

FALL ENROLLMENT REPORT 2008



COMMUNITY COLLEGES &
WORKFORCE PREPARATION

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa
50319-0146

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Phone: 515-281-3636
Fax: 515-281-6544
www.state.ia.us/educate

Roger Utman, Ph.D.
Administrator
Bureau Chief
515-281-8260
roger.utman@iowa.gov

Tom Schenk Jr
Consultant
515-281-3753
tom.schenk@iowa.gov

Executive Summary

The Iowa Department of Education collects enrollment information from all 15 community colleges on the 10th business day of the fall semester. This report summarizes several aspects of community college enrollment. Some of the highlights of this report are:

- Enrollment grew to a record high of 88,104 (Table 1).
- Year-to-year growth was 1.2 percent, which is below the typical rate of growth (Figure 1).
- A majority of the students enrolled in the fall semester were part-time—enrolled in less than 12 credits (Table 1).
- Credit hours increased 1.8% since last year (Table 3).
- Students have enrolled in a total 838,304 credit hours this fall (Table 3).
- Average credit hours per student rose slightly to 9.51 credit hours (Table 2).
- Females represented 56 percent of fall enrollment (Figure 2).
- The average age for students was 22.5 years-old, while the median age was 19 (Figure 3).
- Race/ethnic minorities comprised 11 percent of fall enrollment (Figure 4).
- Career and technical education and college parallel programs saw a slight increase in enrollment since last year (Figure 6).
- Health sciences is the largest career cluster, followed by business management and administration and manufacturing (Figure 9).
- Enrollment of high school students grew 0.9 percent. (Table 5)
- This fall, 22,971 high school students are enrolled for college credit at Iowa's community colleges (Table 5).
- On average, high school students enrolling in college courses enroll in 5.05 credit hours (Table 5).
- Fall 2009 enrollment was in-line with department enrollment projections (Table 6).
- Enrollment is expected to increase approximately 2 percent next fall based on current conditions (Table 6).

About this Report:

This report summarizes fall enrollment in Iowa's community colleges. Every year Iowa's 15 community college districts submit data on students enrolled on the 10th day of the fall semester.

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Fall Enrollment

Fall enrollment grew 1.2 percent to a record high of 88,104 unduplicated students in fiscal year 2009 (Table 1). College enrollment has grown for 11 consecutive years since enrollment slipped in fiscal year 1997. In the 44-year history of the modern community college system, enrollment has only fallen four times (Figure 1).

Enrollment growth was slightly slower than prior years. In 2006, enrollment grew over three percent, while enrollment grew 2.5 percent last year. Nevertheless, enrollment growth is outpacing the projected nationwide growth in community colleges (Hussar and Bailey, 2008: Table 16).

For the second consecutive year, part-time enrollment exceeded full-time enrollment. Slightly over half, 50.9 percent, of students are enrolled in less than 12 credit hours. Last year, part-time enrollment exceeded full-time enrollment for the first time. The shift represents growing enrollment by working students and joint enrollment—high school students who enroll in community colleges..

Nationally, part-time enrollment at public two-year colleges has exceeded full-time enrollment for more than

- Enrollment grew to a record high of 88,104
- Year-to-year growth was 1.2 percent, which is below the typical rate of growth.
- Most students were part-time students—enrolled in less than 12 credits.

15 years. In 2006, part-time students exceeded full-time students by 60 percent (Hussar and Bailey, 2008: Table 16).

Iowa's enrollment growth has traditionally been consistent. Enrollment decreased four times—1976, 1983, 1984, and 1997—during the entire 44-year history. Full-time enrollment decreased nine times over the same period while part time enrollment only fell twice.

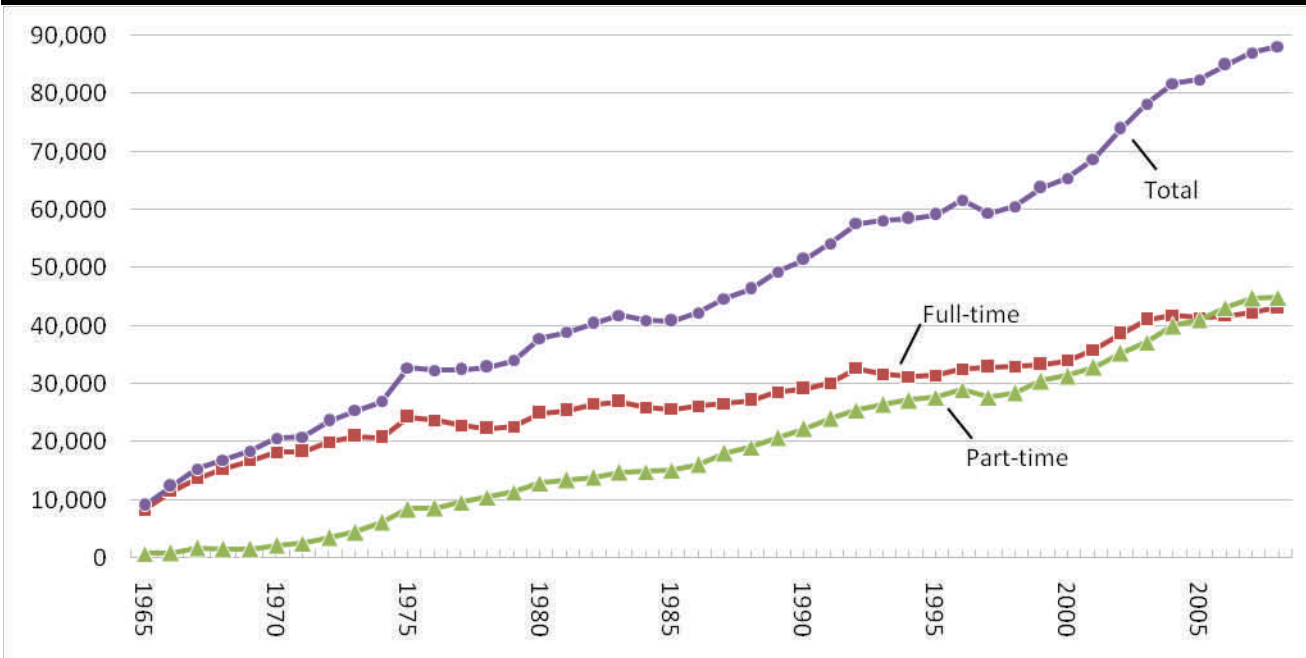
The remainder of this report will break down credit enrollment by credit hours, student demographics, the programs in which students are enrolled, how the programs break down demographically, and joint enrollment.

Table 1 – Fall Enrollment by College and Attendance Status: 2008

College	Attendance Status			1-year Change
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
Northeast	2,107	2,649	4,756	(1.0%)
North Iowa Area	1,855	1,630	3,485	6.5%
Iowa Lakes	1,582	1,477	3,059	(3.5%)
Northwest Iowa	599	657	1,256	(2.5%)
Iowa Central	2,714	3,019	5,733	0.0%
Iowa Valley	1,597	1,389	2,986	6.6%
Hawkeye	3,335	2,430	5,765	(0.7%)
Eastern Iowa	3,238	3,737	6,975	(4.8%)
Kirkwood	8,274	6,946	15,220	1.0%
Des Moines Area	7,428	11,267	18,695	2.0%
Western Iowa Tech	2,095	3,330	5,425	4.5%
Iowa Western	3,095	2,547	5,642	6.5%
Southwestern	696	772	1,468	0.3%
Indian Hills	2,719	1,508	4,227	1.3%
Southeastern	1,875	1,537	3,412	1.8%
Total	43,209	44,895	88,104	1.2%

Note: Students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours are counted as full-time. Negative values shown in parentheses Each "I" denotes 1,000 students.

Figure 2 – Fall Enrollment by Status: 1965-2008



Year	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Year	Full-time	Part-time	Total
1965	8,269	841	9,110	1987	26,571	18,132	44,703
1966	11,541	878	12,419	1988	27,192	19,144	46,336
1967	13,667	1,744	15,411	1989	28,614	20,737	49,351
1968	15,373	1,533	16,906	1990	29,102	22,326	51,428
1969	16,831	1,596	18,427	1991	30,095	24,065	54,160
1970	18,188	2,221	20,609	1992	32,715	25,477	57,652
1971	18,309	2,535	20,844	1993	31,711	26,462	58,173
1972	19,984	3,606	23,590	1994	31,297	27,217	58,514
1973	20,952	4,500	25,452	1995	31,417	27,694	59,111
1974	20,770	6,222	26,992	1996	32,602	29,040	61,642
1975	24,324	8,468	32,792	1997	32,889	27,731	59,414
1976	23,762	8,602	32,364	1998	33,048	28,431	60,620
1977	22,888	9,589	32,477	1999	33,283	30,526	63,809
1978	22,337	10,523	32,860	2000	34,047	31,426	65,473
1979	22,610	11,441	34,051	2001	35,857	32,933	68,790
1980	24,972	12,897	37,869	2002	38,660	35,287	73,947
1981	25,416	13,484	38,900	2003	41,028	37,253	78,281
1982	26,551	13,881	40,432	2004	41,778	40,025	81,803
1983	26,957	14,863	41,820	2005	41,435	41,064	82,449
1984	25,999	14,954	40,953	2006	41,759	43,202	84,961
1985	25,667	15,191	40,858	2007	42,307	44,765	87,072
1986	26,195	16,095	42,290	2008	43,209	44,895	88,104

Sources: Iowa Department of Education, Area College and Community College Fall Term Enrollment Reports, except 1997-1999 where data was drawn from the Iowa College and University Enrollment Report prepared by Jerald Dallum of the University Iowa.

Credit Hours

Students this fall have enrolled in 838,304 credit hours, which is more credit hours than last fall. Clearly, students will be enrolled in more credit hours simply because there are more students. However, the percent change in credit hours, 1.8 percent, has outpaced the percent change in students, 1.2 percent (see Table 1).

Table 2 lists the average credit hours per student since 2005. Students enrolled in just over 9.5 credit hours in the fall semester, which rose slightly from last year. Since 2005,

- Credit hours increased 1.8% since last year.
- Students have enrolled in a total 838,304 credit hours this fall
- Average credit hours per student rose slightly to 9.51 credit hours.

Table 2 – Average Credit Hours: 2008

Fiscal Year	Average Credit Hours per Student
2005	9.75
2006	9.63
2007	9.51
2008	9.46
2009	9.51

Note: Each "I" represents 0.25 credit hours.

the average credit hours dropped, which is primarily attributable to the rise of part-time students mentioned in the previous section (see Figure 1).

Each credit hour represents at least 800 minutes of scheduled work for a classroom course; 1,600 minutes for a laboratory course; 2,400 minutes for clinical work; and 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 a semester, which is at least 9,600 classroom hours a semester.

Table 3 – Fall Credit Hours by College and Attendance Status: 2008

College	Attendance Status			1-year Change
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
Northeast	30,019	14,898	44,917	1.9%
North Iowa Area	26,386	8,503	34,889	9.5%
Iowa Lakes	24,708	7,746	32,454	0.3%
Northwest Iowa	9,641	3,309	12,950	(1.4%)
Iowa Central	40,060	15,530	55,590	2.6%
Iowa Valley	23,505	6,883	30,388	5.6%
Hawkeye	47,266	12,822	60,088	(0.9%)
Eastern Iowa	43,710	20,914	64,623	(4.1%)
Kirkwood	114,328	37,970	152,298	(1.3%)
Des Moines Area	100,354	61,193	161,547	4.3%
Western Iowa Tech	28,936	17,832	46,768	5.1%
Iowa Western	44,367	14,245	58,611	7.6%
Southwestern	10,248	4,132	14,380	(4.0%)
Indian Hills	27,964	6,027	33,991	0.3%
Southeastern	26,348	8,463	34,811	1.9%
Total	597,839	240,465	838,304	1.8%

Note: Students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours are counted as full-time. Negative values shown in parentheses. Each "I" denotes 5,000 credit hours.

Student Demographics

In terms of demographics, the composition of community college students did not substantially change since last year. Just over 56 percent of students were female (Figure 2), which is consistent with state and national trends in community colleges and four-year colleges (U.S. Department of Education, 2007: Table 181).

In Iowa's community colleges, females are heavily represented in college parallel and health sciences (a part of Career & Technical Education) programs (see Figure 7). Moreover, health science is Iowa's largest CTE program, so any slight gender imbalance will impact statewide numbers.

Females have outnumbered males nationally in higher education since 1980. In Iowa, females have outnumbered males since the Iowa Department of Education began collecting data.

The average age is 22.5 years-old (Figure 3), which is slightly less, but consistent with the nationwide average of 23.7 (Provasnik and Planty, 2008). However, a more accurate description is the median age. In 2008, the median age is 19 years-old. Nationally, the median age for students at public two-year institutions is 21 years-old. Most students in community college are between 16 and 23 years-old.

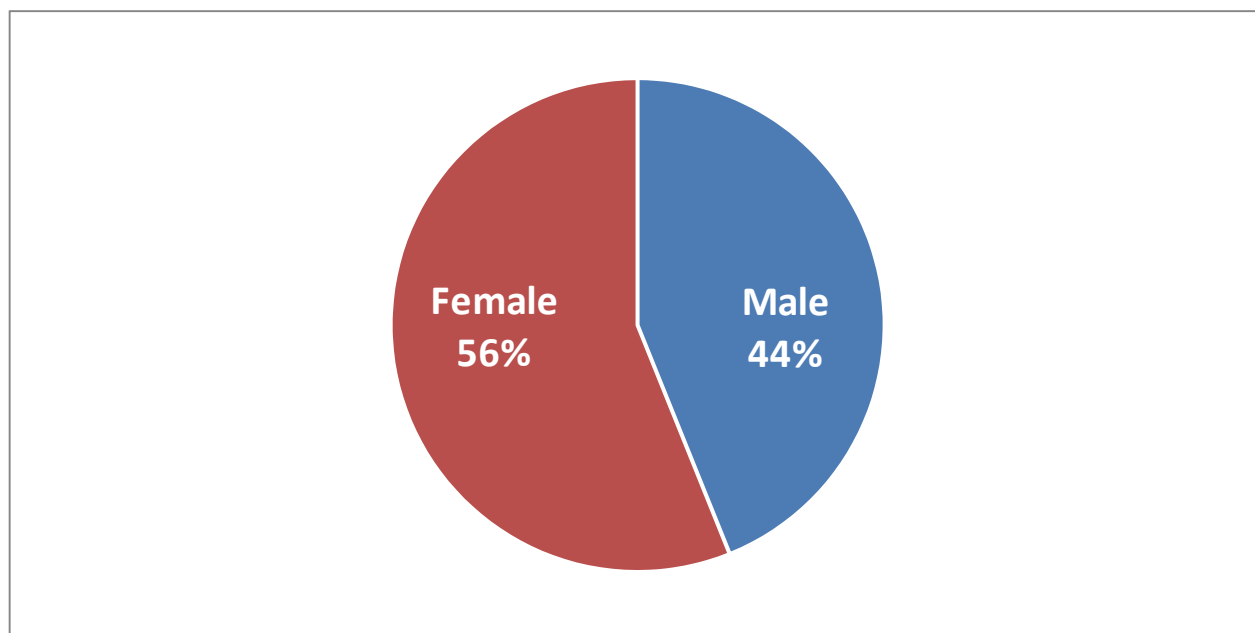
- Females represented 56 percent of fall enrollment.
- The average age for students was 22.5 years-old, while the median age was 19.
- Minorities comprise 11 percent of fall enrollment.

Community colleges also serve a large share of nontraditional students who are older than 24 years-old. This fall, 25 percent of enrollees are nontraditional students. According to the most recent national data, 42 percent of enrollment in public 2-year colleges are nontraditional students (U.S. Department of Education, 2007: Table 181).

Most students are white (89 percent). Minorities comprise 11 percent of enrollment (Figure 4). Blacks are the largest minority group, but, as mentioned in prior reports (e.g., Iowa Department of Education, 2008b), Hispanics are the fastest growing minority group.

There is also a higher percentage of minorities in community colleges than in the state population. The U.S. Census (2008) estimates ten percent of Iowans are non-white. Community colleges typically serve a higher proportion of minorities, but direct national comparisons

Figure 2 – Enrollment by Gender: 2008

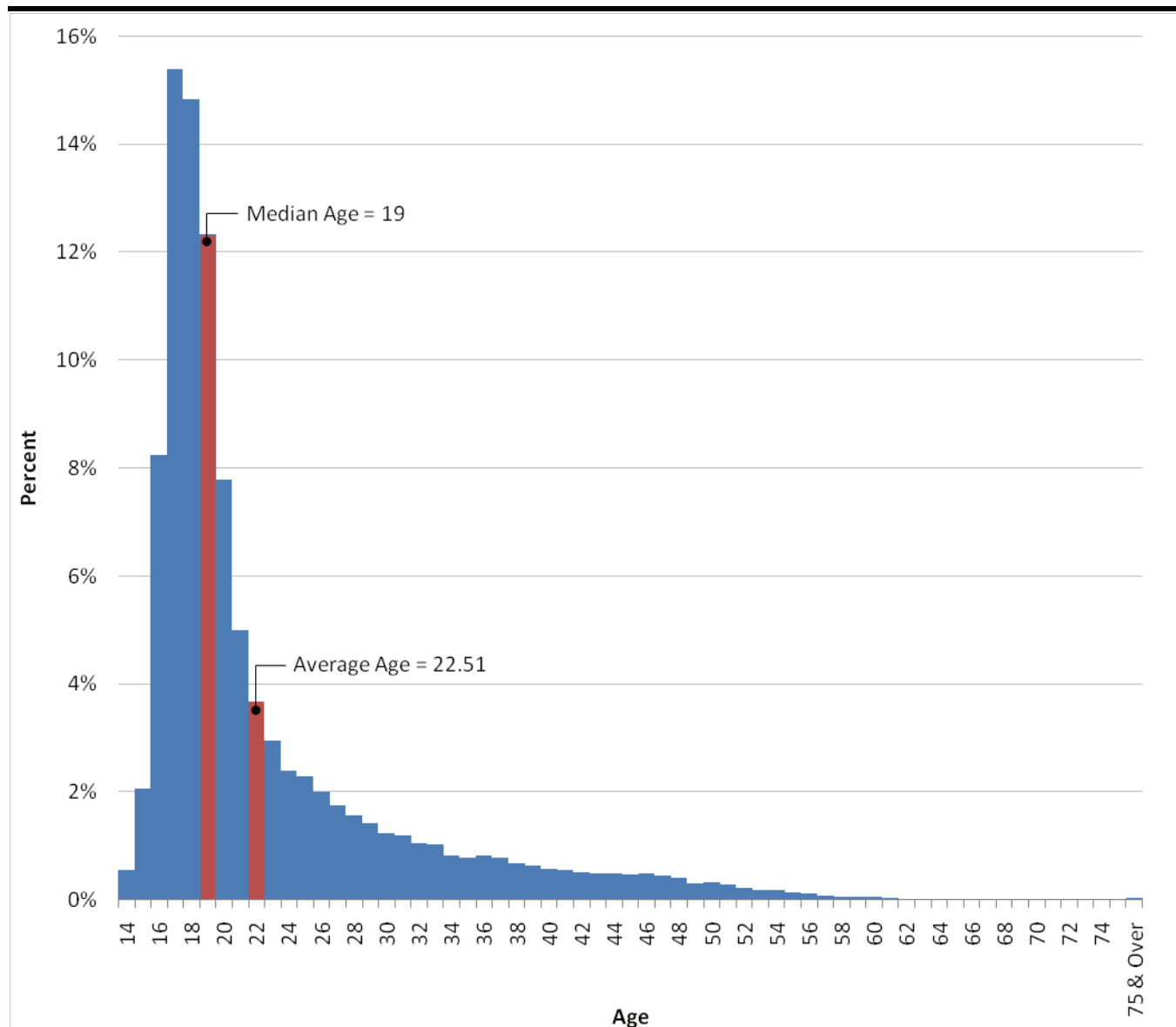


are difficult since many other states are significantly more diverse in racial and ethnic backgrounds

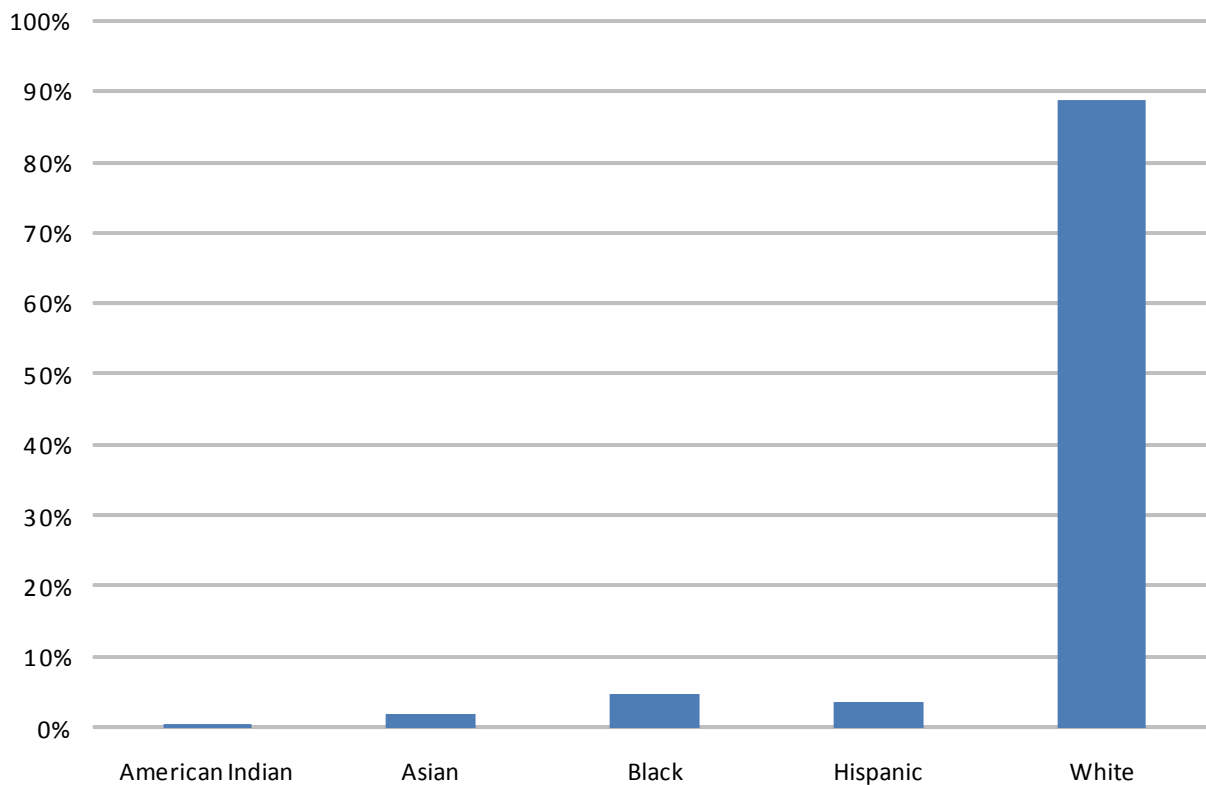
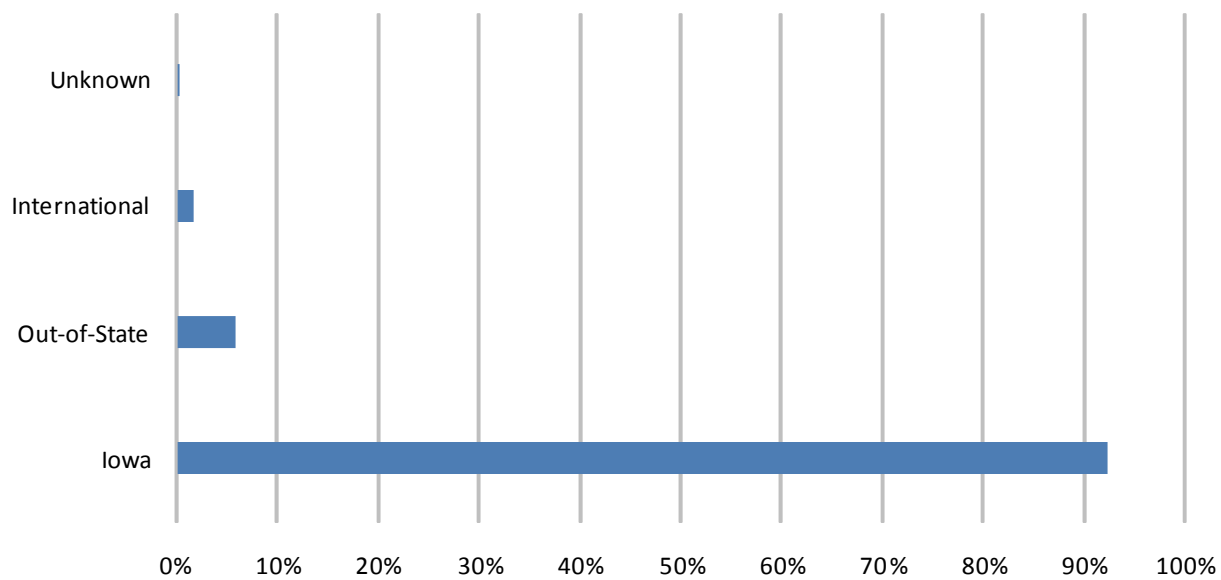
Finally, most students are residents of the state of Iowa, which has been a common trend ever since the department started collecting data in 1998 (Figure 5).

Figure 4 illustrates enrollment by race/ethnicity. As seen from the distribution white students represent 89 percent of all students who reported race/ethnicity, and the students with a minority racial/ethnic background represent 11 percent correspondingly. Of all students, 6.58 percent did not report race/ethnicity and 0.1 percent reported it as “unknown”.

Figure 3 – Age Distribution: 2008



Note: The population standard deviation was 8.2 years. Ages 75 and over were combined into a single data point. There were 552 missing data points, which included respondents with incorrectly reported ages.

Figure 4 – Enrollment by Ethnicity: 2008**Figure 5 – Enrollment by Residency: 2008**

Program Type

Community colleges offer several broad categories of programs:

- College parallel programs contain classes that articulate to a four-year university.
- Career option programs let students articulate to a four-year university or enter into a career field after graduation.
- Career and technical education (CTE) programs prepare students for the workforce.

College parallel remains the largest program during the current fall semester. This fall, 57 percent (50,977) of students were enrolled in college parallel programs while 35 percent were in CTE programs (Figure 5). Nationally, at least 41 percent of enrollments in two-year institutions are in CTE programs (Levesque et al., 2008).

All of the program types have steadily increased since 2006. College parallel is still the largest program, followed

- Career & technical education (CTE) and college parallel programs saw a slight increase in enrollment since last year.
- Career option has the highest proportion of minorities, followed by college parallel, and CTE.

by CTE. Since 2006, college parallel programs grew 4.2 percent to 50,977 students. Meanwhile, CTE programs grew 3.8 to 30,822. Neither program substantially grew between 2007 and 2008 since overall enrollment growth was limited.

Most programs have seen growth since 2003 (Figure 6), however, career option programs enrolled fewer males and have seen no growth of females. Meanwhile, college parallel programs grew the most in headcounts for both males and females.

Black students are the largest minority group participating in college parallel, career option, CTE, and a combination of programs (Figure 7).

Twelve percent of career option enrollments are minority students. Meanwhile, ten percent of college parallel enrollment are minorities and nine percent of CTE enrollments are either American Indian, Asian, Black, or Hispanic.

Table 4 – Enrollment by Program: 2008

Program	2008
College Parallel	50,977
Career Option	5,367
Career & Technical	30,882
Combination	878

Figure 6 – Enrollment by Program Type: 2008

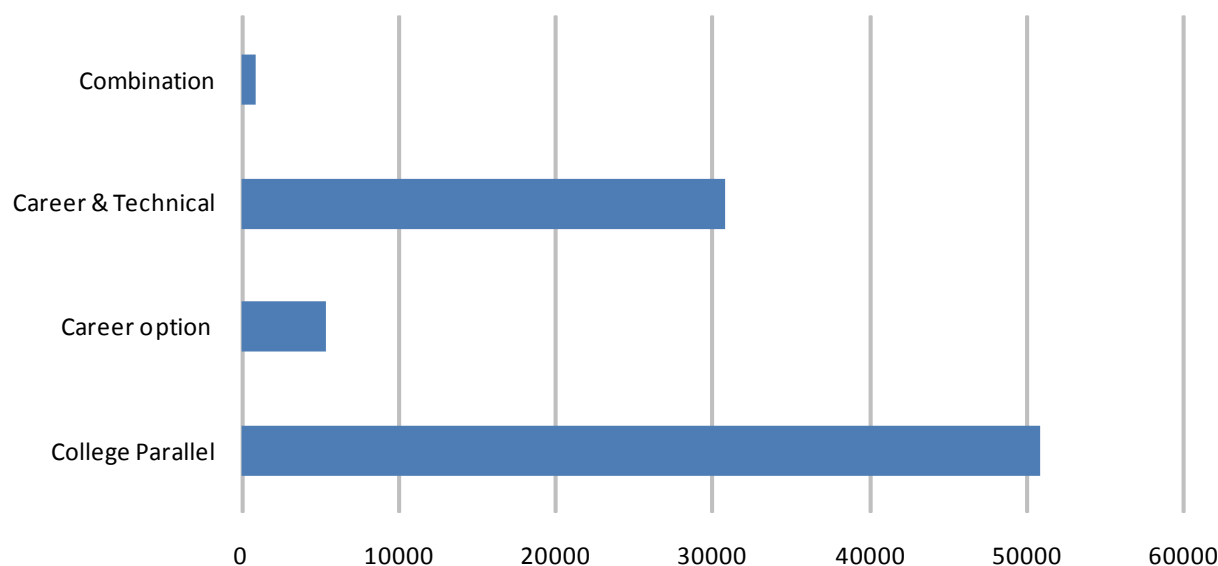
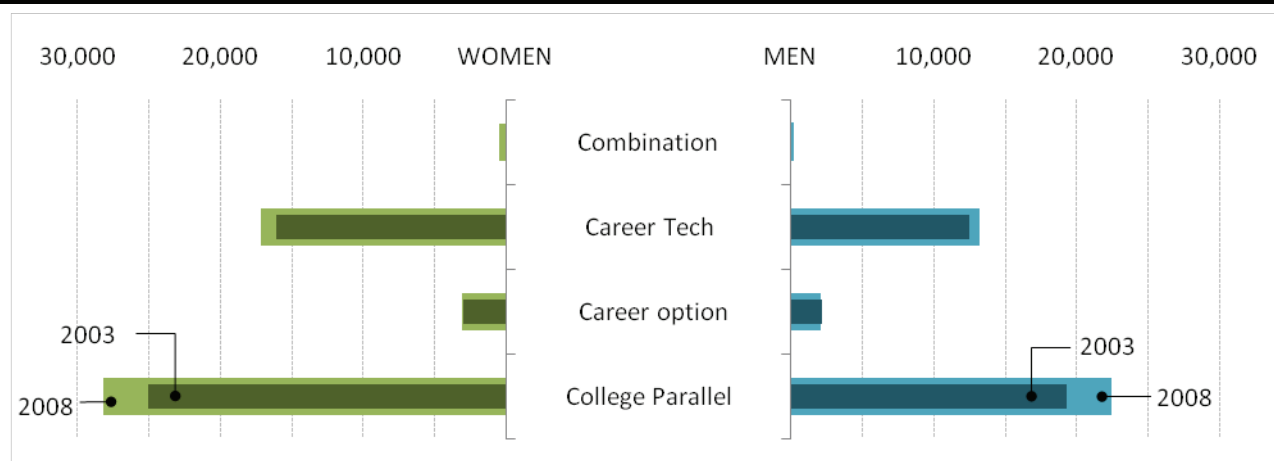
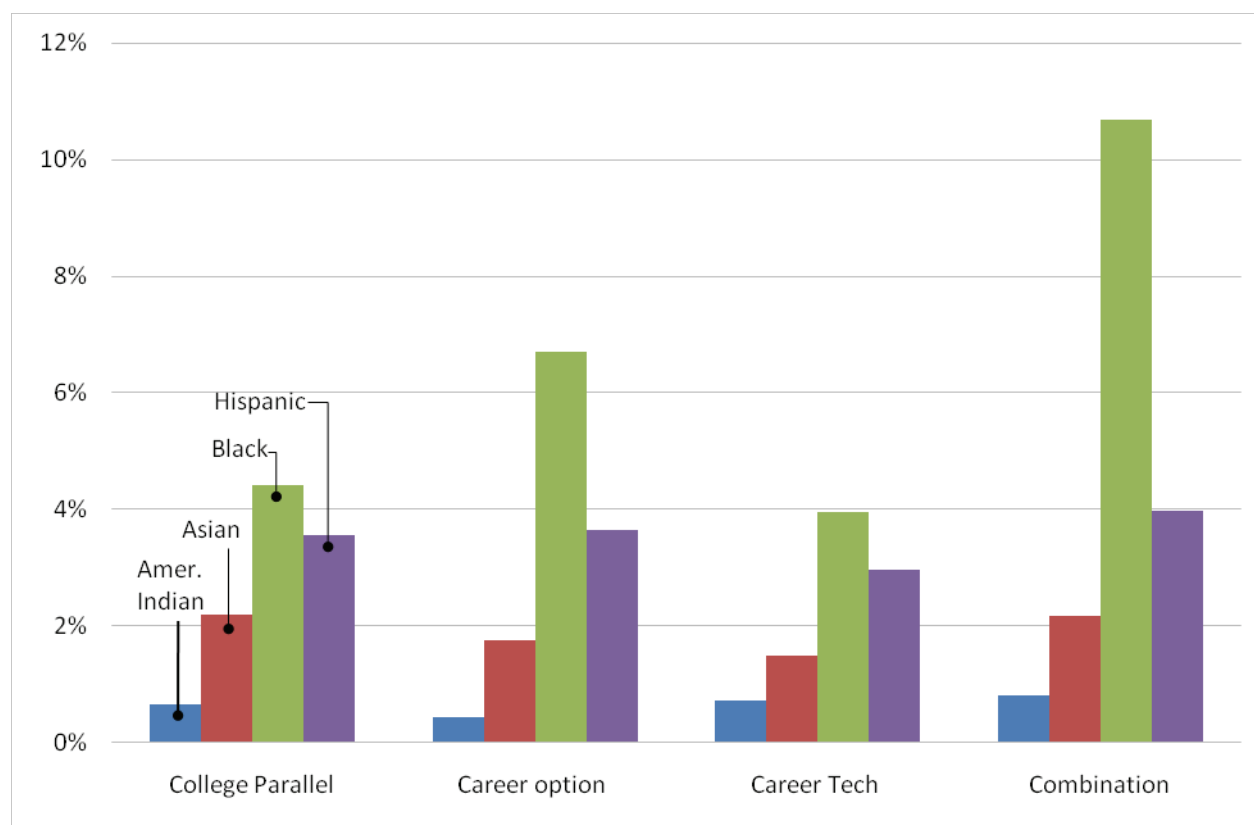


Figure 7 – Program Type Enrollment by Gender: 2003-2008**Figure 8 – Program Type Enrollment by Minorities: 2008**

Career Clusters

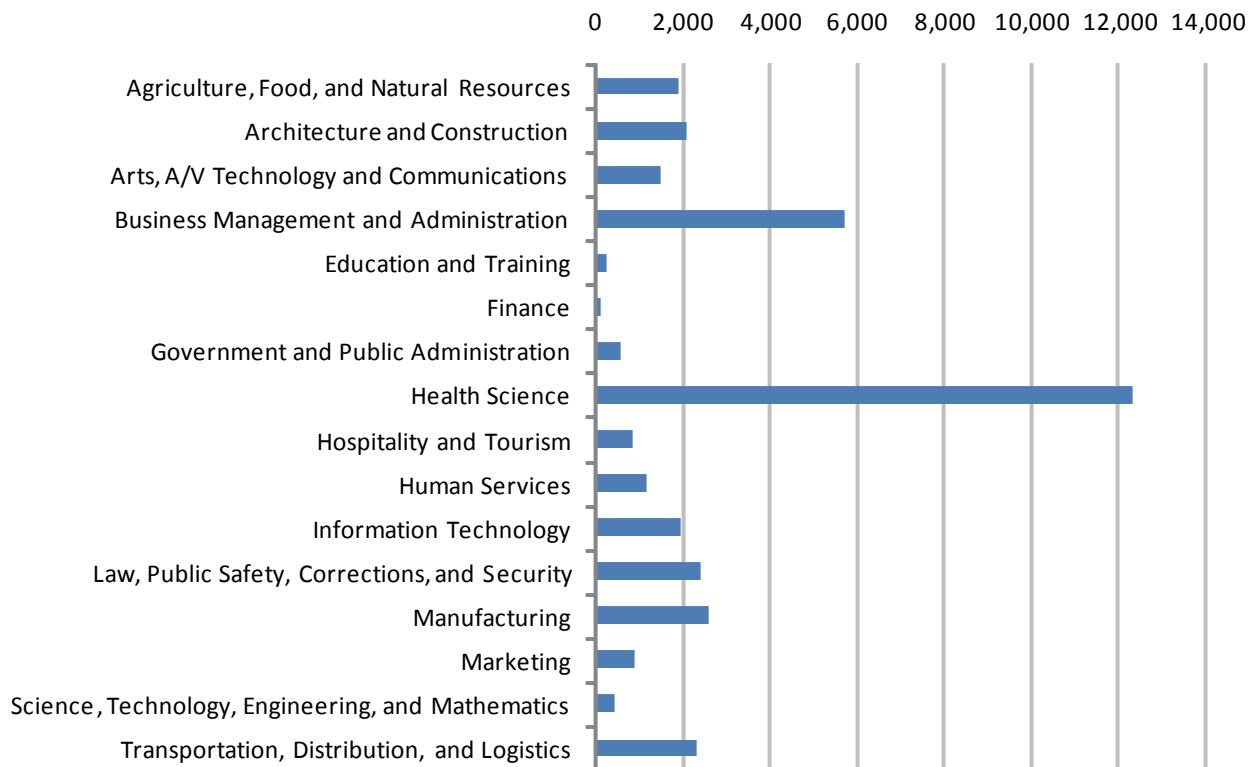
Enrollment in CTE programs can be broken down to specific areas of study. Health science remains the largest career cluster in the community colleges, followed by business management and administration and manufacturing. Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education groups education programs by different standards that do not directly align to Iowa's data.

As mentioned earlier, females comprise a majority of health sciences. Meanwhile, business management & administration programs and manufacturing are primarily composed of males.

The Iowa Department of Education will report CTE programs by the 16 career clusters. Each student major aligns to a career cluster with other similar programs. Page 13 lists all of the career clusters with a brief description. Information on career clusters can be obtained from www.careerclusters.org.

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- Health sciences is the largest career cluster.
- Business Management & Administration is the second largest, followed by Manufacturing.

Figure 9 – Enrollment by Career Clusters: 2008





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.

High School Students

Community colleges offer joint enrollment options to high school students who can earn college credit toward a one or two-year degree or transfer to a four-year institution. There are several options available for students, including Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), contracted courses between high schools and community colleges, career academies, and tuition.

Table 5 lists the total for all joint enrollment programs mentioned above. Joint enrollment grew 0.9 percent since last fall to 22,971 students. Joint enrollment accounts for 26.1 percent of overall enrollment and 116,082 credit hours of the total 838,304 credit hours this fall. On average, joint enrollees are taking 5.05 credit hours this semester.

According to the most recent study released by the U.S. Department of Education, 813,000 students enrolled in

- High school student enrollment grew 0.9 percent.
- 22,971 high school students are enrolled for college credit at Iowa's community colleges.
- On average, students enroll in 5.05 credit hours.

joint enrollment programs in the United States—roughly five percent of all high school students (Kleiner and Lewis, 2005).

Later this year, the Iowa Department of Education will release a more comprehensive report on joint enrollment in its annual *Iowa Community Colleges High School Enrollment Report*.

Table 5 – Joint Enrollment by College: 2008

College	Unduplicated Enrollment	Percent of All Students	Credit Hours	Average Credit Hours per Student
Northeast	2,018	42.4%	14,466	7.17
North Iowa Area	1,003	28.8%	5,064	5.05
Iowa Lakes	1,047	34.2%	5,248	5.01
Northwest Iowa	496	39.5%	2,766	5.58
Iowa Central	2,415	42.1%	13,088	5.42
Iowa Valley	752	25.2%	3,865	5.14
Hawkeye	1,103	19.1%	4,684	4.25
Eastern Iowa	1,196	17.1%	4,881	4.08
Kirkwood	2,147	14.1%	8,586	4.00
Des Moines Area	5,324	28.5%	26,486	4.97
Western Iowa Tech	1,834	33.8%	8,510	4.64
Iowa Western	1,566	27.8%	8,851	5.65
Southwestern	516	35.1%	2,580	5.00
Indian Hills	885	20.9%	3,978	4.49
Southeastern	669	19.6%	3,029	4.53
Total	22,971	26.1%	116,081	5.05

Note: High school student includes Postsecondary Enrollment Option, contract courses, and tuition paying students. For the student count, each "I" denotes 500 students; for percentage of all student, each "I" denotes 10 percent; for credit hours, each "I" denotes 1,000 hours; finally, for average credit hours per student, each "I" denotes 0.25 hours.

Enrollment Projections

Community college enrollment was in line with the department's projections. Enrollment was forecasted to grow 1.3 percent in 2009, compared to a 1.2 percent increase. Projected and actual enrollment forecasted a relatively slower rate of growth compared to the five-year historical average of 2.4 percent. However, enrollment growth is projected to increase based on the most recent data available.

Enrollment is projected to rise through 2013. Next year, enrollment is projected to rise two percent, almost twice the rate of 2009's growth. Thereafter, the growth rate is projected to slip back to 1.8 and 1.7 percent per year.

Iowa's enrollment is projected to outpace overall growth of community colleges in the United States.

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- Fall 2009 enrollment was in-line with projected enrollment
- Enrollment is expected to increase 2 percent next fall based on current conditions.

Hussar and Bailey (2008) estimate community colleges will grow 1.1 percent this year and 0.8 percent next year.

Enrollment projections were developed by the Department of Education in late 2008. The forecasts account for prior year enrollment, a forecast of high school students (Iowa Department of Education, 2007), U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) (Congressional Budget Office, 2008), and Iowa unemployment rate. Since there is no formal forecast of Iowa's unemployment rate, a forecast was formed from the prior relationship between U.S. GDP and Iowa's unemployment rate.

Enrollment forecasts are subject to change depending on population fluctuations and economic conditions. For instance, a recession may increase enrollments above projected levels while an outward migration of high school students may decrease actual enrollment.

Table 6 – Projected Enrollment: 2008-2012

Year	Actual Enrollment	Predicted Enrollment	Upper Estimate	Lower estimate	Predicted Percent Gain
2008	88,104	88,182	90,943	85,421	1.3%
2009		89,920	94,441	85,398	2.0%
2010		91,709	97,631	85,787	2.0%
2011		93,369	100,459	86,280	1.8%
2012		94,969	103,070	86,869	1.7%

Note: Projections are based on previous year enrollment, high school enrollment, real U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), and Iowa unemployment rate.

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