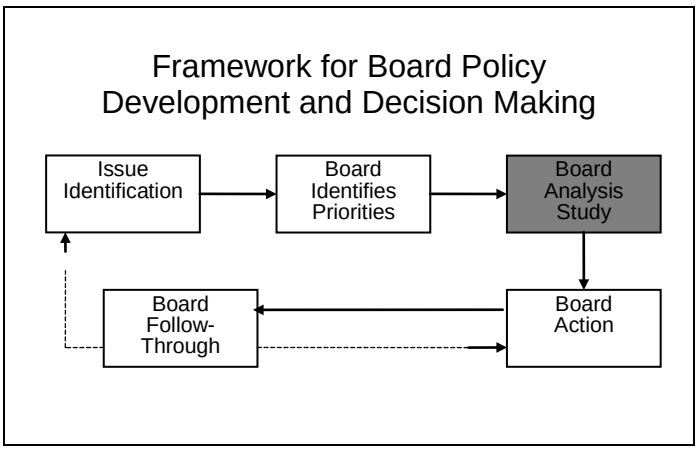
Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 20, 2013



Agenda Item: Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report 2013

Iowa Goal: Individuals will pursue postsecondary education in order to drive economic success.

State Board Role/Authority: The Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report 2013 provides information for all community colleges and the general public. This report is presented for information only as the State Board provides leadership and advocacy for the system of education in Iowa.

Presenter: Jeremy Varner, Administrator
Division of Community Colleges

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: This report provides information on fall credit enrollment at Iowa's 15 community colleges as of the tenth business day of the semester. Enrollment totaled 94,234 students, a decrease of 6.30 percent from the prior year. Except where noted, data in the attached report are taken from the Community College Management Information System (MIS) fall 2013 submission and were confirmed by each college.

Fall Enrollment Report 2013

Community Colleges

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Executive Summary

The Iowa Department of Education collects enrollment information from all 15 community colleges on the tenth business day of the fall semester. This report summarizes several aspects of community college enrollment from fall 2013. Listed below are some highlights from this report:

- Fall 2013 enrollment was 94,234 students., a decline of 6.3 percent from last fall.
- Compared to fall 2012, credit hours fell 7.0 percent to 872,744, and declined at all but one of the 15 community colleges.
- The typical student is a white (77 percent) female (55 percent) from Iowa (91 percent) whose average age is 22 years, and enrolled part-time (55 percent) in a college parallel program (65 percent).
- A total of 27,791 students enrolled in online courses, accounting for almost 30 percent of total enrollment.
- Health science remained the largest career and technical education (CTE) career cluster; business management and administration was second; manufacturing was third.
- Participation in joint enrollment programs fell 2.8 percent from fall 2012, to 27,297 students.
- Next fall, 89,804–98,120 students are predicted to enroll in Iowa's community colleges.

About this Report

This report summarizes fall enrollment in Iowa's community colleges. Every year, Iowa's 15 community college districts submit data on the tenth business day of the fall semester.

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Fall Enrollment

Fall enrollment for 2013, as summarized in Table 1, was 94,234 students, a 6.3 percent decline from last fall. Enrollment fell at 10 of the 15 community colleges in contrast to last fall where enrollment fell at 12 community colleges. More students were enrolled part-time (less than 12 semester credit hours) than were enrolled full-time. Students enrolled part-time accounted for 55 percent of total fall enrollment, compared to just over 53 percent last fall. Enrollment of full-time students this fall fell from 46,355 (46.1 percent of total enrollment) to 42,186 (44.8 percent of total enrollment), a 9.0 percent decline, while the fall enrollment of part-time students dropped 3.9 percent, from 54,165 students last fall to 52,048 students this fall.

Enrollment data since 1965 are displayed in Figure 1. Although overall fall enrollment has increased more than 10-fold since 1965, the number of full-time students as a percent of total fall enrollment has steadily declined from 90.8 percent in 1965 to 44.8 percent in 2013.

- Enrollment fell 6.3 percent to 94,234 students.
- Enrollment declined at 10 of 15 community colleges.
- Students enrolled on a part-time basis accounted for 55.2 percent of total enrollment.

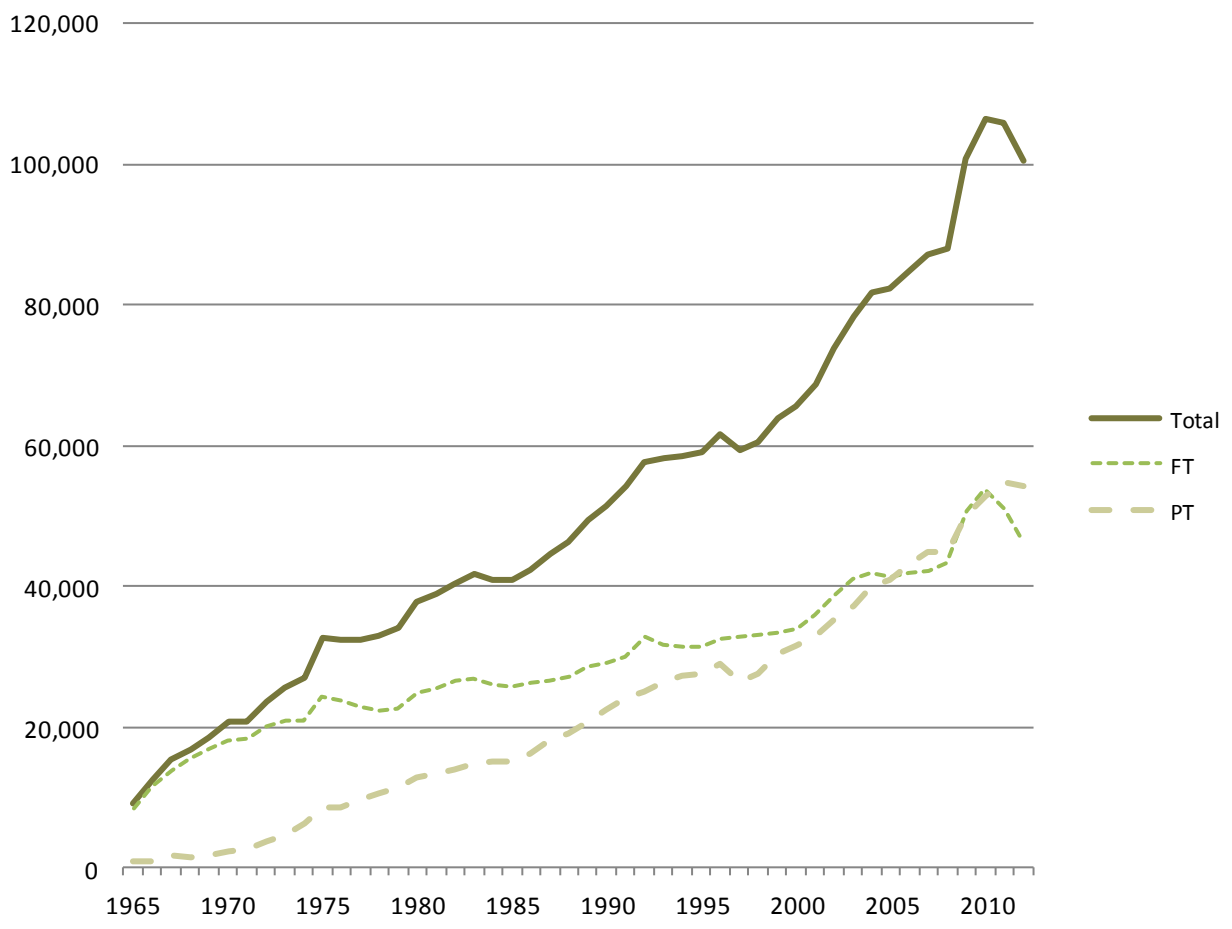
Several factors may account for the decline in enrollment. Economic conditions may have improved, enabling individuals to return to the workforce. A declining base of high school students from rural communities may shrink the pool of eligible students entering postsecondary education. Increasing costs of education may require students to attend classes on a part-time basis.

Table 1: Fall Enrollment by College

		Percentages		
College	Enrollment	Full-Time[a]	Part-Time	Change[b]
Northeast Iowa	5,201	35.7	64.3	3.5
North Iowa Area	3,207	48.8	51.2	-2.2
Iowa Lakes	2,650	51.3	48.7	-12.9
Northwest Iowa	1,607	38.6	61.4	0.1
Iowa Central	5,697	52.6	47.4	-8.3
Iowa Valley	3,141	52.9	47.1	0.8
Hawkeye	5,802	52.8	47.2	-2.7
Eastern Iowa	8,694	34.7	65.3	2.6
Kirkwood	15,345	47.0	53.0	-7.9
Des Moines Area	20,167	38.4	61.6	-14.9
Western Iowa Tech	6,330	38.8	61.2	-1.5
Iowa Western	6,991	53.4	46.6	-5.1
Southwestern	1,573	47.0	53.0	-5.6
Indian Hills	4,604	55.7	44.3	-5.8
Southeastern	3,225	50.0	50.0	3.6
TOTAL	**94,234**	**44.8**	**55.2**	**-6.3**

[a] A full-time student is defined as one registered for at least 12 credit hours per term.
[b] Percentage change in total fall enrollment from previous year.

Figure 1: Fall Enrollment, 1965-2013



Credit Hours

Each credit hour represents at least 800 minutes of scheduled time for a classroom course; at least 1,600 minutes for a laboratory course; at least 2,400 minutes for clinical work; or at least 3,200 minutes of work experience. Typically, classes at community colleges vary between three and six credit hours. A full-time student must take at least 12 credit hours per semester, which corresponds to 9,600 classroom minutes per semester.

The increase in the number of part-time students suggests students who attended community colleges in the fall of 2013 were enrolled in fewer hours. Table 2 shows average enrollment since 2009. In fall 2013, students enrolled an average of 9.26 credit hours, compared to 9.34 credit hours in fall 2012. The course load among full-time students, however, remained relatively unchanged from fall 2012, averaging 13.8 credit hours.

The decline of total fall enrollment and the increase in part-time students yielded a decline in total fall credit hours. As depicted in Table 3, the number of credit hours for fall 2013 declined to 872,744, down 7.0 percent from fall 2012.

- Students enrolled in 872,744 credit hours this fall.
- Total credit hours fell 7.0 percent from fall 2012.
- Students carried an average of 9.26 hours, a decrease of less than 1.0 percent from last fall.

Table 2: Average Hours

Fiscal Year	Average[a]
2009	9.59
2010	9.63
2011	9.49
2012	9.34
2013	9.26

[a] Average credit hours for all students, full- and part-time.

Table 3: Fall Credit Hours by College

		Percentages		
College	Total Credit Hrs.	Full-Time	Part-Time	Change[a]
Northeast Iowa	44,382	59.1	40.9	-2.8
North Iowa Area	31,282	72.5	27.5	-4.6
Iowa Lakes	27,586	75.2	24.8	-13.6
Northwest Iowa	14,551	66.9	33.1	-4.0
Iowa Central	58,038	75.4	24.6	-9.7
Iowa Valley	32,104	75.3	24.7	-4.4
Hawkeye	58,713	73.3	26.7	-4.1
Eastern Iowa	71,887	56.6	43.4	-1.7
Kirkwood	146,892	68.0	32.0	-8.5
Des Moines Area	177,957	58.6	41.4	-11.3
Western Iowa Tech	55,509	61.5	38.5	-3.5
Iowa Western	72,170	73.9	26.1	-5.5
Southwestern	15,304	69.5	30.5	-6.8
Indian Hills	34,624	74.6	25.4	-8.6
Southeastern	31,747	71.6	28.4	1.6
TOTAL	**872,744**	**66.7**	**33.3**	**-7.0**

[a] Percent change in total credit hours from fall 2012.

Student Demographics

As Figure 2 indicates, 54.9 percent of students were female, which is consistent with state and national trends in community colleges and four-year colleges.

Females have outnumbered males nationally in higher education since 1980. In Iowa, females have outnumbered males in community colleges since 1998.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of ages among students enrolled in Iowa's community colleges. The average age was 22 years, and the median age was 19 years.

A traditional student is defined as one who matriculates to postsecondary education in the fall immediately following graduation from high school. Among students attending Iowa community colleges, 23.3 percent met this definition.

There is a higher percentage of minorities in community colleges than in Iowa's population, a trait common among community colleges. Data from the 2010 decennial census (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011) indicate 11.6 percent of Iowans identified themselves as minorities. For fall 2013, 16.4 percent of community college students identified themselves as minorities, a figure relatively unchanged since fall 2012.

As Figure 4 indicates, African-American students were the second largest racial/ethnic group (6.3 percent), followed by Hispanics (5.6 percent), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (2.2 percent). These percentages are essentially unchanged from last year.

An overwhelming majority of students (91 percent) were residents of Iowa (Figure 5), a common trend ever since the department started collecting data. Out-of-state residents accounted for 7.7 percent of enrolled students, with foreign nationals (0.9 percent) accounting for the balance.

- Females accounted for 54.9 percent of students.
- The average age of community college students was 22 years; half were under 19 years of age.
- Almost 84 percent of students in community colleges were white.

Figure 2: Distribution of Students by Gender

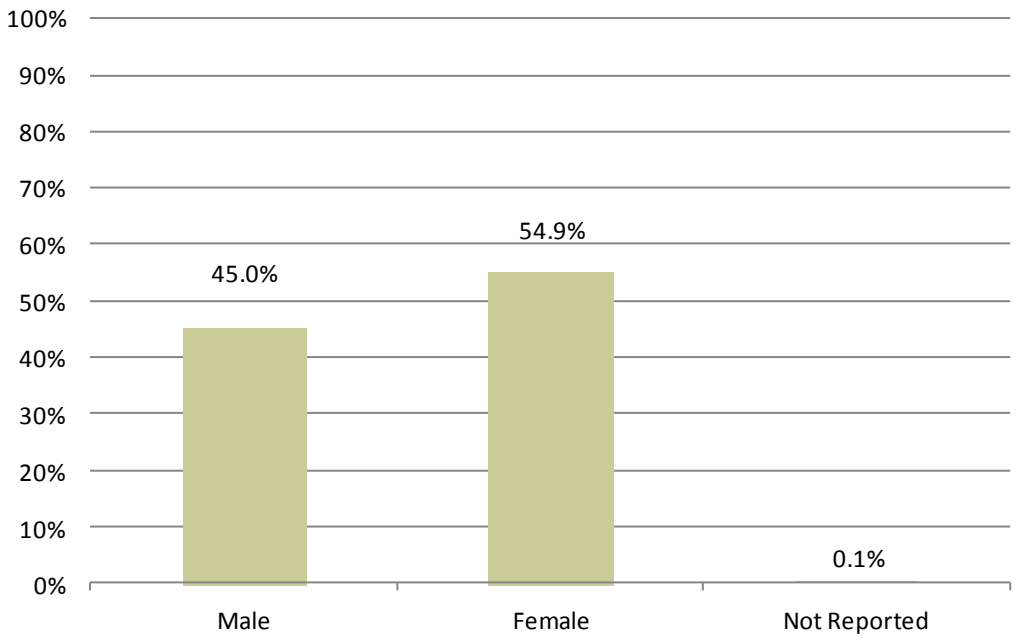


Figure 3: Age Distribution

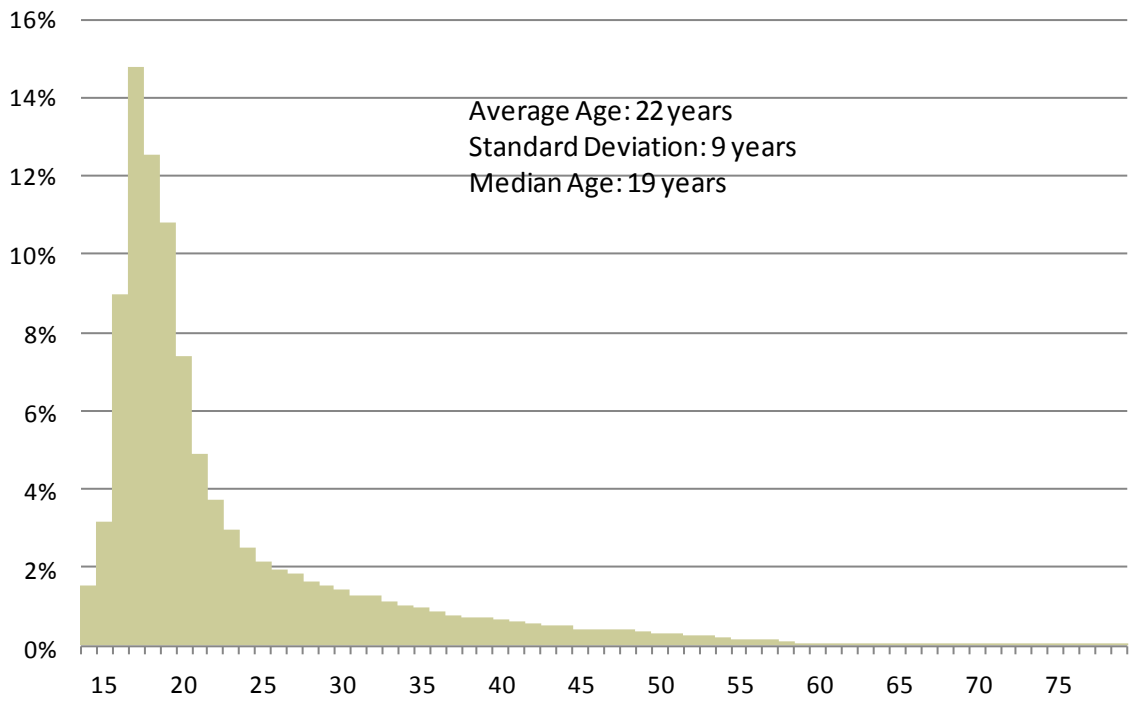


Figure 4: Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

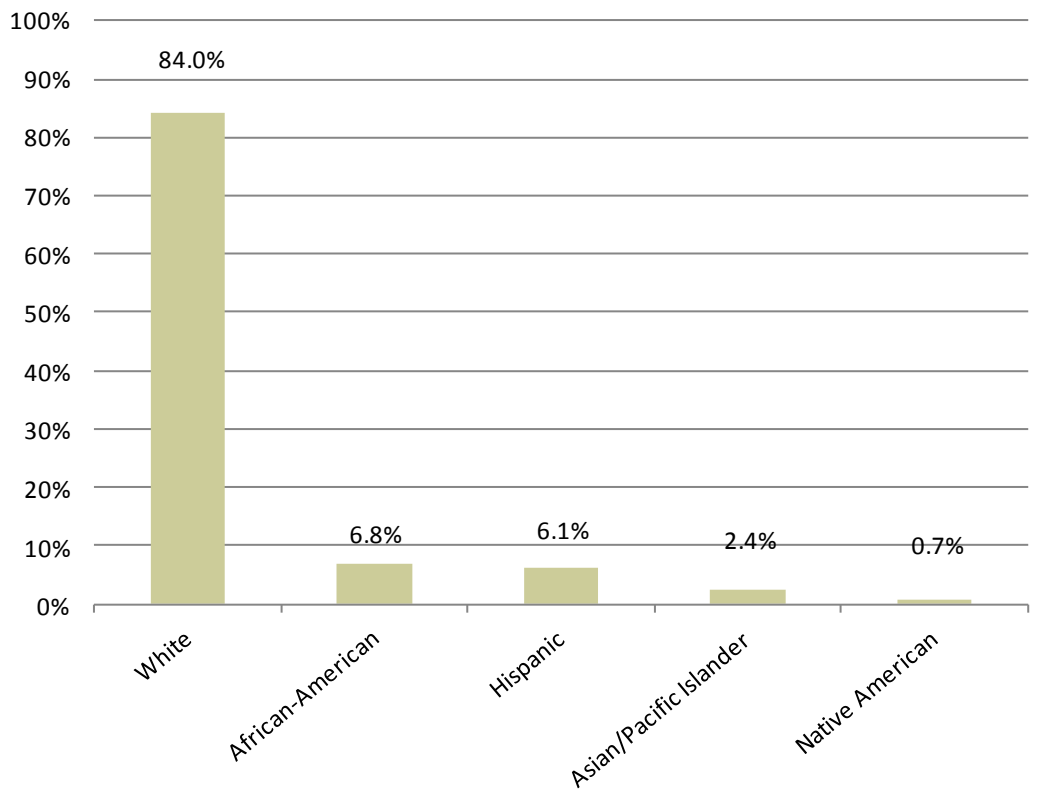
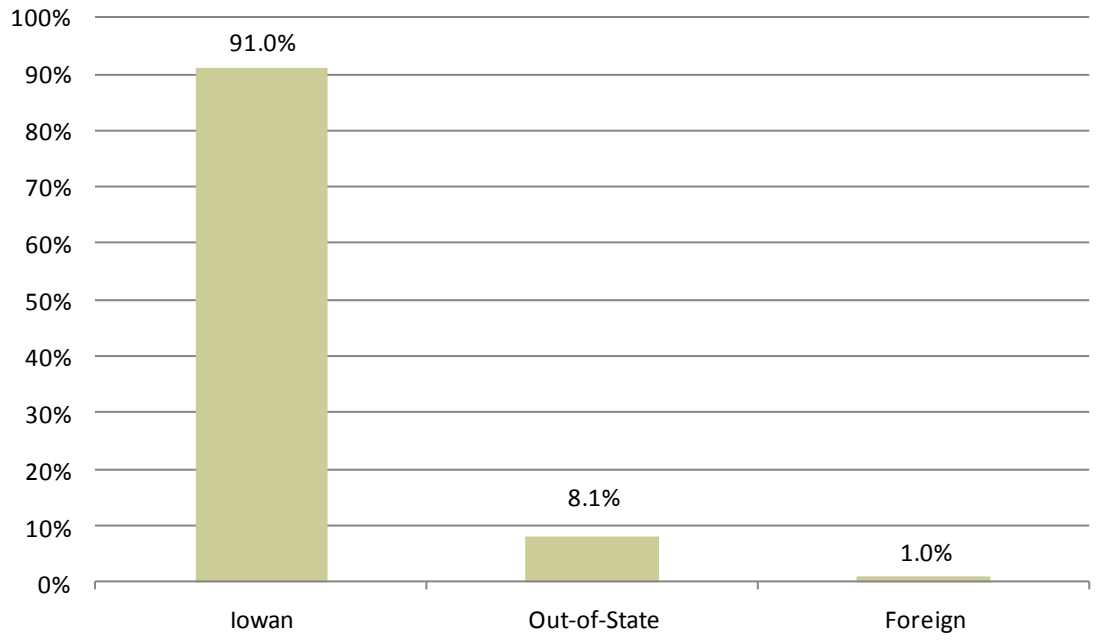


Figure 5: Enrollment by Residency Status



Program Type

Community colleges offer several broad categories of programs:

- College parallel
- Career and technical education (CTE)
- Career option

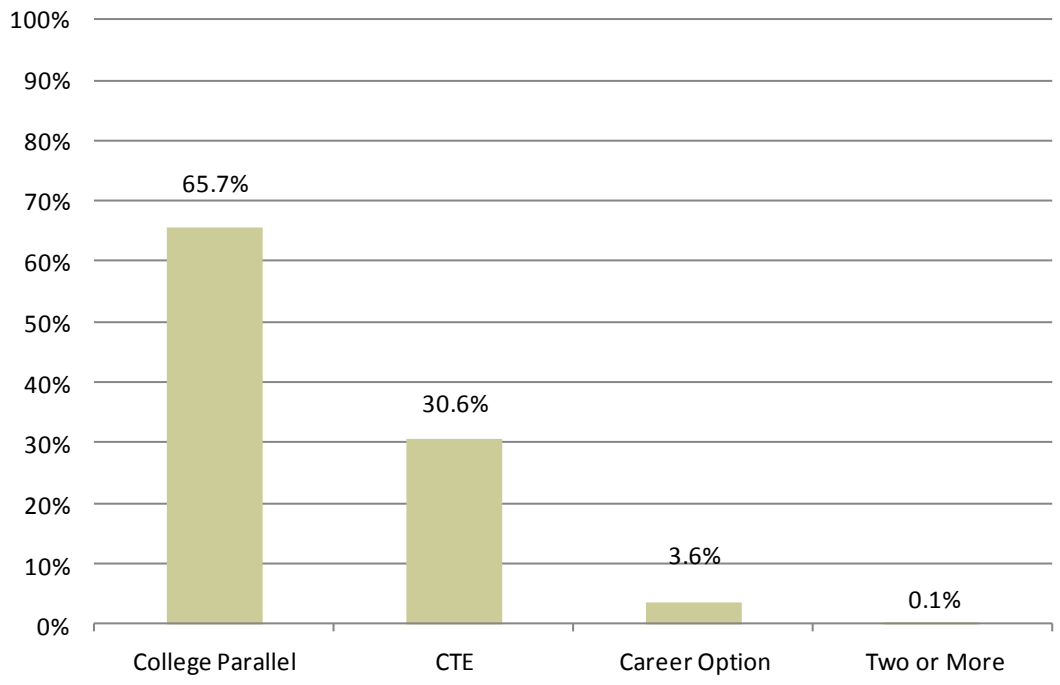
College parallel programs prepare students for matriculation to a four-year university. As Figure 6 indicates, college parallel programs are the largest category of enrollment. The number of students enrolled in this category declined 5.9 percent, from 65,764 students last fall to 61,866 students this fall. Despite the decline in enrollment, college parallel programs accounted for almost two-thirds (65.7 percent) of total fall 2013 enrollment.

CTE programs, which prepare students for the workforce, accounted for three-tenths (30.6 percent) of fall enrollment. This fall, enrollment for CTE programs was 28,876 students, a 4.2 percent decline from last fall's enrollment of 30,135 students.

- College parallel is the largest program type, accounting for almost two-thirds of enrollment.
- CTE enrollment declined 4.2 percent from last fall.
- Enrollment in career option programs declined 25.2 percent from last fall.

Career option programs prepare students for matriculation to a four-year university or entry into a career field after graduation. These programs accounted for 4.5 percent of total fall enrollment. This fall, 3,403 students enrolled in career option programs compared to 4,547 students last year, representing a 25.2 percent decrease. The Department of Education is phasing out career option programs, which may explain the large decline in enrollment.

Figure 6: Enrollment by Program Type



Online Enrollment

Online enrollment is defined as participation in a class that is only offered via the Internet with no face-to-face contact between the instructor and students. During fall 2013, 27,791 students, representing 29.5 percent of total fall enrollment, enrolled in at least one online course.

Table 4 summarizes online enrollment by college for fall 2013. At one college, over half the students enrolled in at least one online course. The number of students enrolled in online courses dropped 1.5 percent from last fall. However, online enrollment as a percent of total enrollment increased from 28.1 percent last fall to 29.5 percent this fall.

A total of 144,271 credit hours were attributable to online classes for fall 2013, accounting for 16.5 percent of all fall 2013 credit hours. On average, each student enrolled in 5.2 credit hours during fall 2013. Since community college courses typically are three credit hours, average online enrollment was equivalent to almost two courses.

- The number of students enrolled in online courses decreased 1.5 percent.
- Iowa's community colleges enrolled 27,791 students for online college credit.
- On average, students enrolled in 5.2 credit hours.

Table 4: Online Enrollment by College

			Percentages	
College	Hours[a]	Enrollment[b]	Total[c]	Change[d]
Northeast Iowa	8,116	1553	29.9	-6.1
North Iowa Area	5,073	1570	49.0	-5.0
Iowa Lakes	4,299	771	29.1	-13.9
Northwest Iowa	4,121	807	50.2	-1.5
Iowa Central	6,774	1337	23.5	-7.8
Iowa Valley	6,315	1255	40.0	-1.4
Hawkeye	7,228	1556	26.8	16.7
Eastern Iowa	14,797	2573	29.6	-2.8
Kirkwood	16,927	3089	20.1	-5.8
Des Moines Area	28,503	5338	26.5	3.5
Western Iowa Tech	13,902	2507	39.6	3.4
Iowa Western	12,811	2296	32.8	-4.2
Southwestern	3,245	648	41.2	-14.3
Indian Hills	5,921	1414	30.7	1.1
Southeastern	6,240	1077	33.4	-1.4
TOTAL	**144,271**	**27,791**	**29.5**	**-1.5**

[a] Number of registered online credit hours.

[b] Number of students enrolled in at least one online course.

[c] Online enrollment as a percent of total enrollment.

[d] Percent change in online enrollment from the previous fall.

Career Clusters

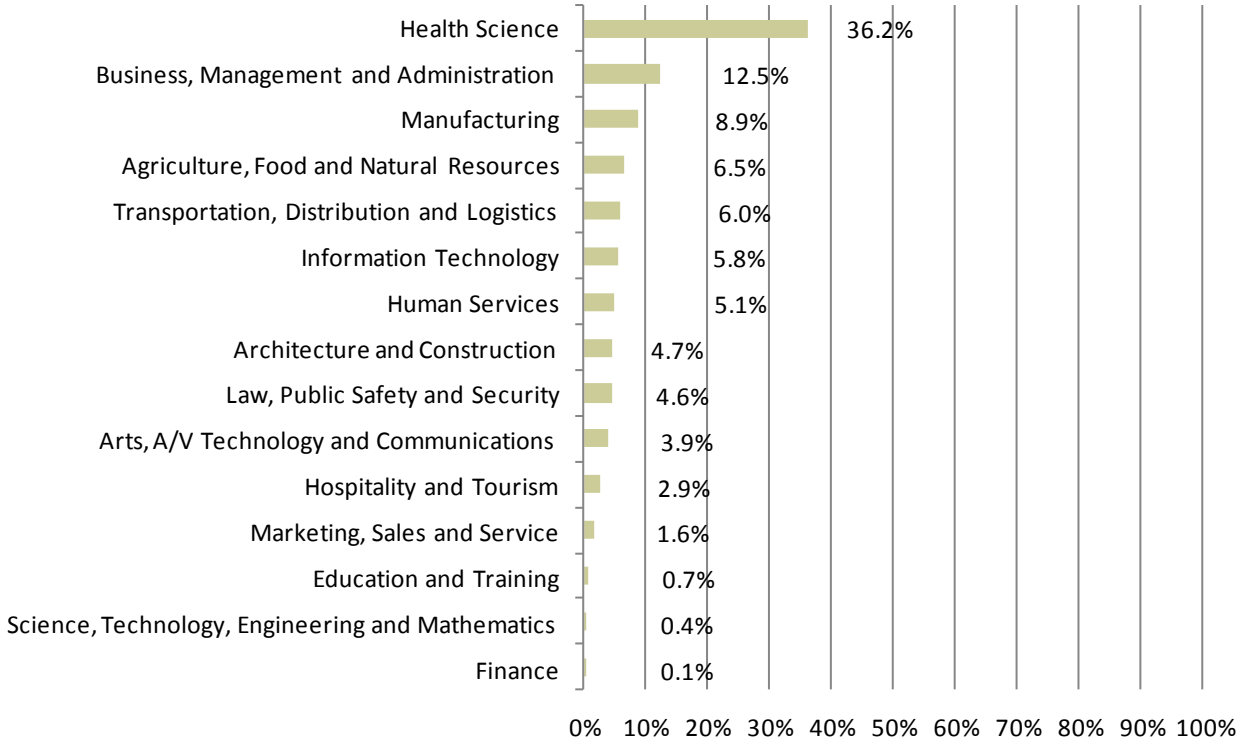
The Iowa Department of Education categorizes career and technical education (CTE) programs into 16 Career Clusters. Each major aligns to a Career Cluster with other similar programs. Page 13 briefly describes all Career Clusters. Information on Career Clusters can be obtained from www.careerclusters.org.

Enrollment in CTE programs can be broken down to specific areas of study. Health science remains the largest Career Cluster within community colleges (11,704), followed by business management and administration (4,059), and then manufacturing (2,893). Figure 7 displays each Career Cluster as a percent of all students enrolled in CTE programs.

Health science enrollment fell 8.9 percent from 12,846 students in last fall to 11,704 students this fall. Business management and administration also fell 8.6 percent during the same time period, from 4,440 students last fall to 4,059 this fall. Fall enrollment in manufacturing Career Clusters, on the other hand, increased 10.6 percent from 2,616 students in 2012 to 2,893 students in 2013.

- Health science, the largest Career Cluster, accounts for 36 percent of CTE fall enrollment.
- Enrollment in business management and administration fell 8.6 percent.
- Enrollment in manufacturing Career Clusters increased more than 10 percent.

Figure 7: Enrollment by Career Cluster



The production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources.

Careers in designing, planning, managing, building, and maintaining the built environment.

Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.

Business, management and administration careers encompass planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations.

Planning, managing, and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.

Planning, services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management.

Executing governmental functions to include Governance; National Security; Foreign Service; Planning; Revenue and Taxation; Regulation; and Management and Administration at the local, state, and federal levels.

Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

Hospitality & Tourism encompasses the management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other foodservices, lodging, attractions, recreation events, and travel related services.

Preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs.

Building Linkages in IT Occupations Framework: for Entry Level, Technical, and Professional Careers Related to the Design, Development, Support and Management of Hardware, Software, Multimedia, and Systems Integration Services.

Planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.

Planning, managing, and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance, and manufacturing/process engineering.

Planning, managing, and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives.

Planning, managing, and providing scientific research and professional and technical services including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.

Planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water and related professional and technical support services such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment, and facility maintenance.

Joint Enrollment

Community colleges offer joint enrollment options to high school students, which gives them an opportunity to earn college credit. After successfully completing the coursework, students may apply credit toward a diploma or Associate's degree, or transfer these credits to a four-year college. Students have several options to participate, including:

- Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), where a school district pays up to $250 per course.
- Contracted courses between high schools and community colleges, which often provide supplementary weighting.
- An option for students to pay their own tuition for a community college course.

Joint enrollment, although a popular option for high school students in Iowa, decreased 0.2 percent from last fall. Students participating in joint enrollment programs accounted for almost 30 percent of this fall's enrollment. Nationally, the U.S. Department of Education estimated five percent of high school students jointly enroll in higher education while in high school (Kleiner and Lewis, 2005).

- Joint enrollment decreased 0.2 percent from last fall.
- Over 28,000 high school students participated in joint enrollment programs this fall.
- On average, students enrolled in 4.9 credit hours.

Although the decline in joint enrollment from last year was relatively flat, joint enrollment at one community college dropped almost 33 percent from last year. The community college's inability to collect accurate data from area high schools caused this anomaly. Had this decline been less severe, overall joint enrollment may have increased as it had in previous years.

Table 5: Joint Enrollment by College

				Percentages	
College	Hours[a]	Avg. Hrs.[b]	Enrollment[c]	Total[d]	Change[e]
Northeast Iowa	9,732	4.7	2,213	42.5	25.7
North Iowa Area	4,737	4.7	1,003	31.3	10.6
Iowa Lakes	4,699	5.2	913	34.5	-5.6
Northwest Iowa	3,180	4.5	733	45.6	16.5
Iowa Central	11,533	5.4	2,123	37.3	-7.8
Iowa Valley	5,218	4.9	1,080	34.4	34.2
Hawkeye	5,402	4.7	1,247	21.5	10.9
Eastern Iowa	12,200	4.3	2,965	34.1	34.4
Kirkwood	15,353	4.7	3,407	22.2	17.4
Des Moines Area	25,845	4.9	5,313	26.3	-32.8
Western Iowa Tech	12,538	5.2	2,424	38.3	6.2
Iowa Western	7,564	4.7	1,670	23.9	-1.6
Southwestern	3,164	5.5	593	37.7	-0.2
Indian Hills	7,013	4.8	1,463	31.8	15.9
Southeastern	4,508	5.2	881	27.3	19.4
TOTAL	**132,684**	**4.9**	**28,028**	**29.7**	**-0.2**

[a] Number of hours carried by students participating in a joint enrollment program.

[b] Average hours per student.

[c] Number of high school students participating in a joint enrollment program.

[d] Joint enrollment as a percent of total enrollment.

[e] Percent change in joint enrollment from the previous fall.

Enrollment Projections

Enrollment for last fall was predicted to vary between 92,138 and 102,178 students. The actual fall enrollment for 2013 was 93,982 students.

The estimated enrollment for next fall will vary between 89,804 and 98,120 students. Factors affecting enrollment include a paradigm shift toward non-linear education among postsecondary students, declining populations in rural communities, and costs associated with postsecondary education.

- Next fall, between 89,804 and 98,120 students are predicted to enroll.
- Declining populations in rural communities may be one reason for decreased enrollment.

References

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Kleiner, B., & Lewis, L. (2005). *Dual Enrollment of High School Students at Postsecondary Institutions: 2002-03* (No. NCES 2005-008). Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

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