

Chapter 2 Undergraduate Students: Admissions & Enrollment

Goals

Access is a central priority for the U-M admissions and enrollment process. A major goal is to assemble entering classes of highly qualified first-year undergraduate students. Academic success in high school is evaluated closely, but so are other qualities that applicants can bring to the campus community.

For instance, the application process provides the opportunity to describe aspects of their background, identify, interests and talents in an essay, or to reflect on people, ideas, or challenges that motivate them. These insights are combined with academic success in comprehensive evaluations that lead to admission offers, and, it's hoped, a student's decision to attend the U-M.

Financial aid is an important factor in attracting students and Chapter 3 provides details about aid affects recruitment and retention of students.

Overview

This chapter details application, admission, and enrollment trends for first-year undergraduates and new transfer students.

Student interest in the University continues to grow. Applications from prospective undergraduate students have nearly doubled since 2013, although the 2023 application count was only slightly higher than for 2022. As a highly selective institution, U-M offers admission to fewer than half of those who apply.

Of these, the number of new first-year enrollment has been fairly level over the last decade; new enrollees have increased by a few hundred.

The U-M offers more than 257 academic programs for undergraduates, opportunities for international study, more than 1,600 student clubs to join, and 27 NCAA Division I teams to cheer on. And the cosmopolitan campus community and college town atmosphere make it one of the most interesting places in the country.

The University actively recruits and admits students from the state of Michigan, the nation and around the globe. In Fall 2023, the U-M enrolled undergraduate students from all 83 Michigan counties, 57 states and territories, and 84 countries. Fifty-one percent of undergraduates are from the state of Michigan. The diverse origins, backgrounds and experiences found in every entering class contribute to the varied interests and characteristics of the student body.

For More Information

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
(admissions.umich.edu)

Enrollment and Degree Reports, Office of the Registrar
(ro.umich.edu/reports)

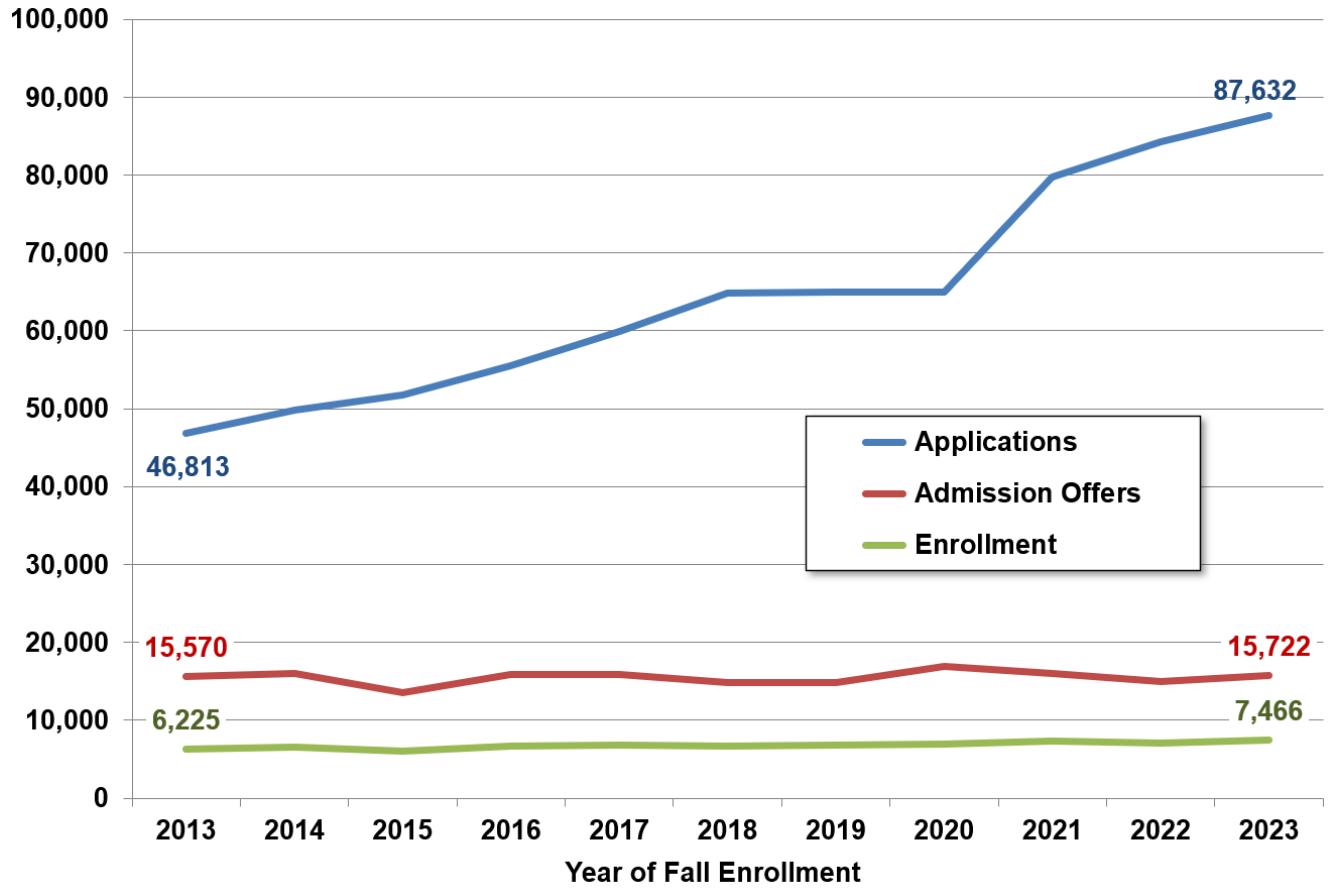
Office of Budget and Planning (see Campus Statistics)
(obp.umich.edu)

Charts in Chapter 2

- 2.1 Applications, Admission offers, and Enrollment for First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013-2023.
- 2.2.1 Selectivity Rates for First-Time, First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013-2023.
- 2.2.2 Yield Rates for First-Time, First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013-2023.
- 2.3.1 Applications, Admission Offers, and Enrollment for New Undergraduate Transfer Students, 2013-2023.
- 2.3.2 Selectivity and Yield Rates for New Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2013-2023.
- 2.4.1 Grade Point Average of First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013 and Fall 2023.
- 2.4.2 Mean College Grade Point Averages from Prior School of New Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2013 and Fall 2023.
- 2.4.3 New Undergraduate Transfer Students by Class Level at Entry, Fall 2013 and Fall 2023.
- 2.5.1 Total and First-Year Undergraduate Student Enrollment, Fall 2013-2023.
- 2.5.2 Undergraduate Student Fall Enrollment by School and College, 2019-2023.
- 2.5.3 Undergraduate Student Fall Enrollment 10-Year Trend by School and College, 2013-2023.
- 2.6.1 Geographic Origin of Undergraduate Students by Headcount and Percent, Fall 2013-2023.
- 2.6.2 Geographic Origin of New First-Year Undergraduates, U-M, Public Big Ten and Peer Institutions, by Percent, Fall 2023.
- 2.6.3 U-M Undergraduate Student Enrollment from the State of Michigan by County, Fall 2023.
- 2.6.4 U-M Undergraduate Student Enrollment by State, Fall 2023.

U-M first-year undergraduate applications have nearly doubled since 2013, despite the plateau due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Admission offers have remained fairly constant, and enrollment has increased at an average annual rate of 1.9 percent over the same time frame.

2.1 Applications, Admission Offers, and Enrollment for First-time, First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013-2023.



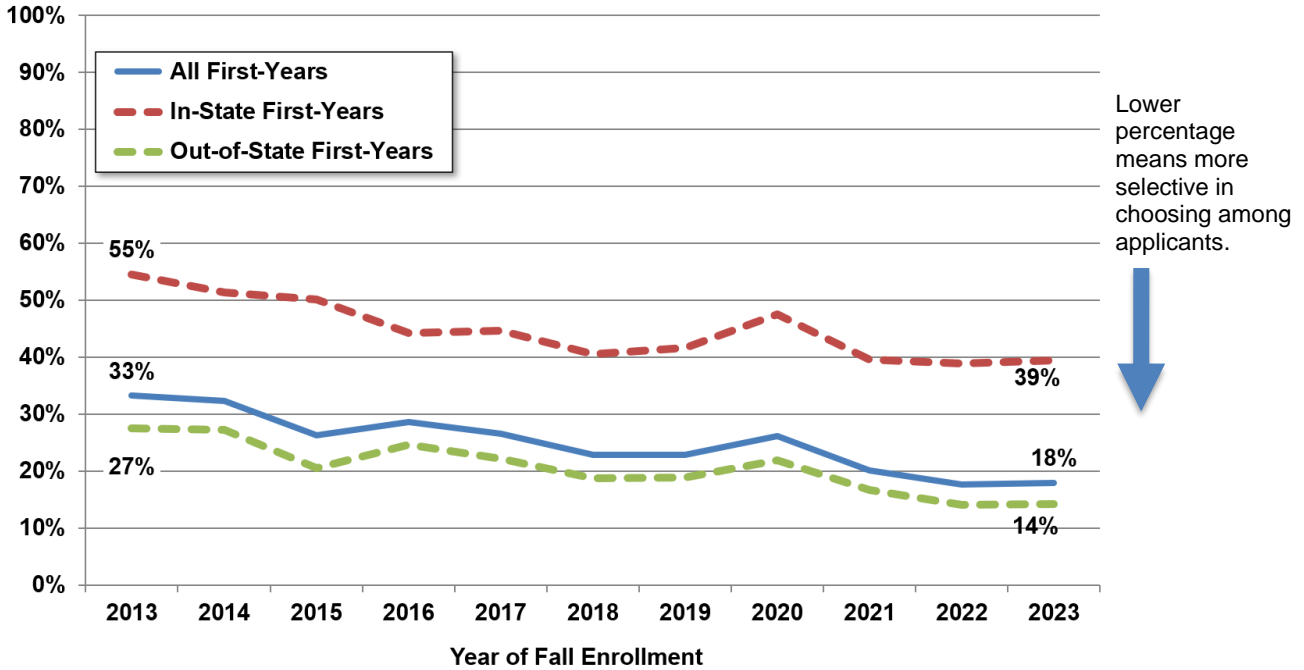
SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

Over the last decade, new first-year undergraduate application totals for the University of Michigan trended upward at a fairly rapid rate through the Fall 2018 enrollment period. This growth is largely attributed to the adoption of the Common Application, which makes it simpler for students to include the University of Michigan on the list of institutions they want to consider.

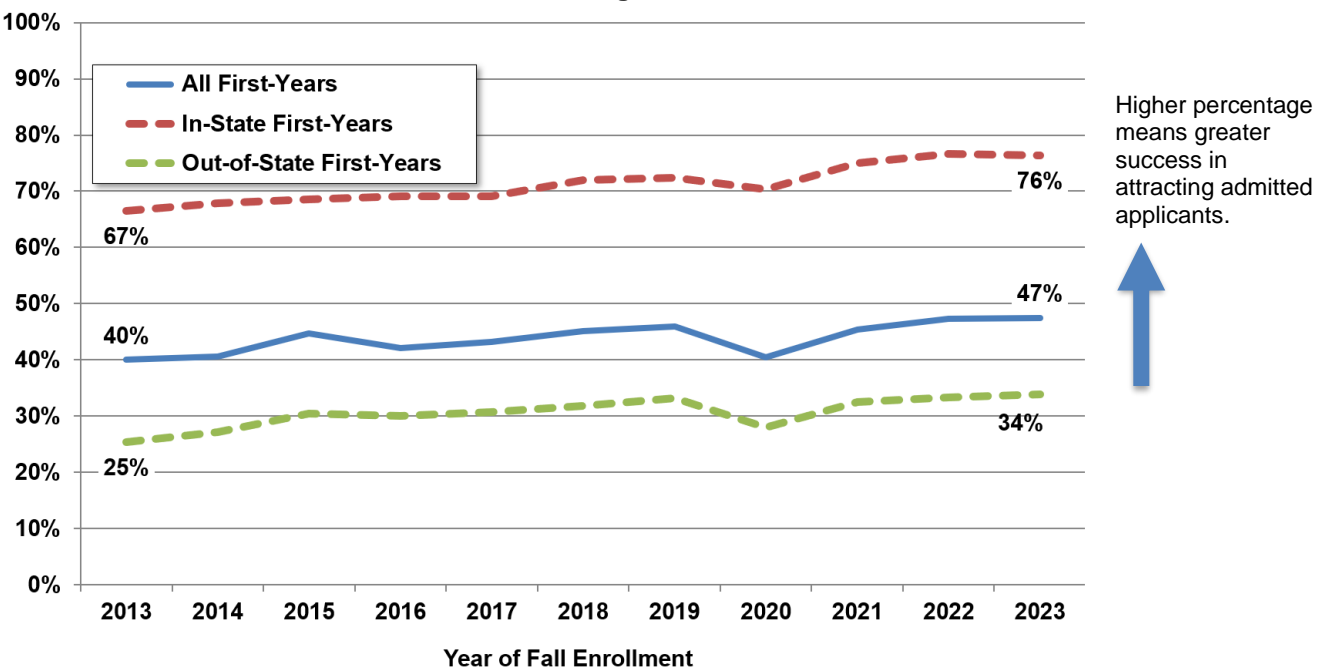
The trend flattened for Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 applications presumably due to the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The upward trend resumed in Fall 2021 as classes were once again offered in-person rather than largely online. In addition, the university adopted policies making submission of standardized test scores optional, while encouraging applicants to consider sending the score from any of several standardized tests available to high school students.

The trend in selectivity rates reflects the growth in applicant numbers.

2.2.1 Selectivity Rates for First-time, First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013-2023.



2.2.2 Yield Rates for First-time, First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013-2023.



SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

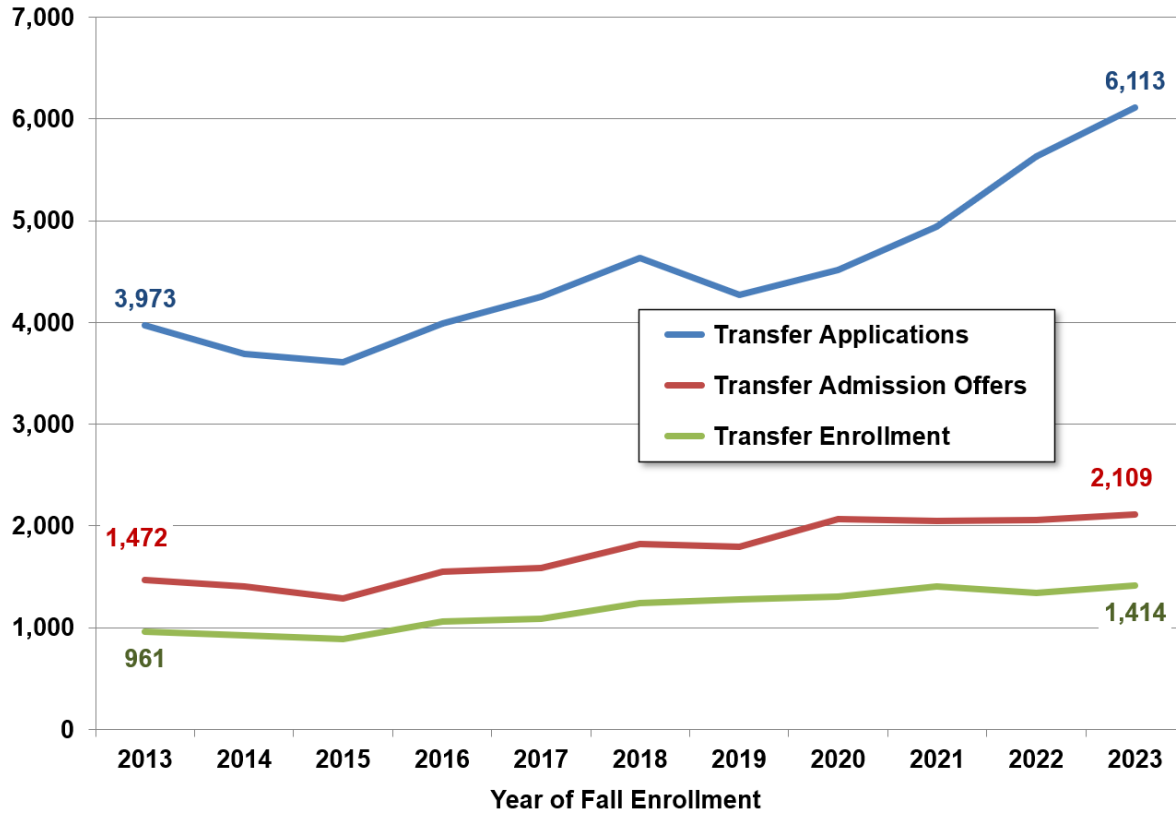
Selectivity is the ratio of admissions offers to total applications. In chart 2.2.1, a lower percentage is an indicator of student quality across a broad range of factors.

due to the U-M commitment to providing financial aid to in-state students and relatively greater competition the university faces for out-of-state students.

Yield is the ratio of enrollment numbers to admission offers. In chart 2.2.2, a higher percentage indicates the school is successful in convincing the sought-after students to enroll at U-M. Yield is lower for out-of-state students (dotted green curve) compared to in-state students (dotted red curve) likely

U-M transfer applications and enrollment have increased compared to ten years ago.

2.3.1 Applications, Admission Offers, and Enrollment for New Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2013-2023.

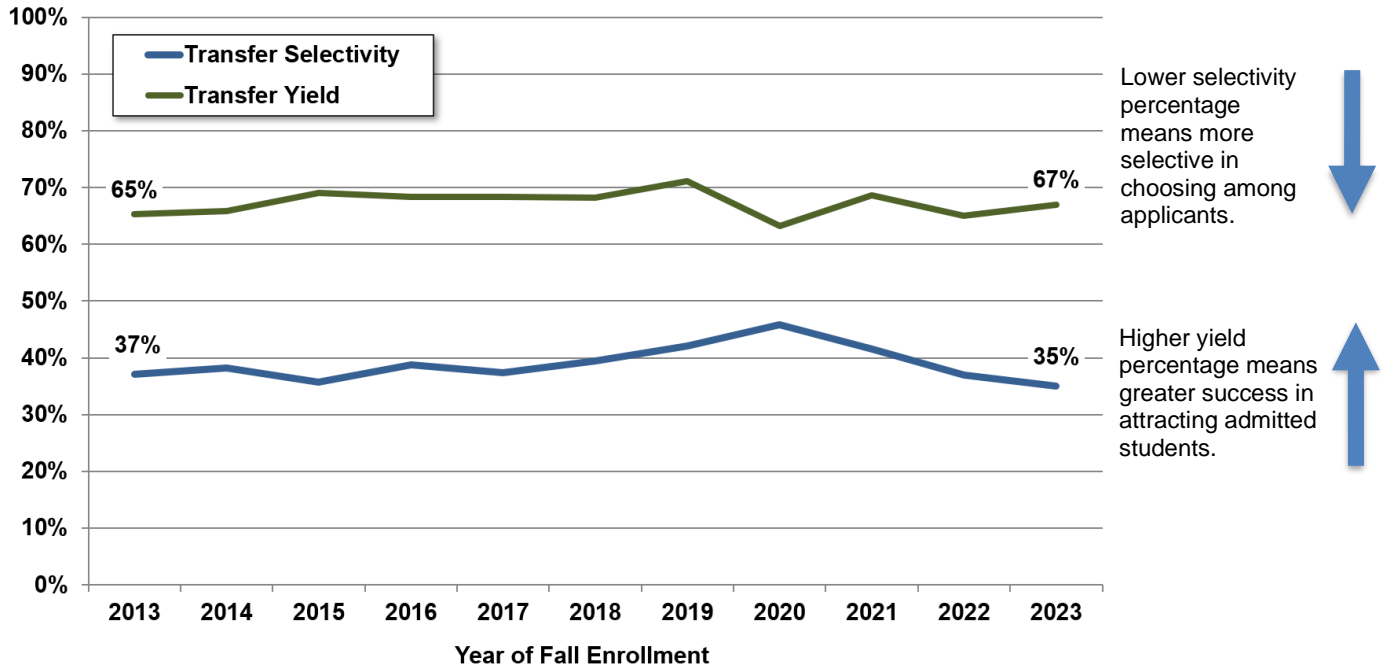


SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

Over the last decade, undergraduate transfer application totals for the University of Michigan have trended upward, although more slowly than have new first-year applications (see 2.1 above). New transfer enrollment has increased at an average annual rate of 4.9 percent and is 47 percent larger than in 2013 and is growing at a higher rate than for first-year students.

The trend in selectivity and yield for undergraduate transfer students has been relatively steady since 2013.

2.3.2 Selectivity and Yield Rates for New Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2013-2023.

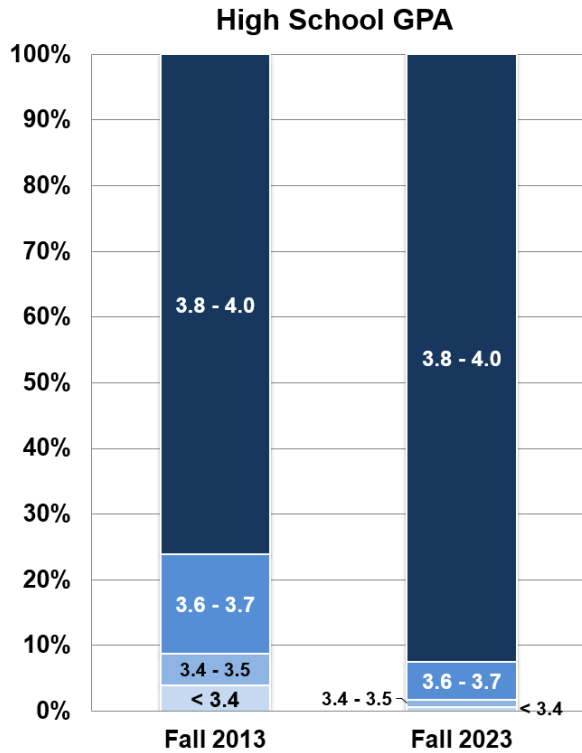


SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

Selectivity is the ratio of admission offers to total applications. Yield is the ratio of enrollment numbers to admission offers.

The increase over time in grade point averages of first-year undergraduate students entering the U-M shows higher grades for Fall 2023 first-years compared to their 2013 counterparts.

2.4.1 Grade Point Average¹ of First-Year Undergraduate Students, Fall 2013 and Fall 2023.



SOURCE: U-M Office of Admissions reports, Student Admissions Data Set

Data on new U-M first-year undergraduates confirms that students who enroll at U-M achieved academic success in high school. Furthermore, the level of academic achievement of new first-years has increased, as indicated by comparing the percentages of students within grade point average ranges for Fall 2023 and Fall 2013.

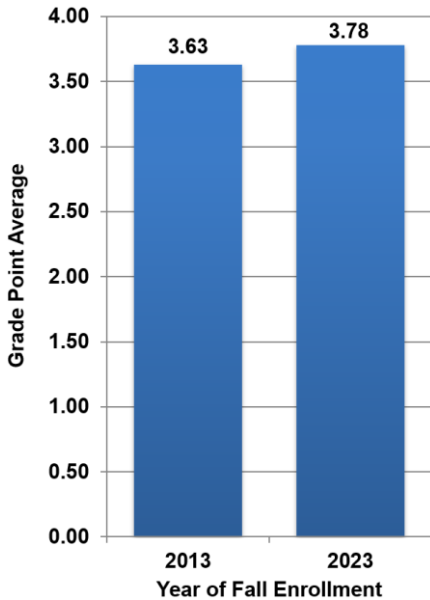
The University of Michigan calculates each student's high school GPA on a 4.0 scale after eliminating any weighting from the applicant's high school transcript.

Note: Past editions of the Michigan Almanac displayed similar comparisons for SAT and ACT standardized test scores. These charts have been removed for now because of a recent trend that de-emphasizes standardized test scores in evaluating applications. While the U-M recommends that applicants submit a standardized test score, this is currently optional at the U-M, as well as for most of its peer universities. If the emphasis changes in the future, the Michigan Almanac will adjust again.

¹ A high school grade point average was not recorded in admissions data for every newly enrolled first-year undergraduate.

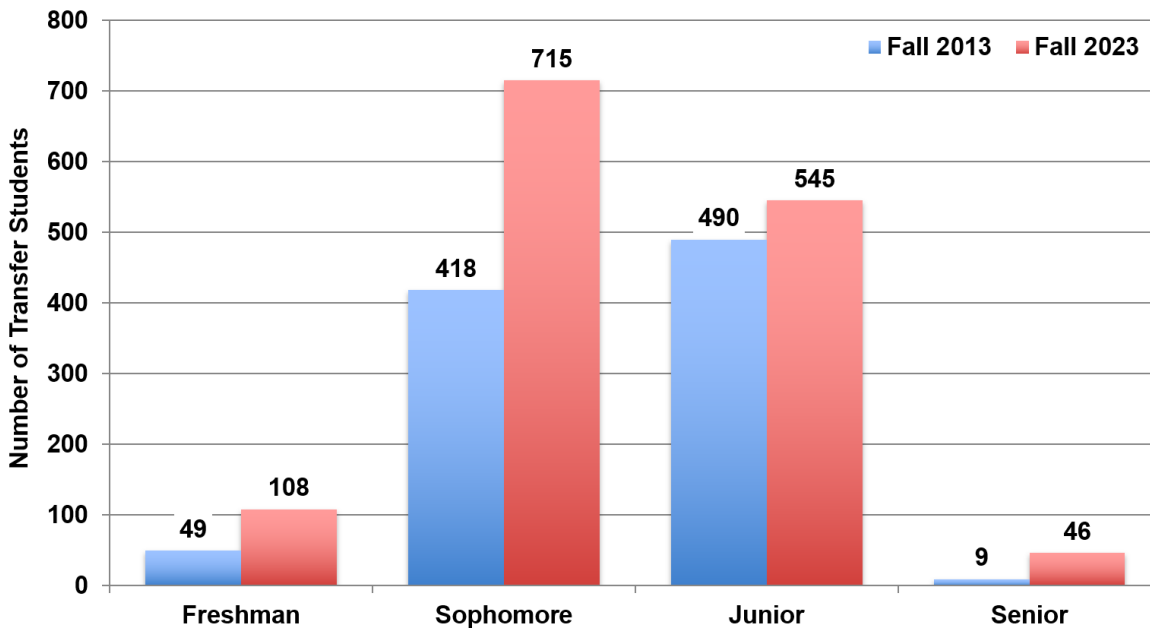
Undergraduate degree-seeking transfer students entered with slightly higher grade point averages in Fall 2023 than 10 years earlier.

2.4.2 Mean College Grade Point Averages from Prior College of New Undergraduate Transfer Students³, Fall 2013 and Fall 2023.



³ A grade point average from their previous college was not recorded in admissions data for about 10% of enrolled undergraduate transfer students.

2.4.3 New Undergraduate Degree-Seeking Transfer Students by Class Level at Entry, Fall 2013 and Fall 2023.

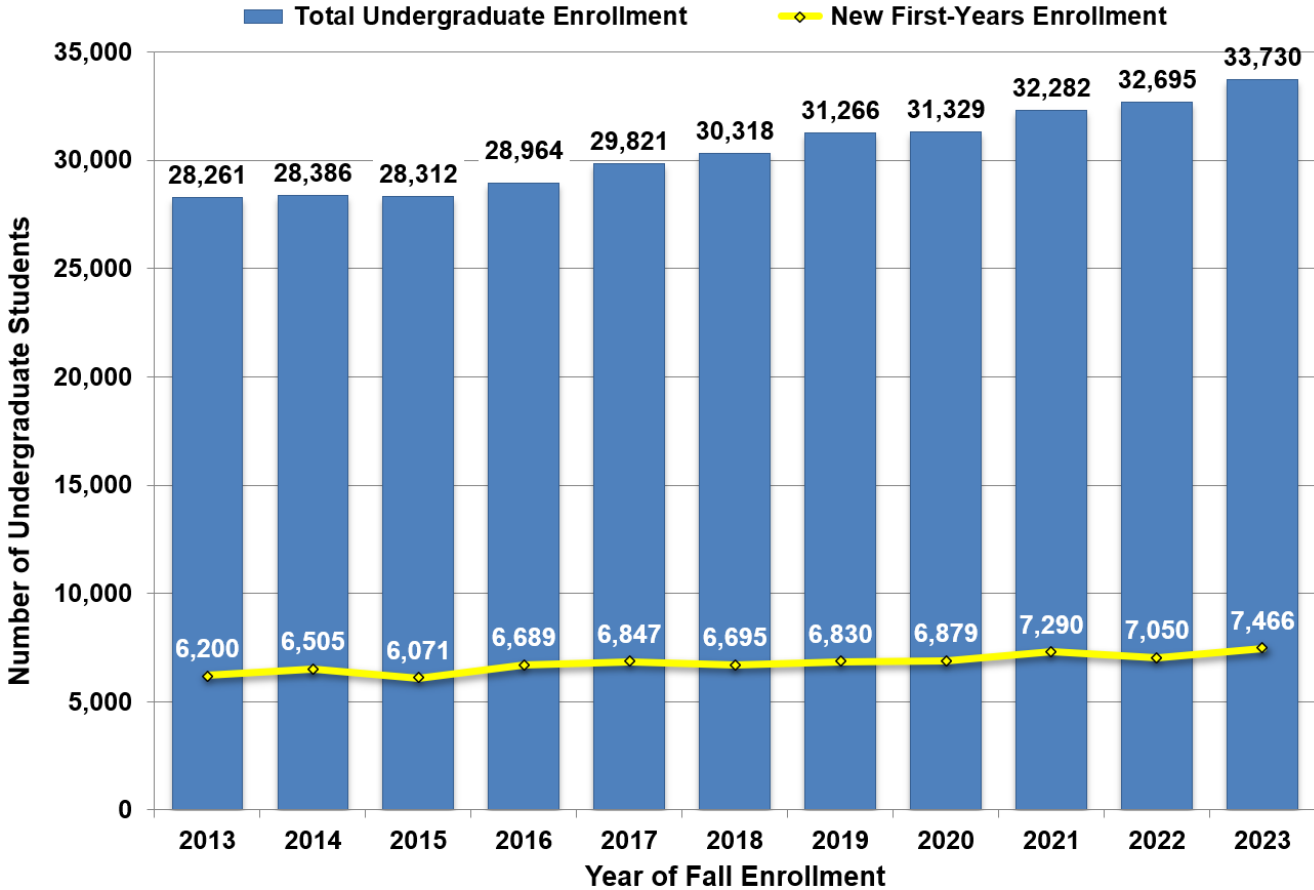


SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

About 89 percent of new transfer students starting in the Fall 2023 term entered with sophomore or junior academic standing, which is based on the number of credits transferred to their U-M degree programs.

Total undergraduate enrollment in 2023 was 19 percent higher than in 2013. The size of the 2023 class of first-year undergraduates was 20 percent higher than its 2013 counterpart.

2.5.1 Total and First-Year Undergraduate Student Enrollment, Fall 2013-2023.



SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

Fifteen of the 19 U-M schools and colleges administer undergraduate programs, which enrolled 33,730 students for Fall 2023.

2.5.2 Undergraduate Student Fall Enrollment Headcount by School and College, Fall 2019-23.

School/College	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning	184	177	208	232	322
Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design	603	616	686	682	726
Stephen M. Ross School of Business	2,404	2,377	2,421	2,440	2,416
School of Dentistry (Dental Hygiene)	86	83	74	77	70
School of Education	139	126	114	88	84
College of Engineering	6,779	6,841	6,931	6,962	7,111
School for Environment & Sustainability		1			
School of Information	322	295	353	380	446
School of Kinesiology	997	1003	1,066	1,098	1,177
College of Literature, Science and the Arts	17,837	17,796	18,322	18,656	19,249
Medical School ¹	25	34	36	26	21
School of Music, Theatre & Dance	834	837	869	851	851
School of Nursing	642	678	713	714	750
College of Pharmacy	74	91	104	102	102
School of Public Health ²	170	204	207	213	225
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy	161	163	164	162	164
School of Art and Design / School of Music, Theatre and Dance Joint Program	9	7	14	12	16
Grand Total, Undergraduate Students	30,318	31,329	32,282	32,695	33,730

SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

Faculty from the School for Environment & Sustainability teach many of the courses for the Program in the Environment, although the students in the program are enrolled in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. The School for Environment & Sustainability does not accept new undergraduate students but allows students to return to an undergraduate program if enrolled in one in the past when the school offered such programs.

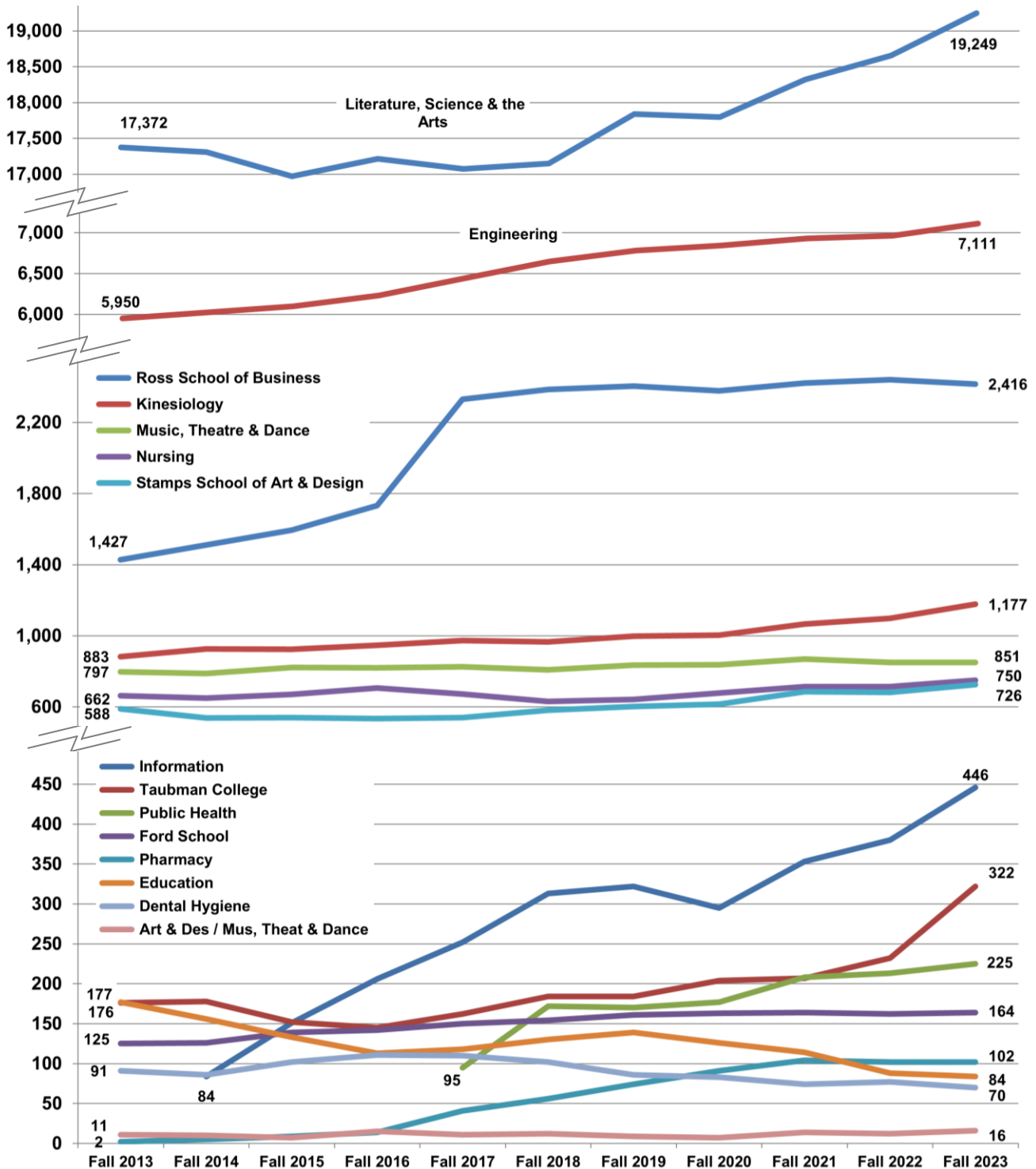
The School of Social Work offers a minor in community action and social change open to undergraduate students from twelve of the university's schools and colleges. The School of Social Work does not have an undergraduate degree program.

¹ The Medical School launched an undergraduate non-degree program in Fall 2015.

² The School of Public Health launched an undergraduate degree program in Fall 2017.

Growth in enrollment over the last 10 years has been largest in LSA, Engineering, Ross Business School and the School of Information.

2.5.3 Undergraduate Student Fall Enrollment 10-Year Trend by School and College, Fall 2013-2023.



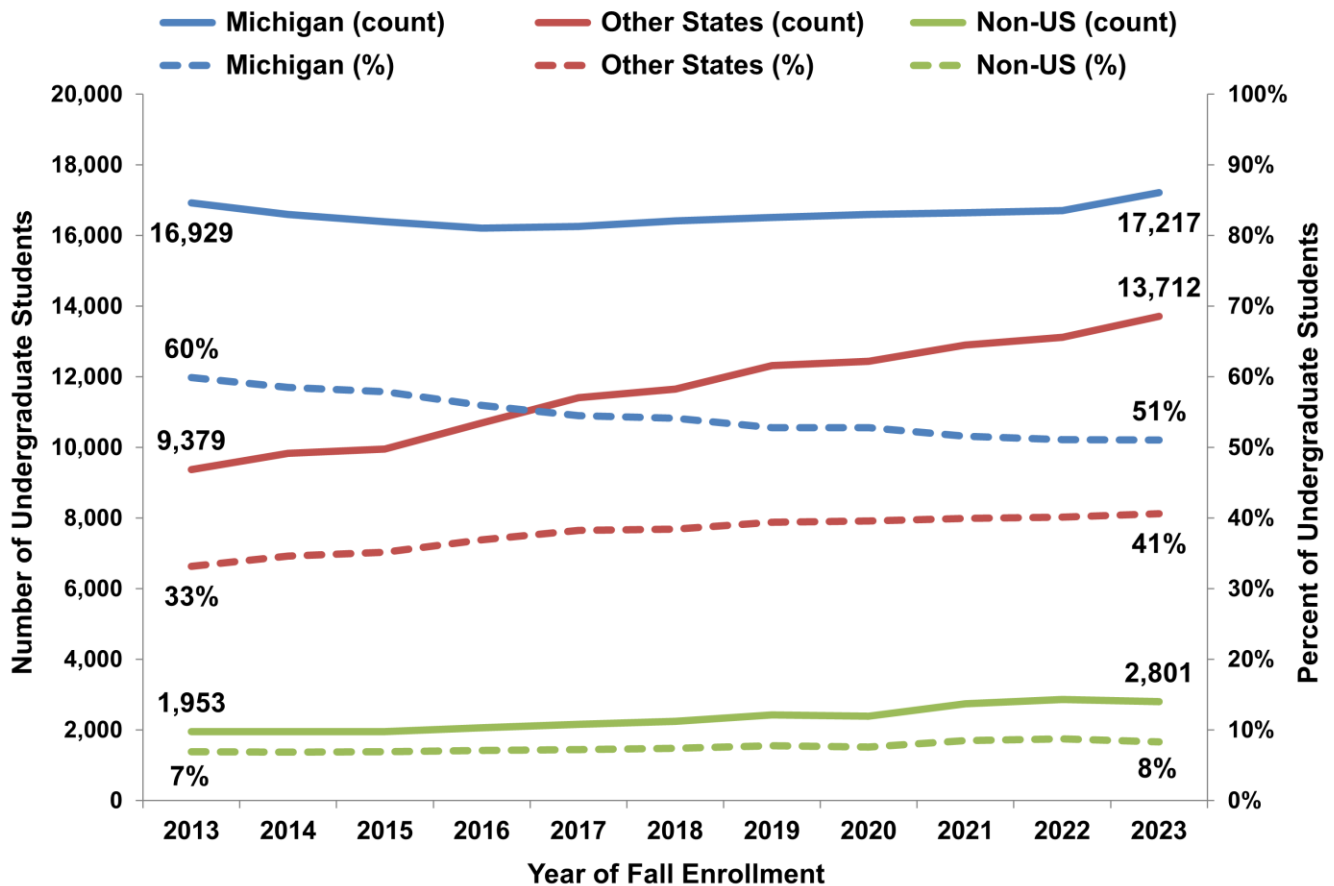
SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

Enrollment counts are excluded from this chart for students in the Medical School MedPrep non-degree program, readmitted students to the SEAS undergraduate program,

and students who started the Pharm.D. program without holding a bachelor's degree.

More than half of U-M undergraduate students are from the state of Michigan.

2.6.1 Geographic Origin of Undergraduate Students by Headcount and Percent, Fall 2013-2023.



SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets

A student’s geographic origin is defined according to the address used in the application for admission and citizenship status. The geographic origin of a student is similar, but not identical, to residency status, which is used to determine tuition to be paid.

The distribution of in-state and out-of-state students among undergraduates can be related to a variety of factors including the economy, the pandemic, state population demographics, and more. One factor of note for U-M is the

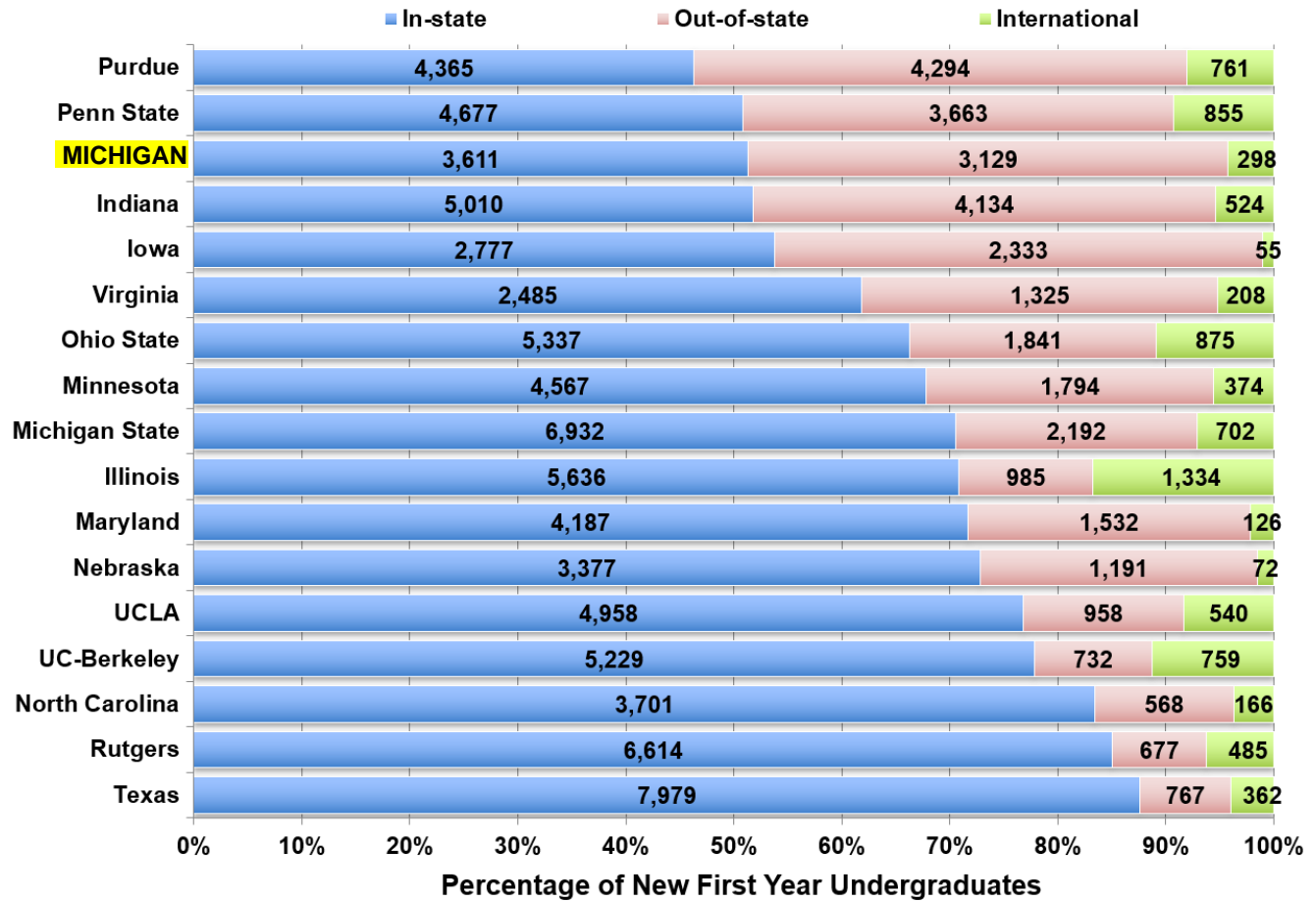
size of the state of Michigan high school graduating class. In 2008, the number of Michigan public high school graduates peaked at 117,487⁷. By 2030, the total number of public high school graduates has been projected to drop to 100,430⁸, about 17 percent below the 2008 peak.

⁷ Student Pathways Aggregate for High Schools (HS Graduation Year 2010-11), Center for Educational Performance and Information, www.michigan.gov/cepi.

⁸ Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, 2020, www.knocking.wiche.edu, Michigan Projection.

Michigan enrolls one of the highest fractions of out-of-state plus international new first-year undergraduate students compared to its public university peers, according to the most recently available data.

2.6.2 Geographic Origin of First-Year Undergraduates, U-M and Public Big Ten and other Peer Institutions⁹, by Headcount, Fall 2022.



SOURCE: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), U-M student records

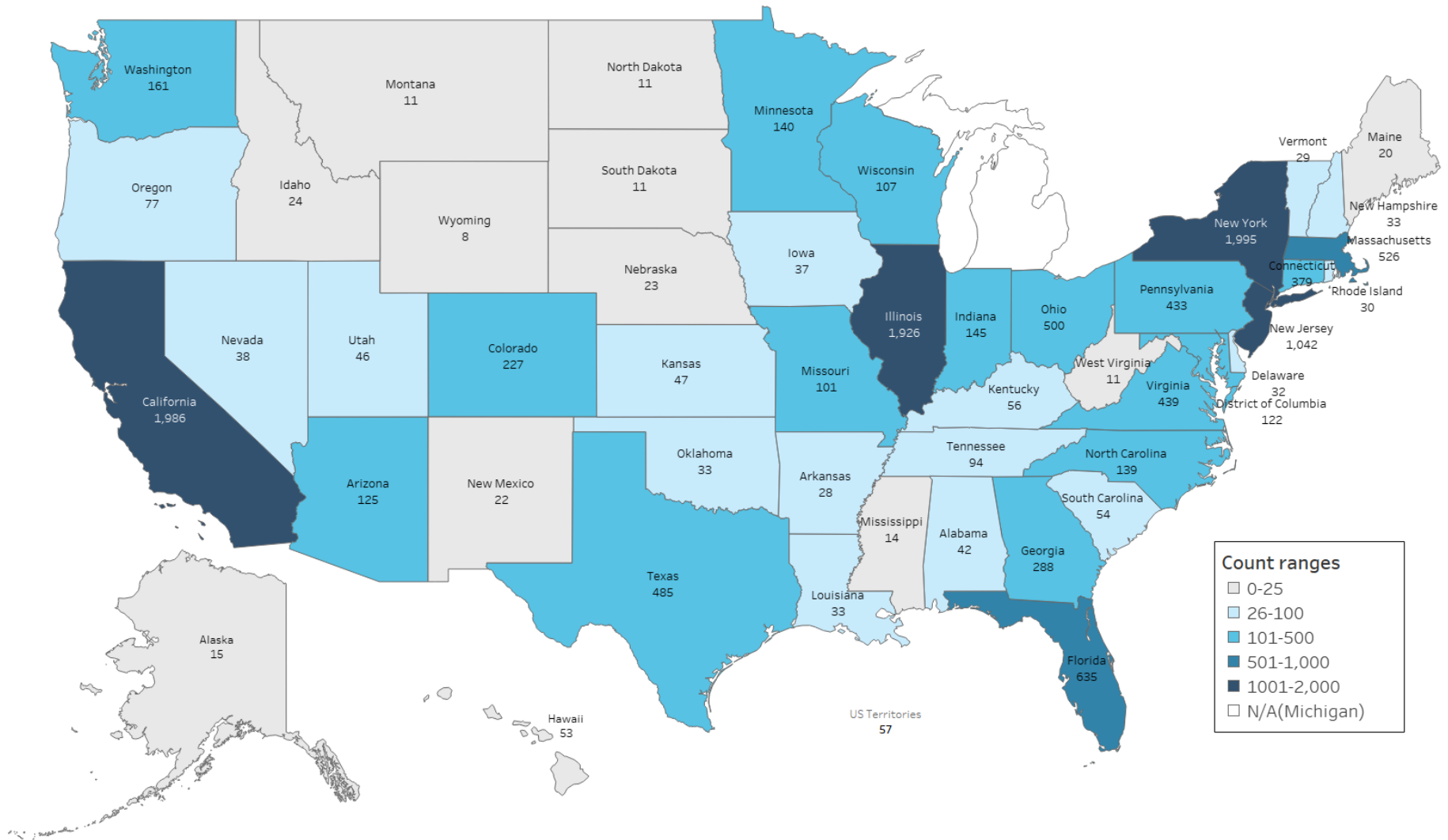
IPEDS collects geographic origin data only for new first-year undergraduate students. Reporting enrollment by geographic origin to IPEDS was optional for Fall 2022. Of U-M peers, University of Washington-Seattle and UCLA did not report undergraduate enrollment by geographic origin to IPEDS. Penn State reports student enrollment data to IPEDS for all

campuses combined; enrollment for the University Park campus is not available.

A list of the public peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

After Michigan, the states of New York, Illinois and California are home to the largest number of U-M undergraduate students.

2.6.4 U-M Undergraduate Student Enrollment by State, Fall 2023.



SOURCE: U-M Student Data Sets