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Overview

In fall 2015, overall postsecondary enrollments decreased 1.7 percent from the previous fall. **Figure 1** shows the 12-month percentage change (fall-to-fall and spring-to-spring) for each term over the last three years. Enrollments decreased among four-year for-profit institutions (-13.7 percent), two-year public institutions (-2.4 percent), and four-year private nonprofit institutions (-0.3 percent). Enrollments increased slightly among four-year public institutions (+0.4 percent). Taken as a whole, public sector enrollment (2-year and 4-year combined) declined by 2.3 percent this fall.

Note that the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center has revised the fall 2014 public sector figures in this report from those published in December 2014 to reflect the fact that some two-year public institutions have been reclassified in IPEDS as four-year public institutions. This means that enrollment figures for the two-year public and four-year public sectors for the fall 2014 term have been restated. There is no change to the numbers in the "all sectors" category, nor in the private sector categories, and the total numbers of students in the public sector has not changed. Only the allocation of public sector students to two-year vs. four-year institutions has shifted.

Current Term Enrollment Estimates, published every December and May by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, include national enrollment estimates by institutional sector, state, enrollment intensity, age group, and gender. Enrollment estimates are adjusted for Clearinghouse data coverage rates by institutional sector, state, and year. As of fall 2015, postsecondary institutions actively submitting enrollment data to the Clearinghouse account for over 96 percent of enrollments at U.S. Title IV, degree-granting institutions. Most institutions submit enrollment data to the Clearinghouse 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 headcount, which avoids double-counting students who are simultaneously enrolled at multiple institutions.

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Figure 1: Percent Change from Previous Year, Enrollment by Sector (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Legend:
- Fall 2012
- Spring 2013
- Fall 2013
- Spring 2014
- Fall 2014
- Spring 2015
- Fall 2015

All Sectors: -1.8%, -2.3%, -1.5%, -0.8%, -1.3%, -1.9%, -1.7%

4-Year Public: -0.2%, -0.8%, 0.4%, 0.8%, 0.7%, 0.1%, 0.4%

4-Year Private Nonprofit: 0.5%, 0.5%, 1.3%, 2.0%, 1.6%, -0.2%, -0.3%

4-Year For-Profit: -7.2%, -8.7%, -9.7%, -4.9%, -0.4%, -4.9%, -13.7%

2-Year Public: -3.6%, -4.1%, -3.3%, -2.9%, -4.4%, -3.9%, -2.4%

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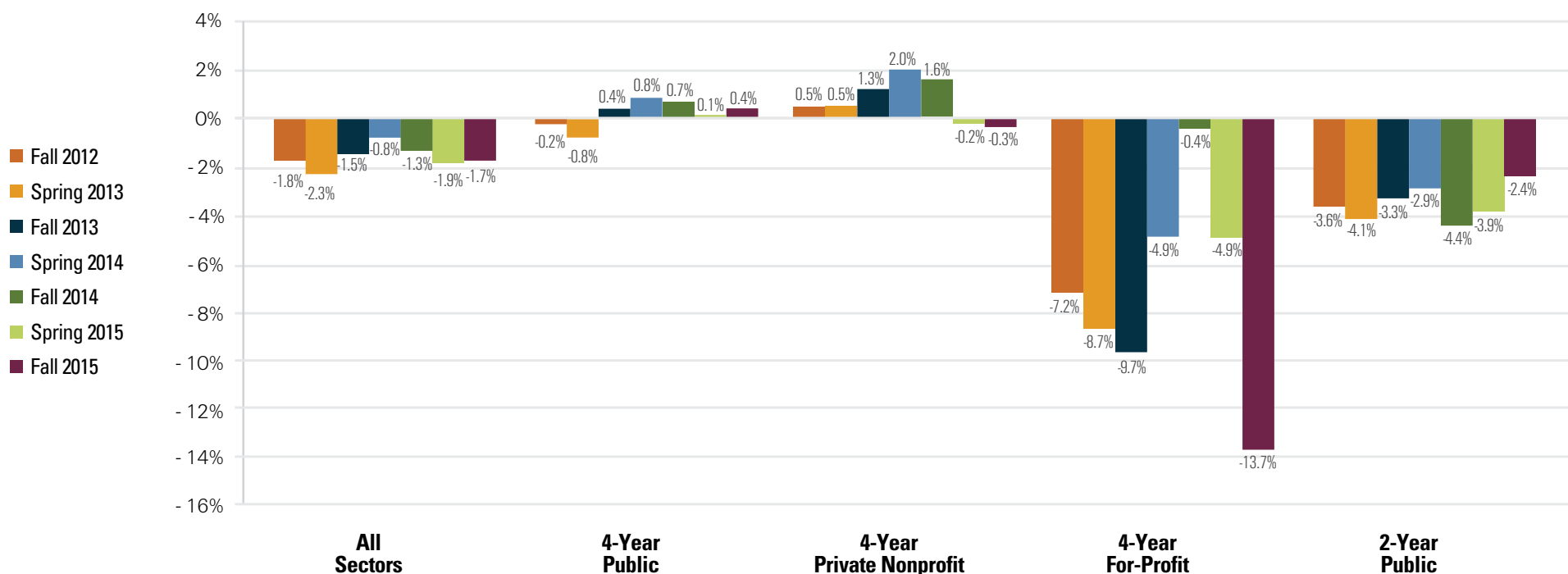RESEARCH CENTER™

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Table 1: Estimated National Enrollment by Sector (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Sector	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
Total Enrollment, All Sectors	19,280,473	-1.7%	19,619,773	-1.3%	19,885,203	-1.5%
Four-Year Public	8,055,192	0.4%	8,020,444	0.7%	7,964,090	0.4%
Four-Year Private Nonprofit	3,811,176	-0.3%	3,823,465	1.6%	3,761,953	1.3%
Four-Year For-Profit	1,134,974	-13.7%	1,315,167	-0.4%	1,321,107	-9.7%
Two-Year Public	5,906,419	-2.4%	6,052,069	-4.4%	6,329,631	-3.3%
Unduplicated Student Headcount (All Sectors)	18,929,736	-1.7%	19,258,730	-1.3%	19,511,518	-1.4%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 1 provides counts of fall term enrollments submitted to the Clearinghouse by December 1 of each year. 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, about 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. Two-year for-profits and two-year private nonprofits are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from those sectors are included in the overall totals. Additional notes on data and coverage are included at the end of this document.

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Table 2: Estimated Enrollment in Private Non-Profit Institutions by Size of Institution (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Sector	Institution Size	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
		Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
Four-Year Private Nonprofit	Under 3,000	1,132,628	-0.1%	1,133,573	0.7%	1,125,754	-0.7%
	3,000 to 9,999	1,235,128	-0.4%	1,240,482	1.2%	1,225,488	0.9%
	10,000 or More	1,443,421	-0.4%	1,449,409	2.7%	1,410,711	3.2%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 2 provides a deeper look at the enrollment counts for private nonprofit institutions, by institution size. The size of institution is based on the most recently available IPEDS fall enrollment totals. Additional notes on data and coverage are included at the end of this document.

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Table 3: Estimated National Enrollment by Sector and Program Level (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Sector	Program Level	FALL 2015 Enrollment
All Sectors	Undergraduate	16,607,735
	Graduate/Professional	2,672,738
Four-Year Public	Undergraduate	6,783,355
	Graduate/Professional	1,271,837
Four-Year Private Nonprofit	Undergraduate	2,705,471
	Graduate/Professional	1,105,705
Four-Year For-Profit	Undergraduate	851,464
	Graduate/Professional	283,509

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 3 provides enrollment counts by program level. Beginning in the 2014-15 academic year, institutions began submitting additional data elements to the Clearinghouse to satisfy new reporting requirements for the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). This makes it possible to measure undergraduate and graduate enrollments separately for the current term, starting with fall 2015. The *undergraduate* category includes: undergraduate certificate/diploma, associate degree, bachelor's degree, teacher preparation programs, special non-credential programs that have been classified by institutions as undergraduate programs, and 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.

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Table 4: Estimated National Enrollment by Sector and Intensity Level (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Sector	Enrollment Intensity	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
		Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
All Sectors	Full-Time	12,116,449	-1.5%	12,304,457	-1.4%	12,477,913	-1.7%
	Part-Time	7,164,024	-2.1%	7,315,315	-1.2%	7,407,290	-1.3%
Four-Year Public	Full-Time	5,874,016	0.7%	5,831,695	-0.1%	5,840,116	0.6%
	Part-Time	2,181,176	-0.3%	2,188,749	3.0%	2,123,974	-0.2%
Four-Year Private Nonprofit	Full-Time	2,959,473	0.5%	2,944,226	1.5%	2,900,544	0.7%
	Part-Time	851,703	-3.1%	879,239	2.1%	861,410	3.0%
Four-Year For-Profit	Full-Time	753,549	-15.8%	894,643	-4.9%	940,796	—
	Part-Time	381,425	-9.3%	420,525	10.6%	380,311	—
Two-Year Public	Full-Time	2,301,721	-4.6%	2,413,319	-5.6%	2,556,904	-3.1%
	Part-Time	3,604,698	-0.9%	3,638,751	-3.6%	3,772,727	-3.4%

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. Two-year for-profits and two-year private nonprofits are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from those sectors are included in the overall totals.

Two large for-profit institutions began participating with the Clearinghouse in spring 2013, altering the ratio of full-time to part-time students. As a result, comparisons to prior years are not meaningful. Additional notes on data and coverage are included at the end of this document.

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Table 5: Estimated National Enrollment by Sector and Age Group (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Sector	Age Group	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
		Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
All Sectors	24 and Under	12,393,792	-0.3%	12,425,257	-0.5%	12,483,914	-0.4%
	Over 24	6,886,680	-4.3%	7,194,515	-2.8%	7,401,289	-3.4%
Four-Year Public	24 and Under	5,761,947	0.9%	5,712,772	1.6%	5,623,696	1.5%
	Over 24	2,293,245	-0.6%	2,307,672	-1.4%	2,340,394	-2.1%
Four-Year Private Nonprofit	24 and Under	2,346,861	-0.1%	2,349,735	1.6%	2,312,383	0.7%
	Over 24	1,464,314	-0.6%	1,473,730	1.7%	1,449,570	2.3%
Four-Year For-Profit	24 and Under	221,221	-12.6%	253,119	2.8%	246,339	-14.7%
	Over 24	913,753	-14.0%	1,062,048	-1.2%	1,074,768	-8.5%
Two-Year Public	24 and Under	3,770,297	-0.4%	3,786,656	-2.4%	3,878,137	-1.3%
	Over 24	2,136,121	-5.7%	2,265,413	-7.6%	2,451,494	-6.2%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 5 provides enrollment counts by student age group. 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. Two-year for-profits and two-year private nonprofits are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from those sectors are included in the overall totals. Additional notes on data and coverage are included at the end of this document.

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Table 6: Estimated National Enrollment by Sector and Gender (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

Sector	Gender	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
		Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
All Sectors	Men	8,298,399	-1.4%	8,418,385	-1.4%	8,540,032	-1.1%
	Women	10,982,073	-2.0%	11,201,388	-1.3%	11,345,170	-1.8%
Four-Year Public	Men	3,601,711	0.1%	3,598,088	0.4%	3,583,885	0.6%
	Women	4,453,481	0.7%	4,422,356	1.0%	4,380,205	0.2%
Four-Year Private Nonprofit	Men	1,574,940	-0.9%	1,588,508	1.2%	1,569,224	1.1%
	Women	2,236,235	0.1%	2,234,957	1.9%	2,192,729	1.3%
Four-Year For-Profit	Men	414,849	-12.4%	473,631	6.5%	444,861	-11.9%
	Women	720,125	-14.4%	841,537	-4.0%	876,245	-8.6%
Two-Year Public	Men	2,550,515	-1.6%	2,592,460	-4.6%	2,717,633	-2.0%
	Women	3,355,904	-3.0%	3,459,610	-4.2%	3,611,998	-4.2%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 6 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. Two-year for-profits and two-year private nonprofits are not shown in the table due to small counts, but enrollments from those sectors are included in the overall totals. Additional notes on data, coverage, and imputation of gender are included at the end of this document.

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Table 7: Estimated Enrollment by State of Institution (Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions)

State	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
Multi-State Institutions	767,475	-19.0%	947,103	-7.8%	1,027,370	-6.7%
Alabama	286,442	-0.9%	289,072	0.9%	286,410	-2.0%
Alaska	32,935	1.0%	32,616	0.0%	32,623	-4.4%
Arizona	430,745	2.9%	418,420	5.2%	397,718	-5.9%
Arkansas	163,060	-2.4%	167,091	0.0%	167,154	0.1%
California	2,507,463	0.4%	2,497,958	-0.7%	2,516,524	0.4%
Colorado	303,777	0.7%	301,620	-1.7%	306,967	-0.1%
Connecticut	195,750	-0.5%	196,813	0.9%	194,994	-0.9%
Delaware	57,025	-1.9%	58,112	0.5%	57,848	1.2%
District of Columbia	74,756	1.4%	73,692	-1.6%	74,912	-2.5%
Florida	1,009,240	-4.3%	1,055,129	-0.1%	1,055,846	-0.2%
Georgia	477,322	-0.1%	477,956	-5.1%	503,452	-1.6%
Hawaii	58,502	-4.4%	61,191	-1.7%	62,253	-4.7%
Idaho	96,886	-0.5%	97,393	-3.0%	100,371	1.1%
Illinois	660,808	-4.0%	688,574	-3.6%	714,308	-2.9%
Indiana	362,456	-2.5%	371,626	-3.9%	386,892	-0.9%

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State	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
Iowa	262,747	-4.8%	276,062	-5.4%	291,765	-9.5%
Kansas	204,035	-1.6%	207,291	3.5%	200,219	-1.4%
Kentucky	242,831	-4.3%	253,863	-1.6%	258,098	-3.3%
Louisiana	231,654	0.7%	230,144	-0.8%	231,959	-7.4%
Maine	68,282	-0.6%	68,699	-1.0%	69,383	-1.7%
Maryland	357,723	-0.4%	359,131	-3.0%	370,114	-3.1%
Massachusetts	458,146	-0.9%	462,368	-1.2%	467,884	-0.5%
Michigan	562,230	-3.9%	584,872	-2.7%	600,947	-3.7%
Minnesota	384,622	-1.6%	390,678	-1.7%	397,330	-2.5%
Mississippi	167,936	-0.8%	169,348	0.6%	168,276	-3.3%
Missouri	370,044	-2.9%	381,167	-4.6%	399,669	-1.6%
Montana	48,941	-4.4%	51,170	-5.5%	54,162	-0.4%
Nebraska	133,361	2.1%	130,652	-4.0%	136,118	0.0%
Nevada	112,051	-2.4%	114,788	2.2%	112,285	1.1%
New Hampshire	124,553	11.0%	112,196	19.9%	93,599	12.9%
New Jersey	391,636	-2.8%	402,976	-2.5%	413,510	-0.8%

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State	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
New Mexico*	123,455	-6.3%	131,695	-6.3%	140,512	-0.7%
New York	1,151,599	-0.4%	1,156,068	-1.9%	1,177,997	0.2%
North Carolina	521,944	-3.0%	538,249	-0.9%	543,182	-1.0%
North Dakota	52,950	0.6%	52,639	-3.8%	54,731	-1.7%
Ohio	617,835	-1.9%	629,970	-3.4%	652,248	-1.5%
Oklahoma	192,053	-2.6%	197,138	-2.7%	202,671	-1.5%
Oregon	223,077	-3.0%	229,967	-4.5%	240,920	-3.1%
Pennsylvania	706,610	-2.0%	721,095	-2.0%	735,709	-2.1%
Rhode Island	70,746	-1.0%	71,462	-1.1%	72,284	1.9%
South Carolina	240,176	-0.8%	242,071	-1.2%	245,117	-0.8%
South Dakota	47,631	1.1%	47,133	-1.0%	47,590	-0.4%
Tennessee	307,253	-0.5%	308,792	-1.8%	314,571	-1.9%
Texas	1,466,794	1.7%	1,442,610	0.2%	1,439,253	0.5%
Utah	284,639	8.7%	261,810	0.4%	260,802	-1.2%
Vermont	41,040	-0.2%	41,127	-0.6%	41,396	-1.6%
Virginia	514,926	-1.9%	524,800	0.0%	524,792	-0.5%

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State	FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013	
	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year	Enrollment	% Change from Prior Year
Washington	322,065	0.1%	321,722	-3.5%	333,247	-0.5%
West Virginia	158,289	-5.1%	166,809	-0.2%	167,194	7.8%
Wisconsin	327,321	-2.5%	335,665	-1.6%	341,140	-1.0%
Wyoming	30,470	1.5%	30,018	-4.7%	31,506	-3.9%

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Table 7 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.

In New Mexico, a portion of the fall 2015 decline was due to a system of institutions that is no longer reporting dual-enrolled high school students to the Clearinghouse. Additional notes on data and coverage are included at the end of this document.

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Notes on the Data

National Coverage of the Data

As of fall 2015, institutions actively submitting enrollment data to the Clearinghouse account for over 96 percent of all enrollments at Title IV, degree-granting institutions in the nation. 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 enrollment figures for all institutions nationally. Using all 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 2014 IPEDS enrollments at the time of publication, fall 2013 IPEDS enrollments were used as the basis for calculating the fall 2013 and fall 2014 Clearinghouse coverage rates.

For detailed statistics on enrollment coverage as well as several other aspects of Clearinghouse data,
visit the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center's "Working With Our Data" page at
http://nscresearchcenter.org/workingwithourdata/

Differences from IPEDS

National Student Clearinghouse data are nonadjudicated, administrative data that come directly from college and university registrars. These data differ from IPEDS survey data in a number of important ways:

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.

1. **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.

2. **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, 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.

3. **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 the most recent years for which IPEDS data are available, slightly less than four percent of the total IPEDS enrollment is accounted for by the nonresident alien category.)

Imputation of Gender

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.