

# FALL ENROLLMENT

## REPORT

2012



**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

BUREAU OF ADULT, CAREER, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

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## Helping Communities Meet the Learning Needs of All Their Children and Adults

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## Executive Summary

The Iowa Department of Education collects enrollment information from all 15 community colleges on the tenth business day of the fall semester. This report summarizes several aspects of community college enrollment from fall 2012. Listed below are some of the highlights from this report:

- Fall 2012 enrollment was 100,519 students.
- Enrollment declined at 12 of the 15 community colleges from the previous fall.
- Compared to fall 2011, credit hours fell 7.0 percent to 938,456, and declined at all but two of the 15 community colleges.
- A typical student is a white (84.8 percent) female (55.4 percent) from Iowa (91.4 percent) whose average age is 23 years, and is enrolled part-time (53.9 percent) in a college parallel program (65.4 percent).
- A total of 28,225 students were enrolled in online courses this fall, accounting for 28.1 percent of student enrollment.
- As in fall 2011, health science programs remained the largest career and technical education major (CTE), followed by manufacturing and business management and administration.
- The number of students participating in joint enrollment programs increased 2.3 percent from fall 2011 to 28,077 students.
- A seven-year autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) estimates 97,158 students will enroll for fall 2013.

### About this Report

This report summarizes fall enrollment in Iowa's community colleges. Every year, Iowa's 15 community college districts submit data on the tenth business day of the fall semester.

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## Fall Enrollment

Fall enrollment for 2012 was 100,519 students, a 5.2 percent decline from fall 2011. Since 2008, community college enrollment has grown rapidly, which was likely due to the recession of 2008 and 2009. Historically, enrollment in postsecondary education tends to increase more sharply when economic conditions are weak.

Table 1 summarizes fall enrollment for 2012. Enrollment fell at 12 of the 15 community colleges in contrast to 2011 where enrollment fell at nine community colleges. More students were enrolled part-time (less than 12 semester credit hours) than were enrolled full-time. Students enrolled part-time accounted for 53.4 percent of total fall enrollment, compared to 51.8 percent last fall. The fall enrollment of full-time students fell from 51,107 (48.2 percent of total enrollment) to 46,355 (46.1 percent of total enrollment), a 9.3 percent decline, while the fall enrollment of part-time students dropped slightly (-1.3 percent) from 54,868 students in 2011 to 54,165 students

- Enrollment fell 5.2 percent to 100,519 students.
- Enrollment declined at 12 of 15 community colleges.
- Students enrolled on a part-time basis accounted for 53.9 percent of total enrollment.

in 2012.

Enrollment data since 1965 are displayed in Figure 1. Although overall fall enrollment has increased more than 10-fold since 1965, the number of full-time students as a percent of total fall enrollment has steadily declined from 90.8 percent in 1965 to 46.1 percent in 2012. This trend is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

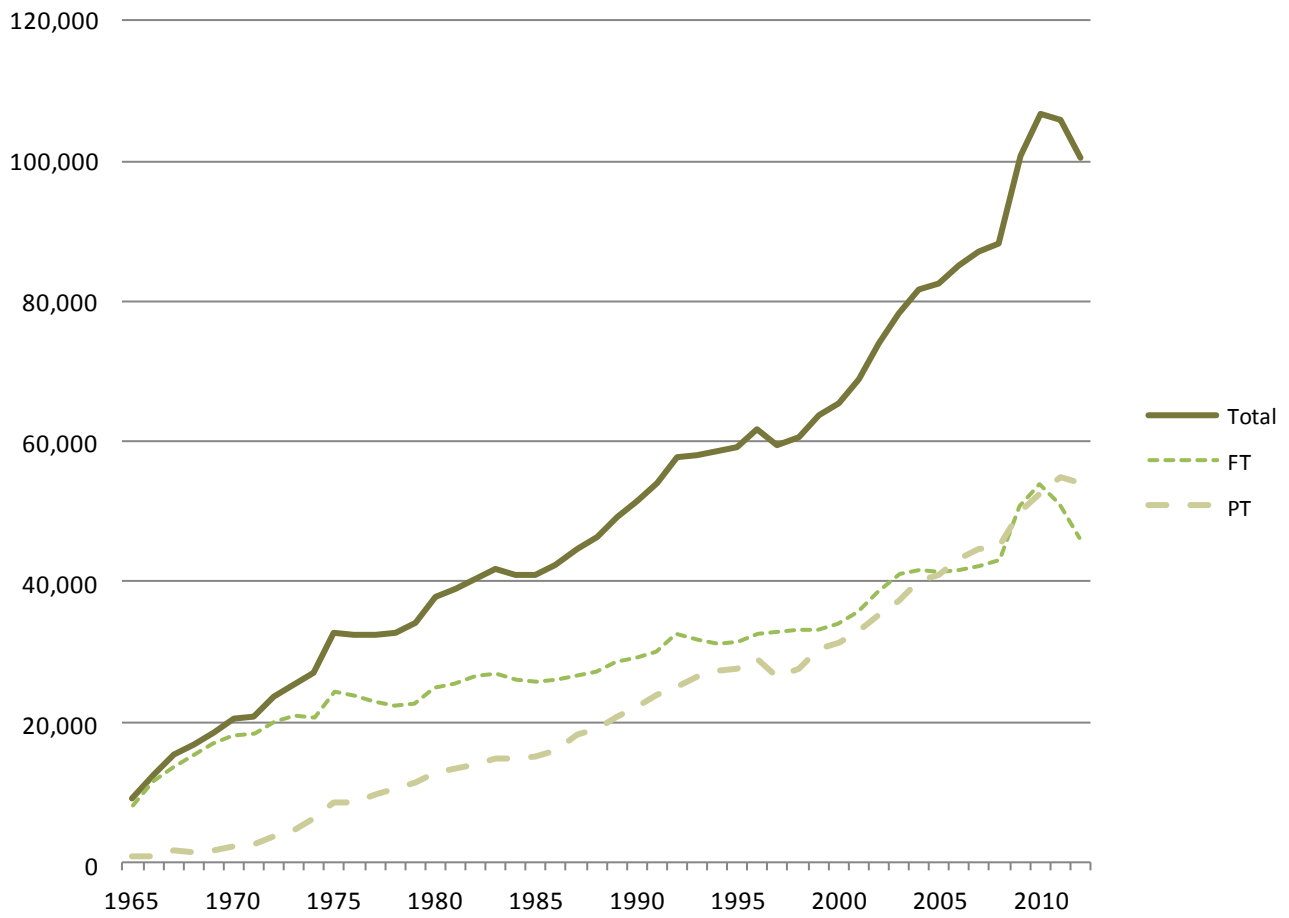
**Table 1: Fall Enrollment by College**

College	Enrollment	Percent		Change <sup>b</sup>
		Full-Time <sup>a</sup>	Part-Time	
Northeast Iowa	5,025	41.2	58.8	-0.6
North Iowa Area	3,278	51.4	48.6	-7.8
Iowa Lakes	3,041	51.9	48.1	-6.7
Northwest Iowa	1,605	42.9	57.1	3.9
Iowa Central	6,216	54.6	45.4	-1.3
Iowa Valley	3,117	58.3	41.7	2.1
Hawkeye	5,963	55.4	44.6	-4.4
Eastern Iowa	8,474	38.8	61.2	-13.9
Kirkwood	16,661	48.3	51.7	-5.4
Des Moines Area	23,685	35.6	64.4	-6.8
Western Iowa Tech	6,424	41.8	58.2	-5.4
Iowa Western	7,367	54.0	45.9	2.6
Southwestern	1,666	48.4	51.6	-5.5
Indian Hills	4,885	60.5	39.5	-2.9
Southeastern	3,112	52.1	47.9	-6.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100,519</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>-5.2</b>

<sup>a</sup> A full-time student is defined as one registered for at least 12 credit hours per semester.

<sup>b</sup> Percent change in total fall enrollment from previous year.

Figure 1: Fall Enrollment, 1965-2012



## Credit Hours

Each credit hour represents at least 800 minutes of scheduled work for a classroom course; at least 1,600 minutes for a laboratory course; at least 2,400 minutes for clinical work; or at least 3,200 minutes of work experience. Typically, classes at community colleges vary between three and six credit hours. A full-time student must take at least 12 credit hours per semester, which corresponds to 9,600 classroom minutes per semester.

The increase in the number of part-time students suggests students who attended community colleges in the fall of 2012 were enrolled in fewer hours. Table 2 shows average enrollment since 2008. In fall 2012, students enrolled an average of 9.34 credit hours, compared to 9.49 credit hours in fall 2011. The course load among full-time students, however, remained unchanged from fall 2011, averaging 13.7 credit hours.

The decline of total fall enrollment and the increase in part-time students yielded a decline in total fall credit hours. As depicted in Table 3, the number of credit hours for fall 2012 declined to 938,456, down 7.1 percent from fall 2011.

- Students enrolled in 938,456 credit hours this fall.
- Total credit hours fell 7.1 percent from fall 2011.
- Students carried an average of 9.34 hours, a 1.6 percent decrease from fall 2011.

**Table 2: Average Hours**

Fiscal Year	Average <sup>a</sup>
2008	9.51
2009	9.59
2010	9.63
2011	9.49
2012	9.34

<sup>a</sup> Average credit hours for all students, full- and part-time.

**Table 3: Fall Credit Hours by College**

College	Total Credit Hrs.	Percent		Change <sup>a</sup>
		Full-Time	Part-Time	
Northeast Iowa	45,644	64.2%	35.8%	-3.1%
North Iowa Area	32,800	73.3	26.7	-9.3
Iowa Lakes	31,940	75.2	24.8	-8.5
Northwest Iowa	15,161	70.4	29.6	-0.8
Iowa Central	64,287	77.4	22.6	-1.8
Iowa Valley	33,575	77.9	22.1	2.6
Hawkeye	61,214	75.3	24.7	-6.3
Eastern Iowa	73,161	60.1	39.9	-16.2
Kirkwood	160,559	68.9	31.1	-8.2
Des Moines Area	200,688	56.6	43.4	-7.9
Western Iowa Tech	57,528	64.9	35.1	-8.0
Iowa Western	76,350	74.2	25.8	0.6
Southwestern	16,419	70.9	29.1	-7.3
Indian Hills	37,898	77.7	22.3	-2.7
Southeastern	31,232	72.7	27.3	-16.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>938,456</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>-7.1%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Percent change in total credit hours from fall 2011.

## Student Demographics

As Figure 2 indicates, 55.4 percent of students were female, which is consistent with state and national trends in community colleges and four-year colleges.

Females have outnumbered males nationally in higher education since 1980. In Iowa, females have outnumbered males in community colleges since 1998.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of ages among students enrolled in Iowa's community colleges. The average age was 23 years (standard deviation = 9.0), and the median age was 21 years.

A traditional student is defined as one who matriculates to postsecondary education in the fall immediately following graduation from high school. Among students attending Iowa community colleges, 23.3 percent met this definition.

There is also a higher percentage of minorities in community colleges than in the state population a trait common among community colleges. Data from the 2010 decennial census (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011) indicate 11.6 percent of Iowans identified themselves as minorities. For fall 2012, 15.2 percent of community college students identified themselves as minorities, a figure relatively unchanged from fall 2011.

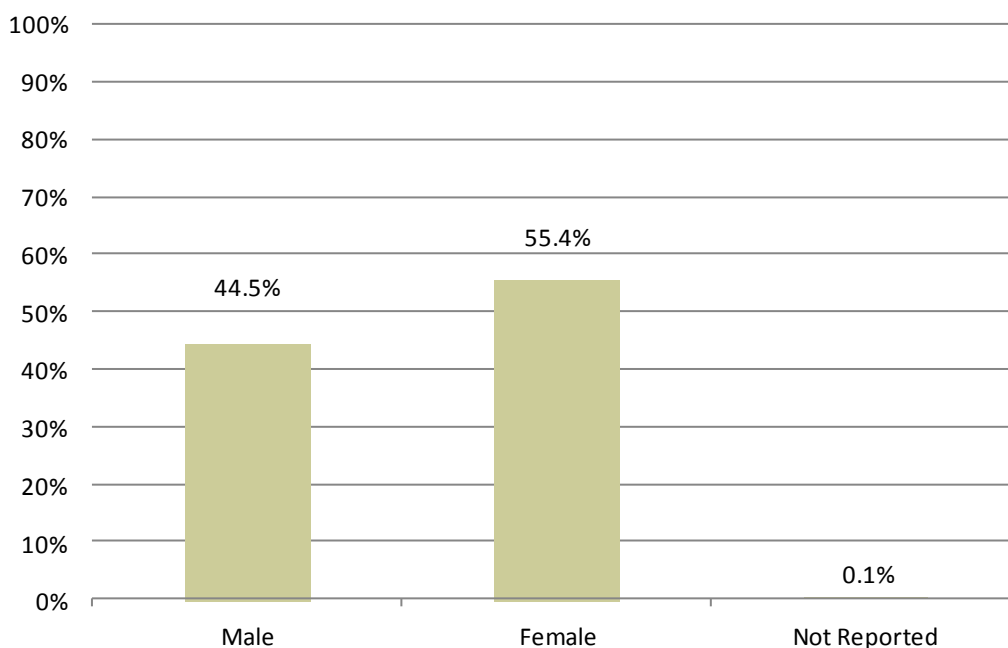
As Figure 4 indicates, African-American students

- Females accounted for 55.4 percent of students.
- The average age of community college students was 23.0 years; half were under 21 years of age.
- Almost 85 percent of students in community colleges were white.

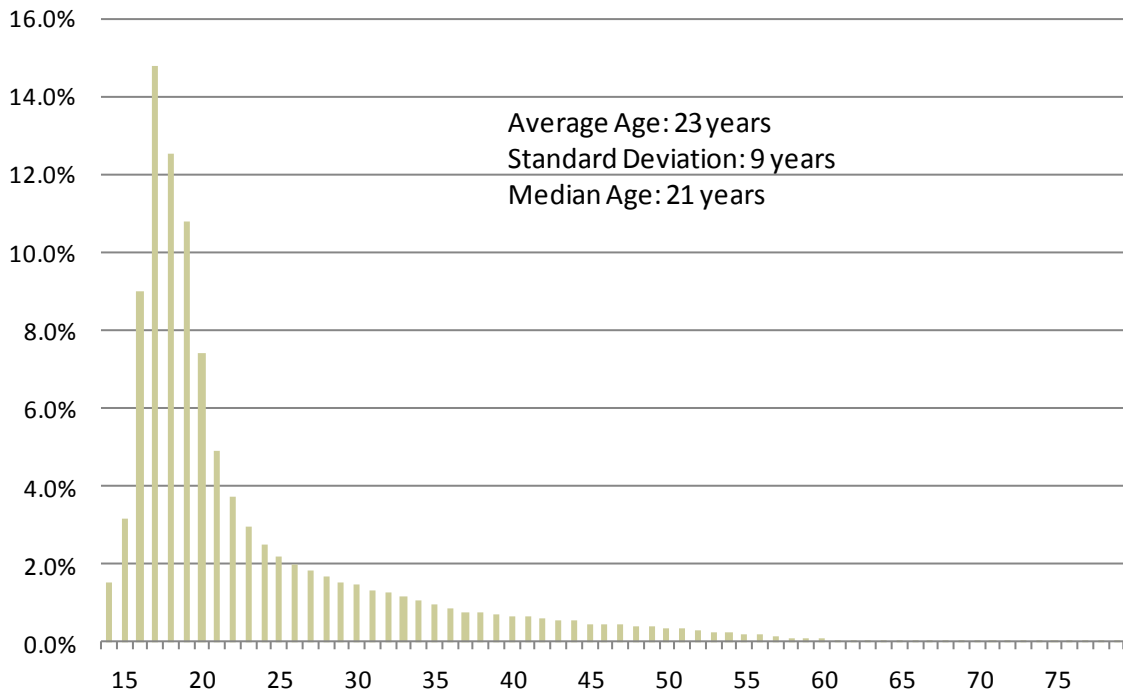
were the second largest racial/ethnic group (6.6 percent), followed by Hispanics (5.6 percent), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (2.2 percent).

An overwhelming majority of students (91.4 percent) were residents of Iowa (Figure 5), a common trend ever since the department started collecting data. Domestic out-of-state residents accounted for 7.7 percent of enrolled students, with foreign nationals (0.9 percent) accounting for the balance.

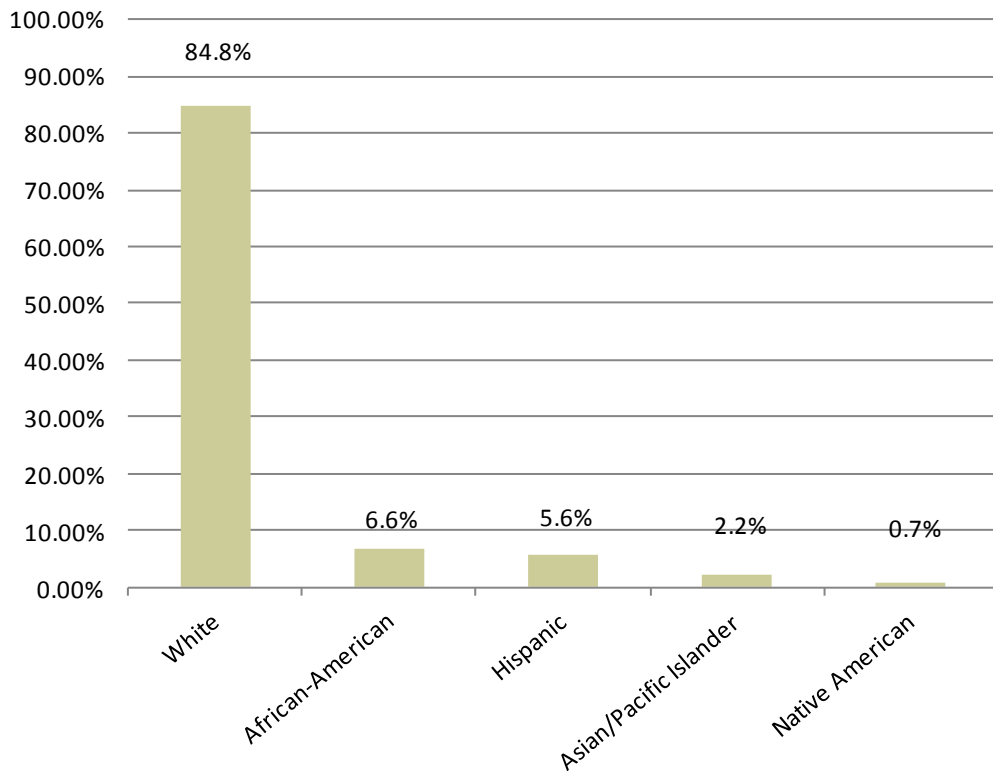
**Figure 2: Distribution of Students by Gender**



**Figure 3: Age Distribution**

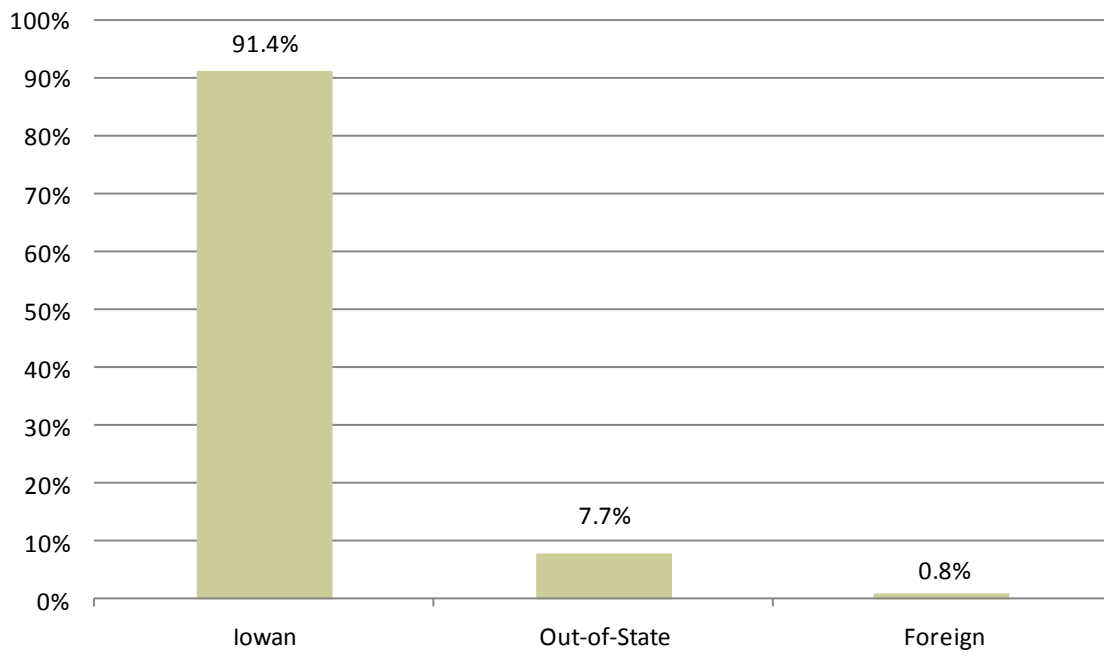


**Figure 4: Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity**





**Figure 5: Enrollment by Residency Status**



## Program Type

Community colleges offer several broad categories of programs:

- College parallel
- Career and technical education (CTE)
- Career option

College parallel programs prepare students for matriculation to a four-year university. As Figure 6 indicates, college parallel programs are the largest category of enrollment. The number of students enrolled in this category declined 3.3 percent, from 67,950 students in 2011 to 65,764 students in 2012. Despite the decline in enrollment, college parallel programs accounted for almost two-thirds (65.4 percent) of total fall 2012 enrollment.

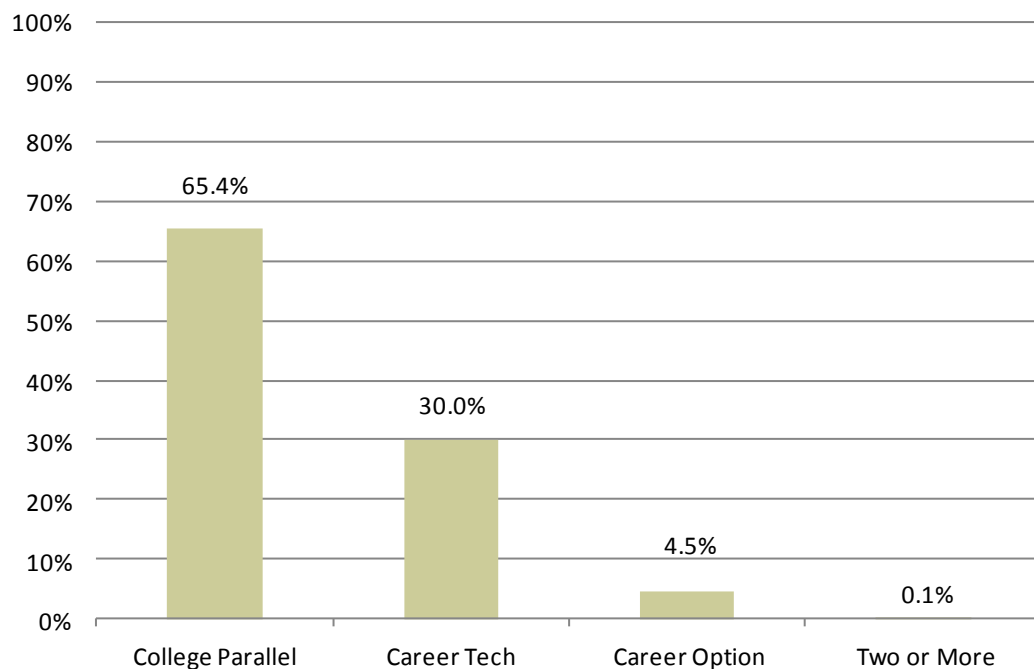
CTE programs prepare students for the workforce. CTE programs accounted for almost three-tenths (29.9 percent) of fall enrollment. In 2012, fall enrollment for CTE programs was 30,135 students, a 7.4 percent decline

- College parallel is the largest program type, accounting for almost two-thirds of enrollment.
- CTE enrollment declined 7.4 percent from fall 2011.
- Enrollment in career option programs declined 16.4 percent.

from fall 2011 enrollment of 32,553 students.

Career option programs prepare students for matriculation to a four-year university or entry into a career field after graduation. These programs accounted for 4.5 percent of total fall enrollment. In fall 2012, 4,547 students enrolled in career option programs compared to 5,439 students in 2011, representing a 16.4 percent decrease.

**Figure 6: Enrollment by Program Type**



## Online Enrollment

Online enrollment is defined as participation in a class that is only offered via the Internet with no face-to-face contact between the instructor and students. During fall 2012, 28,225 students enrolled in online courses, and accounted for 28.1 percent of total fall enrollment.

Table 4 summarizes online enrollment by college for fall 2012. At two colleges, over half the students enrolled in at least one online course. The number of students enrolled in online courses dropped 3.7 percent from fall 2011. However, online enrollment as a percent of total enrollment increased from 27.7 percent in fall 2011 to 28.1 percent in fall 2012.

A total of 149,251 credit hours were attributable to online classes for fall 2012, almost 15.9 percent of all fall

- The number of students enrolled in online courses decreased 3.7 percent.
- Iowa's community colleges enrolled 28,225 students for online college credit.
- On average, students enrolled in 5.3 credit hours.

2012 credit hours. On average, each student enrolled in 5.3 credit hours during fall 2012. Since community college courses typically are three credit hours, average online enrollment was equivalent to almost two courses.

**Table 4: Online Enrollment by College**

College	Hours <sup>a</sup>	Enrollment <sup>b</sup>	Percent Of:	
			Total <sup>c</sup>	Change <sup>d</sup>
Northeast Iowa	8,937	1,654	32.9%	-1.9%
North Iowa Area	5,177	1,653	50.4	-1.2
Iowa Lakes	5,145	895	29.4	-11.9
Northwest Iowa	4,278	819	51.0	23.5
Iowa Central	6,844	1,450	23.3	0.2
Iowa Valley	6,712	1,273	40.8	7.6
Hawkeye	6,434	1,333	22.4	13.9
Eastern Iowa	15,500	2,647	31.2	-18.3
Kirkwood	18,330	3,278	19.7	-5.9
Des Moines Area	28,033	5,156	21.8	-7.1
Western Iowa Tech	13,761	2,424	37.7	-12.5
Iowa Western	13,831	2,397	32.5	20.9
Southwestern	3,843	756	45.4	-13.8
Indian Hills	6,124	1,398	28.6	0.6
Southeastern	6,303	1,092	35.1	-6.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149,251</b>	<b>28,225</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Number of registered online credit hours.

<sup>b</sup> Number of students enrolled in at least one online course.

<sup>c</sup> Online enrollment as a percent of total enrollment.

<sup>d</sup> Percent change in online enrollment from the previous fall.

## Career Clusters

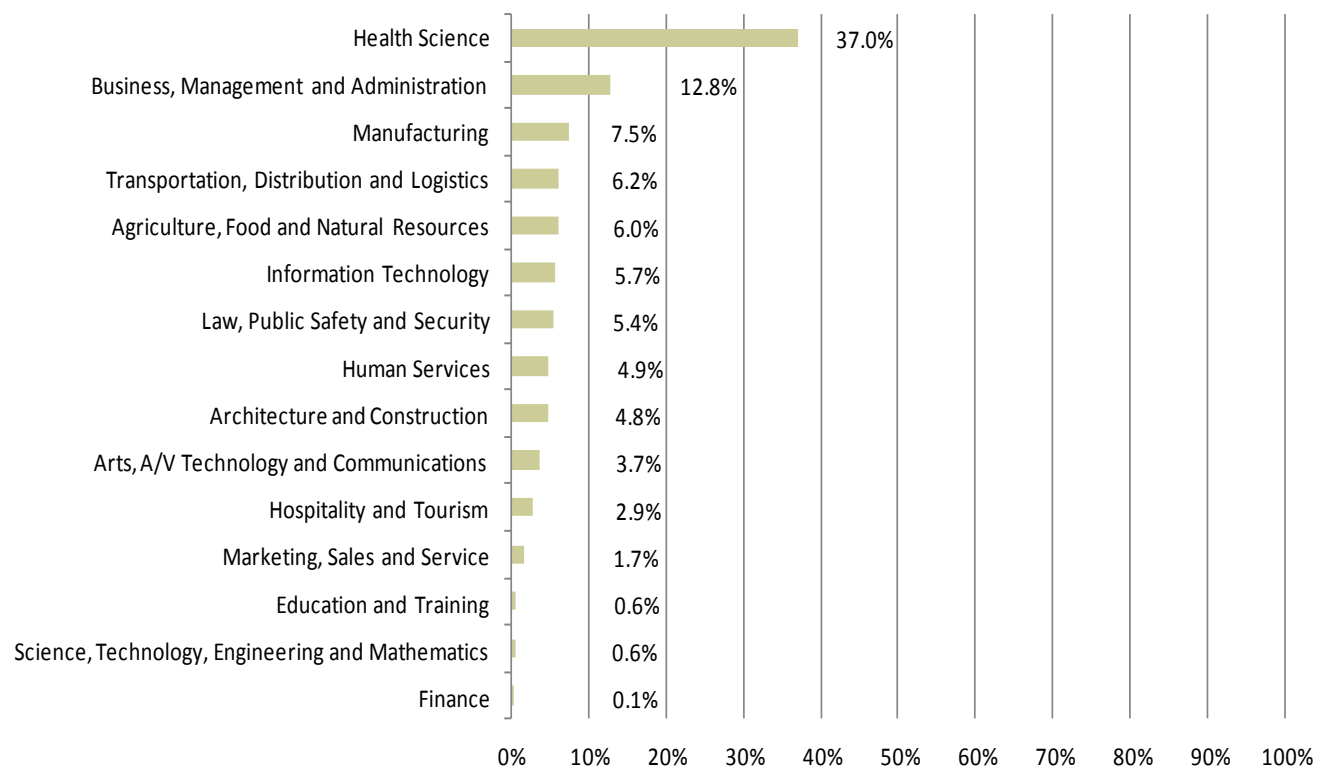
The Iowa Department of Education categorizes career and technical education (CTE) programs into 16 career clusters. Each major aligns to a career cluster with other similar programs. Page 13 briefly describes all career clusters. Information on career clusters can be obtained from [www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org).

Enrollment in CTE programs can be broken down to specific areas of study. Health science remains the largest career cluster within community colleges (12,846), followed by business management and administration (4,440), and then manufacturing (2,616). Figure 7 displays each career cluster as a percent of all students enrolled in CTE programs.

Health science enrollment fell 6.1 percent from 13,685 students in fall 2011 to 12,846 students in fall 2012. Business management and administration also fell 12 percent during the same time period, from 5,043 students in fall 2011 to 4,440 in fall 2012. Fall enrollment in manufacturing career clusters, on the other hand, increased 2.8 percent from 2,546 students in 2011 to 2,616 students in 2012.

- Health science, the largest career cluster, accounts for 37.01 percent of CTE fall enrollment.
- Enrollment in business management and administration fell 12 percent.
- Enrollment in manufacturing career clusters increased 2.8 percent.

**Figure 7: Enrollment by Career Clusters**





The production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources.



Careers in designing, planning, managing, building, and maintaining the built environment.



Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.



Business, management and administration careers encompass planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations.



Planning, managing, and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.



Planning, services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management.



Executing governmental functions to include Governance; National Security; Foreign Service; Planning; Revenue and Taxation; Regulation; and Management and Administration at the local, state, and federal levels.



Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.



Hospitality & Tourism encompasses the management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other foodservices, lodging, attractions, recreation events, and travel related services.



Preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs.



Building Linkages in IT Occupations Framework: for Entry Level, Technical, and Professional Careers Related to the Design, Development, Support and Management of Hardware, Software, Multimedia, and Systems Integration Services.



Planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.



Planning, managing, and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance, and manufacturing/process engineering.



Planning, managing, and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives.



Planning, managing, and providing scientific research and professional and technical services including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.



Planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water and related professional and technical support services such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment, and facility maintenance.

## Joint Enrollment

Community colleges offer joint enrollment options to high school students, which gives them an opportunity to earn college credit. After successfully completing the coursework, students may either apply credit toward a diploma or Associate's degree, or transfer these credits to a four-year college. Students have several options to participate, including:

- Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), where a school district pays up to \$250 per course.
- Contracted courses between high schools and community colleges, which often provide supplementary weighting.
- An option for students to pay their own tuition for a community college course.

Joint enrollment is a popular option for high school students in Iowa, as indicated by an increase in enrollment of 2.3 percent from fall 2011. Students participating in joint enrollment programs accounted for 28.0 percent of

- Joint enrollment increased 2.3 percent from fall 2011.
- Over 28,000 high school students participated in joint enrollment programs during the fall of 2012.
- On average, students enrolled in 4.9 credit hours.

fall 2012 enrollment. Nationally, the U.S. Department of Education estimated five percent of high school students jointly enroll in higher education while in high school (Kleiner and Lewis, 2005).

Data from the Iowa Department of Education (2009) indicate that students participating in joint enrollment programs tend to be either juniors or seniors in high school and, on average, do better on the ACT than students who did not participate in joint enrollment programs.

**Table 5: Joint Enrollment by College**

College	Hours <sup>a</sup>	Avg. Hrs. <sup>b</sup>	Enrollment <sup>c</sup>	Percent	
				Total <sup>d</sup>	Change <sup>e</sup>
Northeast Iowa	8,481	4.8	1,760	35.0%	6.2%
North Iowa Area	4,619	5.1	907	27.7	-4.0
Iowa Lakes	4,842	5.1	967	31.8	-2.1
Northwest Iowa	2,809	4.5	629	39.2	20.0
Iowa Central	12,401	5.4	2,303	37.1	4.6
Iowa Valley	4,217	5.2	805	25.8	10.4
Hawkeye	4,992	4.4	1,124	18.9	-2.8
Eastern Iowa	9,210	4.2	2,206	26.0	-11.8
Kirkwood	12,653	4.4	2,901	17.4	12.9
Des Moines Area	40,079	5.1	7,901	33.4	-0.8
Western Iowa Tech	11,418	5.0	2,283	35.5	7.4
Iowa Western	8,739	5.2	1,697	23.0	6.8
Southwestern	3,150	5.3	594	35.7	4.0
Indian Hills	5,671	4.5	1,262	25.8	4.9
Southeastern	3,766	5.1	738	23.7	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137,045</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>28,077</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Number of hours carried by students participating in a joint enrollment program.

<sup>b</sup> Average hours per student.

<sup>c</sup> Number of high school students participating in a joint enrollment program.

<sup>d</sup> Joint enrollment as a percent of total enrollment.

<sup>e</sup> Percent change in joint enrollment from the previous fall.

## Enrollment Projections

An autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) containing fall enrollment data from 2006-2012 was used to estimate fall credit enrollment for 2013. Based upon enrollment history, the ARIMA model predicts an estimated fall enrollment for 2013 of 97,158 students.

The anomalous spikes in enrollment in 2009 and 2010 have been attributed to economic downturns. Since then, the economy has made modest improvements. Students who had matriculated during this period have either completed their courses of study or have withdrawn from college. A declining supply of high school graduates has been unable to sustain previous enrollment numbers.

- Fall 2013 enrollment is predicted to be 97,158 students.
- Any decline in fall credit enrollment should level out within the next five years.

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