

FALL ENROLLMENT REPORT

2015



Community Colleges

PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION

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Published:
November 2015



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Executive Summary

The following highlights from this report summarize enrollment at Iowa's community colleges during fall 2015:

- Fall 2015 enrollment was 93,074 students—a decline of 0.74 percent from last fall.
- Compared to last fall, registered semester hours fell 1.1 percent, from 832,234 to 823,306.
- The typical student is a white (83 percent) female (54 percent) from Iowa (91 percent) whose average age is 21.6 years, and enrolled part-time (60 percent) in a transfer-oriented college parallel program (68 percent).
- A total of 28,166 students enrolled in at least one online course, accounting for 30 percent of total enrollment.
- Health science remained the largest career and technical education (CTE) career cluster; manufacturing was second; business management and administration was third.
- Joint enrollment increased 5.3 percent, from 31,446 high school students last fall to 33,145 this fall.
- Next fall, between 87,991 and 98,629 students are predicted to enroll in Iowa's community colleges.

About this Report:

This report summarizes and analyzes fall enrollment in Iowa's community colleges. Each year, Iowa's 15 community colleges submit data on enrollment on the 10th business day of the fall semester.

1–Students

Fall 2015 enrollment, as summarized in table 1, was 93,074 students, compared to 93,772 students last fall. Figure 1 displays enrollment data since 1965. Although overall fall enrollment has increased more than 10-fold since 1965, the number of full-time students as a percentage of total fall enrollment has steadily declined from over 90 percent in 1965 to about 40 percent in 2015 (Figure 2).

This fall, 55,494 part-time students (those enrolled in fewer than 12 semester

credit hours), accounted for 59.6 percent of total enrollment. Last fall, 55,767 part-time students accounted for 59.5 percent of total fall enrollment.

Enrollment of full-time students this fall was 37,580 students (40.4 percent of total enrollment) compared to 38,005 students (40.5 percent of total enrollment) last fall.

The average age of community college students this fall was 21.9 years. The median age was 18 years. Females accounted for 53.8 percent of students,

Table 1. Fall 2015 enrollment by college.

College	Total	Full-time		Part-time		Change (%) ^a
		N	%	N	%	
Northeast Iowa	4,865	1,477	30.4	3,388	69.6	-1.4
North Iowa Area	2,947	1,379	46.8	1,568	53.2	-0.1
Iowa Lakes	2,366	1,114	47.1	1,252	52.9	-1.0
Northwest	1,624	573	35.3	1,051	64.7	3.1
Iowa Central	5,634	2,969	52.7	2,665	47.3	-0.9
Iowa Valley	2,761	1,395	50.5	1,366	49.5	-7.6
Hawkeye	5,371	2,567	47.8	2,804	52.2	1.5
Eastern Iowa	8,383	2,605	31.1	5,778	68.9	3.0
Kirkwood	14,814	6,229	42.1	8,585	58.0	3.8
Des Moines Area	22,298	6,931	31.1	15,367	68.9	-5.2
Western Iowa Tech	6,152	2,292	37.3	3,860	62.7	-3.8
Iowa Western	6,562	3,337	50.9	3,225	49.2	-0.9
Southwestern	1,656	793	47.9	863	52.1	3.5
Indian Hills	4,773	2,639	55.3	2,134	44.7	8.2
Southeastern	2,868	1,280	44.6	1,588	55.4	-4.0
Total	93,074	37,580	40.4	55,494	59.6	-0.74

^a Percentage change in total enrollment from fall 2014.

which is consistent with state and national trends in postsecondary education.

Self-reported race and ethnicity by gender are shown in table 2. The proportion of minority students attending Iowa's community colleges this fall is higher than the proportion of minorities in Iowa's general population: 18.5 percent versus 11.6 percent. Hispanic students accounted

for 6.8 percent of total enrollment; African-American students, 6.7 percent; and Asian/Pacific Islanders, 2.6 percent.

Residents of Iowa accounted for 90 percent of students. Residents from other states accounted for 9.5 percent of enrolled students, with foreign nationals accounting for the balance.

Figure 1. Fall enrollment since 1965.

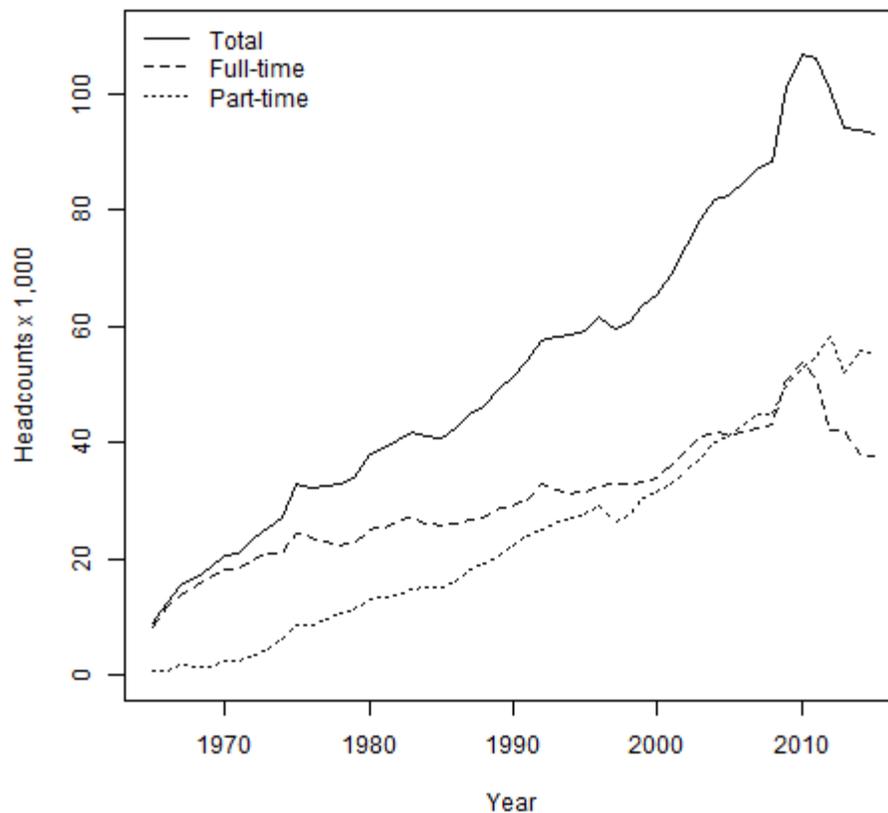


Figure 2. Historical enrollment of full-time students as a percentage of total enrollment.

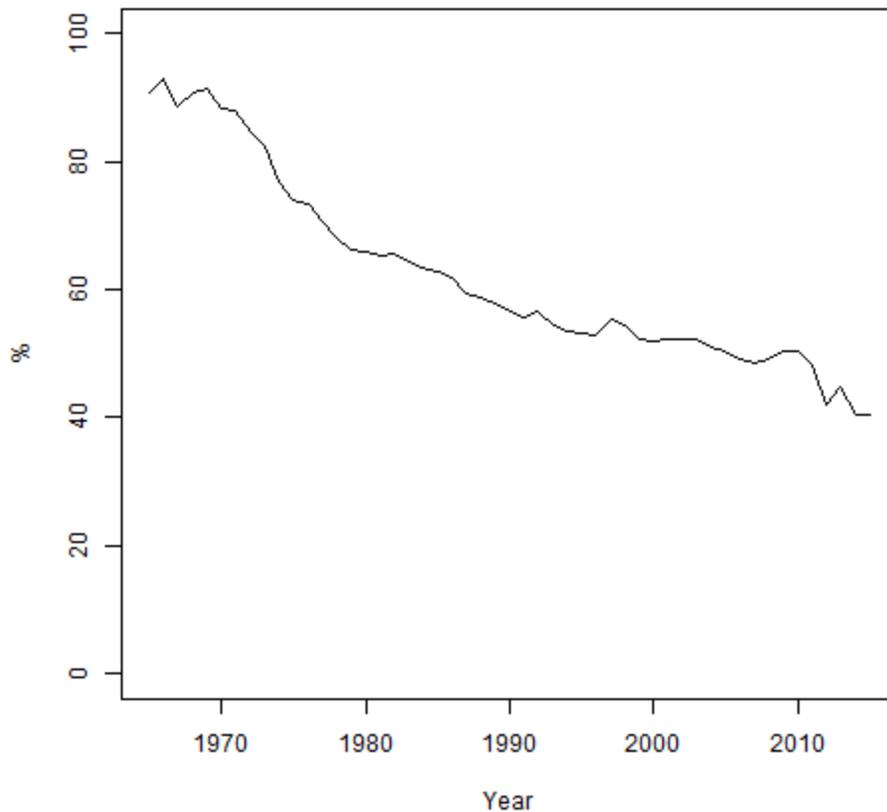


Table 2. Fall 2015 distribution by race and ethnicity.

Subpopulation	Females	Males	Not reported	Totals
American Indian	310	274	0	584
Asian	1,156	1,142	0	2,298
Black	2,978	3,268	3	6,249
Hispanic	3,373	2,953	2	6,328
Pacific Islander	74	59	0	133
White	38,863	32,096	18	70,977
Two or more	860	730	0	1,590
Not reported	2,425	2,460	30	4,915
Totals	50,039	42,982	53	93,074

2–Academics

Students attending Iowa's community colleges this fall registered for 823,306 semester hours, compared to 832,234 semester hours last fall. Average course load for all students was 8.8 semester hours.

Full-time students registered for 519,410 semester hours, or 63.1 percent of total semester hours (table 3). Average course load for full-time students was 13.8 semester hours. Last fall, full-time

students registered for 524,238 semester hours, yielding an average course load of 13.8 semester hours.

Part-time students registered for 303,896 semester hours, or 36.9 percent of total semester hours (table 3). Average course load for part-time students was 5.5 semester hours. Last fall, part-time students registered for 307,996 semester hours (37 percent of total), averaging 5.5 semester hours.

Table 3. Summary of fall 2015 semester hours by college.

College	Hours	FT (%) ^a	PT (%) ^b	Change (%) ^c
Northeast Iowa	39,768	53.5	46.5	-3.8
North Iowa Area	28,220	70.2	29.8	-1.1
Iowa Lakes	23,379	72.7	27.3	-4.7
Northwest	13,874	63.3	36.7	-0.1
Iowa Central	57,873	74.7	25.3	-0.7
Iowa Valley	27,865	74.1	25.9	-7.9
Hawkeye	52,251	69.6	30.5	-1.3
Eastern Iowa	65,842	53.8	46.3	0.6
Kirkwood	135,815	63.2	36.9	10.6
Des Moines Area	179,193	52.7	47.3	-6.1
Western Iowa Tech	53,607	60.0	40.0	-4.3
Iowa Western	66,909	71.9	28.2	-3.3
Southwestern	16,401	70.5	29.5	3.4
Indian Hills	35,427	75.3	24.7	6.3
Southeastern	26,882	67.8	32.2	-7.1
Total	823,306	63.1	36.9	-1.1

^a Percentage of hours attributed to full-time students.

^b Percentage of hours attributed to part-time students.

^c Percentage change in total hours from fall 2014.

2.1–Program Types

Programs of study are generally categorized as college parallel (transfer), career and technical education (CTE), or career option. College parallel programs prepare students for matriculation into four-year colleges or universities. CTE programs prepare students for entry into the workforce as skilled technicians or similar middle skill careers. Career option programs prepare students for either matriculation to a four-year university or entry into a career field after graduation.

College parallel programs comprised the largest category, with 64,235 enrolled students this fall, 1.4 percent from last fall. College parallel programs accounted for 60.7 percent of this fall's total enrollment.

This fall 27,742 students enrolled in CTE programs, accounting for 29.8 percent of total enrollment. Last fall, 28,020 students enrolled in CTE programs. The number of students enrolled in CTE programs this fall represents a 1.0 percent decrease from last fall.

Total enrollment this fall in career option programs was 1,081 students, accounting for 1.2 percent of total enrollment. Last fall, 2,368 students enrolled in career option programs. The Department of Education will phase out career option programs by the end of fiscal year 2016, which is reflected in the 54.3 percent decline in the number of students enrolled career option programs.

2.2–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. Table 4 summarizes online hours and enrollment for fall 2015.

Of the 93,074 students enrolled this fall, 28,166 (30.2 percent) enrolled in at least one online course, compared to 27,455 students (29.3 percent) who did so last fall. This year's enrollment represents an increase of 2.6 percent from last year.

This fall, 144,136 (17.5 percent) semester hours out of 823,306 total semester hours were attributed to online courses, compared to 140,837 semester hours last fall (table 4). Last fall, semester hours attributed to online courses accounted for 16.9 percent of total registered semester hours. On average, students enrolled in 5.1 semester hours of online courses this fall.

Table 4. Fall 2015 online hours and enrollment by college.

College	Hours	Enrollment	Enrollment (%)	
			Of total	Change
Northeast Iowa	6,346	1,246	25.6	-18.7
North Iowa Area	5,176	1,463	49.6	3.8
Iowa Lakes	4,247	820	34.6	4.6
Northwest Iowa	4,767	952	58.6	15.3
Iowa Central	7,799	1,464	26.0	3.0
Iowa Valley	5,311	1,132	41.0	-8.3
Hawkeye	6,895	1,416	26.4	-1.6
Eastern Iowa	14,677	2,453	29.3	-1.9
Kirkwood	16,674	3,226	21.8	24.1
Des Moines Area	28,392	5,666	25.4	2.5
Western Iowa Tech	13,147	2,416	39.3	-6.6
Iowa Western	14,374	2,589	39.5	3.9
Southwestern	3,798	759	45.8	15.0
Indian Hills	6,742	1,561	32.7	16.6
Southeastern	5,792	1,003	35.0	-9.0
Total	144,136	28,166	30.3	2.6

2.3–Joint Enrollment

Community colleges offer high school students three joint enrollment to earn college credit: postsecondary enrollment options (PSEO), contracted courses between high schools and community colleges, or direct payment of tuition. Students may choose to participate in more than one joint enrollment program during an academic year.

Upon successful course completion, a student may either apply earned semester hours toward an award or transfer them to a four-year college or university.

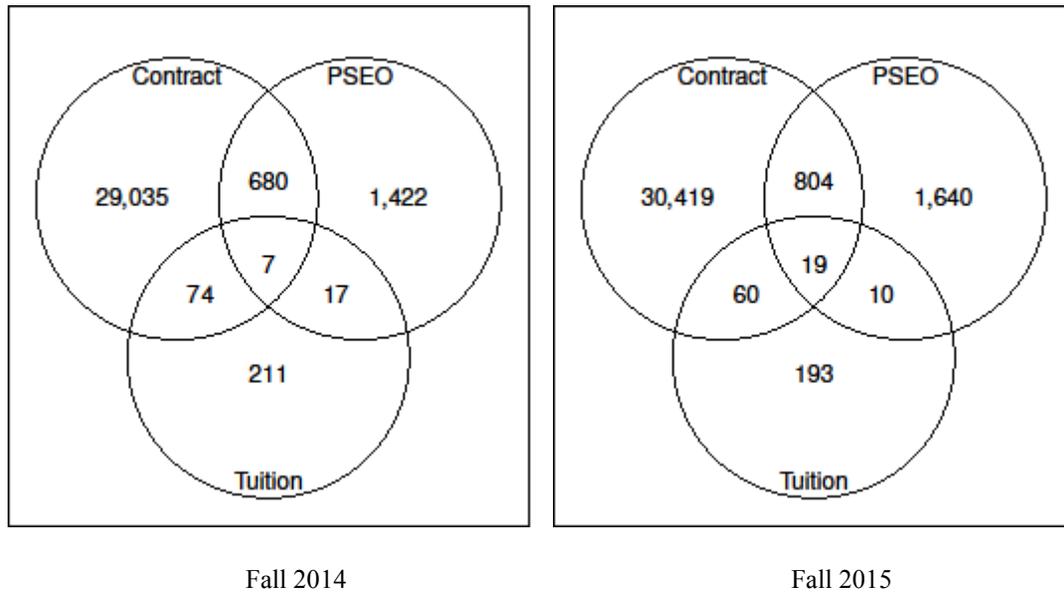
This fall, 33,145 high school students participated in at least one joint enrollment program, up 5.4 percent from last fall. Students participating in joint enrollment programs accounted for 35.6 percent of this fall’s enrollment,

compared to 33.5 percent last fall.

High school students participating in joint enrollment programs this fall registered for 164,149 semester hours of classes, up 6.3 percent from last fall. The number of semester hour attributed to joint enrollment programs this fall accounted for 19.9 percent of total registered semester hours, compared to 18.6 percent last fall.

Figure 3 shows how participation in joint enrollment programs has changed since last fall. Overlapping participation in contracted courses this year accounted for almost 95 percent of enrollment. Students enrolled only in contracted courses this year accounted for about 92 percent of enrollment.

Figure 3. Year-to-year comparison of joint enrollment participation.



2.4–Career Clusters

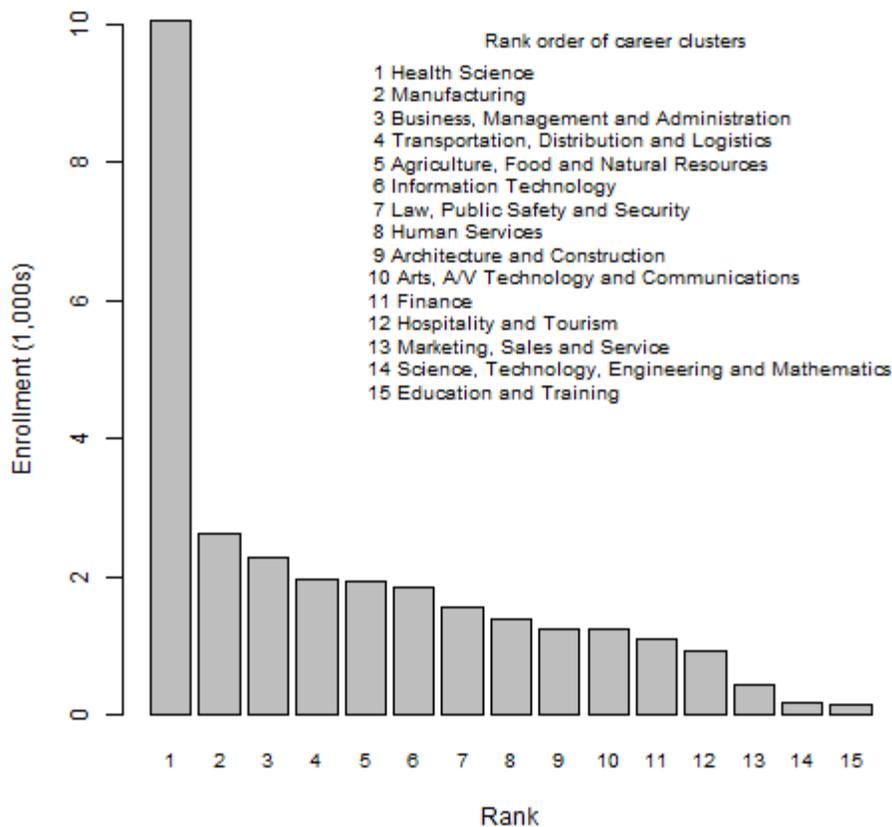
The Iowa Department of Education categorizes career and technical education (CTE) programs into 16 career clusters. Each major aligns to a category of similar programs. Visit www.careerclusters.org for more information about career clusters.

Historically, categories with the largest enrollments have been health science, manufacturing, and business management and administration. Last fall,

10,581 students enrolled in health sciences, 2,540 in business management and administration, and 2,839 in manufacturing.

This fall, as seen in figure 4, 10,042 students enrolled in health sciences, down 5.1 percent from last fall; 2,226 students enrolled in business management and administration, down 12.4 percent; 2,633 students enrolled in manufacturing, down 7.3 percent.

Figure 4. Fall 2015 enrollment by career cluster.

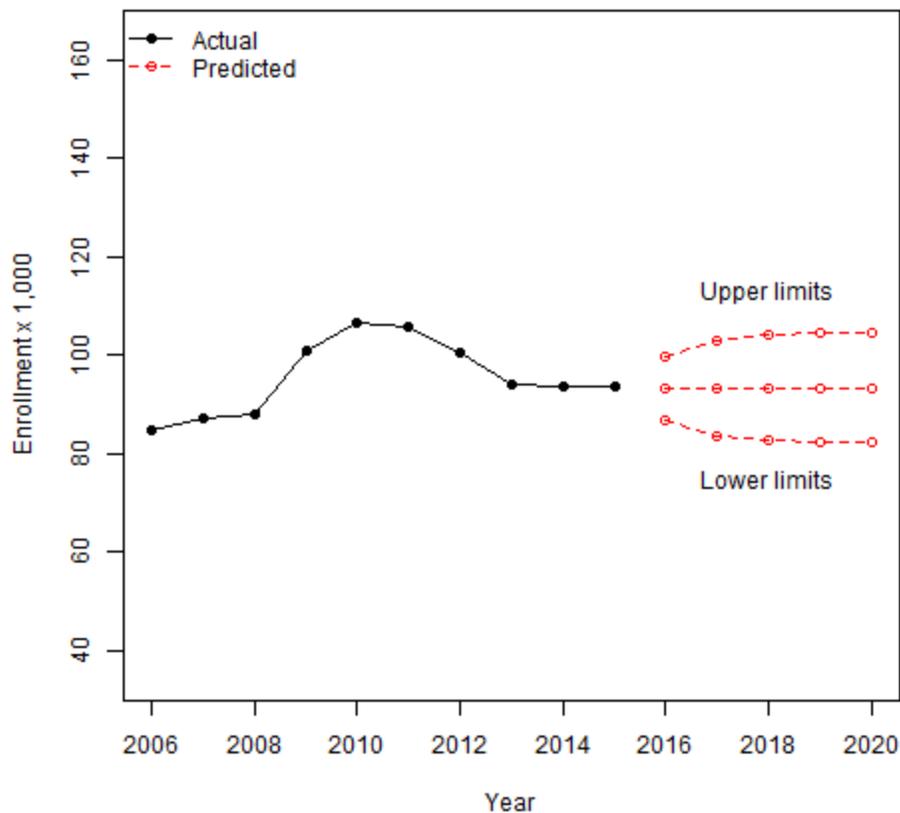


3-Enrollment Projections

Enrollment for this fall was predicted to vary between 90,427 and 98,195 students. The actual fall enrollment for fall 2015 was 93,075 students. This marks the third consecutive year in which actual enrollment has been observed within a predicted range.

Estimated enrollment next fall will be between 87,991 and 98,629 students. Furthermore, enrollment at community colleges should start to level out around 2017. Enrollment could increase to about 93,500 students by fall 2019 (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Predicted fall enrollment through 2019.





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