

The public [Nevada System of Higher Education \(NSHE\)](#) consists of two research universities, one state college, four community colleges, and one research institution. The System is governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, which appoints a chancellor to supervise the presidents at each institution and ensure the regents' policies are implemented.

## NSHE INSTITUTIONS

**RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES**  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of Nevada, Reno

**STATE COLLEGE**  
Nevada State College

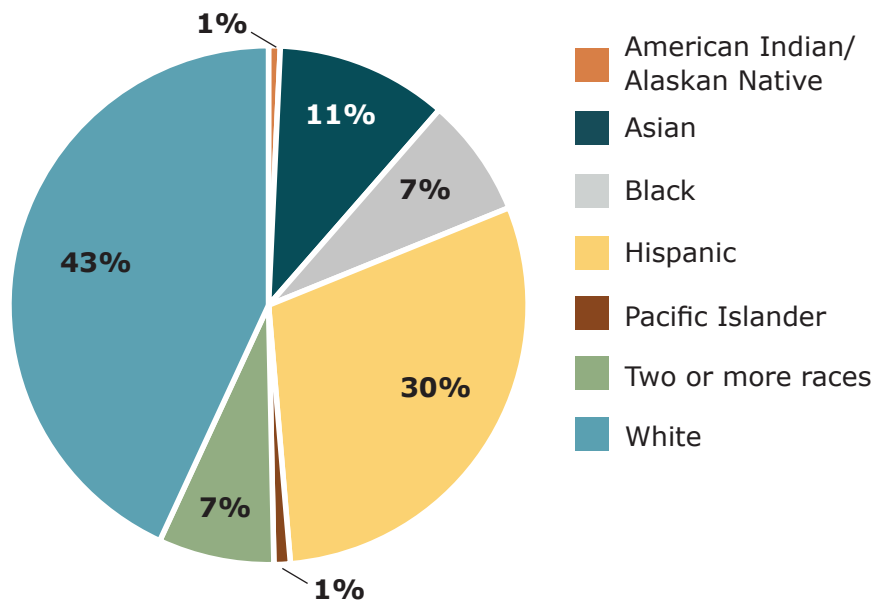
**RESEARCH INSTITUTION**  
Desert Research Institute

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
College of Southern Nevada  
Great Basin College  
Truckee Meadows  
Community College  
Western Nevada College

## QUICK FACTS: STUDENT POPULATION

- **More than 108,600 students were enrolled** across the system in Fall 2018. Of this total, just over half—or 55,230 students—were enrolled full time.
- **Students aged 18 to 24** made up approximately **61 percent** of the total student population in Fall 2018.
- In 2018, the reported **graduation rate for Nevada's four-year institutions** was approximately **49 percent**, compared to **17 percent** at the state's **two-year institutions**.

NSHE ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY,\* FALL 2018

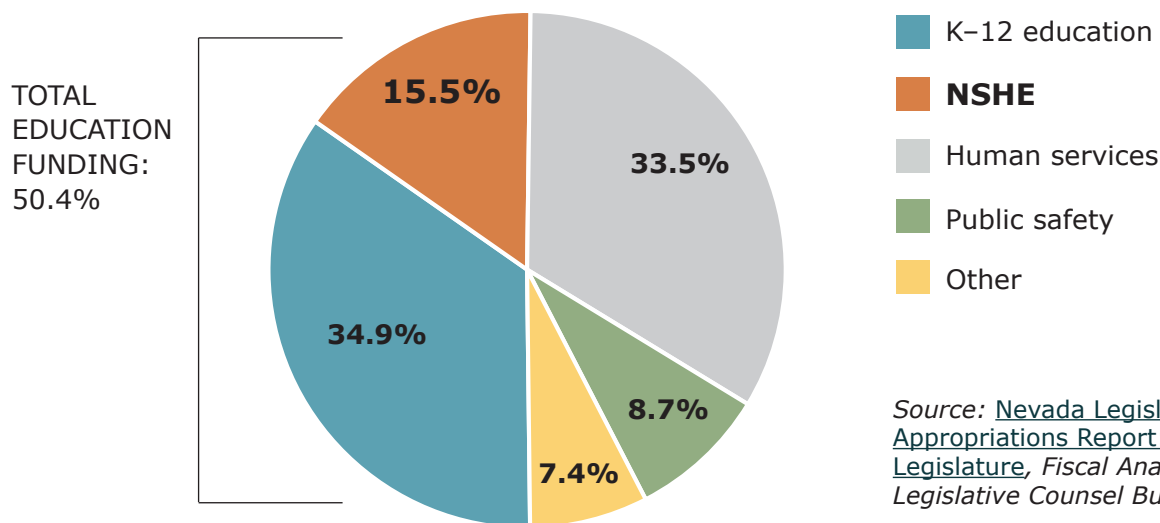


\* Note: Figures in the chart are based on total enrollment not including non-resident aliens and students for whom ethnicity is unknown.

## STATE FUNDING

During the 2019 Session, the Nevada Legislature approved a total General Fund operating budget of more than \$8.8 billion for the 2019–2021 Biennium. Of that approved budget, appropriations to public education—including K-12 and higher education—totaled just under \$4.5 billion, or 50.4 percent of the total budget. The share marked for NSHE was \$1.38 billion, or 15.5 percent of all General Fund appropriations.

### NEVADA GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS,\* 2019–2021 BIENNIUM



\* Note: Figures are based on appropriations approved by the Legislature during the 2019 Regular Session.

## SELECTED POLICY TOPICS

### Funding

During the two special sessions held in the summer of 2020, NSHE’s budget was reduced by \$137.8 million. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and University of Nevada, Reno, each experienced a 24.6 percent cut, for reductions of \$35.7 million and \$25.8 million, respectively. Further cuts were made to community colleges and many statewide NSHE programs, and \$20 million was cut from a College of Engineering building project at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The System was able to offset some of these reductions with \$45 million in reserves from investment accounts, but state funding for NSHE will likely continue to be a significant issue for policymakers.

### Financial Aid

With the aim of supporting Nevada residents’ access to the state’s colleges and universities, financial aid is a perennial issue for the Legislature. Major programs include:

- **The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship**  
Merit-based funding for qualified applicants
- **The Silver State Opportunity Grant**  
State-funded, need-based financial aid
- **The Nevada Promise Scholarship**  
Last-dollar funding for community college students who meet certain requirements  
(See participating institutions for details.)