

Final Enrollment Brief

Fall 2024

*Enrollment at Kentucky's
public and private two-year
and four-year postsecondary
institutions*



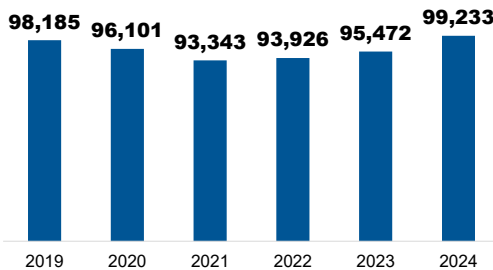


This brief examines one-year and five-year enrollment trends at Kentucky's two-year (KCTCS) and four-year postsecondary institutions (both public and private). Enrollment growth was strong across all sectors and student populations in 2024. These positive enrollment trends will help Kentucky reach its educational attainment goal of 60% of adults with a postsecondary credential by the year 2030.

Total Undergraduate

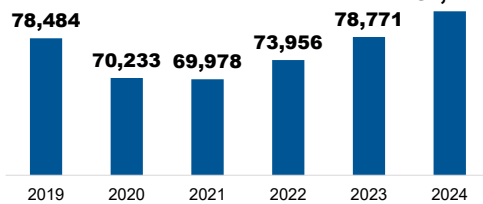
Total undergraduate enrollment in Kentucky increased across all sectors from fall 2023 to 2024 and has now rebounded above pre-pandemic levels. Over the last five years, private, non-profit institutions affiliated with the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU) saw the largest percentage increases, followed by KCTCS and public universities. Postsecondary enrollment growth is vital to producing a skilled workforce and maintaining the financial health of institutions, enabling them to invest in essential programs and services.

4-Year Publics



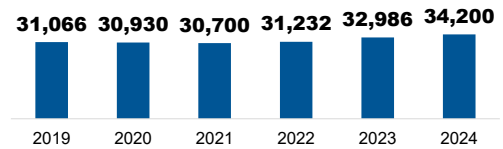
5-Year Change: +1.1%
1-Year Change: +3.9%

2-Year Publics



5-Year Change: +7.2%
1-Year Change: +6.8%

AIKCU

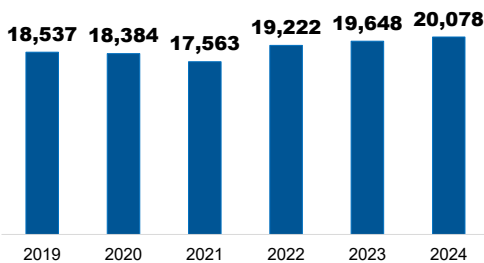


5-Year Change: +10.1%
1-Year Change: +3.7%

First-time Undergraduate

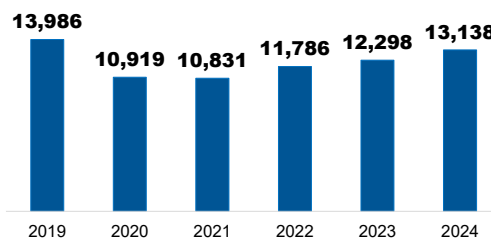
Undergraduate enrollment among first-time students (usually of traditional age) increased from fall 2023 to fall 2024 across all sectors. At four-year public universities, first-time student enrollment reached its highest peak in five years. Although first-time enrollment was up from the previous year at KCTCS institutions, it remains below 2019 levels. AIKCU institutions experienced a second consecutive enrollment increase in first-time students after several years of incremental declines.

4-Year Publics



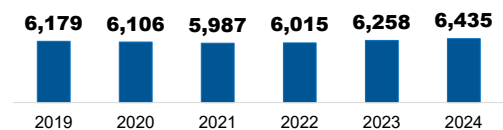
5-Year Change: +8.3%
1-Year Change: +2.2%

2-Year Publics



5-Year Change: -6.1%
1-Year Change: 6.8%

AIKCU

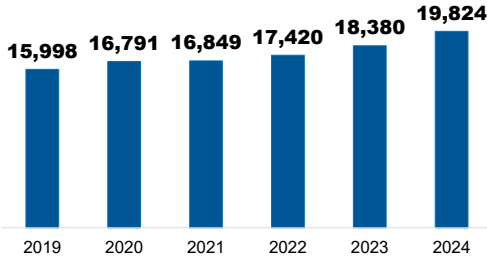


5-Year Change: +4.2%
1-Year Change: +2.8%

Underrepresented Minority (URM)

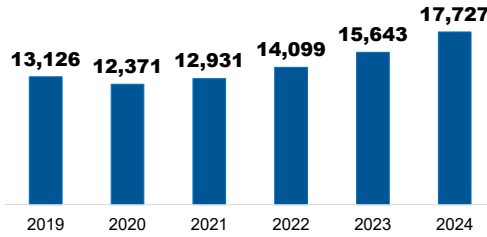
Kentucky institutions have been remarkably successful at improving enrollment among underrepresented minority students (Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander or two or more races). Since 2019, URM enrollment has experienced double-digit percentage increases across all sectors, with KCTCS institutions leading the way.

4-Year Publics



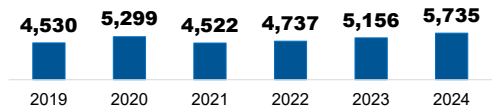
5-Year Change: +23.9%
1-Year Change: +7.9%

2-Year Publics



5-Year Change: +35.1%
1-Year Change: +13.3%

AIKCU

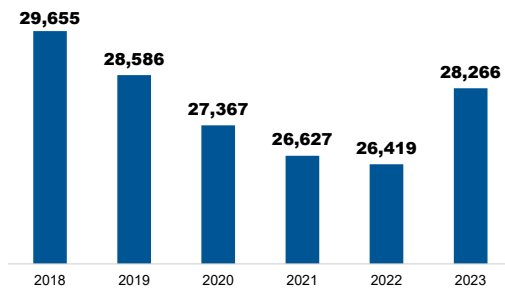


5-Year Change: +26.6%
1-Year Change: +11.2%

Low-income Undergraduate

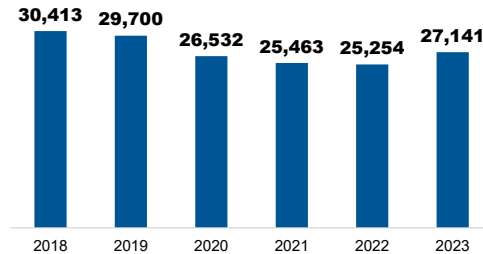
After four years of subsequent declines, low-income undergraduate enrollment jumped 7.0% at public universities and 7.5% at KCTCS from fall 2023 and 2024. However, enrollment of low-income students is still below pre-pandemic levels. Note that low-income data lags a year behind other metrics, and that no financial aid data is collected from AIKCU institutions.

4-Year Publics



5-Year Change: -4.7%
1-Year Change: +7.0%

2-Year Publics

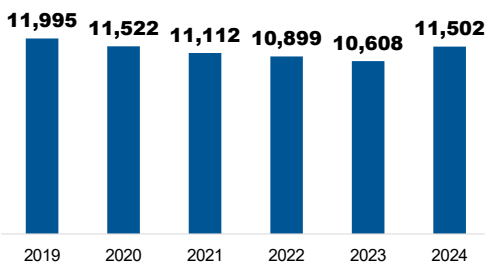


5-Year Change: -10.8%
1-Year Change: +7.5%

Adult Undergraduate

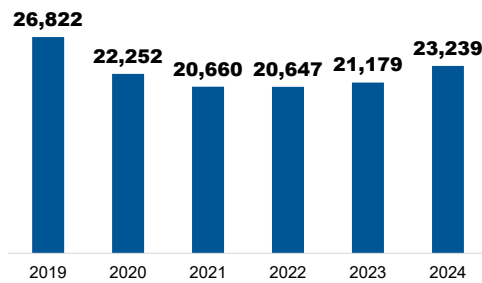
Undergraduate enrollment among working-age adults (25-64) ticked up following several consecutive years of declines. From fall 2023 to fall 2024, AIKCU institutions saw a 21.1% increase in non-traditional students, followed by KCTCS (9.7%) and public universities (8.4%).

4-Year Publics



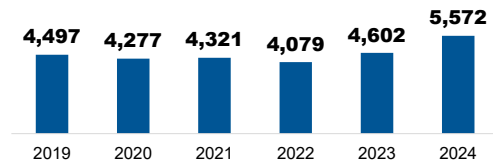
5-Year Change: -4.1%
1-Year Change: +8.4%

2-Year Publics



5-Year Change: -13.4%
1-Year Change: +9.7%

AIKCU

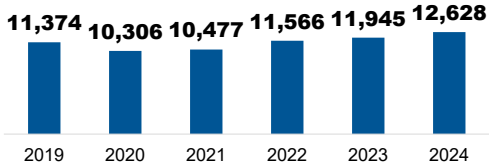


5-Year Change: +23.9%
1-Year Change: +21.1%

Dual Credit

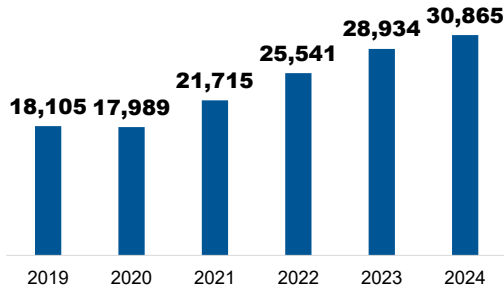
Dual credit enrollment represents students taking college-level courses while still in high school, which positively affects college-going rates and academic preparation. Dual credit enrollments at KCTCS represent students taking both general education and career and technical education (CTE) courses.

4-Year Publics



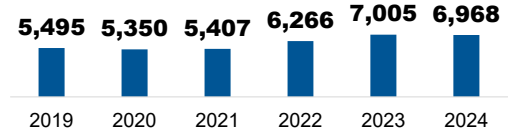
5-Year Change: +11.0%
1-Year Change: +5.7%

2-Year Publics



5-Year Change: +70.5%
1-Year Change: +6.7%

AIKCU

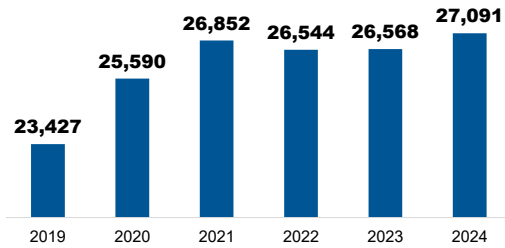


5-Year Change: +26.8%
1-Year Change: -0.5%

Graduate

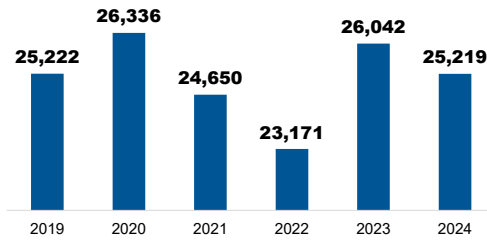
Graduate enrollment at 4-year public universities has grown steadily, good news for the state's business and professional sectors. At AIKCU institutions, graduate enrollment has been more volatile, dipping sharply in 2022 but then stabilizing in 2023 and 2024. Note that KCTCS institutions do not offer graduate programs.

4-Year Publics



5-Year Change: +15.6%
1-Year Change: +2.0%

AIKCU



5-Year Change: 0.0%
1-Year Change: -3.2%

National Context

In fall 2024, total undergraduate enrollment in the U.S. increased by 4.7%, while graduate enrollment was up 3.3% from the previous fall:

- Enrollment growth at public 2-year institutions was particularly strong, rising 5.9%.
- Public 4-year institutions saw enrollment increase by 3.1% over the previous fall.
- Enrollment at private, non-profit institutions grew by 3.8% during the same period.
- The Northeast and the South experienced the largest enrollment gains at 4.7%, followed by the West at 4.6% and the Midwest at 3.1%.

Source: <https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/>