



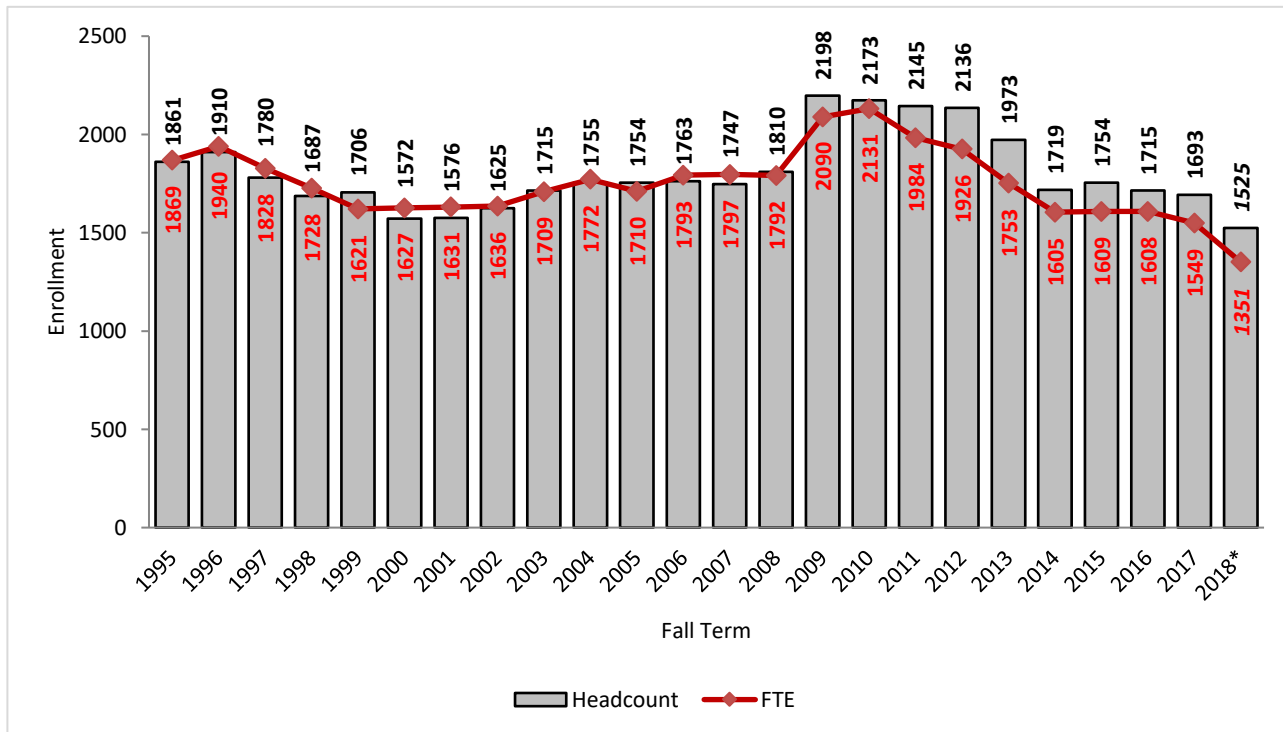
**Longitudinal Enrollment Report**  
Board of Trustees Meeting

October 2018

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## Historical Fall Enrollment



\*2018 enrollment is preliminary, as of 9/24/2018. All other enrollment is official.

**Definition:** **Headcount** is the unduplicated number of students who were enrolled (a student is counted once, no matter how many credits the student is taking). **Full-time equivalent (FTE)** enrollment is the number of credits in which all students are enrolled divided by 12 (the number that represents a full-time load for one term). Enrollment counts all students who were enrolled for at least 12% of their course length.

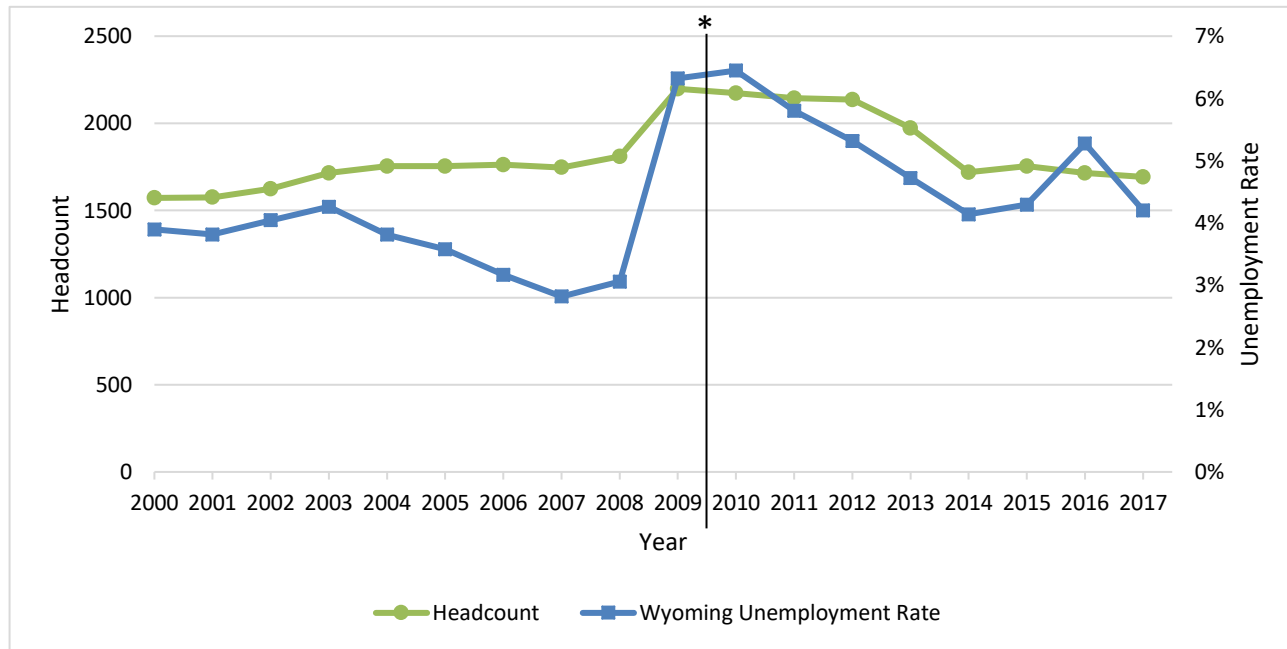
**Summary:** Statistical analysis that Vice President for Academic Affairs Giraud conducted several years ago showed that NWC’s enrollment is closely related to Wyoming unemployment rates. When unemployment rates have increased, NWC’s enrollment has also increased as students attend college when jobs are harder to find.

Prior to NWC's enrollment peak in Fall 2009 and Fall 2010, FTE followed the unduplicated headcount closely. Since then, FTE has been notably lower than the headcount. This is due to the increasing percentage of students taking part-time loads.

Fall 2018 preliminary enrollment is predicted to be the lowest since at least 1995. Across Wyoming, community college enrollment is projected to decrease compared to 2017. Possible reasons for the decrease could include NWC's record graduation rate for the previous year, University of Wyoming's recent enrollment campaign, and low unemployment rates in the region.

Enrollment	Headcount	FTE
1-year change	-10%	-13%
5-year change	-23%	-23%
10-year change	-16%	-25%

## Fall Enrollment Compared to Wyoming Unemployment



*\*Method to calculate unemployment rates changed in 2010, so rates before and after are not comparable.*

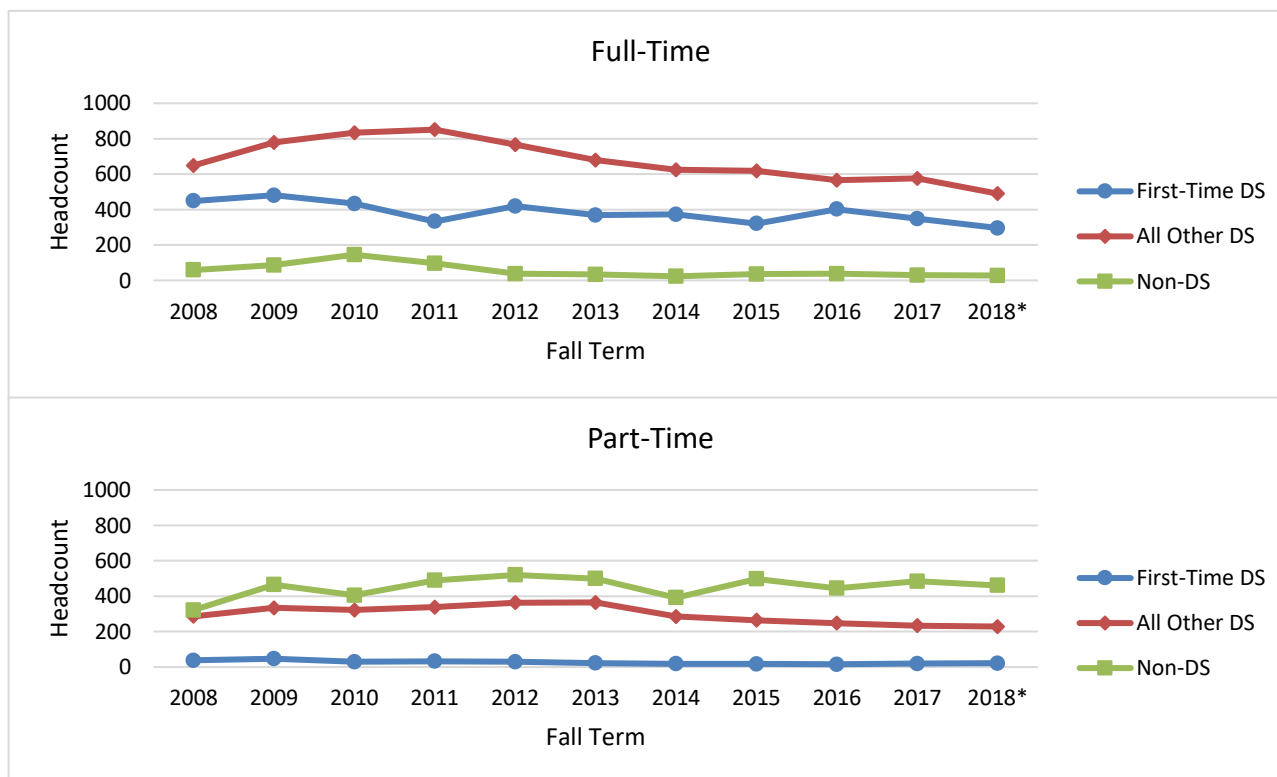
Sources: Enrollment Report to Wyoming Community College Commission; Wyoming Department of Employment Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Definition: Enrollment is the unduplicated headcount of students who were enrolled. Unemployment rates are the annual average civilian labor force estimates for Wyoming and are not seasonally adjusted.

Summary: Periods of high unemployment rates seem to have more of an effect on enrollment than low unemployment rates (there was a 21% increase in headcount from Fall 2008 to Fall 2009, which was also the year in which unemployment spiked).

Regression analysis supports this observation. The economy, as indicated by unemployment rate, has had a significant effect on NWC enrollment since 2000. NWC expected headcount enrollment can be predicted within +/- 6 percent (95% confidence interval) using number of service area high school graduates and unemployment rates from Wyoming, Montana, and the NWC service area (R squared = .906, p = .0001, result of analysis of 2000-2013 data). The error in prediction can be attributed to random or currently unknown or untested factors. The time period represented by the data includes a variety of internal and external changes that might affect enrollment, including changes in statewide policy and funding, increases in tuition and fees, scholarship totals, board of trustee membership, administrative leadership, internal organization, faculty membership, academic and vocational program additions and subtractions, and other events that might randomly affect enrollment in the college. Nevertheless, the results reported above indicate that the state of the economy, as measured by unemployment rate, has a very large effect on NWC enrollment, no matter the other internal and external influences.

## Enrollment by First-Time and Degree-Seeking Status



\*2018 enrollment is preliminary, as of 9/24/2018.

**Definition:** Degree-seeking (DS) students are those majoring in either a degree and/or a certificate program. First-time students are students who have not enrolled in college since graduating from high school (they may have taken concurrent/dual courses in high school). "All Other Degree-Seeking" students include returning, transfer, and readmitted students. Non-degree-seeking students are not pursuing a degree or certificate.

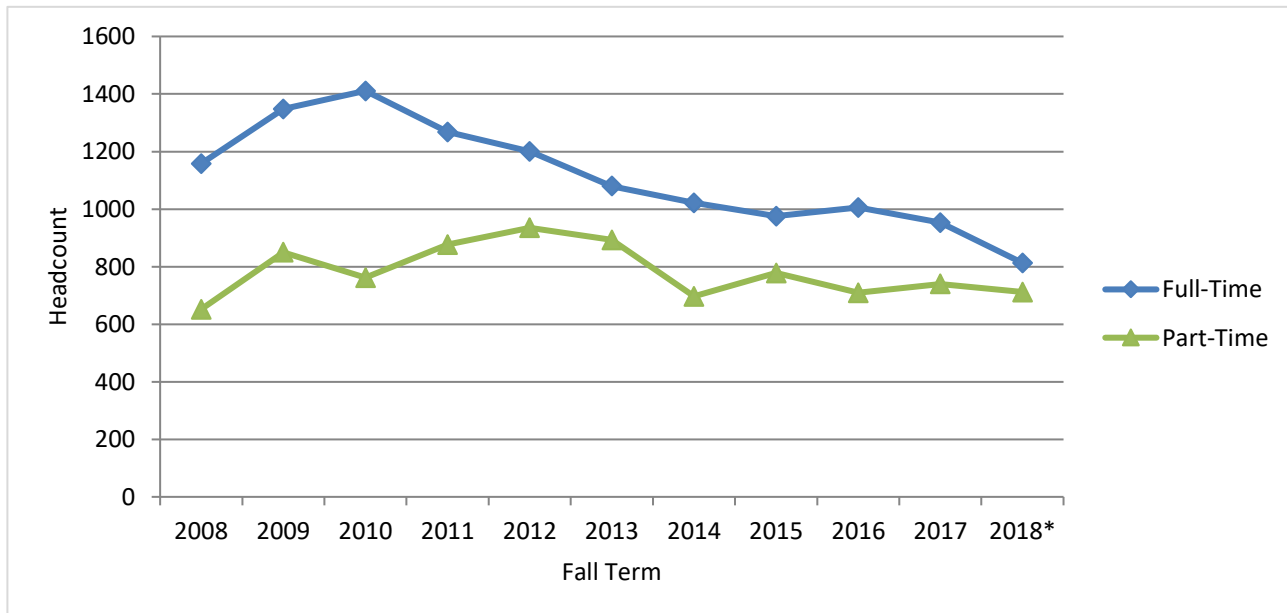
*The method to identify degree-seeking students changed in 2018 to mirror changes at the state level. Results have been recalculated for all years, so this chart will not match previous years' reports.*

**Summary:** Due to its size, the sub-group that has most greatly affected the population over time is "All Other Degree-Seeking". The trend of this group has generally followed the trends of total enrollment and the Wyoming unemployment rate, particularly for full-time students. This is also the group that is most likely to be affected by the increasing graduation rates we've seen in recent years. As students graduate, they are less likely to return as "All Other Degree-Seeking" students.

<b>Full-Time Headcount</b>	<b>First-Time DS</b>	<b>All Other DS</b>	<b>Non-DS</b>	<b>Total</b>
1-year change	-15%	-15%	-7%	-15%
5-year change	-20%	-28%	-18%	-25%
10-year change	-34%	-24%	-54%	-30%

<b>Part-Time Headcount</b>	<b>First-Time DS</b>	<b>All Other DS</b>	<b>Non-DS</b>	<b>Total</b>
1-year change	10%	-2%	-5%	-4%
5-year change	-4%	-37%	-8%	-20%
10-year change	-42%	-20%	43%	10%

## Enrollment by Full-Time/Part-Time Status



*\*2018 enrollment is preliminary, as of 9/24/2018.*

**Definition:** A full-time student is enrolled in 12 credits or more during an enrollment term. A part-time student is enrolled in 0.5 to 11.5 credits. Both degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students are included in this measure.

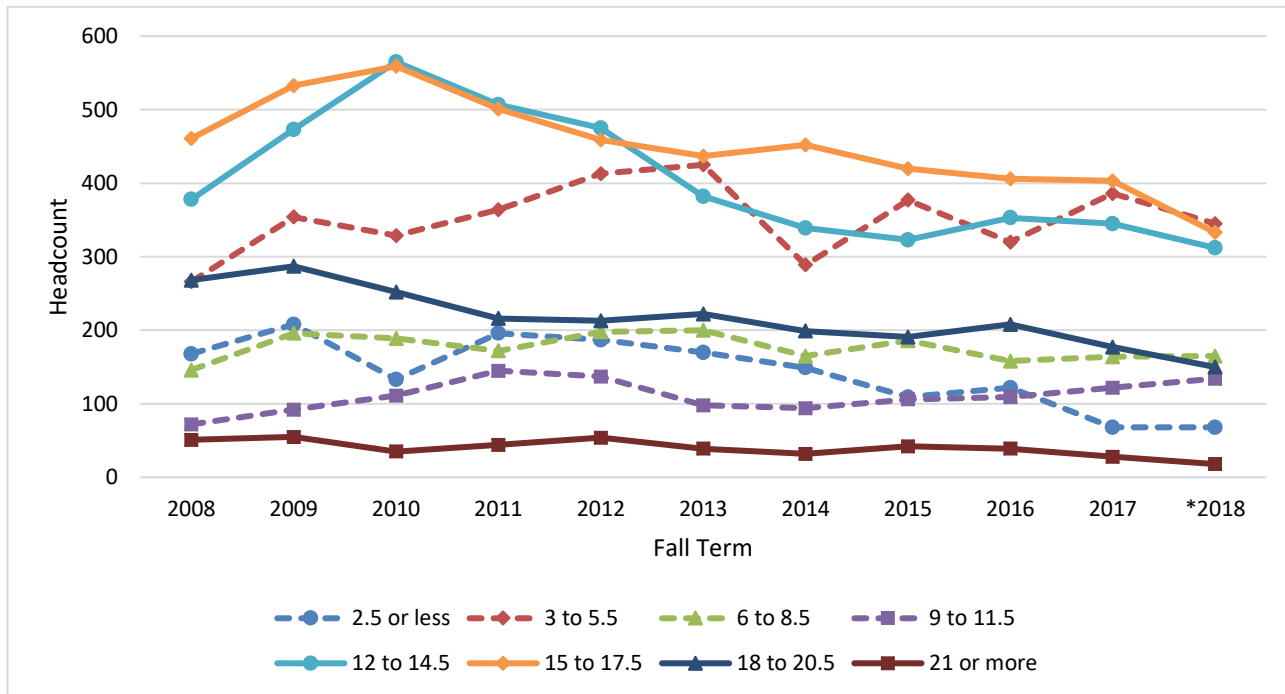
**Summary:** In Fall 2008, full-time students accounted for 64% of total headcount. In Fall 2018, they make up 53% of enrollment.

Students are taking more part-time loads than they did ten years ago. While some of the increase in part-time enrollment is due to concurrent and dual enrollment, this also presents an opportunity to encourage post-high school part-time students to enroll in more credits.

NWC is the only Wyoming college to have a majority full-time enrollment.

<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Total</b>
1-year change	-15%	-4%	-10%
5-year change	-25%	-20%	-23%
10-year change	-30%	9%	-16%

## Enrollment by Credit Hour Load



\*2018 enrollment is preliminary, as of 9/24/2018.

**Definition:** This measure shows how many students (unduplicated headcount) are enrolled in each credit hour range.

**Summary:** Full-time loads are shown with solid lines; part-time loads are shown with dashed lines.

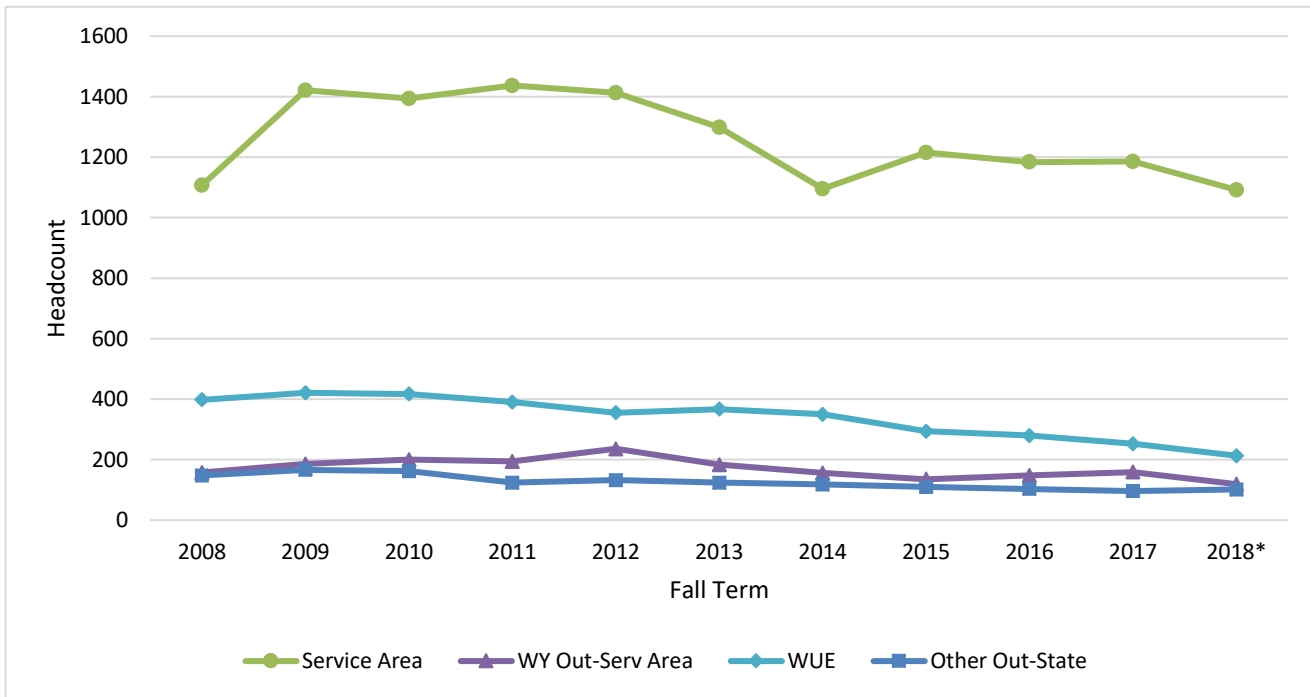
In line with the trend that shows students are taking smaller loads than in the past, this measure shows that the number of students taking full-time loads of 12 or more credits has decreased over the past ten years for all full-time load ranges. With the exception of a decrease in enrollment in 2.5 or fewer credits, part-time load ranges have increased over the past ten years.

Students enrolled in 12 to 14.5 credits and 15 to 17.5 credits account for the largest groups, along with those enrolled in 3 to 5.5 credits.

For the first time in at least ten years, the number of students taking 3 to 5.5 credits was larger than any other credit range. These are typically students taking one or two classes, including many concurrent and dual enrolled students.

Headcount	2.5 or less	3 to 5.5	6 to 8.5	9 to 11.5	12 to 14.5	15 to 17.5	18 to 20.5	21 or more	Total
1-year change	0%	-11%	1%	10%	-10%	-17%	-15%	-36%	-10%
5-year change	-60%	-19%	-18%	37%	-18%	-24%	-32%	-54%	-23%
10-year change	-60%	30%	13%	86%	-17%	-28%	-44%	-65%	-16%

## Enrollment by Residence



\*2018 enrollment is preliminary, as of 9/24/2018.

**Definition:** Residence location is determined by a student's residence county and state. Service area consists of Park, Big Horn, and Washakie counties in Wyoming. Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) states consist of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and the US Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States (Nebraska residents are also given the WUE rate at NWC). Students from other countries and US states outside Wyoming and WUE states are included in Other Out-of-State.

**Summary:** Service area enrollment has driven the overall enrollment trend, which is consistent with the finding that Wyoming unemployment rates and service area high school graduating class sizes most greatly impact NWC's total enrollment. Service area enrollment over the past ten years decreased 1%; however, in that time, there was a substantial increase and decrease. In Fall 2018, 72% of students came from NWC's service area.

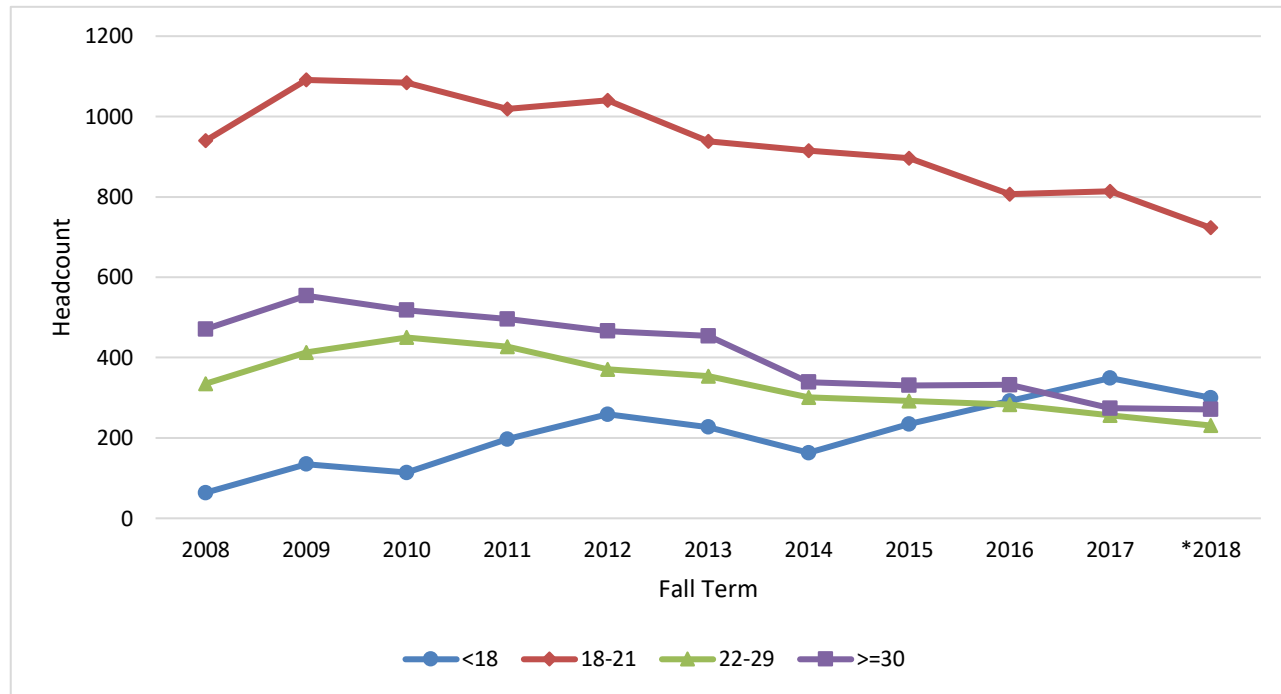
WUE state enrollment has decreased 47% over ten years. WUE state residents accounted for 14% of Fall 2018 enrollment. This presents an opportunity to look at WUE recruitment.

Enrollment from Wyoming counties outside of NWC's service area has decreased 24% over the past ten years. Out-of-state (non-WUE) enrollment has decreased 32%. These populations account for fairly small percentages of overall enrollment: 10% of students came from Wyoming counties outside of the service area and 6% came from non-WUE locations.

Headcount	Service Area	WY Out-of-Serv Area	WUE	Other Out-of-State	Total
1-year change	-8%	-25%	-15%	5%	-10%
5-year change	-16%	-35%	-42%	-19%	-23%
10-year change	-1%	-24%	-46%	-32%	-16%



## Enrollment by Age



\*2018 enrollment is preliminary, as of 9/24/2018.

**Definition:** This measure shows unduplicated headcount enrollment by age.

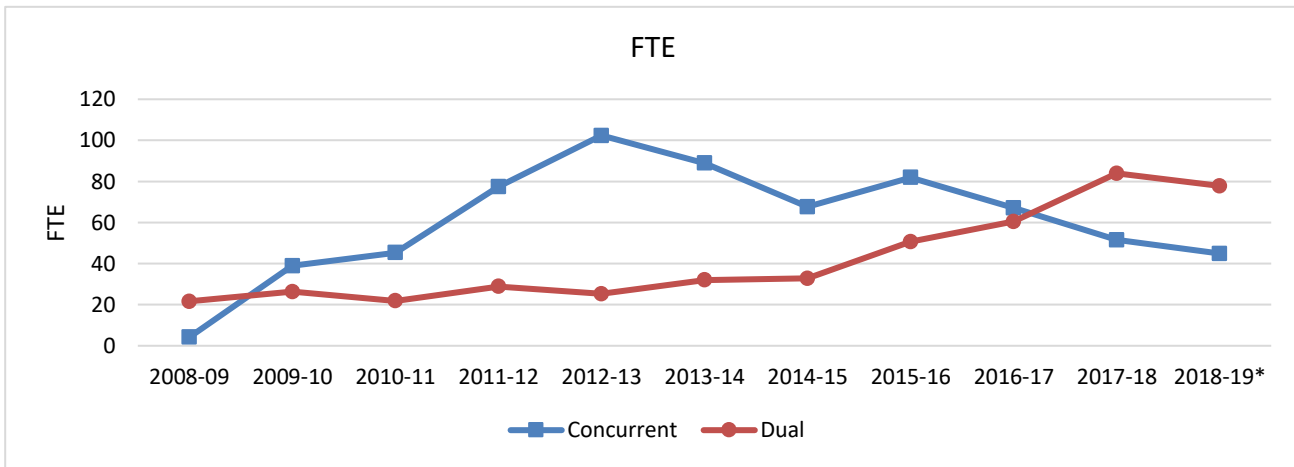
**Summary:** Almost 1/2 of NWC students are 18-21 years old. In Fall 2018, the median age is 19 years, and the average (mean) age is 24.

The number of students under 18 has increased 369% in the past ten years, which corresponds to the advent of concurrent enrollment courses. Dual courses were already in existence at that time but have increased in enrollment over the past ten years.

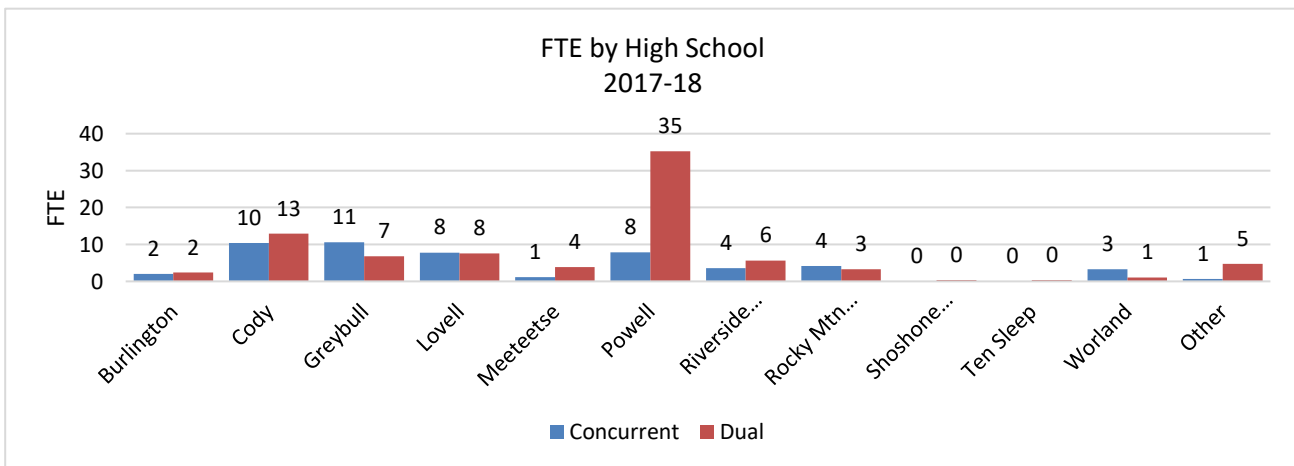
Enrollment of students 18 and older shows increases during the recession years and subsequent decreases after the recession, indicating that they came to college in slightly higher numbers during the recession and returned to the workforce as the recession ended.

<b>Headcount</b>	<b>&lt;18</b>	<b>18-21</b>	<b>22-29</b>	<b>&gt;=30</b>	<b>Total</b>
1-year change	-14%	-11%	-10%	-1%	-10%
5-year change	32%	-23%	-35%	-40%	-23%
10-year change	369%	-23%	-31%	-42%	-16%

## Concurrent and Dual Enrollment



\*2018-19 concurrent FTE is preliminary and only represents Summer and Fall 2018.



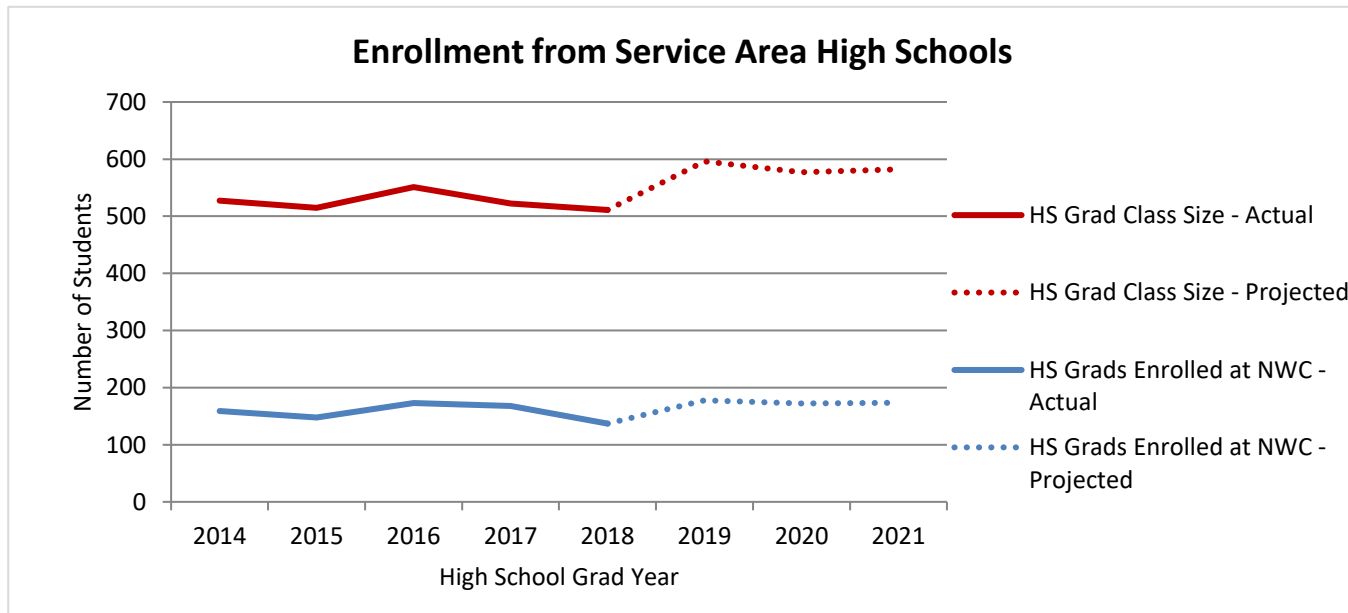
**Definition:** Concurrent students are enrolled in credit courses taught in high schools by college-approved high school teachers. Dual students are enrolled in credit courses taught by NWC faculty. Annual FTE is the sum of enrolled credits divided by 24.

**Summary:** Dual enrollment FTE is projected to have more than tripled from 2008-09 to 2018-19. Concurrent enrollment began with a pilot program in Spring 2009 and was fully implemented at all Big Horn Basin (BHB) high schools in Fall 2009. Declines in concurrent FTE at individual schools are primarily due to changes in high school faculty. As concurrent classes are reduced, students are increasingly opting for dual enrollment.

All service area high schools except Ten Sleep participate in concurrent enrollment; all high schools participate in dual enrollment. Homeschooled students began participating in dual and concurrent enrollment in 2014-15.

<b>FTE</b>	<b>Concurrent</b>	<b>Dual</b>
1-year change	-13%	-7%
5-year change	-49%	143%
10-year change	978%	259%

## Service Area High School Graduates - Overall



\*2018 enrollment is preliminary since the 2018-19 academic year is still in progress. Projected graduating class sizes identified in 2017.

	Actual					Projected		
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019	2020	2021
HS Graduating Class Size	527	515	551	522	511	596	577	582
HS Grads Enrolled at NWC	159	146	173	168	137	178	172	174
% of HS Grads Enrolled at NWC	30%	28%	31%	32%	27%	30%	30%	30%

<b>5-Year Ave (% of HS Grads Enrolled at NWC):</b>	<b>30%</b>
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Definition: This measure shows actual and projected numbers of:

- service area high school graduating class sizes
- students from the high schools who attended (or are expected to attend) NWC within a year following high school graduation.

Actual graduating class sizes were obtained from final high school transcripts. Projected class sizes were obtained by Admissions Office from high school staff. The projected number of graduates who will enroll at NWC was calculated by taking the average enrollment yield over the past five years and multiplying by the projected high school class sizes.

Service area high schools are the eleven public high schools within Park, Big Horn, and Washakie counties, including Shoshone Learning Center.

Summary: Over the past five years, 30% of service area high school graduates have enrolled at NWC within a year of graduation. Assuming this enrollment yield will continue and class sizes remain the same, NWC can expect to see a slight increase in enrollment from service area high schools in the next three years.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the 2018 graduating class attended NWC the following year. This will likely increase slightly as students enroll for spring; however, it is lower than in the previous four years.

## Service Area High School Graduates - By High School

**Percent of High School Graduates Enrolled at NWC**

School	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	5-Yr Ave
Burlington	41%	38%	30%	35%	26%	34%
Cody	28%	28%	30%	28%	28%	28%
Greybull	32%	20%	17%	31%	17%	23%
Lovell	29%	42%	50%	40%	39%	40%
Meeteetse	30%	63%	30%	8%	0%	24%
Powell	48%	43%	49%	59%	41%	48%
Riverside (Basin)	35%	30%	39%	20%	29%	31%
Rocky Mtn (Cowley)	29%	32%	25%	37%	23%	29%
Shoshone Learning Center	n/a	20%	30%	18%	56%	26%
Ten Sleep	n/a	17%	11%	0%	0%	7%
Worland	13%	5%	16%	16%	6%	11%
<b>Average</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>30%</b>

\*2018 information is preliminary since the 2018-19 academic year is still in progress.

**Blue** - percent of high school graduates enrolled at NWC was **HIGHER** than year's average.

**Orange** - percent of high school graduates enrolled at NWC was **LOWER** than year's average.

**High School Graduating Class Sizes**

School	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Burlington	27	16	20	17	19
Cody	168	141	162	132	136
Greybull	38	46	48	48	42
Lovell	45	48	50	42	51
Meeteetse	10	8	10	13	8
Powell	88	103	92	104	107
Riverside (Basin)	20	20	31	20	21
Rocky Mtn (Cowley)	41	25	32	27	31
Shoshone Learning Center	8	20	10	11	9
Ten Sleep	5	6	9	12	9
Worland	77	82	87	96	78
<b>Average</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>511</b>

Source: NWC Admissions Office (High School Transcripts or projected class sizes)

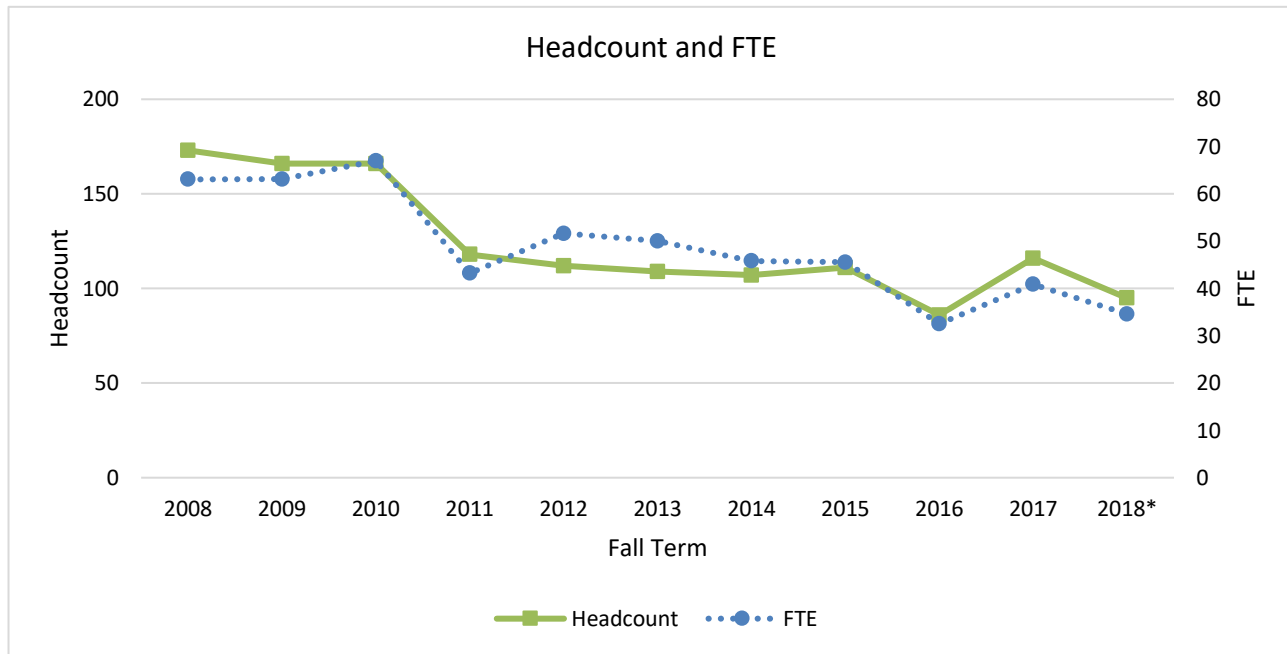
**Definition:** This measure shows the percentage of high school graduates who enrolled at NWC in the academic year following high school graduation. Service area includes Big Horn, Park, and Washakie counties.

**Summary:** Over the past five years, almost 1/3 of service area high school graduates have enrolled at NWC within a year of graduation.

- **Highest:** Powell (48% of grads), Lovell (40%)
- **Middle:** Burlington (34%), Riverside (31%), Rocky Mountain (29%), Cody (28%), Shoshone Learning Center (26%), Meeteetse (24%), Greybull (23%)
- **Lowest:** Worland (11%), Ten Sleep (7%)

The largest senior classes are from Cody, Powell, and Worland, so percentages of enrollment from these schools have a greater effect on the overall service area percentage of enrollment than the smaller schools.

## Enrollment at Cody Center



\*2018 enrollment is preliminary, as of 9/26/2018.

**Definition:** This measure counts headcount and FTE for students enrolled in credit classes at the Cody Center. Concurrent enrollment (taken by high school students in the high schools) and non-credit enrollment are not included.

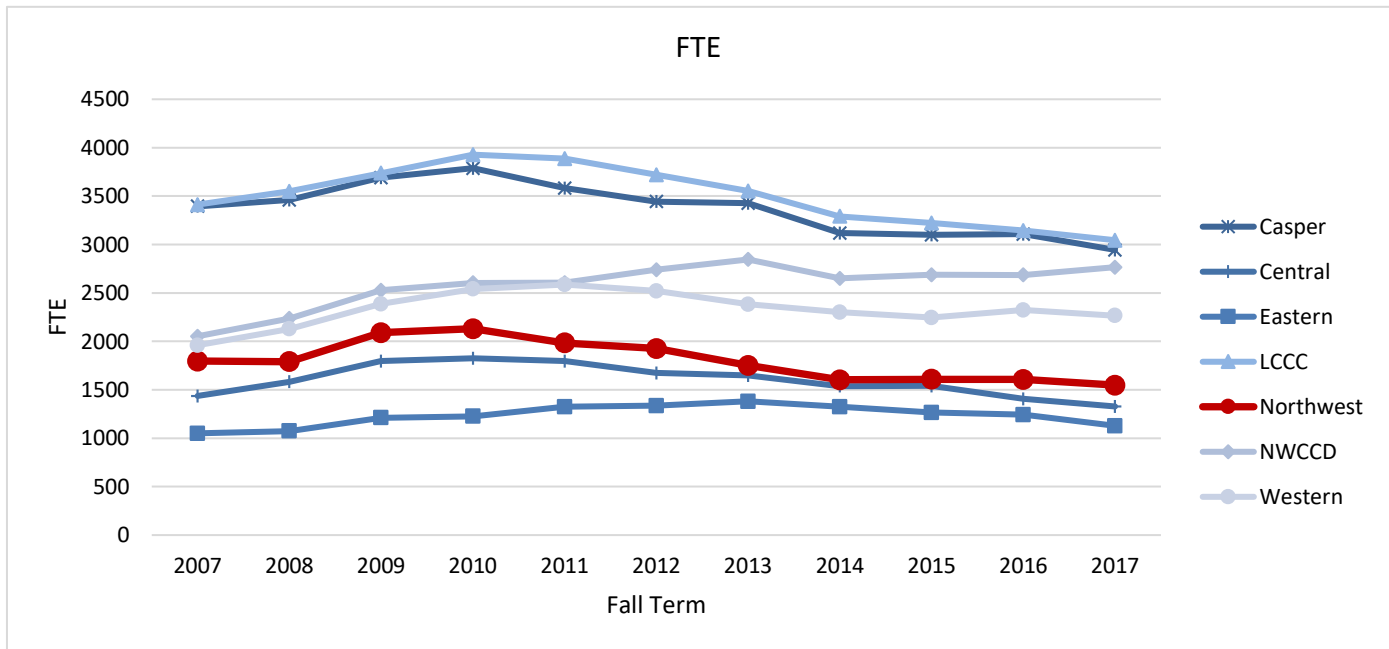
**Summary:** Headcount and FTE at the Cody Center have decreased by 45% over ten years.

The Cody Center's enrollment decrease in 2011 follows the overall NWC population decrease that year. This may be due to the economic environment improving that year, as a previous NWC study found that unemployment rates and college enrollment are related to each other.

In the past several years, there has been turnover in positions at the Cody Center, which likely also impacted enrollment. A permanent position was allocated in Spring 2018 to manage Cody Center credit and non-credit offerings.

<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
1-year change	-18%	-15%
5-year change	-13%	-31%
10-year change	-45%	-45%

## Wyoming Community College Enrollment - Fall



**Fall 2018 statewide results not available until February 2019.**

Source: Wyoming Community College Commission Enrollment Reports

**Definition:** This measure shows a comparison of fall FTE for NWC and the other six Wyoming community colleges.

**Summary:** NWC's fall enrollment has historically been the third lowest of the Wyoming community colleges, above Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) and Central Wyoming College (CWC). In Fall 2017, NWC FTE accounted for 10% of total community college enrollment.

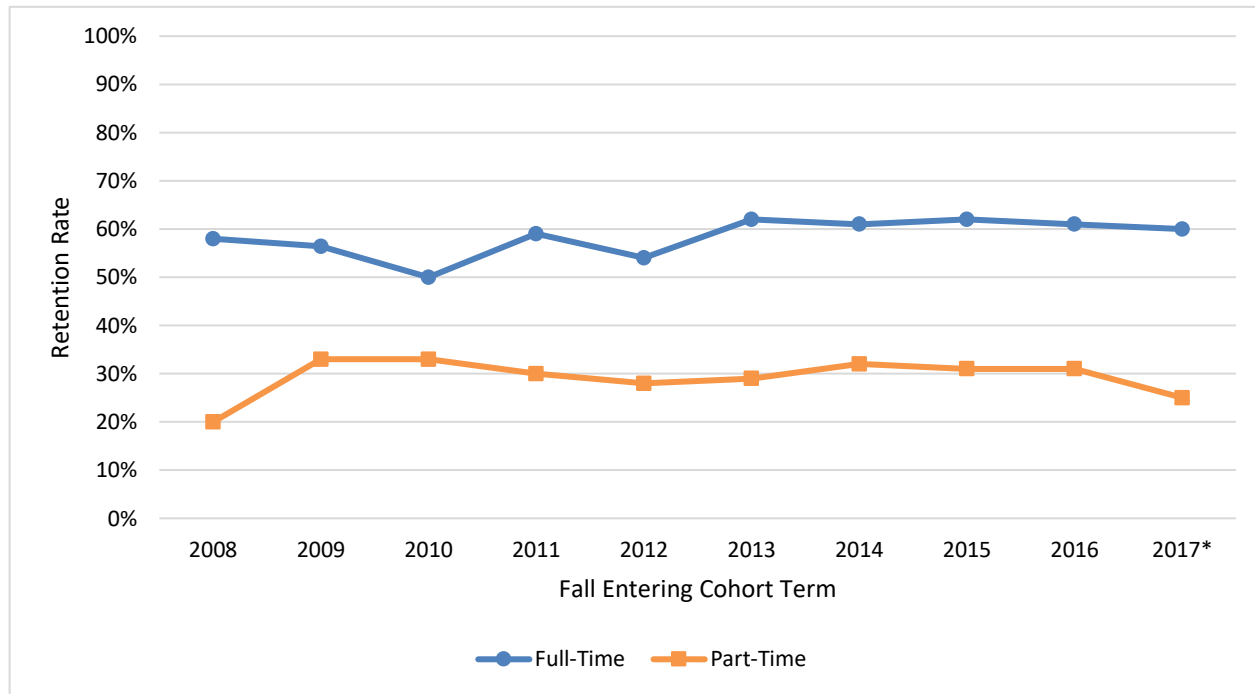
NWC FTE decreased 14% since 2007, compared to a flat state ten-year change. NWC headcount decreased 3%, compared to the state average decrease of 2%.

Though NWC's enrollment is among the lowest in Wyoming, students take larger credit loads at NWC than at the other colleges, which boosts NWC's FTE. NWC has historically been the only Wyoming college with a majority full-time enrollment.

*\*Note percent changes are based on Fall 2017 as most recent official snapshot. Fall 2018 results not available until February 2019.*

<b>Headcount</b>	<b>NWC</b>	<b>All Colleges</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>NWC</b>	<b>All Colleges</b>
1-year change	-1%	0%	1-year change	-4%	-3%
5-year change	-21%	-12%	5-year change	-20%	-13%
10-year change	-3%	-2%	10-year change	-14%	0%

## Fall-to-Fall Retention Rate



\*Fall 2017 retention rate is preliminary, as of 9/21/2018.

Source: WCCC Performance Indicators Report (2016 forward); IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey (2015 and prior); similar methods used for both.

**Definition:** Fall-to-fall retention rate is the percentage of students who enrolled in college for the first time in one fall term (cohort fall) and either are still enrolled in or completed their program of study by the following fall term at NWC. This measure is only calculated for first-time, degree-seeking students.

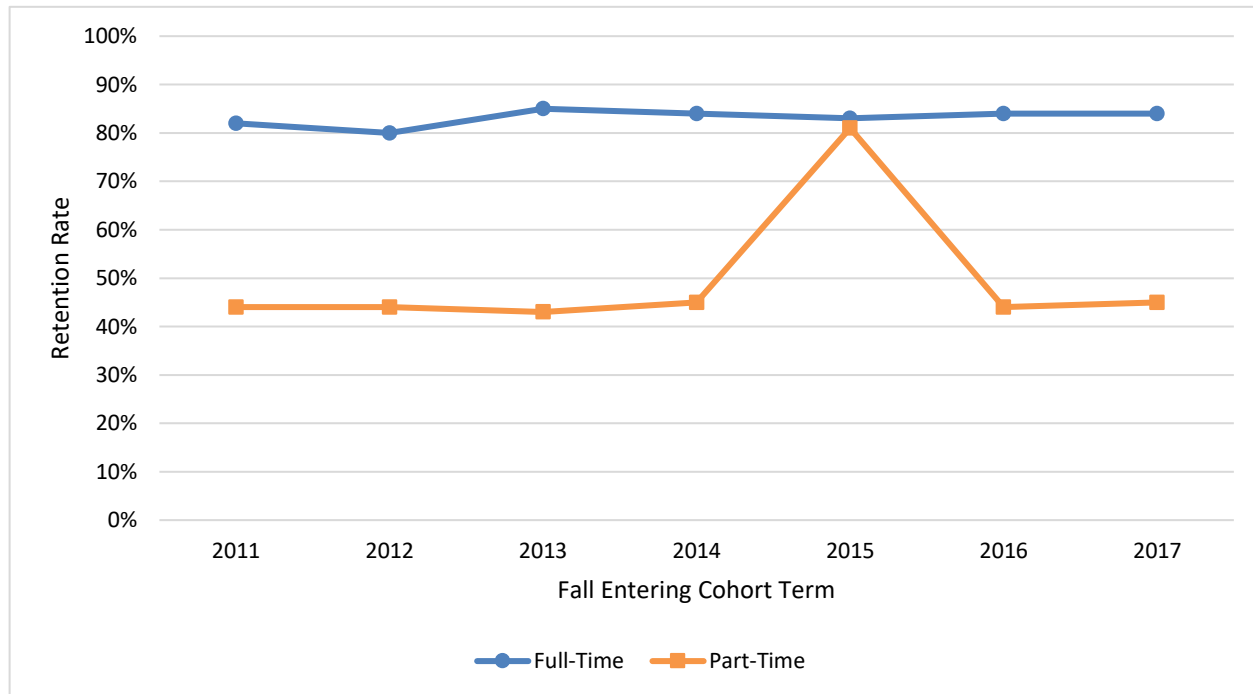
**Summary:** Historically, the full-time fall-to-fall retention rate at NWC has been in the upper 50%-low 60% range, with the exception of the Fall 2010 and Fall 2012 cohorts. On average over the past ten years, there have been 406 students in each fall's full-time, first-time, degree-seeking cohort.

NWC's part-time fall-to-fall retention rate has hovered around 30% since the Fall 2009 cohort, though it dipped down to 25% for the Fall 2017 cohort. The part-time retention rate should be viewed cautiously, as it is based on a small number of students (20 students in Fall 2017 cohort).

Part-time retention rates tend to be lower than full-time nationwide. Possible reasons include that part-time students are more likely to have family and work responsibilities that may cause them not to attend sequential semesters. Part-time students also may not engage the support services or develop the relationships with other students, faculty, and staff that could encourage continuing enrollment.

Wyoming community college comparisons are not yet available for the Fall 2017 cohort, but for the Fall 2016 cohort, NWC had the second highest full-time retention rate in the state. NWC's full-time rates are comparable to national rates, which have ranged from 58-62% for the most recent ten years.

## Fall-to-Spring Retention Rate



Source: WCCC Performance Indicators Report (2016 forward); IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey (2015 and prior); similar methods used for both.

**Definition:** Fall-to-spring retention rate is the percentage of students who enrolled in college for the first time in one fall term (cohort fall) and either are still enrolled in or completed their program of study by the following spring term at NWC. This measure is only calculated for first-time, degree-seeking students.

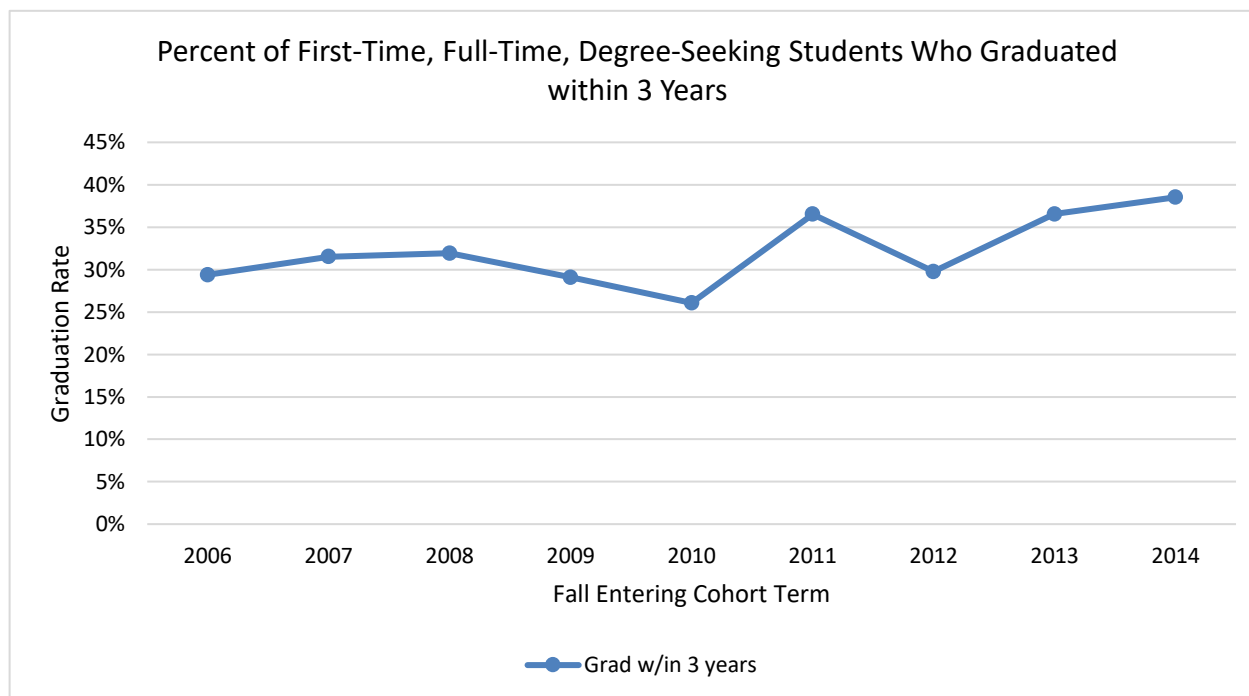
**Summary:** The full-time fall-to-spring retention rate at NWC has ranged from 80-85% since NWC began calculating it in Fall 2011.

NWC's part-time fall-to-spring retention rate has typically been around 44%. Small fluctuations in the number of returning students can make a large difference in the part-time rate, as seen with the Fall 2015 rate, because the number of part-time, first-time students is so small. The Fall 2017 cohort consisted of 20 students. The part-time retention rate should be viewed cautiously.

Part-time retention rates tend to be lower than full-time. Possible reasons include that part-time students are more likely to have family and work responsibilities that may cause them not to attend sequential semesters. Part-time students also may not engage the support services or develop the relationships with other students, faculty, and staff that could encourage continuing enrollment.



## Graduation Rates



Source: IPEDS Graduation Rates Survey

**Definition:** Graduation rate (a.k.a. "completion rate") is the percentage of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who enter in one fall term (cohort fall) and graduate in a degree or certificate program within 150% of normal time to completion (i.e., 3 years for an associate degree).

**Summary:** For three of the most recent four cohorts, NWC's graduation rate has been the highest since the college has been tracking it, at 37% for the Fall 2011 and 2013 cohorts and 39% for the Fall 2014 cohort.

During these years, NWC incorporated robust retention and completion initiatives, such as implementing 15-to-Finish, first-year seminars, the Advising Center, the HERO grant, identification of and connections with at-risk students, co-requisite math and English courses, and Help Alerts.

Wyoming community college comparisons are not yet available for the Fall 2014 cohort, but for the Fall 2013 cohort, NWC tied for the third highest graduation rate in the state. From the Fall 2006 cohort forward, NWC has had graduation rates that were higher than or equal to the state average for every fall cohort, except Fall 2010.

National graduation rates for the most recent ten years at public, two-year institutions ranged from 21% to 25%. NWC has been well above the national average every year.