

Legislative Report

2025 Annual Report on Minority Student Enrollment and Faculty Employment at Iowa Postsecondary Institutions



Department of Education



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Student and Faculty Report

Executive Summary

The Annual Report on Minority Student Enrollment and Faculty Employment at Iowa Postsecondary Institutions (formerly the Student and Faculty Diversity Report) summarizes trends in representation by minority population groups among students, faculty and state financial aid recipients at Iowa colleges and universities. The report has been published by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (now the Bureau of Iowa College Aid, Iowa Department of Education) each year since 1992 and is provided to the Governor and Iowa General Assembly as directed by Iowa Code section 256.177. The report is based on an annual survey of Iowa colleges and university officials. Iowa College Aid is grateful for the assistance of college and university staff who contributed the information compiled for this report.

Key findings of the 2025 report include the following enrollment data from the fall 2024 semester:

- A total of 43,015 full-time and part-time minority students were enrolled at Iowa colleges and universities, representing 21 percent of all student enrollment in Iowa colleges and universities.
- Of all minority students attending four-year private institutions, 23 percent received the Iowa Tuition Grant.
- The percentage of minority students attending Iowa community colleges receiving the Iowa Vocational-Technical Grant was 25 percent.
- The percent of minority students who received the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship was 52 percent.
- The percentage of minority students receiving the Last Dollar Scholarship was 27 percent.

Methods for collecting the data are described in the Report Background section of this report. The numbers reported only reflect race and ethnicity reported by the institutions. Therefore, data represented in this report may not match total enrollment data on various other reports.

For this report, minority students and faculty include those reported from the following population groups: Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and two or more races/ethnicities.

Postsecondary Enrollment

In the fall of 2024, a total of 205,539 full- and part-time graduate and undergraduate students were enrolled in Iowa postsecondary institutions, including regent universities, independent four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, proprietary colleges and specialized graduate medical schools. Between fall 2015 and fall 2024, total enrollment in Iowa colleges and universities decreased from 227,983 to 205,539, a 10 percent decline in overall enrollment. The following tables further separate enrollment numbers by undergraduate and graduate enrollment (Table 1 and Table 2) at Iowa degree-granting institutions, which annually report student and faculty diversity data to Iowa College Aid. Table 3 and Table 4 represent Iowa residents only for the enrollment data contained in Tables 1 and 2.

There has been growth in the number of minority students enrolled in Iowa colleges and universities over the past decade. Enrolled minority students increased from 36,581 in fall 2015 to 43,015 in fall 2024 (Table 5). This represents a 10-year increase of 18 percent, and a 4 percent year-over-year increase from fall 2023 to fall 2024. This growth in minority enrollment significantly outpaced overall enrollment growth. Between fall 2015 and fall 2024, total enrollment declined by 10 percent, while enrollment of racial and ethnic minority students increased by 18 percent. Finally, Table 6 represents Iowa residents only for the enrollment data contained in Table 5.

(Note: Enrollments could vary slightly due to the number of schools reporting from year to year.)

Table 1: Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment (Full-time and Part-time) in Iowa Colleges and Universities by Race/Ethnicity

	Non-Resident Alien	Race/Ethnicity Unknown	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African-American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Race/Ethnicities	Total
Regent Universities	1,347	2,200	4,286	87	2,264	1,529	32	42,407	1,930	56,082
Private not-for-Profit, 4-year	1,995	2,226	3,102	146	786	2,536	77	21,948	1,254	34,070
Private for-Profit, 4-year	-	311	78	17	35	321	23	1,187	75	2,047
Community Colleges	1,098	5,422	8,629	437	2,055	6,376	153	59,898	2,514	86,582
Private for-Profit, 2-year	-	4	21	-	1	23	-	283	22	354
Totals	4,440	10,163	16,116	687	5,141	10,785	285	125,723	5,795	179,135

Table 2: Fall 2024 Graduate Enrollment (Full-time and Part-time) in Iowa Colleges and Universities by Race/Ethnicity

	Non-Resident Alien	Race/Ethnicity Unknown	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African-American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Race/Ethnicities	Total
Regent Universities	3,184	712	772	23	656	394	7	8,362	302	14,412
Private not-for-Profit, 4-year	1,104	724	581	28	524	498	17	7,797	299	11,572
Private for-Profit, 4-year	-	82	15	-	8	66	5	233	11	420
Community Colleges										
Private for-Profit, 2-year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4,288	1,518	1,368	51	1,188	958	29	16,392	612	26,404

Table 3: Iowa Residents Only - Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment (Full-time and Part-time) in Iowa Colleges and Universities by Race/Ethnicity

	Non-Resident Alien	Race/Ethnicity Unknown	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African-American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Race/Ethnicities	Total
Regent Universities	-	1,219	2,439	46	1,484	1,013	19	27,616	1,171	35,007
Private not-for-Profit, 4-year	152	825	1,197	57	343	772	22	12,104	558	16,020
Private for-Profit, 4-year	-	29	13	1	1	18	1	215	7	285
Community Colleges	-	5,117	7,651	384	1,903	5,017	138	56,652	2,211	79,073
Private for-Profit, 2-year	-	1	9	-	1	19	-	225	19	274
Totals	152	7,191	11,309	488	3,732	6,839	180	96,812	3,966	130,659

Table 4: Iowa Residents Only – Fall 2024 Graduate Enrollment (Full-time and Part-time) in Iowa Colleges and Universities by Race/Ethnicity

	Non-Resident Alien	Race/Ethnicity Unknown	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African-American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Race/Ethnicities	Total
Regent Universities	-	238	344	9	319	200	3	5,211	138	6,462
Private not-for-Profit, 4-year	44	204	234	9	127	155	3	4,733	160	5,669
Private for-Profit, 4-year	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	31	-	37
Community Colleges										
Private for-Profit, 2-year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	44	445	580	18	446	356	6	9,975	298	12,168

Table 5: Fall 2024 Total Enrollment and Enrollment of Minority Population Groups (Full-time and Part-time)

	Total Enrollment	Enrollment Undergrad Students	Enrollment Grad Students	Total Students Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups	Undergrad Students Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups	Grad Students Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups
Regent Universities	70,494	56,082	14,412	12,282	10,128	2,154
Private not-for-Profit, 4-year	45,642	34,070	11,572	9,848	7,901	1,947
Private for-Profit, 4-year	2,467	2,047	420	654	549	105
Community Colleges	86,582	86,582	-	20,164	20,164	-
Private for-Profit, 2-year	354	354	-	67	67	-
Totals	205,539	179,135	26,404	43,015	38,809	4,206

Table 6: Iowa Residents Only - Fall 2024 Total Enrollment and Enrollment of Minority Population Groups (Full-time and Part-time)

	Total Enrollment	Enrollment Undergrad Students	Enrollment Grad Students	Total Students Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups	Undergrad Students Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups	Grad Students Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups
Regent Universities	41,469	35,007	6,462	7,185	6,172	1,013
Private not-for-Profit, 4-year	21,689	16,020	5,669	3,637	2,949	688
Private for-Profit, 4-year	322	285	37	44	41	3
Community Colleges	79,073	79,073	-	17,304	17,304	-
Private for-Profit, 2-year	274	274	-	48	48	-
Totals	142,827	130,659	12,168	28,218	26,514	1,704

Students Receiving State Financial Aid

Iowa institutions report the race/ethnicity of state financial aid recipients for four major state aid programs: Iowa Tuition Grant, Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant, All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship and Last Dollar Scholarship. The table below shows the total number of awards made for these programs, by sector, for all students and minority students. In the 2023-24 academic year, 26 percent of Iowa resident undergraduate and graduate students reported as minority students attending college in Iowa were awarded one or more of these grants or scholarships.

While the previous table examined the share of minority recipients among all in-state minority undergraduates, Table 5 displays minority recipients as a percentage of recipients within each state aid program. In the 2023–24 academic year, a total of 8,486 students were awarded the Iowa Tuition Grant, with 23 percent identified as being from an identified minority population. 2,693 students were awarded the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant, of whom 25 percent identified as being from a minority population. A total of 8,021 students were awarded the Last Dollar Scholarship, of whom 26 percent identified as being from a minority population. Finally, 744 students were awarded the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship, of whom 52 percent identified as being from a minority population.

Table 7: State Financial Aid to Minority Students at Iowa Colleges and Universities | 2023-24 Awards in Major Programs

	Iowa Tuition Grant Awards-Total	Iowa Tuition Grant Awards to Minority Students	Vocational-Technical Tuition Grants Total	Vocational-Technical Tuition Grants to Minority Students	All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Total	All Iowa Opportunity Scholarships to Minority Students	Last-Dollar Scholarships Total	Last-Dollar Scholarships to Minority Students	Total State Aid All	Total State Aid Minority
Regent Universities	-	-	-	-	306	158	-	-	306	158
Private not-for-Profit, 4-year	8,357	1,985	-	-	134	73	233	76	8,724	2,127
Community Colleges	-	-	2,693	685	304	155	7,788	2,055	10,785	2,895
Private for-Profit, 2-year	129	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	*
Totals	8,486	1,985	2,693	685	744	386	8,021	2,131	19,944	5,196

* Information on minority students was not provided by reporting institutions for this sector.

Faculty Employed at Iowa Postsecondary Institutions

Table 8 represents faculty identified as being from a minority population as a percentage of total faculty by sector. In fall of 2024, a total of 15,574 full- and part-time faculty members were part of teaching, research or public service at Iowa colleges and universities. A total of 2,083, or 13 percent, were faculty from minority population groups. It is worth noting that there are 498 faculty who were identified as non-resident alien (3.2 percent), and 729 faculty for whom information about race/ethnicity was listed as unknown or not provided (4.7 percent).

Table 8: Fall 2024 Faculty at Iowa Colleges and Universities

	Total Faculty	Minority Faculty
Regent Universities	5,223	1,077
Private not-for Profit, 4-year	4,907	537
Private for-Profit, 4-year	213	32
Community Colleges	5,141	428
Private for-Profit, 2-year	90	9
Totals	15,574	2,083

Report Background

Iowa Code section 256.77 directs the Iowa College Student Aid Commission to collect data on student enrollment and faculty employment at Iowa colleges and universities and to provide a report to the Governor and Iowa General Assembly. The Bureau of Iowa College Aid collects this information through its annual data collection processes, which includes surveys Iowa College Aid administers annually to Iowa postsecondary institutions and additional data collected by the Bureau of Community Colleges.

Since it was first administered in 1992 until the fall of 2009, the content of the survey used to collect data for this report remained essentially unchanged. During this period, the survey collected information about the representation of students and faculty from various minority population groups for both U.S. citizens and non-resident aliens. In fall 2010, the survey form implemented new race and ethnicity categories consistent with U.S. Department of Education guidelines for reporting race and ethnicity. In 2010, for the first time, the survey allowed institutions to report the (unduplicated headcount) number of students and faculty in the following race/ethnicity categories:

1. Non-Resident Alien
2. Race and Ethnicity Unknown
3. White

In previous years the survey collected the race/ethnicity of non-resident aliens rather than treating “non- resident alien” as a separate and unique race/ethnicity category for reporting purposes. For this reason, apparent trends in minority representation are partly conflated with shifts attributable to this one-time change in methods of counting students and faculty by race/ethnicity.

The system used for reporting race and ethnicity data in Iowa College Aid’s annual survey is consistent with the U.S. Department of Education’s guidance on reporting such data as it

pertains to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (Federal Register, 2007). According to this guidance, when reporting race and ethnicity data, educational institutions report aggregated racial and ethnic data in the following categories:

1. Non-Resident Alien
2. Race and Ethnicity Unknown
3. Hispanic or Latino. A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. (The term “Spanish origin” can be used in addition to “Hispanic/Latino or Latino.”)
4. American Indian or Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains a tribal affiliation or community attachment.
5. Asian. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Vietnam.
6. Black or African-American. A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
7. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.
8. White. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East or North Africa.
9. Two or more races.

References

Iowa Code 256.177 (2024)

Federal Register 72:202 (Friday, October 19, 2007) <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-20613.pdf>.