

RESEARCH BRIEF

**Student Achievement Criteria at NOVA:
Enrollment by Select Student Characteristics**

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) is deeply committed to the values of student access and student success. NOVA demonstrates this commitment by using evidence-based decision making to improve opportunities for students to succeed. After a long-standing history of evaluating outcomes related to retention, graduation, and other evolving priorities, NOVA refocused efforts in 2019 on a more comprehensive evaluation of eight critical measures of student achievement, which are as follows: 1) College Readiness; 2) Enrollment; 3) Course Success; 4) Retention; 5) Graduation; 6) Transfer; 7) Job Placement; and 8) Licensing Exams.¹

In This Brief

This Brief highlights NOVA's performance on the Enrollment criteria. Enrollment refers to the headcount of students enrolled in credit courses; students enrolled in courses that are part of a vocational or occupational program, including those enrolled in off-campus centers; and high school students taking college courses for credit. NOVA tracks both the fall headcount as well as the annual unduplicated headcount. For each measure of enrollment, this Brief disaggregates data by select student characteristics. Disaggregation by these characteristics allows the college to identify where achievement gaps exist within its eight student achievement criteria.

Key Findings

- **Fall Enrollment:** From Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, College-wide fall enrollment increased by two percent. During this time, fall enrollment also increased for the following student groups: Hispanic/Latino students, Asian students, and students who identify as another race or ethnicity; younger students; female students; students who did not receive a Pell Grant; and students who were not the first in their family to attend college.
- **Annual Enrollment:** From 2016-17 to 2019-20, College-wide annual enrollment decreased by three percent. However, during this time, annual enrollment increased for the following student groups: Hispanic/Latino students, Asian students, and students who identify as another race or ethnicity; younger students; students who received a Pell Grant; and students who were not the first in their family to attend college.

¹ For more information, see *Report 29-20: Student Achievement Criteria at NOVA: Comprehensive Evaluation Report 2020*.

Section 1. Overall Enrollment

NOVA measures enrollment through two measures: the fall headcount is defined as the headcount of students enrolled in the fall semester; and the annual unduplicated headcount is defined as the unduplicated headcount of students enrolled at any time during the entire 12-month academic year (i.e., summer, fall, and spring semesters).

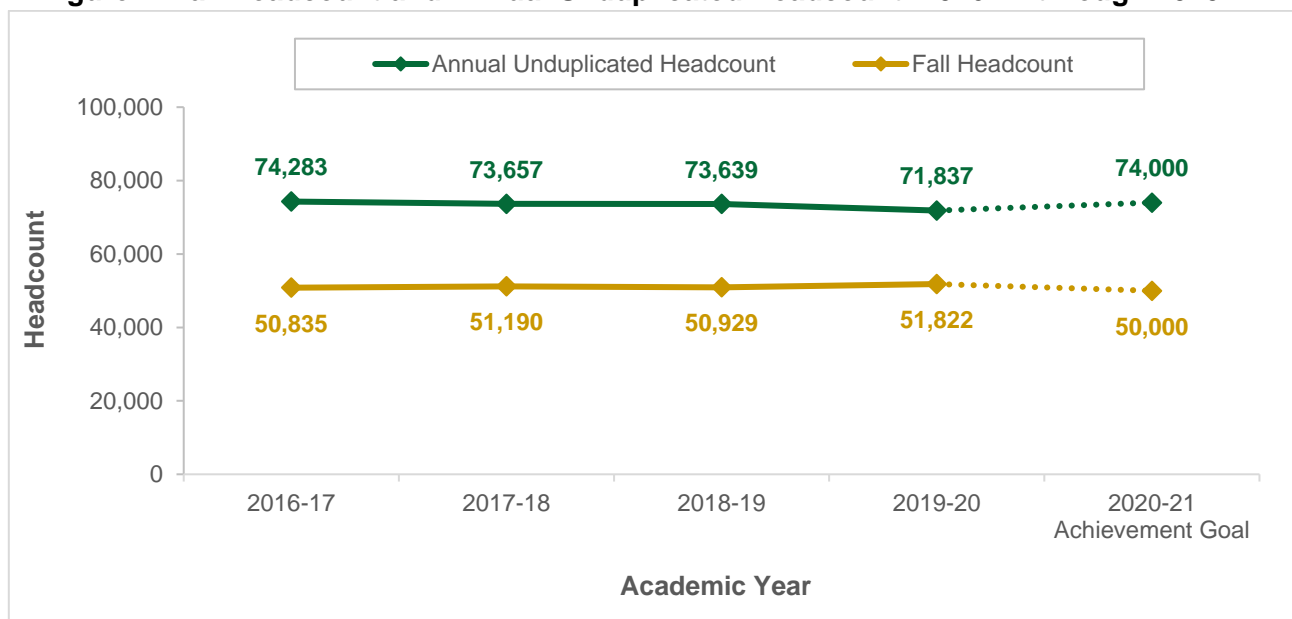
Fall Headcount

From Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, the College-wide fall headcount increased by two percent (from 50,835 students in Fall 2016 to 51,822 students in Fall 2019). In Fall 2020, NOVA's achievement goal for fall enrollment is 50,000 students.

Annual Unduplicated Headcount

From 2016-17 to 2019-20, the College-wide annual unduplicated headcount decreased by over three percent (from 74,283 students in 2016-17 to 71,837 students in 2019-20). In Fall 2020, NOVA's achievement goal for annual unduplicated enrollment is 74,000 students.

Figure 1. Fall Headcount and Annual Unduplicated Headcount: 2016-17 through 2020-21



Section 2. Fall Enrollment by Select Student Characteristics

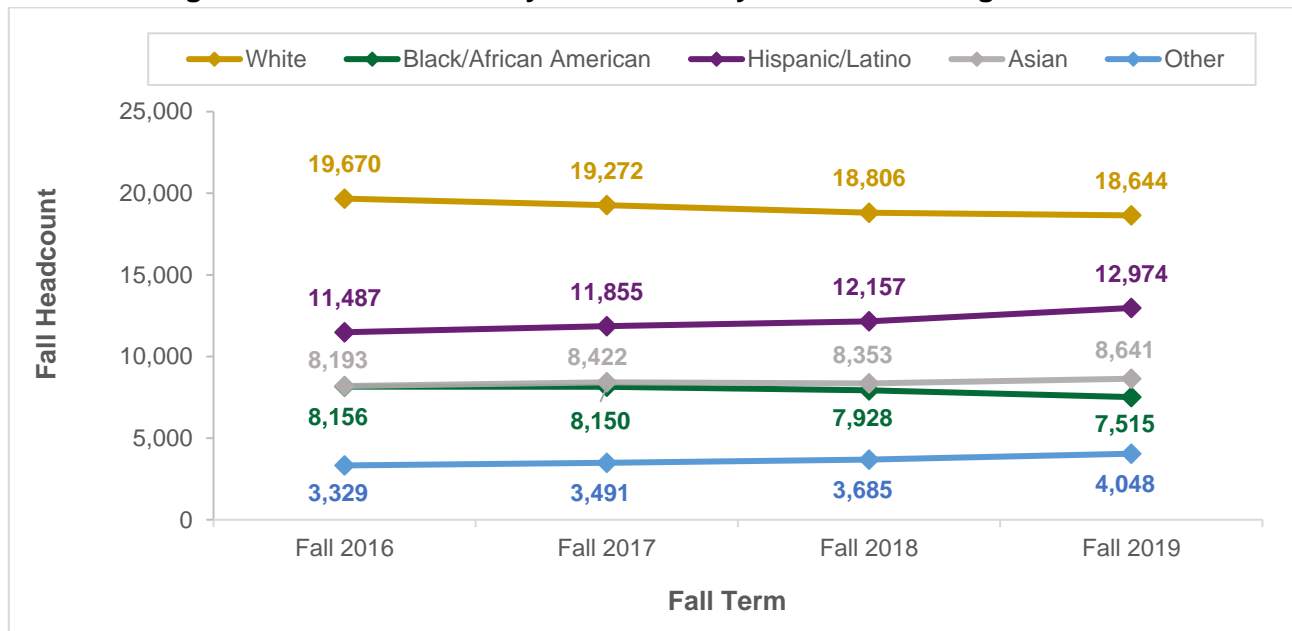
This section presents data regarding the College-wide fall enrollment. Fall enrollment data are disaggregated by the following student characteristics: race/ethnicity, gender, age group, Pell Grant status, and first generation status.

Fall Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

In Fall 2019, the greatest proportion of enrolled students were white students (approximately 36 percent of all enrolled students during this term). However, from Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, the fall headcount of white students declined by 5 percent. The fall headcount of Black/African American students also declined by 8 percent during this time.

Conversely, the enrollment of other race/ethnic groups increased between Fall 2016 and Fall 2019. Fall enrollment increased by 13 percent for Hispanic/Latino students, 5 percent for Asian students, and 22 percent for students who identify as another race or ethnicity.

Figure 2. Fall Headcount by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019

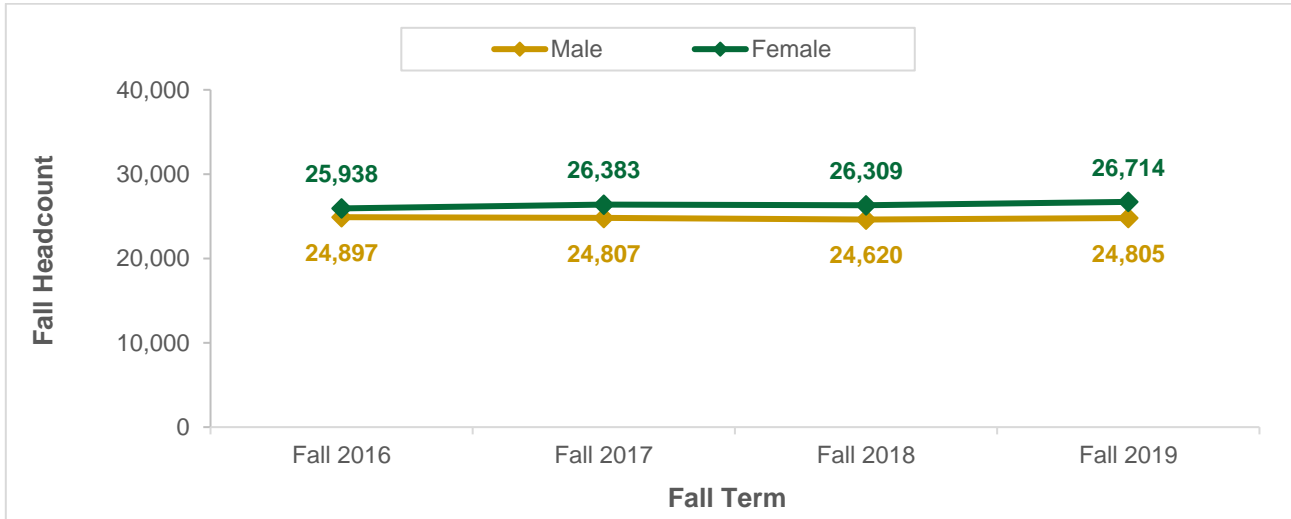


Note: Other includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, Unknown, and Not Specified.

Fall Enrollment by Gender

In Fall 2019, there were more female students enrolled at NOVA than male students. From Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, the enrollment of both groups remained consistent. While the enrollment of male students declined slightly (by less than one percent), the enrollment of female students increased by three percent.

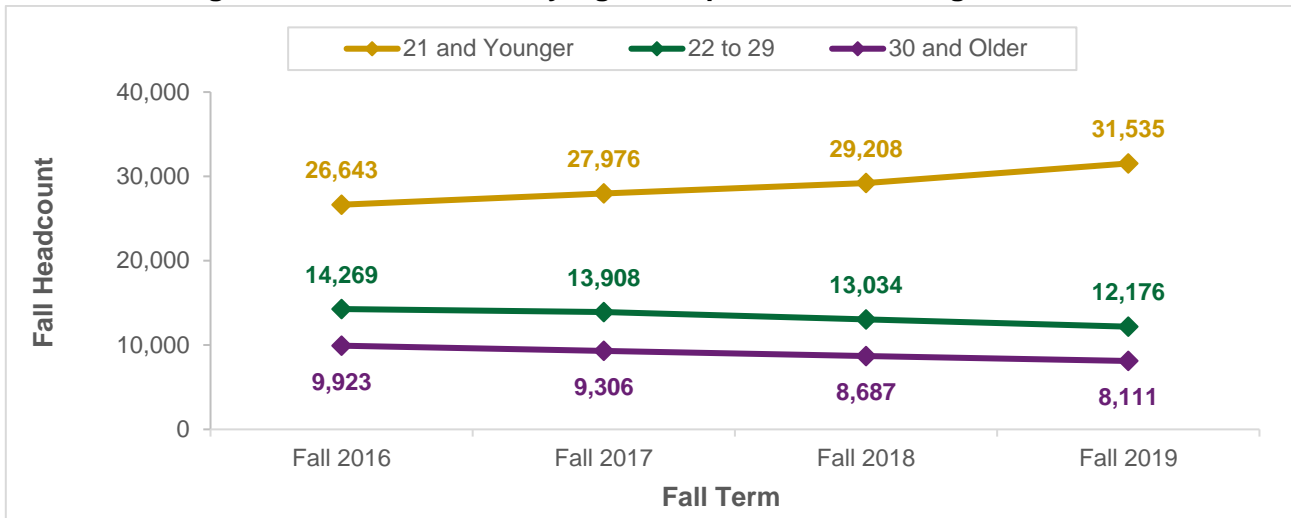
Figure 3. Fall Headcount by Gender: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019



Fall Enrollment by Age Group

In Fall 2019, there were more students aged 21 and younger enrolled at NOVA than students in both older age groups combined (22 to 29; and 30 and older). From Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, the enrollment of students aged 21 and younger increased by 18 percent. Conversely, the fall enrollment of students aged 22 to 29 declined by 15 percent, and the fall enrollment of students aged 30 and older declined by 18 percent during this time period.

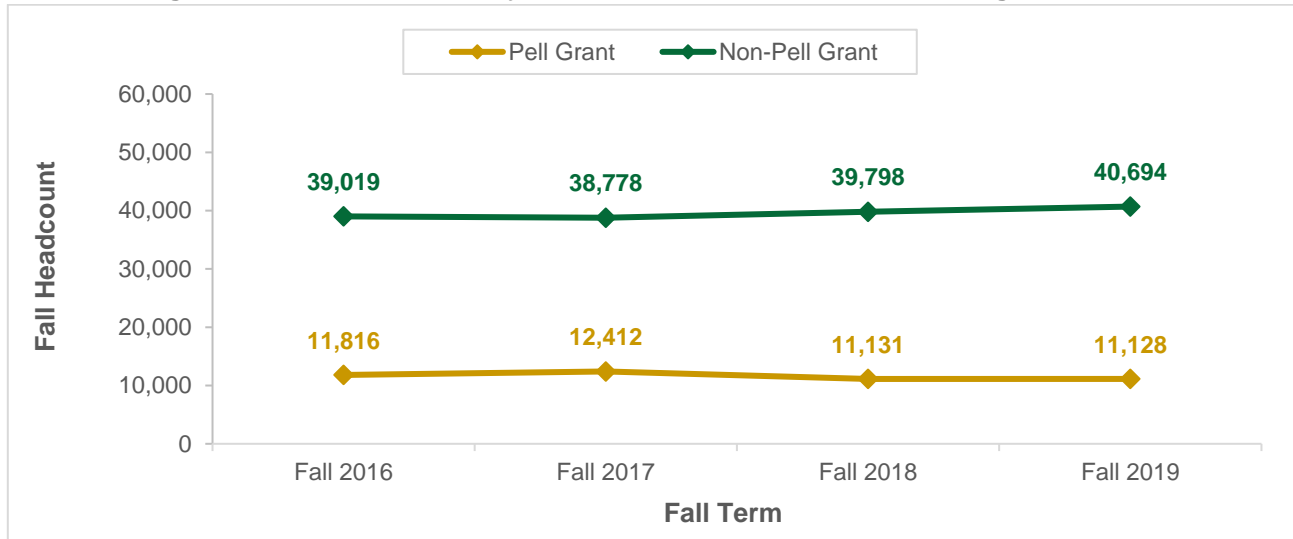
Figure 4. Fall Headcount by Age Group: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019



Fall Enrollment by Pell Grant Status

In Fall 2019, there were more non-Pell Grant recipients enrolled at NOVA than students who received a Pell Grant. From Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, the enrollment of Pell Grant recipients declined by 6 percent. Much of this declined between the Fall 2017 and Fall 2018 terms. Conversely, the fall enrollment of non-Pell Grant recipients increased by 4 percent during this time period.

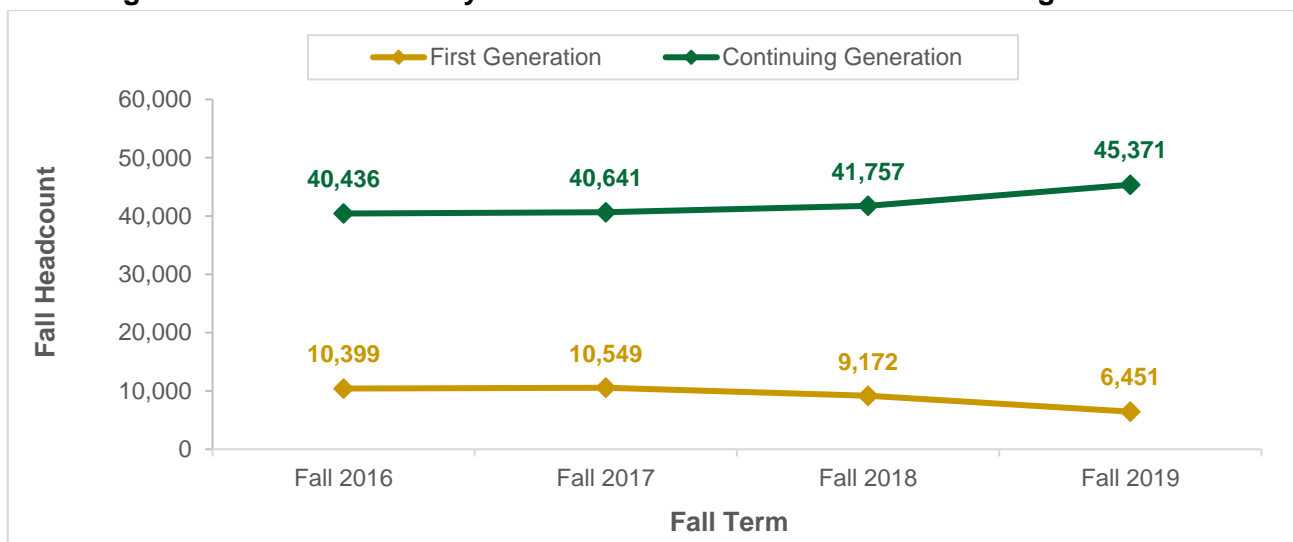
Figure 5. Fall Headcount by Pell Grant Status: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019



Fall Enrollment by First Generation Status

In Fall 2019, there were more continuing generation students enrolled at NOVA than students who were the first in their family to attend college (first generation). From Fall 2016 to Fall 2019, the enrollment of first generation students declined by 38 percent. Conversely, the fall enrollment of continuing generation students increased by 12 percent during this time period.

Figure 6. Fall Headcount by First Generation Status: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019



Section 3. Annual Enrollment by Select Student Characteristics

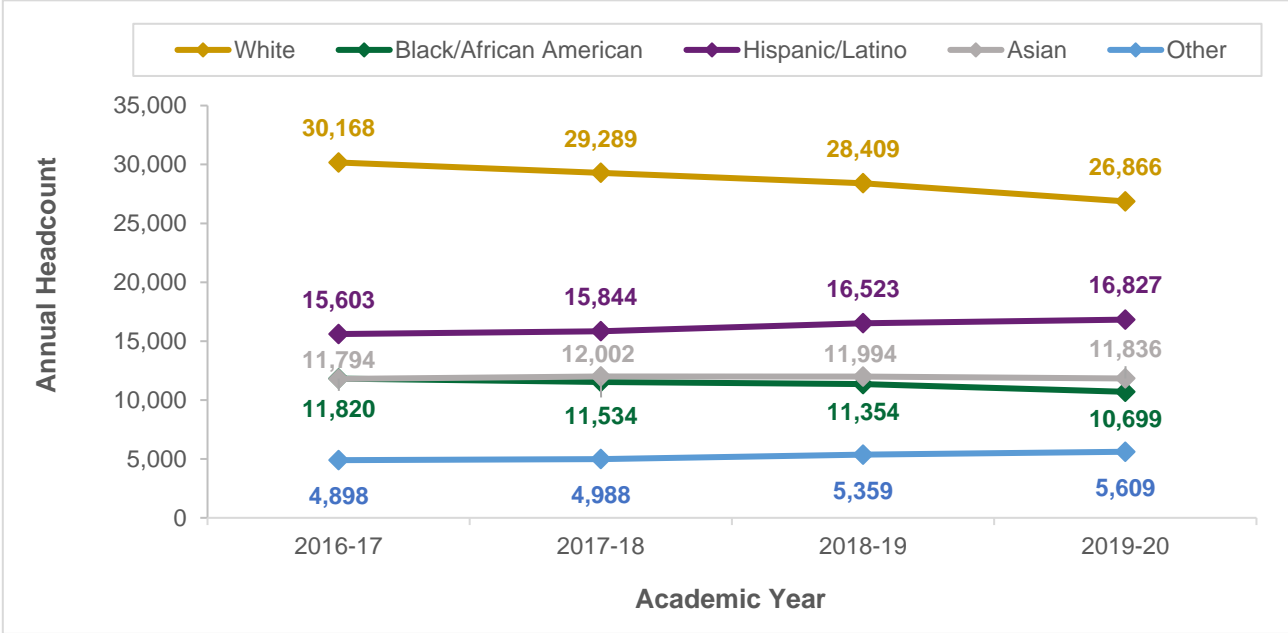
This section presents data regarding the College-wide annual unduplicated enrollment. Annual unduplicated headcount data are disaggregated by the following student characteristics: race/ethnicity, gender, age group, Pell Grant status, and first generation status.

Annual Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

In the 2019-20 academic year, the greatest proportion of enrolled students were white students (approximately 37 percent of all enrolled students). However, from 2016-17 to 2019-20, the annual unduplicated headcount of white students declined by 11 percent. The annual unduplicated headcount of Black/African American students declined by 9 percent during this time period.

Conversely, the annual enrollment of other race/ethnic groups increased between the 2016-17 and 2019-20 academic years. During this time, annual unduplicated headcount increased by 8 percent for Hispanic/Latino students and 15 percent for students who identify as another race or ethnicity. For Asian students, annual unduplicated headcount increased by less than one percent.

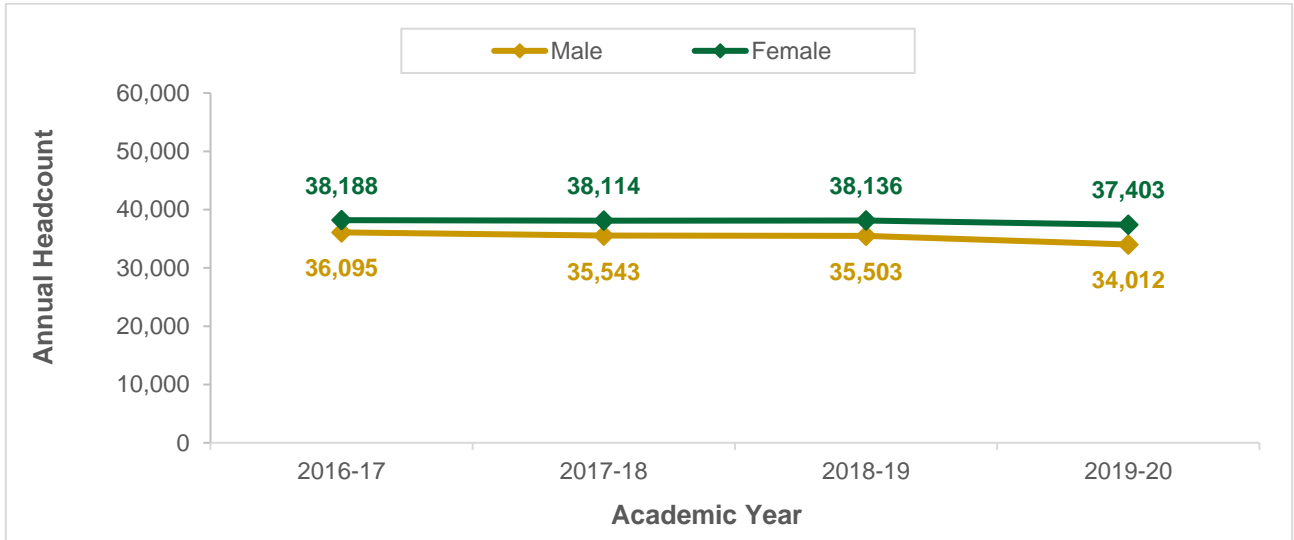
Figure 7. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Race/Ethnicity: 2016-17 through 2019-20



Annual Enrollment by Gender

In 2019-20, there were more female students enrolled at NOVA than male students. From the 2016-17 to 2019-20 academic years, the annual enrollment of both groups declined. The annual enrollment of male students declined by 6 percent, and the annual enrollment of female students declined by 2 percent during this time.

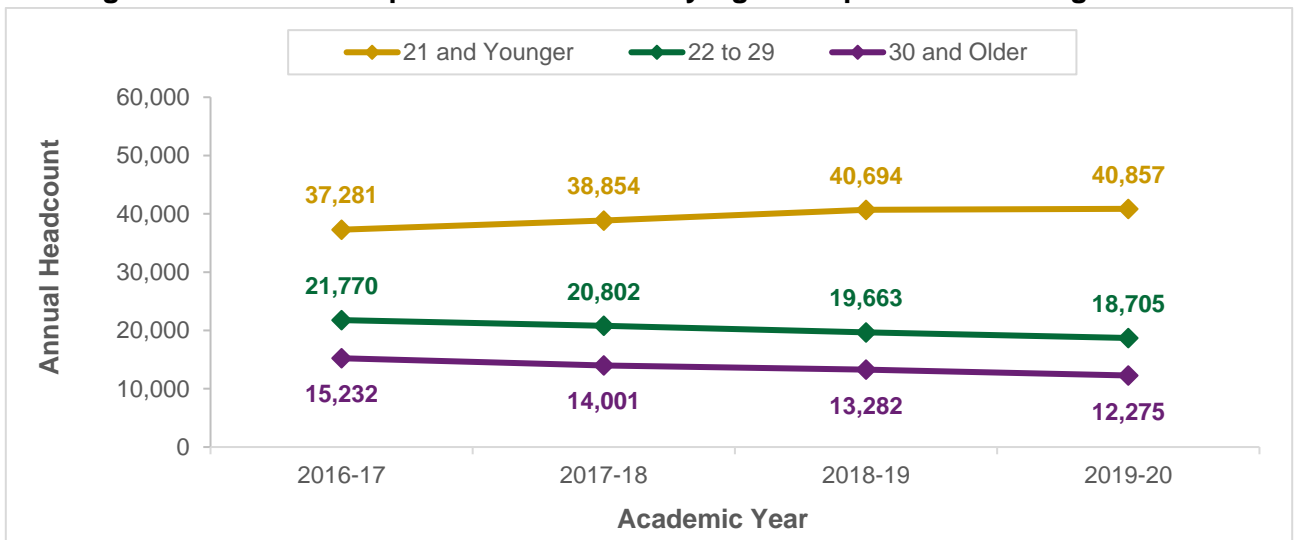
Figure 8. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Gender: 2016-17 through 2019-20



Annual Enrollment by Age Group

In 2019-20, there were more students aged 21 and younger enrolled at NOVA than students in both older age groups combined (22 to 29; and 30 and older). From 2016-17 to 2019-20, the annual enrollment of students aged 21 and younger increased by nearly 10 percent. Conversely, the annual enrollment of students aged 22 to 29 declined by 14 percent, and the annual enrollment of students aged 30 and older declined by 19 percent during this time period.

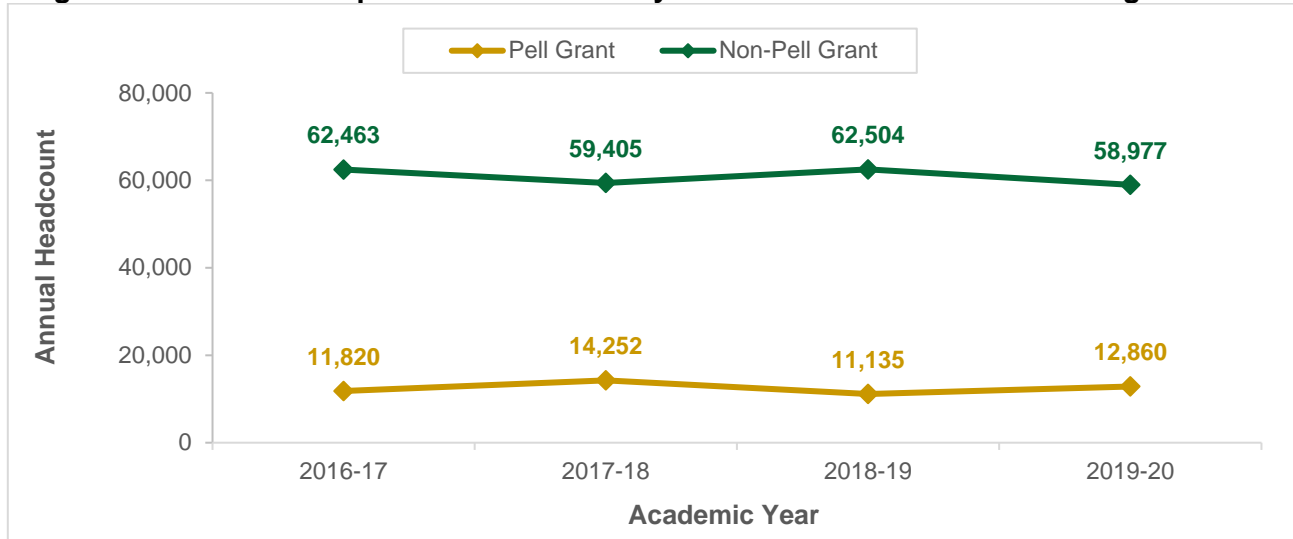
Figure 9. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Age Group: 2016-17 through 2019-20



Annual Enrollment by Pell Grant Status

In 2019-20, there were more non-Pell Grant recipients enrolled at NOVA than students who received a Pell Grant. From the 2016-17 to 2019-20 academic years, the annual enrollment of Pell Grant recipients increased by 9 percent. Conversely, the annual enrollment of non-Pell Grant recipients declined by 6 percent.

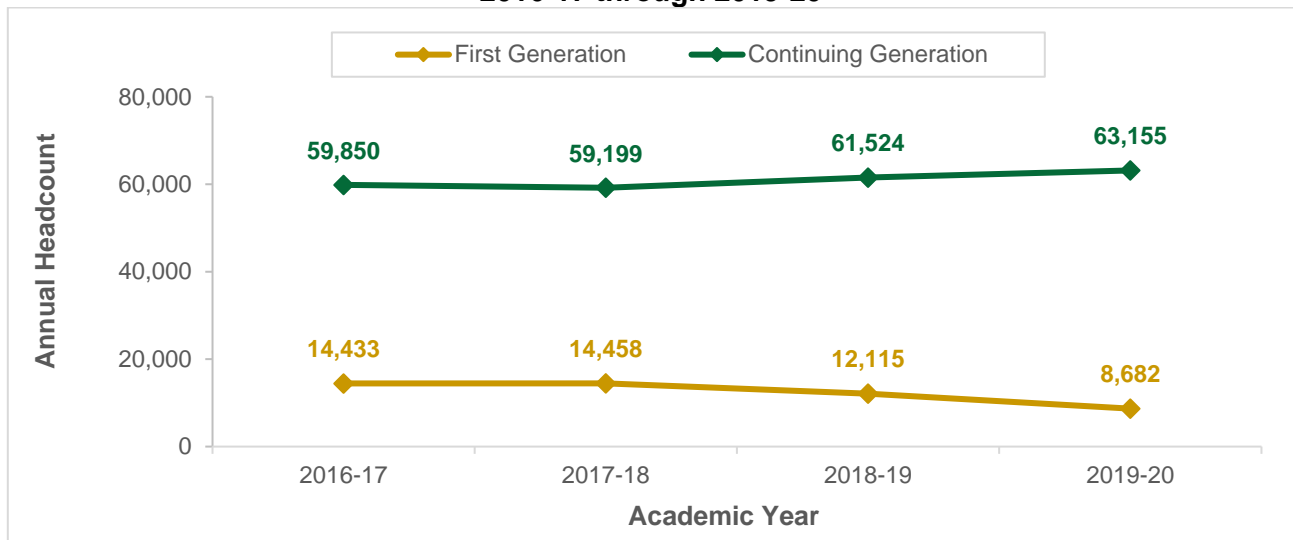
Figure 10. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Pell Grant Status: 2016-17 through 2019-20



Annual Enrollment by First Generation Status

In 2019-20, there were more continuing generation students enrolled at NOVA than students who were the first in their family to attend college (first generation). From the 2016-17 to 2019-20 academic years, the annual enrollment of first generation students declined by nearly 40 percent. Conversely, the annual enrollment of continuing generation students increased by 6 percent during this time.

Figure 11. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by First Generation Status: 2016-17 through 2019-20



Data Tables

Overall Enrollment

Table 1. Fall Headcount and Annual Unduplicated Headcount: 2016-17 through 2019-20

Academic Year	Fall Headcount	Annual Unduplicated Headcount
2016-17	50,835	74,283
2017-18	51,190	73,657
2018-19	50,929	73,639
2019-20	51,822	71,837

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

Fall Enrollment by Select Student Characteristics

Table 2. Fall Headcount by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019

Race/Ethnicity	Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018		Fall 2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	19,670	38.7	19,272	37.6	18,806	36.9	18,644	36.0
Black/African American	8,156	16.0	8,150	15.9	7,928	15.6	7,515	14.5
Hispanic/Latino	11,487	22.6	11,855	23.2	12,157	23.9	12,974	25.0
Asian	8,193	16.1	8,422	16.5	8,353	16.4	8,641	16.7
Other*	3,329	6.5	3,491	6.8	3,685	7.2	4,048	7.8
College-wide	50,835	100.0	51,190	100.0	50,929	100.0	51,822	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

*Other includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, Unknown, and Not Specified.

Table 3. Fall Headcount by Gender: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019

Gender	Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018		Fall 2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	24,897	49.0	24,807	48.5	24,620	48.3	24,805	47.9
Female	25,938	51.0	26,383	51.5	26,309	51.7	26,714	51.5
Other/Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	303	0.6
College-wide	50,835	100.0	51,190	100.0	50,929	100.0	51,822	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

Table 4. Fall Headcount by Age Group: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019

Age Group	Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018		Fall 2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
21 and Younger	26,643	52.4	27,976	54.7	29,208	57.4	31,535	60.9
22 to 29	14,269	28.1	13,908	27.2	13,034	25.6	12,176	23.5
30 and Older	9,923	19.5	9,306	18.2	8,687	17.1	8,111	15.7
College-wide	50,835	100.0	51,190	100.0	50,929	100.0	51,822	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

Table 5. Fall Headcount by Pell Grant Status: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019

Pell Grant Status	Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018		Fall 2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Pell Grant	11,816	23.2	12,412	24.2	11,131	21.9	11,128	21.5
Non-Pell Grant	39,019	76.8	38,778	75.8	39,798	78.1	40,694	78.5
College-wide	50,835	100.0	51,190	100.0	50,929	100.0	51,822	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

Table 6. Fall Headcount by First Generation Status: Fall 2016 through Fall 2019

First Generation Status	Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018		Fall 2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Generation	10,399	20.5	10,549	20.6	9,172	18.0	6,451	12.4
Continuing Generation	40,436	79.5	40,641	79.4	41,757	82.0	45,371	87.6
College-wide	50,835	100.0	51,190	100.0	50,929	100.0	51,822	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

Annual Enrollment by Select Student Characteristics

Table 7. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Race/Ethnicity: 2016-17 through 2019-20

Race/Ethnicity	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	30,168	40.6	29,289	39.8	28,409	38.6	26,866	37.4
Black/African American	11,820	15.9	11,534	15.7	11,354	15.4	10,699	14.9
Hispanic/Latino	15,603	21.0	15,844	21.5	16,523	22.4	16,827	23.4
Asian	11,794	15.9	12,002	16.3	11,994	16.3	11,836	16.5
Other*	4,898	6.6	4,988	6.8	5,359	7.3	5,609	7.8
College-wide	74,283	100.0	73,657	100.0	73,639	100.0	71,837	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

*Other includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, Unknown, and Not Specified.

Table 8. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Gender: 2016-17 through 2019-20

Gender	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	36,095	48.6	35,543	48.3	35,503	48.2	34,012	47.3
Female	38,188	51.4	38,114	51.7	38,136	51.8	37,403	52.1
Other/Unspecified	--	--	--	--	--	--	422	0.6
College-wide	74,283	100.0	73,657	100.0	73,639	100.0	71,837	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

Table 9. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Age Group: 2016-17 through 2019-20

Age Group	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
21 and Younger	37,281	50.2	38,854	52.7	40,694	55.3	40,857	56.9
22 to 29	21,770	29.3	20,802	28.2	19,663	26.7	18,705	26.0
30 and Older	15,232	20.5	14,001	19.0	13,282	18.0	12,275	17.1
College-wide	74,283	100.0	73,657	100.0	73,639	100.0	71,837	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

Table 10. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by Pell Grant Status: 2016-17 through 2019-20

Pell Grant Status	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Pell Grant	11,820	15.9	14,252	19.3	11,135	15.1	12,860	17.9
Non-Pell Grant	62,463	84.1	59,405	80.7	62,504	84.9	58,977	82.1
College-wide	74,283	100.0	73,657	100.0	73,639	100.0	71,837	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.

**Table 11. Annual Unduplicated Headcount by First Generation Status:
2016-17 through 2019-20**

First Generation Status	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Generation	14,433	19.4	14,458	19.6	12,115	16.5	8,682	12.1
Continuing Generation	59,850	80.6	59,199	80.4	61,524	83.5	63,155	87.9
College-wide	74,283	100.0	73,657	100.0	73,639	100.0	71,837	100.0

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Northern Virginia Community College.