

# Fall Enrollment Report

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2016



**COMMUNITY COLLEGES &  
WORKFORCE PREPARATION**  
*PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION*

**IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**



Grimes State Office Building

Phone: 515-281-8260  
Fax: 515-242-5988  
www.educateiowa.gov

Ryan Wise  
Director, Iowa Department  
of Education  
515-281-3436  
ryan.wise@iowa.gov

Jeremy Varner  
Administrator, Division of  
Community Colleges and  
Workforce Preparation  
515-281-8260  
jeremy.varner@iowa.gov

Barbara Burrows  
Chief, Bureau of  
Community Colleges  
515-281-0319  
barbara.burrows@iowa.gov

Monte Burroughs  
Consultant  
515-281-3753  
monte.burroughs@iowa.gov

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**State of Iowa  
Department of Education**  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

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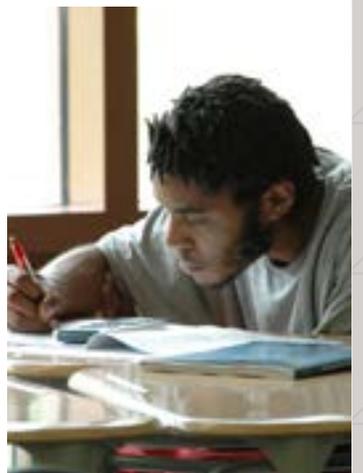
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## Executive Summary

The following highlights from this report summarize enrollment at Iowa's community colleges during fall 2016:

- » Fall 2016 enrollment is 91,430 students—a decrease of 1.8 percent from last fall's enrollment of 93,074 students.
- » Compared to last fall, registered semester hours decreased 2.2 percent, from 823,306 to 805,488.
- » The majority of students are female (54.3 percent), from Iowa (90.5 percent) with an average age of 21.2 years, and are enrolled part-time (60.5 percent) in a transfer-oriented college parallel program (70.8 percent).
- » A total of 30,585 students (33.5 percent) enrolled in at least one online course this fall.
- » Health science remains the largest career and technical education (CTE) career cluster, with manufacturing second, and business management and administration third.
- » Joint enrollment headcount increased 2.6 percent from 33,145 high school students last fall to 34,018 this fall.





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## Students

Fall 2016 enrollment, as summarized in Table 1, is 91,430 students, compared to 93,074 students last fall. Figure 1 displays fall enrollment data since 1965, illustrating that fall enrollment has increased more than tenfold since that era. However, the number of full-time students as a percentage of total fall enrollment has steadily declined from over 90 percent in 1965 to 39.5 percent in 2016 (Figure 2). This fall, enrollment of full-time students was 36,151 (39.5 percent) students compared to 37,580 students (40.4 percent) of total enrollment last fall.

While the percentage of full-time students is decreasing, the enrollment of part-time students is increasing slightly. This fall, 55,279 part-time students (those enrolled in fewer than 12 semester credit hours) account for 60.5 percent of total enrollment, compared to 55,494 part-time students last fall, which accounted for 59.6 percent of total fall enrollment.

TABLE 1: FALL 2016 ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE

College	Total	Full-time		Part-time		Change (%) <sup>a</sup>
		N	%	N	%	
Northeast Iowa	4,730	1,307	27.6	3,423	72.4	-2.8
North Iowa Area	3,023	1,370	45.3	1,653	54.7	2.6
Iowa Lakes	2,160	1,050	48.6	1,110	51.4	-8.7
Northwest Iowa	1,638	588	35.9	1,050	64.1	0.9
Iowa Central	5,718	2,899	50.7	2,819	49.3	1.5
Iowa Valley	2,873	1,428	49.7	1,445	50.3	4.1
Hawkeye	5,531	2,620	47.4	2,911	52.6	3.0
Eastern Iowa	7,872	2,635	33.5	5,237	66.5	-6.1
Kirkwood	14,745	6,083	41.3	8,662	58.7	-0.5
Des Moines Area	22,446	6,644	29.6	15,802	70.4	0.7
Western Iowa Tech	5,660	1,988	35.1	3,672	64.9	-8.0
Iowa Western	6,178	3,087	50.0	3,091	50.0	-5.9
Southwestern	1,646	728	44.2	918	55.8	-0.6
Indian Hills	4,366	2,412	55.2	1,954	44.8	-8.5
Southeastern	2,844	1,312	46.1	1,532	53.9	-0.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91,430</b>	<b>36,151</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>55,279</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

<sup>a</sup>: Percentage change in total enrollment from fall 2015.

FIGURE 1: FALL ENROLLMENT SINCE 1965

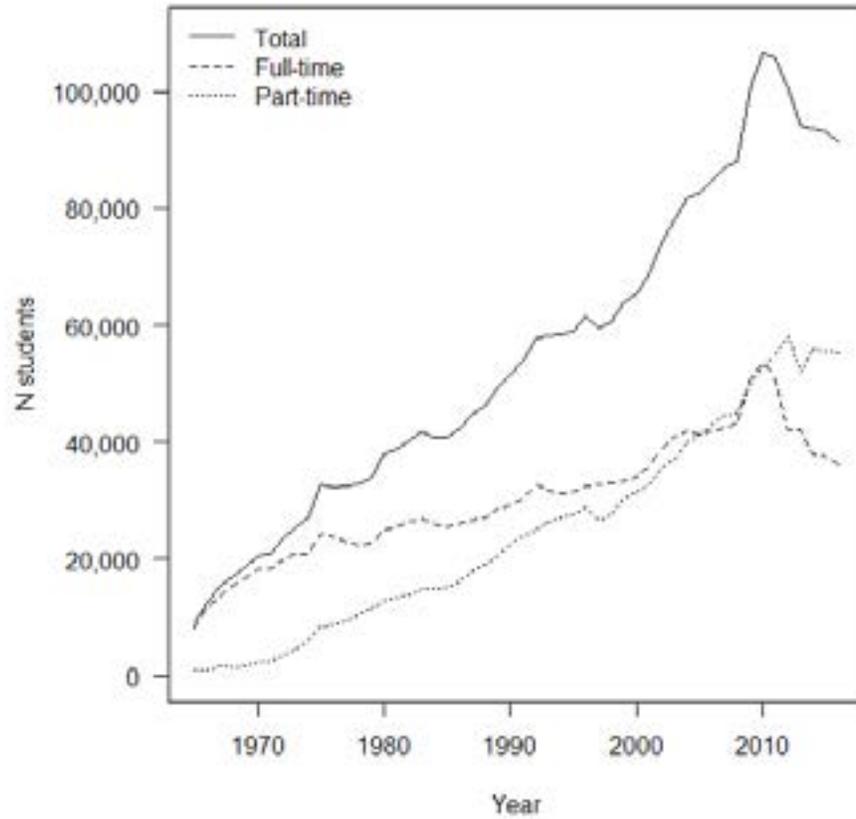
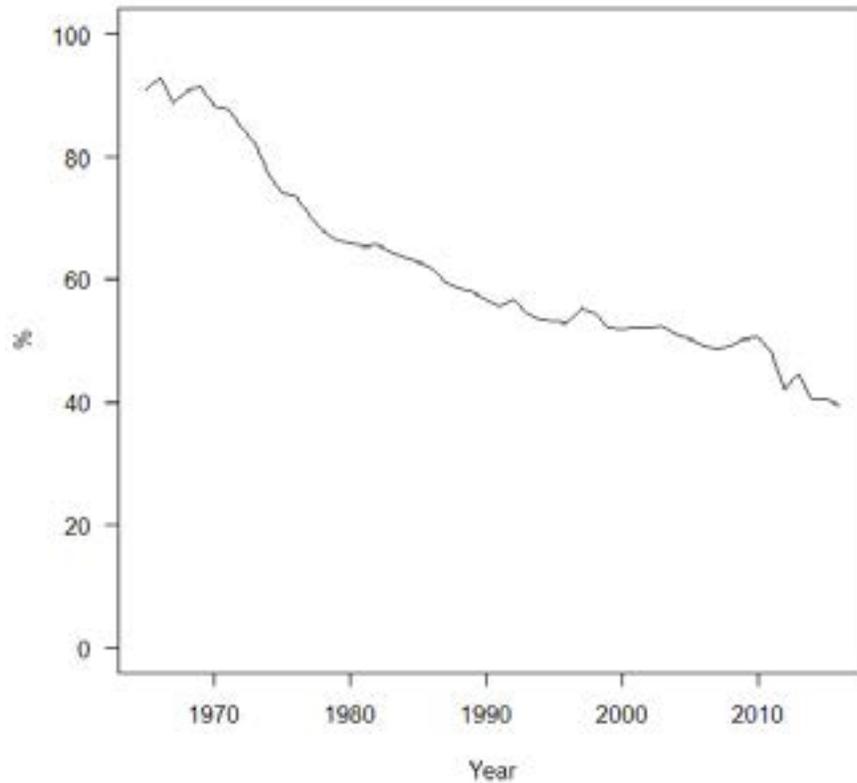


FIGURE 2: HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT



The average age of community college students this fall is 21.2 years, with a median age of 19 years. Females still represent the majority of Iowa’s community college student body, accounting for 54.3 percent of this fall’s total enrollment.

Table 2 illustrates the self-reported race and ethnicity data by gender. A total of 6,370 students (7.0 percent) did not report their race and ethnicity. Of the 93.0 percent who did report their race and ethnicity, Hispanic students account for 7.0 percent of total enrollment; African-American students, 6.7 percent; and Asians, 2.7 percent. Based on this reported demographic data, the proportion of minority students attending Iowa’s community colleges this fall is higher than the proportion of minorities in Iowa’s general population: 19.1 percent versus 9.5 percent.<sup>1</sup>

TABLE 2: FALL 2016 DISTRIBUTION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Subpopulation	Females	Males	Not Reported	Totals
American Indian	271	270	1	541
Asian	1,274	1,185	1	2,460
Black	2,978	3,142	1	6,121
Hispanic	3,518	2,955	0	6,473
Pacific Islander	63	41	0	104
White	37,390	30,172	41	67,603
Two or more	973	783	1	1,757
Not reported	3,193	3,157	20	6,370
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,660</b>	<b>41,705</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>91,430</b>

In terms of residency, 90.5 percent of the students enrolled in Iowa’s community colleges this fall are Iowans. Residents from other states account for 8.2 percent of enrolled students, with foreign nationals accounting for the balance of 1.3 percent.



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates: Table B02001.

## Academics

Students attending Iowa's community colleges this fall registered for 805,488 semester hours, compared to 823,306 semester hours last fall. Although this fall's decrease aligns with the enrollment decline, the average fall course load for all students remained relatively unchanged at 8.8 semester hours.

Full-time students registered for 500,465 semester hours, accounting for 62.1 percent of total semester hours (Table 3). This represents a slight decrease from last fall, in which full-time students registered for 63.1 percent of total hours. However, the average course load for full-time students remained virtually unchanged at 13.8 semester hours.

Part-time students registered for 305,023 semester hours, accounting for 37.9 percent of total semester hours (Table 3), representing a 1.0 percent increase from last fall. Again, the average course load for part-time students remained virtually unchanged from last fall's 5.5 semester hours.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF FALL 2016 SEMESTER HOURS BY COLLEGE

College	Hours	FT (%) <sup>a</sup>	PT (%) <sup>b</sup>	Change (%) <sup>c</sup>
Northeast Iowa	37,233	50.5	49.5	-6.4
North Iowa Area	28,066	70.3	29.7	-0.5
Iowa Lakes	21,809	74.1	25.9	-6.7
Northwest Iowa	14,113	64.0	36.0	1.7
Iowa Central	57,840	73.1	26.9	-0.1
Iowa Valley	28,445	72.6	27.4	2.1
Hawkeye	52,874	69.9	30.1	1.2
Eastern Iowa	64,818	55.0	45.0	-1.6
Kirkwood	134,392	62.5	37.5	-1.0
Des Moines Area	179,641	50.6	49.4	0.3
Western Iowa Tech	47,728	58.6	41.4	-11.0
Iowa Western	62,223	71.3	28.7	-7.0
Southwestern	15,643	67.4	32.6	-4.6
Indian Hills	33,618	74.1	25.9	-5.1
Southeastern	27,045	68.8	31.2	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>805,488</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>-2.2</b>

Note: Rounding may yield minor inaccuracies in total hours.

<sup>a</sup>: Percentage of hours attributed to full-time students.

<sup>b</sup>: Percentage of hours attributed to part-time students

<sup>c</sup>: Percentage change in total hours from fall 2015.

## Program Types

Programs of study are generally categorized as college parallel (transfer arts and sciences), career-option, or career and technical education (CTE). College parallel programs prepare students for matriculation into four-year colleges or universities, while CTE programs are designed to prepare students for direct entry into the workforce.

Although career-option programs were phased out in FY 2016, 240 students are still enrolled in these programs this fall. Of the two remaining categories—college parallel and CTE—college parallel has the larger enrollment, with 64,762 students accounting for 70.8 percent of this fall’s total headcount. This enrollment represents a slight increase over last fall’s college parallel enrollment of 64,235 students.

This fall, 26,417 students enrolled in CTE programs, accounting for 28.9 percent of total enrollment. This represents a 4.8 percent decrease from last fall’s 27,742 students enrolled in CTE programs.

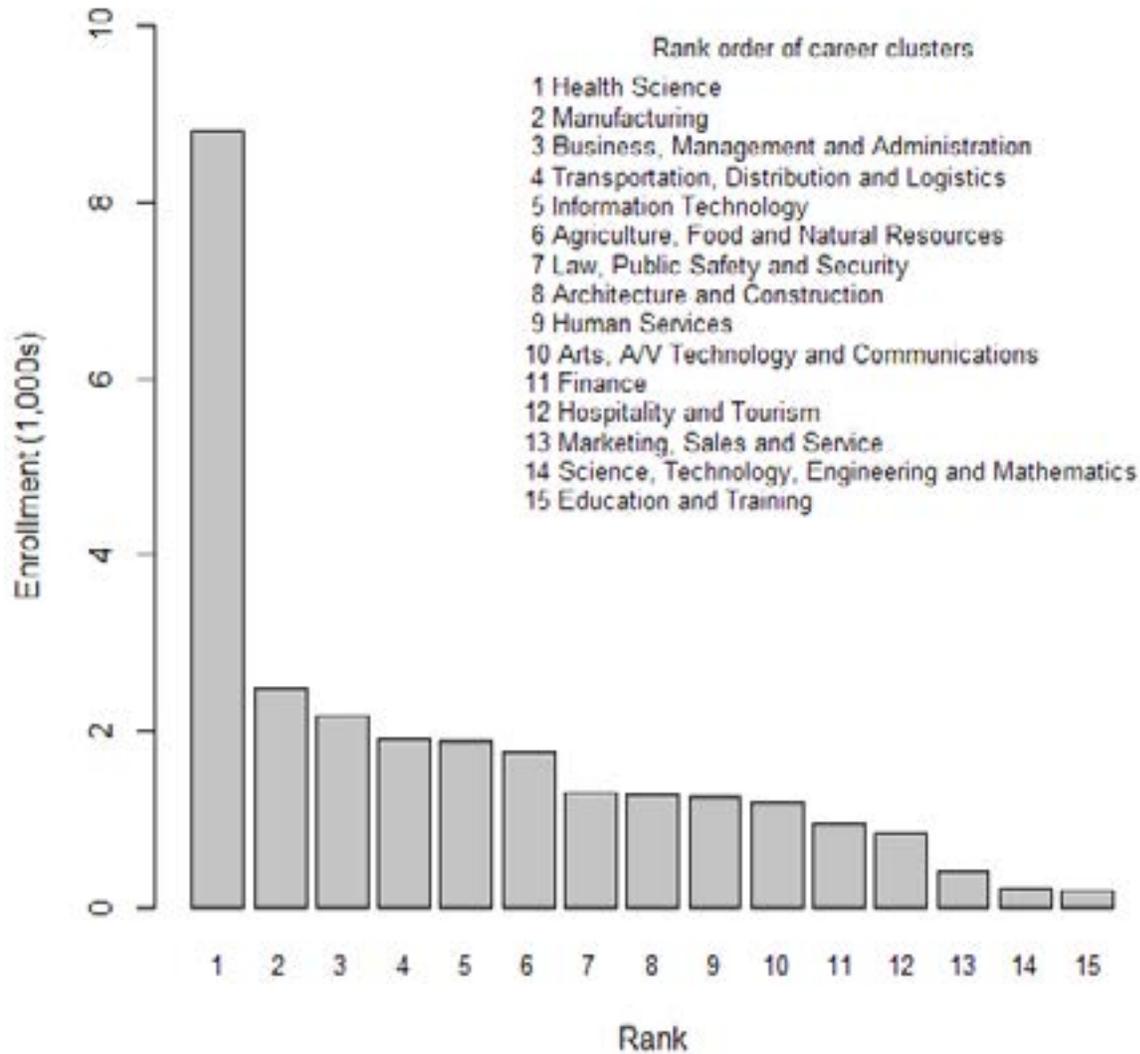
## Career Clusters

The Iowa Department of Education categorizes programs into the 16 National Career Clusters Framework that aligns academic programs with occupational fields. (Visit [www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org) for more information about career clusters.)



Historically, cluster categories with the largest enrollments have been health science, manufacturing, and business management and administration, and this fall was no exception. Of the 26,417 students enrolled in CTE programs, 8,812 students enrolled in health sciences (down 12.2 percent from last fall); 2,165 students enrolled in business management and administration (down 4.5 percent); and 2,485 students enrolled in manufacturing (down 5.6 percent). Figure 3 displays the 15 career cluster categories that are CTE-based and ranked by this fall’s enrollment. *Note:* The Government and Public Administration cluster is not included as it is not designated as an Iowa CTE program.

FIGURE 3: FALL 2016 ENROLLMENT BY CAREER CLUSTER



### Online Enrollment

Online enrollment is defined as participation in a class that is only offered via the Internet with no face-to-face instructional contact between the instructor and students. Table 4 summarizes online semester hours and student enrollment for fall 2016.

Of the 91,430 students enrolled this fall, 30,585 (33.5 percent) enrolled in at least one online course, compared to 28,166 students (30.2 percent) last fall. This year’s online enrollment represents an increase of 8.6 percent from last year.

In terms of semester-hour registration, this fall, 154,179 (19.1 percent) of the total semester hours were attributed to online courses (Table 4). This, compared to 144,136 semester hours last fall, represents a 7.0 percent increase in online course-taking this fall. On average, these 30,585 students enrolled in 5.0 semester hours of online courses this fall.

TABLE 4: FALL 2016 ONLINE HOURS AND ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE

College	Hours	Enrollment		
		Headcount	% Total	% Change
Northeast Iowa	6,192	1,231	26.0	-1.2
North Iowa Area	5,625	1,583	52.4	8.2
Iowa Lakes	4,511	884	40.9	7.8
Northwest Iowa	4,798	978	59.7	2.7
Iowa Central	7,880	1,525	26.7	4.2
Iowa Valley	5,607	1,246	43.4	10.1
Hawkeye	7,932	1,665	30.1	17.6
Eastern Iowa	15,491	2,523	32.1	2.9
Kirkwood	22,333	4,549	30.9	41.0
Des Moines Area	29,707	6,015	26.8	6.2
Western Iowa Tech	12,593	2,346	41.4	-2.9
Iowa Western	14,849	2,587	41.9	-0.1
Southwestern	3,620	752	45.7	-0.9
Indian Hills	6,803	1,597	36.6	2.3
Southeastern	6,238	1,104	38.8	10.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154,179</b>	<b>30,585</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>

## Joint Enrollment

Community colleges offer high school students three ways to earn college credit through joint enrollment: 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 credits toward a community college award or transfer the credits to a four-year college or university.

This fall, 34,018 high school students participated in at least one joint enrollment program, compared to 33,145 participants last fall, which represents a 2.6 percent increase. Students participating in joint enrollment programs accounted for 37.2 percent of this fall's enrollment, compared to 35.6 percent last fall.

High school students participating in joint enrollment programs this fall registered for 163,755 semester hours of classes, compared to 164,149 semester hours last fall which represents a 0.2 percent decrease. The number of semester hours attributed to joint enrollment programs this fall accounted for 20.3 percent of total registered semester hours, compared to 19.9 percent last fall.

Figure 4 shows how participation in joint enrollment programs has changed since last fall. The most significant changes being: (1) the increase in the number of PSEO-only student participants (1,392 to 2,554); (2) the decrease in the number of students paying tuition, including those in overlapping circles/programs (1,984 to 290); and (3) the increase in the number of students only participating through contracted courses that are generally taught at their high school campuses (26,835 to 30,225). Participation in either contracted courses or together with other programs this fall accounted for 91.8 percent of enrollment. Students enrolled only in contracted courses this year accounted for 88.9 percent of enrollment.

FIGURE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN JOINT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.

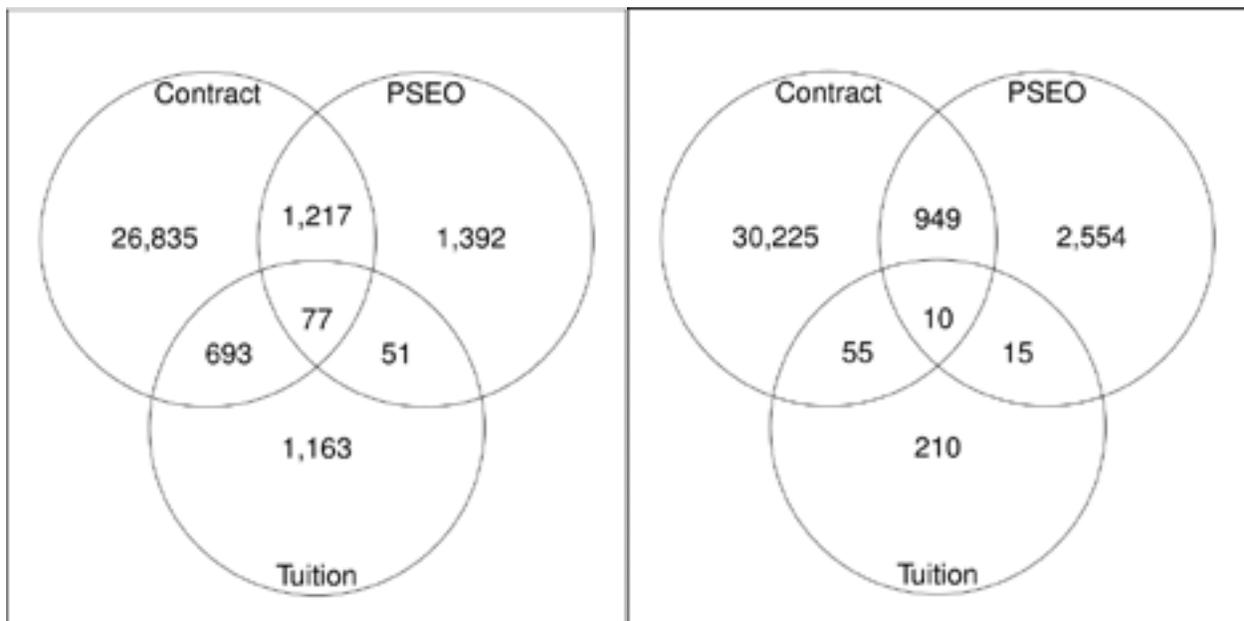


Figure 3a: Fall 2015

Figure 3b: Fall 2016

### Enrollment Projections

Enrollment for this fall was predicted to vary between 87,991 and 98,629 students. The actual fall enrollment for fall 2016 was 91,430 students. This marks the fourth consecutive year in which actual enrollment has been observed within a predicted range.

Estimated enrollment next fall will be between 87,893 and 94,871 students. Enrollment at community colleges is projected to start to level out by 2017, and remain relatively flat through fall 2021.

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## **COMMUNITY COLLEGES & WORKFORCE PREPARATION**

*PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION*

The Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation within the Iowa Department of Education administers a variety of diverse programs that enhance Iowa's educational system and lead to a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. Divided between two bureaus — the Bureau of Community Colleges and the Bureau of Career and Technical Education — the division is committed to providing and supporting opportunities for lifelong learning. In addition to working with the 15 Iowa public community colleges on state accreditation, program approval, and data reporting, guidance is also provided in the areas of career and technical education, workforce training and economic development, adult education and literacy, military education, the state mandated OWI education program, the GAP Tuition program, Senior Year PLUS, the National Crosswalk Service Center, and the Statewide Intermediary Network for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) program.