

Board of Governors for Higher Education
Department of Higher Education
State of Connecticut



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

College Enrollment Jumps in Connecticut

HARTFORD, Nov. 21 — Striking gains in enrollment have occurred across Connecticut’s college and university campuses this fall, culminating in the largest annual gains recorded in 21 years and only three percent short of the peak year of 1989, according to fall 2001 headcounts announced today by Valerie F. Lewis, Commissioner of Higher Education.

The final tallies, collected by the Department of Higher Education, show 164,677 students attending the state’s 46 public and independent institutions of higher learning — an increase of 3,968 students or 2.5 percent more than last year. This is the third year of consecutive growth after enrollment bottomed out at 154,029 in 1997 following a nine percent drop from the peak of 169,132 reached in 1989. Among this year’s notable trends:

- Nearly half of the statewide growth is due to more students in the community college system.
- Both full-time and part-time enrollment is up for the first time since 1989, and the share of students attending full-time is the highest in 20 years.
- Enrollment is up across all six sectors of Connecticut higher education for the first time since 1983.

This fall, 103,467 students enrolled at the state’s public colleges, up 3.0 percent for a third year of consecutive growth. For the first time in 20 years, full-time students make up the majority at public colleges which overall enroll 63 percent of all Connecticut college students. Enrollment at the state’s independent colleges continued to climb for the sixth straight year, up 1.6 percent to 61,210.

“We are clearly seeing the return of the traditional, full-time college student, and that’s good news for colleges and for our workforce,” said Commissioner Lewis in presenting the annual figures to the Board of Governors for Higher Education at a meeting in Hartford. “This growth is expected given Connecticut’s larger pool of high school graduates. It’s great to see our colleges operating near capacity, particularly given the state’s significant investment of tax dollars in both facilities and student financial aid.”

Across both public and independent colleges, the number of undergraduates rose 3.3 percent to 131,306. Totals for graduate and first-professionals combined are down 3.4 percent to 14,333 at public colleges but up 1.8 percent to 19,038 at independent colleges.

Within the public sector, counts rose 2.7 percent the University of Connecticut to 24,051 due largely to 483 more students at the Storrs Campus. Counts also were up by 70 students at UConn's Stamford Campus, 49 at Avery Point and 43 at the Tri-Campus. Contrary to undergraduate trends, UConn's graduate enrollment fell for a sixth consecutive year.

Connecticut State University enrolled 547 more students overall, up 1.5 percent to 35,877. With an increase of 3.7 percent or 192 students, Eastern posted the largest gain, with smaller increases at Central, Southern and Western.

The 12 community colleges – the largest component of Connecticut's higher education system – recorded the largest percentage gain since 1989 with two-thirds of the increase due to growth at Gateway, Housatonic and Tunxis. Across these colleges, enrollment grew 4.5 percent to 42,642. Only Asnuntuck and Three Rivers showed losses.

Within the independent sector, enrollment edged up 0.8 percent to 18,508 at the four-year nationals. Wesleyan posted a 2.5 percent gain and Connecticut College was up 1.2 percent while counts at Trinity and Yale were stable.

Across the 18 four-year regional independents – Connecticut's second-largest sector – enrollment was up 1.6 percent or 638 students to 40,735. The largest numeric gains occurred at Sacred Heart, followed by Quinnipiac University and the University of Bridgeport. Six of these colleges posted drops with the largest at Rensselaer at Hartford and the University of New Haven.

The five two-year independents make up just one percent of the state's total enrollment but also have experienced the greatest percentage growth over the last 13 years. Among these colleges, counts rose at the International College of Hospitality Management, St. Vincent's and Goodwin.

Based on the latest Census, one out of every 16 adults in Connecticut is a college student, virtually the same as 10 years ago and below the national average of 1 in 13.

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A copy of the Final Fall 2001 Connecticut College and University Enrollment table is attached and also is available, with a full research report, at www.ctdhe.org.

Final Enrollment
Fall 2001
Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2001 Total Enrollment			Fall 2000	Change	Percent Change
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Total		
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS															
<i>University of Connecticut</i>	15,091	2,539	17,630	2,782	2,535	5,317	897	207	1,104	18,770	5,281	24,051	23,421	630	2.7%
Storrs	13,085	965	14,050	2,782	2,411	5,193	429	204	633	16,296	3,580	19,876	19,393	483	2.5%
Avery Point	360	288	648		25	25				360	313	673	624	49	7.9%
Tri-Campus*	1,111	750	1,861		37	37				1,111	787	1,898	1,855	43	2.3%
Stamford	535	536	1,071		62	62				535	598	1,133	1,063	70	6.6%
Health Center							468	3	471	468	3	471	486	-15	-3.1%
<i>Connecticut State University</i>	20,088	7,877	27,965	1,333	6,579	7,912				21,421	14,456	35,877	35,330	547	1.5%
Central	6,636	2,915	9,551	497	2,320	2,817				7,133	5,235	12,368	12,252	116	0.9%
Eastern	3,574	1,444	5,018	43	276	319				3,617	1,720	5,337	5,145	192	3.7%
Southern	6,295	2,021	8,316	764	3,174	3,938				7,059	5,195	12,254	12,127	127	1.0%
Western	3,583	1,497	5,080	29	809	838				3,612	2,306	5,918	5,806	112	1.9%
<i>Community Colleges</i>	12,044	30,598	42,642							12,044	30,598	42,642	40,825	1,817	4.5%
Asnuntuck	409	1,314	1,723							409	1,314	1,723	1,850	-127	-6.9%
Capital	640	2,489	3,129							640	2,489	3,129	3,050	79	2.6%
Gateway	1,228	3,496	4,724							1,228	3,496	4,724	4,157	567	13.6%
Housatonic	1,068	3,179	4,247							1,068	3,179	4,247	3,902	345	8.8%
Manchester	1,872	3,533	5,405							1,872	3,533	5,405	5,135	270	5.3%
Middlesex	614	1,706	2,320							614	1,706	2,320	2,309	11	0.5%
Naugatuck Valley	1,774	3,449	5,223							1,774	3,449	5,223	5,116	107	2.1%
Northwestern CT	402	1,207	1,609							402	1,207	1,609	1,596	13	0.8%
Norwalk	1,663	3,906	5,569							1,663	3,906	5,569	5,377	192	3.6%
Quinebaug Valley	467	1,034	1,501							467	1,034	1,501	1,347	154	11.4%
Three Rivers	858	2,614	3,472							858	2,614	3,472	3,574	-102	-2.9%
Tunxis	1,049	2,671	3,720							1,049	2,671	3,720	3,412	308	9.0%
TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS	47,223	41,014	88,237	4,115	9,114	13,229	897	207	1,104	52,235	50,335	102,570	99,576	2,994	3.0%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	897		897							897		897	877	20	2.3%
TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	48,120	41,014	89,134	4,115	9,114	13,229	897	207	1,104	53,132	50,335	103,467	100,453	3,014	3.0%

*The Tri-Campus total of 1,898 this year consists of 990 students in Hartford (up 27 over last year), 536 in Waterbury (up 2 students), and 372 in Torrington (up 14 students.)

NOTE: Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,496 part-time students, most of whom are enrolled elsewhere in the system and are counted above. Those 1,496 represent a 2.5% increase from fall 2000.

Final Enrollment
Fall 2001
Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2001 Total Enrollment			Fall 2000	Change	Percent Change
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Total		
INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS															
<i>National Independents</i>	11,666	321	11,987	4,704	523	5,227	1,271	23	1,294	17,641	867	18,508	18,359	149	0.8%
Connecticut College	1,755	80	1,835	23	21	44				1,778	101	1,879	1,856	23	1.2%
Trinity College	1,882	192	2,074	9	173	182				1,891	365	2,256	2,246	10	0.4%
Wesleyan University	2,776	16	2,792	187	258	445				2,963	274	3,237	3,158	79	2.5%
Yale University	5,253	33	5,286	4,485	71	4,556	1,271	23	1,294	11,009	127	11,136	11,099	37	0.3%
<i>Regional Independents</i>	21,562	6,656	28,218	3,527	8,035	11,562	703	252	955	25,792	14,943	40,735	40,097	638	1.6%
Albertus Magnus College	1,727	145	1,872	300	97	397				2,027	242	2,269	2,105	164	7.8%
Fairfield University	3,399	765	4,164	153	837	990				3,552	1,602	5,154	5,188	-34	-0.7%
Graduate Institute, The					31	31					31	31	12	19	158.3%
Hartford Seminary				17	130	147				17	130	147	123	24	19.5%
Holy Apostles College	9	29	38	6	145	151	61		61	76	174	250	199	51	25.6%
Lyme Academy of Fine Arts	66	102	168							66	102	168	168	0	0.0%
Mitchell College	588	120	708							588	120	708	621	87	14.0%
Paier College of Art, Inc.	160	124	284							160	124	284	282	2	0.7%
Quinnipiac University	4,585	471	5,056	487	437	924	444	251	695	5,516	1,159	6,675	6,477	198	3.1%
Rensselaer at Hartford				88	1,462	1,550				88	1,462	1,550	1,807	-257	-14.2%
Sacred Heart University	2,837	1,294	4,131	420	1,402	1,822				3,257	2,696	5,953	5,684	269	4.7%
St. Basil's College	20		20							20		20	28	-8	-28.6%
St. Joseph College	705	582	1,287	99	553	652				804	1,135	1,939	1,823	116	6.4%
St. Thomas Seminary	2		2							2		2	7	N/A	N/A
Teikyo Post University	614	736	1,350							614	736	1,350	1,356	-6	-0.4%
University of Bridgeport	870	311	1,181	782	1,000	1,782	198	1	199	1,850	1,312	3,162	2,973	189	6.4%
University of Hartford	4,284	1,141	5,425	479	940	1,419				4,763	2,081	6,844	6,895	-51	-0.7%
University of New Haven	1,696	836	2,532	696	1,001	1,697				2,392	1,837	4,229	4,349	-120	-2.8%
<i>Two-Year Independents</i>	1,437	530	1,967							1,437	530	1,967	1,800	167	9.3%
Briarwood College	300	211	511							300	211	511	518	-7	-1.4%
Gibbs College	518	17	535							518	17	535	554	-19	-3.4%
Goodwin College	471	23	494							471	23	494	418	76	18.2%
International College of Hospitality Management	109	1	110							109	1	110	45	65	144.4%
St. Vincent's College	39	278	317							39	278	317	265	52	19.6%
TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS	34,665	7,507	42,172	8,231	8,558	16,789	1,974	275	2,249	44,870	16,340	61,210	60,256	954	1.6%
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS	82,785	48,521	131,306	12,346	17,672	30,018	2,871	482	3,353	98,002	66,675	164,677	160,709	3,968	2.5%