



State of Connecticut  
Department of Higher Education

# News

For Immediate Release

## **Record Enrollment at Connecticut Public Colleges Pushes Statewide Total to New High**

HARTFORD, Nov.19 — Fueled by record numbers of students attending Connecticut's public colleges and universities, enrollment across all of the state's higher education institutions reached a new high of 184,544 this fall for a 3.2 percent increase over last year – the largest annual gain in two decades.

The statewide tally of preliminary figures, reported by colleges to the Department of Higher Education, breaks previous records for the seventh consecutive year and continues a steady climb begun in 1997.

Healthy gains occurred among all types of students. Undergraduate totals were up 3.5 percent to 149,443, and graduate and first-professional student counts climbed 2.2 percent to 35,101. The number of students enrolled full-time grew 3.7 percent, and those attending part-time rose a notable 2.3 percent following a decade of negative to little growth. These upswings indicate that colleges are attracting both traditional-age students, reflecting last spring's peak in the number of Connecticut high school graduates, and adults going back to school as traditionally happens in a slowing economy.

“Clearly, we’re experiencing great demand for college,” stated Michael P. Meotti, Commissioner of Higher Education. “As in past tough economic times, people are turning to college to improve their prospects.

“I know first-hand from visits to campuses across the state that colleges are doing their best to meet surging demand, particularly our community colleges where enrollment growth is outstripping all other sectors,” stated the Commissioner. “As for everyone, the challenge before us is the uncertain economy. On one hand, economic downturns tend to benefit higher education as more people seek retraining. On the other hand, financial pressures strain our capacity to serve more students and keep costs down.”

Fall enrollment at state-supported colleges and universities grew by 3,884 students or 3.5 percent to 116,379, making up 67.8 percent of the state's overall increase. Enrollment at independent colleges rose by 2.8 percent to 67,190 students, accounting for 31.9 percent of the statewide total. The federally-supported U. S. Coast Guard constitutes the remaining 0.2 percent of the total.

Most of the growth within the public sector (69 percent) was fueled by record-breaking highs at the community colleges, while all of the gain in the independent sector is due to increases at the four-year regionals. Across the state, new records were set by ten public institutions, including the University of Connecticut, Eastern and Western Connecticut State Universities, and four independent institutions.

\* \* \*

*Attachments: Preliminary Fall 2008 headcount table.*

*Graph Displaying Growth in Number of CT Resident Undergraduates.*

## Fall 2008 Preliminary Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2008 Totals			2007 Total	# Change	% 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>															
<b>University of Connecticut</b>	<b>19,377</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>21,372</b>	<b>3,683</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>5,136</b>	<b>29,383</b>	<b>28,677</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
Storrs	16,083	682	16,765	3,683	2,900	6,583	690	235	925	20,456	3,817	<b>24,273</b>	23,692	581	2.5%
Avery Point	556	192	748							556	192	<b>748</b>	748	0	0.0%
Tri-Campus*	1,890	655	2,545							1,890	655	<b>2,545</b>	2,480	65	2.6%
Stamford	848	466	1,314							848	466	<b>1,314</b>	1,270	44	3.5%
Health Center							497	6	503	497	6	<b>503</b>	487	16	3.3%
<b>Connecticut State University</b>	<b>23,680</b>	<b>5,583</b>	<b>29,263</b>	<b>1,615</b>	<b>5,013</b>	<b>6,628</b>				<b>25,295</b>	<b>10,596</b>	<b>35,891</b>	<b>35,384</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Central	7,785	2,121	9,906	506	1,821	2,327				8,291	3,942	<b>12,233</b>	12,106	127	1.0%
Eastern	4,123	969	5,092	66	269	335				4,189	1,238	<b>5,427</b>	5,137	290	5.6%
Southern	7,173	1,323	8,496	938	2,335	3,273				8,111	3,658	<b>11,769</b>	11,930	-161	-1.3%
Western	4,599	1,170	5,769	105	588	693				4,704	1,758	<b>6,462</b>	6,211	251	4.0%
<b>Community Colleges</b>	<b>19,694</b>	<b>31,411</b>	<b>51,105</b>							<b>19,694</b>	<b>31,411</b>	<b>51,105</b>	<b>48,434</b>	<b>2,671</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
Asnuntuck	642	1,127	1,769							642	1,127	<b>1,769</b>	1,792	-23	-1.3%
Capital	1,078	2,911	3,989							1,078	2,911	<b>3,989</b>	3,726	263	7.1%
Gateway	2,351	4,120	6,471							2,351	4,120	<b>6,471</b>	5,965	506	8.5%
Housatonic	1,878	3,203	5,081							1,878	3,203	<b>5,081</b>	4,475	606	13.5%
Manchester	3,227	3,422	6,649							3,227	3,422	<b>6,649</b>	6,484	165	2.5%
Middlesex	1,017	1,607	2,624							1,017	1,607	<b>2,624</b>	2,623	1	0.0%
Naugatuck Valley	2,564	3,564	6,128							2,564	3,564	<b>6,128</b>	5,966	162	2.7%
Northwestern CT	570	1,151	1,721							570	1,151	<b>1,721</b>	1,632	89	5.5%
Norwalk	2,389	3,877	6,266							2,389	3,877	<b>6,266</b>	6,231	35	0.6%
Quinebaug Valley	715	1,232	1,947							715	1,232	<b>1,947</b>	1,846	101	5.5%
Three Rivers	1,423	2,709	4,132							1,423	2,709	<b>4,132</b>	3,858	274	7.1%
Tunxis	1,840	2,488	4,328							1,840	2,488	<b>4,328</b>	3,836	492	12.8%
<b>TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>62,751</b>	<b>38,989</b>	<b>101,740</b>	<b>5,298</b>	<b>7,913</b>	<b>13,211</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>69,236</b>	<b>47,143</b>	<b>116,379</b>	<b>112,495</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	975		975							975		<b>975</b>	963	12	1.2%
<b>TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>63,726</b>	<b>38,989</b>	<b>102,715</b>	<b>5,298</b>	<b>7,913</b>	<b>13,211</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>70,211</b>	<b>47,143</b>	<b>117,354</b>	<b>113,458</b>	<b>3,896</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

\*The Tri-Campus total of 2,545 consists of 1,324 students in Hartford (up 40 students vs. fall 2007), 940 in Waterbury (up 30 students over last year), and 281 in Torrington (down 5 students.)

NOTE: Charter Oak State College (COSC) enrolled 1,988 undergraduates -- 131 full-time and 1,857 part-time. This is their first year of counting non-matriculated students in the total. In Fall 2007, the COSC headcount of 1,557 reflected only matriculated students, and thus cannot be compared to this year's broader count.

Totals highlighted indicate new record.

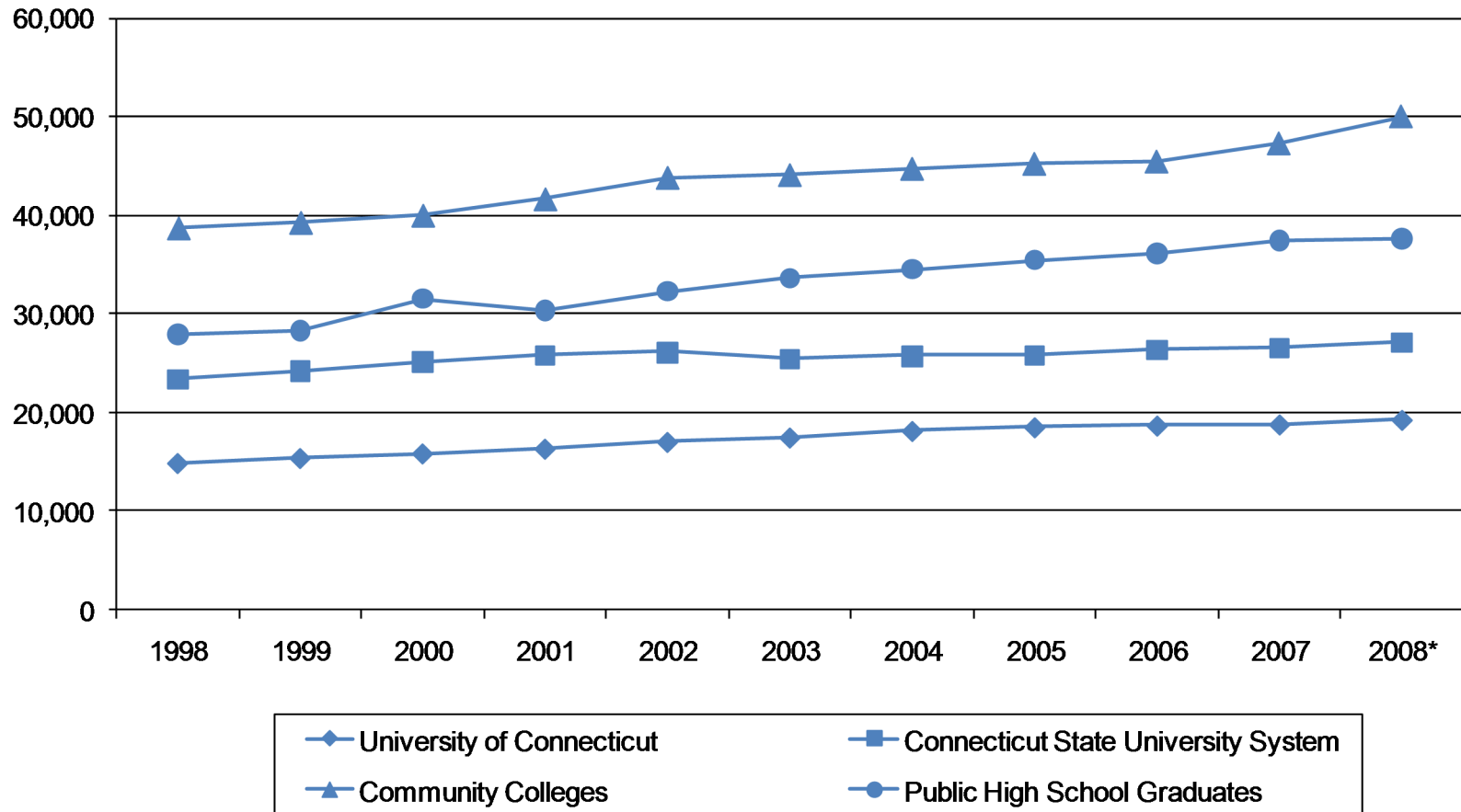
## Fall 2008 Preliminary Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2008 Totals			2007 Total	# Change	% 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>															
<b>National Independents</b>	<b>12,020</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>12,235</b>	<b>4,985</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>5,462</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>18,246</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>18,950</b>	<b>19,071</b>	<b>-121</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Connecticut College	1,803	42	1,845	1	6	7				1,804	48	1,852	1,869	-17	-0.9%
Trinity College	2,208	133	2,341	8	155	163				2,216	288	2,504	2,526	-22	-0.9%
Wesleyan University	2,755	17	2,772	173	204	377				2,928	221	3,149	3,222	-73	-2.3%
Yale University	5,254	23	5,277	4,803	112	4,915	1,241	12	1,253	11,298	147	11,445	11,454	-9	-0.1%
<b>Regional Independents</b>	<b>26,719</b>	<b>5,106</b>	<b>31,825</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>7,598</b>	<b>13,096</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>32,736</b>	<b>12,836</b>	<b>45,572</b>	<b>43,322</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
Albertus Magnus College	1,579	135	1,714	282	133	415				1,861	268	2,129	2,034	95	4.7%
Briarwood College	450	252	702							450	252	702	663	39	5.9%
Fairfield University	3,469	615	4,084	250	794	1,044				3,719	1,409	5,128	5,024	104	2.1%
Graduate Institute, The				228		228				228		228	254	-26	-10.2%
Hartford Seminary				31	137	168				31	137	168	159	9	5.7%
Holy Apostles College	27	14	41	9	161	170	61	4	65	97	179	276	284	-8	-2.8%
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts	87	41	128							87	41	128	139	-11	-7.9%
Mitchell College	783	153	936							783	153	936	894	42	4.7%
Paier College of Art	163	58	221							163	58	221	249	-28	-11.2%
Post University	946	563	1,509	149	29	178				1,095	592	1,687	1,271	416	32.7%
Quinnipiac University	5,558	312	5,870	652	514	1,166	250	127	377	6,460	953	7,413	7,216	197	2.7%
Rensselaer at Hartford				35	706	741				35	706	741	730	11	1.5%
Sacred Heart University	3,520	754	4,274	539	1,145	1,684				4,059	1,899	5,958	5,801	157	2.7%
St. Basil's College	8	1	9							8	1	9	15	-6	-40.0%
St. Joseph College	821	241	1,062	162	702	864				983	943	1,926	1,773	153	8.6%
University of Bridgeport	1,393	635	2,028	1,615	1,471	3,086	208	1	209	3,216	2,107	5,323	4,752	571	12.0%
University of Hartford	4,842	853	5,695	579	1,092	1,671				5,421	1,945	7,366	7,290	76	1.0%
University of New Haven	3,073	479	3,552	967	714	1,681				4,040	1,193	5,233	4,774	459	9.6%
<b>Two-Year Independents</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>2,668</b>							<b>972</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>2,968</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-10.1%</b>
Clemens College**	80	1	81							80	1	81	64	17	26.6%
Gibbs College	422		422							422		422	919	-497	-54.1%
Goodwin College	324	1,265	1,589							324	1,265	1,589	1,440	149	10.3%
Legion of Christ College of Humanities	97	52	149							97	52	149	121	28	23.1%
St. Vincent's College	49	378	427							49	378	427	424	3	0.7%
<b>TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS</b>	<b>39,711</b>	<b>7,017</b>	<b>46,728</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>8,075</b>	<b>18,558</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>51,954</b>	<b>15,236</b>	<b>67,190</b>	<b>65,361</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>103,437</b>	<b>46,006</b>	<b>149,443</b>	<b>15,781</b>	<b>15,988</b>	<b>31,769</b>	<b>2,947</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>3,332</b>	<b>122,165</b>	<b>62,379</b>	<b>184,544</b>	<b>178,819</b>	<b>5,725</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

\*\*Formerly known (until October 2007) as International College for Hospitality Management

Totals highlighted indicate new record.

### Growth in Number of CT Resident Undergraduates at CT Public Colleges & Universities



\*2008 figures include a projection for UConn and Western CSU.

Note: This chart excludes the independent colleges because of incomplete data at this time, and Charter Oak State College due to lack of comparable historical data.