



FALL 2005 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY HEADCOUNTS IN CONNECTICUT

Total headcount enrollment at Connecticut's colleges and universities reached 174,275 students in fall 2005, a fourth straight record year. The total is an increase of 1,535 students (or 0.9%) over fall 2004.

While this is the eighth consecutive year of enrollment growth, the rate of increase is decelerating (see Figure 1B). The average annual growth in the three years since 2002 is only 0.9 percent, nearly one-third as slow as the average annual growth rate between 1998 and 2002 of 2.4 percent.

This report analyzes fall 2005 headcount enrollment as reported by Connecticut's public and independent colleges and universities. It presents data and historical trends on students enrolled for credit at 47 institutions,¹ with details on attendance status, level and sector of higher education. (See Appendix for institutional data.) A subsequent report will have demographic detail on race/ethnicity, gender, age, residence, etc., and full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment.

All references to years in this report are to enrollment in the fall of that year.

STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

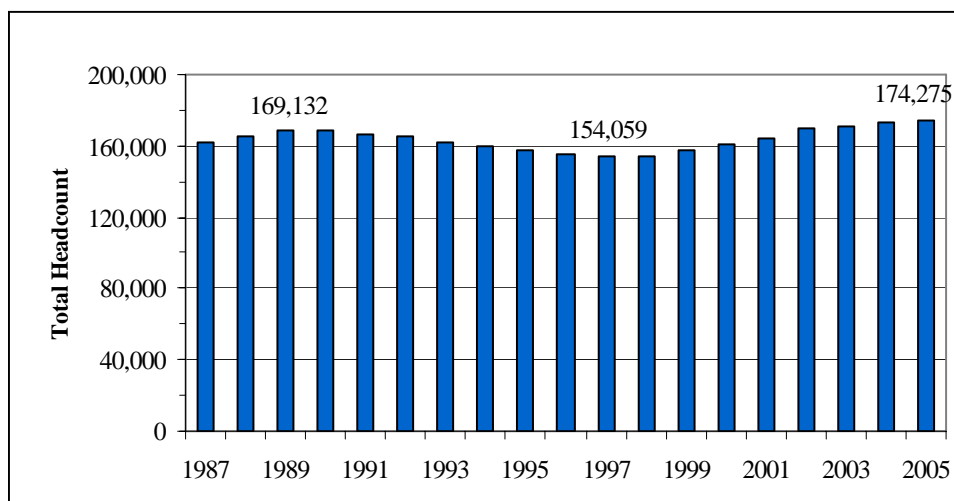
OVERALL TRENDS

The 2005 total of 174,275 is the highest ever. The last four years in turn beat a 16-year-old record of 169,132 students set in 1989 (see Figure 1A).

This year also marks the eighth consecutive year of growth since 1997, when total enrollment (154,059) stood at the lowest of the last quarter century. Enrollment rose by 20,216 (13%) over the last eight years, but the increases

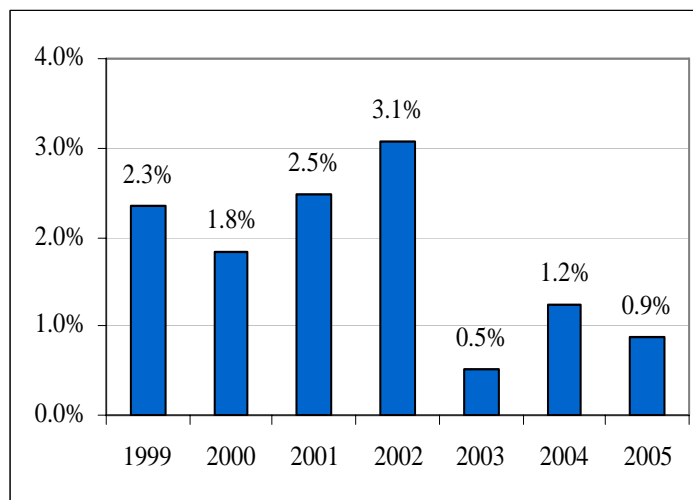
clearly are decelerating with average annual growth at only 0.9 percent over the last three years.

FIGURE 1A: ENROLLMENT HISTORY
CONNECTICUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



The 0.9 percent growth in 2005 masks a gain of 2.3 percent in full-time students and a drop of 1.6 percent in part-time students. Because of this divergence, the headcount increase of 0.9 percent probably will yield a larger growth in full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment. Last fall, for instance, the 1.2 percent increase in headcount enrollment yielded a 2.8 percent increase in FTE enrollment.

FIGURE 1B: ANNUAL ENROLLMENT GROWTH



The ranks of “traditional” college students continue to grow, with the number of full-time undergraduates rising by 36 percent from 1997 to 2005

(see below). The overall 13 percent increase in all students over that period reflects both the 36 percent rise in full-time undergraduates and a net decline of six percent among all other students. In those eight years, the number of full-time undergraduates rose from 45 percent to 54 percent of total enrollment, a remarkable shift that reflects a general transition from part-time to full-time attendance, growth in the pool of in-state high school graduates and Connecticut retaining a higher share of its college-bound high school graduates.

**STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT
1997-2005**

	1997	2005	# Change	% Change
Full-Time Undergraduates	69,999	94,943	24,944	36%
All Other Students	84,060	79,332	-4,728	-6%
Total	154,059	174,275	20,216	13%
Full-Time Undergraduates as % of Total	45%	54%		

Based on the 2000 Census, these 174,275 students equal 6.8 percent of Connecticut’s adult population, meaning that about one in 15 adults in our state are college students. This understates the share of the population attending college, because the 174,275 are students enrolled in at least one course for credit (i.e., a course that could count toward a degree or certificate), and excludes students taking only non-credit courses (e.g., remedial work, professional development, licensure for some fields, self-improvement, etc.) While students that take both credit and non-credit courses are included in the headcount, only their for-credit course load will be counted in FTE enrollment in a later report.

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

Of the statewide total, 112,511 (65%) attend full-time and 61,764 (35%) attend part-time. As already noted, full-time enrollment this fall increased by 2.3 percent (or 2,514 students) over 2004, while the number of part-time students fell by 1.6 percent (or 979 students).

Although total enrollment has grown every year since 1997, full-time enrollment has been rising every year since 1994, driven largely at the undergraduate level. In 1993 and 1994, full-time enrollment declined less than part-time enrollment did, meaning that full-time students as a percentage of total enrollment was rising. Part-time enrollment consistently fell over that period, except for a slight up-tick in the banner growth year of 2002.

The full-time share thus has risen every year since 1992 (when it was 51% full-time) to 2005 (65% full-time), creating the startling shift depicted below.

**STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT
1992-2005**

	1992	2005	# Change	% Change
Full-Time	84,035	112,511	28,476	34%
Part-Time	81,760	61,764	-19,996	-24%
Total	165,795	174,275	8,480	5%
Full-Time as % of Total	51%	65%		

The 65 percent share for full-timers is the highest in at least 19 years, and the 13th consecutive gain since 1992. It is remarkable that Connecticut higher education in just 13 years shifted from a bare majority full-time to almost two-thirds full-time.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

The statewide total consists of 140,520 (81%) undergraduates, 30,346 (17%) graduate students and 3,409 (2%) first-professional students.² The first-professional share has been steady for the last 19 years, but the undergraduate share rose from 78 percent in the trough year of 1997 to 81 percent this year, and the share of graduate students fell from 19 percent to 17 percent.

Undergraduate enrollment grew (by 1.3%) in 2005 and graduate and first-professional enrollment both declined (0.5% and 3.3%, respectively). Since the overall trough year of 1997, enrollment is up 16 percent among undergraduates and two percent among graduate students, and down less than one percent among first-professional students.

A vast majority of both first-professional students (88%) and undergraduates (68%) attend full-time, but a minority (48%) of graduate students are full-time students. The full-time share for undergraduates has risen for 13 consecutive years (from 54% in 1992 to 68% this year) and that share among graduate students also significantly grew over the last 19 years (from 29% full-time in 1987 to 48% this year.) The full-time share among first-professionals has been flat.

PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SECTORS

Public institutions (including the U.S. Coast Guard Academy or USCGA) enrolled 110,808 students in 2005, and the independent institutions enrolled 63,467, with both sectors increasing 0.9% over 2004. The 64 percent share for the publics this year is the historical norm.

The share of students who are full-time is 57 percent at the publics (the fifth consecutive year of full-timers being a majority, after being a minority for at least 15 years) and 77 percent at the independents.

Figure 2 illustrates statewide enrollment shares in 2005 with further detail by type.³ The 12 community colleges enrolled 27 percent of the state’s students and the 19 regional independents captured another 24 percent, with those two subsectors combined enrolling a majority (50.5%) of Connecticut college students. The four institutions in the Connecticut State University (CSU) system are not far behind, with 20 percent of the state’s enrollment. UConn (16%) and the four national independents (11%) round out the lion’s share of enrollment. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the five two-year independents combined contribute the remaining two percent of the statewide total.

FIGURE 2
FALL 2005 ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR

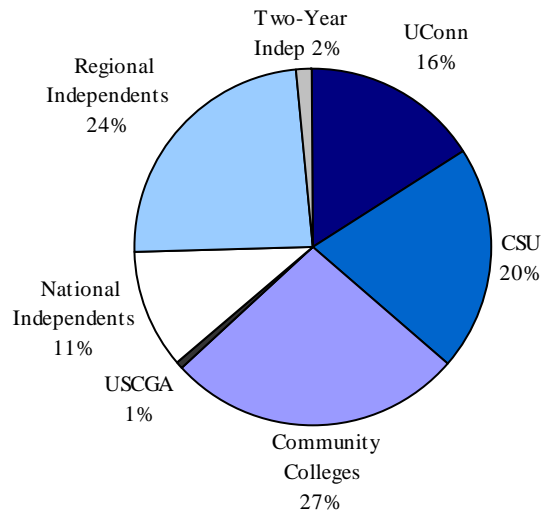
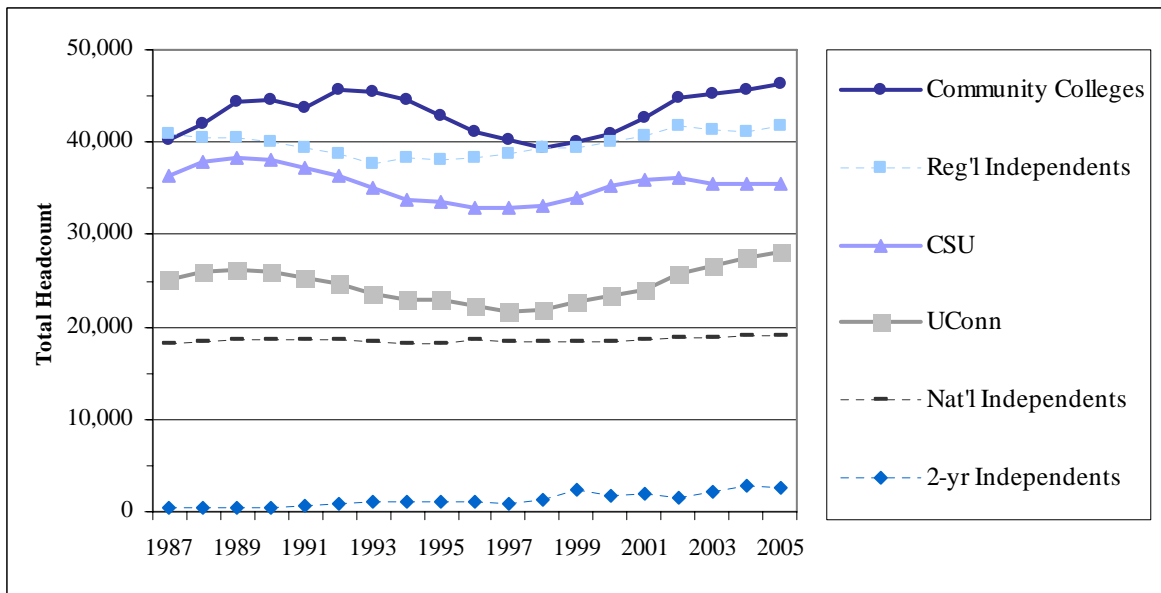


Figure 3 plots enrollment data (as headcounts, rather than share of statewide total) for the six major types of institutions over the last 19 years. These data are described more fully under each section below, but Figure 3 shows two patterns. First, the relative shares of each type of institution remain relatively stable, with no subsector gaining or losing more than two percent of its total market share. Second, with the exception of a virtually flat line for the national independents, enrollment by institutional type fluctuates, sometimes in tandem and sometimes not.

FIGURE 3
ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR: 1987-2005



A final perspective on the public and independent sectors comes from Table 1, which sorts the 47 institutions and breaks out UConn enrollment by campus. The 10 largest colleges enroll a solid majority (56%) of the state's students, and the 10 smallest colleges educate less than one percent of college students in Connecticut.

TABLE 1
FALL 2005 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, SORTED HIGH-TO-LOW

Publics	Fall 2005 Enrollment Total	Independents
UConn-Storrs	23,185	
Central CSU	12,315	
Southern CSU	12,158	
	11,483	Yale University
	7,293	Quinnipiac University
	7,260	University of Hartford
Manchester CC	6,135	
Norwalk CC	6,036	
Western CSU	5,907	
Gateway CC	5,739	
Naugatuck Valley CC	5,667	
	5,560	Sacred Heart University
	5,173	Fairfield University
Eastern CSU	5,113	
Housatonic CC	4,471	
	4,466	University of New Haven
Tunxis CC	3,894	
Three Rivers CC	3,660	
	3,626	University of Bridgeport
Capital CC	3,573	
	3,205	Wesleyan University
	2,472	Trinity College
UConn Tri-Campus	2,442	
Middlesex CC	2,286	
	2,230	Albertus Magnus College
	1,898	Connecticut College
	1,858	St. Joseph College
Quinebaug Valley CC	1,714	
Northwestern CT CC	1,569	
Asnuntuck CC	1,483	
UConn-Stamford	1,241	
	1,219	Goodwin College
	1,101	Post University
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	1,005	
	950	Gibbs College
UConn-Avery Point	730	

TABLE 1 (CONT'D.)
FALL 2005 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, SORTED HIGH-TO-LOW

Publics	Fall 2005 Enrollment Total	Independents
	727	Mitchell College
	706	Rensselaer at Hartford
	647	Briarwood College
UConn-Health Center	485	
	414	St. Vincent's College
	277	Paier College of Art
	254	Holy Apostles College
	225	Graduate Institute, The
	169	Hartford Seminary
	153	LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts
	40	Int'l College of Hospitality Management
	25	Legion of Christ College of Humanities
	20	St. Basil's College
	16	St. Thomas Seminary

Table 1 also separates publics from independents. The three institutions with the most students are public, as are 10 of the top 15. Excluding the UConn Health Center as a stand-alone medical/dental school, 13 of the 28 independents are smaller than the smallest public. The median size of the 22 public institutions (which counts UConn branches separately) is 3,777 or almost four times the 950 median of the 28 independents.

PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 22 public institutions (21 state colleges, including UConn branches and the federal USCGA) enrolled 110,808 students, an increase of 955 students (0.9%) over 2004. Full-time students rose 2.9 percent and part-time students fell 1.8 percent. Excluding the Coast Guard Academy, state-supported institutions enrolled 109,803 students and saw the same 0.9 percent growth. This is the seventh consecutive year of increases in both the public and state sectors.

For the fifth consecutive time, full-time students represent a majority (57%) of total enrollment at the public institutions. This full-time share at the publics first became a majority (51%) in 2001, after falling just shy (49.91%) in 2000.

The breakdown by level for public institutions is 95,684 undergraduates (86% of the total), 13,746 graduate students (12%) and 1,378 first-professional students (1%).

As noted above, the public sector enrolled 64 percent of all students in higher education. That share, however, is far from uniform because it enrolled 57 percent of the state's full-time students and 76 percent of those attending part-time. The public sector has more than two-thirds (68%) of Connecticut undergraduates but less than half of both the state's graduate students (45%) and first-professional students (40%).

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (UConn – FIVE CAMPUSES)

UConn enrolled 28,083 students this year, an increase of 504 students (1.8%) over last year. UConn followed the statewide pattern in seeing growth in full-time students (up 3.0%) and a drop in part-time students (down 2.8%).

The main campus at Storrs has 23,185 students, up 2.2 percent over last year. Storrs has represented 83 percent of the total enrollment for the state’s flagship university for the past four years.

The three branch campuses enroll another 16 percent of university-wide enrollment. Avery Point registered 730 students (a 6% decline from last year), but both Stamford (up 0.4%) and the Tri-Campus (up 2.1%, with locations in Hartford, Torrington and Waterbury) saw growth. Full-time students are the majority at all three branch campuses.

The UConn Health Center, with the state’s public medical and dental schools, represents the last two percent of UConn enrollment. It has 485 students this year, the same as in 2004. Those five entities, and the entire university, have the following profiles for their students in 2005 (percentages read across by college).

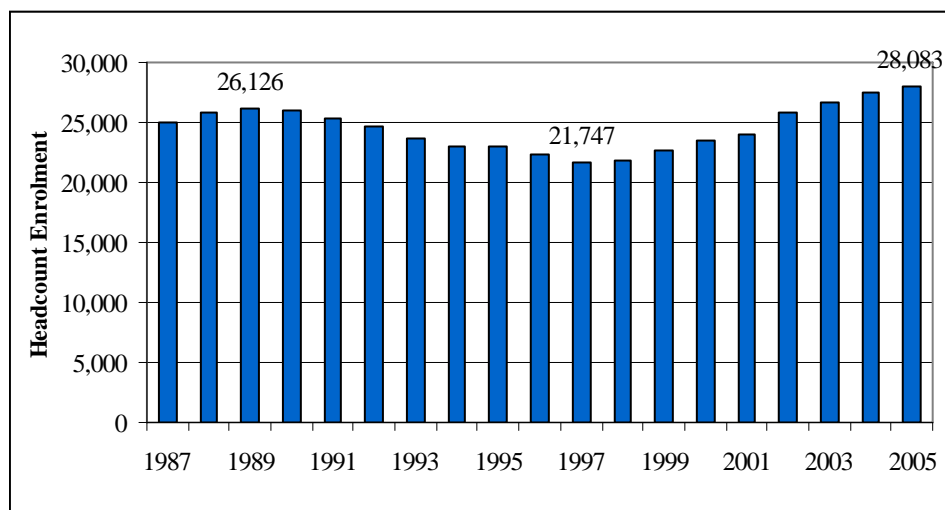
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate*	First-Professional
All of UConn	81%	19%	73%	22%	5%
Storrs	84%	16%	69%	27%	4%
Avery Point	62%	38%	100%	—	—
Tri-Campus	66%	34%	100%	—	—
Stamford	57%	43%	100%	—	—
Health Center	99%	1%	—	—	100%

*All graduate students are counted at Storrs rather than where they actually are enrolled.

As noted above, Storrs enrolls 83 percent of all UConn students. The overall percentage is comprised of 78 percent of all undergraduates, 100 percent of graduate students and 65 percent of first-professional students.

Figure 4, which plots total enrollment at UConn over the last 19 years, shows a pattern similar to that in Figure 1 for statewide enrollment — a peak in 1989, a trough in 1997 and increases since then, with UConn in 2003 surpassing that earlier 1989 peak and setting new records in both 2004 and 2005. The decline at UConn between 1989 and 1997 was 4,379 students or 17 percent (higher than the statewide drop of 9%); the increase in the last eight years is 6,336 students or 29 percent (also higher than the statewide gain of 13%).

**FIGURE 4
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT UCONN: 1987-2005**



CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU – FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

CSU has 35,493 students, for a loss of just 44 students (0.1%) over 2004. Full-time students were up 2.4 percent and part-time students were down 4.8 percent. Western saw a gain of 23 students (0.4%) from 2004, after being the only CSU last year to register a drop. The other three CSUs saw slight declines ranging from 0.04 percent at Central to 0.8 percent at Eastern.

Central is the largest CSU institution (12,315 students vs. 12,158 at second place Southern), as it has been in 18 of the last 19 years. Southern was the leader in 2003, with 12 more students than Central. Central enrolls 35 percent of all CSU students, Southern has 34 percent, Western (5,907 students) has another 17 percent of CSU students and Eastern (5,113 students) provides the remaining 14 percent.

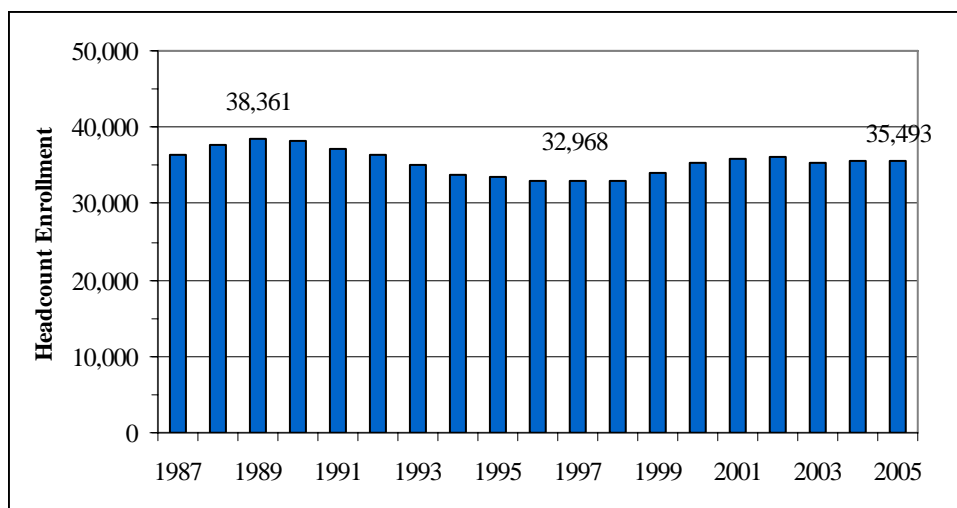
A summary profile of this year’s student body for the system and its four campuses is as follows (percentages again read across by college):

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate
All of CSU	67%	33%	79%	21%
Central	65%	35%	79%	21%
Eastern	75%	25%	93%	7%
Southern	64%	36%	68%	32%
Western	69%	31%	88%	12%

Eastern stands out from the pack for its higher share of full-time students and much higher share of undergraduates. Three-fourths (73%) of its students are full-time undergraduates, which is consistent with Eastern’s mission as Connecticut’s public liberal arts institution. In contrast, at Southern (the lead graduate institution of CSU), barely one-half (55%) of students are full-time undergraduates.

Figure 5 plots the systemwide totals for the last 19 years. As with the statewide and UConn data, we see a peak in 1989, more or less steady decline to a trough in 1997 and a general, but slight upward trend since then. The CSUs, however, have not eclipsed the 1989 headcount acme, and this year's total remains seven percent short of that record.

FIGURE 5
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY:
1987-2005



The systemwide patterns mask differing institutional growth rates. From 1987 to 2005, enrollment at Eastern increased 18 percent, while Southern, Western and Central all fell (1%, 4% and 9%, respectively.) Enrollment at Eastern peaked in 2001, while the other three campuses had their maximum enrollment within one year of the systemwide peak in 1989.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES (12 INSTITUTIONS)

The 12 community colleges enrolled 46,227 students this year, for a net increase of 484 (1.1%) over 2004. Full-time students were up 3.7 percent, and part-time students fell by 0.3 percent, which made it the only one of the three state systems that came close to experiencing growth among both full-time and part-time students.

Six of the 12 community colleges saw drops in enrollment, with the declines ranging from 0.4 percent at Quinebaug Valley to 4.9 percent at Housatonic. Housatonic was the only college that registered drops in both full-time and part-time enrollment.

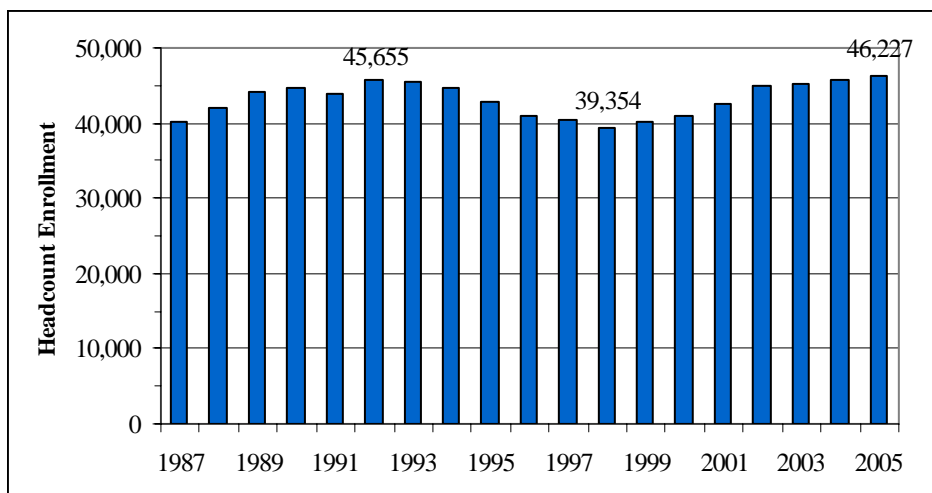
The other six colleges saw gains this year, ranging from 2.6 percent at Gateway to 4.2 percent at Norwalk. The gain at Norwalk was not enough to vault it back to the largest of the 12 colleges, a distinction it held for the five years from 1999 to 2003. Manchester gained that lead back in 2004 and maintained it in 2005, after also holding that distinction from 1987 to 1998.

The community colleges represent a plurality of both public enrollment (42% of all those attending state-supported institutions) and total enrollment (27% of all college students or ahead of the 24% for the regional independents). They are almost a majority (48%) of total part-time enrollment across the state and a solid majority (65%) of part-time undergraduate enrollment.

Despite their large share of part-time enrollment, the community colleges continued their eight-year increase in full-time enrollment — from 9,558 in 1997 to 16,385 in 2005, or up 71 percent.

Part-time enrollment was down 3 percent over the same period. Full-time students as a share of total

FIGURE 6
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES: 1987-2005



enrollment rose from 24 percent in 1997 to 35 percent this year. Full-time students first broke the one-third barrier in total headcount in 2004, after first becoming the majority in total credit hours (and thus FTE enrollment) in 2002. The unprecedented growth in full-time students, many of whom are recent high school graduates, has dramatically changed the face of the community college student population in a relatively short period of time. Not surprisingly, the shift also poses unique challenges for the system to meet the instructional and support services needs of these students.

The 12 community colleges differ greatly in size, but are more homogenous in their student profile. All students are undergraduates, and the systemwide 35 percent share for full-time students ranges only from 26 percent at Capital to 44 percent at Manchester.

Figure 6 plots total community college enrollment over time and differs from the three previous bar charts in that community college enrollment peaked three years later (in 1992, rather than in 1989) and bottomed out a year later (in 1998, not 1997). There is, however, the same overall pattern of steady decline until the trough year, steady increase since then, breaking the previous 1992 peak in 2004 and the current year being 1.3 percent above its previous 1992 peak.

Note in Figure 3 that the community college total enrollment in the last four years (2002-2005) clearly exceeds the total at the regional independents. This follows a three-year period (1999-2001) when the two subsectors tightly competed for that plurality title and one year (1998) when the regional independents enrolled 730 more students than the community colleges.

The lead of the community colleges over the regional independents in 2005 is about what it was back in 1995, or soon after the consolidation of the community and technical college systems. That restoration is impressive because the community college system was 12 institutions throughout this period, while the regional independents grew from 14 in 1995 to 19 in 2005, through the addition of three new colleges and two colleges (Mitchell and Briarwood) shifting from the 2-year independents to the regional (4-year) independents.

Since 1998 (the systemwide trough year), the overall enrollment increase is 17 percent and ranges from two declines (Asnuntuck down 22% and Northwestern off 10%) to two increases over 40 percent (Gateway up 44% and Quinebaug Valley up 41%).

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE

Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,902 students this fall, 407 students (27%) more than last year. All are part-time undergraduates. These counts, however, are not included in the state total or tables because many of these students are also enrolled at other institutions in the state and were counted there.

U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The United States Coast Guard Academy enrolled 1,005 students this year, 11 students (1.1%) more than last year. All are full-time undergraduates.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 28 independent institutions in Connecticut enrolled 63,467 students in fall 2005, an increase of 580 students (0.9%) over fall 2004, and they represent 36 percent of the state's enrollment. Full-time enrollment was up 2.3 percent, and part-time enrollment was down 1.6 percent.

Full-time students are 77 percent of the total at the independents. The full-time share was 60 percent as recently as 1992, when it began a roughly steady increase to the current 77 percent.

This year, 71 percent of these students are undergraduates, 26 percent are graduate students and three percent are first-professional students. This breakdown by level has been remarkably stable over the last 19 years.

Although the colleges constituting the independent sector have seen much change over the last 19 years (seven new entrants, three closed colleges and assorted consolidations), the total enrollment for the sector has been relatively steady. The maximum enrollment in independent colleges over this period (this year's 63,467) is only 11 percent higher than the minimum of those 19 years (the 57,135 in 1993.) By contrast, the maximum enrollment in the public sector is 17 percent higher than the minimum, over the same period.

NATIONAL INDEPENDENTS (FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

Connecticut College, Trinity, Wesleyan and Yale enrolled 19,058 students in 2005 or 105 more (0.6%) than in 2004 and represent 11 percent of total enrollment. They are considered national institutions because roughly 90 percent of their undergraduate students come from out-of-state, represent all or almost all of the 50 states and have a significant international component.

The total among these colleges has been very stable over the last 19 years, with the maximum (this year's 19,058) only five percent higher than the minimum (18,192 in 1995).

The profile of the students in this sector in 2005 is as follows:

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
National Independents	95%	5%	65%	29%	7%
Connecticut College	96%	4%	99%	1%	—
Trinity College	85%	15%	93%	7%	—
Wesleyan University	92%	8%	86%	14%	—
Yale University	98%	2%	47%	42%	11%

Excluding the four colleges that educate only graduate and/or first-professional students (i.e., UConn Health Center, Graduate Institute, Hartford Seminary and Rensselaer at Hartford), Yale is one of three institutions that has undergraduates as a minority of total enrollment. Two others will appear under the regional independents section.

Enrollment among these colleges is overwhelmingly full-time at both the undergraduate (97%) and first-professional (98% across Yale's law, medicine, and divinity schools) levels. Graduate students appear to be overwhelmingly full-time (90% across these four colleges), but that aggregate figure obscures an underlying pattern — i.e., the full-time share among graduate students is 97 percent at Yale, which enrolls 88 percent of the graduate students in this subsector and 32 percent across the other three colleges combined.

REGIONAL INDEPENDENTS (19 INSTITUTIONS)

These 19 colleges are a heterogeneous lot. Six enrolled more than 3,500 students this fall, seven had fewer than 300 students and six are in that vast middle ground of 300 to 3,500. Five regional independents enroll only undergraduates; four have only graduate students; seven teach both undergraduate and graduate students; and three cover the full range of undergraduates, graduate students and first-professional students. Some offer only one or two majors, while others provide their students with hundreds of program options.

These colleges enrolled 41,761 students this fall, an increase of 565 (or 1.4%) over 2004 following declines in both 2003 and 2004. As noted, they are the second-largest sector in Connecticut higher education, outpaced only by the public community colleges. Full-time enrollment rose 3.6 percent while part-time enrollment fell 3.9 percent, which is just the latest step in an 11-year massive shift that converted this sector from a minority of full-time students (49.7% in 1994) to close to three-fourths full-time (72%) in 2005.

Changes this year varied greatly by college, even just among the 12 colleges that enrolled more than 500 students in 2005. Four colleges saw enrollment drops, most noticeably at Rensselaer (down 12%) and Post (formerly known as Teikyo Post, down 8%) The most noticeable increases were at the University of Bridgeport (up 11%) and the University of New Haven (up 7%).

Quinnipiac (7,293 students) became the largest regional independent this year, supplanting University of Hartford (7,260 students) from the number one slot that it held for at least 29 years from 1976 to 2004. University of Hartford was almost the largest of all independent colleges in 1978, when it was just six students shy of Yale’s total.

The Quinnipiac gain this year was its 19th consecutive increase between 1987 and 2005, during which its enrollment rose 154 percent. Even after backing out its acquisition of a law school from the University of Bridgeport in 1992, those 19 years saw an average annual growth of 2.9 percent. Quinnipiac began its 19-year growth streak in 1987 as the sixth largest independent, reached number two nine years later in 1996 and took nine more years to become the largest in 2005. Its 33-student (or less than 0.5 percent) edge over University of Hartford, however, is a tenuous one, with both schools having a comfortable 31 percent lead over Sacred Heart, the third largest.

As noted previously, this sector also varies greatly by size. The three largest of the 19 regional independents (i.e., Quinnipiac, University of Hartford and Sacred Heart) combined enroll almost half (48.2%) of the students in the sector and the top nine include 92.4 percent, leaving less than eight percent enrolled at the smallest 10 colleges.

The profile of the students in this sector for this year is as follows:

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
All Regional Independents	72%	28%	71%	27%	2%
Albertus Magnus College	92%	8%	80%	20%	
Briarwood College	60%	40%	100%		
Fairfield University	72%	28%	79%	21%	
Graduate Institute, The	100%			100%	
Hartford Seminary	20%	80%		100%	
Holy Apostles College	24%	76%	16%	68%	16%
LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts	53%	47%	97%	3%	
Mitchell College	89%	11%	100%		
Paier College of Art	69%	31%	100%		
Post University	60%	40%	100%		
Quinnipiac University	86%	14%	78%	14%	7%
Rensselaer at Hartford	5%	95%		100%	
Sacred Heart University	67%	33%	74%	26%	
St. Basil’s College	90%	10%	100%		
St. Joseph College	55%	45%	62%	38%	
St. Thomas Seminary		100%		100%	
University of Bridgeport	64%	36%	46%	48%	6%
University of Hartford	72%	28%	77%	23%	
University of New Haven	71%	29%	62%	38%	

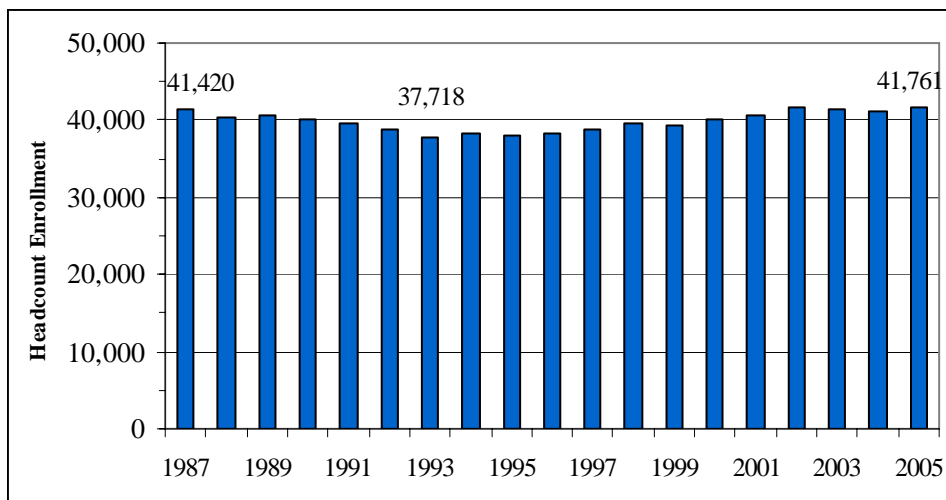
Note that undergraduates at both Holy Apostles and the University of Bridgeport, like Yale earlier, are less than half of total enrollment. The other 16 colleges in Connecticut that provide both undergraduate and graduate education have student bodies that are a majority undergraduate.

Among the 15 regional independents that enrolled undergraduates, only Holy Apostles had a minority of them (22% or 9 out of 41) as full-time. The other 14 ranged from 54 percent of undergraduates as full-time at LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts to 95 percent at Albertus Magnus.

Figure 7 shows that historical enrollment trends at the regional independents differ from those at other major types of Connecticut higher education institutions. The peak enrollment of the last 19 years was the 41,420 in 1987, but a higher peak of 43,628 came in 1983. Enrollment declined more or less steadily until the nadir of 37,718 in 1993 and has since increased more or less steadily to the 41,761 in 2005, with the exception of slight drop-offs in 2003 and 2004.

Because this sector has gone from 46 percent full-time in 1987 to 72 percent full-time in 2005, the FTE enrollment almost certainly is higher now than in that earlier headcount peak in 1983.

FIGURE 7
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT REGIONAL INDEPENDENTS: 1987-2005



TWO-YEAR INDEPENDENTS (FIVE INSTITUTIONS)

These five colleges enrolled 2,648 students in 2005, a decrease of 90 students or 3.3 percent fewer than in 2004. Full-time enrollment fell 40 percent while part-time enrollment was up 31 percent, meaning the FTE enrollment among these colleges will see an even greater decline than the drop in headcount enrollment.

The only colleges showing enrollment gains were Goodwin (whose 30% increase vaulted it to 46% of total enrollment in this subsector) and St. Vincent’s (with a modest growth of seven students or 1.7%). The other three colleges combined experienced a 27 percent enrollment drop.

Because enrollment among these colleges is relatively volatile (and partially because of additions or subtractions from its ranks), longer-term trends provide a clearer pattern. Between 1998 and 2005, enrollment in this sector more than tripled (from 757 to 2,648, or up 250%) fueled by the addition of Goodwin College.

These institutions also show the most volatility in their percentage full-time. These students were 90 percent or more of total enrollment from 1987 to 1990, plummeted to just under half (49.7%) in 1991 and remained in the minority or narrow majority (56% or less) until 1998. Full-time students were 73 percent or more of the total enrollment from 1999 to 2001, dropped to the mid-50s in 2002 and 2003 and fell further to 48 percent in 2004 and 30 percent in 2005.

All students in these colleges are undergraduates. The proportion attending full-time is 100 percent at both Legion of Christ and the International College of Hospitality Management, 55 percent at Gibbs, 19 percent at St. Vincent's and 11 percent at Goodwin.

While these colleges enroll less than two percent of the state's total, it is the only subsector to see tremendous growth over the last 19 years. In its trough year of 1989 (which was a peak year in most other sectors), its total enrollment of 70 at two schools was 0.04 percent of the state total; this year its 2,648 at five schools represents 1.52 percent of the total.

CONCLUSIONS

This year was the eighth consecutive year of enrollment growth and fourth straight year of record enrollments. Average annual growth, however, has clearly decelerated from 2.4 percent per year between 1998 and 2002 to 0.9 percent per year over the last three years.

A notable trend is the continued rapid growth among traditional college students, defined here as full-time undergraduates. (Later data will allow us to define this group more narrowly by age, recent high school graduates, etc.) As noted at the outset, the 13 percent growth in total enrollment between 1997 and 2005 masks a 36 percent gain in full-time undergraduates and a six percent drop in all other enrollments. Full-time undergraduates first became a majority of all students in 2001 and are 54 percent of the total this year.

Part of this growth reflects an increase in Connecticut public high school graduates (estimated to have grown 30% between 1997 and 2005), but this pool of potential freshmen is projected to grow only six percent over the next three years until the expected peak in 2008. The number of in-state public high school graduates then is projected to drop six percent between 2008 and 2013, to the point where the class of 2013 will be 0.6 percent below the estimated class of 2005.

Although students of every age enroll as college freshmen, recent and/or in-state high school graduates still are by far the most productive source of freshmen. In fall 2004, 82 percent of all first-time freshmen at Connecticut colleges graduated from high school within the last year, 68 percent of freshmen were from Connecticut and 52 percent were **both** recent high school graduates and from in-state. That pool is projected to increase only slightly in the next few years and then decline so that its ranks will be smaller in 2013 than it is now in 2005.

There are several ways for the state and its colleges to buffer themselves from the shrinking pool of Connecticut public high school graduates.

- **Enroll more Connecticut high school graduates in Connecticut colleges.** The state has made major progress here; the number of college-bound high school graduates retained in-state grew by 5,331 (or 58%) between 1996 and 2004. The number “exported” to other states grew by only 360 or 3 percent over the same eight-year period.⁴
- **Enroll more recent high school graduates from other states.** The freshmen “imported” from other states grew by 1,831 (or 28%) between 1996 and 2004.
- **Concentrate on expanding the traditional pool by increasing high school graduation rates.**
- **Retain and graduate a higher share of existing college students, at all levels.** Too many students leave without earning their degrees, and it is far more efficient (albeit not as easy) to retain current students rather than recruit new ones.
- **Recruit non-traditional college students.** Although the last 13 years saw a marked increase in the number of full-time undergraduates (many of whom come directly from high school), efforts should be made to recruit older full-time undergraduates and expand the numbers of part-time undergraduates and graduate/first-professional students of any attendance status.
- **Recruit more graduate students, particularly in areas of state workforce needs.** This could be accomplished with a combination of increased graduate school recruiting and steering by faculty in upper-class undergraduate courses.

Connecticut college enrollments grew by 8.4 percent from 2000 to 2005, during which the state’s estimated total population rose by 2.9 percent. The state’s total population is expected to rise by only 2.1 percent between 2005 and 2010 and 1.6 percent between 2010 and 2005.

While this year’s enrollment picture remains bright, clearly the years of record-breaking growth at Connecticut colleges are nearing an end. Colleges should not wait to adopt new and expanded recruitment strategies just to maintain present class sizes.

ENDNOTES

1. Briarwood College in Southington switched from a two-year college to a four-year college, effective in fall 2004. Briarwood this year is listed for the first time in the “Regional Independent” category and the historical data for both regional independents and its old category “Two-Year Independent” have been adjusted to reflect that shift. The totals for those two subsectors will thus differ from what was reported in previous years.
2. First-professional programs train lawyers, medical doctors (broadly defined) and clergy and enroll students at only five of the state’s 47 colleges and universities.
3. The state component of the public sector has three parts: a) the University of Connecticut (the main Storrs campus, three branch campuses, and the medical and dental schools at the Health Center in Farmington); b) four Connecticut State Universities (Central, Eastern, Southern and Western) and c) 12 Community Colleges. (The Coast Guard Academy is *sui generis* as a Federal institution; see page 11 for Charter Oak State College, which is the 19th public college.) The 28 independent institutions are split into: a) four national independents (recruiting students from a national pool); b) 19 regional independents and c) five two-year independents.
4. August 2005 report, “Most Connecticut Students Choose Connecticut Colleges” (<http://www.ctdhe.org/info/pdfs/2005/2005MigrationReport.pdf>).

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			
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS															
<i>University of Connecticut</i>	18,070	2,455	20,525	3,395	2,785	6,180	1,159	219	1,378	22,624	5,459	28,083	27,579	504	1.8%
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>	21,895	6,032	27,927	1,803	5,763	7,566				23,698	11,795	35,493	35,537	-44	-0.1%
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>	16,385	29,842	46,227							16,385	29,842	46,227	45,743	484	1.1%
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%
TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS	56,350	38,329	94,679	5,198	8,548	13,746	1,159	219	1,378	62,707	47,096	109,803	108,859	944	0.9%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	1,005		1,005							1,005		1,005	994	11	1.1%
TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	57,355	38,329	95,684	5,198	8,548	13,746	1,159	219	1,378	63,712	47,096	110,808	109,853	955	0.9%

*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			
INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS															
<i>National Independents</i>	12,009	338	12,347	4,909	556	5,465	1,222	24	1,246	18,140	918	19,058	18,953	105	0.6%
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>	24,781	5,060	29,841	4,445	6,690	11,135	635	150	785	29,861	11,900	41,761	41,196	565	1.4%
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>	798	1,850	2,648							798	1,850	2,648	2,738	-90	-3.3%
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%
TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS	37,588	7,248	44,836	9,354	7,246	16,600	1,857	174	2,031	48,799	14,668	63,467	62,887	580	0.9%
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS	94,943	45,577	140,520	14,552	15,794	30,346	3,016	393	3,409	112,511	61,764	174,275	172,740	1,535	0.9%

**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.