



HLC MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

2022 Institutional Update

Introduction

Navigating a multitude of challenges caused by the ongoing pandemic and the underlying social and economic environments, HLC member institutions have continued to adapt and innovate to meet the needs of the students and communities they serve. The following analysis provides a broad overview, coupled with historical context and national trends, of student enrollment, program completion, institutional workforce, and financial resources of the membership based on the 2022 Institutional Update data and other updates during the academic year.

Institutional Update Background

HLC requires member institutions to provide annual updates on organizational health through the [Institutional Update](#). It is held each year in late February or early March. Institutions are asked to provide information about enrollment, completion, finances, academic offerings, off-campus activities, and other topics. Based on the available data, HLC

assesses institutional risk levels and conducts follow-up with institutions that may be at risk of not meeting components of the Criteria for Accreditation or Assumed Practices.

Membership Update

In academic year 2021–22, five HLC-accredited colleges in northeastern Minnesota, namely Hibbing, Itasca, Rainy River and Vermilion Community Colleges and Mesabi Range College, were consolidated to form Minnesota North College. The consolidation resulted from a long history of collaboration and shared resources among the colleges. The move to consolidate reflects the continuing trend in merger and consolidation among higher education institutions across the country.

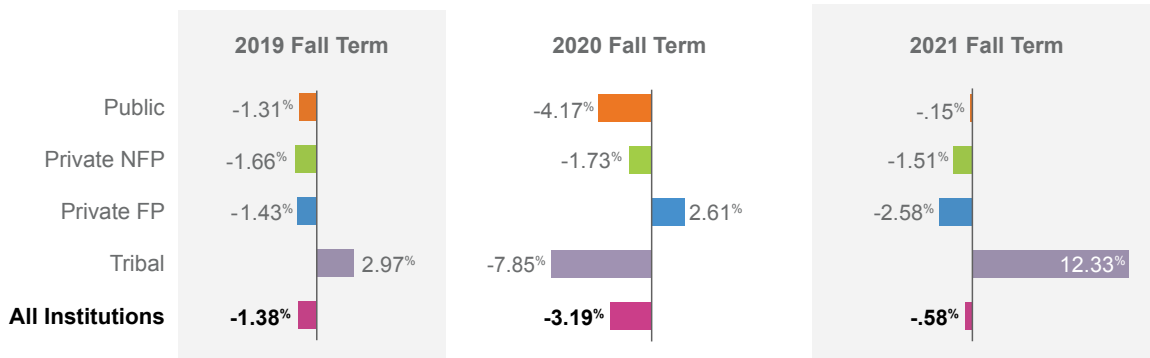
During this past year, two member institutions, Ohio Valley University (WV) and Lincoln College (IL), ceased operations and voluntarily resigned their HLC accreditation.

Student Enrollment Headcount

In fall 2021 HLC member institutions enrolled 4.95 million undergraduate and graduate students, down less than one percent (0.58%) in comparison to the previous year. Compared to the decline of 2.7% in national enrollment numbers, as reported by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (Current Term Enrollment Estimates, Fall 2021), the fall 2021 enrollment numbers of HLC member institutions showed that they have continued a strong recovery from the pandemic conditions.

The data on student enrollment by institutional control among HLC membership shined a spotlight on the robust year-over-year gain of 12.33% at tribal colleges. Total enrollment at public institutions experienced a small decline (0.15%), while the decrease in enrollment at private institutions ranged from 1.51% at not-for-profit (NFP) institutions to 2.58% at for-profit (FP) institutions.

Figure 1. Annual Change in Postsecondary Enrollment by Institutional Control: Fall 2019 to Fall 2021



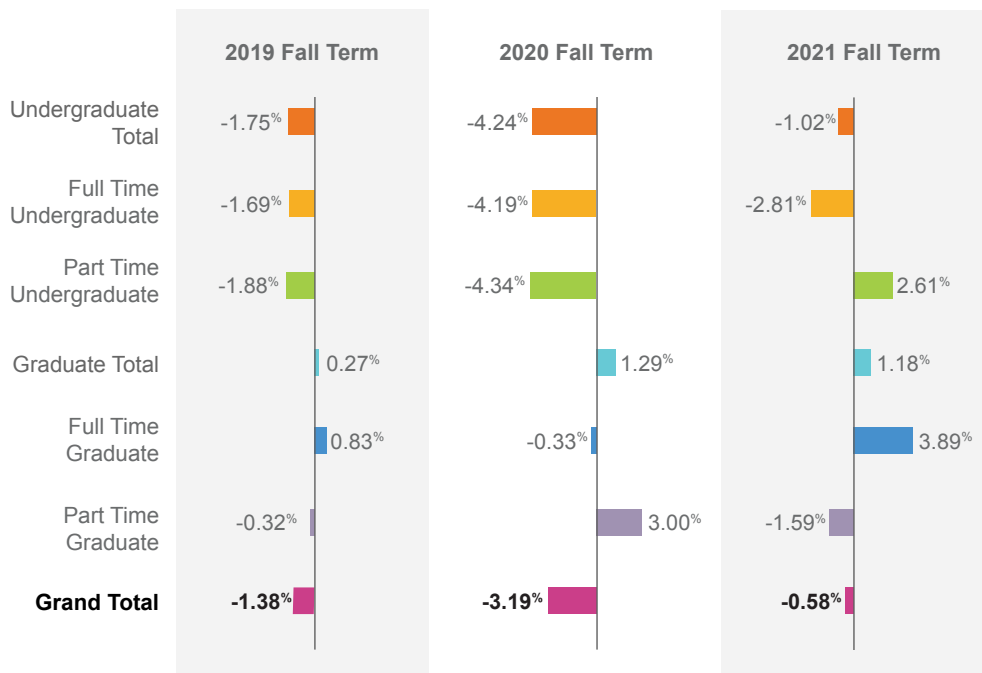
Source: Data extracted on 8/28/2022

See page 10 for data table.

Enrollment breakdowns by student level shows that undergraduate student enrollment in fall 2021 was down by 1% while graduate student enrollment was up by 1.2% in comparison to the prior year level. At the undergraduate level, full-time enrollment among HLC institutions declined 2.81% and part-time enrollment increased 2.61%. In fall 2021, full-time graduate enrollment at HLC institutions increased by nearly 4%, but part-time graduate enrollment was down 1.59% from the previous year's levels.

Data at the national levels (CTEE, 2021) showed that undergraduate enrollment in fall 2021 was down 3.1%, a level that was three times higher than the level at HLC institutions. While HLC's total graduate enrollment continued to strengthen, graduate enrollment at national level decreased by 0.4% from the previous year (CTEE, 2021).

Figure 2. **Annual Change in Postsecondary Enrollment by Student Level:** Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

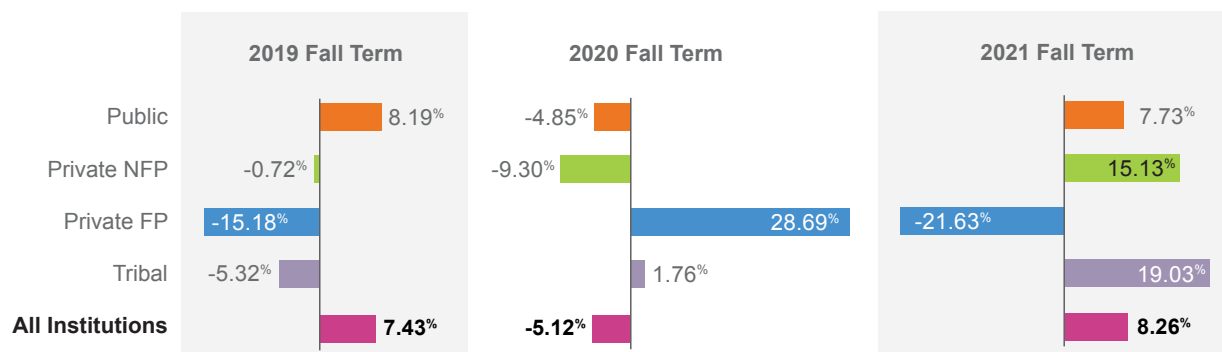


See page 10 for data table.

The number of high school students taking college courses indicated a strong recovery from the toll of the pandemic. In fall 2021, HLC institutions enrolled more than 626,000 high school-level students, gaining 8.3% over the fall 2020 level and 3% over the pre-pandemic level in fall 2019. Dual enrollment in public institutions, which accounted for 92% of the total enrollment, gained nearly 8% over the prior year, while enrollment

at private not-for-profit (7% of the total) had a robust year-over-year gain of 15%. Similarly, dual enrollment at tribal colleges, though small in comparison to the public and private not-for-profit institutions, had a healthy gain of 19%. Private for-profit institutions reported dual enrollment headcount of 355 students, a decrease of 22% from fall 2020.

Figure 3. Annual Change in Dual Enrollment by Institutional Control: Fall 2019 to Fall 2021



See page 11 for data table.

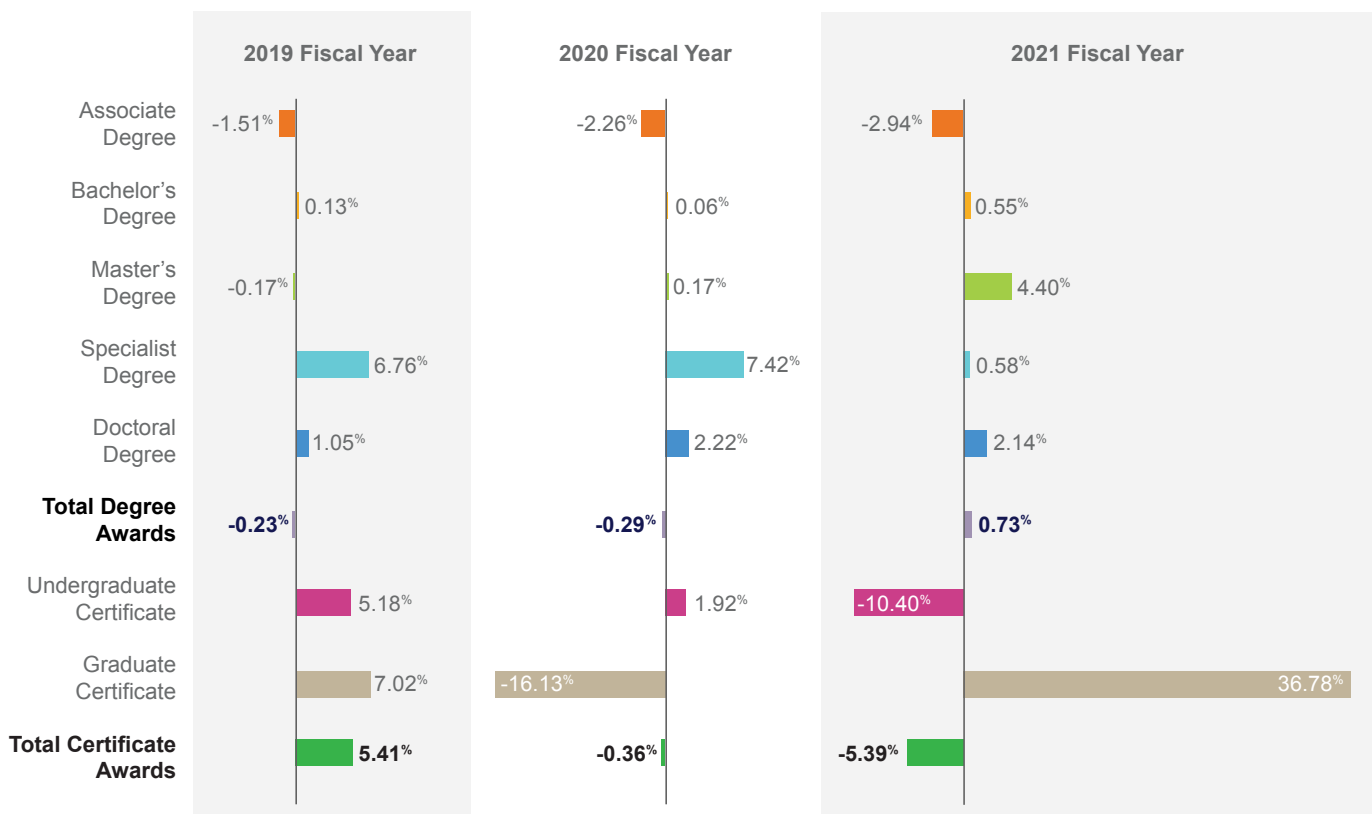
Program Completion

HLC member institutions conferred close to 1.2 million awards in degree program completion in AY 2020–21, gaining nearly 1% from the previous year’s level and surpassing the pre-pandemic award numbers. Awards in master’s degree programs had the largest year-over-year gain (4.4%), followed by doctoral degrees (2%), specialist degrees (0.58%) and bachelor’s degrees (0.55%). Conversely, completion of associate degree

programs continued the downward trend in the last few years and was down 3% from the previous year.

The overall number of certificate awards conferred in AY 2020–21 showed a decrease of 5% from the previous year. However, awards at the program levels followed divergent directions, as undergraduate certificate program awards were down 10% and graduate certificate program awards gained a robust 37%.

Figure 4. Annual Change in Degrees and Certificates Awarded: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

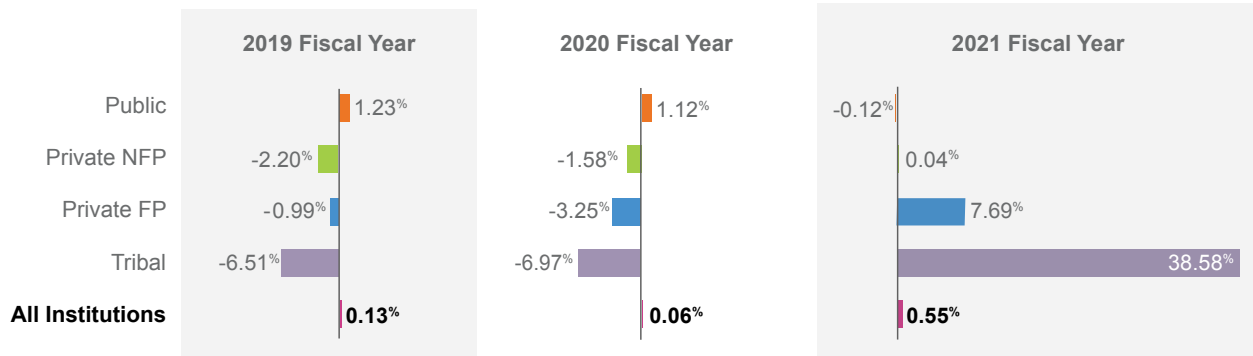


See page 11 for data table.

Among HLC membership, two-thirds of all bachelor’s degrees were conferred by public institutions. While bachelor’s degree completion decreased slightly (0.12%) among public institutions or was relatively unchanged among private not-for-profit institutions, the award

conferrals at private for-profit gained nearly 8% from the previous year’s level. Tribal institutions conferred a total of 370 bachelor’s degrees in AY 2020–21, marking a sharp increase of over 38% from the previous year.

Figure 5. Annual Change in Bachelor’s Degrees Conferred by Institutional Control: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021



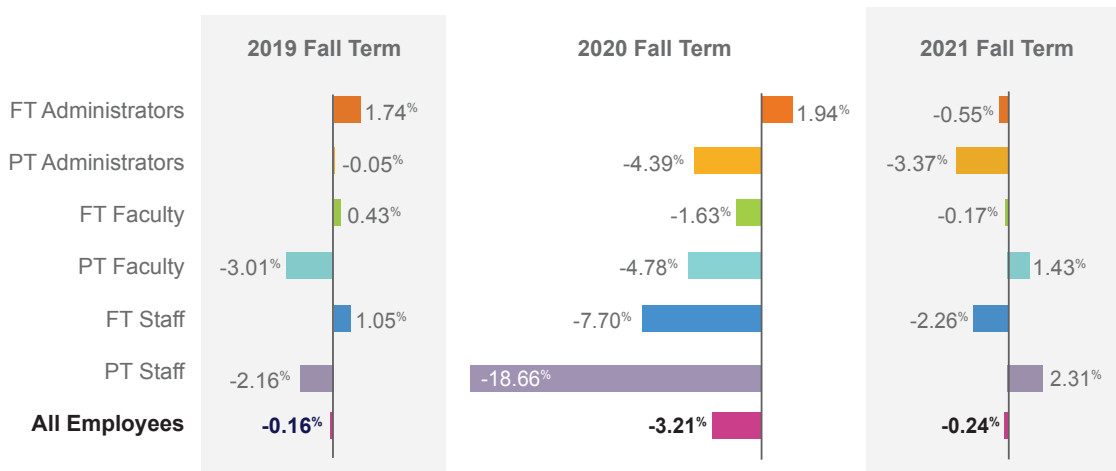
See page 12 for data table.

Institutional Workforce

The level of employment at HLC member institutions was relatively stable in the second year of the pandemic, down by 0.24% from the previous year. Among instructional staff, the number of full-time faculty was down by 0.17% and the number of part-time faculty increased 1.43% from the previous year. Among

administrative positions, full-time administrators had a small decrease (0.55%), while the number of part-time administrators decreased by 3.37%. Lastly, the number of full-time staff positions declined by 2.26%, but the part-time staff positions gained 2.31%, compared with the prior year's levels.

Figure 6. Annual Change in Institutional Workforce Headcount: Fall 2019 to Fall 2021



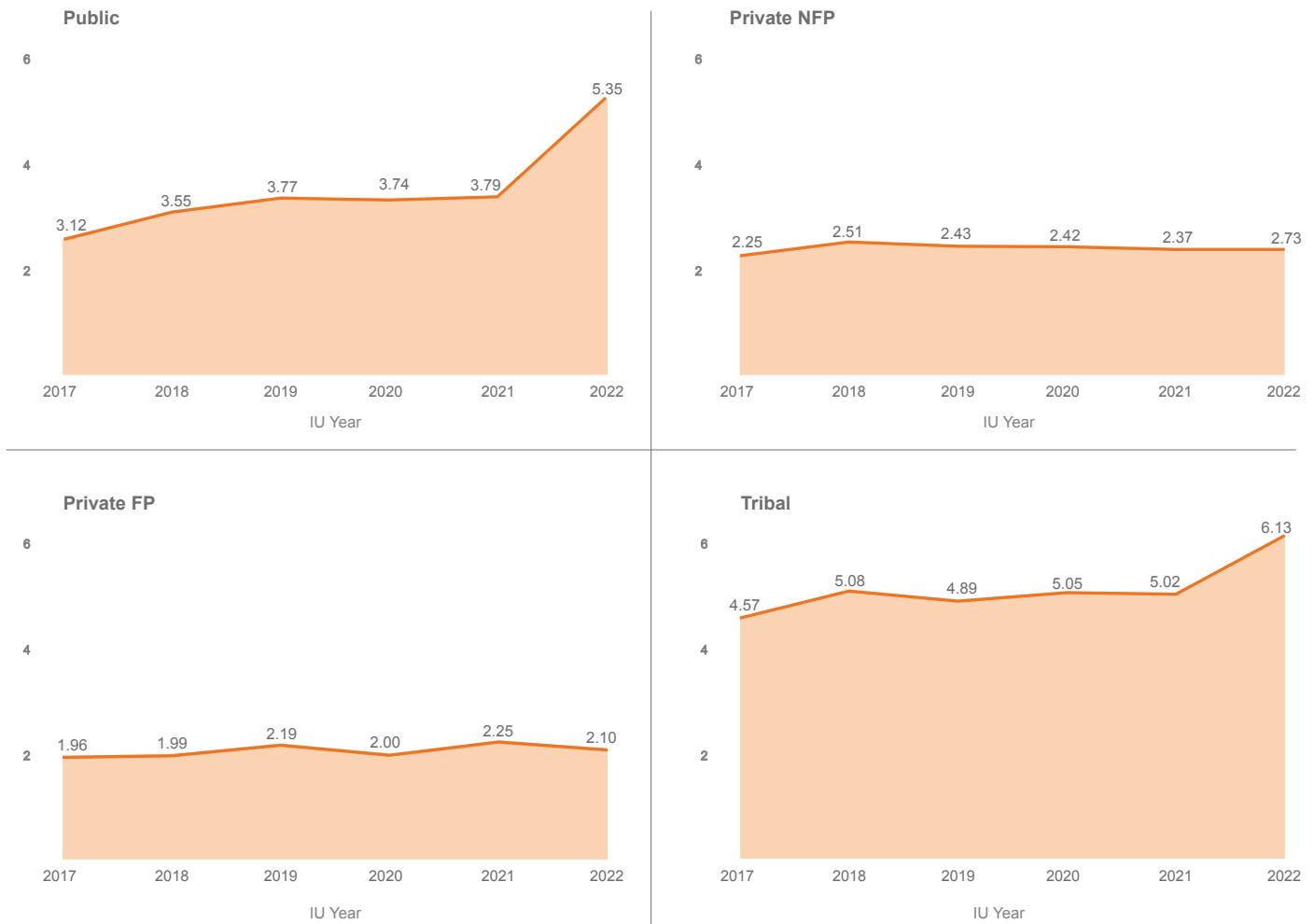
See page 12 for data table.

Composite Financial Index

For most member institutions the composite financial index (CFI) was calculated based on financial data from fiscal year 2020–21. The average composite financial index was 6.13 among tribal colleges, 5.35 among public institutions, 2.73 among private not-for-profit, and 2.10 among private for-profit institutions. While the average

CFIs of private for-profit institutions decreased by 0.15 point, the average CFI levels increased for public, private not-for-profit, and tribal institutions in comparison to the prior year’s levels. The increase in CFI levels may be attributed to the inflows of pandemic relief fundings from the federal government.

Figure 7. Average CFI by Institutional Control, Institutional Update 2017-2022

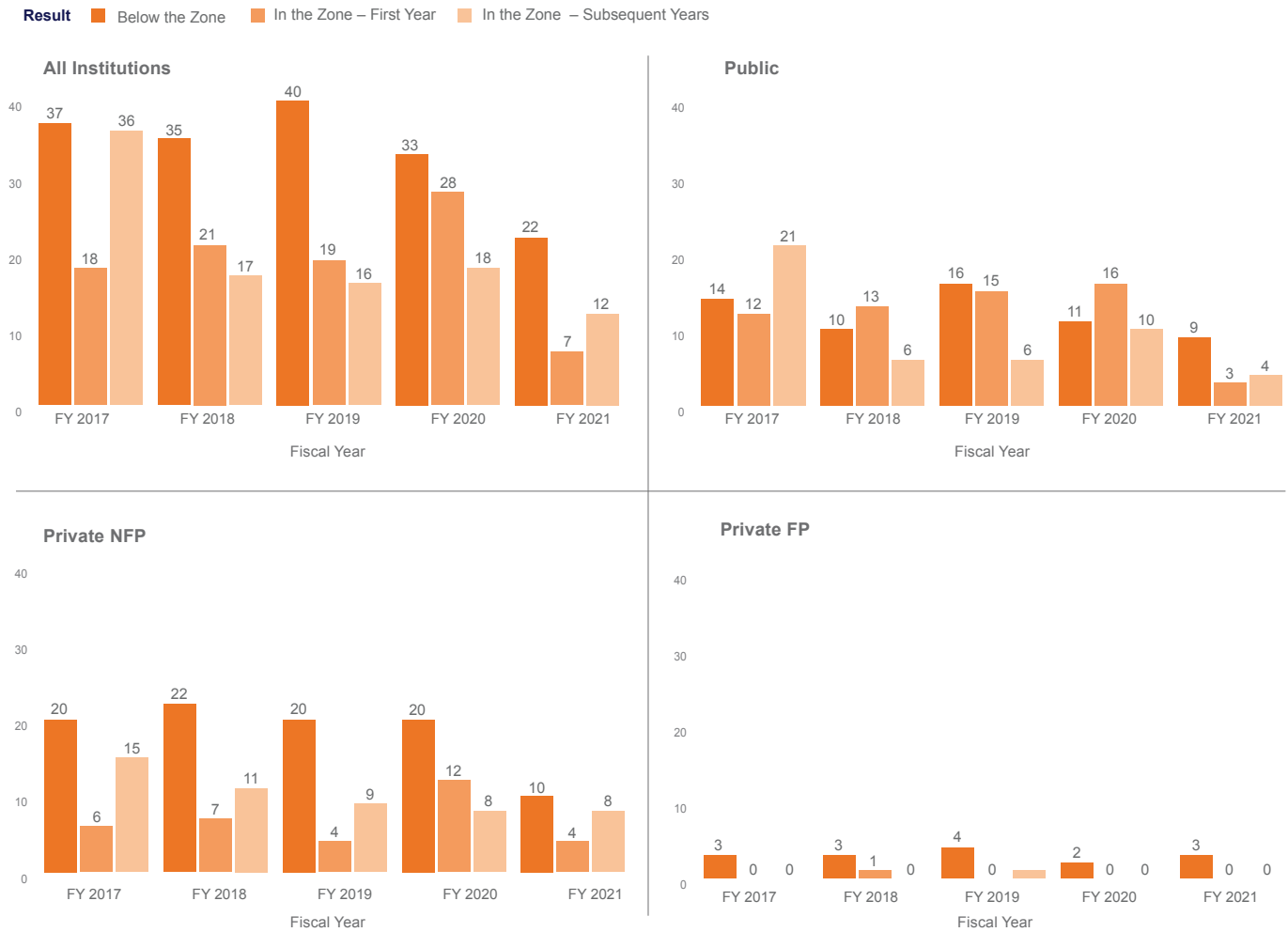


See page 13 for data table.

HLC uses the CFI as an indicator of overall financial health of the institutions and conducts follow-up with institutions when the CFI values fall within or below specific zones that signal potential risk. In the past year, 41 institutions were identified for follow-up based on

the results of the financial indicator process. Due to the increase in the CFI values as mentioned on page 8, the number of institutions identified for further financial reviews decreased sharply from the pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 8. Number of Institutions Required Further Financial Reviews by CFI Values, Fiscal Years 2017-2021



See page 13 for data table.

Visit HLC’s website for more information about the [Institutional Update](#) and [financial and non-financial indicators procedure](#).

Reference

National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. (n.d.). *Current term enrollment estimates (Fall 2021)*. Herndon, VA: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Retrieved August 28, 2022, from https://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/CTEE_Report_Fall_2021.pdf

Addendum

Table 1. Postsecondary Enrollment by Institutional Control: Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

Fall Term	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Public	3,726,087	-1.31%	3,570,895	-4.17%	3,565,690	-0.15%
Private Not For Profit	1,029,811	-1.66%	1,012,023	-1.73%	996,737	-1.51%
Private For Profit	373,834	-1.43%	383,577	2.61%	373,694	-2.58%
Tribal	12,223	2.97%	11,264	-7.85%	12,653	12.33%
All Institutions	5,141,955	-1.38%	4,977,759	-3.19%	4,948,774	-0.58%

Table 2. Postsecondary Enrollment by Student Level: Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

Fall Term	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Undergraduate Total	4,170,859	-1.75%	3,994,171	-4.24%	3,953,588	-1.02%
Full time Undergraduate	2,787,775	-1.69%	2,671,071	-4.19%	2,595,963	-2.81%
Part time Undergraduate	1,383,084	-1.88%	1,323,100	-4.34%	1,357,625	2.61%
Graduate Total	971,096	0.27%	983,588	1.29%	995,186	1.18%
Full time Graduate	499,031	0.83%	497,368	-0.33%	516,705	3.89%
Part time Graduate	472,065	-0.32%	486,220	3.00%	478,481	-1.59%
Grand Total	5,141,955	-1.38%	4,977,759	-3.19%	4,948,774	-0.58%

Table 3. Dual Enrollment by Institutional Control: Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

Fall Term	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Public	563,783	8.19%	536,447	-4.85%	577,908	7.73%
Private Not For Profit	43,763	-0.72%	39,691	-9.30%	45,695	15.13%
Private For Profit	352	-15.18%	453	28.69%	355	-21.63%
Tribal	2,277	-5.32%	2,317	1.76%	2,758	19.03%
All Institutions	610,175	7.43%	578,908	-5.12%	626,716	8.26%

Table 4. Degrees and Certificates Awarded: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Fiscal Year	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Associate Degree	253,608	-1.51%	247,886	-2.26%	240,609	-2.94%
Bachelor's Degree	615,838	0.13%	616,199	0.06%	619,565	0.55%
Master's Degree	256,034	-0.17%	256,461	0.17%	267,735	4.40%
Specialist Degree	3,208	6.76%	3,446	7.42%	3,466	0.58%
Doctoral Degree	56,118	1.05%	57,362	2.22%	58,589	2.14%
Total Degree Awards	1,184,806	-0.23%	1,181,354	-0.29%	1,189,964	0.73%
Undergraduate Certificate	225,981	5.18%	230,312	1.92%	206,371	-10.40%
Graduate Certificate	32,566	7.02%	27,312	-16.13%	37,358	36.78%
Total Certificate Awards	258,547	5.41%	257,624	-0.36%	243,729	-5.39%

Table 5. Bachelor's Degrees Conferred by Institutional Control: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Fiscal Year	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Public	405,738	1.23%	410,271	1.12%	409,777	-0.12%
Private Not For Profit	160,080	-2.20%	157,546	-1.58%	157,603	0.04%
Private For Profit	49,733	-0.99%	48,115	-3.25%	51,815	7.69%
Tribal	287	-6.51%	267	-6.97%	370	38.58%
All Institutions	615,838	0.13%	616,199	0.06%	619,565	0.55%

Table 6. Institutional Workforce Headcount: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Fiscal Year	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Full Time Administrators	317,393	1.74%	323,559	1.94%	321,793	-0.55%
Part Time Administrators	42,503	0.05%	40,639	-4.39%	39,268	-3.37%
Full Time Faculty	234,928	0.43%	231,106	-1.63%	230,724	-0.17%
Part Time Faculty	297,900	-3.01%	283,671	-4.78%	287,727	1.43%
Full Time Staff	189,787	1.05%	175,168	-7.70%	171,205	-2.26%
Part Time Staff	41,492	-2.16%	33,748	-18.66%	34,527	2.31%
All Employees	1,124,003	-0.16%	1,087,891	-3.21%	1,085,244	-0.24%

Table 7. Average CFI by Institutional Control, Institutional Update 2017-2022

Control	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Public	3.12	3.55	3.77	3.74	3.79	5.35
Private Not For Profit	2.25	2.51	2.43	2.42	2.37	2.73
Private For Profit	1.96	1.99	2.19	2.00	2.25	2.10
Tribal	4.57	5.08	4.89	5.05	5.02	6.13

Table 8. Number of Institutions Required Further Financial Reviews by CFI Values, FY 2017-2021

Control	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2018	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Public	47	29	37	37	16
Below the Zone	14	10	16	11	9
In the Zone – Subsequent Years	21	6	6	10	4
In the Zone – 1st Year	12	13	15	16	3
Private Not For Profit	41	40	33	40	22
Below the Zone	20	22	20	20	10
In the Zone – Subsequent Years	15	11	9	8	8
In the Zone – 1st Year	6	7	4	12	4
Private For Profit	3	4	5	2	3
Below the Zone	3	3	4	2	3
In the Zone – Subsequent Years	0	0	1	0	0
In the Zone – 1st Year	0	1	0	0	0
All Institutions	91	73	75	79	41
Below the Zone	37	35	40	33	22
In the Zone – Subsequent Years	36	17	16	18	12
In the Zone – 1st Year	18	21	19	28	7