



Fact Sheet

THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Establishment of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)

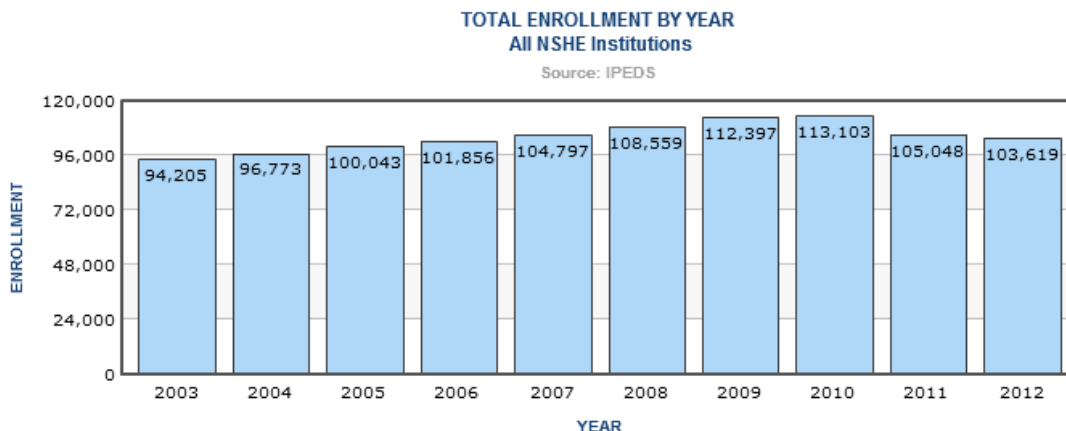
- Established by the *Constitution of the State of Nevada*: (Article 11, Sections 4 through 7).
- The Board of Regents is established to govern the University.
- The Legislature is required to provide for the number of Regents, a process of election, and a definition of the duties of the Board of Regents.
- The Legislature is required to establish a state university to be under the control of the Board of Regents.
- The Legislature is required to provide for the support and maintenance of the university from general funds.
- The Legislature is authorized to establish normal schools and grades within those schools.

Mission, Leadership and Member Institutions

- The primary missions of the University of Nevada are teaching, research, and public and community service. The chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the system.
- The branches of the University of Nevada and the member institutions of the NSHE are:
 - Universities - University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).
 - State Colleges – Nevada State College (NSC).
 - Community Colleges – College of Southern Nevada (CSN), Great Basin College (GBC), Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), and Western Nevada College (WNC).
 - Research – Desert Research Institute (DRI).

Enrollment

- As seen in the table below, enrollment in NSHE institutions, including all divisions and degree levels peaked in 2010 with 113,103 students.
- The Fall 2012 headcount enrollment for the NSHE was 103,619 students, the lowest level since 2006.



Source: IPEDS - Fall Enrollment.

Tuition and Mandatory Fees

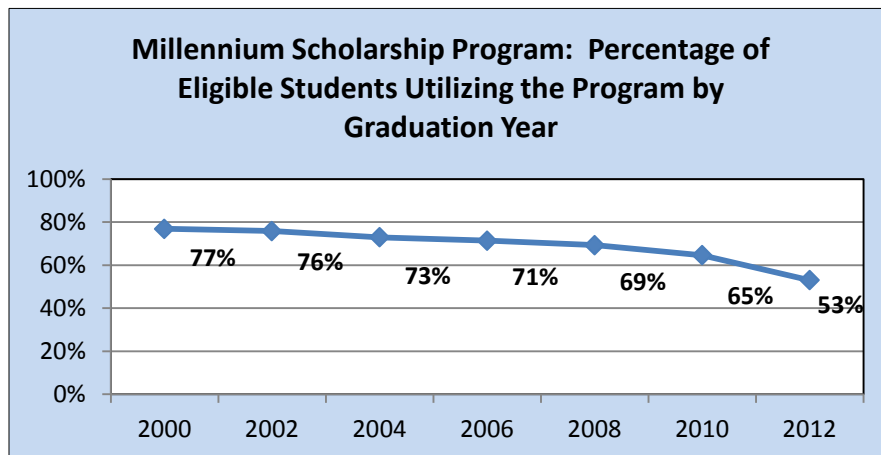
- The Board of Regents establishes the tuition and fee rates for all NSHE institutions, and the Legislature concurs in the rates used to establish General Fund Appropriations as part of the NSHE budget.
- Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.540, tuition at all NSHE institutions is free to legal residents of Nevada; however, registration fees do apply. Nonresident students pay tuition in addition to the registration fees that are required of residents.
- The table below shows the percentage increase in tuition and fees beginning in the 2002-03 academic year.
- Fees continue to increase, but the rate of increase has slowed.

NSHE Institutions: Resident Per Credit Registration Fee Ten Year Period Percentage Change					
	University		NSC	Community Colleges	
Academic Years	Undergraduate	Graduate	Undergraduate	Lower Division	Upper Division
2002-03 to 2011-12	106.45%	124.37%	146.73%	71.98%	106.45%
2005-06 to 2014-15	85.57%	95.41%	94.12%	66.50%	85.57%
2009-10 to 2018-19	52.80%	57.19%	25.94%	56.75%	57.42%

Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program

The 2011 Nevada Legislature approved a one-time infusion of \$10 million to continue the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) through at least June 2015. This funding was in addition to the revenue earmarked for the program. The GGMS receives 40 percent of Nevada's revenues received as a signatory to the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), entered into on November 23, 1998. In 2005, the Legislature supplemented the revenues from the MSA with funds from the Abandoned Property Trust Fund requiring that the first \$7.6 million in annual funds received be transferred to the GGMS.

As of 2012, the GGMS program has distributed more than \$275 million helping nearly 72,000 Nevada high school graduates. Over 26,000 millennium scholars have earned a degree from a Nevada institution of higher learning. In 2011, approximately 9,000 graduates were eligible to receive a millennium scholarship, with a little more than half of those eligible choosing to utilize their award. Testimony during the 2011–2012 legislative interim before the Legislative Committee on Education noted the amount of the award has decreased over time, making it less desirable than other awards that may be available to students.



Legislative Appropriations

The 2013 Legislature approved a higher education budget totaling \$1.5 billion for the 2013-2015 Biennium. This includes State General Fund support equaling \$971 million, which is 2.8 percent more than in the previous biennium. Also approved were non-General Fund revenues totaling \$525 million from authorized sources including student registration fees, nonresident tuition, student application fees, federal and county revenues, and operating capital investment income. An additional \$2 million was appropriated in the 2013 Special Session.

Other Programs and Facts

- **15 to Finish:** The NSHE is encouraging full-time college students to finish college faster by completing a full 15-credit schedule each semester, or 30 credits a year, the standard course load for on-time graduation. As part of the program, students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisors to plan and complete a full course schedule.
- **Complete College America (CCA):** Nevada is a member of CCA's Alliance of States who work to:
 - 1). set specific degree completion goals;
 - 2). use measures to create a culture that values completion; and
 3. develop action plans to meet our state's college completion goals.

These and a variety of other goals support the new performance based funding formula.

- **Remediation:** Of the first year students enrolling in 2012, about one third needed remedial math or English. The Board of Regents has identified the improvement of remediation efforts as a key initiative as part of its Strategic Directions program.
- **Admission Requirements:** The Board of Regents has raised the minimum high school GPA for admission to 3.0 and requires a select set of preparatory courses. Also, beginning in 2013, students seeking university admission, with certain exceptions, are required to take the SAT or ACT and achieve a prescribed minimum score.
- **Graduation Rates:** Among full time degree-seeking students, graduation rates for 2012-13 were 46.7 percent for Nevada's universities and 14.5 percent for community colleges. These rates are lower than national graduation rates of 56.2 percent for universities and 29.2 percent for community colleges.

Additional Information

Further information regarding the Nevada System of Higher Education can be found at: <http://system.nevada.edu/Nshe/>.

The Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau has published a Policy and Program Report, *Postsecondary Education*, which includes additional information regarding higher education in Nevada. This report can be found at: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/PandPReport/11-PSE.pdf>.