



State of Connecticut
Department of Higher Education

News

For Immediate Release

Soaring Numbers of Students at Community Colleges Push Public System Enrollment to Record High

HARTFORD, Oct. 4 – More students than ever are seeing the value of a college education as preliminary enrollments at Connecticut’s public state colleges and universities hit an all-time high with 127,171 students attending this fall. Nearly 80 percent of the gain over last fall is due to surging numbers of students attending the state’s 12 community colleges.

The new total for the state public system breaks previous records for the ninth straight year, reflecting demographic patterns and the effects of a weak economy which raises the premium on job skills acquired through a college education. At the two-year colleges, enrollment increased by 5.7 percent, compared to a 1.8 percent increase at the University of Connecticut and a 0.3 percent increase at the Connecticut State University campuses.

“In a tough economy, public higher education is growing its enrollment as students recognize the benefits that a college education can bring to their career and personal success,” stated Michael P. Meotti, commissioner of higher education. “This is particularly true at our community colleges where both younger and older students are opting to begin or re-start their college careers and use these colleges as their springboards to a four-year degree.”

Meotti added that the 3.2 percent growth at public colleges and universities comes at a time when the pool of traditional-aged college students – the largest source of college enrollment – is leveling off. “Despite fewer numbers of available high school graduates, Connecticut’s public colleges are still seeing very healthy growth, a testament to the high quality value placed in them by students and families,” Meotti said.

Across the state’s public college campuses, part-time enrollment climbed 4.8 percent, compared to a 2.1 percent increase for full-time enrollment. Undergraduate totals were up 3.8 percent to 112,511, while graduate student headcount decreased 1.2 percent from 14,830 in Fall 2009 to 14,660 in Fall 2010. The federally-supported U. S. Coast Guard Academy constitutes the remaining 0.1 percent of the total.

Since 2000, total enrollment across the state’s public system has climbed 26,144 students or 25.8 percent, with the community colleges capturing 66.7 percent of the 10-year growth.

The Department will issue fall enrollments for both public and independent colleges later this month; final statewide tallies will be published next spring.

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Attachments: Preliminary Fall 2010 headcount table and chart.

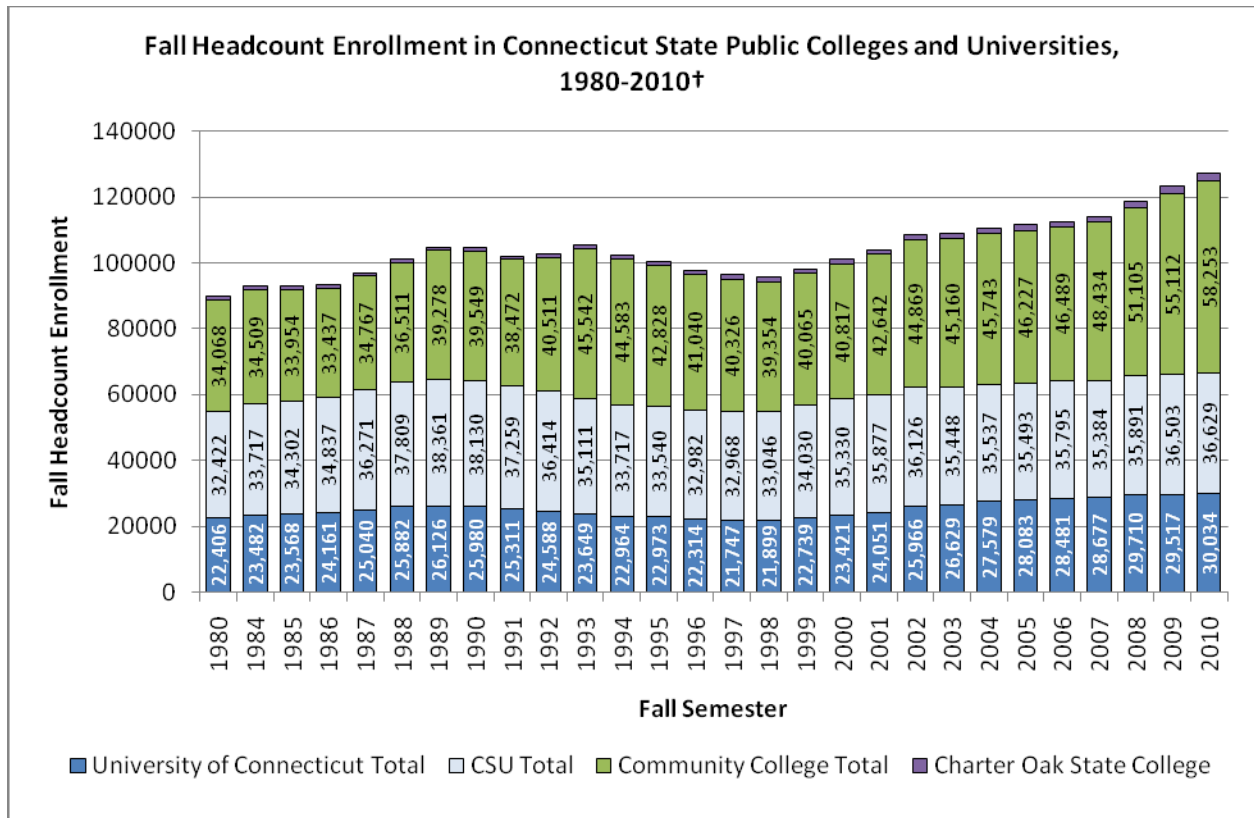
Fall 2010 PRELIMINARY+ Enrollment: Connecticut Public Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduates			Graduate			Fall 2010 Totals			Total Fall 2009	# Change	% Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total			
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS												
University of Connecticut	19,967	1,914	21,881	4,972	3,181	8,153	24,939	5,095	30,034	29,517	517	1.8%
Storrs	16,628	717	17,345	4,446	3,177	7,623	21,074	3,894	24,968	24,513	455	1.9%
Avery Point	538	171	709			0	538	171	709	713	-4	-0.6%
Stamford	859	459	1,318			0	859	459	1,318	1,294	24	1.9%
Tri-Campus*	1,942	567	2,509			0	1,942	567	2,509	2,481	28	1.1%
UConn Health Center				526	4	530	526	4	530	516	14	2.7%
Connecticut State University System	24,747	5,375	30,122	1,791	4,716	6,507	26,538	10,091	36,629	36,503	126	0.3%
Central	7,925	2,160	10,085	615	1,777	2,392	8,540	3,937	12,477	12,461	16	0.1%
Eastern	4,416	885	5,301	80	225	305	4,496	1,110	5,606	5,610	-4	-0.1%
Southern	7,494	1,282	8,776	1,000	2,188	3,188	8,494	3,470	11,964	11,815	149	1.3%
Western	4,912	1,048	5,960	96	526	622	5,008	1,574	6,582	6,617	-35	-0.5%
Connecticut Community Colleges	21,918	36,335	58,253				21,918	36,335	58,253	55,112	3,141	5.7%
Asnuntuck	688	1,148	1,836				688	1,148	1,836	1,808	28	1.5%
Capital	1,317	3,201	4,518				1,317	3,201	4,518	4,280	238	5.6%
Gateway	2,553	4,775	7,328				2,553	4,775	7,328	6,847	481	7.0%
Housatonic	2,348	3,849	6,197				2,348	3,849	6,197	5,609	588	10.5%
Manchester	3,213	4,327	7,540				3,213	4,327	7,540	7,366	174	2.4%
Middlesex	1,186	1,766	2,952				1,186	1,766	2,952	2,914	38	1.3%
Naugatuck Valley	2,951	4,244	7,195				2,951	4,244	7,195	6,725	470	7.0%
Northwestern	548	1,284	1,832				548	1,284	1,832	1,711	121	7.1%
Norwalk	2,531	4,209	6,740				2,531	4,209	6,740	6,685	55	0.8%
Quinebaug Valley	783	1,505	2,288				783	1,505	2,288	2,110	178	8.4%
Three Rivers	1,741	3,420	5,161				1,741	3,420	5,161	4,561	600	13.2%
Tunxis	2,059	2,607	4,666				2,059	2,607	4,666	4,496	170	3.8%
Charter Oak State College**	227	2,028	2,255				227	2,028	2,255	2,079	176	8.5%
TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS**	66,859	45,652	112,511	6,763	7,897	14,660	73,622	53,549	127,171	123,211	3,960	3.2%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	1,019		1,019				1,019	0	1,019	974	45	4.6%
TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**	67,878	45,652	113,530	6,763	7,897	14,660	74,641	53,549	128,190	124,185	4,005	3.2%

† Headcount enrollments are preliminary as of Sept. 28, 2010. Official enrollment figures are not finalized until spring when they are reported to the U.S. Dept. of Education Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Enrollment figures from independent institutions will be available in late October.

*The Fall 2010 Tri-Campus total of 2,509 students consists of 1,327 at Hartford, 946 at Waterbury and 236 at Torrington. The previous year (Fall 2009) Tri-Campus total of 2,481 students consisted of 1,299 at Hartford, 909 at Waterbury and 273 at Torrington.

**Charter Oak State College is a public external degree-granting college, and in previous years headcount enrollment at this institution had been reported separately from other public institutions. In Fall 2009, 31% of enrolled students in the Charter Oak headcount had a residence outside of Connecticut; 39% were matriculated students (had paid the annual academic maintenance fee) but were not taking credit-bearing courses at Charter Oak. Just over half (53%) of these matriculated-only students were Connecticut residents. These figures suggest that students in the Charter Oak headcount may have higher levels of simultaneous enrollment at more than one institution than students at other Connecticut colleges and universities.



† Fall 2010 headcount enrollments are preliminary; official fall headcount enrollment figures become available in spring.

Data Sources: 1980-2009 from IPEDS Data Center; fall headcount enrollments for Charter Oak in 1985, 1986, and 1997 are not available in IPEDS and are interpolated.

Chart produced by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.