



IBHE FIRST LOOK FALL ENROLLMENT

Illinois Public Universities

Highlights:

- Overall fall enrollment at Illinois public universities increased slightly relative to last year (+0.2%).
- Undergraduate enrollment was down by -1.0% and graduate/professional enrollment was up 3.4%.
- Overall African American enrollments were up 0.6% at Illinois public universities, with notable increases in new freshmen (3.2%) and graduate/professional enrollments (5.2%), but a large decline in new transfer enrollments (-17.4%).
- Latinx enrollments were up 6.1% at Illinois public universities, with growth in graduate/professional enrollments (14.6%) and overall undergraduate enrollments (4.5%).
- There were overall declines in the number of new first-time full-time undergraduates (-5.4%) and new full-time transfers (-7.3%).
- The number of continuing undergraduate students was down slightly (-0.5%) and the number of dual credit students increased by 35.4%, while part-time and non-degree seeking students increased by 11.8%.
- Non-resident aliens experienced comparatively large year over year declines in both undergraduate (-10.4%) and graduate/professional enrollments (-11.6%).

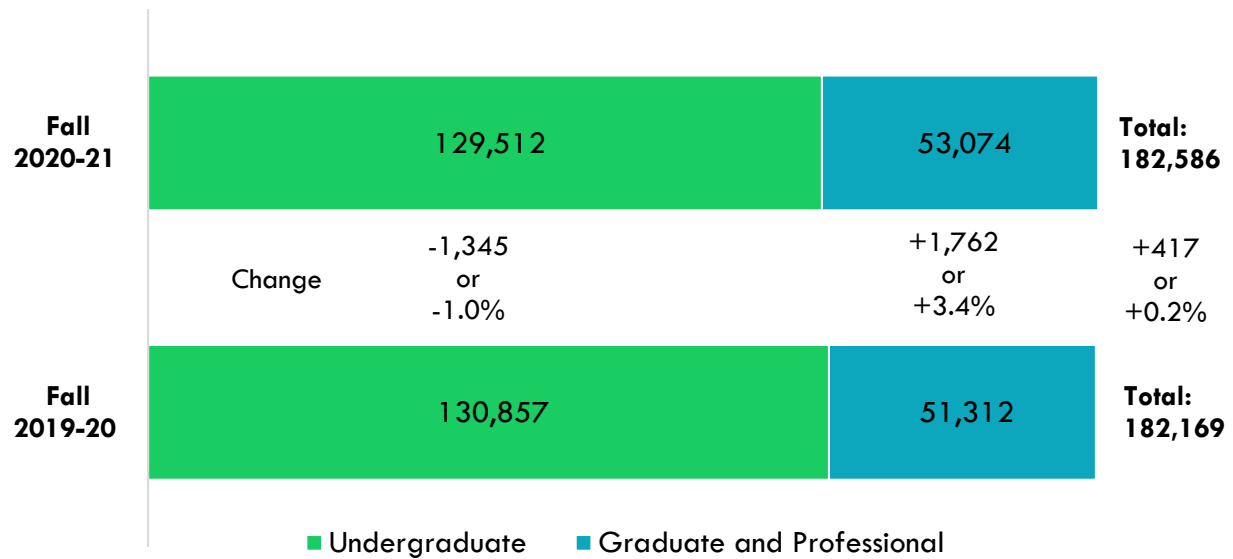
Overview

Each year, IBHE issues a “first look” at Fall enrollment. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and IBHE’s focus on equity, IBHE collaborated with the Illinois public universities to collect enrollment information for academic year 2020-21 with a first-ever early look at equity¹. In addition to providing information on some of the more nuanced enrollment types, like dual credit and new undergraduate transfers, the interaction of race/ethnicity and gender specific to fall enrollment is also included in the report.

As shown in *Figure 1*, when undergraduate and graduate/professional enrollments are combined, there was a marginal increase in total enrollment relative to fall of academic year 2019-20. Illinois public universities enrolled 417 more students which equated to an increase of 0.2%. However, there was variation by degree level.

¹ This was done through an enhancement of IBHE’s fall enrollment survey. This information has been traditionally referred to as IBHE preliminary fall enrollments. Fall enrollment is considered final once student-level records are collected and processed for inclusion in IBHE public-facing data tools. IBHE leveraged its component of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System to create parallel baseline information for AY2019-20 to examine the main pipelines of new students year over year, and when possible disaggregated the information by race/ethnicity and gender. The enrollment information from AY2019-20 is considered final, but it should be noted that at times the information can be updated when definitional alignment issues are identified.

Figure 1: Illinois Public University Headcount Enrollments from Fall of Academic Year 2019-20 to 2020-21



Undergraduate Enrollment. Overall undergraduate enrollment was down by -1.0% (-1,345 students), with new first-time full-time undergraduates (generally freshmen) declining by -5.4% and new full-time transfers declining by -7.3%. The overall decline at Illinois public universities was slightly better than what was being reported nationally for public universities (-1.9%) at the undergraduate level.² The number of continuing undergraduates was also slightly down year over year (-0.5%).

The relatively large overall declines in two of the main pipelines of new undergraduates at Illinois public universities along with the small net decline demonstrated how the large expansion of dual credit enrollment helped to moderate the overall loss of undergraduate students, despite being a fairly small proportion of overall undergraduate enrollment (1.9% in 2020-21). Dual credit is when academically qualified high school students enroll in courses through formal arrangements between colleges and high schools and receive both high school and college credit. Dual enrollment is typically less formal and involves a high school student taking a college class without necessarily receiving high school credit. Relative to 2019-20, there were 644 additional dual credit students enrolled, an increase of 35.4%.

Table 1: Undergraduate Enrollment Type for Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2019-20	2020-21	Change	% Change
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	1,819	2,463	644	35.4%
First-Time Full-Time Undergraduates	23,279	22,021	-1,258	-5.4%
New Full-Time Transfers	10,806	10,020	-786	-7.3%
Continuing Undergraduates	90,838	90,407	-431	-0.5%
All Other Undergraduates	4,115	4,601	486	11.8%
Total	130,857	129,512	-1,345	-1.0%

² National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (November 2020). *Stay Informed Series: Fall 2020 Enrollment (As of Oct 22)*. Herndon, Virginia. Retrieved from: <https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/>

In the future, this report will also include more detailed information on part-time undergraduates to better reflect the varying missions of the Illinois public universities. Such students, along with the non-degree seeking undergraduates that fall outside of the dual-credit distinction were included in the 'All Other Undergraduates' category.

Graduate and professional enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by nearly 1,800 students or 3.4% year over year. This is on par with the 3.6% growth in graduate enrollment that is being reported nationally for public universities. As undergraduate enrollments comprise a much larger share of overall enrollments at Illinois public universities (slightly more than 70%), total enrollments were up by 417 or 0.2% relative to fall of AY2019-20.

Institutional Highlights and Detailed Enrollment

Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment. As shown in *Table 2*, dual credit enrollments were up by over one-third, and they were primarily driven by robust year over year growth at Eastern Illinois University (EIU). EIU experienced an annual increase of 648 dual credit students which equated to an annual 41% change. In fact, EIU accounts for over 90% of the dual credit enrollments among the Illinois public universities (2,228 of the 2,463 reported headcount enrollments). WIU experienced modest growth in dual credit enrollment (57 to 86) and NEIU and UIS went from reporting no dual credit enrollment in 2019-20 to having limited enrollments in 2020-21 (29 and 11 respectively). CSU reported 58 dual credit enrollments in fall of AY2019-20, but none in the fall of AY2020-21.

Table 2: Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2019-20	2020-21	Change	% Change
CSU	58	0	-58	-100.0%
EIU	1,580	2,228	648	41.0%
GSU	0	0	0	N/A
ISU	20	16	-4	-20.0%
NEIU	0	29	29	N/A
NIU	1	0	-1	-100.0%
SIUC	3	2	-1	-33.3%
SIUE	0	0	0	N/A
UIC	0	0	0	N/A
UIS	0	11	11	N/A
UIUC	100	91	-9	-9.0%
WIU	57	86	29	50.9%
IL Public University Totals	1,819	2,463	644	35.4%

First-Time Full-Time Undergraduates. As shown in Table 3, SIUC (303 additional students and 29.7%), and WIU (221 additional students and 26.6%) experienced growth in new first-time undergraduate students, as did NIU (6.4% and 121 additional students).

Table 3: First-Time Full-Time Undergraduates (Freshmen) at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2019-20	2020-21	Change	% Change
CSU	181	144	-37	-20.4%
EIU	876	890	14	1.6%
GSU	227	207	-20	-8.8%
ISU	3,835	3,324	-511	-13.3%
NEIU	432	352	-80	-18.5%
NIU	1,877	1,998	121	6.4%
SIUC	1,019	1,322	303	29.7%
SIUE	1,591	1,509	-82	-5.2%
UIC	4,381	3,457	-924	-21.1%
UIS	369	292	-77	-20.9%
UIUC	7,660	7,474	-186	-2.4%
WIU	831	1,052	221	26.6%
IL Public University Totals	23,279	22,021	-1,258	-5.4%

New Full-Time Transfer Students. Despite overall new full-time transfer enrollments being down 7.3%, WIU, UIS, UIC, and SIUE experienced year-over-year growth. CSU, GSU, UIUC, SIUC, and NIU experienced relatively large year-over-year declines of new transfers.

Table 4: New Full-Time Transfer Students at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2019-20	2020-21	Change	% Change
CSU	262	147	-115	-43.9%
EIU	479	460	-19	-4.0%
GSU	435	324	-111	-25.5%
ISU	1,699	1,514	-185	-10.9%
NEIU	547	514	-33	-6.0%
NIU	1,394	1,225	-169	-12.1%
SIUC	1,068	911	-157	-14.7%
SIUE	812	831	19	2.3%
UIC	1,844	1,960	116	6.3%
UIS	295	318	23	7.8%
UIUC	1,438	1,222	-216	-15.0%
WIU	533	594	61	11.4%
IL Public University Totals	10,806	10,020	-786	-7.3%

Continuing Undergraduate Students. Overall, there were 431 fewer continuing undergraduate students comparing 2019-20 to 2020-21, which equated to a decline of 0.5%. GSU (10.7%), UIC (6.8%), EIU (3.8%), and ISU (3.5%) experienced the largest year-over-year increases in continuing undergraduate students. CSU (-23.9%), NEIU (-12.1%), and SIUC (-11.3%) experienced the largest declines in continuing students.

Table 5: Continuing Undergraduate Students at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2019-20	2020-21	Change	% Change
CSU	1,487	1,131	-356	-23.9%
EIU	3,152	3,271	119	3.8%
GSU	2,249	2,490	241	10.7%
ISU	12,495	12,927	432	3.5%
NEIU	4,259	3,745	-514	-12.1%
NIU	8,574	8,430	-144	-1.7%
SIUC	6,070	5,383	-687	-11.3%
SIUE	7,679	7,194	-485	-6.3%
UIC	14,835	15,842	1,007	6.8%
UIS	1,770	1,789	19	1.1%
UIUC	23,967	24,136	169	0.7%
WIU	4,301	4,069	-232	-5.4%
IL Public University Totals	90,838	90,407	-431	-0.5%

Graduate and Undergraduate Enrollment Summary. When examining all undergraduate enrollments, only three of the Illinois public universities experienced year-over-year growth: EIU (11.9%); UIC (1.3%); and NIU (1.2%). CSU (-19.9%) and NEIU (-8.4%) experienced the largest overall undergraduate enrollment declines.

Eight of the Illinois public universities experienced growth in graduate/professional enrollments compared to fall of AY 2019-20. NEIU had the largest percent increase (10.2% and 176 additional students), followed by SIUE (9.7% and 257 additional students), UIUC (8.6% and 1,511 additional students), and EIU (5.1% and 80 additional students).

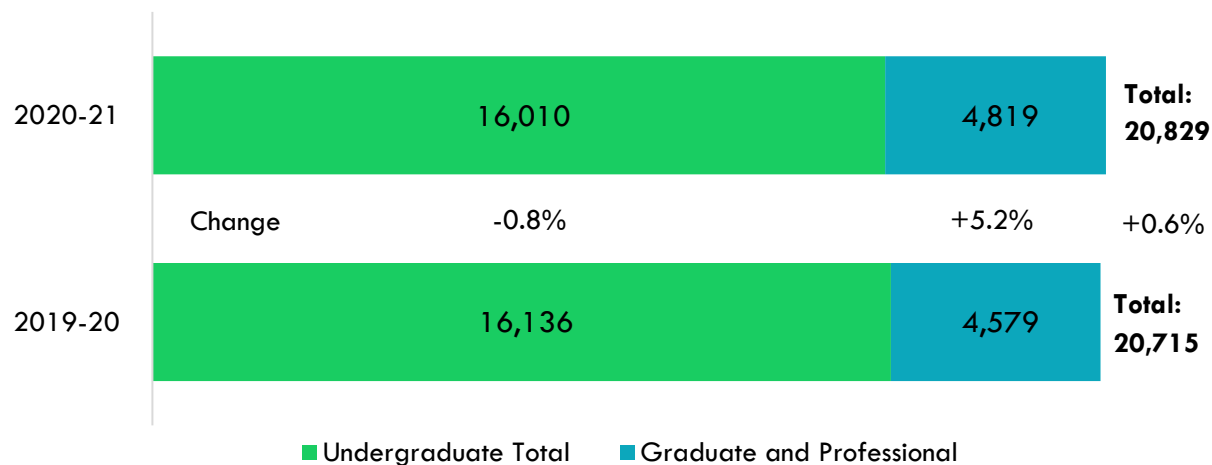
Table 6: Enrollments and Year to Year Change (Headcount)

	Fall 2019-20			Fall 2020-21			Year to Year % Change		
	Undergrad	Graduate	Total	Undergrad	Graduate	Total	Undergrad	Graduate	Total
CSU	2,103	936	3,039	1,685	959	2,644	-19.9%	2.5%	-13.0%
EIU	6,229	1,577	7,806	6,969	1,657	8,626	11.9%	5.1%	10.5%
GSU	3,185	1,579	4,764	3,021	1,628	4,649	-5.1%	3.1%	-2.4%
ISU	18,250	2,628	20,878	17,987	2,733	20,720	-1.4%	4.0%	-0.8%
NEIU	5,700	1,723	7,423	5,220	1,899	7,119	-8.4%	10.2%	-4.1%
NIU	12,131	4,478	16,609	12,277	4,492	16,769	1.2%	0.3%	1.0%
SIUC	8,466	3,229	11,695	8,299	3,067	11,366	-2.0%	-5.0%	-2.8%
SIUE	10,400	2,661	13,061	9,942	2,918	12,860	-4.4%	9.7%	-1.5%
UIC	21,641	11,749	33,390	21,921	11,597	33,518	1.3%	-1.3%	0.4%
UIS	2,674	1,601	4,275	2,654	1,492	4,146	-0.7%	-6.8%	-3.0%
UIUC	34,120	17,485	51,605	33,683	18,996	52,679	-1.3%	8.6%	2.1%
WIU	5,958	1,666	7,624	5,854	1,636	7,490	-1.7%	-1.8%	-1.8%
Total	130,857	51,312	182,169	129,512	53,074	182,586	-1.0%	3.4%	0.2%

Overall Enrollment Patterns by Race/Ethnicity

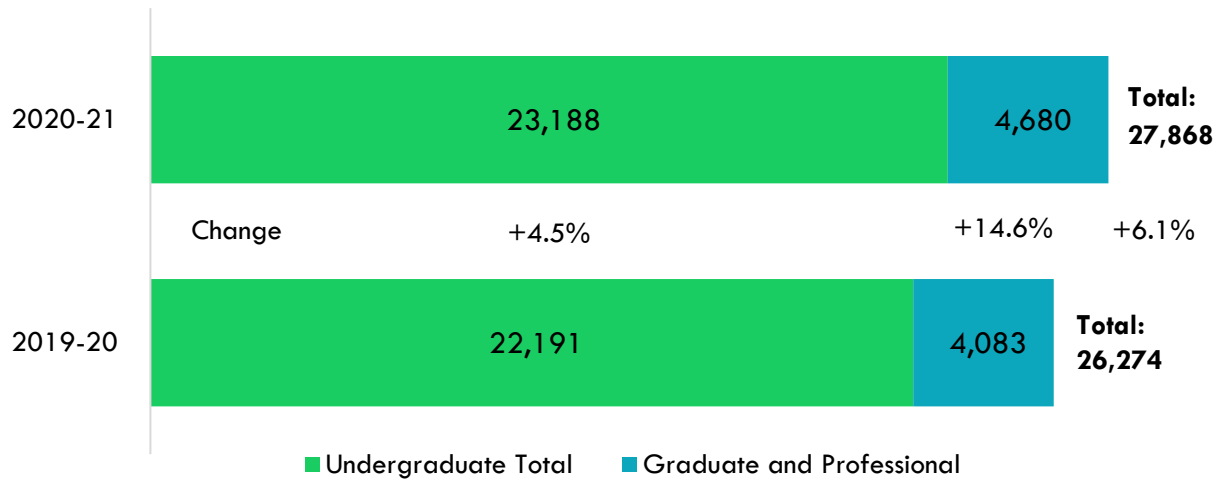
African American Enrollments. Overall African American enrollment at Illinois public universities was up 0.6% to nearly 21,000. As shown in Figure 2, undergraduate enrollments were down by -0.8% to 16,010 and graduate and professional enrollments grew by 5.2% to 4,819.

Figure 2: Headcount Enrollment of African American Students at Illinois Public Universities



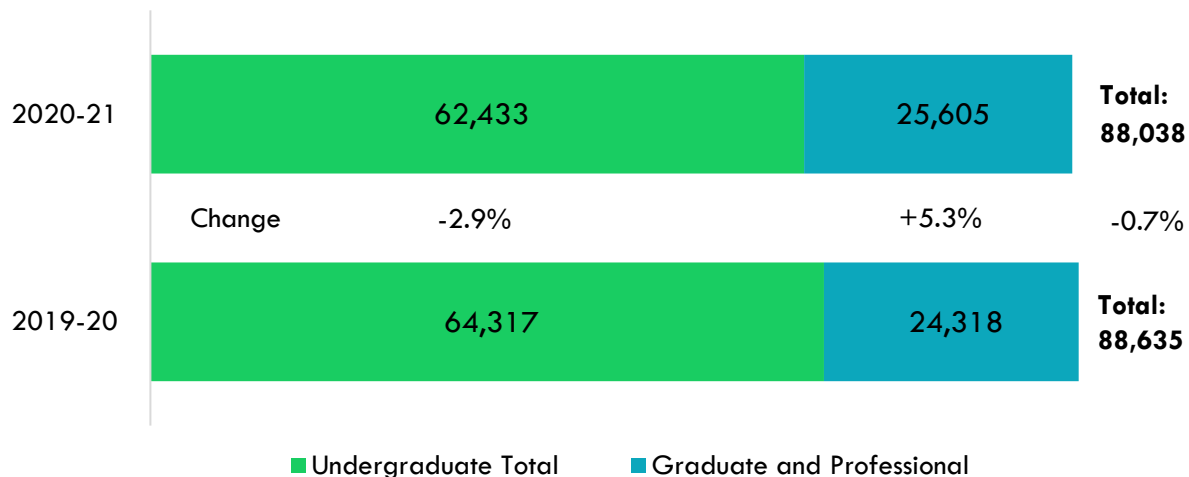
Latinx Enrollments. Consistent with recent trends, overall Latinx enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by 6.1%, or nearly 1,600 students from fall of AY2019-20. Latinx undergraduate enrollment increased by 4.5%. As illustrated in Figure 3, at the graduate/professional level, Latinx students experienced an increase of 14.6% or 597 students at Illinois public universities (4,083 to 4,680).

Figure 3: Headcount Enrollment of Latinx Students at Illinois Public Universities



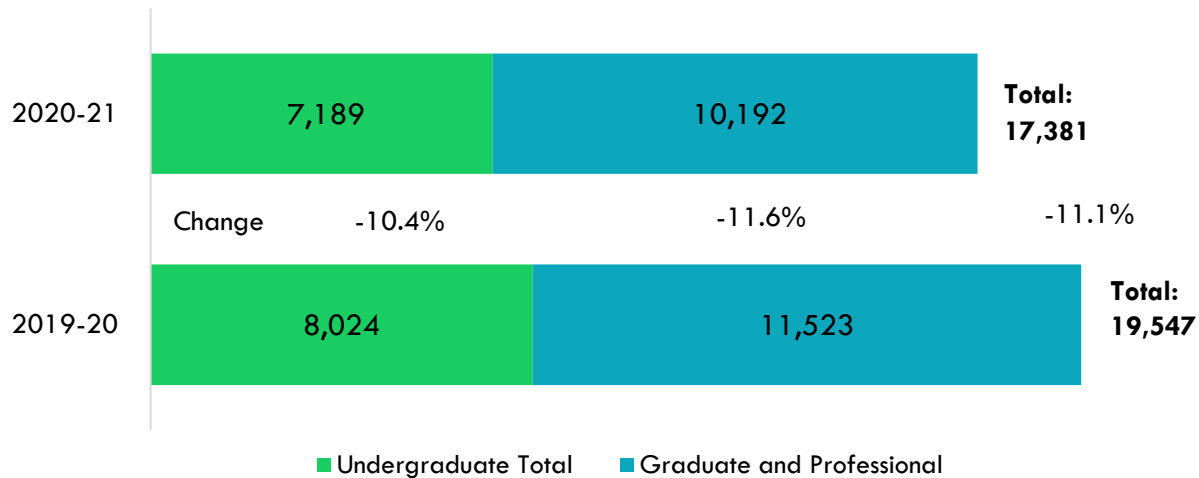
White Enrollments. Overall, there were roughly 600 fewer white students enrolled at Illinois public universities, an enrollment loss of -0.7%. Undergraduate enrollment of white students was down 1,884 or -2.9%; however, there was an increase in the number of white students enrolled in graduate/professional school (5.3% or 1,287 additional students).

Figure 4: Headcount Enrollment of White Students at Illinois Public Universities



Non-Resident Alien Enrollments. Illinois public universities experienced relatively large enrollment declines among non-resident aliens across all the enrollment areas that were examined. As shown in Figure 5, the overall enrollment decline for such students was -11.1%, with similar proportional losses of graduate/professional enrollments (-11.6%) and in total undergraduate enrollments (-10.4%).

Figure 5: Headcount Enrollment of Non-Resident Aliens at Illinois Public Universities



Race/Ethnicity and Gender Analysis

Figure 6 provides a detailed comparison of enrollment by race/ethnicity and gender in several enrollment categories.

African American Enrollments. Undergraduate enrollment of African American females was flat, while there was a small decline in the undergraduate enrollment of African American males (-1.7%). Illinois public universities experienced growth among African American freshmen females (5.2% increase) while there was limited growth among African American males (0.1% increase). The decline in new transfers to public universities was much greater for African American males (-25.4%) relative to African American females (-11.6%).

There were graduate and professional enrollment gains among African American males (6.6%) and African American females (4.8%) at Illinois Public Universities.

Latinx Enrollments. Overall undergraduate enrollment increased for Latinx students, despite declines among new freshmen and new transfer students. The change from 2019-20 for first-time full-time undergraduate enrollment was fairly similar among Latinx males (-7.2%) and females (-8.6%). However, Latinx males experienced a decline in new transfer enrollments that was more than two times greater than their female peers (-7.1% to -3.5%).

At the graduate/professional level, public universities enrolled higher numbers of Latinx males (11.4%) and females (16.8%) when compared to fall of academic year 2019-20.

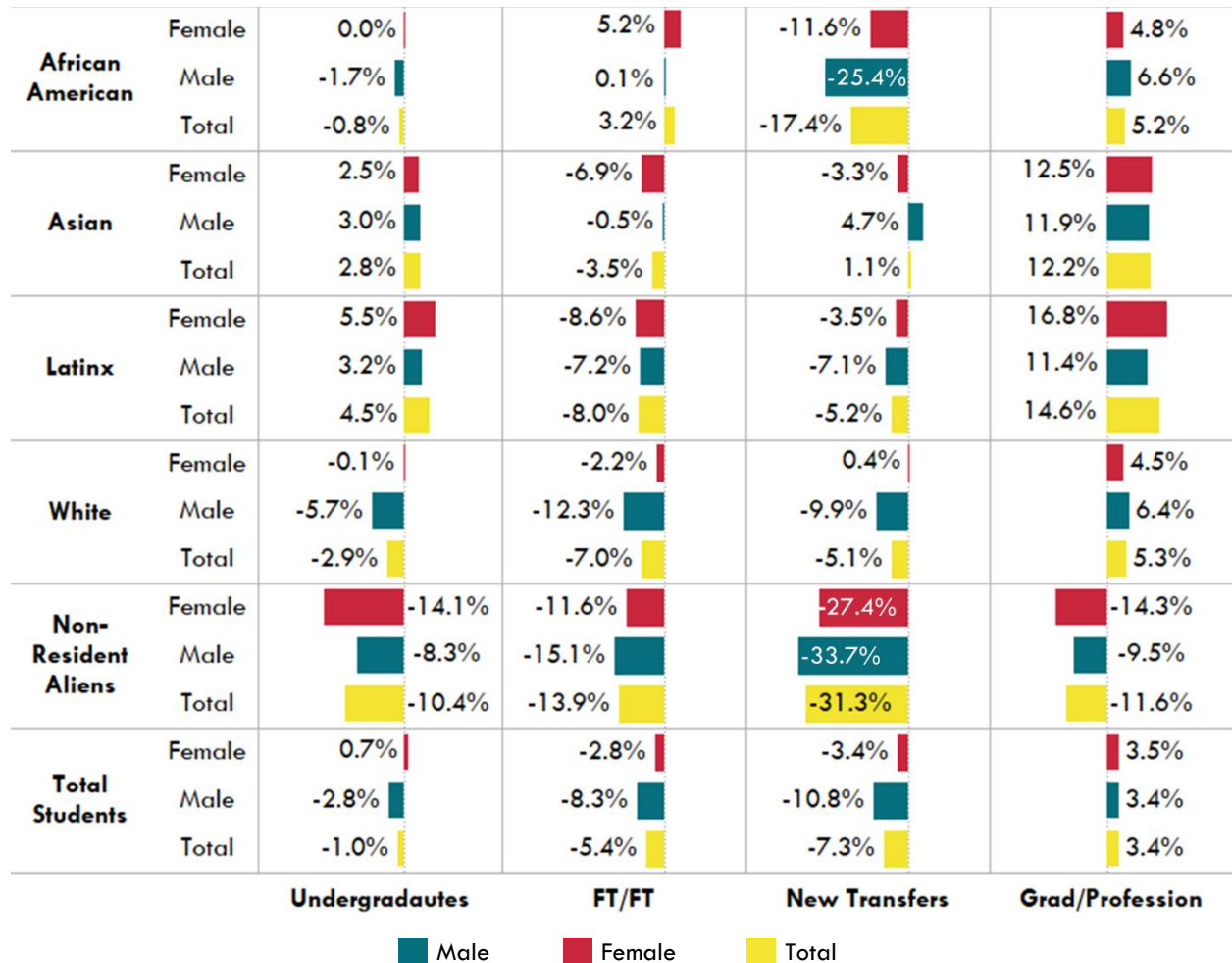
White Enrollments. Year-over-year enrollment patterns of white undergraduates differed for males and females. Undergraduate enrollment among white females was relatively flat from year

to year, while there were comparatively larger declines of white males overall (-5.7%), among first-time full-time undergraduates (-12.3%), and with new full-time transfers (-9.9%).

When compared to fall of academic year 2019-20, Illinois public universities enrolled proportionally higher numbers of white males (6.4%) and white females (4.5%) at the graduate/professional level.

Non-Resident Alien Enrollments. The largest enrollment declines in fall of academic year 2020-21 were generally among non-resident aliens. For graduate/professional enrollments, the declines among non-resident alien females (-14.3%) were larger than their male peers (-9.5%). For undergraduate enrollment, Illinois public universities enrolled -8.3% fewer non-resident alien males and -14.1% fewer females.

Figure 6: Change in Headcount Enrollments at Illinois Public Universities by Enrollment Type: Change from 2019-20 to 2020-21



Fall Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment

FTE enrollment is defined as 15 undergraduate hours or the equivalent of one full-time student at that level, and 12 credit hours at the graduate level. As shown in Table 7, FTE enrollment largely paralleled the patterns evident with headcount enrollments. However, the growth in graduate/professional enrollments was somewhat smaller when viewed as a function of credit hours (only 1.6% growth, as opposed to 3.4% with headcount), resulting in an overall FTE enrollment decline of -0.3%.

Table 7: Illinois Public University Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollments and Year to Year Change

	Fall 2019-20			Fall 2020-21			Year to Year % Change		
	Undergrad	Graduate	Total	Undergrad	Graduate	Total	Undergrad	Graduate	Total
CSU	1,579	741	2,320	1,258	725	1,983	-20.3%	-2.2%	-14.5%
EIU	5,108	938	6,046	5,664	946	6,610	10.9%	0.9%	9.3%
GSU	2,310	986	3,296	2,196	1,024	3,220	-4.9%	3.9%	-2.3%
ISU	16,764	1,640	18,404	16,561	1,665	18,226	-1.2%	1.5%	-1.0%
NEIU	3,974	868	4,842	3,664	1,008	4,672	-7.8%	16.1%	-3.5%
NIU	10,984	2,795	13,779	10,944	2,798	13,742	-0.4%	0.1%	-0.3%
SIUC	7,421	2,466	9,887	7,102	2,317	9,419	-4.3%	-6.0%	-4.7%
SIUE	8,977	1,727	10,704	8,522	1,854	10,376	-5.1%	7.4%	-3.1%
UIC	21,300	12,115	33,415	21,762	11,830	33,592	2.2%	-2.4%	0.5%
UIS	2,151	950	3,101	2,148	909	3,057	-0.1%	-4.3%	-1.4%
UIUC	34,784	17,461	52,245	34,446	18,316	52,762	-1.0%	4.9%	1.0%
WIU	5,422	985	6,407	5,251	975	6,226	-3.2%	-1.0%	-2.8%
Total	120,774	43,672	164,446	119,518	44,366	163,884	-1.0%	1.6%	-0.3%

Source: IBHE Fall Enrollment I Survey

Technical Note:

For some of the public universities, the application of the operational definitions used in IHEIS for the fall 2019-20 information and the ways in which the first-look/preliminary data were collected and reported for 2020-21 do not perfectly align. Therefore, in certain instances, some of the sub-totals may be marginally different from how they are reported locally (e.g., new full-time transfer students). IBHE will continue to work with the public universities to resolve some of these minor definitional alignment issues as the data move from being first-look/preliminary to final.