

# SEMESTER ENROLLMENT REPORT BRIEF

## Spring 2023

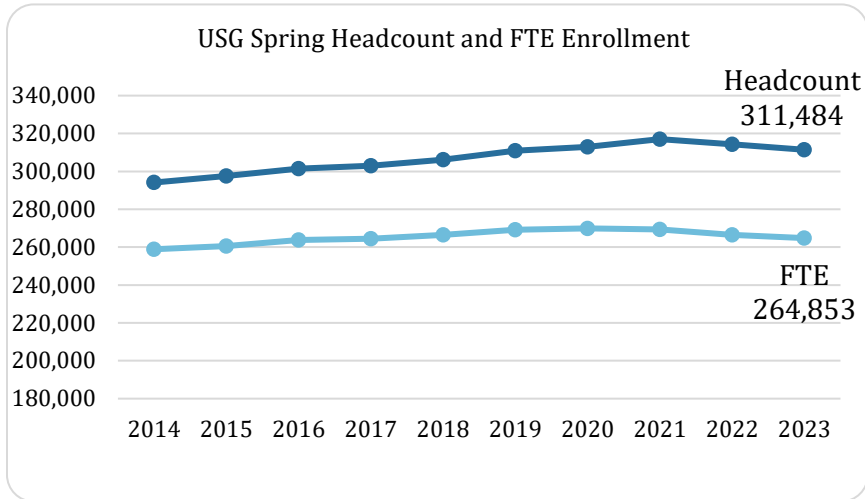
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Office of Research and Policy Analysis



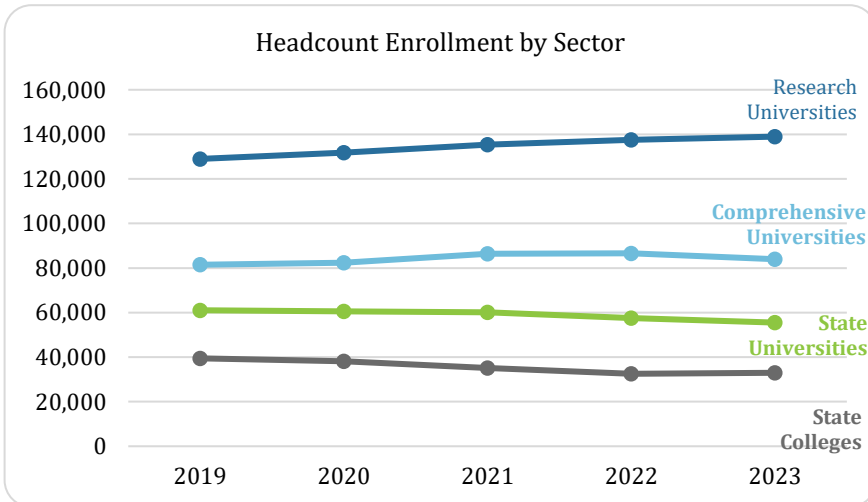
**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA**

### Total Enrollment



The headcount enrollment of the 26 institutions of the University System of Georgia in Spring 2023 is 311,484, representing a decrease of 0.9 percent (2,834 students) from Spring 2022 enrollment of 314,318. The decrease this spring is similar to the decline from Spring 2021 to Spring 2022 but is a much smaller decrease than was seen this past fall over the prior fall. Notably, the attrition that occurs each year from fall to

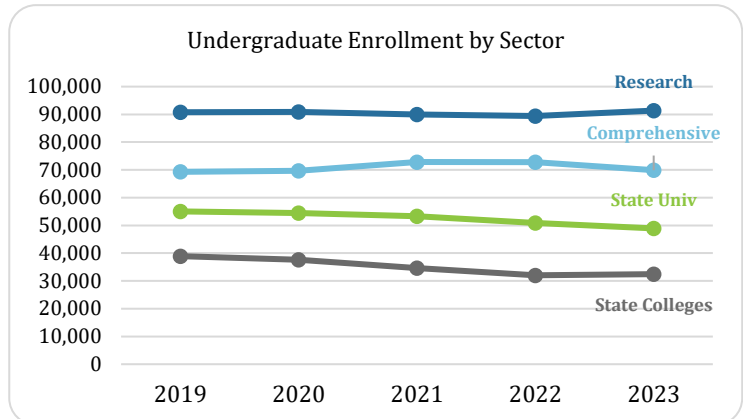
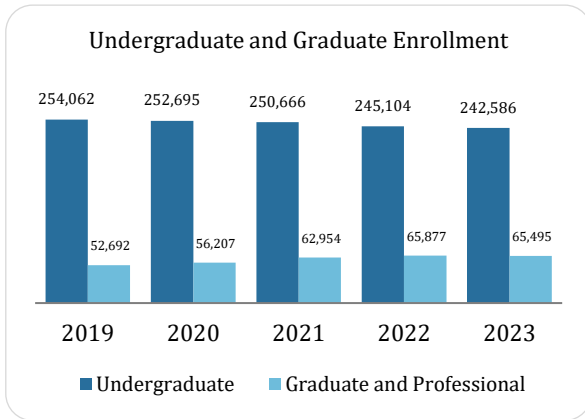
spring is less this year compared to last year (22,975 vs. 26,320). The Spring 2023 full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment decreased from 266,417 in Spring 2022 to 264,853, a decrease of 0.6 percent (1,564 FTE students). The percent of students enrolled full-time increased from 64.5 percent in Spring 2022 to 65.2 percent in Spring 2023.



For Spring 2023, headcount enrollment is 138,968 in the research sector, 83,990 in comprehensive universities, 55,508 in state universities, and 33,018 in state colleges. Research universities increased 1.0 percent from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023 continuing a trend of a 7.7 percent increase since 2019. Comprehensives decreased 3.0 percent this year but increased 3.1 percent since 2019. State universities declined 3.6 percent over last spring continuing a trend of a 9.1 percent decline since 2019.

While state colleges increased 1.5 percent since last spring, they declined 16.3 percent over the five-year period. Nationally, primarily associate-degree-granting-baccalaureate institutions, which are most similar to USG state colleges, declined by 2.8 percent this spring over last. Enrollment by individual institution is provided on the last page of this brief. Overall, 11 institutions had an increase in enrollment while 15 had a decrease.

## Undergraduate vs. Graduate Enrollment



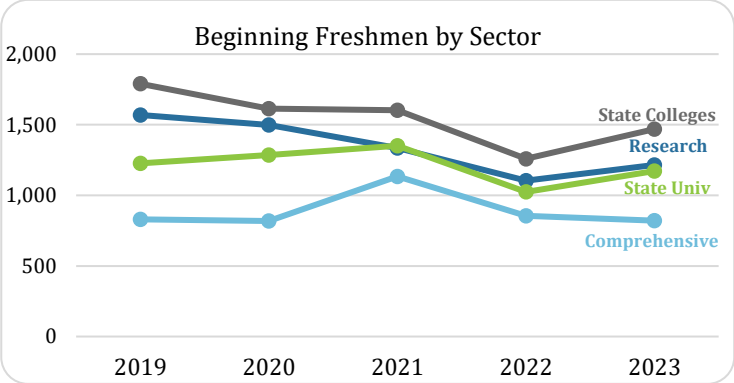
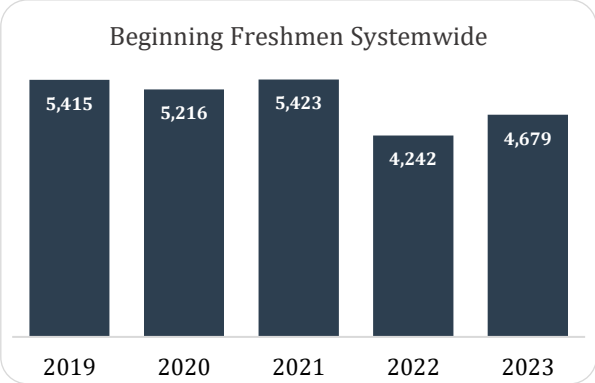
Systemwide, undergraduate enrollment decreased by 1.0 percent (2,518 students) compared to Spring 2022. There has been a decline of 4.5 percent or 11,476 students since 2019. Nationally, undergraduate enrollment in 4-year public schools was similar to USG at a 0.9 percent decline between Spring 2022 and Spring 2023<sup>1</sup>. USG graduate enrollment decreased by 0.6 percent (382 students) since Spring 2023 but increased by 24.3 percent (12,803 students) since Spring 2019. Like the USG one-year trend, national graduate enrollment in 4-year public schools declined 1.0 percent between Spring 2022 and Spring 2023.

Looking at undergraduate enrollment by sector, research university undergraduate enrollment increased by 2.2 percent (1,943 students) over last spring but only 0.6 percent (555 students) over the five-year period. Comprehensive universities are down 4.0 percent (2,905 students) over last spring but are up 0.8 percent (588 students) since 2019. State university undergraduate enrollment declined 3.8 percent (1,952 students) since last spring and declined 11.1 percent (6,123 students) since 2019. Finally, state college undergraduate enrollment increased by 1.2 percent (396 students) over last spring but declined 16.7% (6,496 students) over the five-year period.

USG institutions continue to develop new recruitment and retention initiatives to attract new undergraduate students and to retain those already enrolled. For example, institutions are using chat bots and other emerging technologies, which provide students instant access to personalized information, to enhance enrollment and financial aid services.

<sup>1</sup> National trends come from the National Student Clearinghouse and can be accessed at <https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/>

### Beginning Freshmen

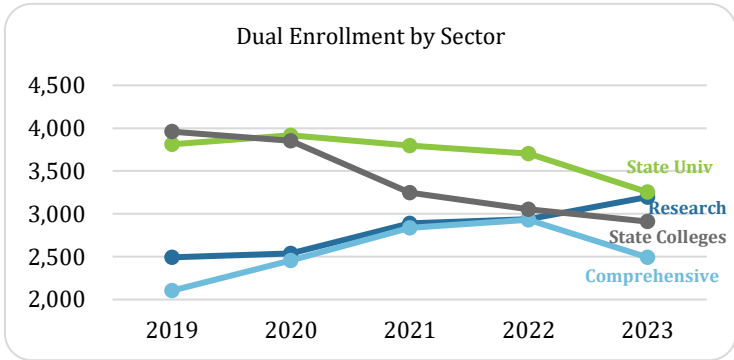
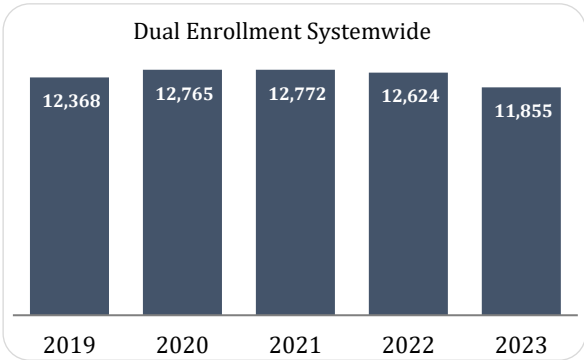


Systemwide, beginning freshmen enrollment decreased from Spring 2019 to Spring 2023. However, beginning freshmen enrollment increased by 10.3 percent (437 students) from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023. This percent increase is considerably larger than the 1.8 percent increase seen in freshman enrollment in 4-year public schools nationally between the two springs.

Looking at beginning freshmen by sector over the last five years, all sectors had a decline in enrollment. However, only one of the four sectors declined since Spring 2022. Comprehensive universities decreased by 4.0 percent (34 students) while the research university sector beginning freshmen enrollment increased by 10.1 percent (112 students), state universities increased by 14.6 percent (149 students), and state colleges increased by 16.7 percent (210 students). The state college increase is considerably larger than the 3.2 percent increase nationally among primarily associate degree-granting baccalaureate institutions.

Traditionally, fall term is the largest entry term for new freshmen, but spring is still an important entry term for overall enrollment. The increase in new freshmen is a good sign and reflects a rebound from Spring 2022 when standardized tests were required. In Spring 2022, the USG had a 22 percent decline in freshmen compared to a 9.3 percent increase nationally for public 4-year institutions. As indicated above, the Spring 2023 increase of 10.3 percent in the USG outperformed national public 4-year institutions.

### Dual Enrollment

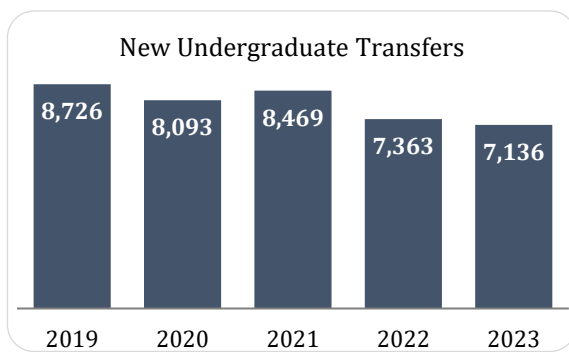


Systemwide, dual enrollment decreased from Spring 2019 to Spring 2023. Compared to Spring 2022, systemwide dual enrollment decreased 6.1 percent (769 students). This is at odds with national trends.

Nationally, dual enrollment<sup>2</sup> at 4-year public institutions increased by 5.7 percent between the two springs. The USG decline reflects changes to dual enrollment policy in recent years aimed at focusing the program as well as the impact of admissions test requirements.

Compared to Spring 2019, Spring 2023 dual enrollment increased in the research sector by 28.2 percent (703 students) but decreased in all other sectors. Compared to Spring 2022, Spring 2023 dual enrollment increased at research universities (8.9 percent) but decreased at comprehensive universities (14.9 percent), state universities (12.1 percent), and state colleges (4.7 percent). Nationally, dual enrollment across all primarily associate degree-granting baccalaureate institutions, which are most similar to USG state colleges, increased by 1.3 percent between the two springs.

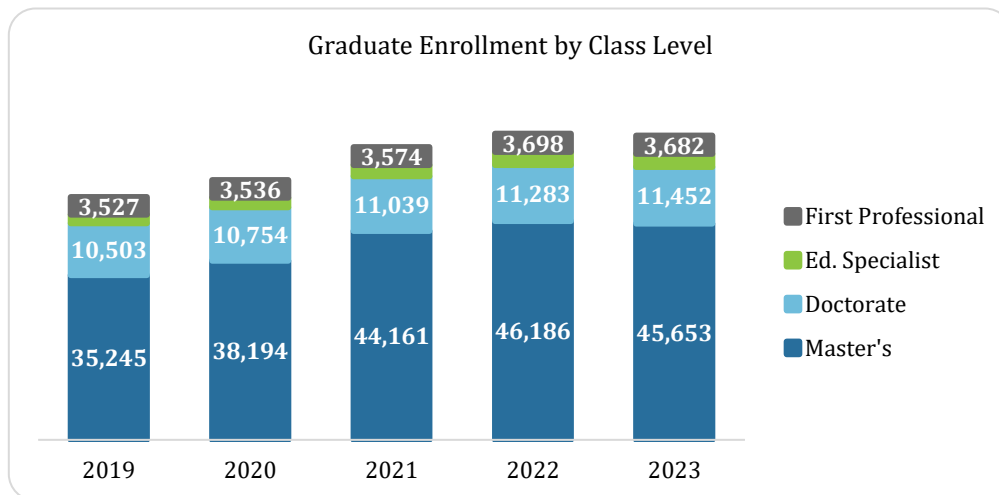
### Undergraduate Transfers



There were 7,136 new undergraduate transfer students in Spring 2023, a decrease of 3.1 percent (227 students) from Spring 2022. Looking over the last five years, there has been an 18.2 percent decrease in new undergraduate transfers (though 2021 saw an increase).

Since the outset of the pandemic, transfer for those continuing their college education dropped nearly 12 percent nationally and experts project that this trend will continue.<sup>3</sup> However, there is some reason for optimism in the population of students returning to college after an absence. This population increased nationally by 5 percent this past fall and is expected to continue to increase as adults retrain for new careers after the pandemic shuffled job opportunities. In Georgia, nearly 1.6 million adults have some college education but no degree. This is an important population for USG institutions to support and recruit.

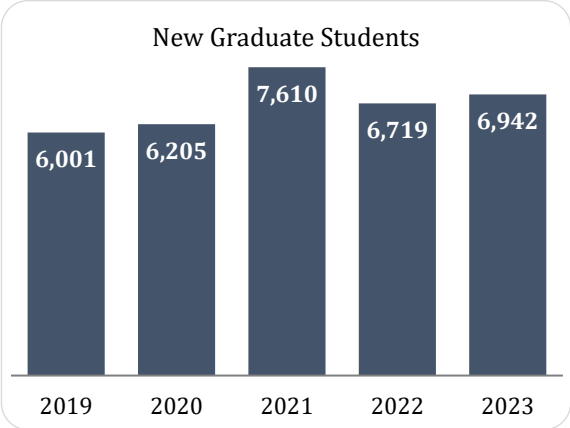
### Graduate Enrollment



<sup>2</sup> National dual enrollment is defined as students 17 years of age or younger. This is different than the USG definition of dual enrollment which is defined by student level.

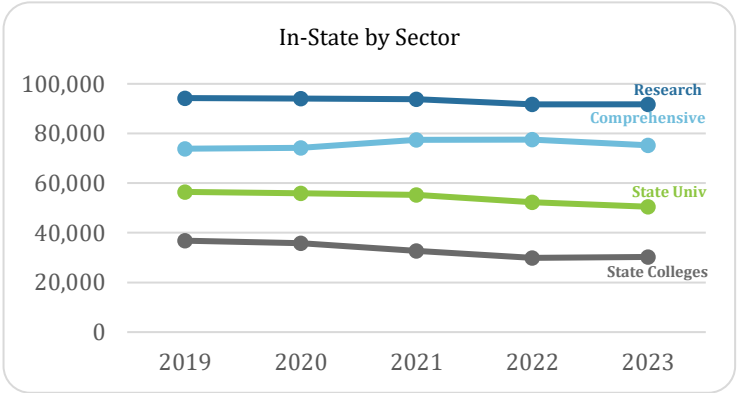
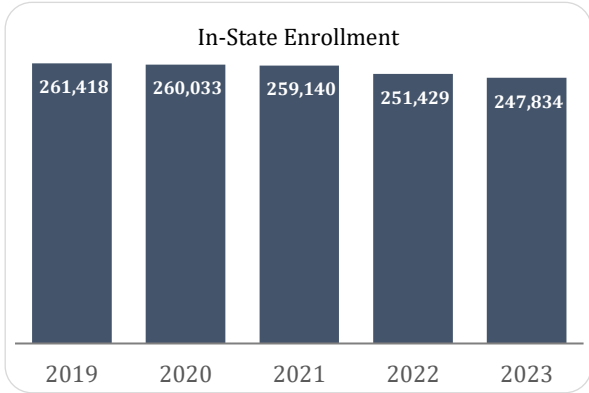
<sup>3</sup> National Student Clearinghouse *Transfer and Progress Fall 2022 Report* available at <https://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/TransferProgressFall22.pdf>

Shifting to graduate enrollment, in a five-year comparison enrollment has increased overall, most notably at the master’s degree level. However, master’s enrollment declined 1.2 percent (533 students) since last spring. Compared to Spring 2022, graduate enrollment overall has decreased slightly from 64,482 to 64,057. This decrease can be seen at all levels of graduate enrollment except those seeking a doctorate. Notably, the 1.2 percent decline in master’s students is the first decline since Spring 2013. Students in medical residencies (not included in the graph) increased from 604 in Spring 2019 to 641 in Spring 2023.



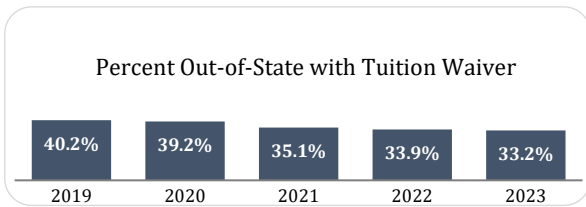
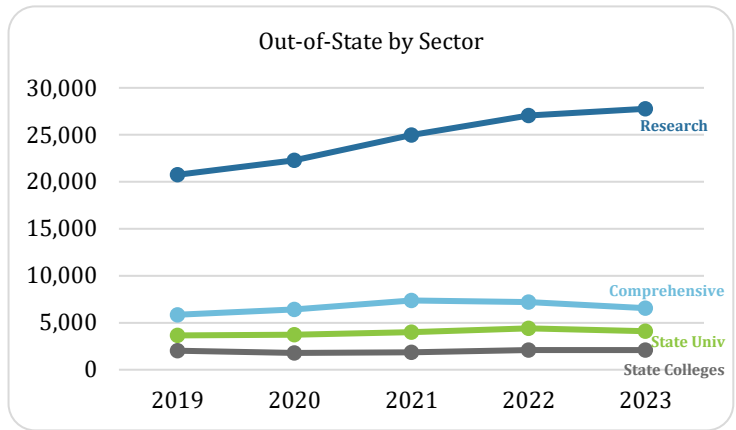
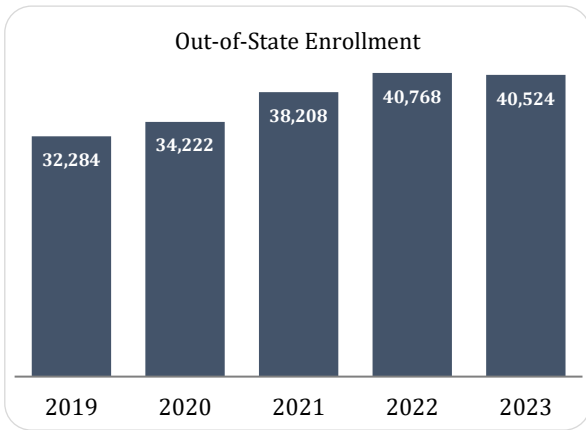
Over the last five years, new graduate enrollment has generally increased, with a notable increase in Spring of 2021 during the peak of the pandemic. The number of new graduate students increased by 3.3 percent (223 students) from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023. New graduate enrollment increased at 11 of the 17 institutions that offer graduate programs.

**Residency**



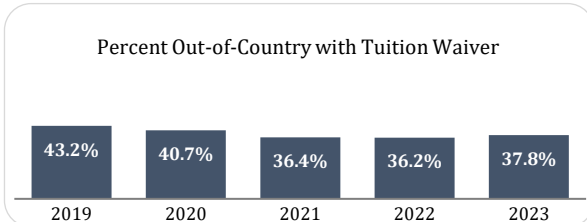
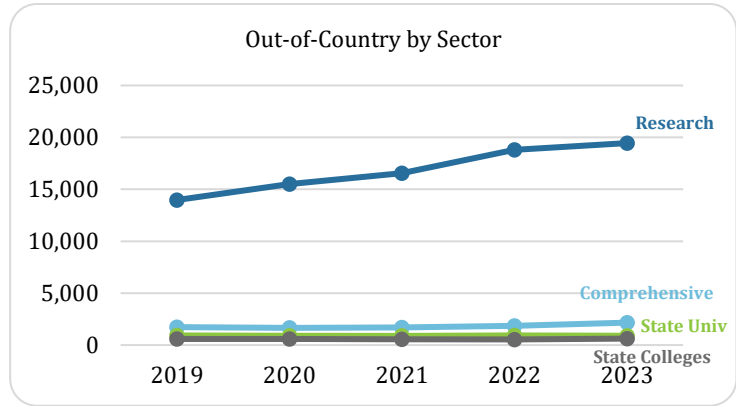
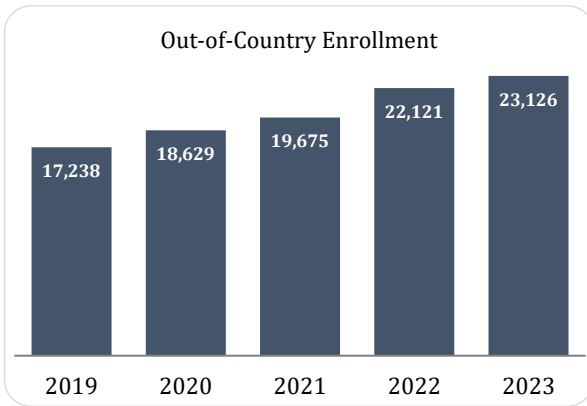
Compared to last spring, Spring 2023 in-state enrollment has decreased by 1.4 percent (3,595 students). Since 2019, in-state enrollment declined by 5.2 percent (13,584 students).

Looking at sectors, since Spring 2019, in-state enrollment increased only at comprehensive universities (1.9 percent, 1,393 students). In-state enrollment declined at research universities by 2.7 percent (2,511 students) at state universities by 10.6 percent (5,968 students) and at state colleges by 17.7 percent (6,498 students). Compared to Spring 2022, in-state enrollment remained steady at research universities, decreased at comprehensive universities by 2.9 percent (2,255 students), decreased at state universities by 3.4 percent (1,777 students) and increased at state colleges by 1.4 percent (418 students).



Systemwide, out-of-state enrollment increased compared to Spring 2019. However, compared to Spring 2022, out-of-state enrollment decreased by 0.6 percent (244 students).

Since 2019, all sectors have seen an increase in out-of-state enrollment. This increase is most evident in the research sector, where out-of-state enrollment has increased 33.9 percent (7,025 students) since 2019. Compared to Spring 2022, out-of-state enrollment only increased in the research sector (2.6 percent, 713 students) and declined slightly in all other sectors. Over the last five years, the percentage of out-of-state students receiving tuition waivers has steadily declined. 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. The great majority, 82 percent, are awarded in the comprehensive and state university sectors.

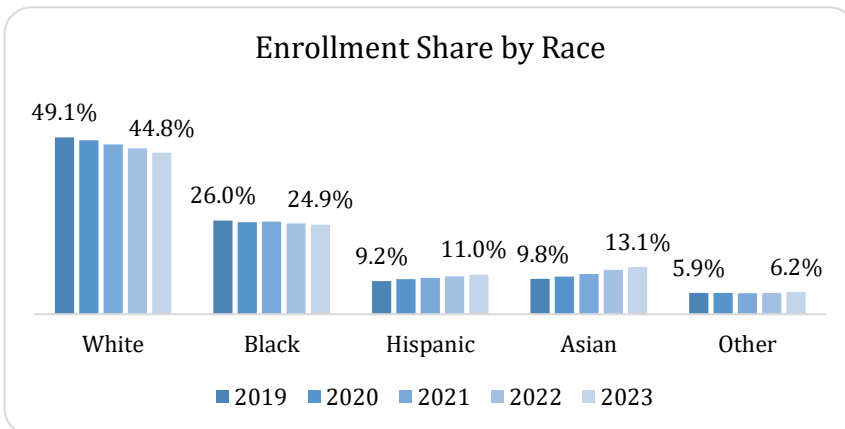


Systemwide, out-of-country enrollment has increased compared to Spring 2019. Compared to Spring 2022, this trend has remained consistent as out-of-country enrollment increased by 4.5 percent (1,005 students).

Since 2019, most sectors have seen an increase in out-of-country enrollment. Research universities increased 39.2 percent (5,480 students), comprehensive universities increased 24.0 percent (418 students), and state colleges increased 3.2 percent (19 students). However, out-of-country enrollment declined by 3.1 percent (29 students) at state universities. The one-year trend is the same, with increases in all sectors except state universities.

Over the last five years, the percentage of out-of-country students receiving tuition waivers has generally declined. However, in Spring 2023 compared to Spring 2022 there was a slight increase in the percentage of out-of-country students receiving tuition waivers.

### Race/Ethnicity

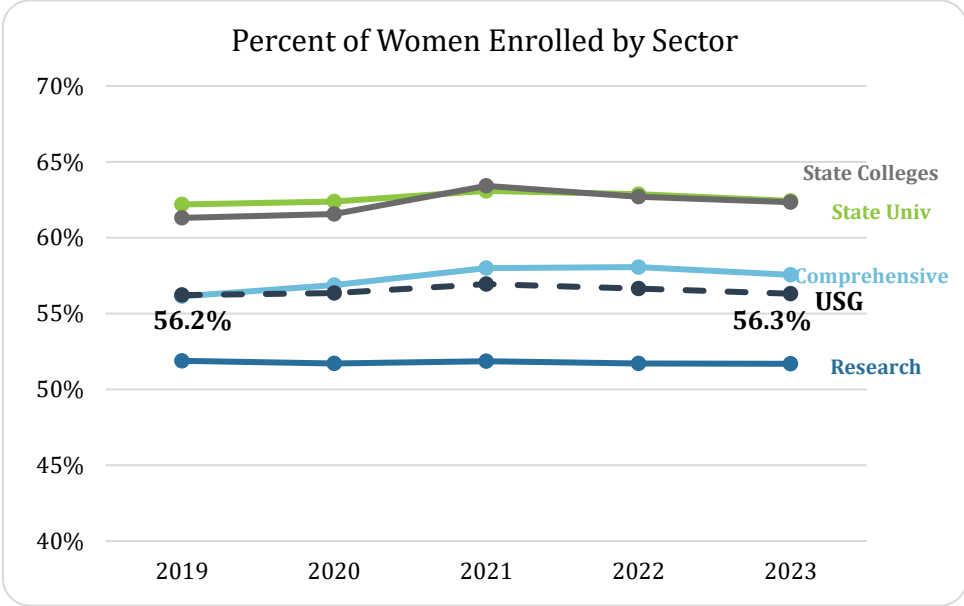


Asian student enrollment increased by 5.4 percent (2,069 students). Asian students make up 13.1 percent of all students, up from 12.3 percent in Spring 2022. Much of this growth occurred in the research sector, which saw an increase of 1,745 students. Hispanic enrollment increased by 3.4 percent (1,142 students). Hispanic students represent 11.0 percent of all students in Spring 2023 compared to 10.6 percent in Spring 2022. African

American enrollment decreased by 2.2 percent (1,719 students). In Spring 2023, African American students represent 24.9 percent of all students, down slightly from 25.2 percent in Spring 2022. Enrollment of African American students increased in the research sector (1.1 percent, 301 students) and the state college sector (4.5 percent, 367 students) but declined in the comprehensive university sector (6.1 percent, 1,486 students) and state university sector (4.5 percent, 901 students). White/non-Hispanic student enrollment decreased by 3.5 percent (5,036 students) since Spring 2022. White/non-Hispanic students represent 44.8 percent of all students, compared to 46.0 percent in Spring 2022.



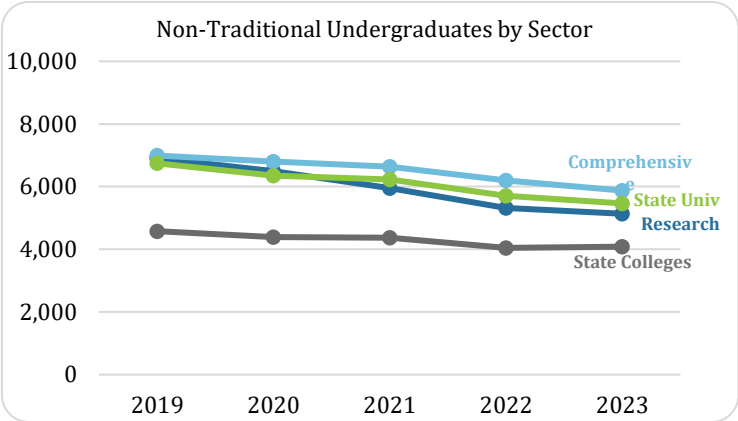
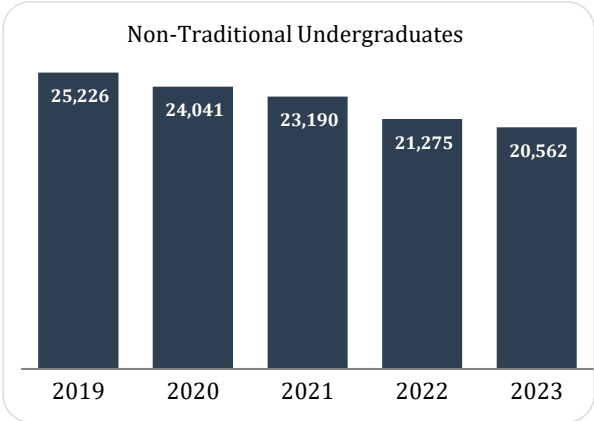
### Gender



In Spring 2023, female student enrollment (175,400) continues to be substantially higher than male student enrollment (136,084), making up 56.3 percent of the system total enrollment. Enrollment decreased for both genders from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023, though the decrease was greater for female students (1.5 percent; 2,634 students) than for male students (0.1 percent; 200 students). The state university and state college sectors have the highest percentage of female

student enrollment (62.4 and 62.3 percent, respectively), and the research sector has the lowest (51.7 percent). 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) has steadily declined – a decrease of 18.5 percent (4,664 students). This trend continued in Spring 2023 compared to Spring 2022, with a decline of 3.4 percent (713 students).

The five-year trend in non-traditional undergraduates declined in every sector. Since 2019, the research sector declined by 25.7 percent (1,775 students), the comprehensive sector by 16.0 percent (1,117 students), state universities by 19.0 percent (1,280 students), and state colleges by 10.7 percent (492 students). The one-year trend is similar with declines in all sectors except state colleges, which increased non-traditional student enrollment by 1.0 percent (41 students) over Spring 2022.

University System of Georgia Spring Headcount Enrollment									
Institution	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	1-year Change		5-year Change	
						#	%	#	%
Augusta University	8,509	8,616	8,755	8,833	9,036	203	2.3%	527	6.2%
Georgia Institute of Technology	32,592	35,485	39,708	42,603	43,465	862	2.0%	10,873	33.4%
Georgia State University	50,262	50,006	48,576	47,377	47,094	-283	-0.6%	-3,168	-6.3%
University of Georgia	37,611	37,696	38,298	38,772	39,373	601	1.6%	1,762	4.7%
<b>Research Universities</b>	<b>128,974</b>	<b>131,803</b>	<b>135,337</b>	<b>137,585</b>	<b>138,968</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>9,994</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Georgia Southern University	24,323	23,888	24,463	24,549	23,190	-1,359	-5.5%	-1,133	-4.7%
Kennesaw State University	33,820	35,660	38,580	40,083	40,162	79	0.2%	6,342	18.8%
University of West Georgia	12,745	12,297	12,192	11,510	11,185	-325	-2.8%	-1,560	-12.2%
Valdosta State University	10,580	10,482	11,231	10,457	9,453	-1,004	-9.6%	-1,127	-10.7%
<b>Comprehensive Universities</b>	<b>81,468</b>	<b>82,327</b>	<b>86,466</b>	<b>86,599</b>	<b>83,990</b>	<b>-2,609</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
Albany State University	5,737	5,751	5,695	5,866	5,881	15	0.3%	144	2.5%
Clayton State University	6,651	6,529	6,531	6,042	5,336	-706	-11.7%	-1,315	-19.8%
Columbus State University	7,818	7,454	7,712	7,228	7,201	-27	-0.4%	-617	-7.9%
Fort Valley State University	2,509	2,401	2,559	2,411	2,301	-110	-4.6%	-208	-8.3%
Georgia College & State University	6,602	6,567	6,377	6,245	5,945	-300	-4.8%	-657	-10.0%
Georgia Southwestern State University	2,768	2,718	2,871	2,772	2,781	9	0.3%	13	0.5%
Middle Georgia State University	7,242	7,655	7,709	7,280	7,214	-66	-0.9%	-28	-0.4%
Savannah State University	3,625	3,317	3,070	2,759	2,606	-153	-5.5%	-1,019	-28.1%
University of North Georgia	18,092	18,210	17,609	16,999	16,243	-756	-4.4%	-1,849	-10.2%
<b>State Universities</b>	<b>61,044</b>	<b>60,602</b>	<b>60,133</b>	<b>57,602</b>	<b>55,508</b>	<b>-2,094</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	<b>-5,536</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	3,906	3,513	3,584	3,411	3,276	-135	-4.0%	-630	-16.1%
Atlanta Metropolitan State College	2,042	1,701	1,674	1,498	1,471	-27	-1.8%	-571	-28.0%
College of Coastal Georgia	3,294	3,308	3,158	2,905	2,924	19	0.7%	-370	-11.2%
Dalton State College	4,652	4,442	4,206	4,030	4,050	20	0.5%	-602	-12.9%
East Georgia State College	2,523	2,393	1,876	1,540	1,524	-16	-1.0%	-999	-39.6%
Georgia Gwinnett College	11,746	11,727	10,756	10,166	10,686	520	5.1%	-1,060	-9.0%
Georgia Highlands College	5,682	5,721	5,163	4,710	4,543	-167	-3.5%	-1,139	-20.0%
Gordon State College	3,269	3,147	2,890	2,643	2,849	206	7.8%	-420	-12.8%
South Georgia State College	2,340	2,200	1,780	1,629	1,695	66	4.1%	-645	-27.6%
<b>State Colleges</b>	<b>39,454</b>	<b>38,152</b>	<b>35,087</b>	<b>32,532</b>	<b>33,018</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>-6,436</b>	<b>-16.3%</b>
<b>University System Totals</b>	<b>310,940</b>	<b>312,884</b>	<b>317,023</b>	<b>314,318</b>	<b>311,484</b>	<b>-2,834</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

Enrollment increased at 11 institutions and decreased at 15. The largest growth in terms of number of students was at Georgia Institute of Technology, which had an increase of 862 students, mostly at the undergraduate level – this is a change from their previous trend of growth primarily at the graduate level. The largest growth in terms of percent of students was at Gordon State College (7.8 percent). There was also strong growth over last spring at the University of Georgia (601 students) and Georgia Gwinnett College (520 students). The schools with the second and third largest growth by percentage are Georgia Gwinnett College (5.1 percent) and South Georgia State University (4.1 percent). The institutions with the largest enrollment decline in terms of numbers were Georgia Southern University (1,359), Valdosta State University (1,004), and University of North Georgia (756). The largest declines by percentage were Clayton State College (11.7 percent), Valdosta State College (9.6 percent), and Savannah State University (5.5 percent).