

Arkansas Higher Education Annual Enrollment Report

Academic Year 2017-18



Research & Analytics

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ANNUAL ENROLLMENT REPORT

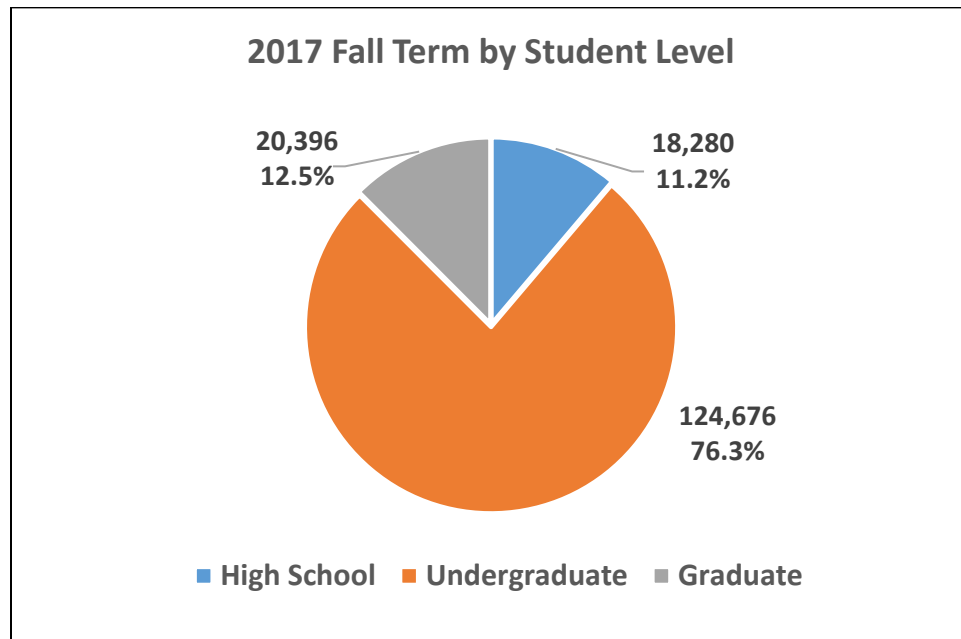
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One-year comparisons:

The **total** enrollment for the 2017 Fall term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education (public universities, public colleges, as well as independent colleges and universities and nursing schools¹) was **163,352 students**; representing a 1-year decrease of 2 percent.

Of these 163,352 students, 18,280 were high school students (11.2 percent), 124,676 were undergraduate students (76.3 percent) and 20,396 were graduate students (12.5 percent).

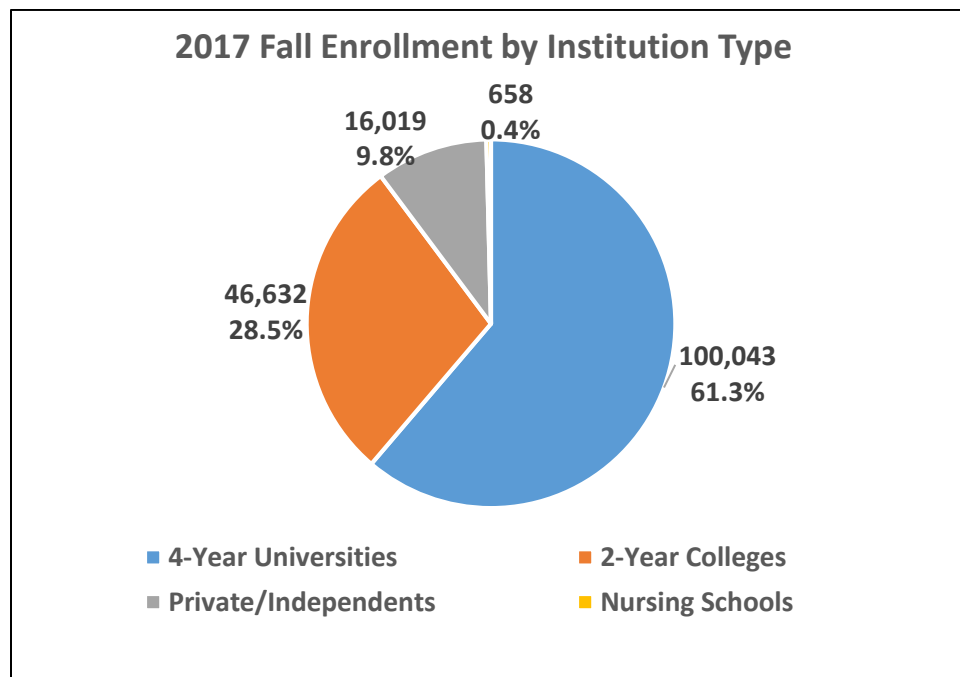


¹ The nursing schools of BSN (Baptist Health College) and JSN (Jefferson Regional Medical School of Nursing) report data to ADHE due to the Academic Challenge Scholarship reporting requirements.

Only the number of high school students enrolled has increased since the 2016 Fall term. The number of both undergraduate and graduate students has decreased.

Change Since 2016 Fall	Numbers	Percent
High School	596	3.4%
Undergraduate	-3,674	-2.9%
Graduate	-188	-0.9%
Net Change	-3,266	-2.0%

Public 4-Year University enrollment continues to constitute the majority of all higher education enrollment in Arkansas. The pie chart below illustrates that 61.3 percent of all college students are enrolled at public 4-Year Universities, 28.5 percent are at public 2-Year Colleges, 9.8 percent are at private/independent institutions of higher education, and 0.4 percent are enrolled at nursing schools.



The current enrollment decline is affecting public 2-Year Colleges and to a lesser degree, the Private and Independent institutions.

Change Since 2016 Fall	Numbers	Percent
4-Year Universities	-816	-0.8%
2-Year Colleges	-1,964	-4.0%
Private/Independents	-510	-3.1%
Nursing Schools	24	3.8%
Net Change	-3,266	-2.0%

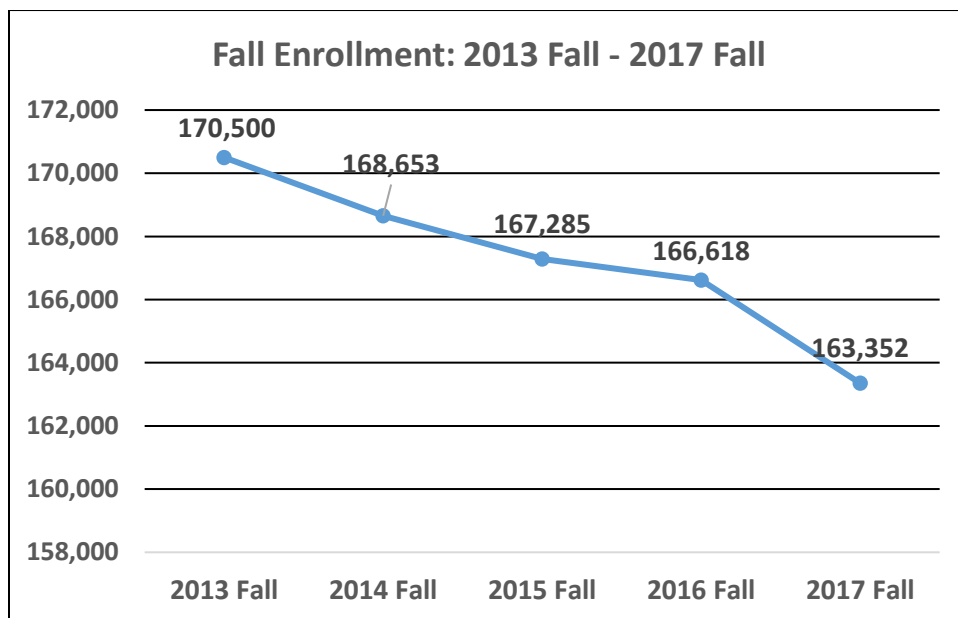
Issue of Non-Traditional and Innovative Terms/Semesters

Historically, colleges and universities have enrolled students into fall, spring and summer terms. However, with many institutions attempting to be more customer service oriented and because of increased competition for students from other institutions of higher education (including out-of-state online programs), many institutions are offering enrollments into terms that do not coincide with the traditional fall, spring and summer terms. A common arrangement is three terms per semester: (a) one 8-week term at the beginning of the traditional term, (b) a second 8-week term at the end of the traditional term, and (c) the full 16-week traditional term. Some terms may even cross over the traditional terms, such as an 8-week term starting in late November and ending in January, etc.

This trend is expected to continue and its use will most likely increase. This will have the effect of blurring term comparisons making annual comparisons more useful than term comparisons.

Five-year comparisons:

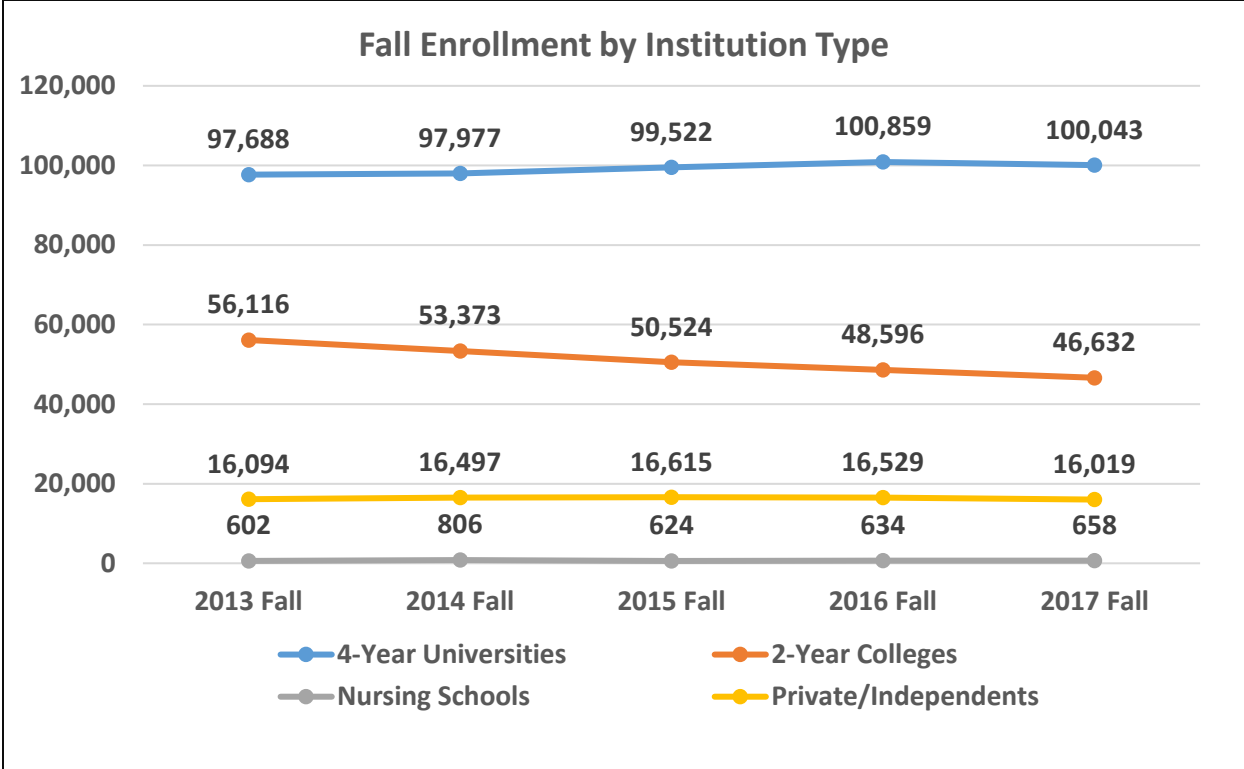
Comparing 2017 Fall data to 2013 Fall data, total enrollment is down 7,148 students (4.2 percent).



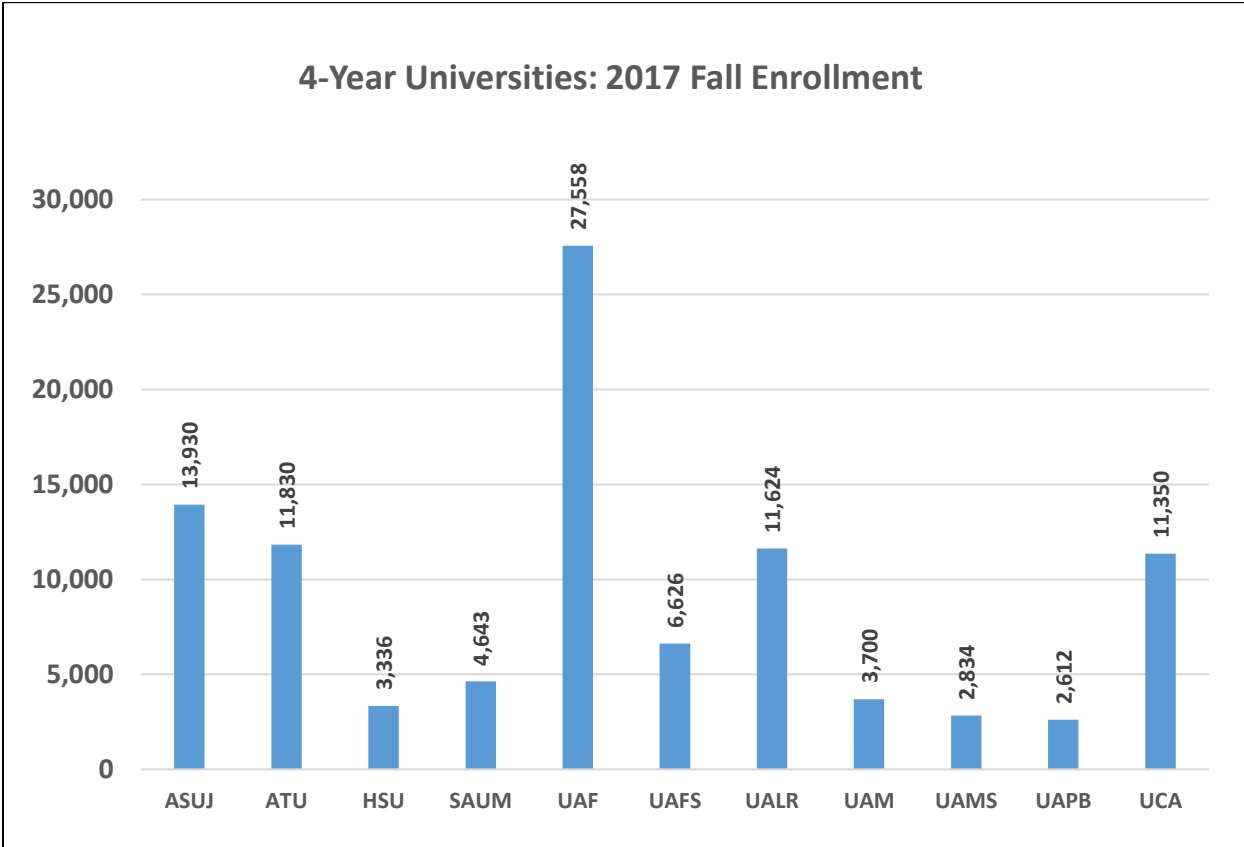
The table below shows that the highest percentage growth has occurred with the enrollment of high school students.

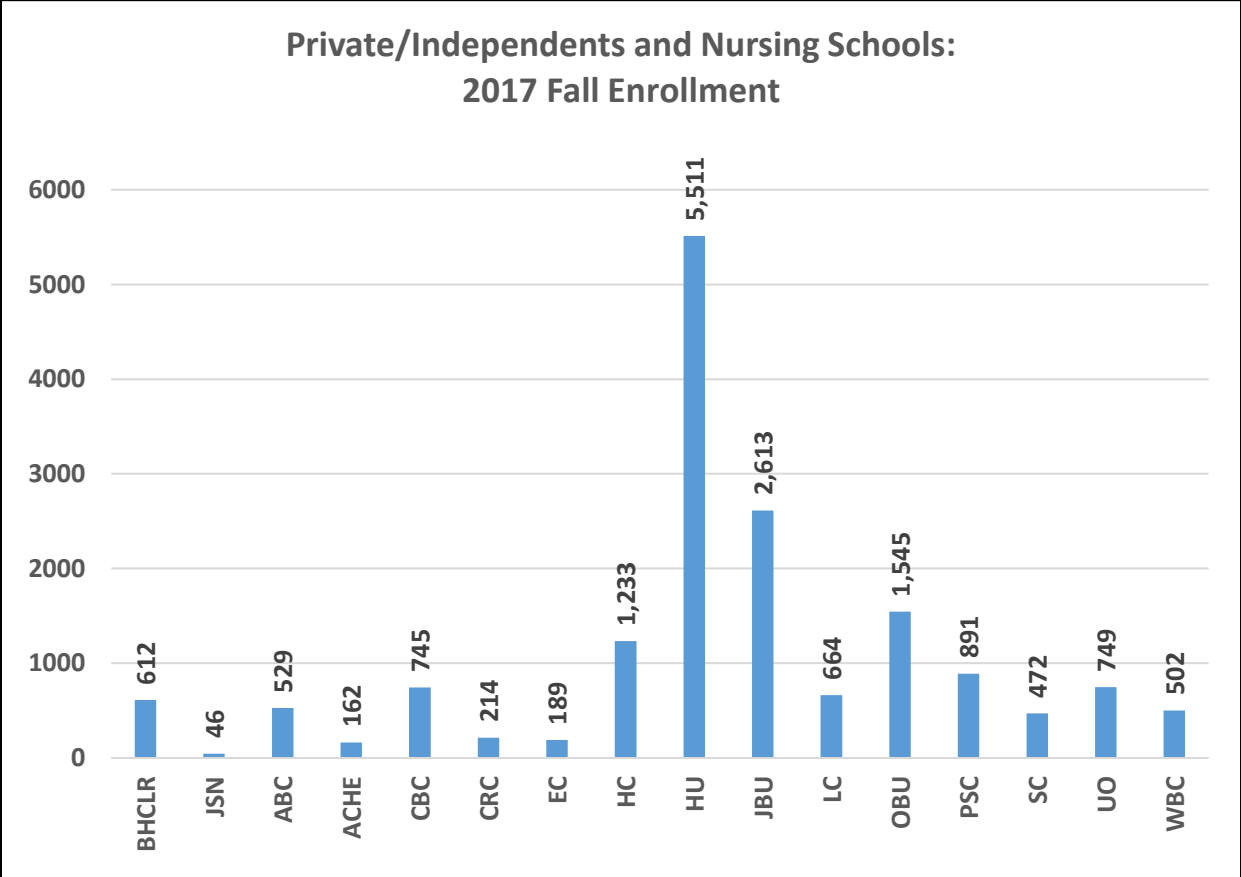
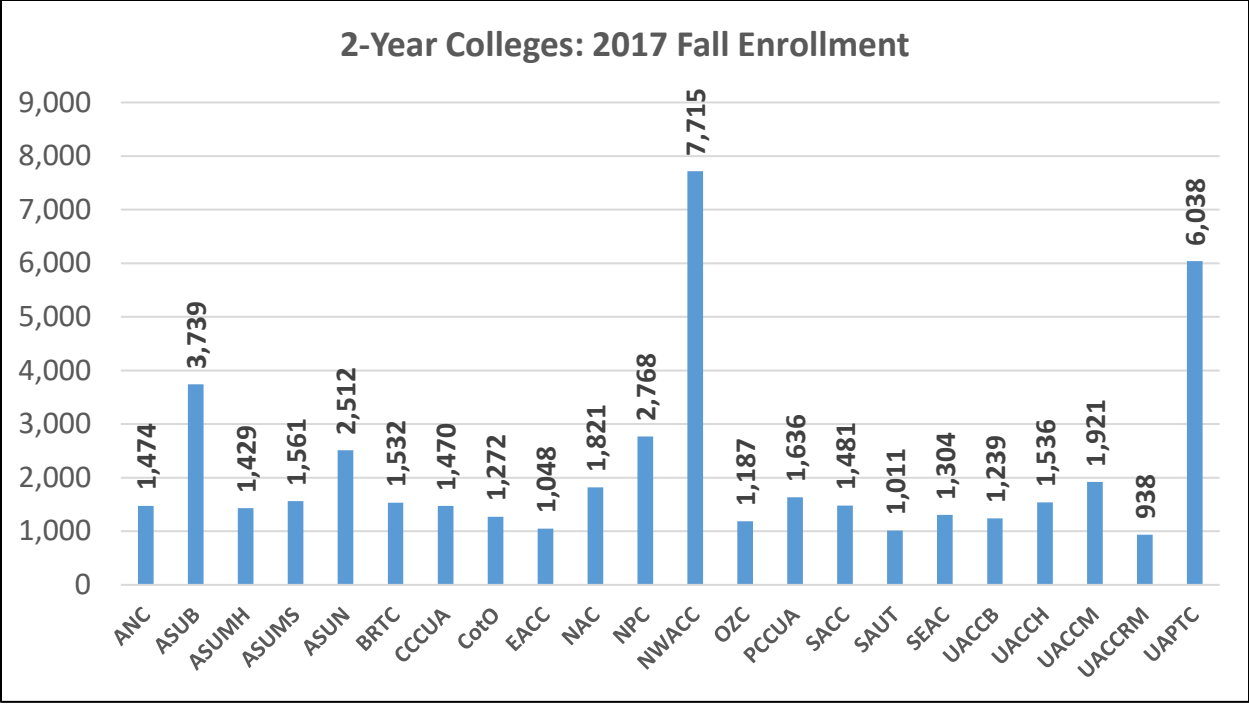
Change Since 2013 Fall	Numbers	Percent
High School	3,952	27.6%
Undergraduate	-13,237	-9.6%
Graduate	2,137	11.7%
Net Change	-7,148	-4.2%

Public institutions account for 89.8 percent of total enrollment.



The following summarizes more specific information by sector.





Annual Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment

Annual unduplicated headcount enrollment is counting all students one time for the entire academic year. The student may be enrolled in two or more semesters/terms but they are counted only once during the academic year. Considering the continued movement toward non-traditional semesters and terms, annual unduplicated headcount provides a more accurate description of current enrollment trends.

Attachment 1-2 shows the total number of students served in for-credit classes at Arkansas higher education institutions by academic year, focusing on the unduplicated headcount of students enrolled in colleges and universities during at least one term during the academic year. The semesters and terms composing an academic year correspond closely to the July 1 through June 30 fiscal year and chronologically include a second summer term, the following fall semester, the following spring semester, and the following first summer term. (Note: Students enrolled in off-schedule courses related to these semesters and terms are also included. Also, private institutions who have recently begun reporting, Arkansas Colleges of Health Professionals, Ecclesia College, and Shorter College, have not yet reported five years of data.) In those cases where the student enrolled in more than one term, which is most frequently the case, the student is counted only one time, hence this reports unduplicated headcount enrollment for the academic year and for each institution.

Unduplicated headcount provides a more complete picture of total statewide enrollment than does just the fall semester enrollment summary. The fall semester enrollment report presents a snapshot of enrollment that is valid for the fall term, but it does not take into account the number of new or returning students who enroll during the other semesters and terms throughout the academic year. The unduplicated headcount enrollment summary is also a better measure of the total number of students served at the college or university level.

The annual unduplicated headcount enrollment for Academic Year 2017 (2016-2017) in Arkansas higher education (4-year public universities, 2-year public colleges, private independent institutions, and nursing schools) was **207,140 students**; representing a 1-year decrease of 1.1 percent and a 5-year decrease of 6.1 percent.

Five 4-Year Universities reported increases in 1-year growth with the top three as follows:

1. Southern Arkansas University –10.1 percent
2. University of Arkansas Monticello– 7.2 percent
3. Arkansas State University Jonesboro – 5.9 percent

Five of the eleven 4-Year Universities experienced positive 5-year growth. The top three were:

1. Southern Arkansas University –45.5 percent
2. University of Arkansas Fayetteville – 8.6 percent
3. Arkansas State University Jonesboro – 6.8 percent

Nine of the twenty-two 2-Year Colleges experienced 1-year increases in annual unduplicated headcount enrollment. The top three were:

1. University of Arkansas Community College at Hope – 8.5 percent
2. North Arkansas College – 4.8 percent
3. Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas – 4.4 percent

Only one of the twenty-two 2-Year Colleges experienced positive 5-year growth. It was:

1. Arkansas State University Newport – 26.0 percent

Four private/independent institutions experienced 1-year growth in unduplicated headcount enrollment. The top three were:

1. Shorter College – 111.9 percent
2. Philander Smith College – 21.7 percent
3. Ecclesia College – 19.7 percent

Six of the private/independent institutions experienced 5-year growth in unduplicated headcount enrollment. The top three were:

1. University of the Ozarks – 20.3 percent
2. Lyon College – 18.6 percent
3. Philander Smith College – 15.7 percent

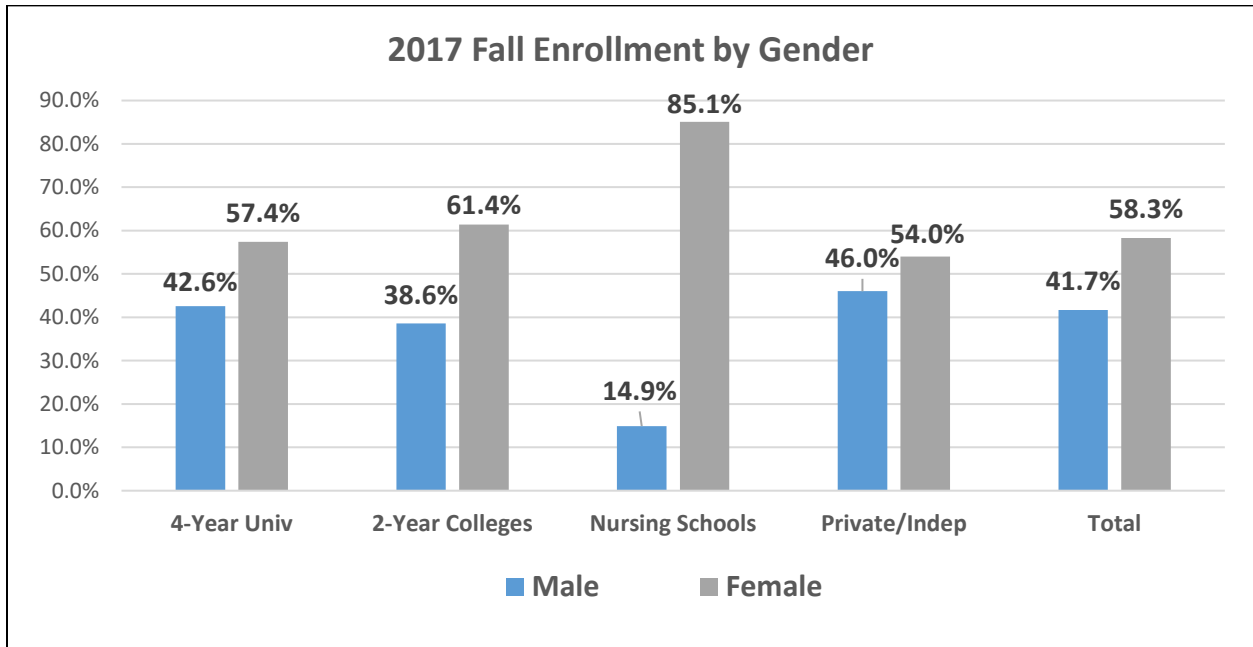
For the nursing schools, Baptist Health Colleges of Little Rock reported a 1-year growth rate of 2.1 percent.

NOTE: The private/independent institutions of Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Ecclesia College, and Shorter College have not been reporting data for five years. Academic year 2018 is the first year for Arkansas Colleges of Health Education to report data. The reporting of data by private/independent institutions began with the Academic Challenge Scholarship requirements.

Student Demographic Profile

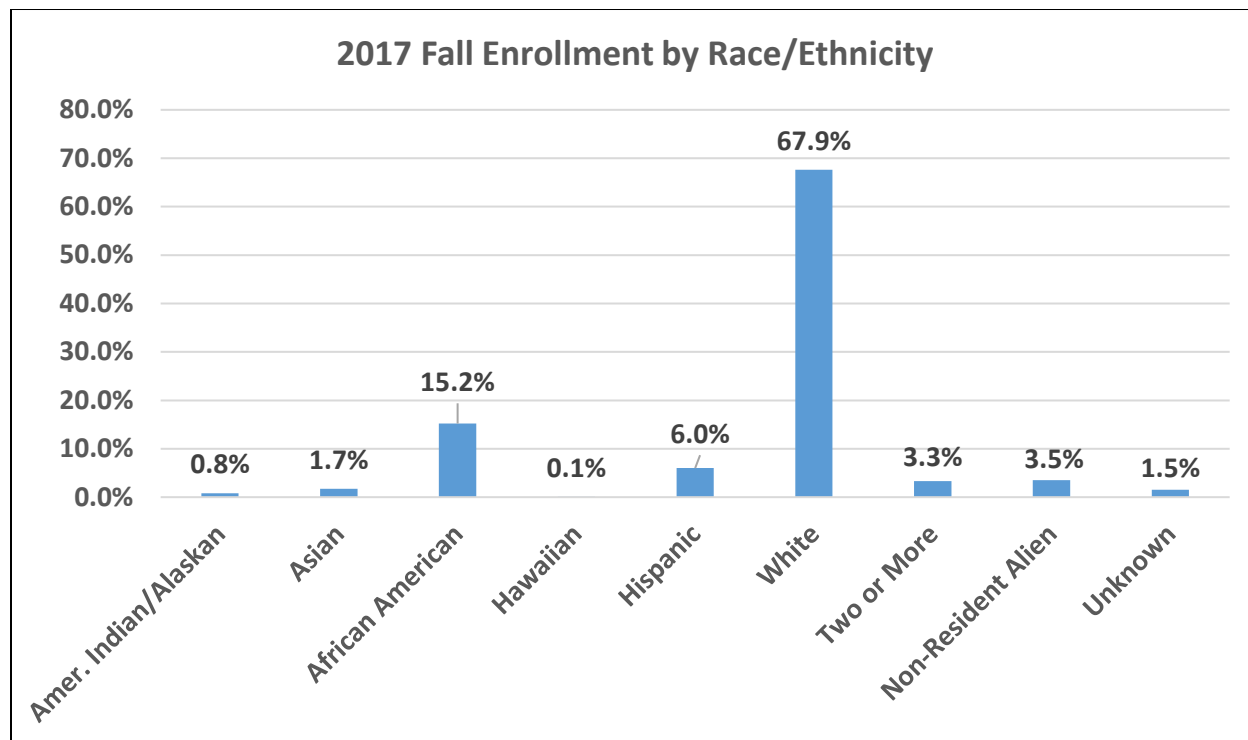
A demographic overview of students enrolled in Arkansas public higher education in fall 2017 contrasts significantly between the universities and the colleges and has changed since fall 2013.

- Gender:** Overall, the proportion of male-to-female students has remained stable with the percentage of male students over the past 5 years only increasing from 41.6 percent in fall 2013 to 41.7 percent in fall 2017.



Change in Gender	Percent Male 2013 Fall	Percent Male 2017 Fall	Change
4-Year Universities	43.5%	42.6%	-0.9%
2-Year Colleges	37.7%	38.6%	0.9%
Private/ Independents	45.1%	46.0%	0.9%
Nursing Schools	10.3%	14.9%	4.6%
Total	41.6%	41.7%	0.1%

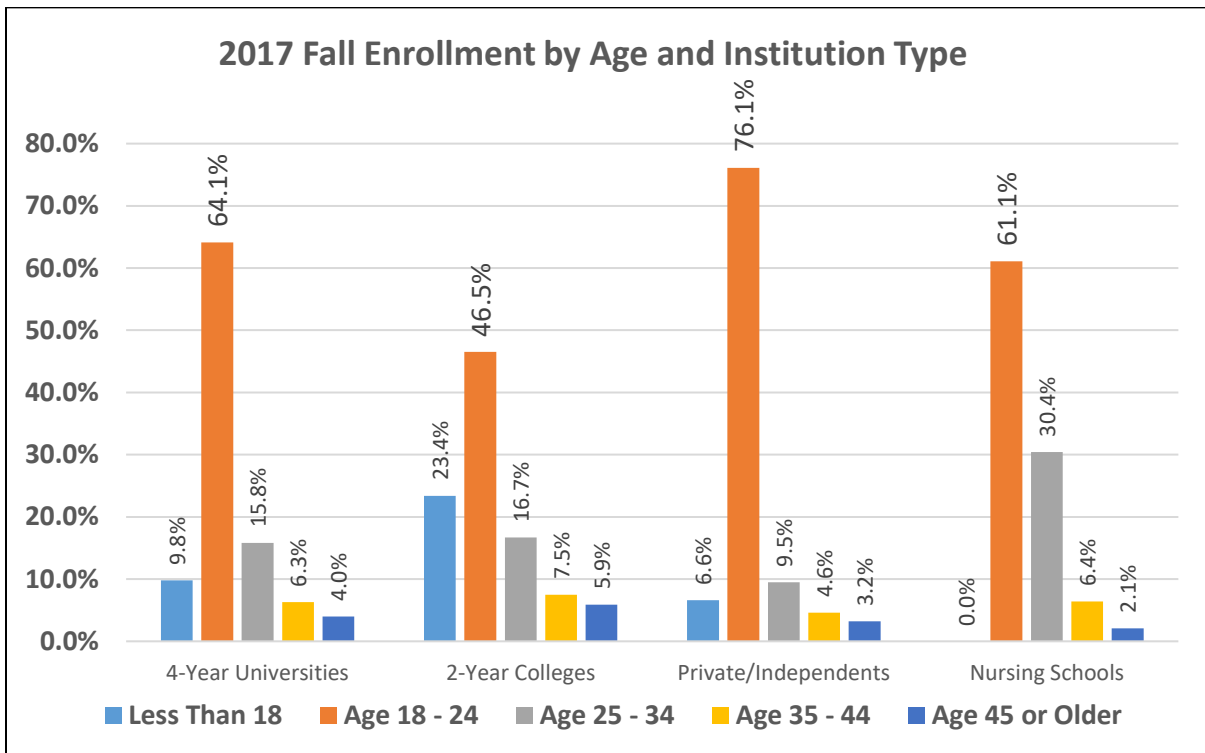
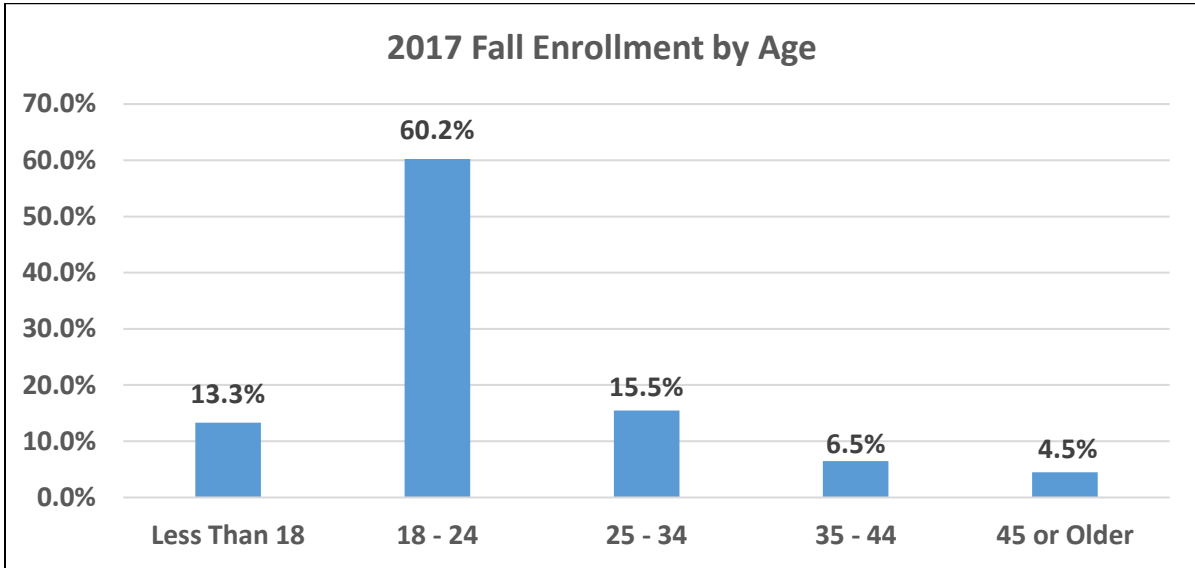
- **Race/Ethnicity:** The race/ethnic breakdown for the fall 2017 semester follows. Note that the race/ethnicity categories are abbreviated; the full classifications are American Indian/Alaskan Native only, Asian only, African American only, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander only, Hispanic any, White only, Two or More Races only, Non-Resident Alien, and Unknown.



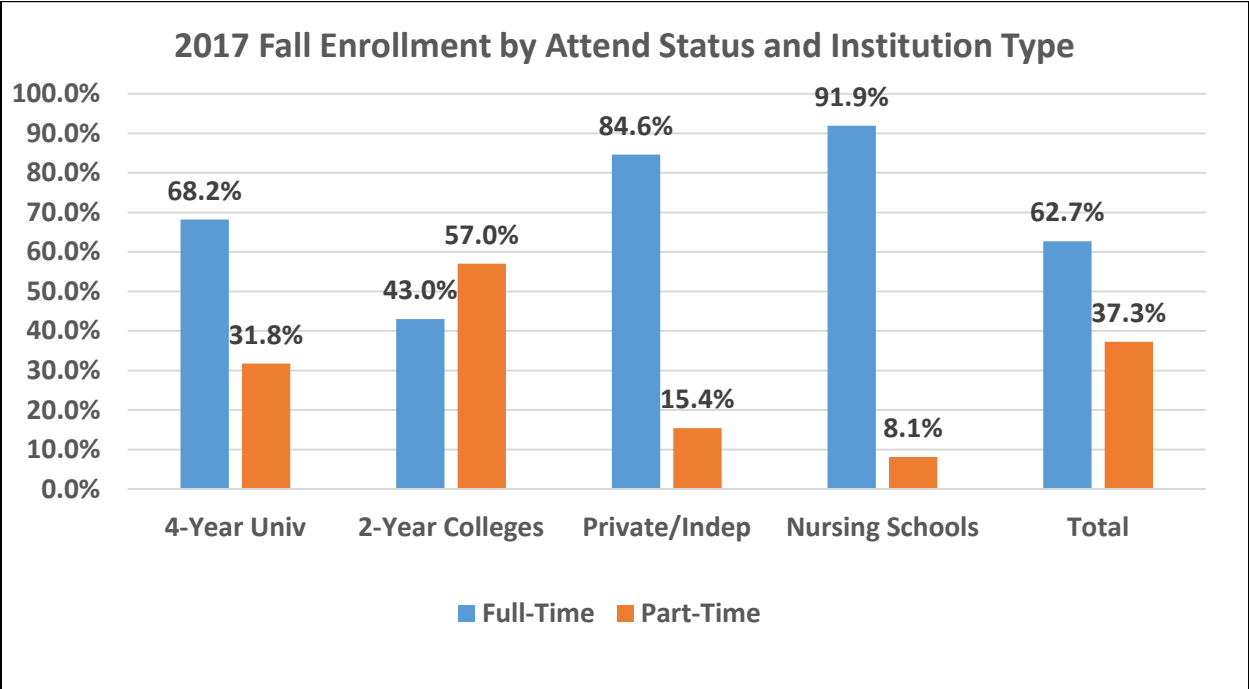
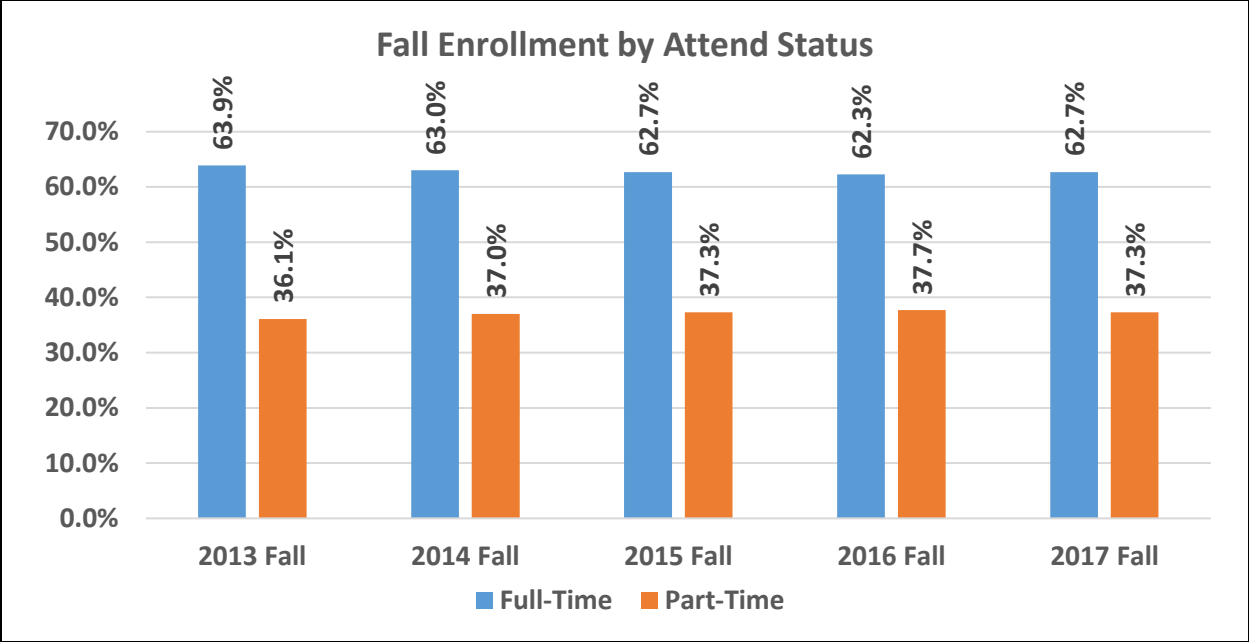
2017 Fall	Amer. Indian/Alaskan	Asian	African American	Hawaiian	Hispanic	White	Two or More	Non-Resident Alien	Unknown
4-Year Universities	0.7%	1.9%	13.9%	0.1%	5.9%	68.1%	3.9%	4.7%	0.8%
2-Year Colleges	0.8%	1.1%	18.8%	0.1%	7.1%	66.5%	2.7%	0.5%	2.4%
Private/Independent	0.9%	1.6%	12.8%	0.1%	4.0%	67.7%	2.1%	4.5%	6.3%
Nursing Schools	0.5%	1.8%	21.1%	0.2%	1.1%	71.6%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%
Total	0.8%	1.7%	15.2%	0.1%	6.0%	67.9%	3.3%	3.5%	1.5%

- **Age:** The age distribution reveals contrasting trends for the two sectors. Not surprisingly, 64.1 percent of 4-Year University students and 76.1 percent of private independent

students are in the traditional-age bracket (18-24 years), while only 46.5 percent of 2-Year College students are in this age bracket. When it comes to nursing school students, 61.1 percent are between the ages of 18 and 24.



- Attendance Status:** Since fall 2013, the overall percent of full-time students has decreased slightly.



- Geographic Origin:** For all institutions, 78.3 percent of the students enrolled in the fall 2017 semester at Arkansas universities and colleges are from Arkansas.

Origin	Count	Percent
Arkansas	127,970	78.3%

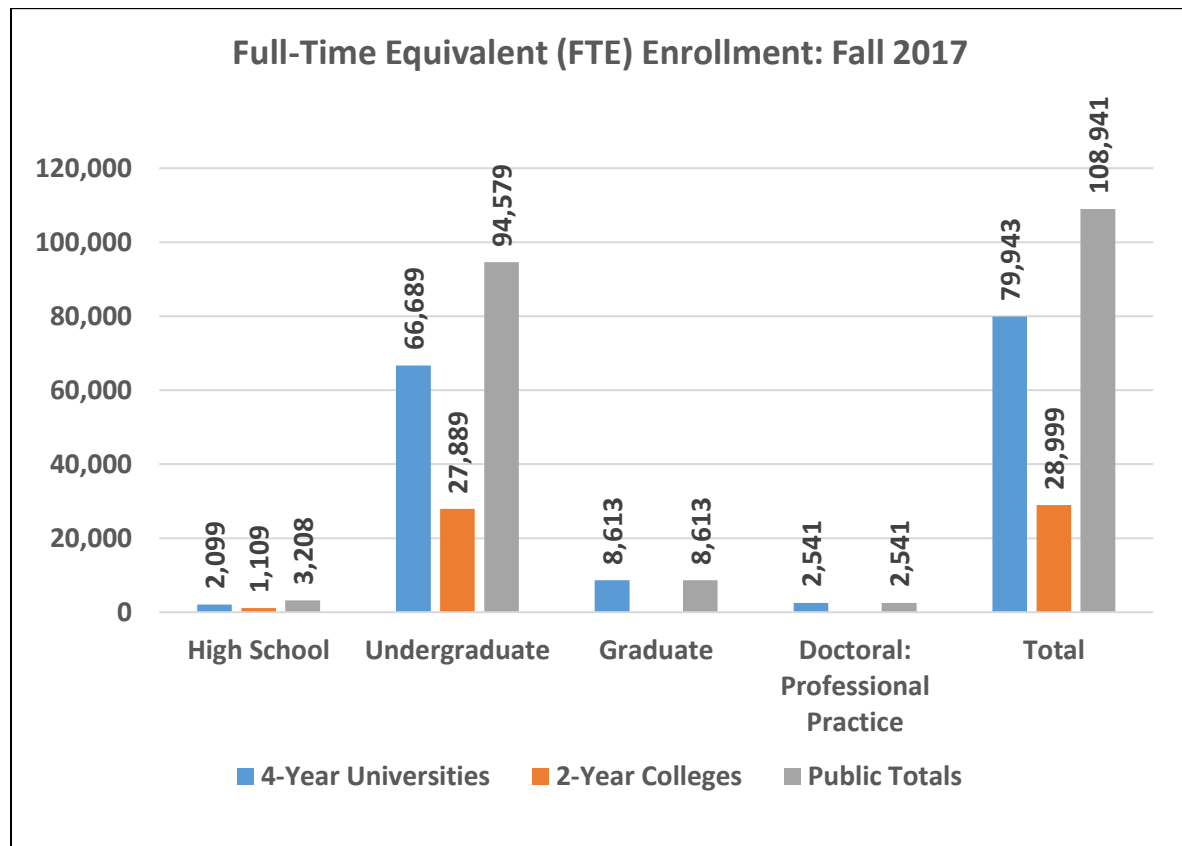
Texas	10,540	6.5%
Foreign Country	5,593	3.4%
Missouri	3,946	2.4%
Oklahoma	2,621	1.6%
Tennessee	2,240	1.4%
Louisiana	1,343	0.8%

- **Off-schedule courses:** In order to ensure that institutions receive credit in the funding formula for a full year of student semester credit hours (SSCH) that they produce and in recognition that many institutions offer courses that meet according to a schedule that varies from the traditional fall-spring-summer calendar, ADHE has collected data concerning off-schedule courses and enrollments through a special reporting process. Through this process, short-courses and other courses that begin after the census date are reported and these SSCH are tabulated and included for funding purposes.

Fall SSCH and FTE

SSCH and FTE are highly related as SSCH is usually divided by a pre-determined factor to determine FTE. For undergraduates, term SSCH is divided by 15 to determine undergraduate FTE, whereas SSCH is divided by 12 to determine graduate term FTE. However, to determine First Professional FTE, the past IPEDS definition of using fall student headcount is used to calculate UAMS. This method counts all full-time students as 1 FTE and all part-time students as 0.6 FTE and sums these for a total FTE. First Professional/Professional Practice for UAF is divided by 15 for all programs except for their Doctor of Nursing Practice program which calculates term FTE using 12. UALR's First Professional/Professional Practice Law FTE is calculated using 15. Note that SSCH and FTE are calculated for public institutions only. The independent institutions and nursing schools do not submit course data that is required for SSCH/FTE calculations.

Fall FTE (full-time equivalents) have decreased over the last five fall terms (from Fall 2013 to 2017 Fall) by 5.2 percent to a total of 108,941 FTE. Between Fall 2016 and Fall 2017, institutions experienced a small decrease of 0.1 percent.



Undergraduate SSCH

The 4-year universities with the greatest volume of undergraduate SSCH were:

1. University of Arkansas Fayetteville – 318,331 SSCH
2. University of Central Arkansas – 125,926 SSCH
3. Arkansas State University Jonesboro – 115,811 SSCH

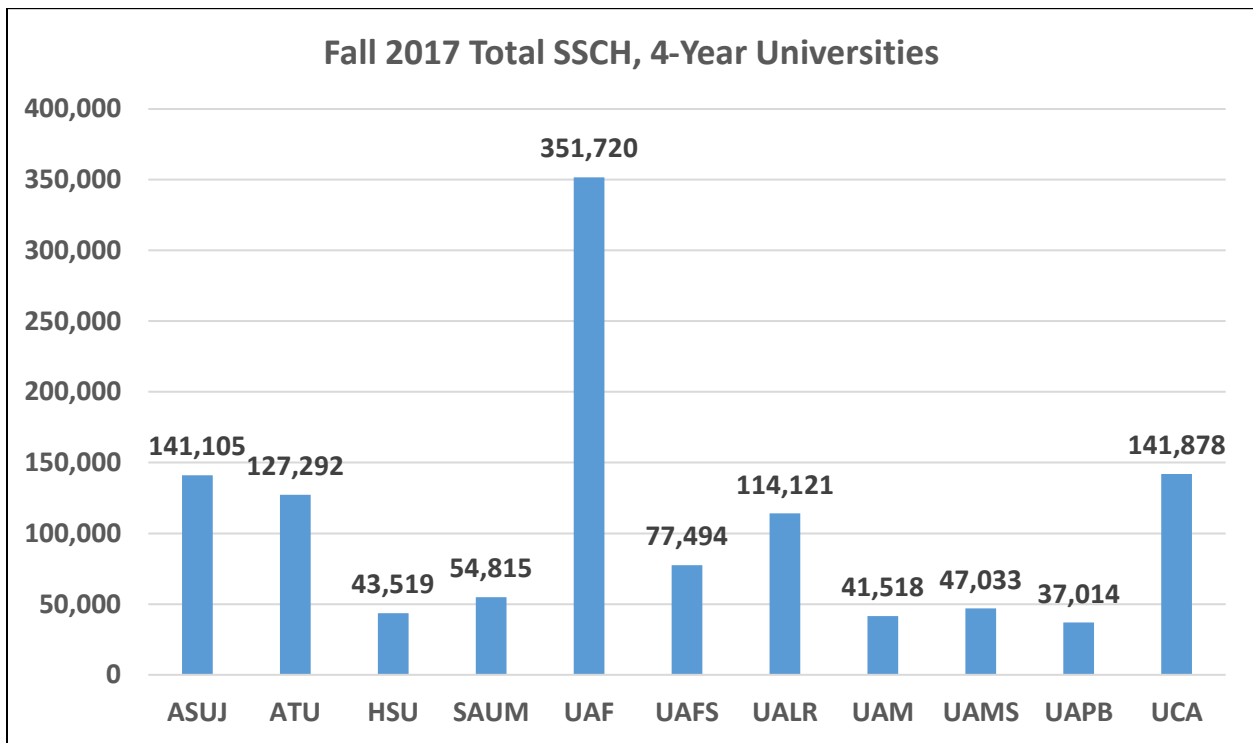
The 2-year colleges with the greatest volume of undergraduate SSCH were:

1. Northwest Arkansas Community College – 61,462 SSCH
2. UA Pulaski Technical College – 55,734 SSCH
3. Arkansas State University Beebe – 35,044 SSCH

Graduate SSCH

The 4-year universities with the greatest volume of graduate SSCH were:

1. University of Arkansas Fayetteville – 27,878 SSCH
2. Arkansas State University Jonesboro – 19,315 SSCH
3. University of Arkansas at Little Rock – 13,779 SSCH



Fall 2017 Total SSCH, 2-Year Colleges

