



FALL 2006 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY HEADCOUNT IN CONNECTICUT

Total headcount enrollment at Connecticut's colleges and universities reached 176,560 students in fall 2006, a fifth consecutive record year. The increase of 2,287 students (or 1.3%) over fall 2005 is the ninth year of enrollment growth, but the rate of increase is slowing (see Figure 1B). The average annual growth rate since 2003 was 1.0 percent, less than half the average growth for the period 1999 through 2002 of 2.4 percent. The moderation in enrollment growth is more pronounced at the public institutions — 0.9 percent for 2003-2006 compared to 3.2 percent for 1999-2002.

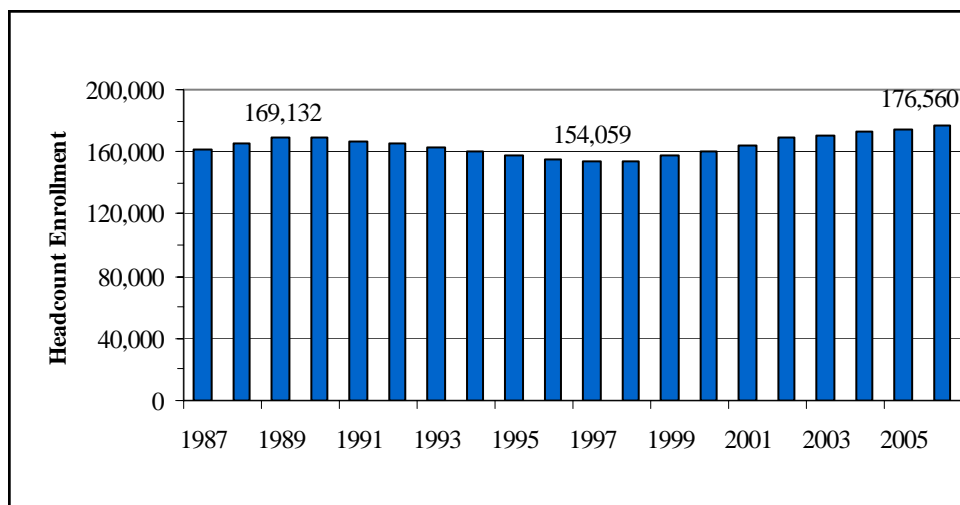
This report analyzes fall 2006 headcount enrollment at Connecticut's public and independent colleges and universities. It presents data and historical trends on students enrolled for credit at 47 institutions, with details on attendance status, level and sector of higher education. (See Appendix for institutional data.) A subsequent report will provide 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 2006 total of 176,560 is the highest ever and the ninth consecutive year of growth since 1997, when total enrollment (154,059) stood at the lowest of the last 29 years (see Figure 1A). Enrollment rose by 22,501 (15%) over the last nine years, but the increases are slowing with an average annual growth of only one percent over the last four years.

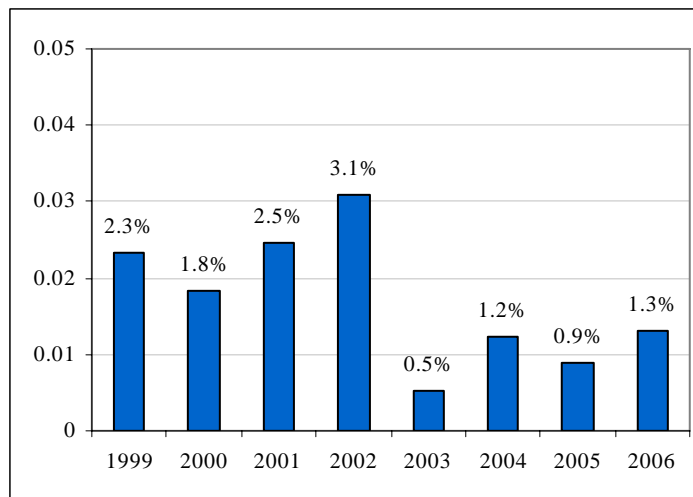
FIGURE 1A: ENROLLMENT HISTORY
CONNECTICUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



The 176,560 students include all enrolled in at least one course for credit (i.e., could count toward a degree or certificate, even if the student is not seeking an award) and exclude students taking only non-credit courses (e.g., remedial work, professional development, licensure in some fields, self-improvement, etc.)

The overall 1.3 percent growth in 2006 reflects gains of 1.9 percent in full-time students and 0.2 percent in part-time ones. Due to this divergence, the headcount increase of 1.3 percent likely will yield larger growth in full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment. Last fall, for instance, the 0.9 percent increase in headcount enrollment (with an increase in full-time students and decrease in part-time students) yielded a 1.8 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 39 percent between 1997 and 2006 (see below). The overall 15 percent increase in all students over that decade reflects that 39 percent rise in full-time undergraduates and a net drop of five percent among all other students. In those 10 years, the number of full-time undergraduates rose from 45 to 55 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. The number of graduates from public high schools in Connecticut is expected to peak in 2008, and decline by nine percent over the subsequent eight years.

**STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT
1997-2006**

	1997	2006	# Change	% Change
Full-Time Undergraduates	69,999	94,949	26,950	39%
All Other Students	84,060	79,611	-4,449	-5%
Total	154,059	176,560	22,501	15%
Full-Time Undergraduates as % of Total	45%	55%		

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

Of the statewide total, 114,661 (65%) attend full-time and 61,899 (35%) attend part-time. As already noted, full-time enrollment this fall rose by 1.9 percent (or 2,142 students) over 2005, while the number of part-time students increased only 0.2 percent (or 145 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 fell over that period, except for slight up-ticks (less than 0.5%) in both 2002 and 2006. The full-time share thus has risen every year since 1992 (when it was 51% full-time) to 2006 (65% full-time), creating the startling shift depicted below.

**STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT
1992-2006**

	1992	2006	# Change	% Change
Full-Time	84,035	114,661	30,626	36%
Part-Time	81,760	61,899	-19,861	-24%
Total	165,795	176,560	10,765	6%
Full-Time as % of Total	51%	65%		

The 65 percent share for full-time students is the highest in at least 20 years, and the 14th consecutive gain since 1992. It is remarkable that Connecticut higher education in just 14 years shifted from a bare majority full-time to almost two-thirds full-time.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

The statewide total consists of 142,359 (81%) undergraduates, 30,905 (18%) graduate students and 3,296 (2%) first-professional students.¹ This breakdown has been relatively stable for the last 20 years, except for the undergraduate share rising from 78 percent in the trough year of 1997 to 81 percent this year.

Both undergraduate and graduate enrollment grew in 2006 (by 1.3% and 1.8%, respectively), but first-professional enrollment declined by 3.3 percent. Since the overall trough year of 1997, enrollment is up 18 percent among undergraduates and three percent among graduate students and down four percent among first-professional students.

A vast majority of both first-professional students (88%) and undergraduates (68%) attend full-time, but only a minority (48%) of graduate students are full-time students. The full-time share for undergraduates has risen for 14 consecutive years (from 54% in 1992 to 68% this year) and that share among graduate students also significantly grew over the last 20 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 111,760 students in 2006 (up 0.9% over 2005) and the independent institutions enrolled 64,800 (up 2.1% over 2005). The 63 percent share for the publics this year is the historical norm.

The share of students who are full-time is 58 percent at the publics (the sixth consecutive year of full-timers being a majority, after being a minority for at least the previous 14 years) and 76 percent at the independents.

Figure 2 plots statewide enrollment shares in 2006 with further detail by category.² The 12 community colleges enrolled 26 percent of the state's students and the 19 regional independents captured another 24 percent, with those two subsectors combined enrolling a majority (50.7%) 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 USCGA and the five two-year independents combined contribute the remaining two percent of the statewide total.

FIGURE 2
FALL 2006 ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR

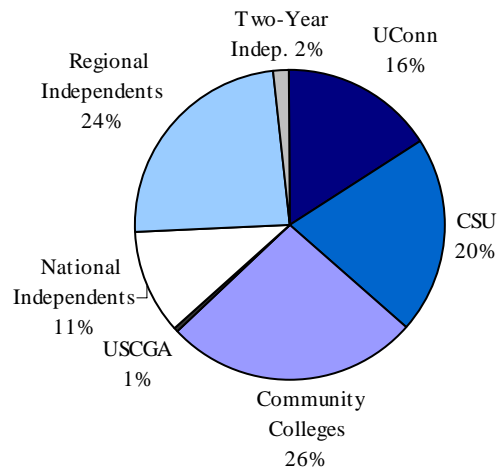
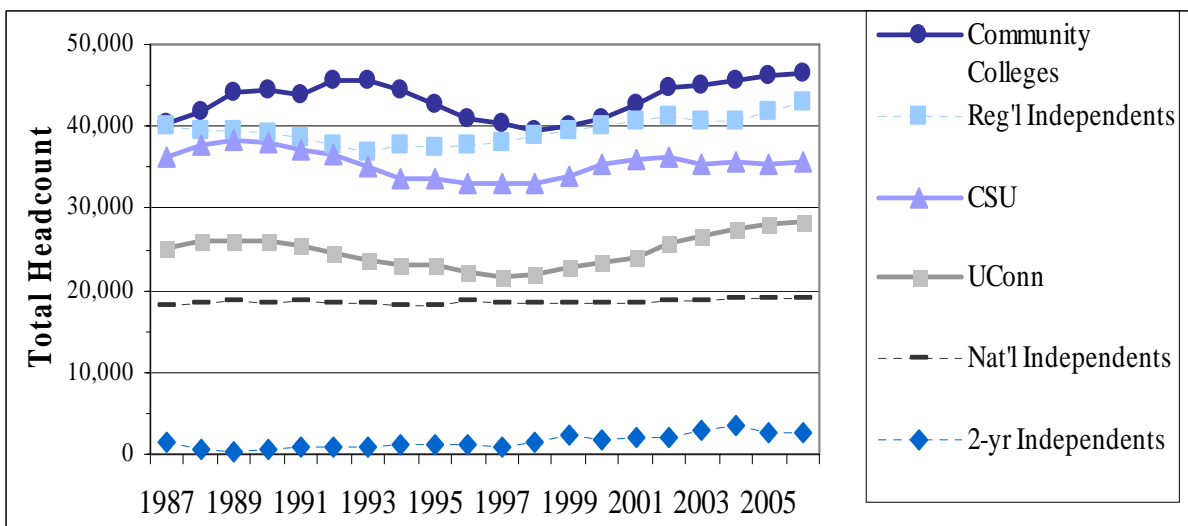


Figure 3 plots enrollment data (as headcount, rather than share of the state total) for the six major categories of institutions over the last 20 years. Details appear below in the sections on each category, but Figure 3 shows two patterns. First, the relative shares of each type are relatively stable, with no type gaining or losing more than two percentage points of its 20-year 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: 1987-2006



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 2006 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, SORTED HIGH-TO-LOW

Publics	Fall 2006 Enrollment Total	Independents
UConn-Storrs	23,557	
Southern CSU	12,326	
Central CSU	12,144	
	11,415	Yale University
	7,341	Quinnipiac University
	7,308	University of Hartford
Manchester CC	6,094	
Western CSU	6,086	
Norwalk CC	6,040	
Gateway CC	5,824	
	5,756	Sacred Heart University
Naugatuck Valley CC	5,659	
Eastern CSU	5,239	
	5,091	Fairfield University
	4,649	University of New Haven
Housatonic CC	4,431	
	4,018	University of Bridgeport
Three Rivers CC	3,793	
Tunxis CC	3,663	
Capital CC	3,550	
	3,220	Wesleyan University
	2,499	Trinity College
UConn Tri-Campus	2,485	
Middlesex CC	2,474	
	2,186	Albertus Magnus College
	1,886	Connecticut College
	1,803	St. Joseph College
Quinebaug Valley CC	1,779	
Asnuntuck CC	1,638	
	1,596	Post University
Northwestern CT CC	1,544	
	1,365	Goodwin College
UConn-Stamford	1,281	
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	995	
	790	Mitchell College

**TABLE 1 (CONT'D.)
FALL 2006 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, SORTED HIGH-TO-LOW**

Publics	Fall 2006 Enrollment Total	Independents
	765	Gibbs College
	743	Rensselaer at Hartford
UConn-Avery Point	671	
	649	Briarwood College
UConn-Health Center	487	
	475	St. Vincent's College
	270	Holy Apostles College
	248	Paier College of Art
	221	Graduate Institute, The
	173	Hartford Seminary
	151	LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts
	106	Legion of Christ College of Humanities
	40	Int'l College of Hospitality Management
	18	St. Basil's College
	18	St. Thomas Seminary

Table 1 also separates publics from independents. The three institutions with the most students are public, as are seven of the top 10 and 13 of the top 20. Excluding the UConn Health Center as a stand-alone medical/dental school, 11 of the 28 independents are smaller than the smallest public. The median size of the 21 public institutions (which counts UConn branches separately, but again excludes the Health Center) is 3,793 or almost four times the 1,078 median enrollment at the 28 independents.

PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 22 public institutions (21 state colleges, including UConn branches and the USCGA) enrolled 111,760 students, an increase of 952 students (0.9%) over 2005. Full-time counts rose 2.3 percent and part-time counts fell 1.1 percent. Excluding the USCGA, state-supported institutions enrolled 110,765 students and saw the same 0.9 percent growth. This is the eighth consecutive year of increases in both the public and state sectors.

For the sixth consecutive time, full-time students represent a majority (58%) 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 96,711 undergraduates (87% of the total), 13,633 graduate students (12%) and 1,356 first-professional students (1%).

As noted above, the public sector enrolled 63 percent of all Connecticut college students. That share by student, however, is far from uniform as the publics enrolled 57 percent of the state's

full-time students and 75 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 (44%) and first-professional students (41%).

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (UConn – FIVE CAMPUSES)

UConn enrolled 28,481 students this year, an increase of 398 students (1.4%) over 2005. UConn saw growth in full-time numbers (up 2.5%) and a drop in part-time numbers (down 2.9%).

The main campus at Storrs has 23,557 students, up 1.6 percent over 2005. Storrs enrolls 83 percent of students at the state’s flagship university, as it has been for five of the last six years.

The three branch campuses enroll another 16 percent of university-wide enrollment. Avery Point registered 671 students (an 8.1% decline from last year), but both Stamford with 1,281 (up 3.2%) and the Tri-Campus with 2,485 (up 1.8%, 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 487 students this year, two more than in 2005. Those five entities, and the entire university, have the following profiles for their students in 2006 (percentages read across by college).

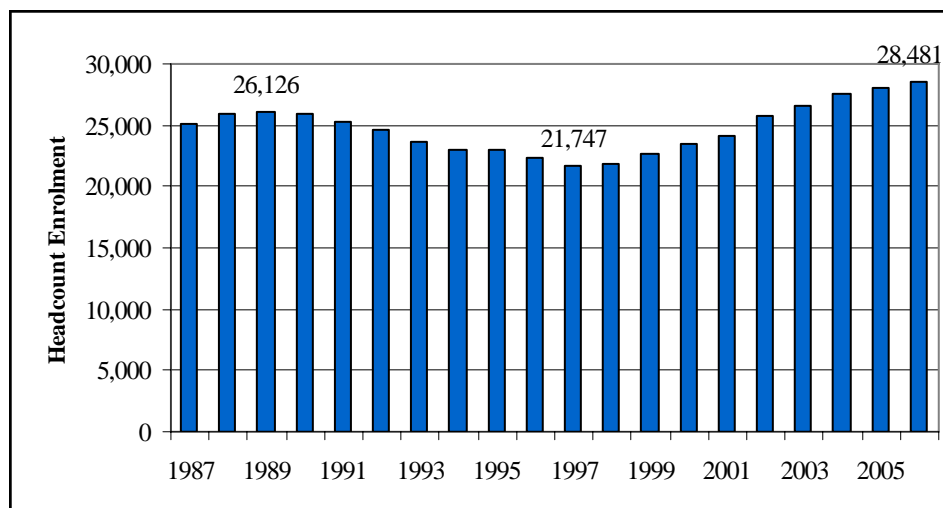
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate*	First-Professional
All of UConn	81%	19%	73%	22%	5%
Storrs	84%	16%	69%	27%	4%
Avery Point	68%	32%	100%	—	—
Tri-Campus	69%	31%	100%	—	—
Stamford	60%	40%	100%	—	—
Health Center	99%	1%	—	—	100%

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

Storrs has 78 percent of all undergraduates, 100 percent of graduate students and 64 percent of first-professional students.

Figure 4 plots total enrollment at UConn over the last 20 years and shows a pattern similar to that in Figure 1A for statewide enrollment — a peak in 1989, a trough in 1997 and increases since then. UConn in 2003 surpassed that earlier 1989 peak and set new records in each year from 2004 to 2006. 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 nine years is 6,734 students or 31 percent (nearly double the statewide gain of 15%).

**FIGURE 4
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT UCONN: 1987-2006**



CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU – FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

CSU has 35,795 students, for a net gain of 302 students (0.9%) over 2005. Full-time counts were up 2.0 percent and part-time counts were down 1.4 percent. Central lost 171 students (1.4%) from 2005, while the other three CSUs saw increases ranging from 1.4 percent at Southern to 3.0 percent at Western. Central enrolled 4.6% fewer first-time freshmen than last year, while all other undergraduate enrollment rose 0.3%, meaning that this drop could exert a downward pull on undergraduate enrollments for several years.

Southern is the largest CSU institution (12,326 students vs. 12,144 at Central for just the second time in the last 20 years). It enrolls 34.4 percent of all CSU students, Central has 33.9 percent, Western (6,086 students) has another 17 percent and Eastern (5,239 students) provides the remaining 15 percent of CSU students.

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	68%	32%	80%	20%
Central	66%	34%	79%	21%
Eastern	76%	24%	93%	7%
Southern	65%	35%	70%	30%
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 (74%) 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), less than three in five (57%) students are full-time undergraduates.

FIGURE 5
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY:
1987-2006

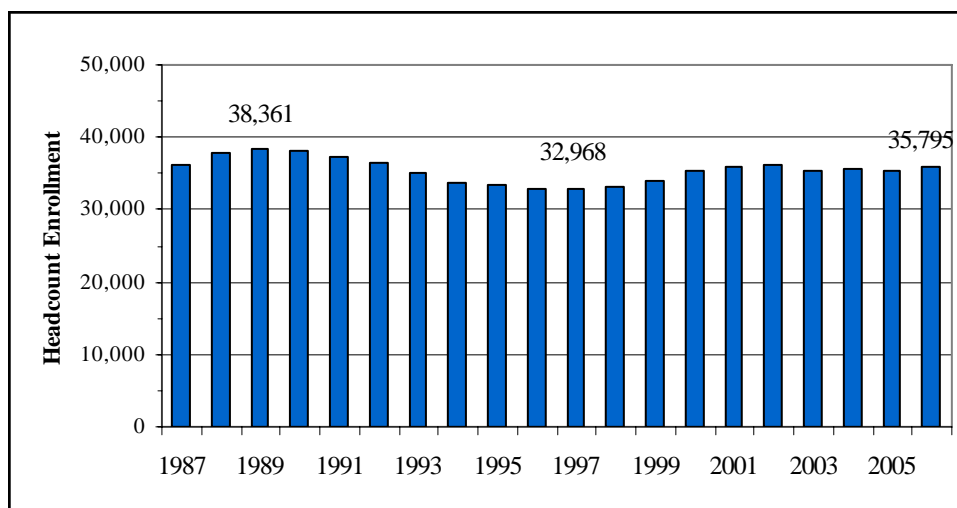


Figure 5 plots the systemwide totals for the last 20 years. As with the statewide and UConn data, we see a peak in 1989, more or less steady decline to a trough in 1997 and a general,

but slight upward trend since then. CSU, however, has not eclipsed the 1989 headcount peak, and this year’s total remains seven percent short of that record.

The systemwide patterns mask differing institutional growth rates. From 1987 to 2006, enrollment at Eastern increased 21 percent, Southern saw little change (up 0.2%) and both Western and Central fell (1% and 10%, 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 46,489 students this year, for a net increase of 262 (0.6%) over 2005. The number of full-time students rose 2.7 percent while the number of those attending part-time students fell by 0.6 percent.

Six of the 12 community colleges saw drops in enrollment, with the declines ranging from 0.1 percent at Naugatuck Valley to 5.9 percent at Tunxis. Tunxis along with Manchester and Northwest were the only colleges registering drops in both full-time and part-time enrollment.

The other six colleges saw gains this year, ranging from 0.1 percent at Norwalk to 8.2 percent and 10.5 percent for Middlesex and Asnuntuck, respectively. The slight 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 has maintained it since then, 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 (26% 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 16,827 in 2006, or up 76 percent. Part-time enrollment was down three percent over the same period. The number of full-time students as a share of total enrollment rose from 24 percent in 1997 to 36 percent this year. Full-time students first broke the one-third barrier in total headcount in 2004, after becoming the majority in total credit hours (and thus FTE enrollment) in 2002.

The unprecedented growth in the number of full-time students, many of whom are recent high school graduates, has dramatically changed the face of the community college population in a relatively short period. Not surprisingly, that shift poses unique challenges for the system to meet the instructional and support services needs of these students. The change in enrollment patterns during the last decade also will exert a downward pressure on enrollment after Connecticut reaches its projected peak in the number of public high school graduates in 2008.

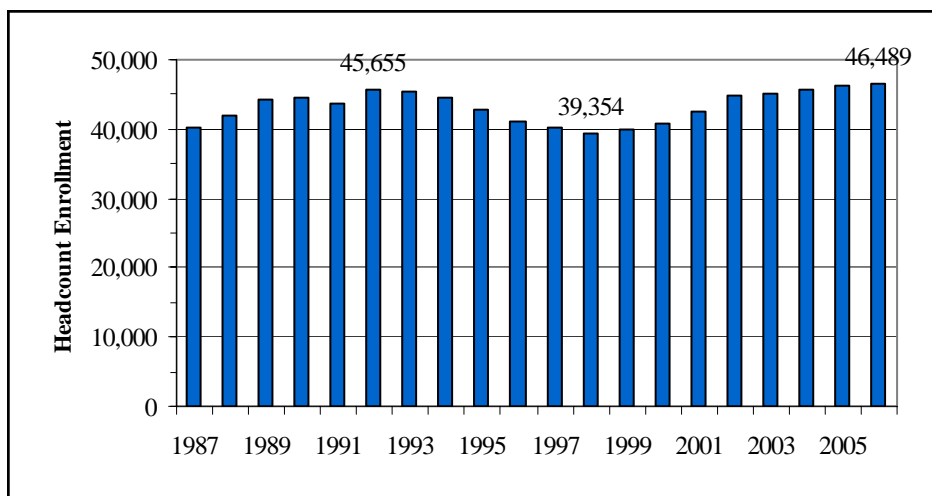
The 12 community colleges differ greatly in size (Manchester as the largest enrolls almost four times as many students as Northwestern as the smallest), but are more homogenous in their student profile. All students are undergraduates, and the systemwide 36 percent share for full-time students ranges only from 25 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 growth since then, breaking the previous 1992 peak in 2004 and the current year being 1.8 percent above its previous 1992 peak.

Note in Figure 3 that the community college total enrollment in the last six years (2001-2006) clearly exceeds the total at the regional independents. This follows a three-year period (1998-2000) when the two subsectors tightly competed for that plurality title.

**FIGURE 6
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES: 1987-2006**

The lead of the community colleges over the regional independents in 2006 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 2006, 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 18 percent and ranges from two declines (Asnuntuck down 14% and Northwestern off 11%) to two increases over 45 percent (Gateway up 46% and Quinebaug Valley up 47%).

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE

Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,711 students (all of whom are part-time undergraduates) this fall, which is 191 students (10%) fewer than last year. The decline is largely due to the College ending its services to Bridgepoint Education, an out-of-state, for-profit higher education institution. The Charter Oak counts, however, are not included in the state total or tables because many of these students also are enrolled at other institutions in the state and were counted there.

U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The United States Coast Guard Academy enrolled 995 students this year, 10 students (1.0%) fewer than last year. All are full-time undergraduates.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 28 independent institutions in Connecticut enrolled 64,800 students in fall 2006, an increase of 1,335 students (2.1%) over fall 2005, and they represent 37 percent of the state's enrollment. Full-time and part-time enrollment were up 1.4 and 4.4 percent, respectively.

Full-time students are 76 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 76.9 percent in 2005, before a slight decline to 76.4% in 2006.

This year, 70 percent of these students are undergraduates, 27 percent are graduate students and three percent are first-professional students. This breakdown by level has been remarkably stable over the last 20 years.

Although the colleges constituting the independent sector have seen much change over the last 20 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 64,800) is only 13 percent higher than the minimum of those 19 years (the 57,135 in 1993). By contrast, the maximum enrollment (2006) in the public sector is 18 percent higher than the minimum (1998).

NATIONAL INDEPENDENTS (FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

Connecticut College, Trinity, Wesleyan and Yale enrolled 19,020 students in 2006 or 36 fewer (0.2%) than in 2005 and are 11 percent of statewide 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 20 years, with the maximum (19,056 in 2005) less than five percent higher than the minimum (18,192 in 1995).

The profile of the students in this sector in 2006 is as follows:

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
National Independents	96%	4%	65%	29%	6%
Connecticut College	96%	4%	99%	1%	—
Trinity College	87%	13%	93%	7%	—
Wesleyan University	93%	7%	87%	13%	—
Yale University	98%	2%	47%	43%	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 only one of three institutions in the state that have undergraduates as a minority of total enrollment. The two others will appear below in the section on regional independents.

Enrollment at these colleges is overwhelmingly full-time (98%) at both the undergraduate and first-professional (Yale’s law, medical 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 89 percent of the graduate students in this subsector and 35 percent across the other three colleges combined.

REGIONAL INDEPENDENTS (19 INSTITUTIONS)

These 19 colleges are a heterogeneous lot. Six enrolled more than 4,000 students this fall, seven had 300 or fewer students and six are in the vast middle ground of 301 to 3,999. Four regional independents enroll only undergraduates; four have only graduate students; eight teach both undergraduate and graduate students; and the final 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 43,029 students this fall, an increase of 1,268 (or 3.0%) over 2005 following declines in both 2003 and 2004. (The increase in 2005 was also 3.0%) As noted, they are the second-largest sector in Connecticut higher education, outpaced only by the public community colleges. Full-time enrollment rose 1.7 percent while part-time enrollment grew 6.4 percent, which ends an 11-year major 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. The share full-time slipped to 71 percent in 2006.

Changes this year varied greatly by college, even just among the 12 colleges that enrolled more than 300 students in 2006. Three Catholic colleges (Fairfield, Albertus Magnus and St. Joseph) saw modest declines of three percent or less.

The largest increases were 45 percent at Post University (formerly known as Teikyo Post) and 11 percent at University of Bridgeport (UB), with both universities citing large gains in on-line enrollment and UB also mentioning growth in international students. Post also enrolled its first

graduate students in fall 2006, but its 26 part-time students had little effect on its overall totals. Those two universities, although representing only 11 percent of total enrollment at the regional independents in 2006, were responsible for 70 percent (i.e., 887) out of the net increase of 1,268 for this category.

Quinnipiac (7,341 students) maintained its place as the largest regional independent for a second year, after supplanting the University of Hartford (7,308 students) from the number one slot it held for at least 29 years from 1976 to 2004. The Quinnipiac gain this year was its 19th consecutive increase between 1987 and 2006, during which its enrollment rose 154 percent. Quinnipiac began its 19-year growth streak in 1987 as the sixth largest regional independent, reached number two nine years later in 1996 and took nine more years to become the largest in 2005. However, its 33-student (or less than 0.5 percent) edge over University of Hartford is a tenuous one, with both universities having a comfortable 25-percent-plus lead over Sacred Heart, the third largest regional.

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 (47%) of the students in this sector and the top nine include more than 92 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:

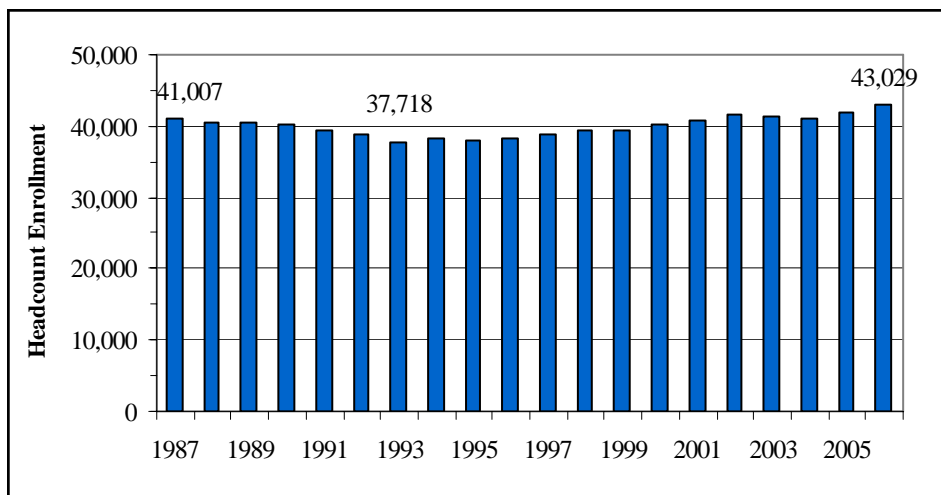
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
All Regional Independents	71%	29%	71%	27%	2%
Albertus Magnus College	90%	10%	81%	19%	
Briarwood College	57%	43%	100%		
Fairfield University	73%	27%	79%	21%	
Graduate Institute, The	100%			100%	
Hartford Seminary	20%	80%		100%	
Holy Apostles College	29%	71%	21%	59%	20%
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts	64%	36%	99%	1%	
Mitchell College	86%	14%	100%		
Paier College of Art	71%	29%	100%		
Post University	41%	59%	98%	2%	
Quinnipiac University	86%	14%	79%	14%	6%
Rensselaer at Hartford	7%	93%		100%	
Sacred Heart University	69%	31%	73%	27%	
St. Basil's College	83%	17%	100%		
St. Joseph College	51%	49%	58%	42%	
St. Thomas Seminary		100%		100%	
University of Bridgeport	62%	38%	42%	53%	5%
University of Hartford	72%	28%	77%	23%	
University of New Haven	72%	28%	62%	38%	

Note that undergraduates at both Holy Apostles and the University of Bridgeport, like Yale earlier, comprise less than half of total enrollment. The other 18 Connecticut colleges (regardless of sector) that provide both undergraduate and graduate education have enrollments that are a majority undergraduate.

Among the 15 regional independents that enrolled undergraduates, only Holy Apostles (28%) and Post (42%) had a minority of them as full-time. The other 13 ranged from 57 percent of undergraduates as full-time at Briarwood to 93 percent at both Albertus Magnus and Quinnipiac.

Figure 7 shows that historical enrollment trends at the regional independents differ from those at other major categories of Connecticut higher education institutions. The peak enrollment of the last 20 years was 41,420 in 1987, but a higher peak of 43,628 came in 1983. Enrollment declined more or less steadily until the nadir of 36,947 in 1993 and has since increased more or less steadily to the 43,029 in 2006 (with the exception of slight drop-offs in 2003 and 2004) but enrollment is still shy of its 1983 peak. Because this sector has gone from 46 percent full-time in 1987 to 74 percent full-time in 2006, the FTE enrollment almost certainly is higher now than in that earlier headcount peak in 1983.

FIGURE 7
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT REGIONAL INDEPENDENTS: 1987-2006



TWO-YEAR INDEPENDENTS (FIVE INSTITUTIONS)

These five colleges enrolled 2,751 students in 2006, an increase of 103 students (or 3.9%) over 2005. Full-time enrollment increased 18 percent while part-time enrollment was down two percent, meaning the FTE enrollment among these colleges will see an even greater increase than the growth in headcount enrollment.

Gibbs College experienced a 19 percent decline and the International College of Hospital Management maintained its 2005 enrollment level. Both Goodwin and St. Vincent’s saw major increases (12% and 15%, respectively), with the growth largely due to their nursing programs.

Enrollment more than quadrupled at Legion of Christ College of Humanities, but this largely reflected an unusual drop in 2005. Headcount enrollments in its three years of operation were 91, 25, and 106 in the fall years of 2004 to 2006, respectively.

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 2006, enrollment in this sector increased by 67 percent (from 2,028 to 3,375), fueled by the addition of Goodwin College. The 18 percent decrease between 2004 and 2006 is largely due to Briarwood switching from the two-year to the four-year category in 2005.

These institutions also show the most volatility in their percentage of full-time students. 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, fell further to 48 percent in 2004 and 30 percent in 2005, but moved back up to 34 percent in 2006.

All students in these colleges are undergraduates. All students are full-time at the International College of Hospitality Management, with the share full-time being 80 percent at Gibbs, 72 percent at Legion of Christ, and 12 percent each at Goodwin and St. Vincent's.

While these colleges enroll less than two percent of the state's total, it is the only category to see major growth (both headcount and percent of the state total) in the 1990s and first four years of this century. In its trough year of 1990 (which was just after the statewide peak year for the rest of the state), its total enrollment of 1,406 at four colleges was 0.8 percent of the state total. The 2004 peak for the two-year independents was 3,375 at six colleges (or 2.0% of the state total); its 2006 enrollment of 2,744 at five colleges has it enrolling 1.6 percent of the state's college students.

CONCLUSIONS

The ninth consecutive year of enrollment growth and fifth straight year of record enrollments is continued good news for Connecticut. Average annual growth, however, has clearly decelerated from 2.4 percent per year between 1998 and 2002 to 1.0 percent per year over the last four years.

The continued rapid growth among traditional college students, defined here as full-time undergraduates, has changed the face of higher education particularly at the community colleges. As noted at the outset, the 15 percent growth in total enrollment between 1997 and 2006 masks a 39 percent gain in full-time undergraduates and a five percent drop in all other enrollments. Full-time undergraduates first became a majority of all students in 2001 and are 55 percent of the total this year.

This growth reflects an increase in Connecticut public high school graduates (estimated to have grown 34% between 1997 and 2006), but this pool of potential freshmen is projected to grow by only five percent over the next two years until the expected peak in 2008. The number of in-state public high school graduates then is projected to decline 9.4 percent between 2008 and 2016, to the point where the class of 2016 will be 4.5 percent below the estimated class of 2006.

While 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 2005, 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. The projection that this critical pool of students will be smaller in 2016 than it is now in 2006 is troubling since ensuring a highly educated workforce for the future is a major goal for the system.

There are several ways for the state and its colleges to counteract this forecast :

1. **Enroll more Connecticut high school graduates in Connecticut colleges.** The state has made major progress here. The share of college-bound high school graduates kept in-state grew from 48 percent in 1992 to 58 percent in 2004, reflecting a 52 percent surge in students retained in-state. Connecticut still “exports” more freshmen to other states than it imports, but our net out-migration of student was cut almost in half during those 12 years.³
2. **Focus on expanding the traditional pool by increasing high school graduation and college readiness rates.** Achieving this goal will require enhanced and coordinated interventions along the educational continuum from early childhood education through high school. Connecticut colleges can play a critical role in this effort.
3. **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 than to recruit new ones.
4. **Recruit non-traditional college students.** Although the last 14 years saw a marked rise in the number of full-time undergraduates (many of whom come directly from high school), colleges should strive to recruit older full-time undergraduates and expand the numbers of part-time undergraduates and graduate/first-professional students of any attendance status.
5. **Enroll more recent high school graduates from other states.** The freshmen “imported” from other states has grown by 50 percent between 1992 and 2004.
6. **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.

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 in order to maintain current enrollment.

ENDNOTES

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. August 2005 report, "Most Connecticut Students Choose Connecticut Colleges" (<http://www.ctdhe.org/info/pdfs/2005MigrationReport.pdf>). The Department of Higher Education collects data every fall on the residence of first-time freshmen matriculating at Connecticut colleges, and thus knows the numbers that are both enrolled in-state and imported from other states. However, the Federal government collects that data (from which we learn how many Connecticut residents are exported to other states) only in even-numbered years. The fall 2006 data from other states will be available in the summer of 2007.

APPENDIX

TABLE 1

Fall 2006 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2006 Totals			Fall 2005 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>	18,543	2,241	20,784	3,506	2,835	6,341	1,133	223	1,356	23,182	5,299	28,481	28,083	398	1.4%
Storrs	15,602	745	16,347	3,506	2,835	6,341	651	218	869	19,759	3,798	23,557	23,185	372	1.6%
Avery Point	454	217	671							454	217	671	730	-59	-8.1%
Tri-Campus*	1,717	768	2,485							1,717	768	2,485	2,442	43	1.8%
Stamford	770	511	1,281							770	511	1,281	1,241	40	3.2%
Health Center							482	5	487	482	5	487	485	2	0.4%
<i>Connecticut State University</i>	22,544	5,959	28,503	1,618	5,674	7,292				24,162	11,633	35,795	35,493	302	0.9%
Central	7,463	2,181	9,644	536	1,964	2,500				7,999	4,145	12,144	12,315	-171	-1.4%
Eastern	3,898	1,000	4,898	61	280	341				3,959	1,280	5,239	5,113	126	2.5%
Southern	7,052	1,525	8,577	944	2,805	3,749				7,996	4,330	12,326	12,158	168	1.4%
Western	4,131	1,253	5,384	77	625	702				4,208	1,878	6,086	5,907	179	3.0%
<i>Community Colleges</i>	16,827	29,662	46,489							16,827	29,662	46,489	46,227	262	0.6%
Asnuntuck	568	1,070	1,638							568	1,070	1,638	1,483	155	10.5%
Capital	896	2,654	3,550							896	2,654	3,550	3,573	-23	-0.6%
Gateway	1,961	3,863	5,824							1,961	3,863	5,824	5,739	85	1.5%
Housatonic	1,489	2,942	4,431							1,489	2,942	4,431	4,471	-40	-0.9%
Manchester	2,678	3,416	6,094							2,678	3,416	6,094	6,135	-41	-0.7%
Middlesex	943	1,531	2,474							943	1,531	2,474	2,286	188	8.2%
Naugatuck Valley	2,266	3,393	5,659							2,266	3,393	5,659	5,667	-8	-0.1%
Northwestern CT	521	1,023	1,544							521	1,023	1,544	1,569	-25	-1.6%
Norwalk	2,102	3,938	6,040							2,102	3,938	6,040	6,036	4	0.1%
Quinebaug Valley	669	1,110	1,779							669	1,110	1,779	1,714	65	3.8%
Three Rivers	1,279	2,514	3,793							1,279	2,514	3,793	3,660	133	3.6%
Tunxis	1,455	2,208	3,663							1,455	2,208	3,663	3,894	-231	-5.9%
TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS	57,914	37,862	95,776	5,124	8,509	13,633	1,133	223	1,356	64,171	46,594	110,765	109,803	962	0.9%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	995		995							995		995	1,005	-10	-1.0%
TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	58,909	37,862	96,771	5,124	8,509	13,633	1,133	223	1,356	65,166	46,594	111,760	110,808	952	0.9%

*The Tri-Campus total of 2,485 this year consists of 1,284 students in Hartford (up 62 over fall 2005 enrollment), 890 in Waterbury (down 3 students over last year), and 311 in Torrington (down 16 students.)

NOTE: Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,711 part-time undergraduate students, some of whom are enrolled elsewhere in CT and are counted in their other institutions above. Those 1,711 represent a 191 student (or 10.0%) decline from fall 2005.

APPENDIX
TABLE 1, Continued
Fall 2006 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2006 Totals			Fall 2005 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>	12,056	284	12,340	4,924	525	5,449	1,212	19	1,231	18,192	828	19,020	19,056	-36	-0.2%
Connecticut College	1,802	70	1,872	6	8	14				1,808	78	1,886	1,898	-12	-0.6%
Trinity College	2,153	170	2,323	9	167	176				2,162	337	2,499	2,470	29	1.2%
Wesleyan University	2,798	15	2,813	195	212	407				2,993	227	3,220	3,205	15	0.5%
Yale University	5,303	29	5,332	4,714	138	4,852	1,212	19	1,231	11,229	186	11,415	11,483	-68	-0.6%
<i>Regional Independents</i>	25,043	5,454	30,497	4,754	7,069	11,823	565	144	709	30,362	12,667	43,029	41,761	1,268	3.0%
Albertus Magnus College	1,641	128	1,769	322	95	417				1,963	223	2,186	2,230	-44	-2.0%
Briarwood College	368	281	649							368	281	649	647	2	0.3%
Fairfield University	3,460	548	4,008	270	813	1,083				3,730	1,361	5,091	5,173	-82	-1.6%
Graduate Institute, The				221		221				221		221	225	-4	-1.8%
Hartford Seminary				34	139	173				34	139	173	169	4	2.4%
Holy Apostles College	16	41	57	9	150	159	54		54	79	191	270	254	16	6.3%
LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts	96	53	149	1	1	2				97	54	151	153	-2	-1.3%
Mitchell College	682	108	790							682	108	790	727	63	8.7%
Paier College of Art	175	73	248							175	73	248	277	-29	-10.5%
Post University	662	908	1,570		26	26				662	934	1,596	1,101	495	45.0%
Quinnipiac University	5,422	399	5,821	543	518	1,061	318	141	459	6,283	1,058	7,341	7,293	48	0.7%
Rensselaer at Hartford				50	693	743				50	693	743	706	37	5.2%
Sacred Heart University	3,406	797	4,203	548	1,005	1,553				3,954	1,802	5,756	5,560	196	3.5%
St. Basil's College	15	3	18							15	3	18	20	-2	-10.0%
St. Joseph College	744	298	1,042	173	588	761				917	886	1,803	1,858	-55	-3.0%
St. Thomas Seminary					18	18					18	18	16	2	12.5%
University of Bridgeport	1,210	484	1,694	1,070	1,058	2,128	193	3	196	2,473	1,545	4,018	3,626	392	10.8%
University of Hartford	4,722	880	5,602	569	1,137	1,706				5,291	2,017	7,308	7,260	48	0.7%
University of New Haven	2,424	453	2,877	944	828	1,772				3,368	1,281	4,649	4,466	183	4.1%
<i>Two-Year Independents</i>	941	1,810	2,751							941	1,810	2,751	2,648	103	3.9%
Gibbs College	612	153	765							612	153	765	950	-185	-19.5%
Goodwin College	157	1,208	1,365							157	1,208	1,365	1,219	146	12.0%
Int'l College of Hospitality Management	40		40							40		40	40	0	0.0%
Legion of Christ College of Humanities	76	30	106							76	30	106	25	81	324.0%
St. Vincent's College	56	419	475							56	419	475	414	61	14.7%
TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS	38,040	7,548	45,588	9,678	7,594	17,272	1,777	163	1,940	49,495	15,305	64,800	63,465	1,335	2.1%
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS	96,949	45,410	142,359	14,802	16,103	30,905	2,910	386	3,296	114,661	61,899	176,560	174,273	2,287	1.3%