

Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Fall 2008 Enrollment
at
Iowa Colleges and Universities

March 2009



IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION
Enrollment at Iowa Colleges and Universities
Fall 2008

Summary

This report is based on annual reports provided by Iowa college and university registrars to the University of Iowa Registrar who compiles the data as a project of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education. Source documents are provided to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission's Higher Education Database where additional reports are generated and made available to the public. The Commission maintains an historical record back to 1976. Electronic files date from 1986. The Commission staff appreciates the work of Iowa college and university officials and Coordinating Council members, past and present, in the compilation and maintenance of these data.

Following are highlights of the report.

- Total enrollment increased by 1.3% at Iowa two- and four-year colleges and universities as measured in the Fall of 2007 and 2008.
- Resident enrollment, including online programs, increased 0.4% during the same period with declines in the Regent and non-profit sectors.
- Resident enrollment, excluding online programs, increased 0.1%.
- Dual and PSEO enrollment was 10.9% of the total in September 2008, with 95.3% of that at Iowa community colleges.
- Since 1988, the percentage of full-time enrollment has shown a modest increase at Regent and non-profit colleges and universities, with a notable decrease at community colleges. The community college decrease is attributed to several factors including an increase in dual credit and PSEO students.
- With the decrease in full-time enrollment at community colleges, there has been an increase in part-time enrollment: a reflection of the changing needs of many students for higher education opportunities.

The data in this report were provided as of the official enrollment date in October, 2008. Since then, the Iowa and national economies have continued to change dramatically. Commission staff have received anecdotal reports of increased enrollments at community colleges: a change that is consistent with consumer behavior during recessionary times. Iowa colleges and universities do not report enrollment in the middle of the academic year, and changes that are taking place at the time this report is being prepared, may be seen in the Fall 2009 reports.

Enrollment Summary

Total enrollment at Iowa public and non-profit colleges and universities (excluding online programs serving mostly out-of-state residents) increased by 1.3% from 215,372 to 218,262 between the fall reporting periods of 2007 and 2008.

Table 1 shows the reported total enrollment and growth at Iowa colleges and universities between 2007 and 2008. The table shows statewide totals for all two- and four-year degree-granting institutions, and a sub-total that excludes the online component of the for-profit sector because of the disproportionate growth in that component. Online enrollment in the for-profit sector rose 68% from 40,482 to 68,015 between 2007 and 2008. Ninety-eight percent of the growth in this component was among non-resident online enrollments.

Enrollment of Iowa resident students increased a very small amount (0.1%) from 164,325 in 2007 to 164,517 in 2008. Details of Iowa resident enrollment is provided in Table 4, which shows a decline of 466 students (-0.96%) at Regent Universities, and a decline of 608 (-1.92%) at non-profit colleges and universities. Community colleges had an increase of 823 (1.01%) and for-profit institutions excluding online programs had an increase of 443 (15.9%). Resident enrollment at for-profit online programs increased by 548 (66.7%).

Table 1
Enrollment at Iowa Colleges and Universities
Fall 2008

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Regents	69,178	70,325	1,147	1.7%
Non-Profit Private	55,834	56,174	340	0.6%
Community Colleges	87,072	88,104	1,032	1.2%
For-Profit Private Online	40,482	68,015	27,533	68.0%
For-Profit Private On Ground	3,288	3,659	371	11.3%
Total	255,854	286,277	30,423	11.9%
Total Excluding For-Profit Online	215,372	218,262	2,890	1.3%

Source: Annual Iowa College and University Enrollment Report
Summarized by Iowa College Student Aid Commission Research
Selection of two and four-year and above, degree granting institutions.

The differences between enrollment growth of total students and Iowa resident students suggests that the Iowa higher education system is maintaining its stability by attracting out-of-state students. Still, 18 of the 38 (47%) public and non-profit four-year private colleges reported declines in total enrollment ranging from 1 at Vennard College (a school that filed a report in September, 2008 and closed in December of that same year) to a decline of 95 at Faith Baptist Bible

College. Community college enrollments declined at 5 of the 15 (33%) institutions, with declines ranging from 32 at Northwest Iowa Community College to 354 at Eastern Iowa Community College. Staff at Eastern Iowa Community College attributed the decline to non-economic issues.

Extension and PSEO Enrollment

For-profit online programs enrolled almost 68,000 (82.9%) of the students in extension programs, while non-profit colleges and universities enrolled almost 10,000 (12.2%), and Regent Universities enrolled slightly over 4,000 (4.9%) in these programs. Slightly over 24,000 high school students were enrolled in postsecondary institutions under dual enrollment and PSEO programs. Almost 23,000 of these (95.3%) were enrolled at community colleges. A report on joint enrollment, published by the Iowa Department of Education Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, places the 2008 enrollment at 31,450 for community colleges. The difference between that report and these data is that source for these data reflect enrollment at a single point in time on the official enrollment date, and the Iowa Department of Education report reflects additional enrollments throughout the academic year. Institutions that offer numerous enrollment dates will have a greater number of individuals who actually participated in programs than the number counted on the official enrollment date. Enrollments reported for Dual and PSEO enrollments in Table 2 are presented here as they were provided by colleges and universities after the official enrollment date and cannot be fully verified from other sources. Dual enrollments may include high school students who are taking college classes for college credit, but not for high school credit. The decline in the percent of full-time students at community colleges after 2003 has been attributed, to a large extent, to a large increase in dual enrollment and PSEO students.

Table 2
Enrollment at Iowa Colleges and Universities
Fall 2008

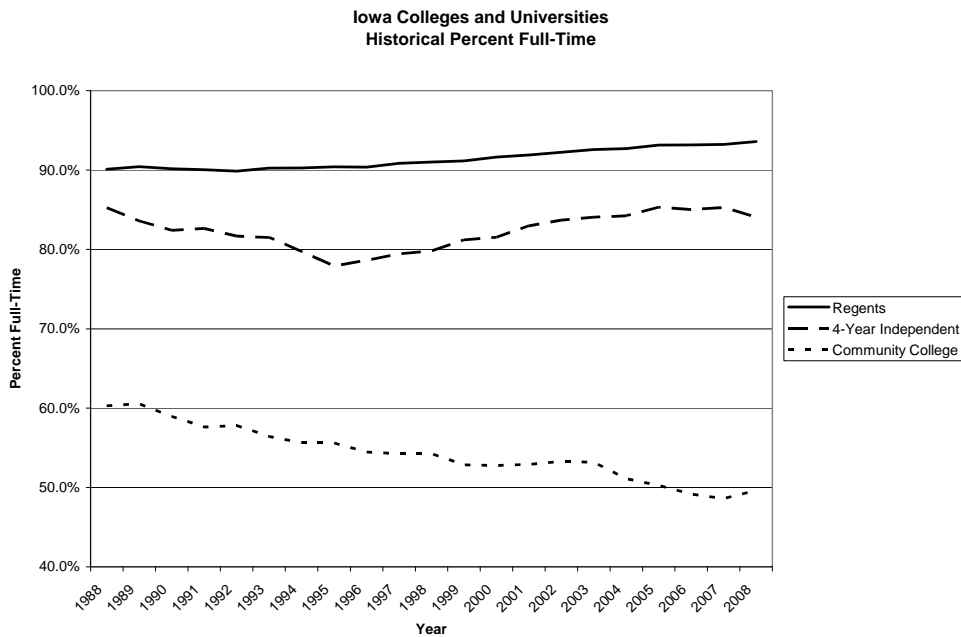
	<u>Headcount Enrollment</u>			<u>Percent of Total</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>Dual/PSEO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>Dual/PSEO</u>
Regents	70,325	4,026	249	24.5%	4.9%	1.0%
Non-Profit Private	56,174	9,987	538	19.6%	12.2%	2.2%
Community Colleges	88,104	0	22,971	30.8%	0.0%	95.3%
For-Profit Private Online	68,015	67,979	348	25.1%	82.9%	1.4%
For-Profit Private On Ground	3,659	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	286,277	81,992	24,106	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total Excluding For-Profit Online	218,262	14,013	23,758	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Annual Iowa College and University Enrollment Report
Summarized by Iowa College Student Aid Commission Research
Selection of two and four-year and above, degree granting institutions.

Full-Time vs. Part-Time

Graph 1 shows a 21-year history of full-time and part-time enrollment at Iowa colleges and universities including the years 1988 through 2008. These data include students with declared majors. Over this period of time, the percentage of full-time students at Regent universities increased steadily from 90.1% to 93.6%, while private colleges declined from 85.3% in 1988 to 77.9% in 1995 and has since increased to 84.0%. Community college full-time enrollment has declined steadily from 60.3% in 1988 to 49.6% in 2008. The changes in full-time enrollment reflect mirror-image changes in part-time enrollments. Observers have suggested that the decreases in full-time enrollment may have several causes, including (1) a large increase in dual enrollment and PSEO students at community colleges, (2) increases in tuition at four-year institutions, (3) an increase in the interest among working adults to seek first-time degrees or obtain retraining that is required to meet the needs of a changing workforce marketplace and, (4) an increase in the number of four-year students to take some of their classes at community colleges on a part-time bases. Most likely, all of these factors are components of the overall trend.

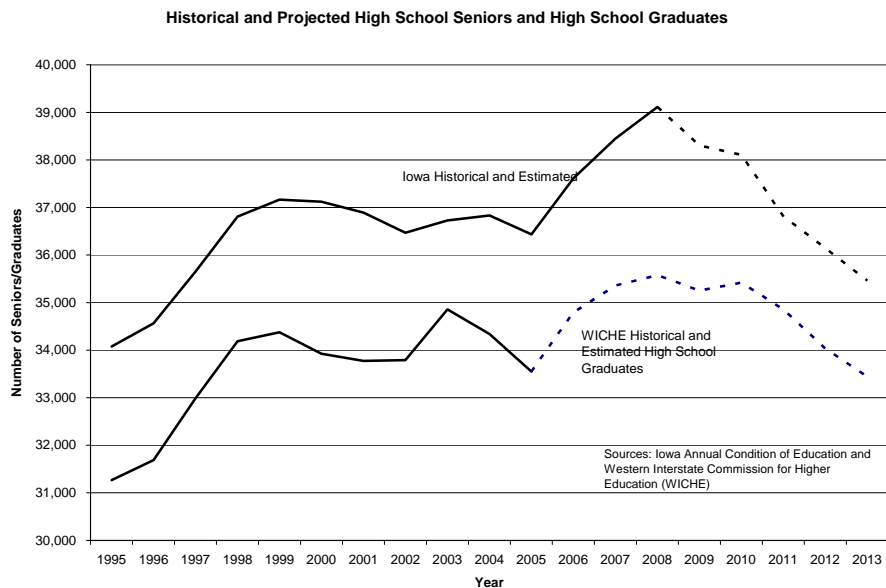
Graph 1



Estimated High School Graduates

Graph 2 shows the historical and projected enrollment of high school seniors published in the Annual Condition of Education. The most recent report shows data for 2008 with projected estimates, and previous reports provide historical data. The Iowa Department of Education is projecting a decrease in enrollment of high school seniors, which makes it likely that there will be a decrease in the pool of Iowa resident graduates who could be expected to attend Iowa colleges and universities. The projection is consistent with reports from the Western Interstate Higher Education Compact (WICHE) which has projected both declines and steady enrollments of high school graduations depending on the methodology used for the projection. Estimates of high school graduates prepared by WICHE show a trend that is similar to the Iowa estimates with the number of graduates at their maximum in 2007 and 2008, and declines thereafter.

Graph 2



Analysis

With the national economy in a recession and prospects suggesting a deeper recession may be ahead, there is concern among higher education officials about the attendance of both traditional and non-traditional students. In this analysis traditional students are represented in the percentage of full-time students while non-traditional students are typically part-time students. Common perspectives suggest that during difficult economic times traditional undergraduate students will delay attendance, change from full-time to part-time status, or move to a college that is perceived to be a lower cost institution without considering all the

financial aid options that might be available to equalize access. Some college officials debate whether the move is based on perceived or actual differences in cost, and the Commission research staff see arguments on both sides of the issue. If the assumptions are true, observers would expect to see a general decline in the college attendance at private colleges with corresponding increases at state institutions and community colleges. The changes from 2007 to 2008 described in Table 1 show net increases in all sectors, with the smallest percentage increase in the non-profit sector and the largest percentage increase in the for-profit sector. The increase in the for-profit sector may not be totally economically driven, however, as national growth in online education has continued to rise in recent years.

There is a pattern, however, that suggests a declining rate of increase (a more level line on the graph) in full-time status among the non-profit private colleges and community colleges. The changes seemingly reflect increased enrollments among non-traditional part-time students at institutions that offer programs for non-traditional learners. Some of these non-traditional students are high school students, and others are adults.

Iowa colleges reported declines in resident enrollment between 2007 and 2008. The Regent universities reported a net decline of 466 students (-0.96%) while the private colleges reported a net decline of 608 (-1.92%), and community colleges reported net increase of 823 (1.01%).

The enrollment declines for Iowa residents attending four-year institutions are consistent with projected declines in high school graduates. Opinions vary on the reasons for many of the patterns at individual four-year institutions. Some suggest that the Iowa economy caused a movement of student enrollments from Regent Universities and some non-profit institutions to community colleges. Others suggest that declines at non-profit institutions occurred because planned reductions intended to find better ways to maintain a high level of quality in an environment where state and federal funds are uncertain. Still others have suggested that the decline in return on endowment investments affected the ability of the institutions to offer institutional aid. Increases at community colleges are sometimes attributed to the need for a low-cost institution during the first two years, or the need for increased vocational skills, or the enrollment of high school students seeking community college options.

Tables 3 and 4 show details for individual institutions.

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Table 3
Iowa Colleges and Universities
Total Enrollment
Fall, 2007 and Fall 2008

<u>College/University</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Iowa State University	26,160	26,856	696	2.66%
The University of Iowa	30,409	30,561	152	0.50%
University of Northern Iowa	12,609	12,908	299	2.37%
Regent Universities	69,178	70,325	1,147	1.66%
Allen College	462	416	(46)	-9.96%
AIB College of Business	965	985	20	2.07%
Briar Cliff College	1,138	1,114	(24)	-2.11%
Buena Vista University	2,548	2,478	(70)	-2.75%
Central College	1,605	1,558	(47)	-2.93%
Clarke College	1,230	1,156	(74)	-6.02%
Coe College	1,316	1,326	10	0.76%
Cornell College	1,083	1,115	32	2.95%
Des Moines University - Osteopathic Med. Ctr.	1,719	1,700	(19)	-1.11%
Divine Word College	50	55	5	10.00%
Dordt College	1,313	1,400	87	6.63%
Drake University	5,617	5,665	48	0.85%
Emmaus Bible College	244	245	1	0.41%
Faith Baptist Coll. & Theological Seminary	418	323	(95)	-22.73%
Graceland University	2,466	2,444	(22)	-0.89%
Grand View College	1,747	1,937	190	10.88%
Grinnell College	1,654	1,678	24	1.45%
Iowa Wesleyan College	834	843	9	1.08%
Loras College	1,591	1,589	(2)	-0.13%
Luther College	2,476	2,423	(53)	-2.14%
Maharishi University of Management	983	1,089	106	10.78%
Mercy College of Health Sciences -Des Moines	680	676	(4)	-0.59%
Morningside College	1,798	1,906	108	6.01%
Mount Mercy College	1,506	1,555	49	3.25%
Northwestern College	1,315	1,225	(90)	-6.84%
Palmer College Of Chiropractic	1,457	1,433	(24)	-1.65%
St. Ambrose University	3,870	3,794	(76)	-1.96%
Simpson College	2,039	2,055	16	0.78%
University of Dubuque	1,560	1,584	24	1.54%
Upper Iowa University	5,618	5,937	319	5.68%
Vennard College	72	71	(1)	-1.39%
Waldorf College	630	582	(48)	-7.62%
Wartburg College	1,810	1,799	(11)	-0.61%
Wartburg Theological Seminary	187	194	7	3.74%
William Penn College	1,833	1,824	(9)	-0.49%
Private Non-Profit	55,834	56,174	340	0.61%
Des Moines Area Community College	18,320	18,695	375	2.05%
Eastern Iowa Community College	7,329	6,975	(354)	-4.83%
Hawkeye Community College	5,803	5,765	(38)	-0.65%
Indian Hills Community College	4,174	4,227	53	1.27%
Iowa Central Community College	5,731	5,733	2	0.03%
Iowa Lakes Community College	3,170	3,059	(111)	-3.50%
Iowa Valley Community College District	2,800	2,986	186	6.64%
Iowa Western Community College	5,300	5,642	342	6.45%
Kirkwood Community College	15,075	15,220	145	0.96%
North Iowa Area Community College	3,272	3,485	213	6.51%
Northeast Iowa Community College	4,804	4,756	(48)	-1.00%
Northwest Iowa Community College	1,288	1,256	(32)	-2.48%
Southeastern Community College	3,351	3,412	61	1.82%
Southwestern Community College	1,464	1,468	4	0.27%
Western Iowa Tech Community College	5,191	5,425	234	4.51%
Community Colleges	87,072	88,104	1,032	1.19%
Ashford Online	10,042	24,920	14,878	148.2%
Ashford On Ground	526	686	160	30.4%
Kaplan Online	30,440	43,095	12,655	41.6%
Kaplan On Ground	2,762	2,973	211	7.6%
Private For-Profit	43,770	71,674	27,904	63.8%
For-Profit Online	40,482	68,015	27,533	68.0%
For-Profit On Ground in Iowa	3,288	3,659	371	11.3%
Total	255,854	286,277	30,423	11.9%
Total Excluding Ashford and Kaplan Online	215,372	218,262	2,890	1.3%

Table 4
Iowa Colleges and Universities
Iowa Resident Enrollment
Fall, 2007 and Fall 2008

<u>College/University</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Iowa State University	18,214	18,148	(66)	-0.36%
The University of Iowa	18,924	18,406	(518)	-2.74%
University of Northern Iowa	11,444	11,562	118	1.03%
Regent Universities	48,582	48,116	(466)	-0.96%
Allen College	440	399	(41)	-9.32%
AIB College of Business^	935	938	3	0.32%
Briar Cliff College**	739	722	(17)	-2.30%
Buena Vista University	2,269	2,177	(92)	-4.05%
Central College	1,237	1,219	(18)	-1.46%
Clarke College	759	718	(41)	-5.40%
Coe College	875	837	(38)	-4.34%
Cornell College	315	280	(35)	-11.11%
Des Moines University - Osteopathic Med. Ctr.	648	557	(91)	-14.04%
Divine Word College	2	2	-	0.00%
Dordt College	484	505	21	4.34%
Drake University	3,277	2,901	(376)	-11.47%
Emmaus Bible College	60	66	6	10.00%
Faith Baptist Coll. & Theological Seminary	272	230	(42)	-15.44%
Graceland University	771	747	(24)	-3.11%
Grand View University	1,604	1,772	168	10.47%
Grinnell College	190	201	11	5.79%
Iowa Wesleyan College	512	500	(12)	-2.34%
Loras College	884	861	(23)	-2.60%
Luther College	853	837	(16)	-1.88%
Maharishi University of Management	37	87	50	135.14%
Mercy College of Health Sciences -Des Moines	680	676	(4)	-0.59%
Morningside College	1,385	1,493	108	7.80%
Mount Mercy College	1,442	1,462	20	1.39%
Northwestern College	675	666	(9)	-1.33%
Palmer College Of Chiropractic	320	336	16	5.00%
St. Ambrose University	2,184	1,981	(203)	-9.29%
Simpson College	1,856	1,883	27	1.45%
University of Dubuque	757	742	(15)	-1.98%
Upper Iowa University	2,020	2,146	126	6.24%
Vennard College	32	25	(7)	-21.88%
Waldorf College	366	345	(21)	-5.74%
Wartburg College	1,319	1,287	(32)	-2.43%
Wartburg Theological Seminary	26	46	20	76.92%
William Penn University	1,468	1,441	(27)	-1.84%
Private Non-Profit	31,693	31,085	(608)	-1.92%
Des Moines Area Community College	17,986	18,335	349	1.94%
Eastern Iowa Community College	6,600	6,294	(306)	-4.64%
Hawkeye Community College	5,747	5,692	(55)	-0.96%
Indian Hills Community College	3,923	3,930	7	0.18%
Iowa Central Community College	5,516	5,452	(64)	-1.16%
Iowa Lakes Community College	2,851	2,690	(161)	-5.65%
Iowa Valley Community College District	2,562	2,730	168	6.56%
Iowa Western Community College	4,229	4,458	229	5.41%
Kirkwood Community College	14,334	14,673	339	2.37%
North Iowa Area Community College	3,070	3,240	170	5.54%
Northeast Iowa Community College	4,370	4,340	(30)	-0.69%
Northwest Iowa Community College	1,226	1,190	(36)	-2.94%
Southeastern Community College	2,803	2,855	52	1.86%
Southwestern Community College	1,372	1,376	4	0.29%
Western Iowa Tech Community College	4,674	4,831	157	3.36%
Community Colleges	81,263	82,086	823	1.01%
Ashford Online	230	355	125	54.3%
Ashford On Ground	254	477	223	87.8%
Kaplan Online	591	1,014	423	71.6%
Kaplan On Ground	2,533	2,753	220	8.7%
Private For-Profit	3,608	4,599	991	27.5%
For-Profit Online	821	1,369	548	66.7%
For-Profit On Ground in Iowa	2,787	3,230	443	15.9%
Total	165,146	165,886	740	0.4%
Total Excluding Ashford and Kaplan Online	164,325	164,517	192	0.1%