

# Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Dennis Prouty  
(515) 281-5279  
FAX 281-8451



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## Regents Graduate Study Centers

### ISSUE

This *Issue Review* provides an overview of the three graduate study centers receiving State appropriations under the auspices of the Board of Regents.

### AFFECTED AGENCIES

The Board of Regents

### CODE AUTHORITY

Section 262.9, Code of Iowa

### BACKGROUND

There are three graduate study centers: the Quad Cities Graduate Center, the Tri-State Graduate Center and the Southwest Iowa Graduate Center.

#### **Quad Cities Graduate Study Center**

(Located in

Rock Island, Illinois)

**History:** In 1956, the Quad-Cities Technical Advisory Council developed a process to permit area residents to further their education and to meet the needs of area employers. The University of Iowa initiated the effort to provide graduate education in mechanical engineering. In 1969, the Quad-City Development Group began to provide financial support to operate the Center, urging cooperation by the local private and public institutions in both Illinois and Iowa. The result was the incorporation of the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center (referred to locally as the GradCenter), with nine colleges and universities (member institutions). The initial three degree programs with 2,400 registrants has increased to 52 graduate degree programs and 6,000 registrants.

**Current Mission:** The mission of the GradCenter is to provide graduate-level educational opportunities to the residents of the Quad Cities area.

**Location/space:** The Quad Cities GradCenter leases office space and needed classrooms from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and contracts for library and computer

support services as needed. Additional classrooms are located in ten Iowa locations and seven Illinois locations for standard and Iowa Communication Network (ICN) classrooms.



**Iowa Communications Network usage:** Although the Quad Cities GradCenter has the authority to be an authorized user of the ICN, telecommunications needs are currently met through member institutions and the Rock Island Arsenal. The Western Illinois Education Consortium (WEIC) telecommunications system is also available to the member institutions. The GradCenter has access to both statewide systems.

**Governing Board:** The Quad Cities GradCenter is governed by a 21-member Board, with 12 members appointed by the President of each member institution and nine community members appointed by the Quad Cities Development Group.

**Program Offering:** The twelve member institutions may introduce new degree programs, upon notification of the GradCenter and the Governing Board. In FY 1993, there were 33 degree programs offered and 15 of them were offered by Iowa member institutions. In FY 1998, there were 52 degree programs offered, with 27 of them offered by Iowa member institutions.

**Attachment III** specifies the degree programs offered at all three of the graduate centers.

**Possible additional members:** Any regional accredited institution offering graduate degree programs and authorized to operate in Illinois or Iowa may apply for membership in the GradCenter. A formal application process which requires Board approval.

**Students:** Students enrolled in residence degree programs offered through the GradCenter pay in-state tuition at the member institutions regardless of their state of residence. Most students take courses to fulfill a degree program from a single institution. Students desiring to transfer course credits are encouraged to work with the institutions involved.

**Enrollments:** **Attachment I** includes enrollment data. Between FY 1993 and FY 1998, headcount enrollments at the GradCenter has increased by 52.8%. Enrollments, which refers to the number of classes in which the students enroll, has increased 25.0% since FY 1993. The percentage of Iowans enrolled compared to the total of Iowa and Illinois residents has increased from 40.0% to 49.0% since FY 1993.

**Staff:** The GradCenter staff includes a director, an assistant director, an administrative assistant, an office manager, and a part-time secretary. **Attachment II** provides salary information.

**Tri-State Graduate Center:**

(Located in  
Sioux City, Iowa)

**History:** The Tri-State Graduate Center was founded in 1990, and includes 14 colleges and universities in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

**Current Mission:** The mission of the Tri-State Graduate Center is to facilitate the delivery of graduate education and other training opportunities to the residents of Siouxland (the vicinity of Sioux City).

**Location/space:** The Tri-State Graduate Center is located on the third floor of the Western Hills Area Education Agency in Sioux City, leasing two offices and an interactive telecommunications classroom. Most of the classes offered are at various sites in the communities served.

**Iowa Communications Network usage:** The hours of use on the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) are almost equal between FY 1997 and FY 1998 by the five member institutions which utilize the technology. However, in FY 1997, 47.0% of the programs offered by all of the member institutions were via a distance education means while only 9.0% of the enrollments were as a result of these programs. In FY 1998, 63.0% of all of the programs were offered by distance education while 15.0% of the enrollments received the classes by this means. Nebraska satellite system transmissions also occur as part of the Nebraska member institutions.

**Governing Board:** The Tri-State Graduate Center is governed by a 24-member Board, representing the member institutions and the general public. Each member institution appoints one member, and Greater Siouxland, Inc. and Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council may appoint a number equal to the institution membership number. Each state Board of Regents financially supporting the Tri-State Graduate Center also appoints one member.

**Program Offering:** Both the Tri-State Graduate Center staff and the member institutions initiate possible course offerings. The Center staff utilizes local needs assessments and customer initiated requests for courses and works with the member institutions to determine the possible development of the course program. A member institution also determines possible interest in a selected program and develops the appropriate program delivery method in conjunction with the other member institutions and the Center staff.

**Possible additional members:** A formal application process for additional members is in place.

**Students:** Course sharing and coordination between institutions are part of the process for program coordination. Several of the member institutions offer cooperative degree programs which interchange between the institutions. The member institutions cooperate to permit students to transfer credits within the guidelines of the individual degree programs. Each institution charges an off campus tuition rate, independent of student residence and which is unique for each institution.

**Enrollments: Attachment I** includes enrollment data. Between FY 1995 and FY 1998, course enrollments have more than doubled (118.28%). In FY 1998, 85.0% of course enrollments were Iowa residents. The Tri-State Graduate Center also coordinates educational opportunities by the local area education agency and other non-credit course activity.

**Staff:** The Tri-State Graduate Center staff includes a 3/5 time director and a full-time assistant director. **Attachment II** provides salary information.

#### **Southwest Iowa Graduate Center**

**the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs, Iowa)**

**(Located at**

**History:** The Center (referred to by the Iowa Board of Regents as a Regents Resource Center) received its initial funding by the Iowa General Assembly in 1991. Only the three institutions of

higher education of the Iowa Board of Regents are part of the Center. The Regents have developed an intra-state purpose rather than including interstate programs.

**Current Mission:** The Southwest Iowa Graduate Center exists to provide increased access to graduate and undergraduate education and other Regents university resources for area residents.

**Location/space:** The Southwest Iowa Graduate Center is located on the campus of the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs, which includes office space and one classroom.

**Iowa Communications Network usage:** The use of the ICN has increased 39.1% between FY 1997 and FY 1998, with the hours from the Regents' institutions increasing from 1,973.5 to 2,744.5.

**Governing Board:** The Southwest Iowa Graduate Center does not have a private non-profit governing board. The State Extension and Continuing Education Council was designated by the Board of Regents as responsible for the Center. Two representatives from each of the three institutions of higher education of the Board of Regents are members of the Council.

**Program Offering:** A unique aspect of the Southwest Iowa Graduate Center is the offering of undergraduate courses in addition to graduate courses. For FY 1998, 20 graduate programs and four undergraduate programs were offered. Both the Southwest Iowa Graduate Center staff and the three Regent institutions initiate possible course offerings. The Center staff utilizes local needs assessments and customer initiated requests for courses and works with the member institutions to determine the possible development of the course program. A Regents' institution also determines possible interest in a selected program and develops the appropriate program delivery method in conjunction with the other two institutions and the Center staff.

**Possible Additional Members:** No provision exists at this time to add institutions to the Center.

**Students:** The sharing of degree courses and coordination between the three institutions takes place frequently. The Regents' institutions provide assistance for the transfer of credits between institutions when possible. Each of the institutions charges an off campus tuition rate.

**Enrollments:** Attachment I includes enrollment data. Usage of the ICN has caused enrollment to increase the past two years; however enrollment for credit courses has only increased by 11 since FY 1993. Nebraska residents accounted for 11.8% of the FY 1998 credit course enrollment.

**Staff:** The Southwest Iowa Graduate Center staff includes a director and a secretary. Attachment II provides salary information.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. The Quad Cities GradCenter has been in existence almost 30 years. To enhance services and become aware of changing local needs, a local assessment survey may be beneficial.
2. As services and the number of programs offered increase, ability to pay for course catalogues and other publications becomes more difficult. Yet these publications are what typically generate enrollments. The member institutions are the only direct beneficiaries from the tuition the students pay. The three graduate centers do not directly benefit from tuition revenues. Inflationary support could be provided by the General Assembly or the member institutions.
3. Sharing the experiences of the Quad Cities GradCenter with the other two centers seems only beneficial. The three graduate centers staff and a small representation of board members

might benefit from meeting jointly. The first joint meeting hosted by the GradCenter is scheduled for November 5 and 6.

### **BUDGET IMPACT**

1. An estimate of the cost for a local needs assessment for the Quad Cities GradCenter is \$40,000. Splitting this one-time cost with the State of Illinois is anticipated to increase both enrollments and tuition revenues for the member institutions.
2. The General Assembly may want to consider appropriating a small amount of inflationary funds to annually offset the increases in printing/binding of publications issued by the three centers. Another funding alternative would be to encourage the member institutions to transfer a small amount from the tuition revenues generated by the centers to the centers for inflationary costs or to rotate printing/binding responsibilities of the necessary documents to continue the successful operation of the centers.
3. Only minimal costs are expected for a joint meeting. The ICN could also be utilized for additional communication between the three centers.
4. The Iowa Board of Regents may want to reconsider its increase in charges for rental space for the Southwest Iowa Graduate Center. Since the three Iowa Regents institutions are the only member institutions, there is little to gain from having the Iowa School for the Deaf increase the charges.
5. The General Assembly may want to consider establishing a separate private nonprofit board to operate the Southwest Iowa Graduate Center. Currently the State Extension and Continuing Education Council transfers \$24,000 to the Southwest Iowa Graduate Center for budgetary purposes. At the same time a separate board of directors is considered, the General Assembly could also consider appropriating an additional \$24,000 for greater independence.

#### Notes:

The websites for the centers provide information regarding the operations and local class offerings. A website is under development for the Southwest Iowa Graduate Center. The other two websites are:

Quad Cities GradCenter: [www.gradcenter.org](http://www.gradcenter.org)

Tri-State Graduate Center: [www.tri-state-grad.org](http://www.tri-state-grad.org)

STAFF CONTACT: Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794)



## Graduate Center Enrollment Information

### Quad Cities Grad Center

	<u>FY 1993</u>	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
Total Course Enrollments*	4,839	4,671	4,827	5,213	5,453	6,048
Education Credits	3,852	3,744	3,874	3,880	3,755	3,777
Noneducation Credits	1,009	964	953	1,333	1,698	2,271
Iowa Enrollments	40.00%	38.00%	43.00%	44.00%	46.00%	49.00%
Illinois Enrollments	60.00%	62.00%	57.00%	56.00%	54.00%	51.00%

### Tri-State Grad Center

	<u>FY 1993</u>	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
Total Course Enrollments	2,608	2,664	2,550	3,521	4,115	5,563
Education Credits	313	203	1,333	2,170	2,643	2,754
Noneducation Credits	2,295	2,461	1,217	1,351	1,472	2,809
Iowa Enrollments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80.00%	85.00%
Nebraska Enrollments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.00%	10.00%
South Dakota Enrollments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.00%	4.30%
Other Enrollments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.00%	0.70%

### Southwest Grad Center

	<u>FY 1993</u>	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
Total Course Enrollments	446	516	376	296	322	457
Education Credits	400	495	320	241	260	363
Noneducation Credits	46	21	56	55	62	94
Iowa Enrollments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	91.20%
Nebraska Enrollments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.80%

\*The Quad Cities GradCenter enrollments reflect graduate level courses and do not include AEA enrollments.  
NA: Not available

### FY 1998 Graduate Center Financial Information

	<u>Quad Cities</u>	<u>Tri-State</u>	<u>Southwest</u>
Total Budget	\$ 340,842	\$ 127,078	\$ 132,888
Iowa General Fund Appropriation	47.70%	62.30%	81.70%
Other States' Funding	51.30%	32.40%	0.00%
Other Funding	1.00%	5.30%	18.30%
Director Salary	\$ 66,950	\$ 37,500	\$ 52,000
Assistant Director Salary	\$ 42,567	\$ 30,380	\$ 0
Administrative Secretary Salary	\$ 37,111	\$ 0	\$ 0
Secretary Salary	\$ 20,000	\$ 0	\$ 22,560

## QUAD CITIES GRADUATE CENTER

**DEGREE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY DELIVERED THROUGH GRADCENTER**

(Programs are masters-level unless otherwise indicated.)

**Bradley University**  
Electrical Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering

**Illinois State University**  
Educational Administration (Ed.D.)  
Higher Education (Ed.D., Ph.D.)

**Iowa State University**  
•Agriculture  
•Community and Regional Planning  
•Computer Engineering  
•Family and Consumer Sciences  
•Materials Science  
Mathematics Education  
•Systems Engineering

**Marycrest International University**  
Computer Science  
•Early Childhood Education  
•Master of Arts in Education  
•Master of Arts in Teaching  
•Reading (certificate program)

**Northern Illinois University**  
Public Administration (certificate program)

**St. Ambrose University**  
•Accounting  
•Business Administration  
Criminal Justice Education  
•Health Care Administration  
•Pastoral Studies  
•Social Work  
•Special Education

**Saint Xavier University**  
•Master of Arts in Education

**University of Illinois**  
Agronomy  
•Electrical and Computer Engineering  
•General Engineering  
•Mechanical Engineering  
Nursing  
•Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

**University of Iowa**  
Business Administration  
Higher Education  
Nursing  
•Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)  
•Science Education  
Social Work

**University of Northern Iowa**  
Public Relations  
•Middle School Education  
•Music Education

**Western Illinois University**  
Biology  
Business Administration  
Counselor Education  
Educational Administration  
Educational Interdis. Studies  
Elementary Education  
Instructional Technology  
Reading  
English  
Health Education and Promotion  
Law Enforcement  
Physical Education  
Special Education

NOTE: bullet (•) indicates full degree program delivery began at GradCenter during FY98.

**Tri-State Graduate Center  
FY 1998**

**Briar Cliff College**

Master's program in Catholic School Administration (Clarke College)

**Creighton University**

Master of Science in Nursing

**Drake University**

Master of Science in Training and Development

**Iowa State University**

Master of Agriculture  
Master of Engineering  
Master of Family and Consumer Science  
Master of School Mathematics  
Certificate in Public Management  
School Superintendency Certificate Program

**Morningside College**

Master of Arts in Teaching - Elementary Education, Multicategorical Disabilities, Behavior Disorders, Learning Disabilities, Technology Based Learning, Reading Specialist

**The University of Iowa**

Master of Arts in Higher Education  
Master of Arts in Library and Information Science

**University of Northern Iowa**

Master of Arts in Education - Educational Administration  
Master of Arts in Public Relations  
Master of Arts - School Library Media Studies

**University of South Dakota**

Master of Science in Administrative Studies  
Master of Business Administration

**University of South Dakota and Morningside College**

(cooperative programs)  
Master of Arts in English  
Master of Arts in History

**Wayne State College**

Master of Business Administration  
Master of Science in Education - School Administration, Special Education, Counseling, Curriculum and Instruction

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Master of Journalism and Mass Communication  
Master of Science in Human Resources and Family Sciences  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Engineering  
Doctorate in Education Leadership and Higher Education  
Doctorate in Administration, Curriculum, and Instruction

## Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center

**FY 1998****University of Northern Iowa**

Early Childhood Special Education endorsement  
 Higher Education Community College Certification  
 Master of Arts – Public Relations  
 Master of Arts in Education – Early Childhood Education  
 Master of Arts in Education – Educational Administration \* \*\*  
 Master of Arts in Education – Elementary Education  
 Master of Arts in Education – Elementary Reading and Language Arts \*\*  
 Master of Arts in Education – Middle School/Junior High Education  
 Tourism Certificate Program \*\*  
 Bachelor of Liberal Studies

**Iowa State University**

Bachelor of Liberal Studies  
 Bachelor of Science in Professional Agriculture  
 Certificate of Advanced Studies (Superintendent Certification)  
 Certificate of Public Management  
 Community College Induction/Mentoring Program (endorsement program)  
 Master of Agriculture  
 Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering  
 Master of Family and Consumer Sciences  
 Master of School Mathematics  
 Master of Science in Computer Engineering  
 Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

**University of Iowa**

Bachelor of Liberal Studies  
 Higher Education Community College Certification  
 Doctor of Pharmacy  
 Master of Arts in Higher Education  
 Master of Science in Nursing  
 Special Education Behavioral Disorders endorsement