



ACCESS TO COLLEGE

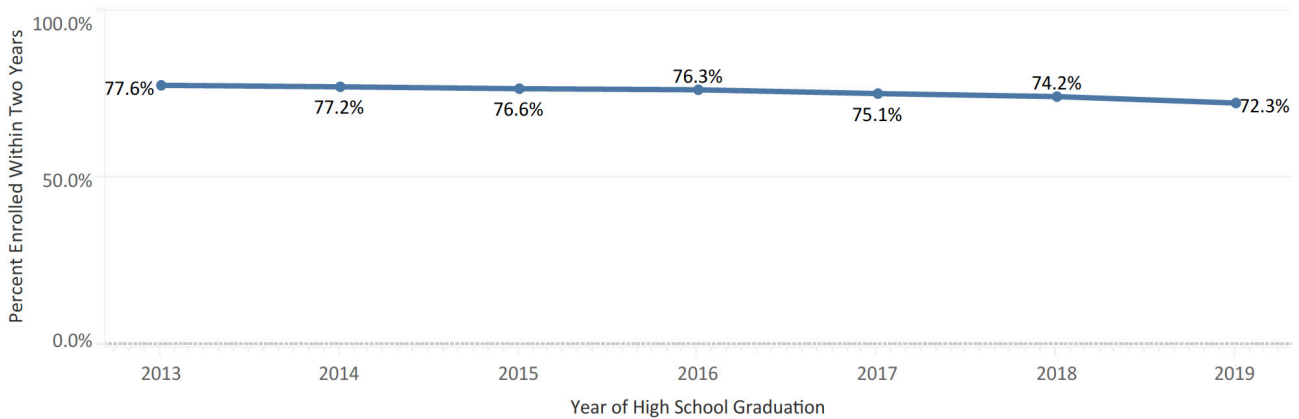
A 2022 MINNESOTA MEASURES REPORT

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PARTICIPATION IN COLLEGE

Key: Minnesota maintains strong college enrollment rates, but equity gaps persist.

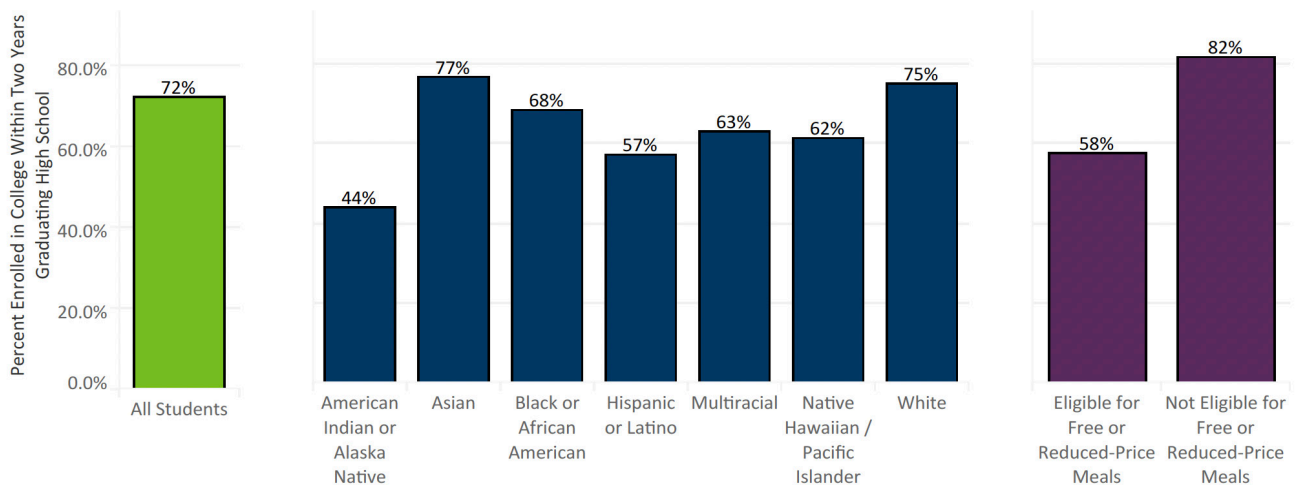
Figure 1: College enrollment rates have declined since 2013



Source: Minnesota Office of Higher Education analysis Minnesota SLEDS data (Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System)

The percentage of Minnesota high school graduates enrolling in college has declined since 2013. In the class of 2019, 72.3% of public high school graduates enrolled in college within two years of graduation. This rate was lower than the recent high of 77.6% seen for the class of 2013.

Figure 2: Significant gaps in college enrollment exist for students of color, indigenous students, and students eligible for free or reduced-price meals

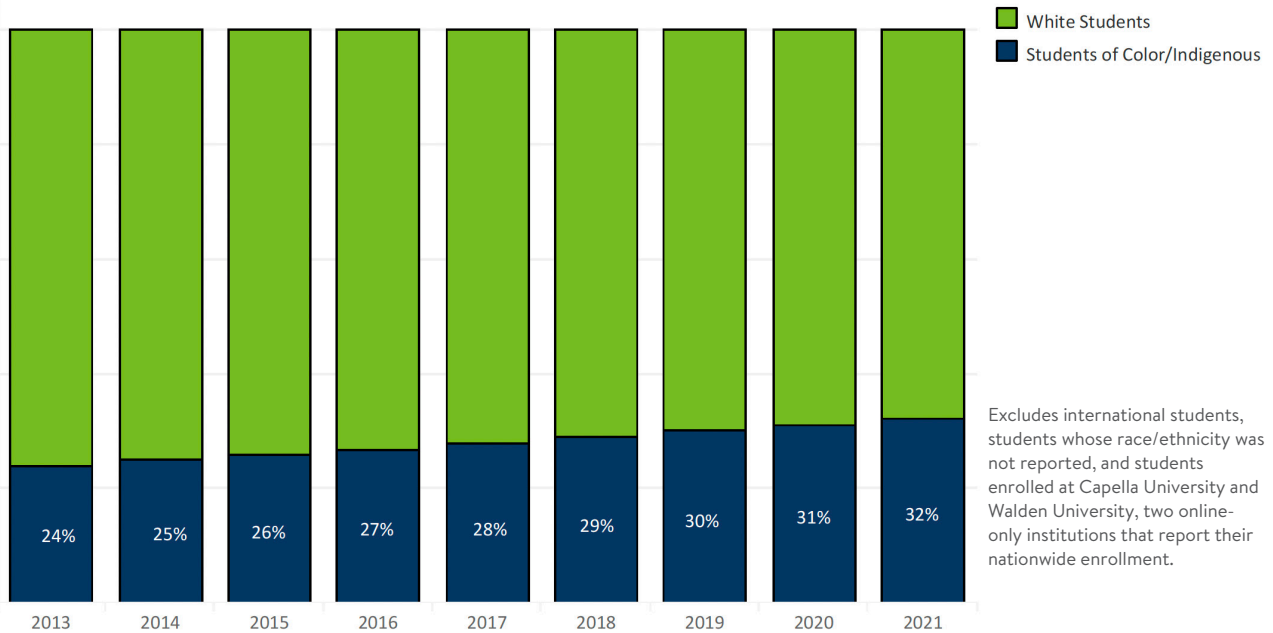


Note: Students in households with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for free or reduced-price meals
Source: Minnesota Office of Higher Education analysis of Minnesota SLEDS data (Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System)

STUDENT ENROLLMENT DISPARITIES

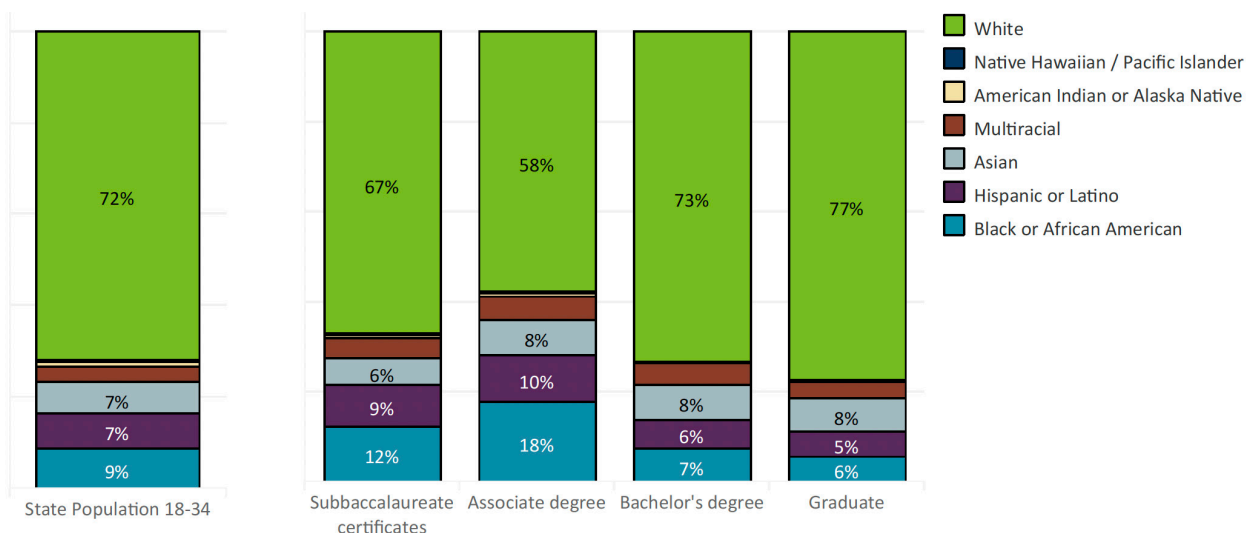
Although college enrollment is becoming more diverse, students of color and indigenous students remain underrepresented in Bachelor's and graduate programs.

Figure 4: Students of color and indigenous students make up a growing share of Minnesota undergraduate students



The share of Minnesota undergraduates who were students of color or indigenous students has increased in the past nine years, from 24% in the fall of 2013 to 32% in the fall of 2021. This trend largely mirrors trends in the overall population.

Figure 5: Enrollment disparities exist by credential type for students of color, indigenous students (fall '21) (Race and ethnicity of Minnesota resident students ages 18-34 by credential type, as compared to the state population of 18-34 year-olds. Students age 18-34 make up 90% of Minnesota postsecondary students)

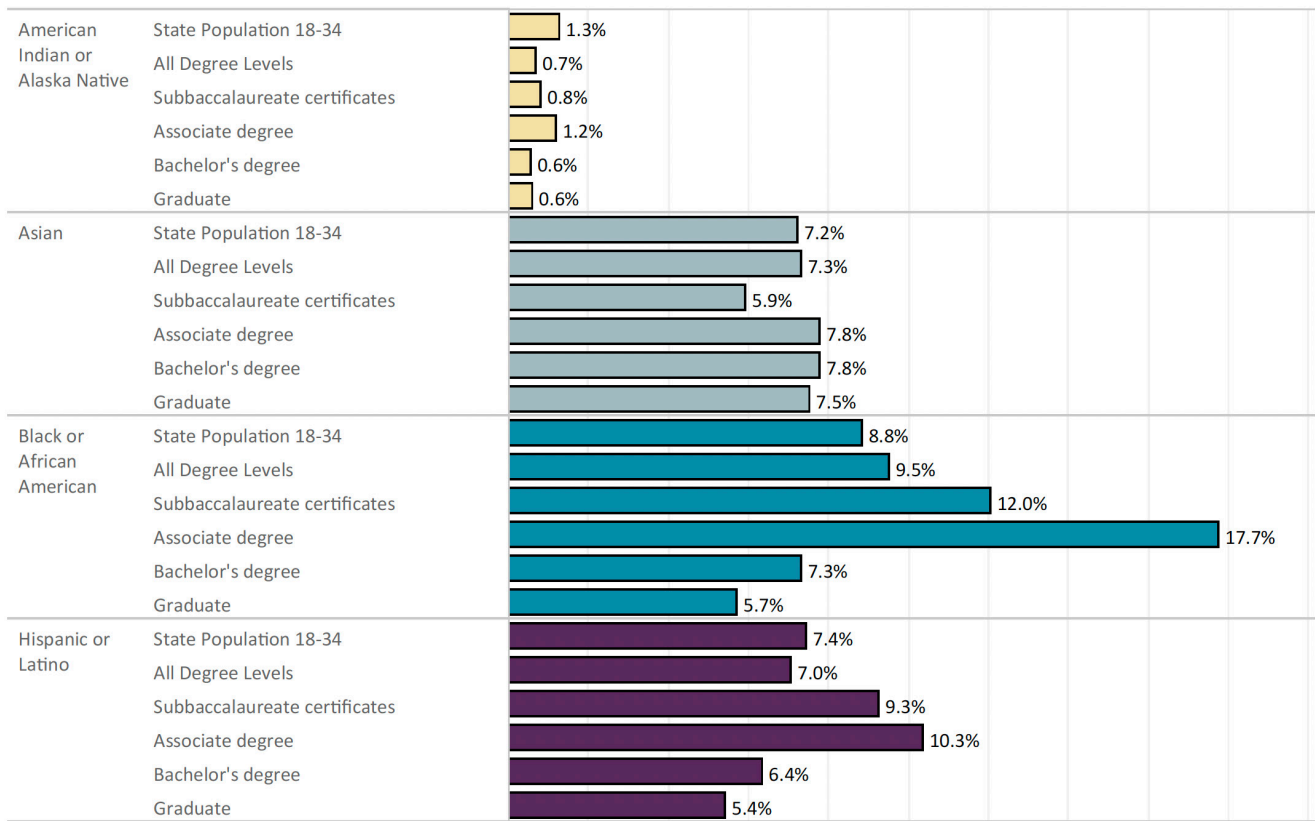


Sources: US Census State Characteristics Population Estimates 7/1/2021; Minnesota Office of Higher Education Student Enrollment Database.
 Note: Excludes students enrolled at Capella University and Walden University, two online-only institutions that report their nationwide enrollment.

A comparison of the racial and ethnic makeup of students by different credential types, as compared to the makeup of Minnesota's state population aged 18-34, highlights enrollment disparities by credential type. Students of color and indigenous students make up disproportionately high percentages of sub-baccalaureate certificate and associate degree students (33% and 42%, respectively, in the fall of 2021) compared to 28% of Minnesota's population aged 18-34 in the year 2021. Meanwhile, students of color and indigenous students make up disproportionately low percentages of Bachelor's degree and graduate students (27% and 23%, respectively).

Students of color and indigenous students make up disproportionately high percentages of subbaccalaureate certificate and associate degree students.

Figure 6: Explore representation of racial and ethnic groups by credential type

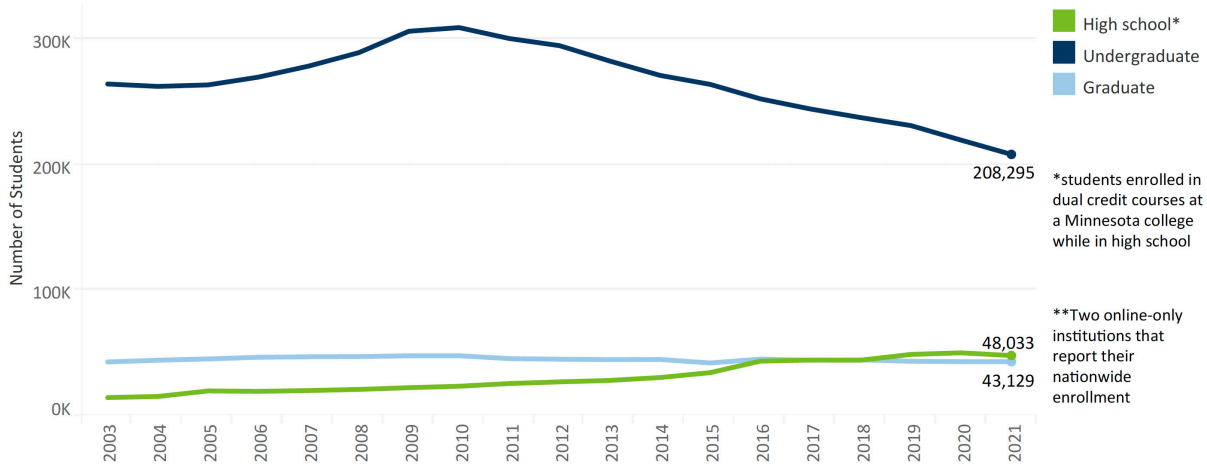


A closer look within each racial and ethnic category highlights the significance of these enrollment disparities. For example, while Black or African American residents make up 8.8% of Minnesota's 18-34 year-old population, these residents only represent 7.3% of the state's Bachelor's degree enrollment, a 17% decrease in representation. Similarly, American Indian or Alaska

Native students make up less than half the amount of Bachelor's degree students (0.6%) versus what would be seen if the Bachelor's degree-seeking population mirrored the state's population as a whole (1.3%). Hispanic or Latino students made up 6.4% of Bachelor's enrollment, 14% lower than their makeup of the state population age 18-34 (7.4%).

EXAMINING ENROLLMENT TRENDS AND STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Figure 7: The decline in undergraduate enrollment accelerated in fall 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic (fall student headcount by year)

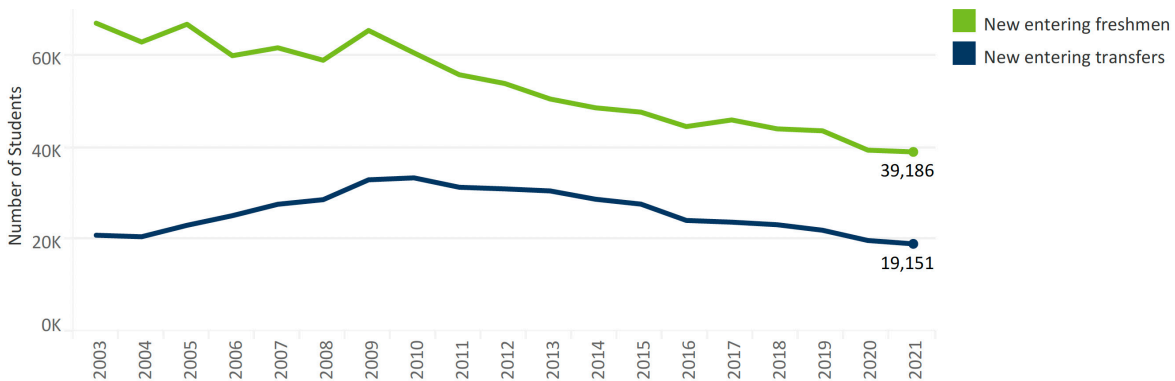


Note: Students enrolled at two online-only institutions that report their nationwide enrollment, Capella University and Walden University, are excluded.

Declines in undergraduate enrollment, a trend since enrollment peaked in 2010 at the height of the Great Recession, accelerated in fall 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Undergraduate enrollment in Minnesota declined from 231,246 in fall 2019 to 219,643 in fall 2020, a decrease of -5.3%, and decreased further to 208,295 in fall 2021, a decrease of an additional -5.2%. In contrast, graduate enrollment and enrollment of high school students in dual credit courses both decreased only slightly from fall 2019 to fall 2021.

College enrollment generally increases during economic downturns as unemployed workers pursue additional education.

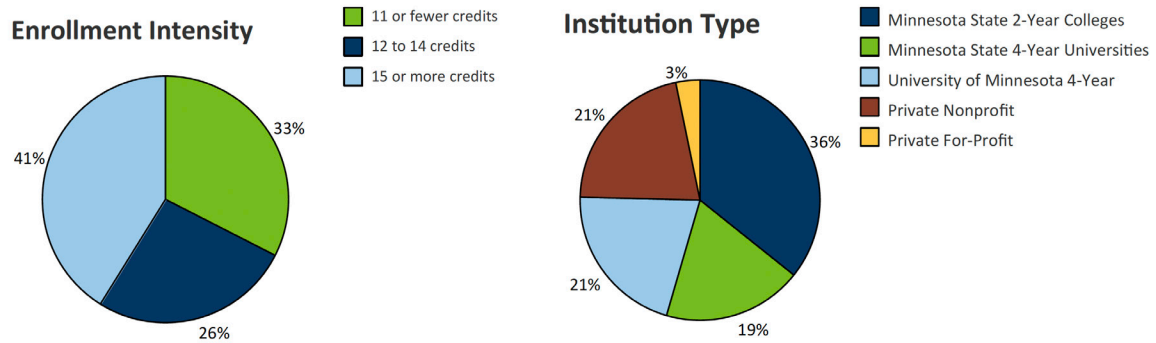
Figure 8: Both new entering freshmen and transfer undergraduates declined during the pandemic (fall student headcount by year – new entering undergraduates)



Note: Students enrolled at two online-only institutions that report their nationwide enrollment, Capella University and Walden University, are excluded.

New entering undergraduate enrollment decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic, falling from 43,622 in fall 2019 to 39,186 in fall 2021 – a decline of 10.2%. New entering transfers decreased at a similar rate, falling from 22,086 in fall 2019 to 19,151 in fall 2021 – a decline of 10.0%.

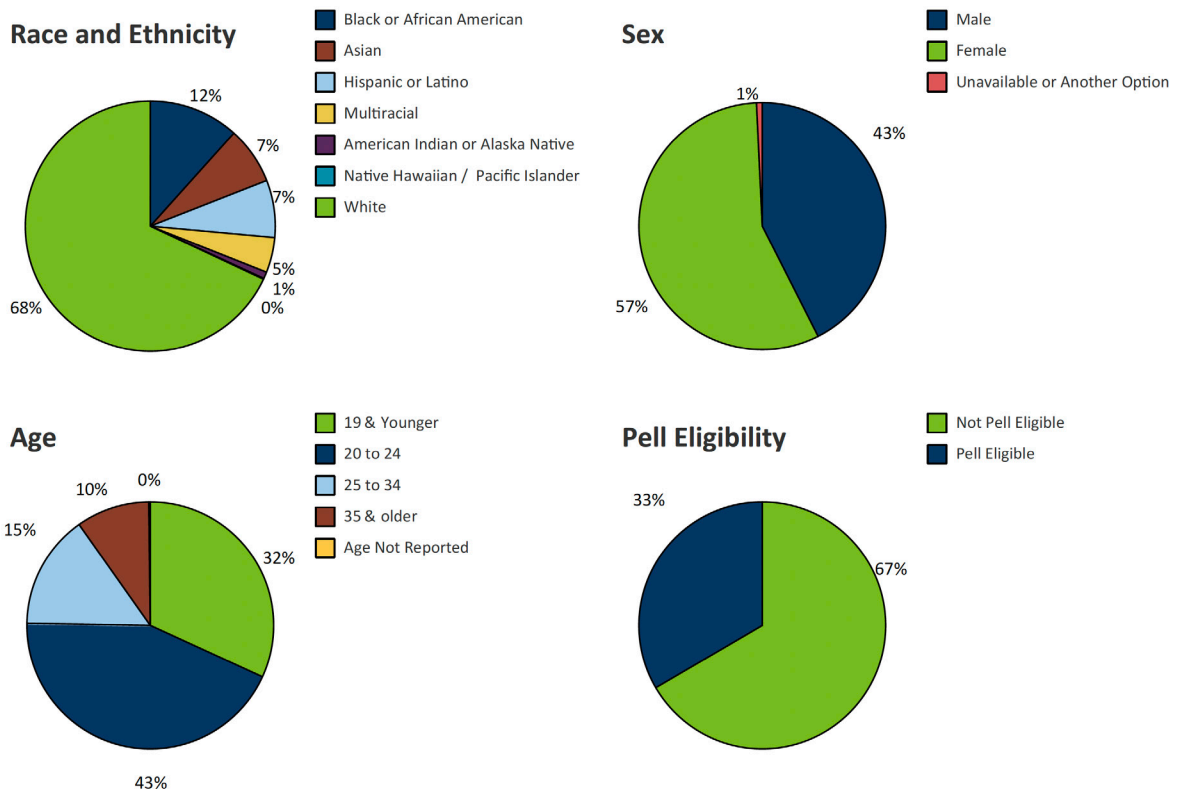
Figure 9: Enrollment characteristics of Minnesota undergraduate students (fall term 2021)



Note: Students enrolled at two online-only institutions that report their nationwide enrollment, Capella University and Walden University, are excluded.

In fall 2021, most Minnesota undergraduates enrolled at full-time levels of 12 credits or more, and over half (61%) enrolled at either public 4-year schools or private nonprofit institutions (mostly 4-year liberal arts colleges). 21% were enrolled at the University of Minnesota, 19% were enrolled at Minnesota State Universities (4-year), and 21% at private non-profits. Minnesota State Colleges (2-year) enrolled 36% of Minnesota undergraduates – the largest percentage of any institution type – while private for-profits enrolled just 3%.

Figure 10: Demographic profile of Minnesota resident undergraduate students (fall term 2021)



Note: Students enrolled at two online-only institutions that report their nationwide enrollment, Capella University and Walden University, are excluded.

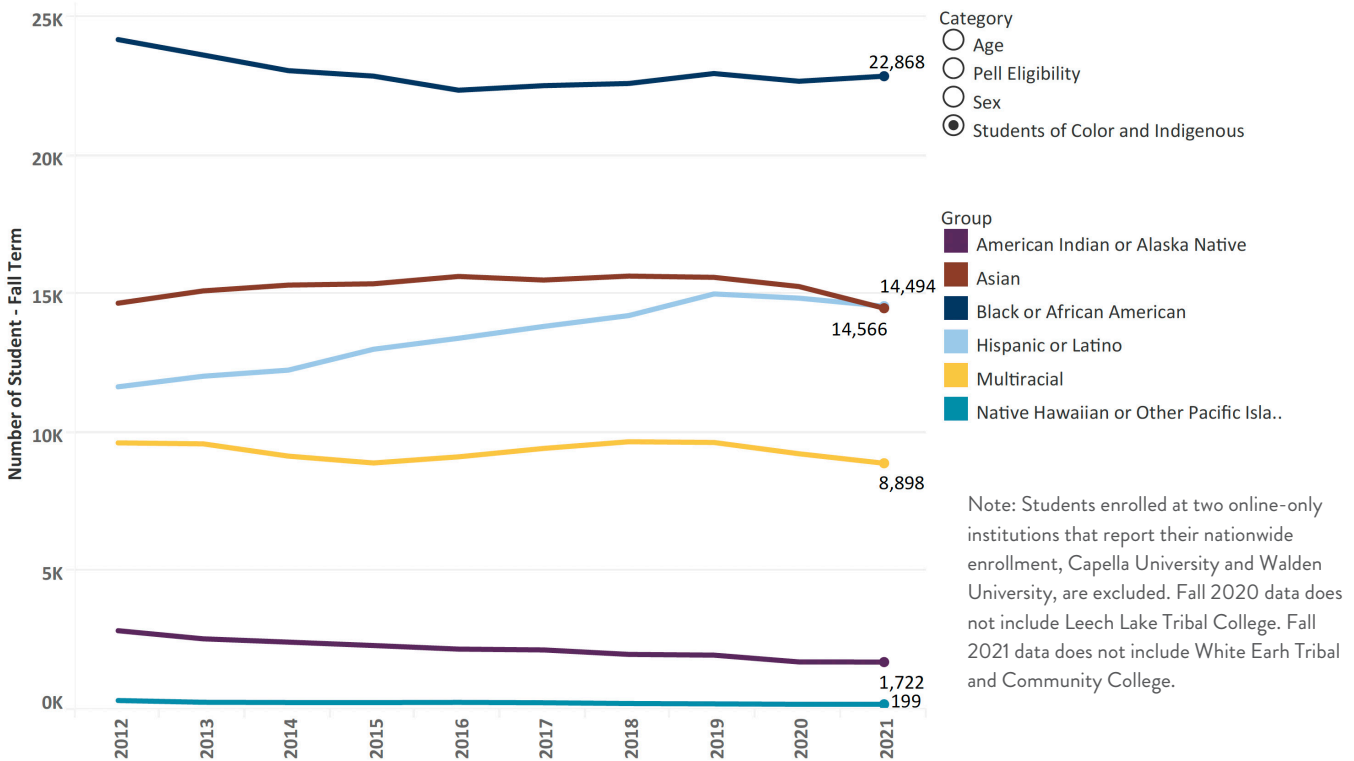
In fall 2021, 68% of Minnesota undergraduates were white students versus 32% who were students of color or indigenous students. Within students of color and indigenous students, Black or African American students make up the largest percentage at 12%, followed by Asian students at 7%, Hispanic or Latino students (7%), Multiracial students (5%), and American Indian or Alaska Native students (1%). Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander students made up just a fraction of a percent.

Female undergraduates outnumber male undergraduates, making up 57% of students versus men at 43% (the remaining 1% of students either did not report their sex or selected another option besides female or male). A significant percentage of Minnesota resident undergraduates are older than the traditional student, with 25% of these students age 25 or older. Still, Minnesota undergraduates age 24 or younger account for the majority, at 75%.

Women outnumber men among Minnesota resident undergraduates, making up 57% of students.

Roughly one-third of undergraduate students (33%) were Pell-eligible, while 67% were not Pell eligible.

Figure 11: Undergraduate enrollment of students of color and indigenous students, 2012-2021 (fall term)

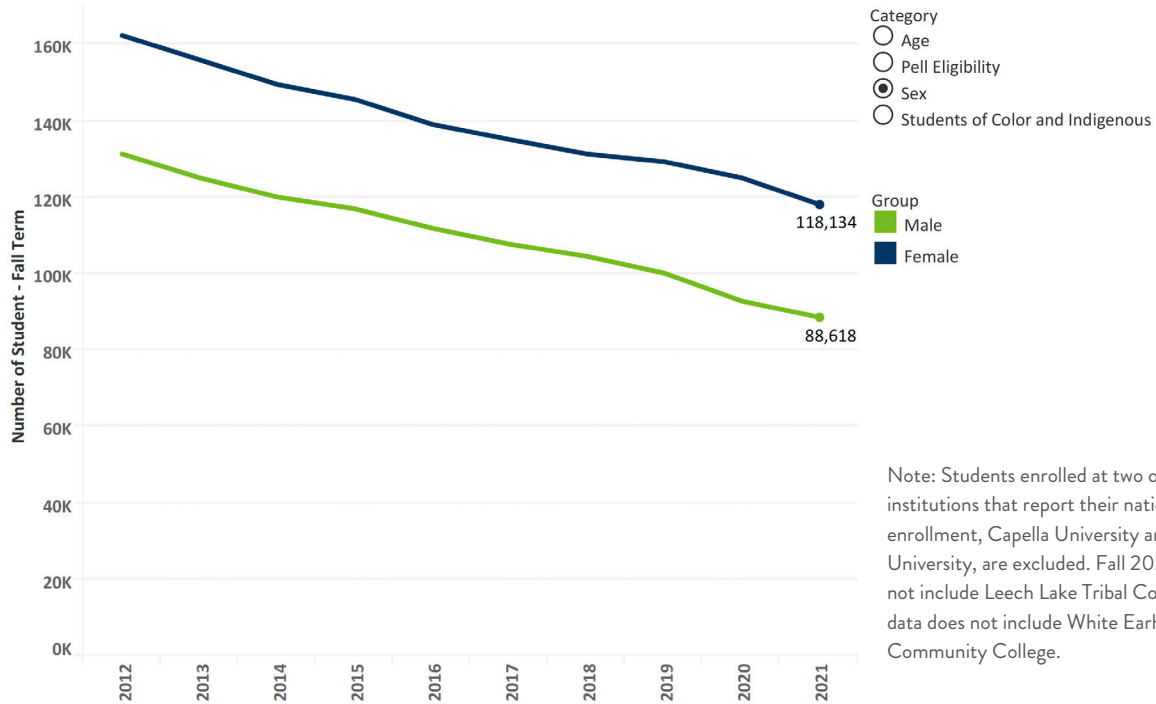


Among undergraduate students of color and indigenous undergraduates, the numbers of students enrolled declined for all groups in fall 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, in some cases reversing recent enrollment gains. However, over a longer timespan differing trends are apparent. Black or African American students decreased from 24,189 in 2012 to 22,868 in 2021. Hispanic or Latino students increased from 11,657 in 2012 to 14,566 in 2021.

Asian students decreased only slightly from 14,675 in 2012 to 14,494 in 2021. Multiracial students decreased from 9,633 in 2012 to 8,898 in 2021. American Indian or Alaska Native students decreased from 2,854 in 2012 to 1,722 in 2021. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students decreased from 334 in 2012 to 199 in 2021.

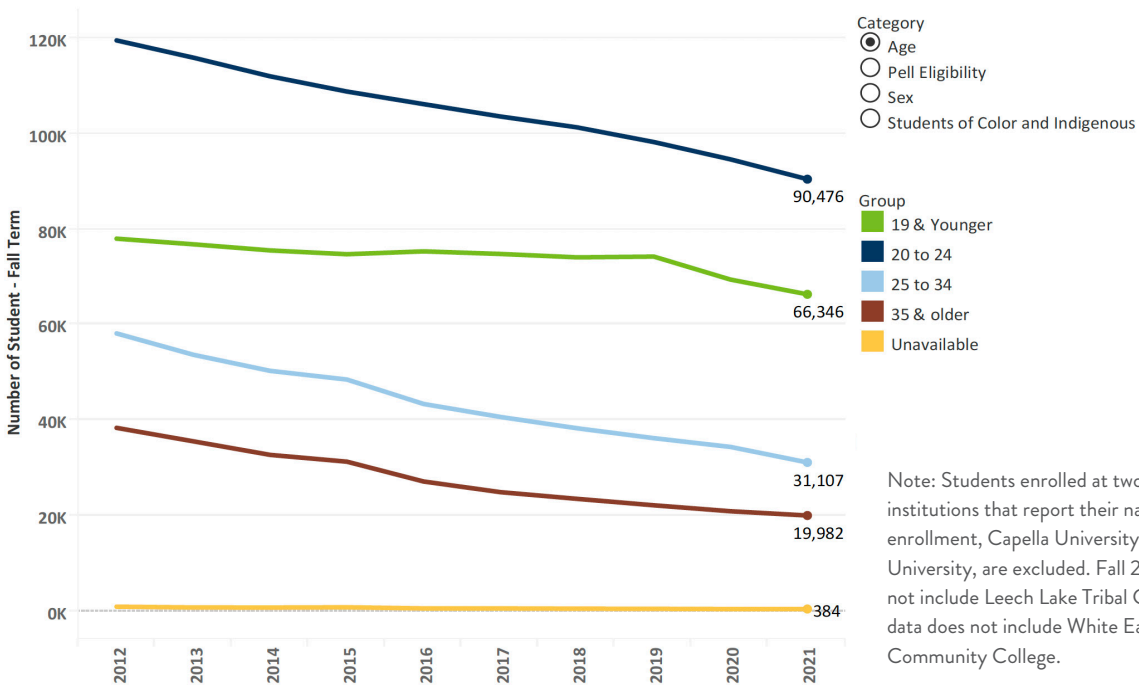
Enrollment of Black or African American students decreased between 2012 and 2021.

Figure 12: Undergraduate enrollment by gender, 2012-2021 (fall term)



Male undergraduate enrollment has been consistently lower than female undergraduate enrollment, and both have declined over time. In fall 2021, 29,516 more female students were enrolled in college than male students (118,134 versus 88,618, respectively).

Figure 13: Undergraduate enrollment by age, 2012-2021 (fall term)



Undergraduates age 19 and younger showed the largest enrollment decline of any age group during the COVID-19 pandemic, falling -10.6% from 74,249 in fall 2019 to 66,346 in fall 2021. Other age groups declined at rates similar to recent years, mirroring the overall trend of declining undergraduate enrollments since the Great Recession.