

Board of Governors for Higher Education  
Department of Higher Education  
State of Connecticut



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## **College Enrollment Breaks Record for Fourth Year *But Officials Caution Growth is Slowing***

HARTFORD, Nov. 16 — College enrollment in Connecticut has reached a record high for the fourth consecutive year but officials caution that the boom time in student numbers may end soon.

According to final fall headcounts released today by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education, enrollment at Connecticut's 47 colleges and universities inched up just 0.9 percent to 174,275 students. The percentage increase of 0.9 percent was the same for both the public and independent sectors. State-supported schools enrolled 109,803 students; the independents enrolled 63,467. The remaining 1,005 attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, a federal institution.

This fall, full-time students continued to dominate Connecticut campuses, with their share up 2.3 percent to 112,511 for 65 percent of the total, the highest in at least 19 years. In contrast, part-time enrollment fell by 1.6 percent to 61,764 students. The growth in full-time counts partly reflects the state's expanding pool of high school graduates which is projected to grow only six percent over the next three years and then drop six percent between 2008 and 2013.

Of concern to state officials is the slowing rate of growth across the state. The average annual growth since 2002 is only 0.9 percent, nearly one-third as slow as the 2.4 percent average annual growth rate between 1998 and 2002. This deceleration is far more pronounced in the public sector than at the independents where growth rates are steadier.

Commenting on the figures at a meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education today in Hartford, Higher Education Commissioner Valerie Lewis hailed the new record as a "clear signal that Connecticut colleges are meeting demand for high-quality and relevant education. Campus officials should take pride in the great work they are doing.

"Yet we must be aware that our pool of available students is soon going to shrink, requiring us to design new recruitment and retention strategies to maintain Connecticut's educational strength," Lewis stated. "Our enrollment report presents six strategies for consideration by campus officials. We look forward to exploring options with them."

Across both public and independent colleges, the number of undergraduates climbed 1,791 students or 1.3 percent to 140,520. Totals for graduate and first-professional students combined dipped 0.8 percent or 256 students to 33,755.

### ***Public Colleges & Universities***

Within the public sector, counts grew 1.8 percent to 28,083 at the University of Connecticut due largely to 491 more students at the Storrs Campus. Counts rose slightly at UConn's Tri-Campus and at the Stamford Campus but were down at Avery Point.

Counts were virtually unchanged at Connecticut State University, down 0.1 percent to 35,493 students, with only Western posting a gain of 23 students or 0.4 percent. The other three CSU schools saw slight declines ranging from 0.04 percent at Central to 0.8 percent at Eastern.

The community colleges, Connecticut's largest higher education sector, gained 484 students for an increase of 1.1 percent to 46,227. Six of these colleges posted gains while the other six posted declines ranging from 0.4 percent at Quinebaug Valley to 4.9 percent at Housatonic. The most startling trend among the community colleges is their notable growth in full-time enrollment (up 71 percent since 1997) compared to part-time enrollment which has dropped three percent over the same period.

### ***Independent Colleges & Universities***

Within the independent sector, enrollment remained steady at 19,058 at the four-year nationals with 105 more students, up 0.6 percent over last fall. Counts were up at Trinity and Yale, and down slightly at Connecticut College and Wesleyan.

Across the 19 four-year regional independents, enrollment rose 1.4 percent or by 565 to 41,761 students. Eight colleges saw enrollment drops, most noticeably at Rensselaer and Post. The greatest increases occurred at the University of Bridgeport and the University of New Haven. This year, Quinnipiac University achieved its 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual increase and became the largest regional independent, supplanting the University of Hartford which has held this position from at least 1976.

Among the five two-year independents, enrollment fell by 3.3 percent or 90 students to 2,648 with gains occurring at Goodwin and St. Vincent's.

\* \* \*

*A table displaying fall 2005 Connecticut college and university headcount enrollment is attached. A fuller report also may be downloaded from [www.ctdhe.org](http://www.ctdhe.org).*

**Appendix**

**Table 1  
Fall 2005 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities**

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2005 Totals			Fall 2004 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
<b>PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>															
<i>University of Connecticut</i>	<b>18,070</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>20,525</b>	<b>3,395</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>22,624</b>	<b>5,459</b>	<b>28,083</b>	<b>27,579</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
Storrs	15,296	816	16,112	3,395	2,785	6,180	679	214	893	19,370	3,815	23,185	22,694	491	2.2%
Avery Point	449	281	730							449	281	730	773	-43	-5.6%
Tri-Campus*	1,612	830	2,442							1,612	830	2,442	2,391	51	2.1%
Stamford	713	528	1,241							713	528	1,241	1,236	5	0.4%
Health Center							480	5	485	480	5	485	485	0	0.0%
<i>Connecticut State University</i>	<b>21,895</b>	<b>6,032</b>	<b>27,927</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>5,763</b>	<b>7,566</b>				<b>23,698</b>	<b>11,795</b>	<b>35,493</b>	<b>35,537</b>	<b>-44</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
Central	7,445	2,233	9,678	531	2,106	2,637				7,976	4,339	12,315	12,320	-5	-0.04%
Eastern	3,751	994	4,745	95	273	368				3,846	1,267	5,113	5,156	-43	-0.8%
Southern	6,697	1,612	8,309	1,083	2,766	3,849				7,780	4,378	12,158	12,177	-19	-0.2%
Western	4,002	1,193	5,195	94	618	712				4,096	1,811	5,907	5,884	23	0.4%
<i>Community Colleges</i>	<b>16,385</b>	<b>29,842</b>	<b>46,227</b>							<b>16,385</b>	<b>29,842</b>	<b>46,227</b>	<b>45,743</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Asnuntuck	526	957	1,483							526	957	1,483	1,504	-21	-1.4%
Capital	927	2,646	3,573							927	2,646	3,573	3,436	137	4.0%
Gateway	1,809	3,930	5,739							1,809	3,930	5,739	5,595	144	2.6%
Housatonic	1,477	2,994	4,471							1,477	2,994	4,471	4,701	-230	-4.9%
Manchester	2,713	3,422	6,135							2,713	3,422	6,135	5,906	229	3.9%
Middlesex	876	1,410	2,286							876	1,410	2,286	2,354	-68	-2.9%
Naugatuck Valley	2,211	3,456	5,667							2,211	3,456	5,667	5,514	153	2.8%
Northwestern CT	527	1,042	1,569							527	1,042	1,569	1,516	53	3.5%
Norwalk	2,015	4,021	6,036							2,015	4,021	6,036	5,790	246	4.2%
Quinebaug Valley	643	1,071	1,714							643	1,071	1,714	1,721	-7	-0.4%
Three Rivers	1,173	2,487	3,660							1,173	2,487	3,660	3,764	-104	-2.8%
Tunxis	1,488	2,406	3,894							1,488	2,406	3,894	3,942	-48	-1.2%
<b>TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>56,350</b>	<b>38,329</b>	<b>94,679</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>13,746</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>62,707</b>	<b>47,096</b>	<b>109,803</b>	<b>108,859</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	1,005		1,005							1,005		1,005	994	11	1.1%
<b>TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>57,355</b>	<b>38,329</b>	<b>95,684</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>13,746</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>63,712</b>	<b>47,096</b>	<b>110,808</b>	<b>109,853</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

\*The Tri-Campus total of 2,422 this year consists of 1,222 students in Hartford (up 10 over fall 2004 enrollment), 893 in Waterbury (up 83 students over last year), and 327 in Torrington (down 42 students.)

NOTE: Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,902 part-time undergraduate students, some of whom are enrolled elsewhere in CT and are counted in their other institutions above. Those 1,902 represent a 407 student (or 27%) increase from fall 2004.

**Appendix**  
**Table 1, Continued**  
**Fall 2005 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities**

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2005 Totals			Fall 2004 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
<b>INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS</b>															
<i>National Independents</i>	<b>12,009</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>12,347</b>	<b>4,909</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>18,140</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>19,058</b>	<b>18,953</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Connecticut College	1,808	79	1,887	6	5	11				1,814	84	1,898	1,905	-7	-0.4%
Trinity College	2,101	186	2,287	6	179	185				2,107	365	2,472	2,390	82	3.4%
Wesleyan University	2,750	14	2,764	193	248	441				2,943	262	3,205	3,217	-12	-0.4%
Yale University	5,350	59	5,409	4,704	124	4,828	1,222	24	1,246	11,276	207	11,483	11,441	42	0.4%
<i>Regional Independents</i>	<b>24,781</b>	<b>5,060</b>	<b>29,841</b>	<b>4,445</b>	<b>6,690</b>	<b>11,135</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>29,861</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>41,761</b>	<b>41,196</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Albertus Magnus College	1,695	87	1,782	366	82	448				2,061	169	2,230	2,361	-131	-5.5%
Briarwood College	389	258	647							389	258	647	637	10	1.6%
Fairfield University	3,485	588	4,073	243	857	1,100				3,728	1,445	5,173	5,060	113	2.2%
Graduate Institute, The				225		225				225		225	160	65	40.6%
Hartford Seminary				33	136	169				33	136	169	147	22	15.0%
Holy Apostles College	9	32	41	13	160	173	40		40	62	192	254	266	-12	-4.5%
LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts	80	68	148	1	4	5				81	72	153	164	-11	-6.7%
Mitchell College	644	83	727							644	83	727	700	27	3.9%
Paier College of Art	191	86	277							191	86	277	306	-29	-9.5%
Post University	664	437	1,101							664	437	1,101	1,198	-97	-8.1%
Quinnipiac University	5,286	420	5,706	555	488	1,043	399	145	544	6,240	1,053	7,293	7,220	73	1.0%
Rensselaer at Hartford				32	674	706				32	674	706	806	-100	-12.4%
Sacred Heart University	3,244	860	4,104	493	963	1,456				3,737	1,823	5,560	5,657	-97	-1.7%
St. Basil's College	18	2	20							18	2	20	11	9	81.8%
St. Joseph College	871	288	1,159	143	556	699				1,014	844	1,858	1,792	66	3.7%
St. Thomas Seminary					16	16					16	16	18	-2	-11.1%
University of Bridgeport	1,247	429	1,676	886	863	1,749	196	5	201	2,329	1,297	3,626	3,274	352	10.8%
University of Hartford	4,657	935	5,592	568	1,100	1,668				5,225	2,035	7,260	7,246	14	0.2%
University of New Haven	2,301	487	2,788	887	791	1,678				3,188	1,278	4,466	4,173	293	7.0%
<i>Two-Year Independents</i>	<b>798</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>2,648</b>							<b>798</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>-90</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
Gibbs College	524	426	950							524	426	950	1,207	-257	-21.3%
Goodwin College	132	1,087	1,219							132	1,087	1,219	940	279	29.7%
Int'l College of Hospitality Management	40		40							40		40	93	-53	-57.0%
Legion of Christ College of Humanities	25		25							25		25	91	-66	-72.5%
St. Vincent's College	77	337	414							77	337	414	407	7	1.7%
<b>TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS</b>	<b>37,588</b>	<b>7,248</b>	<b>44,836</b>	<b>9,354</b>	<b>7,246</b>	<b>16,600</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>48,799</b>	<b>14,668</b>	<b>63,467</b>	<b>62,887</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>94,943</b>	<b>45,577</b>	<b>140,520</b>	<b>14,552</b>	<b>15,794</b>	<b>30,346</b>	<b>3,016</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>3,409</b>	<b>112,511</b>	<b>61,764</b>	<b>174,275</b>	<b>172,740</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

\*\*Briarwood College changed from a two-year college, effective fall 2004. Briarwood was reported under the "Two-Year Independents" in fall 2004 and moved to "Regional Independents" for this fall 2005. The Fall 2004 sub-totals and yearly changes for those two sub-sectors are adjusted accordingly.