

Graduation Rate Report

April 2019

The 17 members of the Minnesota Private College Council have long been leaders in graduating students on time. This report examines graduation rates for the fall 2011 first-time, full-time cohort, and includes statewide and national comparisons and trends over time.

Highlights

- Our 17 member institutions have a combined four-year graduation rate of 67%.
 - This compares to 55% at the University of Minnesota (all campuses), 64% at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and 26% at the Minnesota State universities (see pages 3 and 5).
 - Our four-year graduation rate is the third highest in the nation, coming in just behind the graduation rate for nonprofit colleges and universities in D.C. and Rhode Island. And our four-year graduation rate is higher than the public four-year institutions in every state (see pages 6 and 7).
- Our student of color four-year graduation rate of 54% is the highest in the state and higher than the national average of 42% for nonprofits nationwide (see page 4).

Our students graduate sooner, saving them time and money

With the highest four-year graduation rate in the state, most of our students graduate on time, which means they can stop paying tuition and start working or attend graduate school. When a student takes longer to graduate, there are additional costs to factor in. Looking across sectors, students at Minnesota Private Colleges are more likely to graduate in four year than students at the University of Minnesota or Minnesota State universities.

When calculating the true cost of earning a bachelor's degree for graduates at the University of Minnesota or Minnesota State universities, you need to account for the one or two additional years of tuition. You also need to consider the opportunity cost of forgone earnings, which averaged \$38,209 for 2014-15 graduates who earned a bachelor's degree and were working in Minnesota two years after graduation.¹ For those students who take two extra years to graduate, that's more than \$76,000 in lost earnings.

Productivity at Minnesota Private Colleges

With the highest graduation rate in the state, Minnesota Private Colleges are more efficient in producing college graduates, which means our students are able to enter the workforce sooner. This productivity is illustrated by the fact that over 8,000 more first-time students started at public four-year institutions than at Minnesota Private Colleges in fall 2011, but those institutions only produced 1,000 more graduates four years later (see page 8).

¹ Graduate Employment Outcomes Data Tool, mn.gov/deed/geo

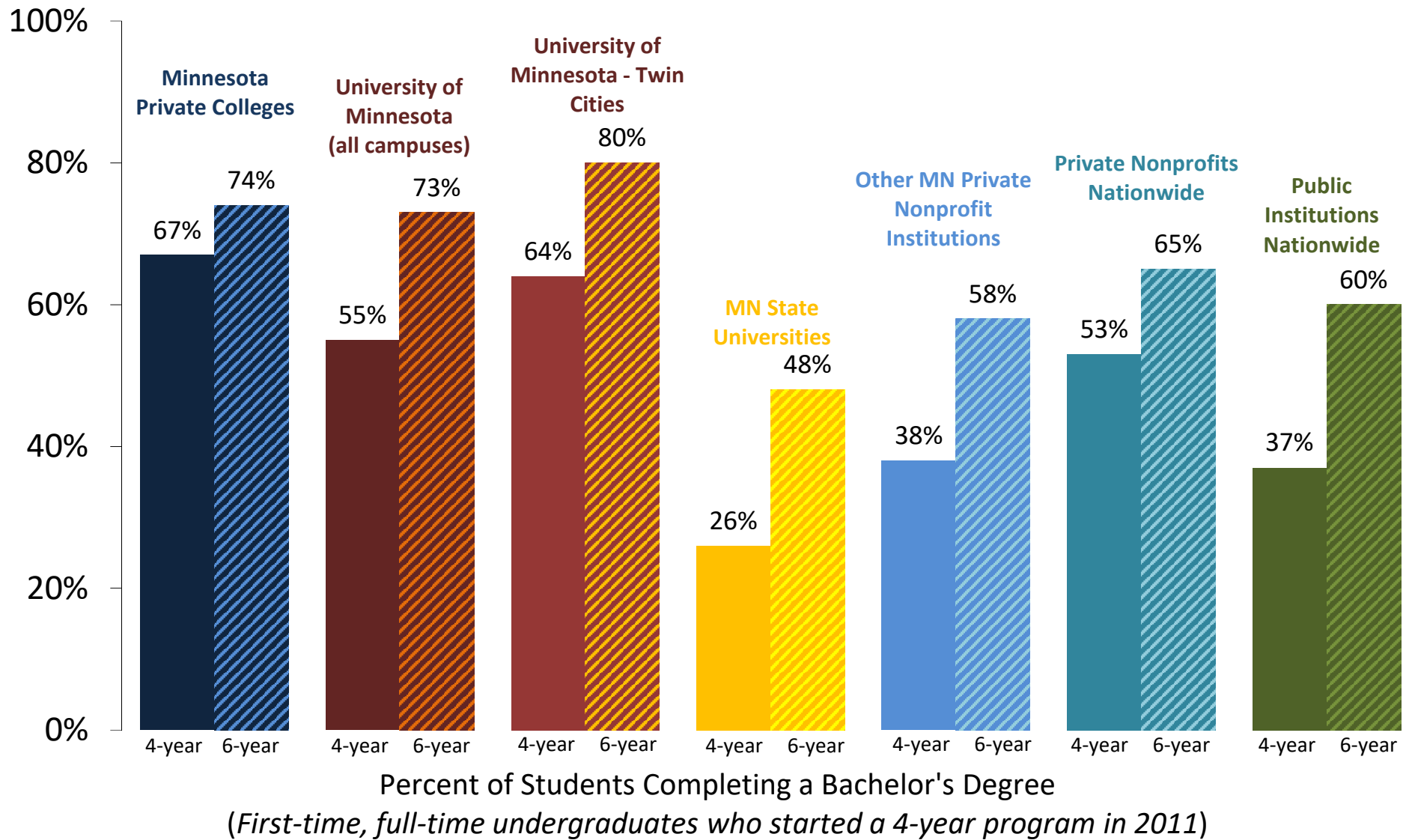
Four-year Completion Rates

The four-year completion rate is another measure that demonstrates the high on-time graduation rates at the Minnesota Private Colleges. Starting with the fall 2011 first-time, full-time cohort and looking at all those who graduated within six years from the institution they started at, 90% of Minnesota Private Colleges' graduates finished in four years, compared to 76% at the University of Minnesota and 55% at Minnesota State universities (see page 9). Put another way, only 10% of the Minnesota Private Colleges' graduates from the fall 2011 cohort took more than four years to graduate, compared to 24% at the University of Minnesota and 45% at Minnesota State universities.

Graduation and Retention Rates, a statewide and national perspective over time

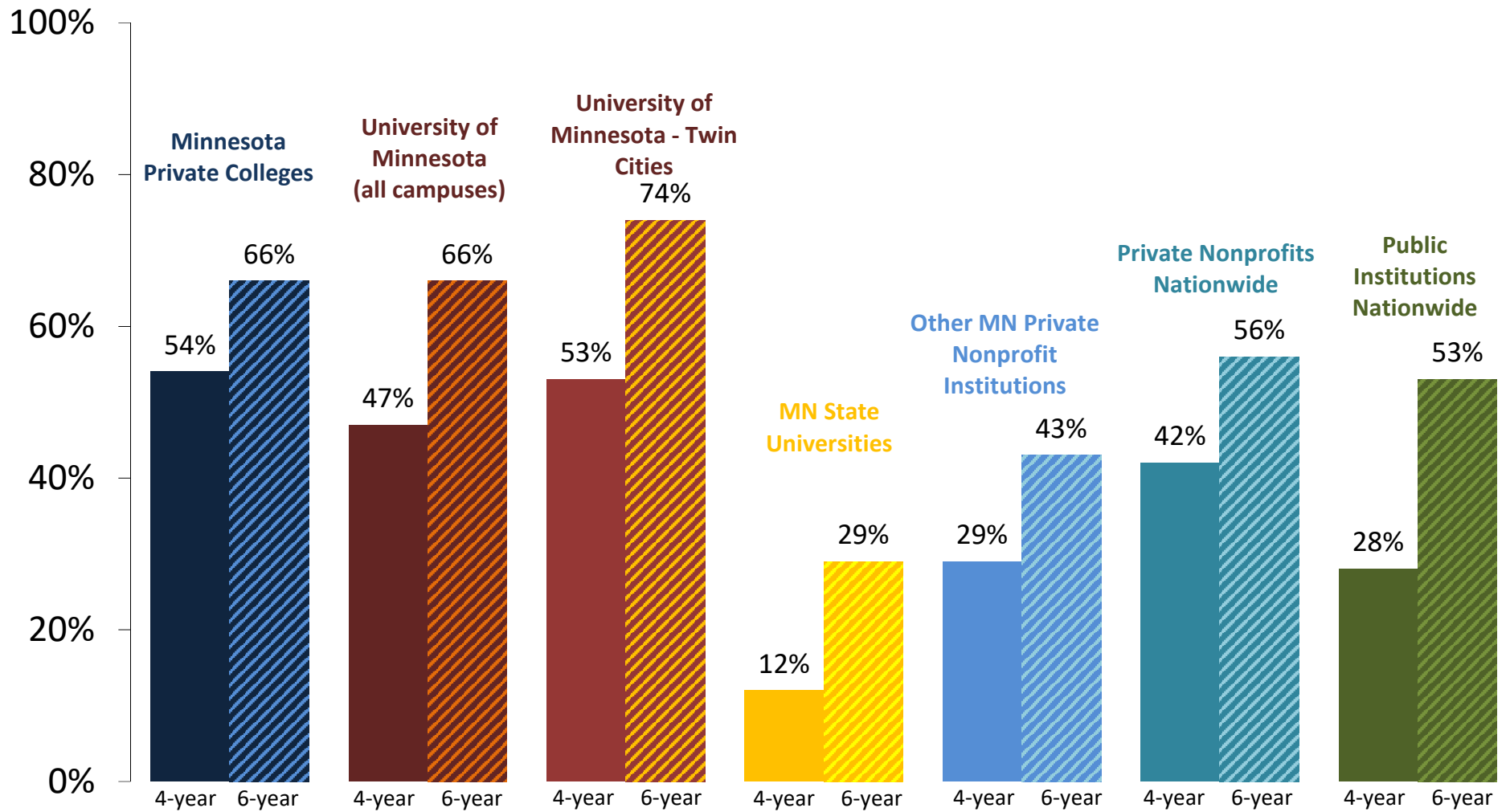
Minnesota Private Colleges' combined graduation rate of 67% has been fairly steady over the past decade, increasing from 65% for the fall 2001 cohort to 67% for the fall 2011 cohort (see page 10). The four-year graduation rate for the University of Minnesota increased by 22 percentage points compared to the fall 2001 cohort, from 33% to 55%. This increase has been driven by the rising four-year graduation rate at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, which rose to 64% for the fall 2011 cohort, up from 41% for the fall 2001 cohort. The four-year graduation rate for Minnesota State universities has increased over the past decade, from 19% for the fall 2001 cohort, up to 26% for the fall 2011 cohort. Minnesota Private Colleges' combined graduation rate has consistently been higher than the average for private nonprofits nationwide, which was 53% for the fall 2011 cohort (see page 11).

Graduation Rates at Minnesota and US Institutions by Sector



Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS 2011 Cohort

Student of Color Graduation Rates at Minnesota and US Institutions by Sector



Percent of Students Completing a Bachelor's Degree

(First-time, full-time undergraduates who started a 4-year program in 2011)

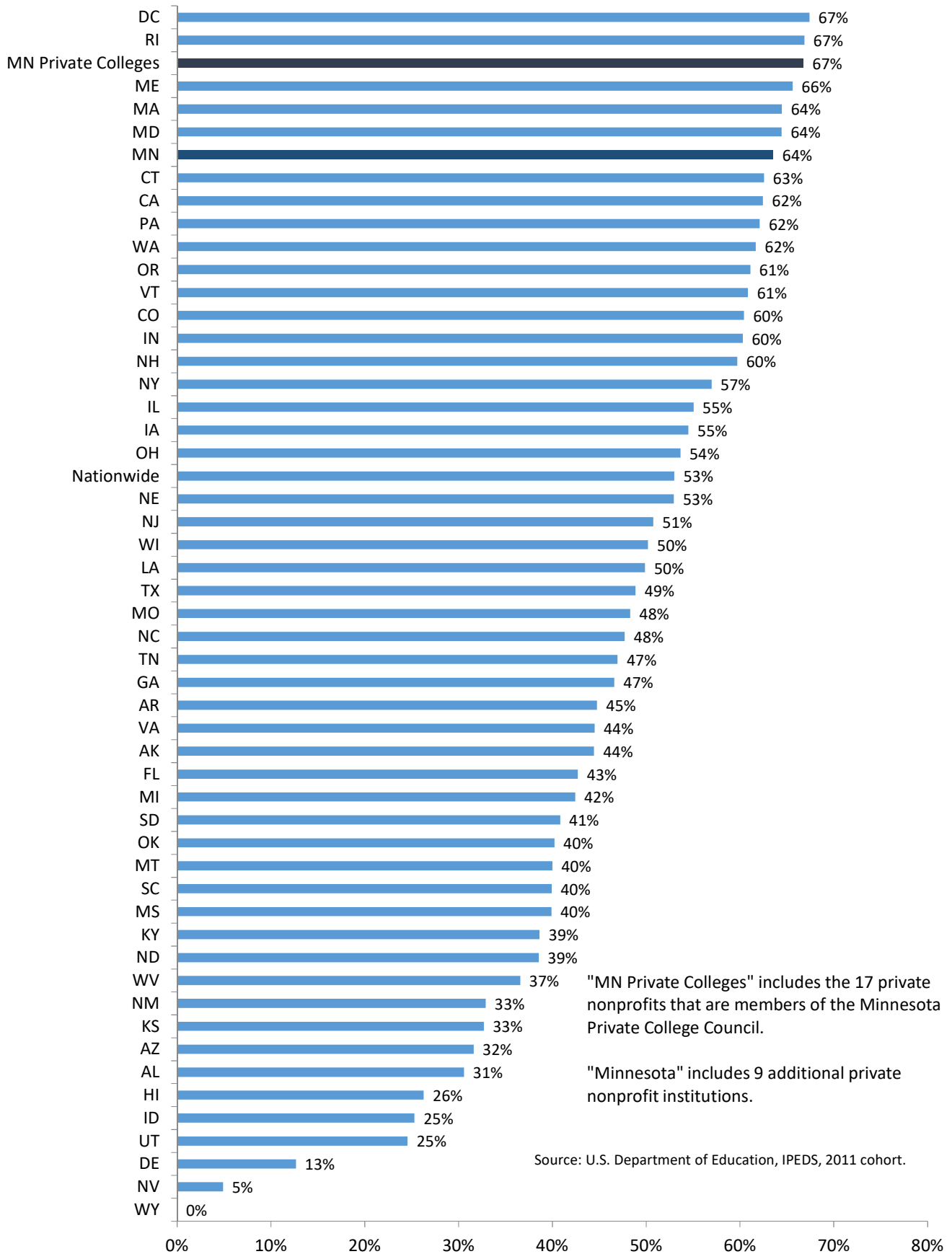
2016-17 Minnesota Postsecondary Graduation Rates by Sector by Race (Cohort started in fall 2011)

		Grand Total	White	Students of Color & Native American	Native American	Asian	Black or African American	Latinx	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Unknown Race/ Ethnicity	International
Minnesota Private Colleges	Bachelor's or equivalent adjusted cohort	8,748	6,764	1,410	35	459	327	317	3	269	236	338
	4-year graduation rate	67%	70%	54%	37%	58%	42%	58%	67%	60%	55%	64%
	5-year graduation rate	73%	75%	63%	57%	68%	55%	66%	67%	65%	61%	72%
	6-year graduation rate	74%	76%	66%	63%	70%	57%	69%	67%	67%	64%	74%
University of Minnesota	Bachelor's or equivalent adjusted cohort	8,258	6,497	1,376	47	592	216	226	6	289	38	347
	4-year graduation rate	55%	57%	47%	32%	48%	39%	46%	33%	53%	42%	55%
	5-year graduation rate	70%	71%	63%	45%	64%	60%	59%	50%	68%	66%	75%
	6-year graduation rate	73%	73%	66%	47%	68%	66%	63%	50%	70%	71%	81%
Minnesota State Universities	Bachelor's or equivalent adjusted cohort	8,579	7,125	1,107	39	268	338	245	11	206	150	197
	4-year graduation rate	26%	28%	12%	5%	13%	7%	17%	18%	16%	26%	33%
	5-year graduation rate	43%	46%	24%	13%	29%	14%	30%	18%	26%	47%	53%
	6-year graduation rate	48%	51%	29%	18%	39%	20%	33%	18%	32%	57%	60%
Other MN Private Nonprofit Colleges (4-Year)	Bachelor's or equivalent adjusted cohort	1,072	909	134	1	41	27	34	1	30	14	15
	4-year graduation rate	38%	39%	29%	100%	29%	15%	32%	na	37%	29%	27%
	5-year graduation rate	51%	53%	38%	100%	41%	22%	38%	na	43%	29%	47%
	6-year graduation rate	58%	60%	43%	100%	49%	26%	44%	na	47%	43%	67%
Private For-profit Colleges (4-Year)	Bachelor's or equivalent adjusted cohort	34	23	11	1	0	8	1	0	1	0	0
	4-year graduation rate	18%	17%	18%	0%	na	25%	0%	na	0%	na	na
	5-year graduation rate	18%	17%	18%	0%	na	25%	0%	na	0%	na	na
	6-year graduation rate	21%	22%	18%	0%	na	25%	0%	na	0%	na	na
Grand Total	Bachelor's or equivalent adjusted cohort	26,691	21,318	4,038	123	1,360	916	823	21	795	438	897
	4-year graduation rate	49%	51%	39%	25%	44%	28%	41%	29%	45%	43%	53%
	5-year graduation rate	62%	63%	51%	38%	58%	40%	52%	38%	55%	56%	68%
	6-year graduation rate	65%	66%	55%	42%	62%	44%	55%	38%	58%	62%	74%

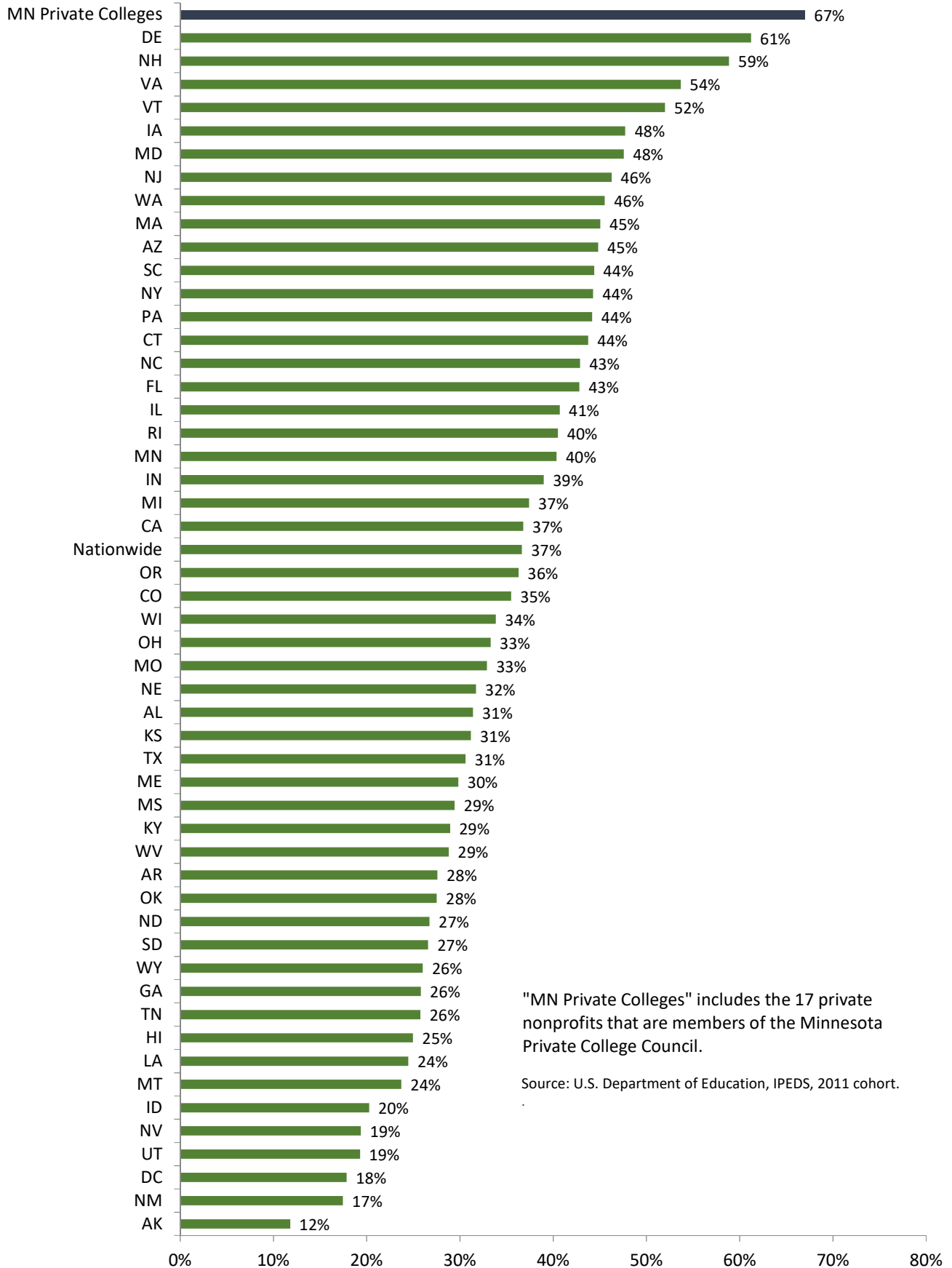
Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Fall 2011 Cohort.

Note: Calculation for Students of Color does not include unknown race/ethnicity or nonresidents

Private Nonprofit Four-year Graduation Rates by State



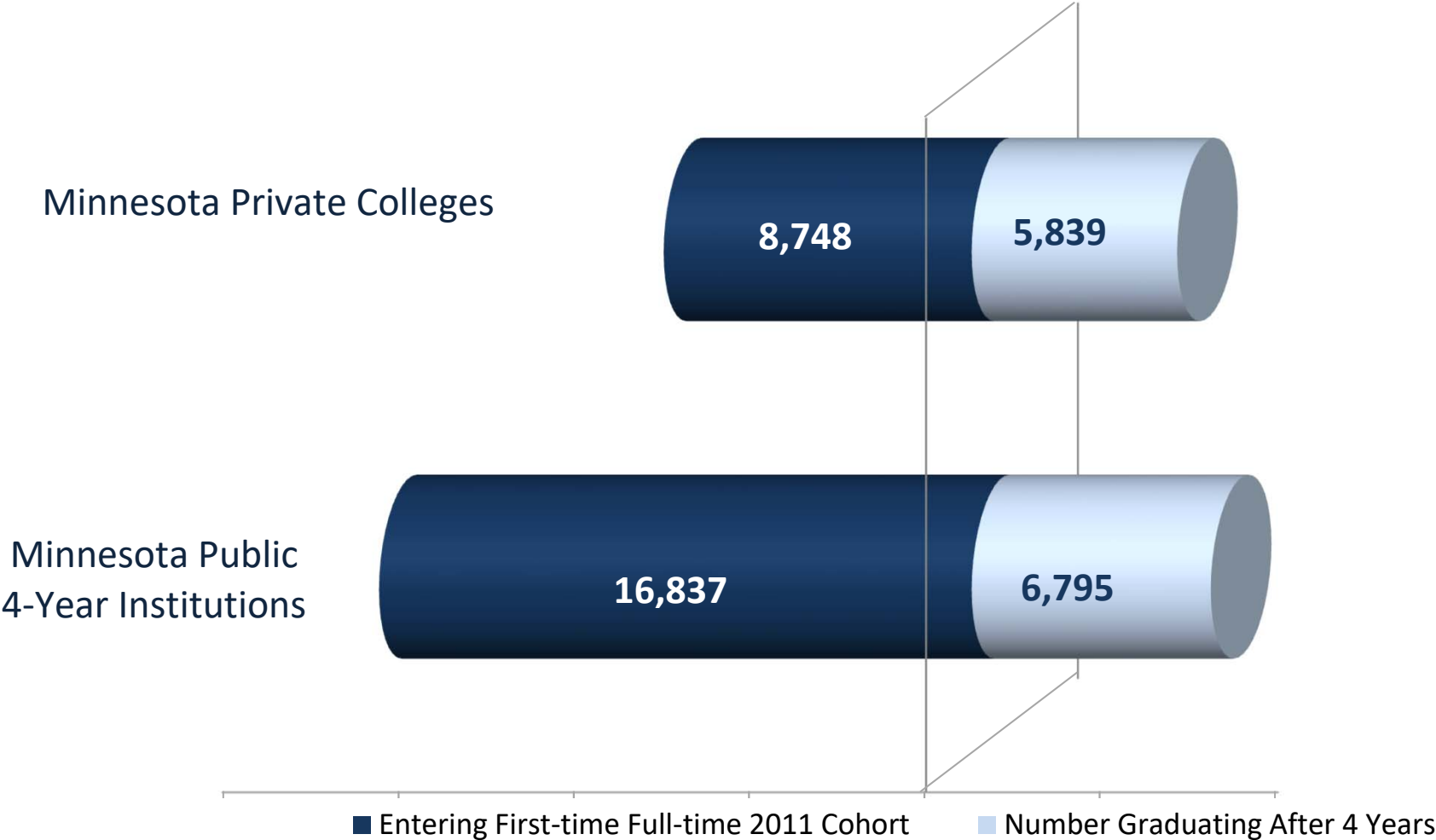
Public Four-year Graduation Rates by State



"MN Private Colleges" includes the 17 private nonprofits that are members of the Minnesota Private College Council.

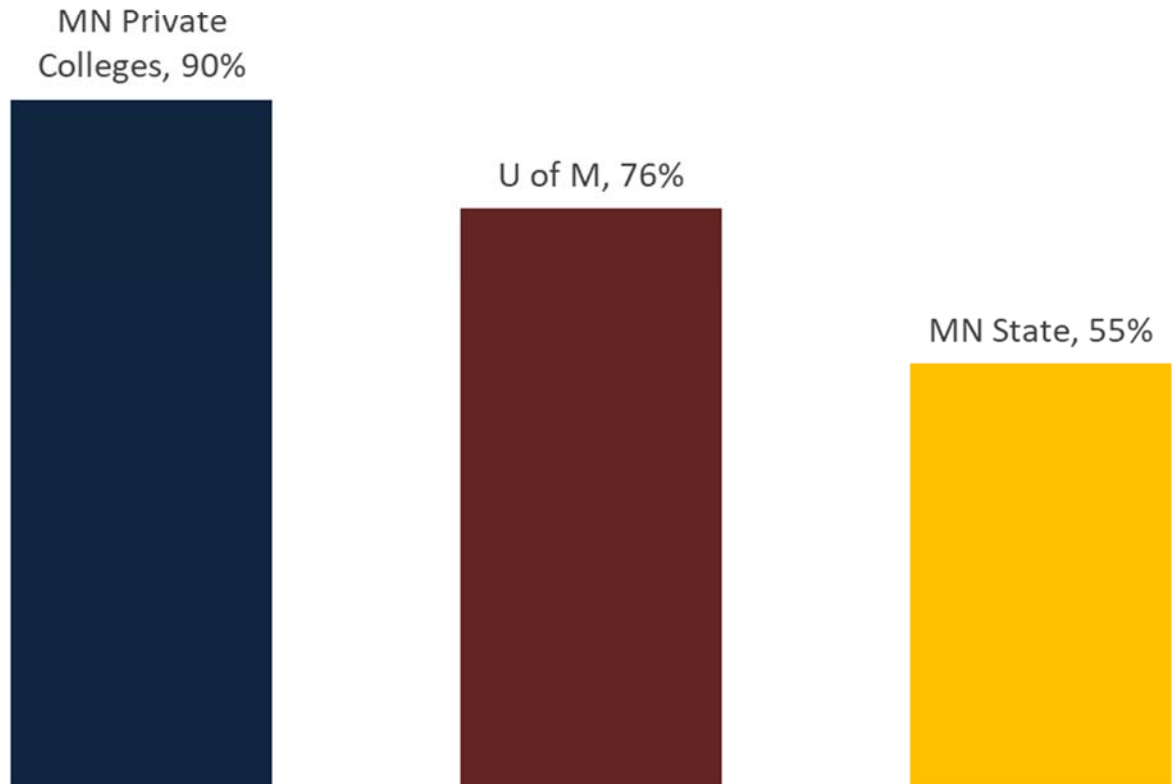
Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS, 2011 cohort.

Minnesota Higher Education Pipeline: Number of Students Graduating in Four Years by Sector



Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS fall 2011 Cohort

Four-year Completion Rate by Sector (percent of graduates who finish in four years)

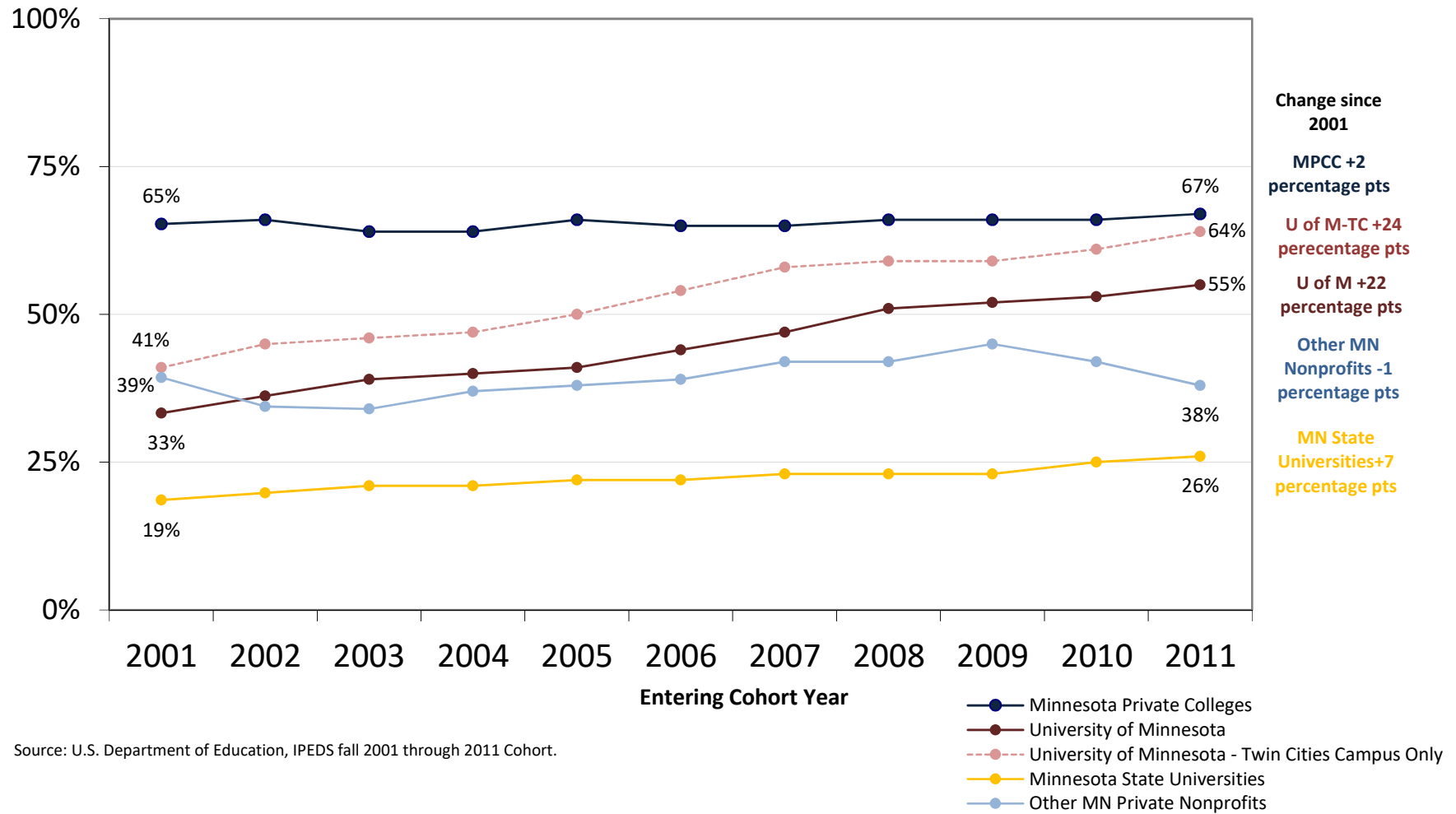


Starting with the fall 2011 first-time, full-time cohort...

	Total Number Graduated within 6 years	Number Graduated within 4 years	4-year Completion Rate: Share of graduates completing in 4 years
MN Private Colleges	6,492	5,839	90%
U of M	5,994	4,544	76%
MN State	3,627	2,010	55%

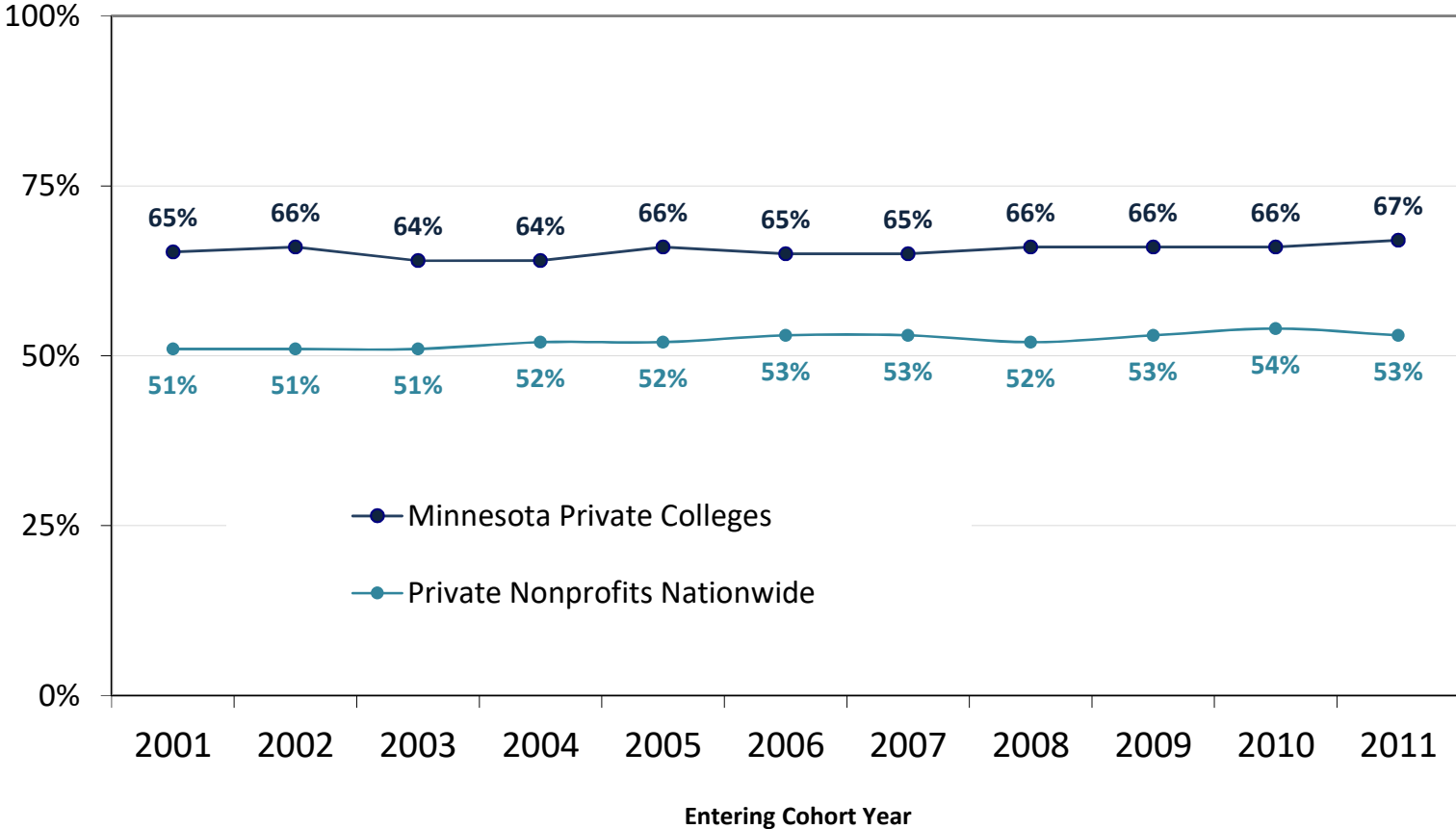
Source: U.S. Department of Education IPEDS fall 2011 cohort graduation rate data.

Minnesota Graduation Rate Trends: Share of Fall 2011 Cohort Graduating in Four Years by Sector



Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS fall 2001 through 2011 Cohort.

Share Graduating in Four Years: Minnesota Private Colleges Compared to All Other Private Nonprofit Colleges in U.S.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS fall 2001 through 2011 Cohort.