

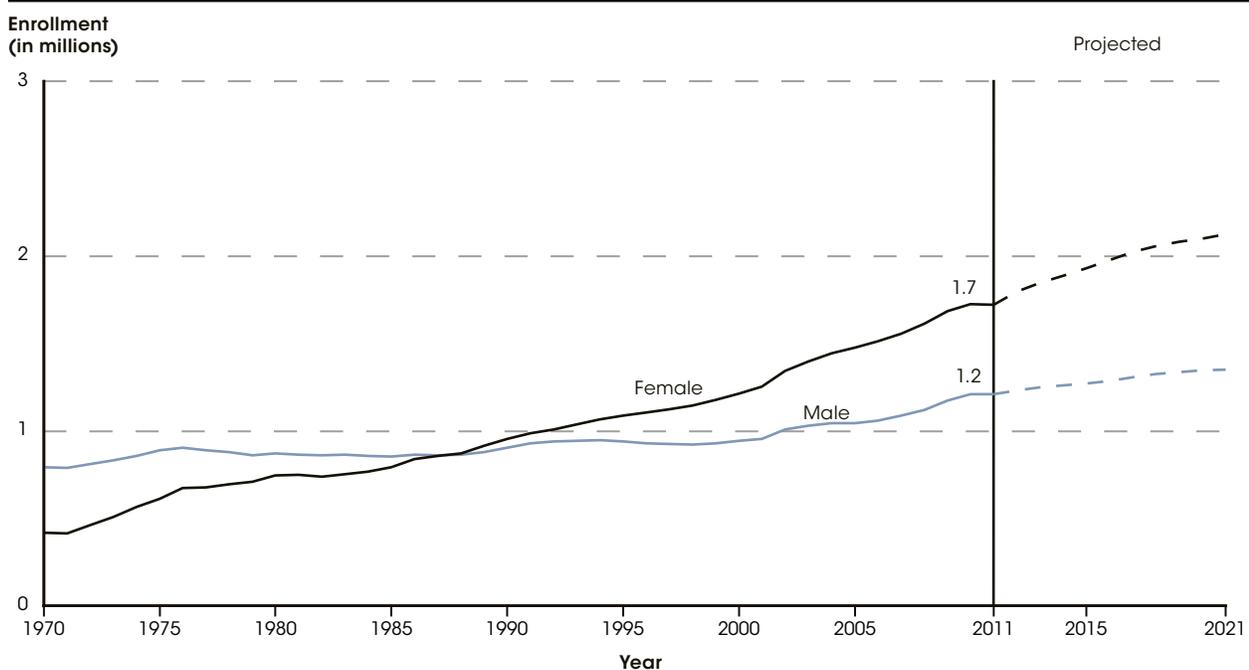
## Postbaccalaureate Enrollment

Total enrollment in postbaccalaureate degree programs increased from 2.2 million students in fall 2000 to 2.8 million in fall 2009, the largest percent increase (33 percent) of any decade since the 1970s. By fall 2011, some 2.9 million students were enrolled in postbaccalaureate degree programs.

In fall 2011, some 2.9 million students were enrolled in postbaccalaureate degree programs. Postbaccalaureate degree programs include master's and doctoral programs as well as programs formerly classified as first-professional, such as law, medicine, and dentistry. Postbaccalaureate enrollment increased at a faster rate (33 percent) between fall 2000 and fall 2009 than in any decade since the 1970s. Enrollment increased by 30 percent in the 1970s;

it also increased throughout the 1980s and 1990s, but at slower rates (11 and 13 percent, respectively). Between 2010 and 2011, the two most recent survey years, postbaccalaureate enrollment decreased by less than 1 percent. Between fall 2011 and fall 2021, postbaccalaureate enrollment is projected to increase to 3.5 million, resulting in a slower rate of increase (18 percent) than during the early 2000s.

**Figure 1. Actual and projected postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by sex: Fall 1970–2021**



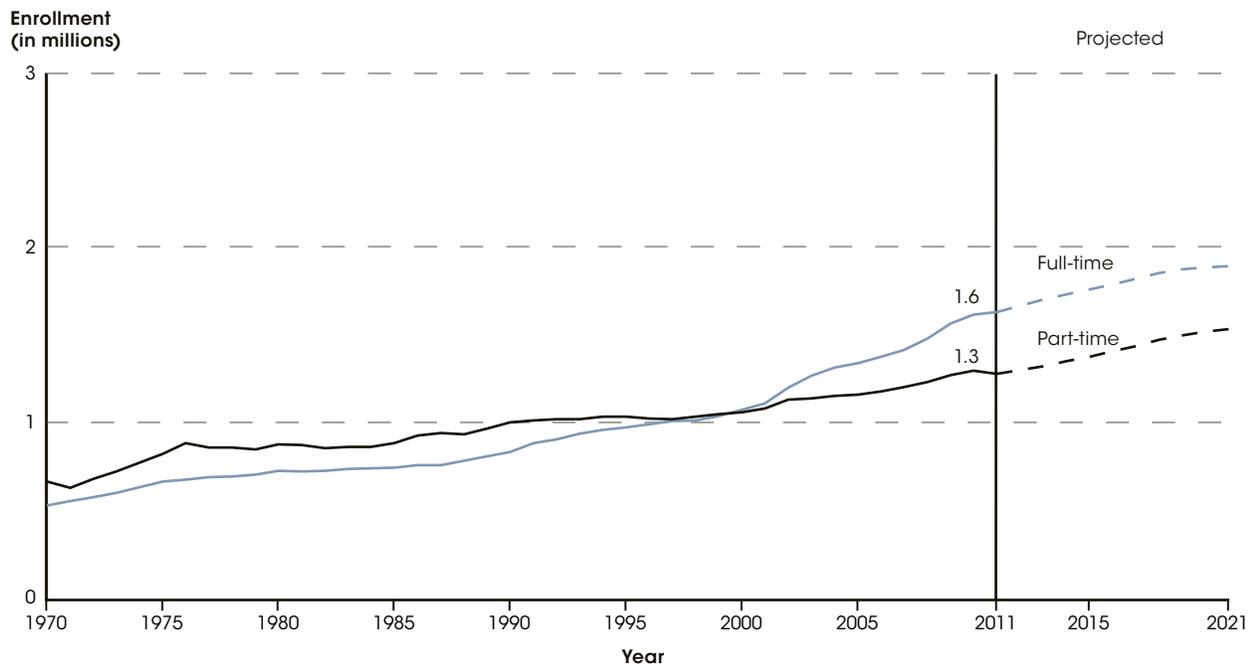
NOTE: Projections are based on data through 2011. Data include students in postbaccalaureate degree programs and unclassified graduate students. Data through 1995 are for institutions of higher education, while later data are for degree-granting institutions. Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. The degree-granting classification is very similar to the earlier higher education classification, but it includes more 2-year colleges and excludes a few higher education institutions that did not grant degrees. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1970 through 1985; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:86-99); and IPEDS Spring 2001 through Spring 2012, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 2 and 241.

In fall 2011, some 1.7 million postbaccalaureate students were female (59 percent of enrollment) and 1.2 million were male (41 percent). By comparison, in fall 1975 females accounted for 41 percent of enrollment and males accounted for 59 percent. From fall 1970 to fall 1989, female enrollment more than doubled, while male enrollment increased by 11 percent. The larger increase in the number of female students resulted in females accounting for 50 percent of postbaccalaureate enrollment beginning in 1988, with 875,000 female students out of a total enrollment of 1.7 million students. In more recent

years, female enrollment has continued to increase at a faster rate than male enrollment. Between fall 2000 and fall 2009, female enrollment increased by 39 percent, and male enrollment increased by 24 percent. Between 2010 and 2011, both female and male postbaccalaureate enrollment decreased by less than 1 percent. Female enrollment is projected to increase by 22 percent between fall 2011 and fall 2021, from 1.7 to 2.1 million students, while male enrollment is expected to increase by 12 percent, from 1.2 to 1.4 million students.

For more information, see the Reader's Guide and the Guide to Sources.

Figure 2. Actual and projected postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by attendance status: Fall 1970–2021

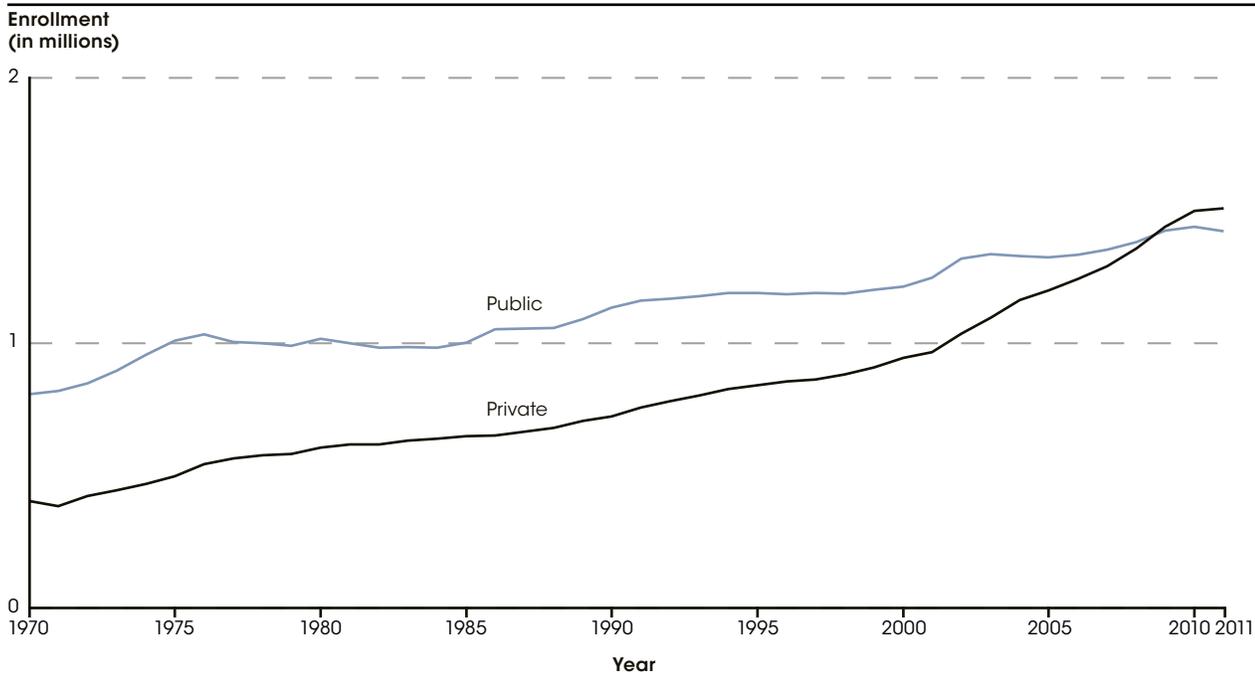


NOTE: Projections are based on data through 2011. Data include students in postbaccalaureate degree programs and unclassified graduate students. Data through 1995 are for institutions of higher education, while later data are for degree-granting institutions. Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. The degree-granting classification is very similar to the earlier higher education classification, but it includes more 2-year colleges and excludes a few higher education institutions that did not grant degrees. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1970 through 1985; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:86-99); and IPEDS Spring 2001 through Spring 2012, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 2 and 241.

In fall 2011, there were 1.6 million full-time students and 1.3 million part-time students. From fall 1970 through fall 2011, the number of full-time postbaccalaureate students more than tripled, and the number of part-time postbaccalaureate students almost doubled. Since fall 1970, full-time enrollment has consistently increased at a faster rate than part-time enrollment. During the 1970s, full-time enrollment increased by 33 percent, while part-time enrollment increased by 27 percent. During the 1980s, full-time enrollment also increased by a larger percentage (11 percent) than part-time enrollment (10 percent). During the 1990s, full-time enrollment

increased by 24 percent, while part-time enrollment increased by 5 percent. Between fall 2000 and fall 2009, full-time enrollment increased by 45 percent, while part-time enrollment increased by 20 percent. Most recently, full-time enrollment increased by 1 percent, while part-time enrollment decreased by 1 percent between fall 2010 and fall 2011. This pattern of larger percent increases in full-time enrollment is not expected to continue between fall 2011 and fall 2021, with full-time enrollment projected to increase by 16 percent and part-time enrollment projected to increase by 20 percent.

**Figure 3. Full-time postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by control of institution: Fall 1970–2011**



NOTE: Data include students in postbaccalaureate degree programs and unclassified graduate students. Data through 1995 are for institutions of higher education, while later data are for degree-granting institutions. Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. The degree-granting classification is very similar to the earlier higher education classification, but it includes more 2-year colleges and excludes a few higher education institutions that did not grant degrees.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1970 through 1985; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:86-99); and IPEDS Spring 2001 through Spring 2012, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 241.

Between fall 1970 and fall 2011, postbaccalaureate degree enrollment at private institutions nearly quadrupled, while the enrollment at public institutions increased by 76 percent. During this period, enrollment at private institutions increased from 0.4 to 1.5 million students, and enrollment at public institutions increased from 0.8 to 1.4 million. Since fall 1970, enrollment at private institutions has grown at a faster rate than at public institutions. During the 1970s, enrollment at private institutions increased by 44 percent, while enrollment at public institutions increased by 23 percent. During the 1980s, enrollment at private institutions also increased by a larger percentage (16 percent) than did enrollment at public institutions (7 percent). During the 1990s,

enrollment at private institutions increased by 25 percent, compared with a 6 percent increase at public institutions. Between fall 2000 and fall 2009, enrollment at private institutions experienced its fastest rate of growth (52 percent), while enrollment at public institutions increased by 17 percent. In fall 2008, for the first time, private and public institutions each constituted 50 percent of total postbaccalaureate degree enrollment. From fall 2008 to fall 2011, enrollment at private institutions increased by 11 percent, and enrollment at public institutions increased by 3 percent. In fall 2011, some 52 percent of students were enrolled at private institutions, and 48 percent were enrolled at public institutions.

**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 2, 241

**Glossary:** For-profit institution, Full-time enrollment, Nonprofit institution, Part-time enrollment, Postbaccalaureate enrollment, Private institution, Public school or institution