SEMESTER ENROLLMENT REPORT BRIEF

Fall 2026

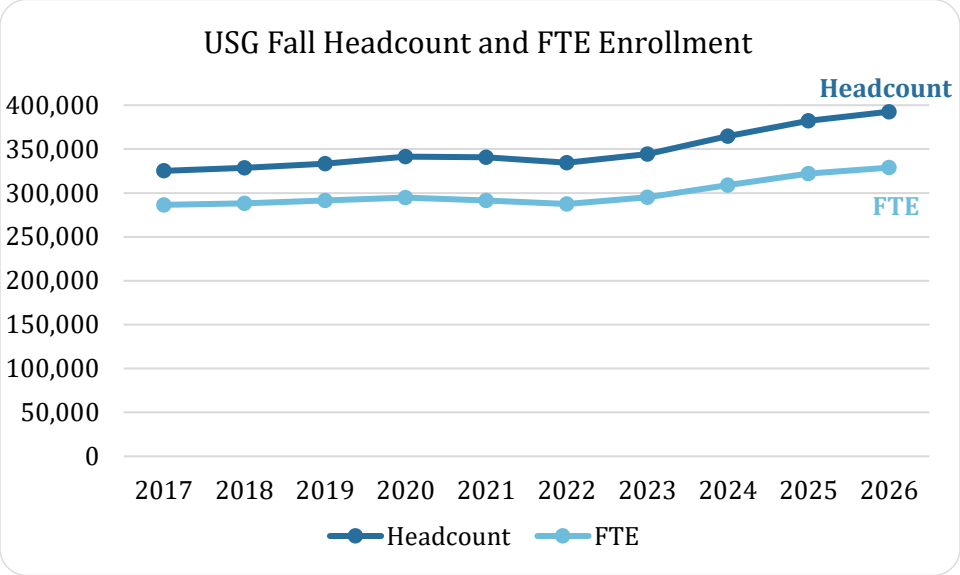
Office of Research and Policy Analysis



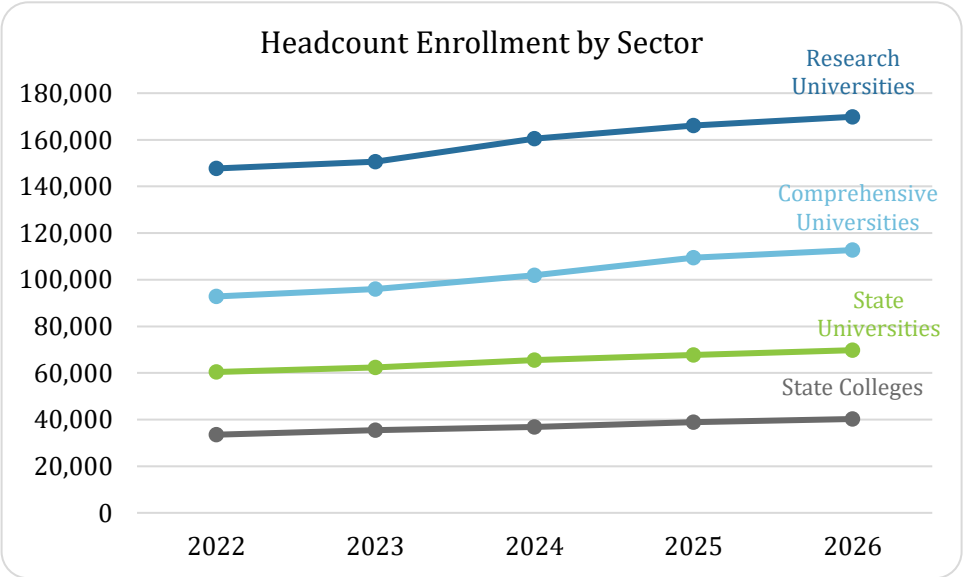
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Total Enrollment

The headcount enrollment of the 25 institutions of the University System of Georgia (USG) in fall 2026 is 392,581. This represents record-high enrollment, surpassing the previous all-time high of 382,142 from fall 2025. Fall 2026 represents an increase of 2.7 percent (10,439 students) from fall 2025. Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment increased from 322,050 in fall 2025 to 328,872 in fall 2026, an increase of 2.1 percent (6,822 FTE students). The percentage of students enrolled full-time decreased slightly from 65.0 in fall 2025 to 64.3 in fall 2026.

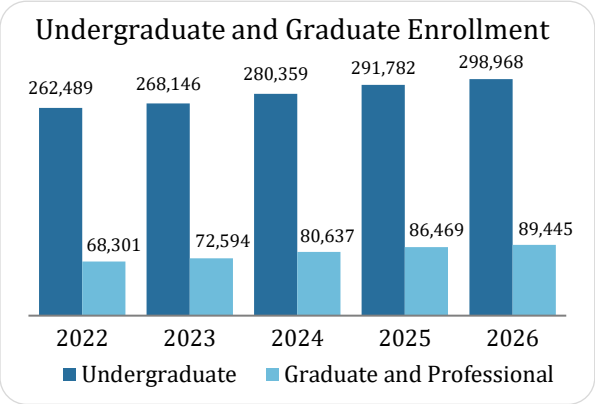


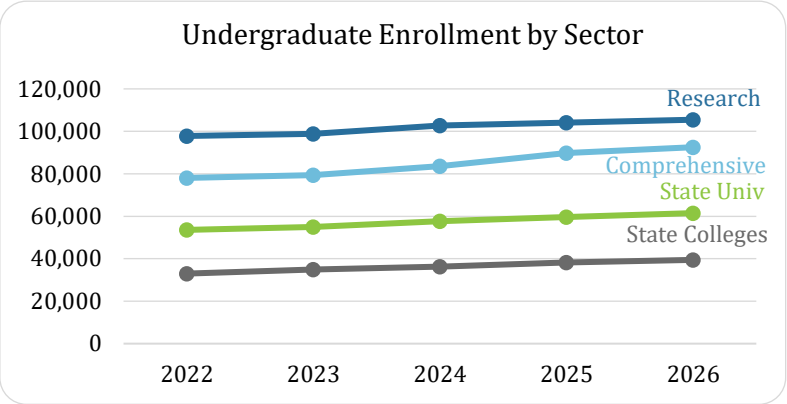
For fall 2026, headcount enrollment is 169,869 in the research sector, 112,697 in comprehensive universities[1], 69,766 in state universities, and 40,249 in state colleges. Research universities increased 2.3 percent from fall 2025 to fall 2026, with a 15.0 percent increase in enrollment since fall 2022. Comprehensives increased 2.9 percent compared to last fall term and increased 21.4 percent since fall 2022. State universities increased 3.0 percent over last fall and increased 15.5 percent compared to 2022. State colleges also increased since last fall (3.6 percent) and increased over the five-year period (20.1 percent). Enrollment by individual institution is provided on the last page of this brief. 21 out of 25 institutions had an increase in enrollment compared to fall 2025.



[1] Fall 2026 marks the first term reflecting the consolidation of Georgia Southern University and East Georgia State College. All data were retroactively consolidated, including sector totals.

Undergraduate vs. Graduate Enrollment

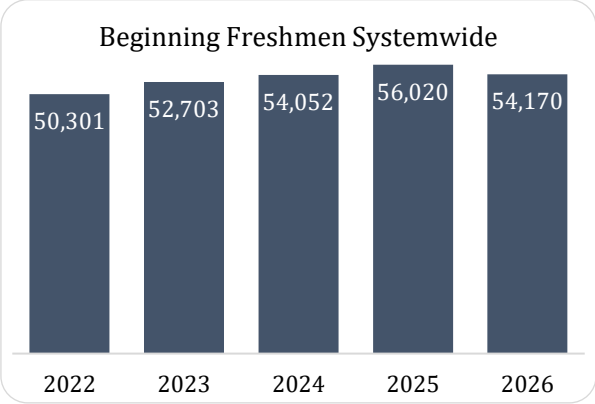


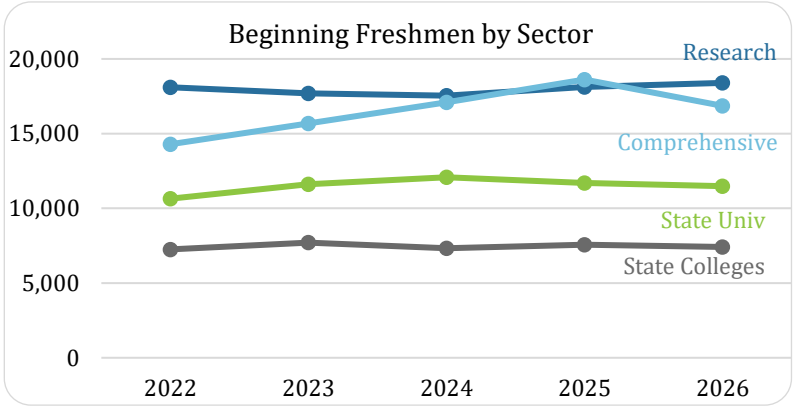


Systemwide, undergraduate enrollment increased by 2.5 percent (7,186 students) compared to fall 2025. Fall 2026 undergraduate enrollment is 13.9 percent (36,479 students) above fall 2022 undergraduate enrollment. USG graduate enrollment (including graduate, professional, and resident students) increased by 3.4 percent (2,976 students) since fall 2025 and increased by 31.0 percent (21,144 students) since fall 2022.

As for undergraduate enrollment by sector, enrollment at research universities increased by 1.3 percent (1,365 students) compared with last fall and by 7.8 percent (7,655 students) over the five-year period. Comprehensive universities increased 3.1 percent (2,749 students) over last fall and 18.5 percent (14,461 students) since 2022. State university undergraduate enrollment increased 3.1 percent (1,873 students) since last fall and 14.8 percent (7,906 students) since 2022. Finally, state college undergraduate enrollment also increased by 3.1 percent (1,199 students) over last fall and 19.6 percent (6,457 students) over the five-year period.

Beginning Freshmen





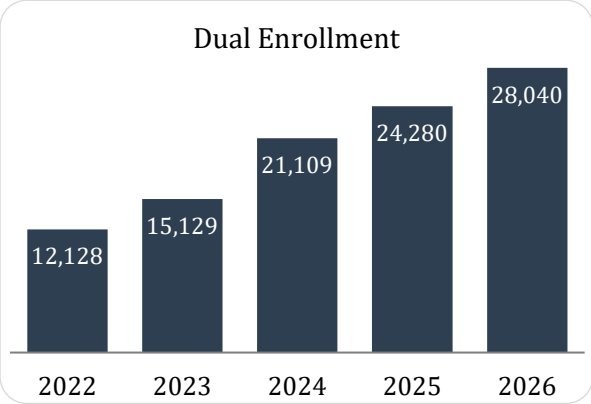
Systemwide, beginning freshmen enrollment decreased by 3.3 percent (1,850 students) from fall 2025 to fall 2026. From fall 2022 to fall 2026, beginning freshmen enrollment increased by 7.7 percent (3,869 students).

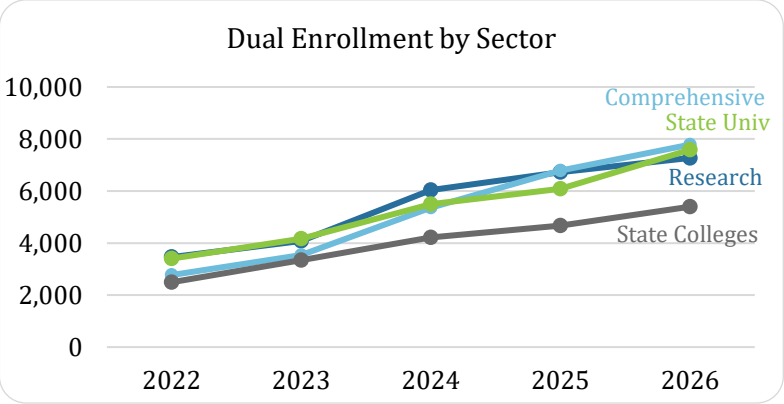
As for beginning freshmen by sector compared to fall 2025, only one out of four sectors had an increase in enrollment: research universities by 1.5 percent (276 students). Comprehensive universities decreased beginning freshmen enrollment by 9.5 percent (1,762 students), state universities decreased by 1.9 percent

(218 students), and state colleges by 1.9 percent (146 students). Within the comprehensive sector, which had the greatest decline in beginning freshmen, only Kennesaw State University had fewer beginning freshmen with a decline of 28 percent (2,614 students). It is important to note that the University System of Georgia made changes to the test required admissions policy effective fall 2026. Four institutions—Augusta University, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University, and Kennesaw State University—joined the University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Georgia College & State University in requiring the submission of test scores in admissions.

Over the last five years, all four sectors had an increase in beginning freshmen enrollment. Since fall 2022, research university beginning freshmen enrollment increased by 1.6 percent (286 students), comprehensive universities increased by 18.0 percent (2,569 students), state universities increased by 7.9 percent (842 students), and state colleges increased by 2.4 percent (172 students).

Dual Enrollment

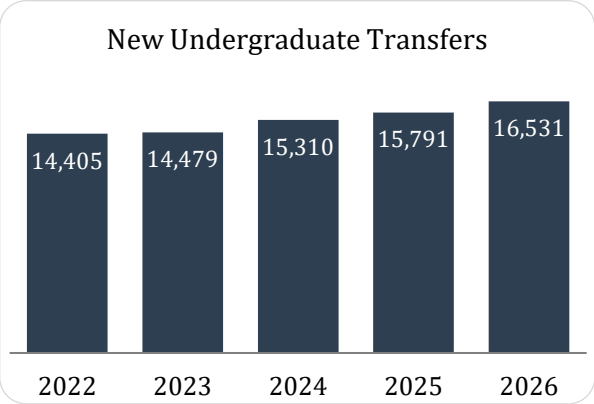




Systemwide dual enrollment in fall 2026 is 28,040, which represents a new record-high replacing the fall 2025 record, and is a 15.5 percent increase (3,760 students) compared to fall 2025. The steady increase in dual enrollment is likely due to an adjustment in policy on admissions test requirements as well as efforts to communicate opportunities to high school students. Effective in fall 2023, 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. From fall 2022 to fall 2026, dual enrollment increased 131.2 percent (15,912 students).

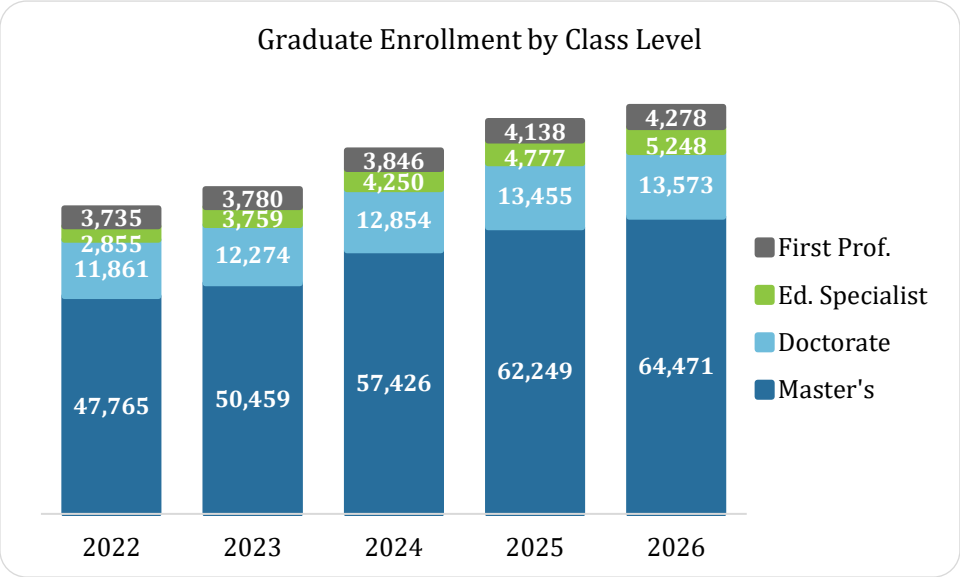
Compared to fall 2025, fall 2026 dual enrollment increased in all sectors: research universities (8.0 percent), comprehensive universities (14.7 percent), state universities (24.6 percent), and state colleges (15.5 percent). Compared to fall 2022, fall 2026 dual enrollment also increased in all sectors. Dual enrollment increased in the research sector by 110.1 percent (3,812 students), the comprehensive sector by 180.9 percent (5,014 students), state universities by 122.9 percent (4,182 students), and in the state college sector by 116.4 percent (2,904 students).

Undergraduate Transfers



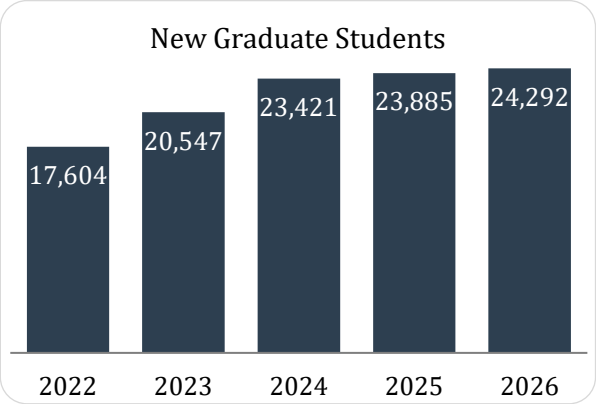
There were 16,531 new undergraduate transfer students in fall 2026, an increase of 4.7 percent (740 students) from fall 2025. The year-over-year increase is focused within the research sector, specifically at the University of Georgia with a 25.3 percent increase (482 students) at the institution. Over the last five years, there has been a 14.8 percent (2,126 students) increase in new undergraduate transfers.

Graduate Enrollment



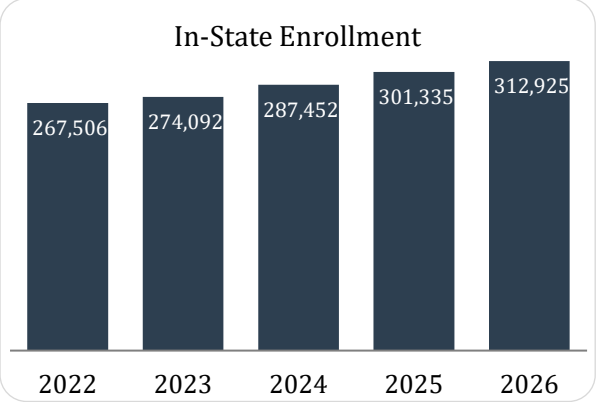
Shifting to graduate enrollment (including residents), compared to last fall, this group increased by 3.4 percent (2,976 students) from 86,469 to 89,445. This increase can be seen at all levels of graduate enrollment shown in the graph. In a five-year comparison, enrollment increased 31.0 percent (21,144 students).

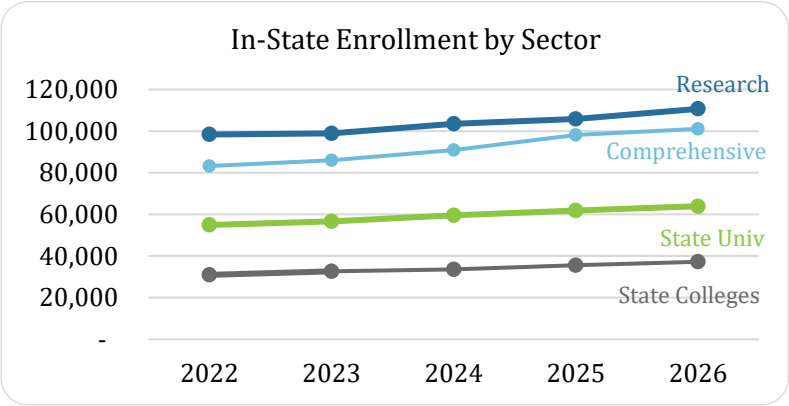
Since fall 2025, master's enrollment increased by 3.6 percent (2,222 students), with more than half of this increase occurring at Georgia Institute of Technology. Compared to fall 2025, doctoral enrollment increased 0.9 percent (118 students), education specialists by 9.9 percent (471 students), and first professional enrollment increased by 3.4 percent (140 students).



Over the last five years, new graduate enrollment has increased overall, with fall 2026 establishing a new peak. The number of new graduate students increased by 1.7 percent (407 students) from fall 2025 and by 38.0 percent (6,688 students) since fall 2022. Since fall 2025, new graduate enrollment increased at 12 of the 17 institutions that offer graduate programs. Georgia Tech had the largest number of new graduate students in fall 2026; however, this population at Georgia Tech declined slightly from fall 2025 (1.7 percent, 165 students).

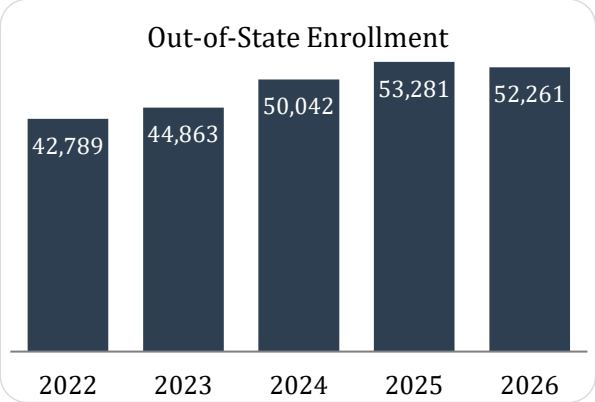
Residency

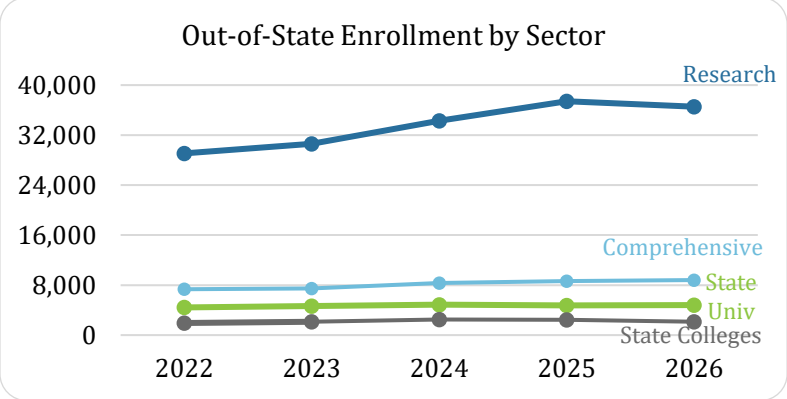


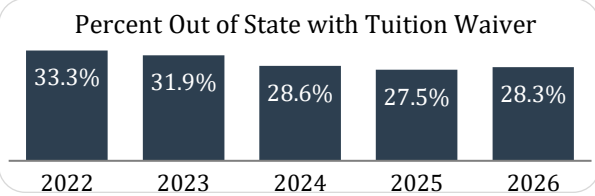


Systemwide fall 2026 in-state enrollment increased by 3.8 percent (11,590 students) compared to last fall. Since fall 2022, in-state enrollment increased by 17.0 percent (45,419 students).

Compared to fall 2025, in-state enrollment increased in every sector: research universities by 4.6 percent (4,841 students), comprehensive universities by 3.0 percent (2,940 students), state universities by 3.4percent (2,129 students), and state colleges by 4.7 percent (1,680 students). Since fall 2022, in-state enrollment again increased in all four sectors: by 12.5 percent (12,291 students) in the research university sector, 21.4 percent (17,850 students) in the comprehensive sector, 16.4 percent (9,008 students) in the state university sector, and by 20.2 percent (6,270 students) in the state college sector. It is important to note that this comparison does not examine the proportion of in-state vs. out-of-state/out-of-country enrollment; this only compares the enrollment numbers of students who are Georgia residents over time (and thus will typically follow the general enrollment trends).



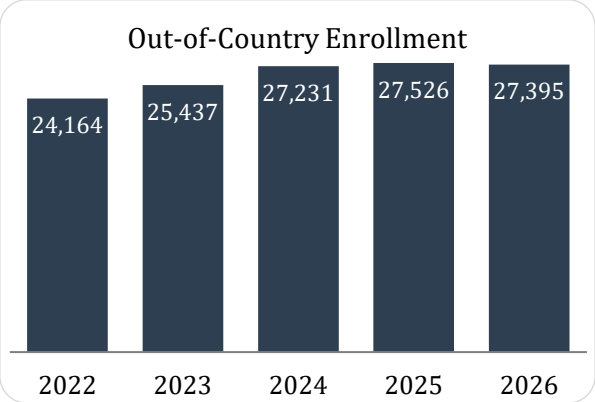


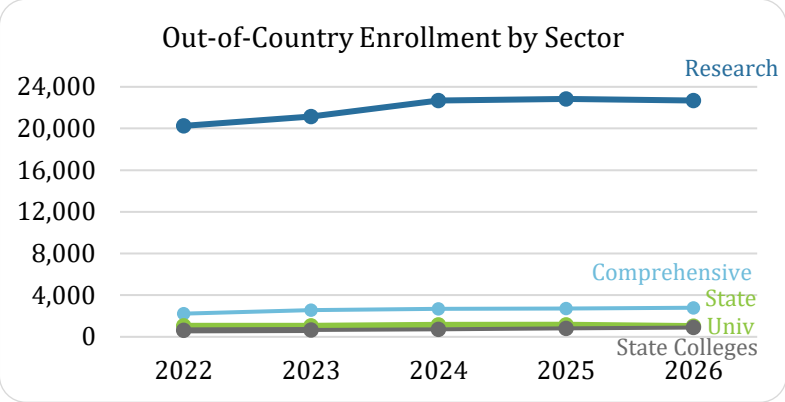


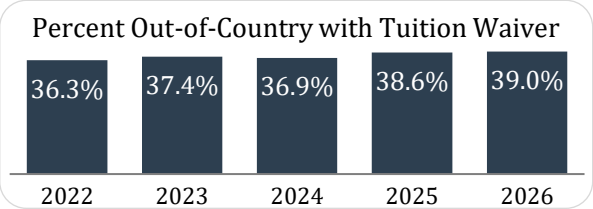
Systemwide, out-of-state enrollment decreased by 1.9 percent (1,020 students) compared to fall 2025. This is the first year-over-year decrease in out-of-state enrollment since 2006. Compared to fall 2022, out-of-state enrollment increased by 22.1 percent (9,472 students).

Compared to fall 2025, out-of-state enrollment increased in two out of four sectors—in comprehensive universities by 2.2 percent (187 students) and state universities by 0.6 percent (27 students). Out-of-state enrollment decreased at research universities by 2.4 percent (890 students), and state colleges by 13.9 percent (344 students). Within the research sector, the decline was driven by two institutions: Georgia State University with a decline of 12.2 percent (492 students) and the University of Georgia with a decline of 5.4 percent (410 students). Compared to 2022, all sectors increased out-of-state enrollments. The research university sector had the largest increase of any sector by number (7,447 students) and by percent increase (25.6 percent).

Despite the overall increase in out-of-state enrollment over the last five years, since fall 2022 the percentage of out-of-state students receiving tuition waivers decreased from 33.3 percent to 28.3 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).





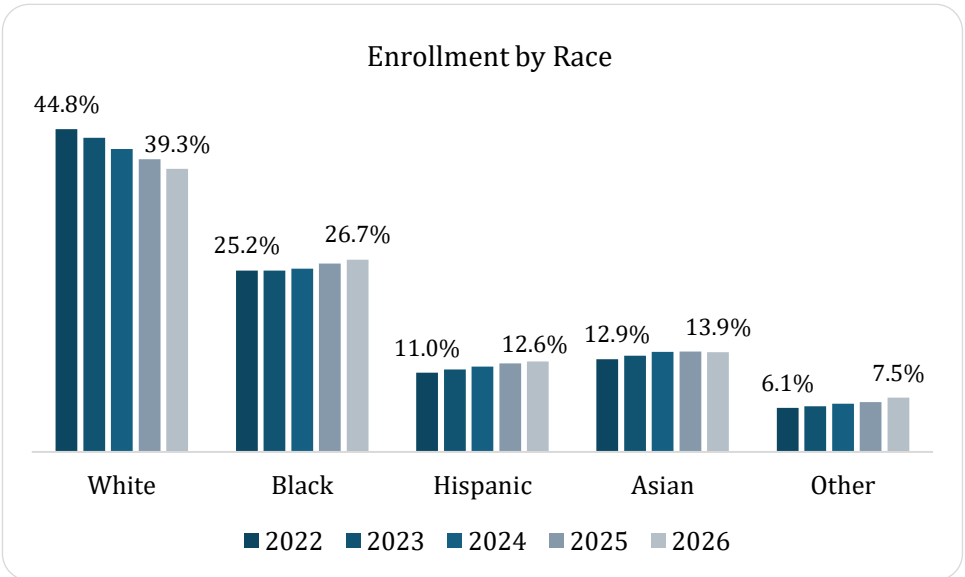


Systemwide, out-of-country enrollment decreased by 0.5 percent (131 students) compared to fall 2025, the first year-over-year decline in the last 20 years. Compared to fall 2022, out-of-country enrollment increased by 13.4 percent (3,231 students).

Two out of four sectors experienced an increase in out-of-country enrollment compared to fall 2025: comprehensive universities increased by 3.3 percent (89 students) and state colleges increased by 8.8 percent (72 students). Research universities decreased by 0.7 percent (165 students) and state universities decreased by 10.9 percent (127 students). Since 2022, three out of four sectors have seen an increase in out-of-country enrollment. Research universities increased by 11.9 percent (2,420 students), comprehensive universities increased by 25.5 percent (567 students), and state colleges increased by 43.6 percent (271 students). State universities decreased by 2.5 percent (27 students).

The percentage of out-of-country students receiving tuition waivers increased from 38.6 percent in fall 2025 to 39.0 percent in fall 2026. Since 2022, the percentage of out-of-country students receiving tuition waivers increased from 36.3 percent to 39.0 percent.

Race/Ethnicity



Enrollment of Black/African American students increased 4.8 percent (4,826 students) since fall 2025 and increased 24.5 percent (20,644 students) since fall 2022. In fall 2026, Black/African American students represent 26.7 percent of all students compared to 26.2 percent in fall 2025 and 25.2 percent in fall 2022.

Hispanic enrollment increased 5.2 percent (2,426 students) since fall 2025 and increased

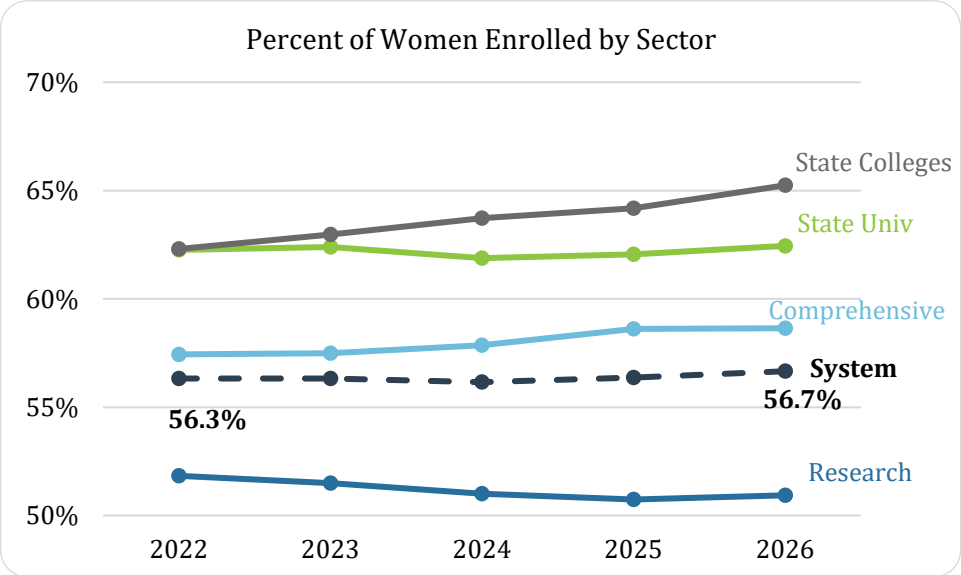
by 34.0 percent (12,518 students) since fall 2022. Hispanic students represent 12.6 percent of all students in fall 2026 compared to 12.3 percent in fall 2025 and 11.0 percent in fall 2022.

Asian student enrollment increased by 2.2 percent (1,148 students) since fall 2025 and 26.5 percent (11,383 students) since fall 2022. In fall 2026, Asian students made up 13.9 percent of all students, unchanged from fall 2025, and up from 12.9 percent in fall 2022. Much of this growth is focused in the research sector, which saw an increase of 1,106 students from fall 2025 to fall 2026 and an increase of 9,456 Asian students since fall 2022.

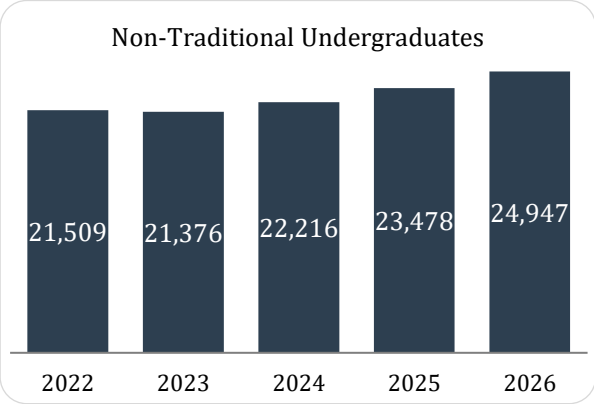
White/non-Hispanic student enrollment decreased by 0.7 percent (1,045 students) since fall 2025 but increased by 2.9 percent (4,409 students) compared to fall 2022. In fall 2026, White/non-Hispanic students represent 39.3 percent of all students compared to 40.7 percent in fall 2025 and 44.8 percent in fall 2022.

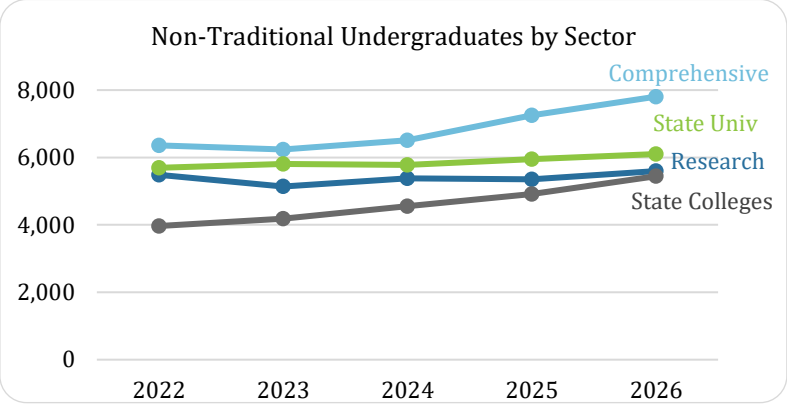
Gender

In fall 2026, female student enrollment (222,428) continues to be substantially higher than male student enrollment (170,153), making up 56.7 percent of the system total enrollment. From fall 2025 to fall 2026, female student enrollment increased 3.3 percent (7,029 students) and male student enrollment increased 2.0 percent (3,410 students). The state college and state university sectors have the highest percentage of female student enrollment (65.2 and 62.4 percent, respectively), and the research sector has the lowest (50.9 percent). Georgia Tech is the only institution to have less than 50% female students (32.0 percent female). Enrollment increased for both genders from fall 2022 to fall 2026, however, the percent increase was higher for female students (18.1 percent, 34,059 students) than male students (16.5 percent, 24,063 students).



Non-Traditional Undergraduates





Systemwide, non-traditional undergraduate enrollment (students who matriculated at age 25 or older) increased 6.3 percent (1,469 students) in fall 2026 compared to fall 2025. Fall 2026 is the third year over year increase across the past five fall semesters shown here and shows a sustained reversal of decreasing non-traditional student enrollment from fall 2011 through fall 2023. Compared to fall 2025, all four sectors increased non-traditional enrollment, with the largest increase by percentage in the state college sector (10.7 percent, 526 students). Since fall 2022, non-traditional undergraduate enrollment increased 16.0 percent overall (3,438 students) and increased in all four sectors: the research sector by 1.9 percent (106 students), the comprehensive sector by 22.8 percent (1,447 students), the state university sector by 7.2 percent (408 students), and the state college sector by a substantial 37.2 percent (1,477 students).

University System of Georgia Fall Headcount Enrollment									
Institution	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**1-year Change**		**5-year Change**	
						#	**%**	**#**	**%**
Augusta University	9,813	10,546	11,584	12,337	12,788	451	3.7%	2,975	30.3%
Georgia Institute of Technology	45,296	47,961	53,363	56,715	58,264	1,549	2.7%	12,968	28.6%
Georgia State University	51,995	50,521	52,423	53,144	54,270	1,126	2.1%	2,275	4.4%
University of Georgia	40,607	41,615	43,146	43,887	44,547	660	1.5%	3,940	9.7%
Research Universities	**147,711**	**150,643**	**160,516**	**166,083**	**169,869**	**3,786**	**2.3%**	**22,158**	**15.0%**
Georgia Southern University	27,406	27,874	29,332	31,599	33,462	1,863	5.9%	6,056	22.1%
Kennesaw State University	43,268	45,152	47,845	51,375	51,260	(115)	-0.2%	7,992	18.5%
University of West Georgia	11,914	12,769	14,394	16,072	16,977	905	5.6%	5,063	42.5%
Valdosta State University	10,225	10,180	10,305	10,435	10,998	563	5.4%	773	7.6%
Comprehensive Universities	**92,813**	**95,975**	**101,876**	**109,481**	**112,697**	**3,216**	**2.9%**	**19,884**	**21.4%**
Albany State University	6,358	6,599	6,809	6,820	6,832	12	0.2%	474	7.5%
Clayton State University	5,857	5,881	6,172	6,406	6,626	220	3.4%	769	13.1%
Columbus State University	7,500	7,637	7,937	7,690	7,536	(154)	-2.0%	36	0.5%
Fort Valley State University	2,609	2,765	2,905	3,177	3,316	139	4.4%	707	27.1%
Georgia College & State University	6,315	6,811	7,097	7,304	7,434	130	1.8%	1,119	17.7%
Georgia Southwestern State University	3,076	3,415	3,704	4,017	4,012	(5)	-0.1%	936	30.4%
Middle Georgia State University	7,689	8,039	8,409	8,828	10,070	1,242	14.1%	2,381	31.0%
Savannah State University	2,962	3,099	3,208	3,178	3,193	15	0.5%	231	7.8%
University of North Georgia	18,046	18,086	19,298	20,317	20,747	430	2.1%	2,701	15.0%
State Universities	**60,412**	**62,332**	**65,539**	**67,737**	**69,766**	**2,029**	**3.0%**	**9,354**	**15.5%**
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	3,649	3,768	3,826	4,023	4,138	115	2.9%	489	13.4%
Atlanta Metropolitan State College	1,440	1,556	1,590	1,701	1,824	123	7.2%	384	26.7%
College of Coastal Georgia	3,155	3,200	3,476	3,629	3,839	210	5.8%	684	21.7%
Dalton State College	4,535	4,908	5,140	5,570	5,848	278	5.0%	1,313	29.0%
Georgia Gwinnett College	11,030	11,918	12,245	12,782	12,561	(221)	-1.7%	1,531	13.9%
Georgia Highlands College	4,776	5,094	5,386	5,896	6,488	592	10.0%	1,712	35.8%
Gordon State College	3,144	3,145	3,232	3,357	3,522	165	4.9%	378	12.0%
South Georgia State College	1,794	1,853	1,899	1,883	2,029	146	7.8%	235	13.1%
State Colleges	**33,523**	**35,442**	**36,794**	**38,841**	**40,249**	**1,408**	**3.6%**	**6,726**	**20.1%**
University System Totals	**334,459**	**344,392**	**364,725**	**382,142**	**392,581**	**10,439**	**2.7%**	**58,122**	**17.4%**

Enrollment increased at 21 institutions since fall 2025. The largest growth in terms of percent was at the Middle Georgia State University (14.4 percent, 1,242 students). The schools with the second and third largest growth by percentage were Georgia Highlands College (10.0 percent, 592 students) and South Georgia State College (7.8 percent, 146 students).

Since fall 2022, all 25 institutions have experienced an increase in enrollment. Systemwide, enrollment increased by 58,122 students (17.4 percent) compared to fall 2022.