE RANK	NEBRASKA	U.S.	NE RANK	NEBRASKA	U.S.	NE RANK	NEBRASKA	U.S.	NE RANK	NEBRASKA	U.S.	NE RANK
Percentage of 9th graders who graduate from high school (A)	87.7	73.3	3	85.9	72.2	5	87.2	71.2	4	85.1	70	6	82.9	67.9	6
Percentage of high school graduates who enter a postsecondary institution within 12 months of high school graduation (B)	53.6	43	2	58.7	47.7	1	63.3	53.5	3	60.4	57.2	14	61.7	58.5	12
Percentage of 9th graders who enter college by age 19 (AxB)	47	31.5	2	50.4	34.7	1	55.2	38.2	2	51.4	40	4	51.2	39.7	5

- Nebraska continues to rank high for high school graduation rate and continuation from high school to enter college by age 19.
- The U.S. public high school graduation rate has decreased from 73.3% in 1986 to 67.9% in 1996. In these same years, Nebraska's high school graduation rate stayed relatively constant through 1994. It dropped from 85.1% in 1994 to 82.9% in 1996. Nebraska's rank remains in the top six nationally.
- For these same years, Nebraska's rate for continuation to postsecondary education within 12 months after high school graduation increased, however, in some other states the rate increased faster. As a result, Nebraska's rank dropped from third in 1992 to 12th in 1996. Nebraska remains well above the national median.
- In 1996, the percentage of Nebraska high school 9th graders who attended college by age 19 slipped to fifth among the 50 states. Nebraska continues to send a high percentage of its 9th graders to enter college by age 19. By this measure, the rate was 51.2% for 1996.

Source: Mortenson : Postsecondary Opportunity - NCES 1988, 1992, 1994, and 1996 data. 1996 is the most recent data.

While adult participation in postsecondary education is currently high in Nebraska and future participation rates are difficult to predict.

FORCASTED NEBRASKA 25-44 YEAR-OLD POPULATION TO YEAR 2020* AND EXISTING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATES										
Category	Years	1991	1993	1995	1997	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Nebraska Population 25-44 Years <sup>1</sup>		491	488	473	483	486	470	461	469	482
25-44 Years Old enrolled in Nebraska postsecondary education institutions <sup>1</sup>		35.2	36.4	35.6	34.7	-	-	-	-	-
Participation Rate		7.2%	7.5%	7.2%	7.5%	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated 25-44 years old enrolled if participation rate is 7.2% <sup>1</sup>		-	-	-	-	35.0	33.8	33.2	33.8	34.7
Estimated participation Rate		-	-	-	-	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%
Estimated 25-44 years old enrolled if participation rate is 7.5% <sup>1</sup>		-	-	-	-	43.9	35.2	34.6	35.2	36.2
Estimated participation rate		-	-	-	-	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%

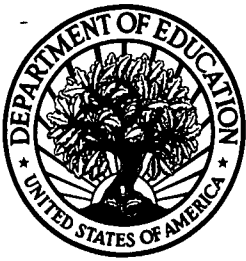
\* Future Year Data are U.S. Census Bureau Estimates

<sup>1</sup> Counts are in Thousands

- The current level of participation in postsecondary education for the 25-44 year old age group is stable at about 7.2% to 7.5%.
- It is too early to detect a clear pattern or trend for 25-44 year old persons enrolled in Nebraska postsecondary education through the year 2020.
- Based on existing data, the 7.2% participation rate is a conservative estimate. Based on this estimate and the forecasted Nebraska 25-44 year old population, there would be about equal numbers of 25-44 year old persons enrolled in Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions in the year 2005 as in 1997.
- Estimates based on 7.5% participation gives a more liberal estimate. Based on this estimate and the forecasted Nebraska 25-44 year old population, there would be a slight increase in the number of 25-44 year old Nebraskans.

Note: Age data for enrollments are reported in IPEDS for odd numbered years only. The most current age data as reported here are for Fall 1997. This table will be updated in 2000 when data will be available on fall 1999 enrollments.

Sources: IPEDS Fall Enrollment survey 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997 for 25-44 year olds enrolled in Nebraska postsecondary education. This report consistently uses half of the count reported for the enrollment of persons aged 40-49. Otherwise the counts are exact for ages 25-39.  
 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, National and State Population Estimates: 1990 to 1994. Current Population reports P25-1127, 1995 for Nebraska population 25-44 years.  
 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Population Projections for States by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, 1993 to 2020  
 Current Population Reports P25-1111, 1994 for Nebraska population 25-44 Years Projections.  
 Population Estimates Program. Population Division, U.S. Bureau of Census for 1997 forecast of Nebraska Population 25-44 years.



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