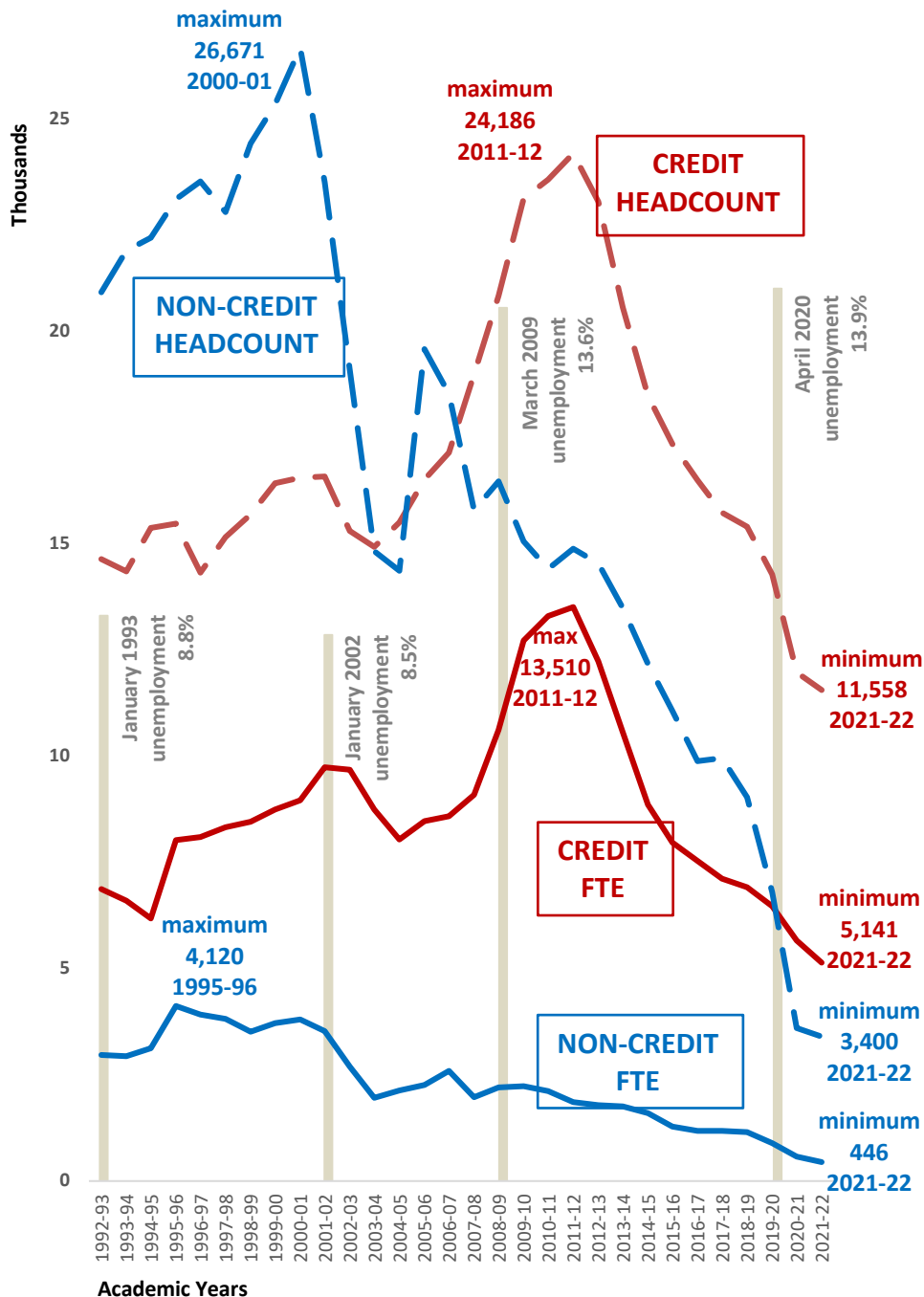


# It's Time to End the Trend

During the decade just concluded, 2011-12 to 2021-22, Lane Community College enrollment *collapsed*.

- Both credit and non-credit enrollments (FTE) declined in every year of the decade, reaching 30-year lows.
- Measured by total enrollment, Lane is about one third of its former size.
- Credit student headcount decreased by more than half; non-credit by more than three-fourths.

## Lane Enrollment 1992 to 2022



Conventional wisdom: *enrollment rises during economic stress*. Yes, Lane gained enrollment during prior recessions with spikes in unemployment, but not in 2020, when 13.9% County unemployment coincided with continued enrollment loss.

Lane's state funding is based on a weighted average of the total credit and non-credit **Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students** during 3 prior years, the most recent year weighted at 40% and 2 earlier years each weighted at 30%. One FTE is 510 instructional hours, so a course with 30 students and 34 contact hours produces  $30 \times 34 \div 510 = 2$  FTE, the equivalent of 2 students enrolled full time for 1 year. **Enrollment also determines Lane's second largest funding source, tuition.**

The focus of TIPSS is student success. **Low enrollment** is now so acute that it **jeopardizes Lane's student success mission, straining our capacity to sustain programs and services students rely on.**

Much work is underway to make the college student-ready by providing structures and supports for success. Examples include new application and advising software, holistic supports, and default academic plans. **Stabilizing enrollment will require institutional changes which enhance student progress and persistence as well as facilitating new enrollments.**

The next editions of TIPSS will examine comparative enrollment trends across Oregon Community Colleges.

Lane County economic data are from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ORLANE9URN>