



News

For Immediate Release

Enrollment Growth at Two-Year Colleges Pushes State Total to New High

HARTFORD, Nov.20 – **Enrollment at Connecticut colleges and universities this fall grew by 3.6 percent from last fall to 191,227 for a new record high and the largest annual gain in two decades**, according to preliminary figures released today by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education. Growth at the state’s 12 community colleges and five two-year private institutions accounted for 65.4 percent of the annual gain.

The new total breaks previous records for the eighth straight year and continues a steady climb begun in 1997. At the two-year colleges, enrollment shot up by 8.2 percent, four times greater than the more modest increase of 1.8 percent at the four-year colleges and universities.

“As with everything else, the economy is having a tremendous impact on higher education,” stated Michael P. Meotti, commissioner of higher education. “The harder it becomes to find a job, the more people opt to enroll in college for retraining or a degree. Many are taking advantage of lower cost two-year colleges while students at four-year colleges appear to be staying there until they get their degrees. Connecticut’s higher education institutions have done a great job in responding to greater demand, despite their tighter resources.

“We expect this growth to subside in the future, however, since this year represents the tail end of a peak in traditional college-age students,” Meotti noted. “Demographics show a shrinking pool of high school graduates whose racial and ethnic backgrounds will be more diverse than ever before, re-shaping the make-up of our future college graduates and workforce.”

Across the state, part-time enrollment climbed 4.9 percent, and full-time enrollment rose a healthy 3.0 percent. Undergraduate totals were up 3.9 percent to 155,284, and graduate student counts increased 2.4 percent to 35,943.

Fall enrollment at state-supported colleges and universities grew by 4,753 students or 4.1 percent to 121,132, making up 71.1 percent of the state’s overall increase. New records were set at the University of Connecticut, Eastern and Western Connecticut State Universities, and nine of the 12 community colleges. Within the independent sector, overall counts rose by 2.9 percent to 69,121 students, accounting for 28.8 percent of the statewide total. Yale University, six regionals and two two-year colleges reached new highs, the latter due to more students pursuing nursing careers. The federally-supported U. S. Coast Guard constitutes the remaining 0.1 percent of the statewide total.

* * *

Attachment: Preliminary Fall 2009 headcount table.

Fall 2009 Preliminary Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduates			Graduate			Fall 2009 Totals			Total Fall 2008	# Change	% Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total			
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS												
University of Connecticut	19,617	1,879	21,496	4,855	3,166	8,021	24,472	5,045	29,517	29,383	134	0.5%
Storrs	16,336	672	17,008	4,343	3,162	7,505	20,679	3,834	24,513	24,273	240	1.0%
Avery Point	548	165	713			0	548	165	713	748	-35	-4.7%
Stamford	854	440	1,294			0	854	440	1,294	1,314	-20	-1.5%
Tri-Campus*	1,879	602	2,481			0	1,879	602	2,481	2,545	-64	-2.5%
UConn Health Center				512	4	516	512	4	516	503	13	2.6%
Connecticut State University System	24,307	5,387	29,694	1,770	5,039	6,809	26,077	10,426	36,503	35,891	612	1.7%
Central	7,859	2,130	9,989	564	1,908	2,472	8,423	4,038	12,461	12,233	228	1.9%
Eastern	4,326	916	5,242	100	268	368	4,426	1,184	5,610	5,427	183	3.4%
Southern	7,366	1,228	8,594	980	2,241	3,221	8,346	3,469	11,815	11,769	46	0.4%
Western	4,756	1,113	5,869	126	622	748	4,882	1,735	6,617	6,462	155	2.4%
Connecticut Community Colleges	21,404	33,708	55,112				21,404	33,708	55,112	51,105	4,007	7.8%
Asnuntuck	703	1,105	1,808				703	1,105	1,808	1,769	39	2.2%
Capital	1,222	3,058	4,280				1,222	3,058	4,280	3,989	291	7.3%
Gateway	2,474	4,373	6,847				2,474	4,373	6,847	6,471	376	5.8%
Housatonic	2,230	3,379	5,609				2,230	3,379	5,609	5,081	528	10.4%
Manchester	3,430	3,936	7,366				3,430	3,936	7,366	6,649	717	10.8%
Middlesex	1,222	1,692	2,914				1,222	1,692	2,914	2,624	290	11.1%
Naugatuck Valley	2,771	3,954	6,725				2,771	3,954	6,725	6,128	597	9.7%
Northwestern	591	1,120	1,711				591	1,120	1,711	1,721	-10	-0.6%
Norwalk	2,562	4,123	6,685				2,562	4,123	6,685	6,266	419	6.7%
Quinebaug Valley	774	1,336	2,110				774	1,336	2,110	1,947	163	8.4%
Three Rivers	1,551	3,010	4,561				1,551	3,010	4,561	4,132	429	10.4%
Tunxis	1,874	2,622	4,496				1,874	2,622	4,496	4,328	168	0.5%
TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS**	65,328	40,974	106,302	6,625	8,205	14,830	71,953	49,179	121,132	116,379	4,753	4.1%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	974		974				974	0	974	975	-1	-0.1%
TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**	66,302	40,974	107,276	6,625	8,205	14,830	72,927	49,179	122,106	117,354	4,752	4.0%
Charter Oak State College**	168	1,911	2,079				168	1,911	2,079	1,988	91	4.6%

*The Fall 2009 Tri-Campus total of 2,481 students consists of 1,299 at Hartford, 909 at Waterbury and 273 at Torrington. The previous year (Fall 2008) Tri-Campus total of 2,545 was 1,324 at Hartford, 940 at Waterbury and 281 at Torrington.

**Charter Oak State College (COSC) is a public external degree-granting college. Due to the possibility that those enrolled at COSC also are enrolled in another Connecticut college, these figures are not included in the totals at this time.

Totals highlighted indicate new record.

Fall 2009 Preliminary Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduates			Graduate			Fall 2009 Totals			Total Fall 2008	# Change	% Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total			
INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS												
National Independents	12,034	226	12,260	6,399	431	6,830	18,433	657	19,090	18,950	140	0.7%
Connecticut College	1,839	67	1,906	4	1	5	1,843	68	1,911	1,852	59	3.2%
Trinity College	2,161	131	2,292	7	139	146	2,168	270	2,438	2,504	-66	-2.6%
Wesleyan University	2,774	13	2,787	194	167	361	2,968	180	3,148	3,149	-1	0.0%
Yale University	5,260	15	5,275	6,194	124	6,318	11,454	139	11,593	11,445	148	1.3%
Regional Independents	27,248	5,467	32,715	6,269	8,014	14,283	33,517	13,481	46,998	45,572	1,426	3.1%
Albertus Magnus College	1,505	108	1,613	273	137	410	1,778	245	2,023	2,129	-106	-5.0%
Briarwood College	378	394	772				378	394	772	702	70	10.0%
Fairfield University	3,320	566	3,886	351	837	1,188	3,671	1,403	5,074	5,128	-54	-1.1%
Graduate Institute, The			0	210		210	210	0	210	228	-18	-7.9%
Hartford Seminary			0	33	139	172	33	139	172	168	4	2.4%
Holy Apostles College and Seminary	32	24	56	82	179	261	114	203	317	276	41	14.9%
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts	68	28	96	1	0	1	69	28	97	128	-31	-24.2%
Mitchell College	819	142	961				819	142	961	936	25	2.7%
Paier College of Art	166	61	227				166	61	227	221	6	2.7%
Post University	1,228	969	2,197	120	273	393	1,348	1,242	2,590	1,687	903	53.5%
Quinnipiac University	5,686	285	5,971	1,101	686	1,787	6,787	971	7,758	7,413	345	4.7%
Rensselaer at Hartford			0	44	706	750	44	706	750	741	9	1.2%
Sacred Heart University	3,534	658	4,192	680	1,151	1,831	4,214	1,809	6,023	5,958	65	1.1%
Saint Joseph College	768	195	963	167	805	972	935	1,000	1,935	1,926	9	0.5%
St. Basil College	3	1	4				3	1	4	9	-5	-55.6%
University of Bridgeport	1,504	744	2,248	1,531	1,324	2,855	3,035	2,068	5,103	5,323	-220	-4.1%
University of Hartford	4,697	819	5,516	677	1,019	1,696	5,374	1,838	7,212	7,366	-154	-2.1%
University of New Haven	3,540	473	4,013	999	758	1,757	4,539	1,231	5,770	5,233	537	10.3%
Two-Year Independents	909	2,124	3,033				909	2,124	3,033	2,668	365	13.7%
Clemens College	96	1	97				96	1	97	81	16	19.8%
Gibbs College	136	50	186				136	50	186	422	-236	-55.9%
Goodwin College	523	1,560	2,083				523	1,560	2,083	1,589	494	31.1%
Legion of Christ College of Humanities	79	57	136				79	57	136	149	-13	-8.7%
St. Vincent's College	75	456	531				75	456	531	427	104	24.4%
TOTAL INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS	40,191	7,817	48,008	12,668	8,445	21,113	52,859	16,262	69,121	67,190	1,931	2.9%
STATEWIDE TOTAL**	106,493	48,791	155,284	19,293	16,650	35,943	125,786	65,441	191,227	184,544	6,683	3.6%

Totals highlighted indicate new record.