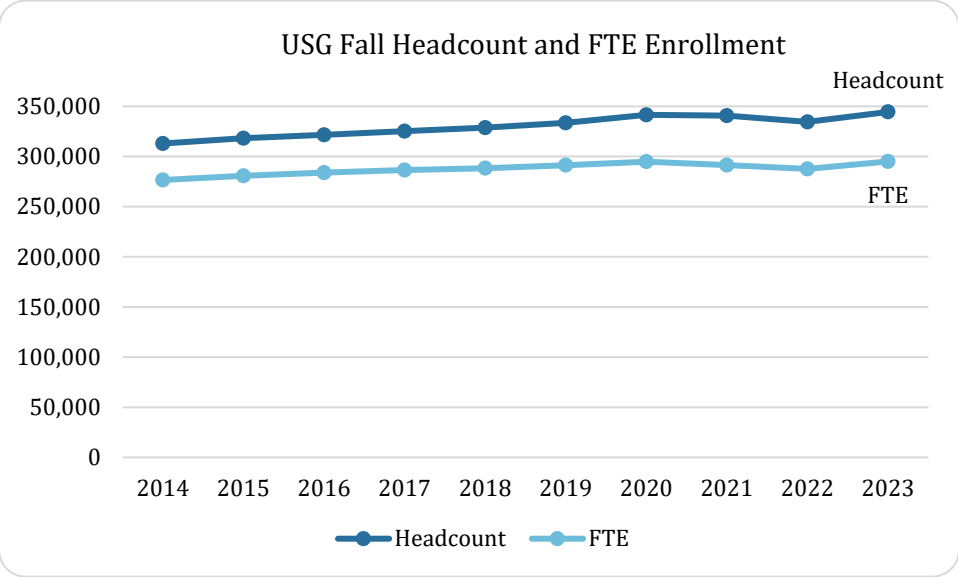
SEMESTER ENROLLMENT REPORT BRIEF
Fall 2023

Office of Research and Policy Analysis

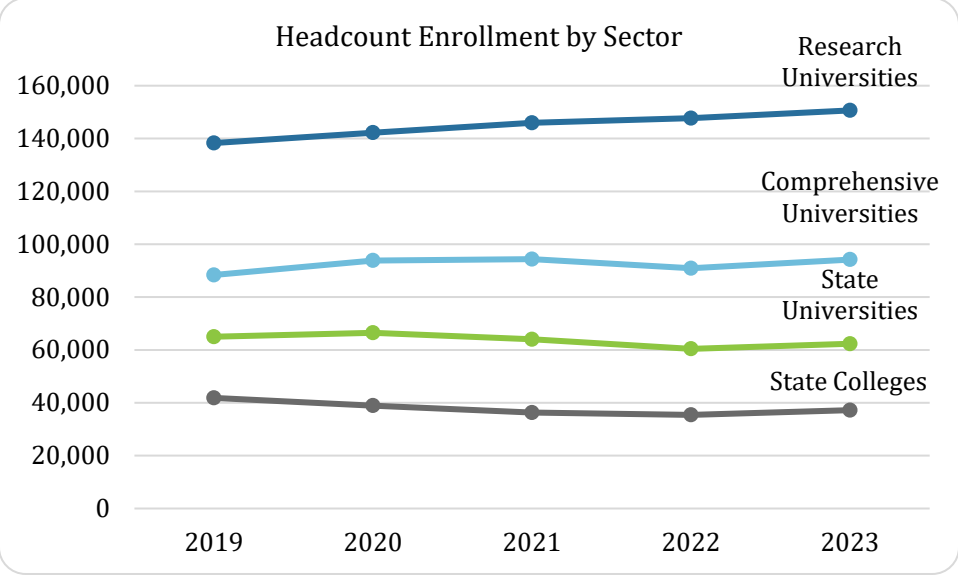
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Total Enrollment

The headcount enrollment of the 26 institutions of the University System of Georgia in fall 2023 is an all-time high of 344,392, representing an increase of 3.0 percent (9,933 students) from fall 2022 enrollment of 334,459. This enrollment increase is higher than the 2.0 percent increase observed in all postsecondary institutions nationally. [1] Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment increased from 287,524 in fall 2022 to 295,026 in fall 2023, an increase of 2.6 percent (7,502 FTE students). The percent of students enrolled full-time decreased slightly from 67.4 percent in fall 2022 to 67.1 percent in fall 2023.

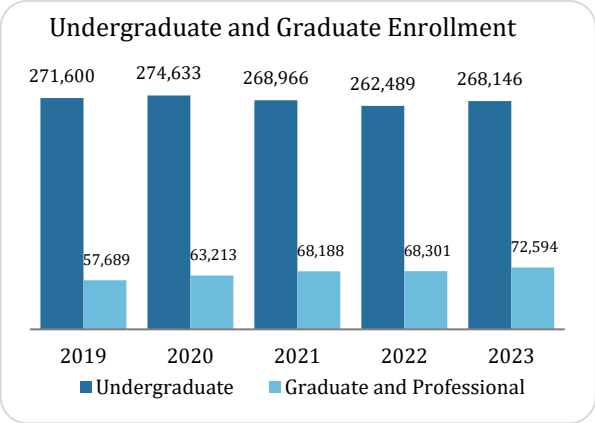


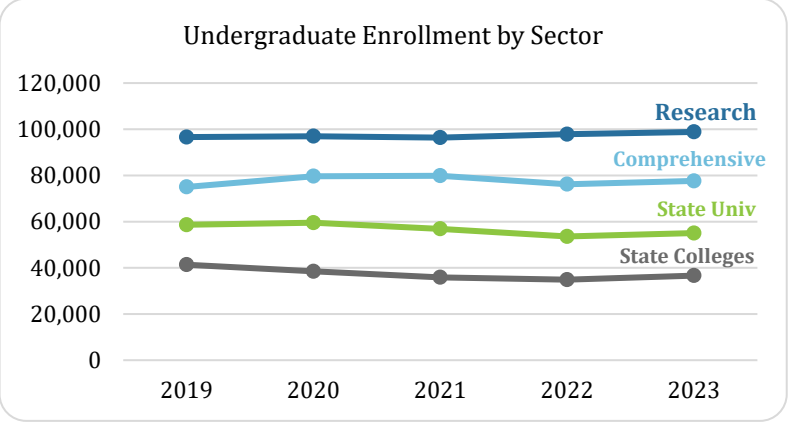
For fall 2023, headcount enrollment is 150,643 in the research sector, 94,207 in comprehensive universities, 62,332 in state universities, and 37,210 in state colleges. Research universities increased 2.0 percent from fall 2022 to fall 2023, with an 8.9 percent increase in enrollment since fall 2019. Comprehensives increased 3.6 percent compared to last fall term and increased 6.6 percent since fall 2019. State universities increased 3.2 percent over last fall but decreased 4.1 percent compared to 2019. While state colleges increased 5.0 percent since last fall, they declined 11.1 percent over the five-year period. Enrollment by individual institution is provided on the last page of this brief. Overall, 23 institutions had an increase in enrollment while three had a decrease.



[1] National comparisons come from the National Student Clearinghouse, https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/

Undergraduate vs. Graduate Enrollment

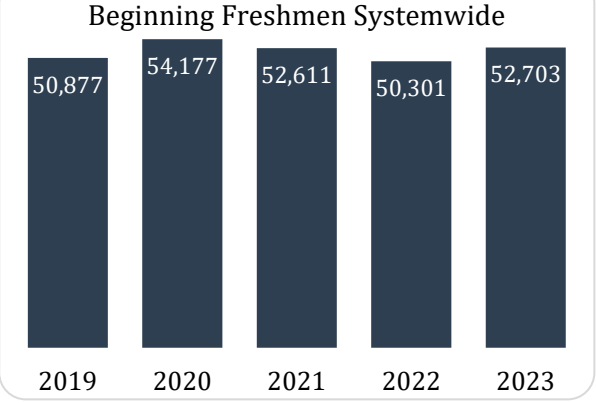


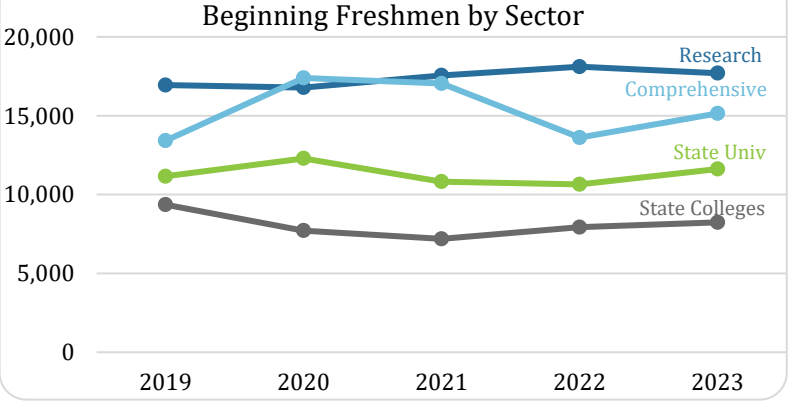


Systemwide, undergraduate enrollment increased by 2.2 percent (5,657 students) compared to fall 2022. This compares favorably with a 0.8 percent increase nationally at public four-year institutions. However, undergraduate enrollment is 1.3 percent (3,454 students) lower than fall 2019. USG graduate enrollment (including graduate, professional, and resident students) increased by 6.3 percent (4,293 students) since fall 2022 and is 25.8 percent (14,905 students) higher than fall 2019. The USG 6.3 percent graduate enrollment increase over fall 2022 is much higher than the 0.8 percent increase seen at four-year public institutions nationally.

Looking at undergraduate enrollment by sector, research university undergraduate enrollment increased by 1.0 percent (1,005 students) over last fall and is up 2.3 percent (2,240 students) over the five-year period. Comprehensive universities increased 1.9 percent (1,431 students) over last fall and 3.5 percent (2,608 students) since 2019. State university undergraduate enrollment increased 2.7 percent (1,449 students) since last fall but is 6.2 percent (3,607 students) lower than 2019. Finally, state college undergraduate enrollment increased by 5.1 percent (1,772 students) over last fall but declined 11.4% (4,695 students) over the five-year period.

Beginning Freshmen





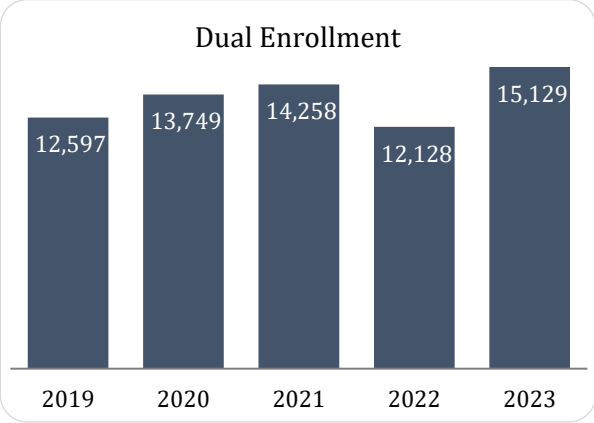
In fall 2023, systemwide beginning freshmen enrollment is 3.6 percent (1,826 students) higher than fall 2019. From fall 2022 to fall 2023, beginning freshmen enrollment increased by 4.6 percent (2,402

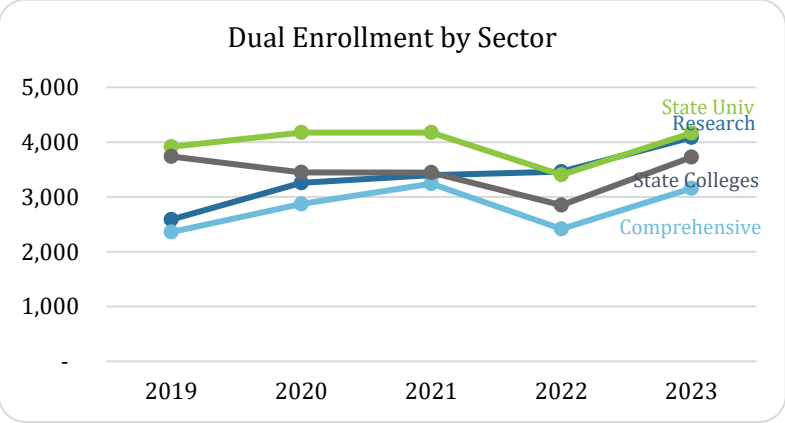
students). Fall 2023 marks the first increase in beginning freshman since fall 2020. Nationally, beginning freshman enrollment has declined this fall, despite overall enrollment increases.

Looking at beginning freshmen by sector over the last five years, three out of four sectors had an increase in enrollment. Since fall 2019, research university beginning freshmen enrollment increased by 4.5 percent (756 students), comprehensive universities increased by 12.9 percent (1,728 students), and state universities increased by 4.1 percent (462 students). However, state colleges decreased by 12.0 percent (1,120 students).

Looking at beginning freshmen by sector compared to fall 2022, three out of four sectors had an increase in enrollment. Only the research university sector saw a decrease in beginning freshmen enrollment at 2.3 percent (411 students), with the decline primarily concentrated at Georgia State University. Comprehensive universities increased by 10.1 percent (1,532 students), state universities increased by 8.4 percent (974 students), and state colleges increased by 3.7 percent (307 students).

Dual Enrollment



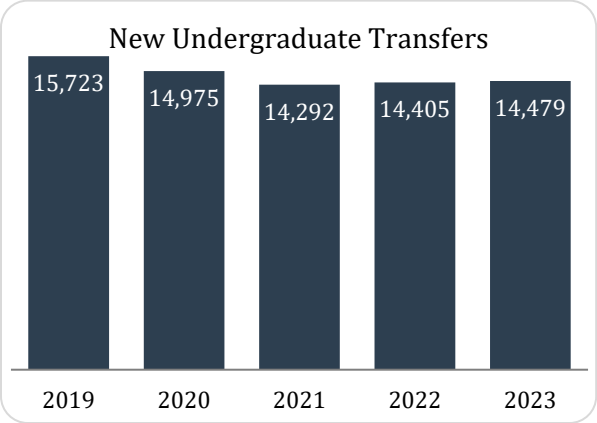


Systemwide, dual enrollment is 20.1 percent (2,532 students) lower in fall 2023 than fall 2019. Compared to fall 2022, however, systemwide dual enrollment is 24.7 percent (3,001 students) higher. The increase this fall in dual enrollment is likely due to an adjustment in policy on admissions test requirements. Policy was changed to allow students to participate in Dual Enrollment in course areas for which they have an admissible admissions test section score. Previously an inadmissible test section score precluded participation completely. The USG dual enrollment increase also mirrors national trends this fall.

Compared to fall 2019, fall 2023 dual enrollment is higher in all sectors except for state colleges. Dual enrollment increased in the research sector by 57.9 percent (1,498 students), the comprehensive sector by 33.8 percent (797 students), and state universities by 6.4 percent (250 students), and slightly decreased in state colleges by 0.3 percent (13 students).

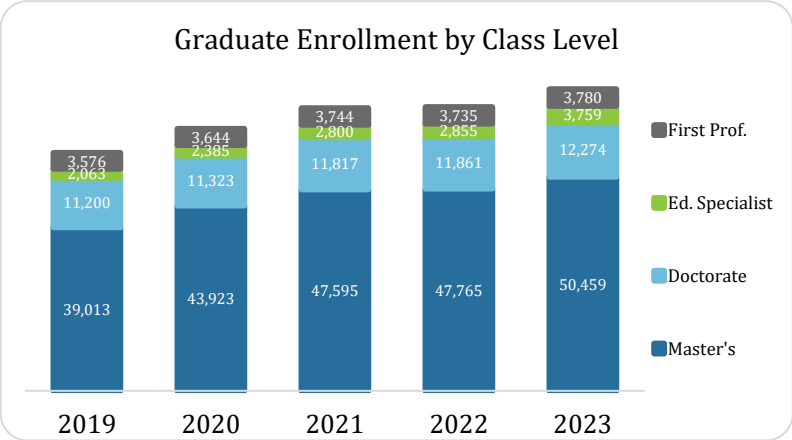
Compared to fall 2022, fall 2023 dual enrollment increased in all sectors: research universities (18.0 percent), comprehensive universities (30.6 percent), state universities (22.4 percent), and state colleges (30.7 percent).

Undergraduate Transfers



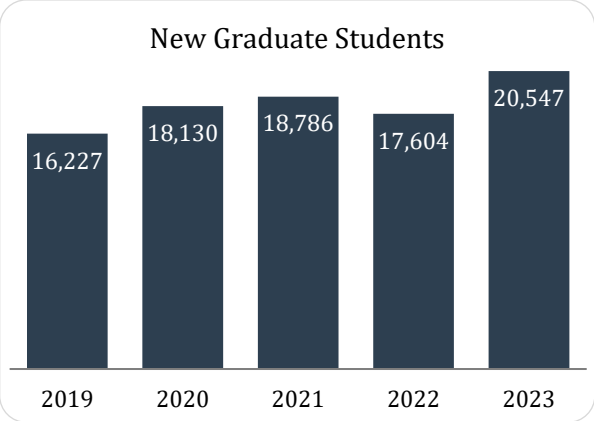
There were 14,479 new undergraduate transfer students in fall 2023, an increase of 0.5 percent (74 students) from fall 2022. Looking over the last five years, there has been a 7.9 percent (1,244 students) decrease in new undergraduate transfers.

Graduate Enrollment



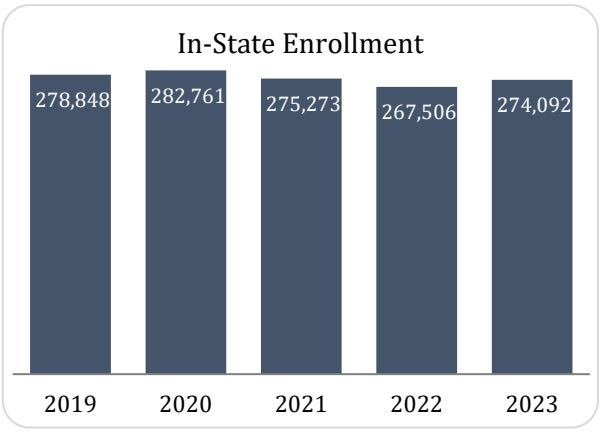
Shifting to graduate enrollment, in a five-year comparison, enrollment increased 25.8 percent (14,905 students). Compared to last fall, this group increased by 6.3 percent (4,293 students) from 68,301in fall 2022 to an all-time high of 72,594 in fall 2023. This increase outpaces graduate enrollment nationally both in four-year public institutions (+0.2%) and all institutions (+0.7%).

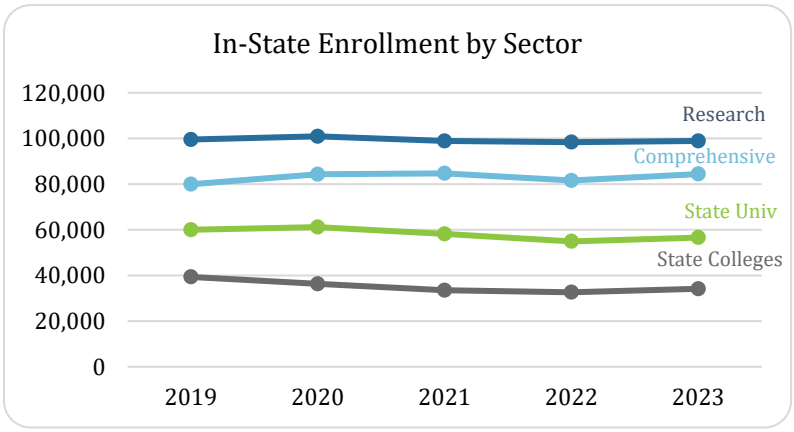
This USG increase can be seen at all levels of graduate enrollment shown in the graph. Since fall 2022, master's enrollment increased 5.6 percent (2,694 students). Notably, the Education Specialist level increased by 31.7 percent (904 students) since fall 2022, to the highest level in the last five fall terms. Students in medical residencies (not included in the graph) increased from 624 students in fall 2019 to 655 students in fall 2023, though there was no change from fall 2022 to fall 2023 and remained at a total of 655 residents.



Over the last five years, new graduate enrollment has generally increased, with fall 2023 establishing a new peak. The number of new graduate students increased by 16.7 percent (2,943 students) from fall 2022 to fall 2023, and 26.6 percent (4,320 students) since fall 2019. Since fall 2022, new graduate enrollment increased at 15 of the 17 institutions that offer graduate programs.

Residency

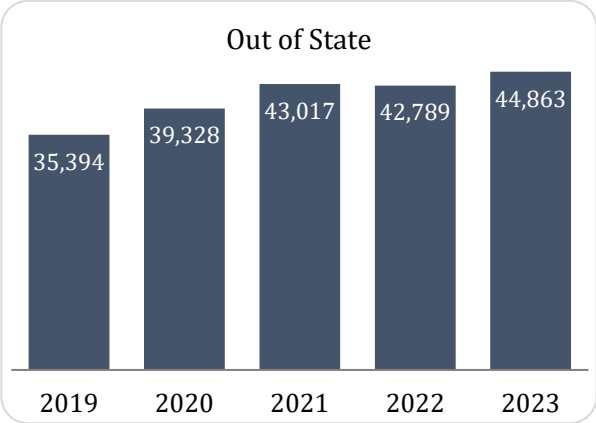


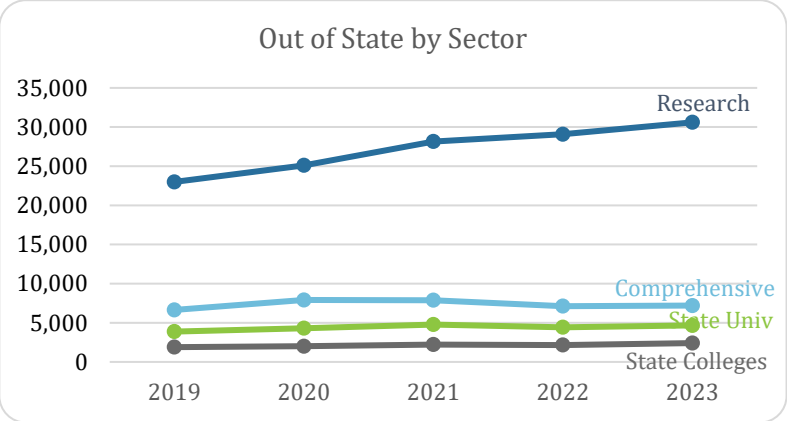


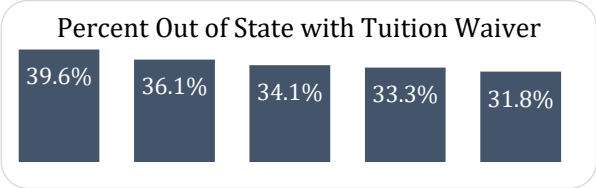
Compared to last fall, systemwide fall 2023 in-state enrollment is higher by 2.5 percent (6,586 students). Since fall 2019, in-state enrollment decreased by 1.7 percent (4,756 students).

However, since fall 2019, in-state enrollment decreased in three of the four sectors. The research sector in-state enrollment decreased by 0.6 percent (624 students), state universities decreased by 5.7 percent (3,412 students), and state colleges by 13.2 percent (5,212 students). In-state enrollment increased at comprehensive universities by 5.6 percent (4,492 students) over the five-year period.

Compared to fall 2022, in-state enrollment is higher in all sectors: research universities by 0.5 percent (526 students), comprehensive universities by 3.5 percent (2,864 students), state universities by 3.1 percent (1,690 students), and state colleges by 4.6 percent (1,506 students). It is important to note that this comparison does not examine the proportion of in-state vs. out-of-state/out-of-country enrollment, but only compares the enrollment numbers of students who are Georgia residents over time (and thus typically follows the general enrollment trends).



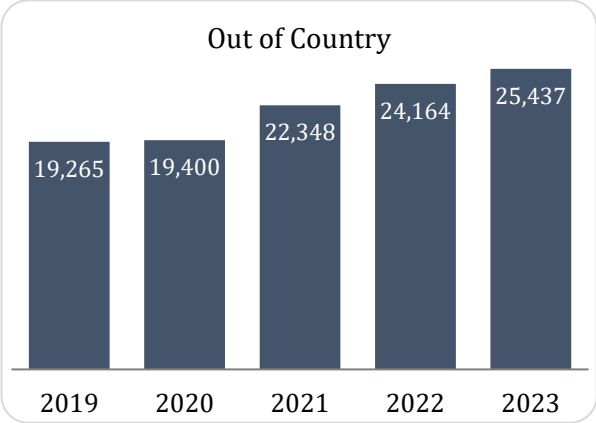


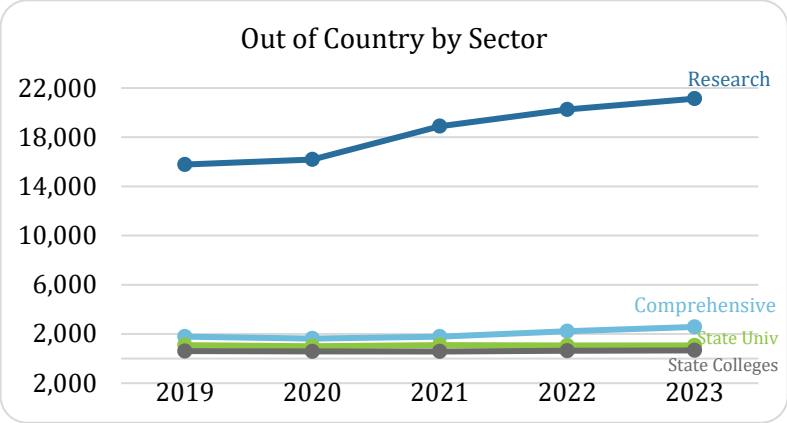


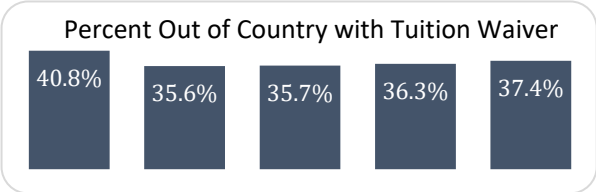
Systemwide, out-of-state enrollment increased compared to fall 2019 (26.8 percent, 9,469 students). Compared to fall 2022, out-of-state enrollment is 4.8 percent higher (2,074 students).

Since 2019, all sectors have grown in out-of-state enrollment. This increase is most evident in the research sector, where out-of-state enrollment has increased 33.1 percent (7,609 students). Compared to fall 2022, out-of-state enrollment also increased in all four sectors—in the research universities by 5.2 percent (1,522 students), comprehensive universities by 1.0 percent (73 students), state universities by 5.2 percent (230 students), and state colleges by 11.6 percent (249 students).

Despite the overall increase in out-of-state enrollment over the past five years, since fall 2019, the percentage of out-of-state students receiving tuition waivers has decreased from 39.6 percent to 31.8 percent. Out-of-state tuition waivers exist in the following categories: presidential (which includes academic, athletic, and international); border (which includes border county and border state); economic development, employee; military; reciprocal; research and comprehensive graduate students; and non-resident (for students with a parent, guardian, or spouse who has lived in Georgia for a year). Border state tuition waivers continue to be an important tool to recruit out-of-state students to institutions with excess enrollment capacity. More than half (54%) of the out-of-state waivers were granted at research universities (7,696 out of 14,285 waivers).





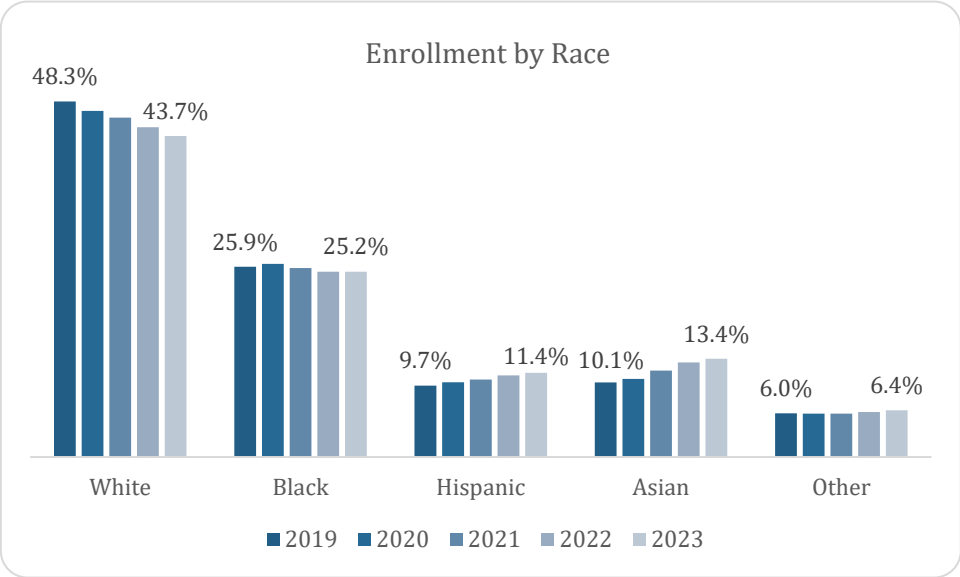


Systemwide, out-of-country enrollment has increased compared to fall 2019 (32.0 percent, 6,172 students). Over the last year, this trend has continued as out-of-country enrollment increased by 5.3 percent (1,273 students).

Since 2019, three out of four sectors have seen an increase in out-of-country enrollment. Research universities increased 33.9 percent (5,356 students), comprehensive universities increased 44.2 percent (789 students), and state colleges increased 8.9 percent (54 students). State universities decreased 2.5 percent (27 students). The one-year trend is similar—research universities' out-of-country enrollment increased by 4.4 percent (884 students), comprehensive universities by 16.1 percent (357 students), and state colleges by 5.1 percent (32 students). State universities had no change in out-of-country enrollment (0 students).

Similar to out-of-state enrollment, despite the overall increase in out-of-country enrollment since 2019, the percentage of out-of-country students receiving tuition waivers has declined from 40.8 percent to 37.4 percent. However, in fall 2023 compared to fall 2022, the percentage of out-of-country students receiving tuition waivers increased.

Race/Ethnicity

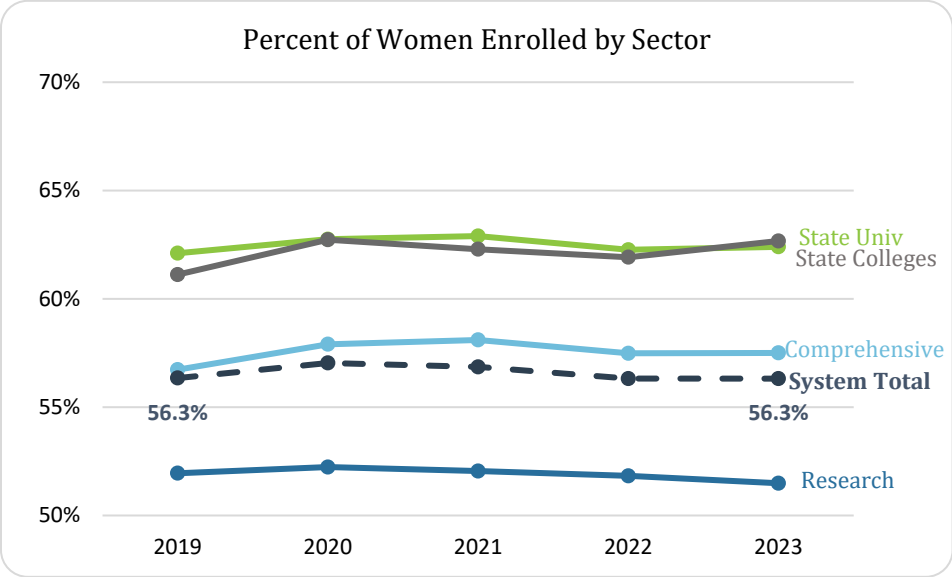


Asian student enrollment increased by 36 percent (12,167 students) since fall 2019 and increased 6.9 percent (2,986 students) since fall 2022. In fall 2023, Asian students made up 13.4 percent of all students, up from 10.1 percent in fall 2019, and up from 12.9 percent in fall 2022. Much of this growth is focused in the research sector, which saw an increase of 10,988 Asian students since fall 2019 and an increase of 2,390 students from fall 2022 to fall 2023.

Since fall 2019, Hispanic enrollment increased by 21.7 percent (7,029 students), and since fall 2022 increased 6.2 percent (2,552 students). Hispanic students represent 11.4 percent of all students in fall 2023 compared to 11.1 percent in fall 2022. Turning to Black/African American students, enrollment has increased 0.6 percent (537 students) since fall 2019 and increased 3.0 percent (2,561 students) since fall 2022. In fall 2023, Black/African American students represent 25.2 percent of all students, unchanged from fall 2022.

Since fall 2019, White/non-Hispanic student enrollment decreased by 6.7 percent (10,868 students) but since fall 2022 has increased 0.3 percent (387 students). In fall 2023, White/non-Hispanic students represent 43.7 percent of all students, compared to 44.8 percent in fall 2022. Despite this increase, the share of White/non-Hispanic students declined from 44.8 percent in fall 2022 to 43.7 percent in fall 2023 due to larger increases in other groups.

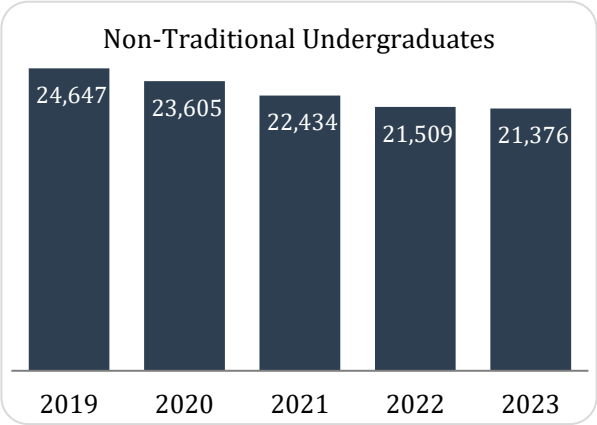
Gender

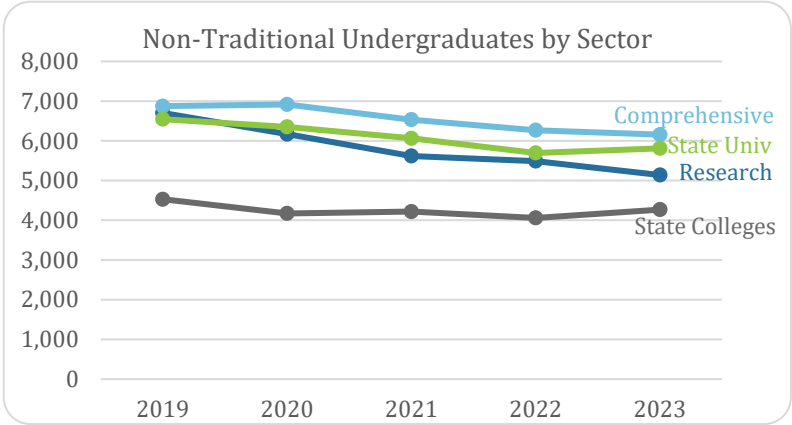


In fall 2023, female student enrollment (193,951) continues to be substantially higher than male student enrollment (150,441), making up 56.3 percent of the system total enrollment. Enrollment increased for both genders from fall 2019 to fall 2023, however, the percent increase was slightly higher for male students (3.3 percent, 4,851 students) than female students (3.2 percent; 6,034 students) though female students had a greater enrollment increase by number.

From fall 2022 to fall 2023, both female and male students saw a 3.0% increase but, again, female students had a larger numerical increase (female, 5,582; male, 4,351). The state university and state college sectors have the highest percentage of female student enrollment (62.4 and 62.7 percent, respectively), and the research sector has the lowest (51.5 percent). Georgia Institute of Technology is the only institution to have less than 50% female students (33% female). The USG proportion of female enrollees reflects national trends.

Non-Traditional Undergraduates





Over the last five years, systemwide non-traditional undergraduate enrollment (students who matriculated at age 25 or older) declined 13.3 percent (3,271 students). This trend continued in fall 2023 compared to fall 2022, but at a slower pace than previous years, with a decline of 0.6 percent (133 students).

Since 2019, non-traditional undergraduate enrollment declined in all four sectors: the research sector by 23.3 percent (1,563 students), the comprehensive sector by 10.4 percent (716 students), state universities by 11.2 percent (732 students), and state colleges by 5.7 percent (260 students). The one-year trend shows declines in the research sector (6.4 percent, 351 students) and the comprehensive sector (1.8 percent, 111 students) though the state university sector saw an increase in non-traditional student enrollment (2.1 percent, 118 students) as did state colleges (5.2 percent, 211 students).

University System of Georgia Fall Headcount Enrollment									
Institution	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**1-year Change**		**5-year Change**	
						#	**%**	**#**	**%**
Augusta University	9,274	9,565	9,606	9,813	10,546	733	7.5%	1,272	13.7%
Georgia Institute of Technology	36,489	39,771	43,859	45,296	47,961	2,665	5.9%	11,472	31.4%
Georgia State University	53,619	53,743	52,350	51,995	50,521	-1,474	-2.8%	-3,098	-5.8%
University of Georgia	38,920	39,147	40,118	40,607	41,615	1,008	2.5%	2,695	6.9%
Research Universities	**138,302**	**142,226**	**145,933**	**147,711**	**150,643**	**2,932**	**2.0%**	**12,341**	**8.9%**
Georgia Southern University	26,054	26,949	27,091	25,506	26,106	600	2.4%	52	0.2%
Kennesaw State University	37,807	41,181	42,983	43,268	45,152	1,884	4.4%	7,345	19.4%
University of West Georgia	13,238	13,419	12,718	11,914	12,769	855	7.2%	-469	-3.5%
Valdosta State University	11,270	12,304	11,573	10,225	10,180	-45	-0.4%	-1,090	-9.7%
Comprehensive Universities	**88,369**	**93,853**	**94,365**	**90,913**	**94,207**	**3,294**	**3.6%**	**5,838**	**6.6%**
Albany State University	6,122	6,509	6,324	6,358	6,599	241	3.8%	477	7.8%
Clayton State University	6,879	7,052	6,820	5,857	5,881	24	0.4%	-998	-14.5%
Columbus State University	7,877	8,376	7,924	7,500	7,637	137	1.8%	-240	-3.0%
Fort Valley State University	2,624	2,827	2,783	2,609	2,765	156	6.0%	141	5.4%
Georgia College & State University	7,031	6,873	6,763	6,315	6,811	496	7.9%	-220	-3.1%
Georgia Southwestern State University	2,950	3,162	3,158	3,076	3,415	339	11.0%	465	15.8%
Middle Georgia State University	8,066	8,404	7,885	7,689	8,039	350	4.6%	-27	-0.3%
Savannah State University	3,688	3,488	3,395	2,962	3,099	137	4.6%	-589	-16.0%
University of North Georgia	19,748	19,793	18,985	18,046	18,086	40	0.2%	-1,662	-8.4%
State Universities	**64,985**	**66,484**	**64,037**	**60,412**	**62,332**	**1,920**	**3.2%**	**-2,653**	**-4.1%**
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	3,927	3,990	3,815	3,649	3,768	119	3.3%	-159	-4.0%
Atlanta Metropolitan State College	1,844	1,704	1,612	1,440	1,556	116	8.1%	-288	-15.6%
College of Coastal Georgia	3,535	3,457	3,249	3,155	3,200	45	1.4%	-335	-9.5%
Dalton State College	4,964	4,794	4,535	4,535	4,908	373	8.2%	-56	-1.1%
East Georgia State College	2,741	2,415	2,023	1,900	1,768	-132	-6.9%	-973	-35.5%
Georgia Gwinnett College	12,831	11,627	10,949	11,030	11,918	888	8.1%	-913	-7.1%
Georgia Highlands College	6,168	5,680	5,245	4,776	5,094	318	6.7%	-1,074	-17.4%
Gordon State College	3,495	3,231	3,101	3,144	3,145	1	0.0%	-350	-10.0%
South Georgia State College	2,346	2,028	1,774	1,794	1,853	59	3.3%	-493	-21.0%
State Colleges	**41,851**	**38,926**	**36,303**	**35,423**	**37,210**	**1,787**	**5.0%**	**-4,641**	**-11.1%**
University System Totals	**333,507**	**341,489**	**340,638**	**334,459**	**344,392**	**9,933**	**3.0%**	**10,885**	**3.3%**

Enrollment increased at 23 institutions and decreased at three. The largest growth in terms of percent of students was at Georgia Southwestern State University (11.0 percent, 339 students). The schools with the second and third largest growth by percentage are Dalton State College (8.2 percent, 373 students) and Georgia Gwinnett College (8.1 percent, 888 students) and Atlanta Metropolitan State College (8.1 percent, 116 students). Three institutions experienced an enrollment decline: Georgia State University (2.8 percent, 1,474 students), East Georgia State College (6.9 percent, 132 students), and Valdosta State University (0.4 percent, 45 students).