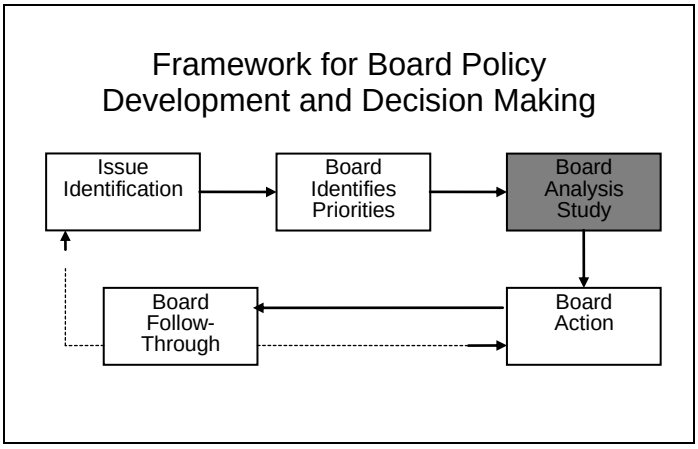
Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 17, 2010



Agenda Item: Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report 2010

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

Equity Impact Statement: Community colleges support open access to students.

Presenters: Roger Utman, Ph.D., Administrator
Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

Tom Schenk, Jr., Educational Program Consultant
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Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education Services

Attachments: 1

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

Background: This report serves as a demonstration of the capabilities of the community college MIS (Management Information System). Iowa's 15 community colleges electronically transmitted the fall 2010 enrollments to the Department of Education on the 10th business day of the fall semester. All data in the attached report, except where noted, are taken from the Department of Education's fall 2009 MIS electronic data files and were confirmed by the community college transmittal sheet.

Fall Enrollment Report 2010

Community Colleges &
Workforce Preparation

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Executive Summary

The Iowa Department of Education collects enrollment information from all 15 community colleges on the 10th business day of the fall semester. This report summarizes several aspects of community college enrollment. Some of the highlights of this report are:

- Enrollment continued to grow 4.8 percent to 106,597 students (Table 1).
- Enrollment at three community colleges dropped, while there was substantial enrollment gains at four other colleges (Table 1).
- Full-time enrollment remained larger than part-time student enrollment (Table 1).
- Credit hours increased 6.1 percent since last year (Table 3).
- Credit hours exceeded 1 million hours—1,026,135—for the first time (Table 3).
- High school student enrollment grew 7.1 percent to 27,956 students (Table 5).
- Enrollment is expected to decline 9.5 percent based on current economic conditions (Table 6).

About this Report:

This report summarizes fall enrollment in Iowa's community colleges. Every year Iowa's 15 community college districts submit data on students enrolled on the 10th day of the fall semester.

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Fall Enrollment

Fall enrollment grew to 106,597 students, an increase of 4.8 percent. This increase follows a substantial increase in enrollment last fall, which was the largest year-to-year increase since 1975.

Enrollment in some colleges has fallen since the prior year. There was no geographical pattern to enrollment declines, which occurred in the northeastern, central, and southeastern regions of the state (Table 1). Some colleges sustained large enrollment growth that exceeded 10 percent. These same colleges experienced large enrollment growth in 2009.

Full-time enrollment has continued to exceed part-time enrollment. A little over half of enrollment is comprised of full-time students—enrolled in 12 or more credit hours—this year. Historically, enrollment in Iowa's community colleges is predominately full-time students. However, this trend was interrupted between 2006 and 2008 when part-time enrollment exceed full-time enrollment.

- Enrollment continued to grow 4.8 percent to 106,597 students.
- Enrollment at three community colleges dropped, while there was substantial enrollment gains at four other colleges.
- Full-time enrollment remained larger than part-time students.

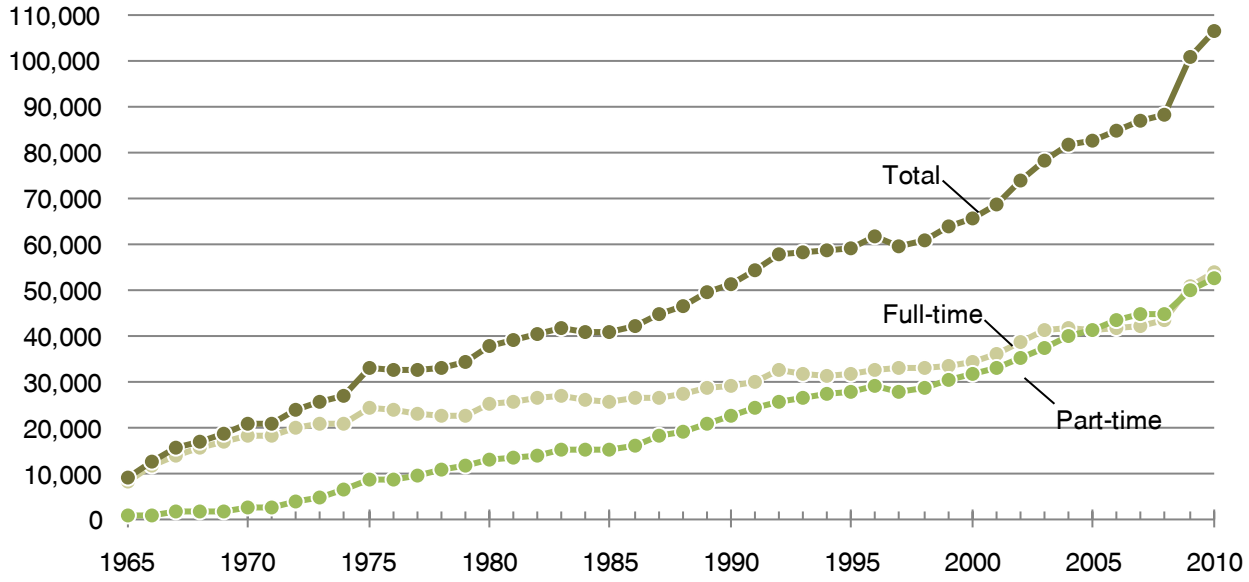
The enrollment growth this year is slightly below the historical average. Fall enrollment has only fallen four times during the history of Iowa's modern community college system (Figure 1). Typically, enrollment fell after large enrollment growth during the recession. In 1976, the year following the largest enrollment growth, enrollment ell 1.3 percent. Enrollment has managed to grow, despite the spike in enrollment last year, but could drop in the future as the economy recovers.

Table 1 – Fall Enrollment by College and Attendance Status: 2010

College	Attendance Status			1-year Change
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	
Northeast	2,511	2,625	5,136	-4.7%
North Iowa Area	2,028	1,716	3,744	0.4%
Iowa Lakes	2,042	1,432	3,474	4.8%
Northwest Iowa	742	906	1,648	2.0%
Iowa Central	3,401	2,803	6,204	5.1%
Iowa Valley	1,947	1,207	3,154	-5.1%
Hawkeye	3,787	2,877	6,664	5.6%
Eastern Iowa	4,210	5,155	9,365	10.4%
Kirkwood	10,011	8,445	18,456	3.4%
Des Moines Area	9,629	15,029	24,658	10.5%
Western Iowa Tech	3,041	3,380	6,421	10.1%
Iowa Western	3,982	2,817	6,799	11.5%
Southwestern	903	850	1,753	4.3%
Indian Hills	3,557	1,963	5,520	7.5%
Southeastern	2,092	1,509	3,601	-4.1%
Total	**53,883**	**52,714**	**106,597**	**4.8%**

Note: Students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours are counted as full-time. Each "|" denotes 1,000 students.

Figure 1 – Fall Enrollment by Status: 1965-2009



Year	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Year	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
1965	8,269	841	9,110	1988	27,192	19,144	46,336
1966	11,541	878	12,419	1989	28,614	20,737	49,351
1967	13,667	1,744	15,411	1990	29,102	22,326	51,428
1968	15,373	1,533	16,906	1991	30,095	24,065	54,160
1969	16,831	1,596	18,427	1992	32,715	25,477	57,652
1970	18,188	2,221	20,609	1993	31,711	26,462	58,173
1971	18,309	2,535	20,844	1994	31,297	27,217	58,514
1972	19,984	3,606	23,590	1995	31,417	27,694	59,111
1973	20,952	4,500	25,452	1996	32,602	29,040	61,642
1974	20,770	6,222	26,992	1997	32,889	27,731	59,414
1975	24,324	8,468	32,792	1998	33,048	28,431	60,620
1976	23,762	8,602	32,364	1999	33,283	30,526	63,809
1977	22,888	9,589	32,477	2000	34,047	31,426	65,473
1978	22,337	10,523	32,860	2001	35,857	32,933	68,790
1979	22,610	11,441	34,051	2002	38,660	35,287	73,947
1980	24,972	12,897	37,869	2003	41,028	37,253	78,281
1981	25,416	13,484	38,900	2004	41,778	40,025	81,803
1982	26,551	13,881	40,432	2005	41,435	41,064	82,449
1983	26,957	14,863	41,820	2006	41,759	43,202	84,961
1984	25,999	14,954	40,953	2007	42,307	44,765	87,072
1985	25,667	15,191	40,858	2008	43,209	44,895	88,104
1986	26,195	16,095	42,290	2009	50,683	50,053	100,736
1987	26,571	18,132	44,703	2010	53,883	52,714	106,597

Sources: Iowa Department of Education, Area College and Community College Fall Term Enrollment Reports, except 1997-1999 where data was drawn from the Iowa College and University Enrollment Report prepared by Jerald Dallam of the University Iowa.

Credit Hours

As more students enroll, community colleges deliver more contact hours. This fall, colleges are delivering 1,026,138 credit hours, which is a 6.1 percent increase since last year. Community colleges are delivering more than a million credits hours during the fall term for the first time ever.

Credit hours rose faster than students, thus, students are spending more time on campus. Table 2 lists the average credit hours per student since 2006. Students enrolled in just over 9.6 credit hours in the fall semester, continuing a rise in enrollment intensity since 2007.

- Credit hours increased 6.1 percent since last year.
- Credit hours exceeded 1 million hours—1,026,135—for the first time.
- Average credit hours per student rose slightly to over 9.6 hours this fall.

Each credit hour represents at least 800 minutes of scheduled work for a classroom course; 1,600 minutes for a laboratory course; 2,400 minutes for clinical work; and 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 a semester, which is at least 9,600 classroom hours a semester.

Table 2 — Average Credit Hours

Fiscal Year	Average Credit Hours per Student	
2006	9.51							

Student Demographics

Just under 55 percent of students were female (Figure 2). Female enrollment is consistent with state and national trends in community colleges and four-year colleges (U.S. Department of Education, 2007: Table 181). Females have outnumbered males nationally in higher education since 1980. In Iowa, females have outnumbered males since the Iowa Department of Education began collecting data in 1998.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of ages enrolled in colleges. The average age increased slightly this year to 23.2 years old, but the median age stayed consistent at 19 years old, consistent with national data (Provasnik and Planty, 2008). Thus, half of Iowa community college students are still teenagers.

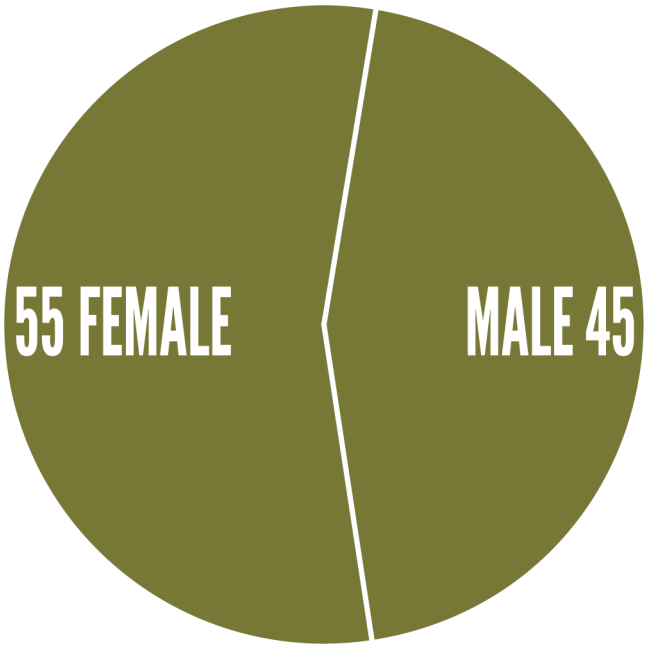
Iowa community college students are younger than the national average for community colleges. Seventy-two percent (72%) of students are traditional age students under 25 years old. Nationally, 58 percent of students in public two-year colleges are traditional age students (U.S. Department of Education, 2007: Table 181).

There is also a higher percentage of minorities in community colleges than in the state population. The U.S. Census (2008) estimates 10 percent of Iowans are non-white. This fall 14.5 percent of students are minorities, a substantial increase over last year which consisted of 12 percent minorities. Community colleges typically serve a higher proportion of minorities, but direct national comparisons are difficult since many other states are significantly more diverse in racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Black students were the second largest racial/ethnic group (6.2 percent), followed by Hispanic (4.5 percent), and Asian/Pacific Islander (1.9 percent). One percent indicated they were part of multiple racial and ethnic groups. The percentage of students identifying themselves as black or Hispanic increased this year, which contributed to the overall gain in minorities.

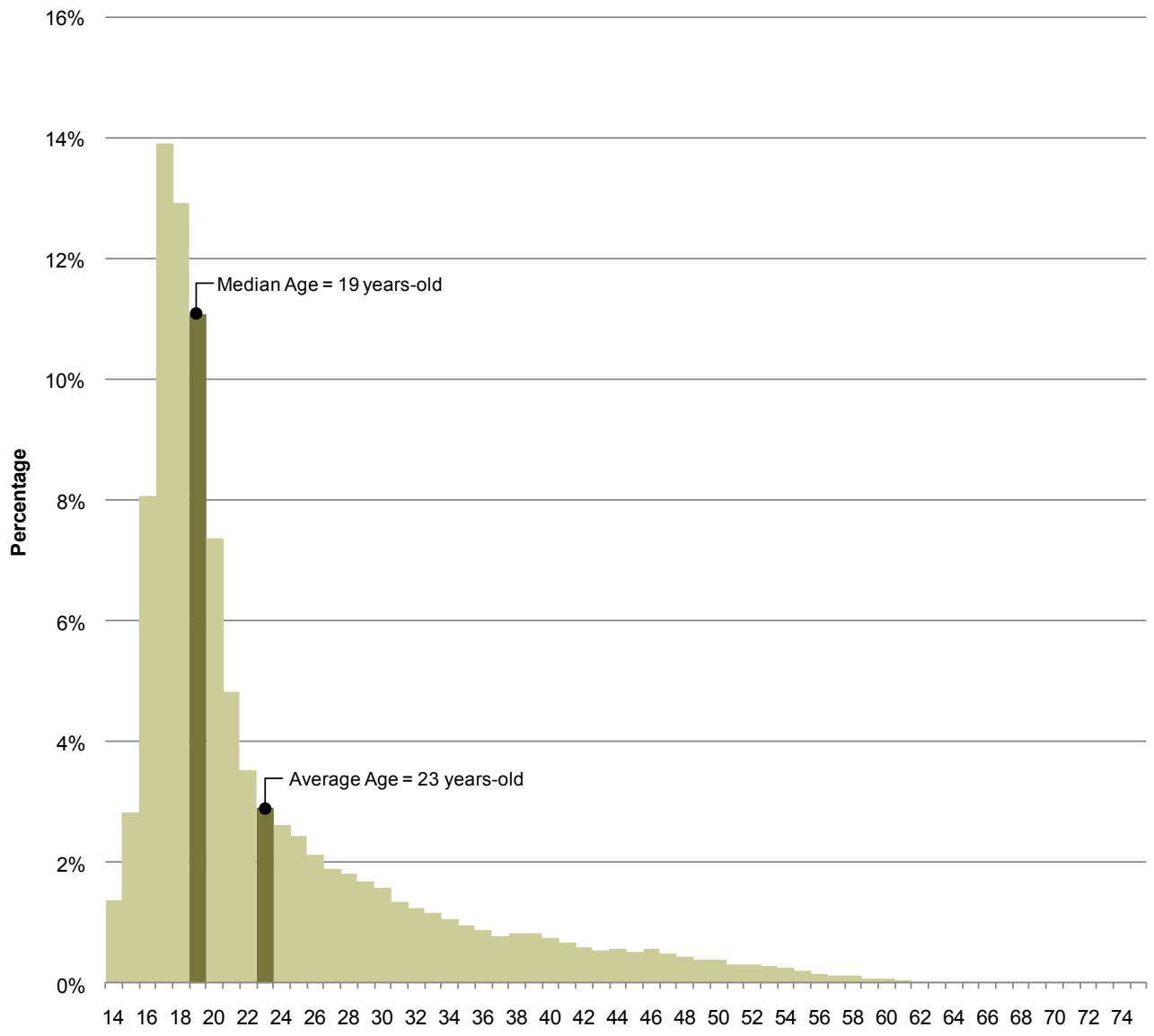
- The median student age is 19 years old, but the student body is older this year.
- Females comprised 55 percent of total enrollment.
- Minorities comprise 14.5 percent of fall enrollment.

Figure 2 – Enrollment by Gender: 2010



Finally, over 93 percent of students are residents of Iowa, which has been a common trend ever since the department started collecting data in 1998 (Figure 5).

Figure 3 – Age Distribution: 2010



Note: The population standard deviation was 9.1 years. Ages 75 and over were combined into a single data point. There were 293 missing data points, which included respondents with incorrectly reported ages.

Figure 4 – Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity: 2009

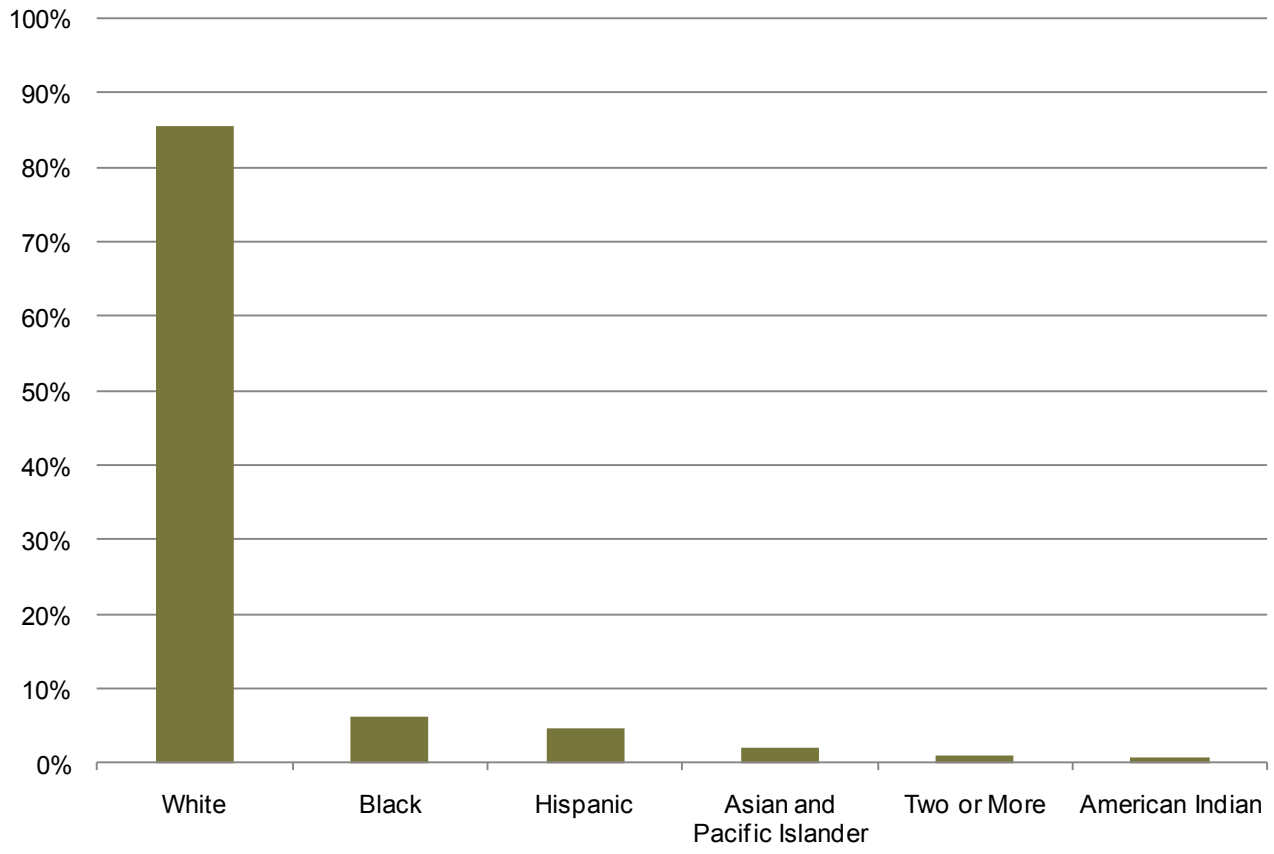
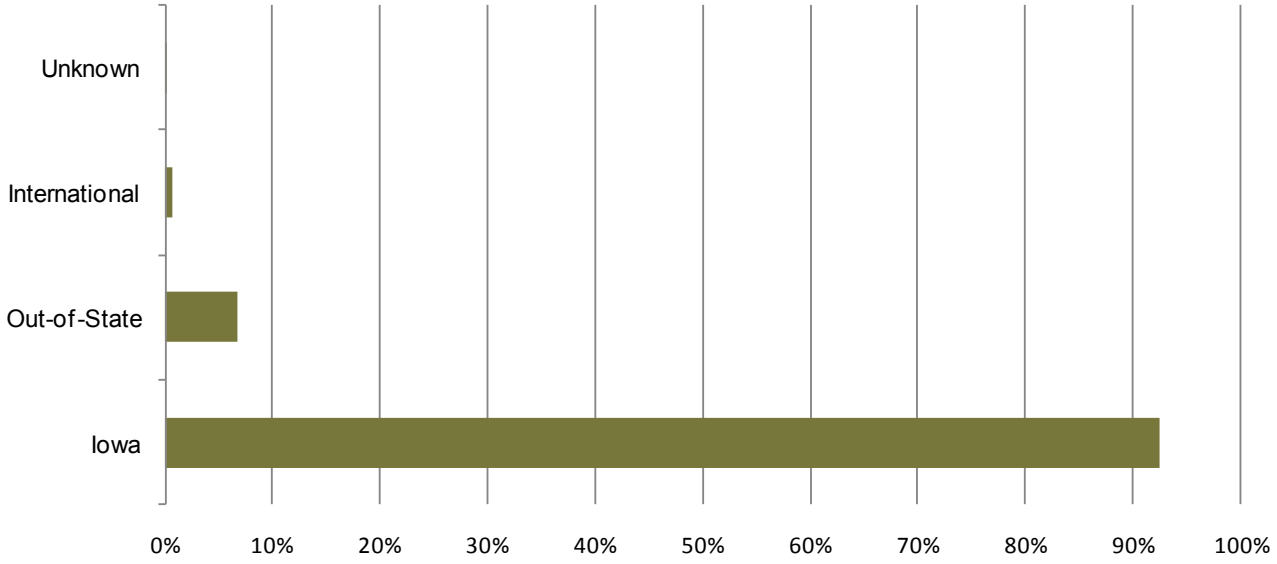


Figure 5 – Enrollment by Residency: 2010



Program Type

Community colleges offer several broad categories of programs:

- College parallel programs contain classes that articulate to a four-year university.
- Career option programs let students articulate to a four-year university or enter into a career field after graduation.
- Career and technical education (CTE) programs prepare students for the workforce.

College parallel programs are still the largest category of enrollment (Figure 1). Enrollment increased 4.6 percent to 67,084 students, outpacing the growth of all other program types (Table 4). Almost 63 percent of students were enrolled in college parallel programs this past fall.

Enrollment in CTE programs accelerated this year by 8.2 percent to 31,133 students. In the most recent nationwide estimates, at least 41 percent of enrollment in public two-year institutions are in CTE programs (Levesque et al. 2008).

Career option programs grew this year after a decline in 2009. Career option grew to 5,199 students from 4,913—a growth of 5.8 percent.

College parallel enrollment has increased dramatically for both males and females since 2005 (Figure 7). The same is true for CTE, where both males and females have increased enrollment. Career option enrollment has been stagnant. Enrollment gained very slightly for males, but has remained steady for females.

Finally, Figure 8 shows the enrollment in each program type by minorities. Blacks comprised the largest share of minorities in each program type, followed by Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders.

- CTE programs saw a significant increase in enrollment since last year.
- Career option has the highest proportion of minorities, followed by college parallel and CTE.

Figure 6 – Enrollment by Program Type: 2010

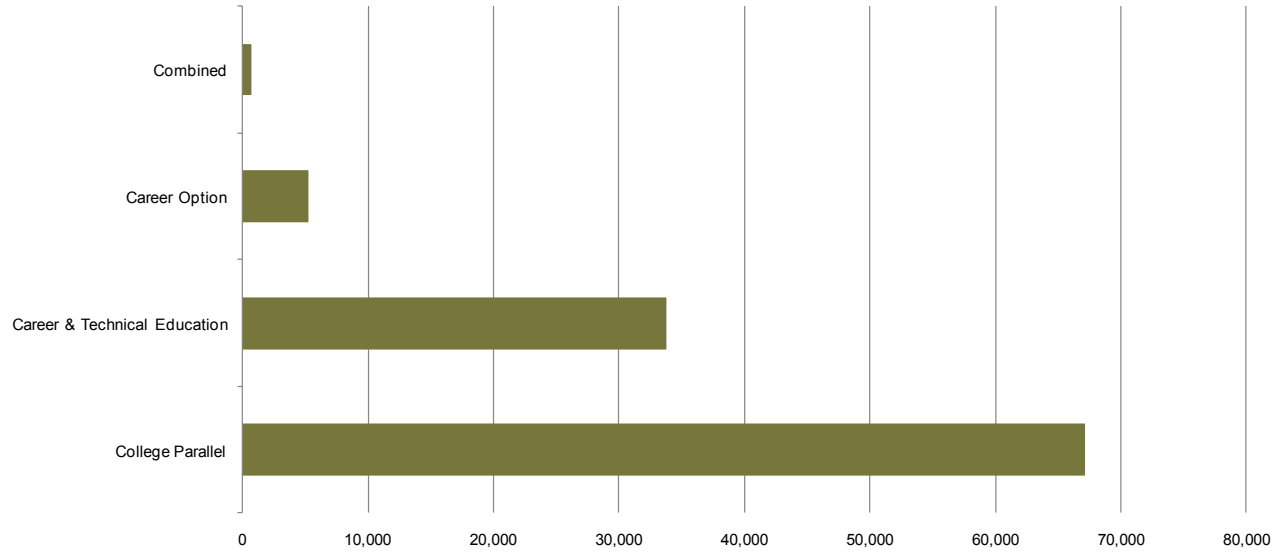


Figure 7 – Program Type Enrollment by Gender: 2005 & 2010

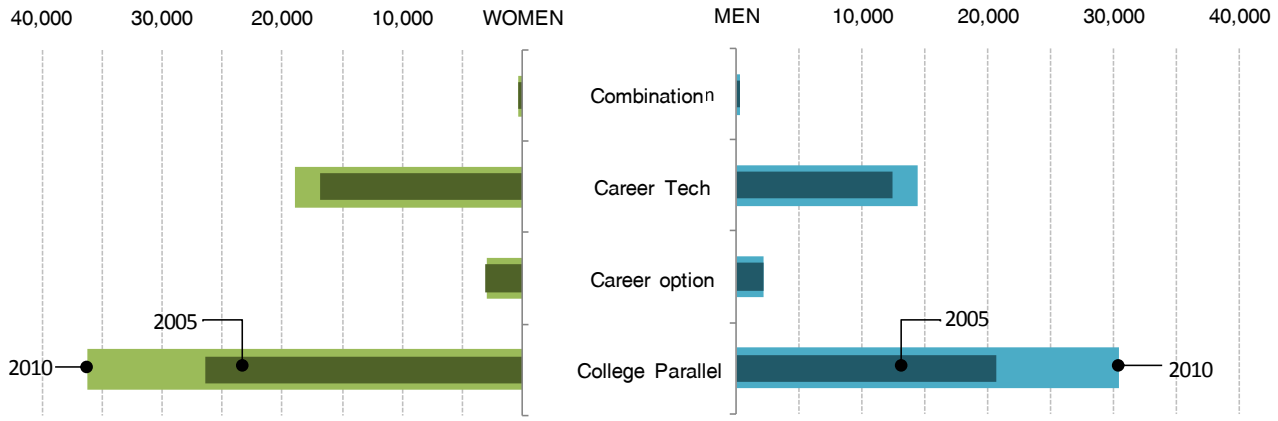
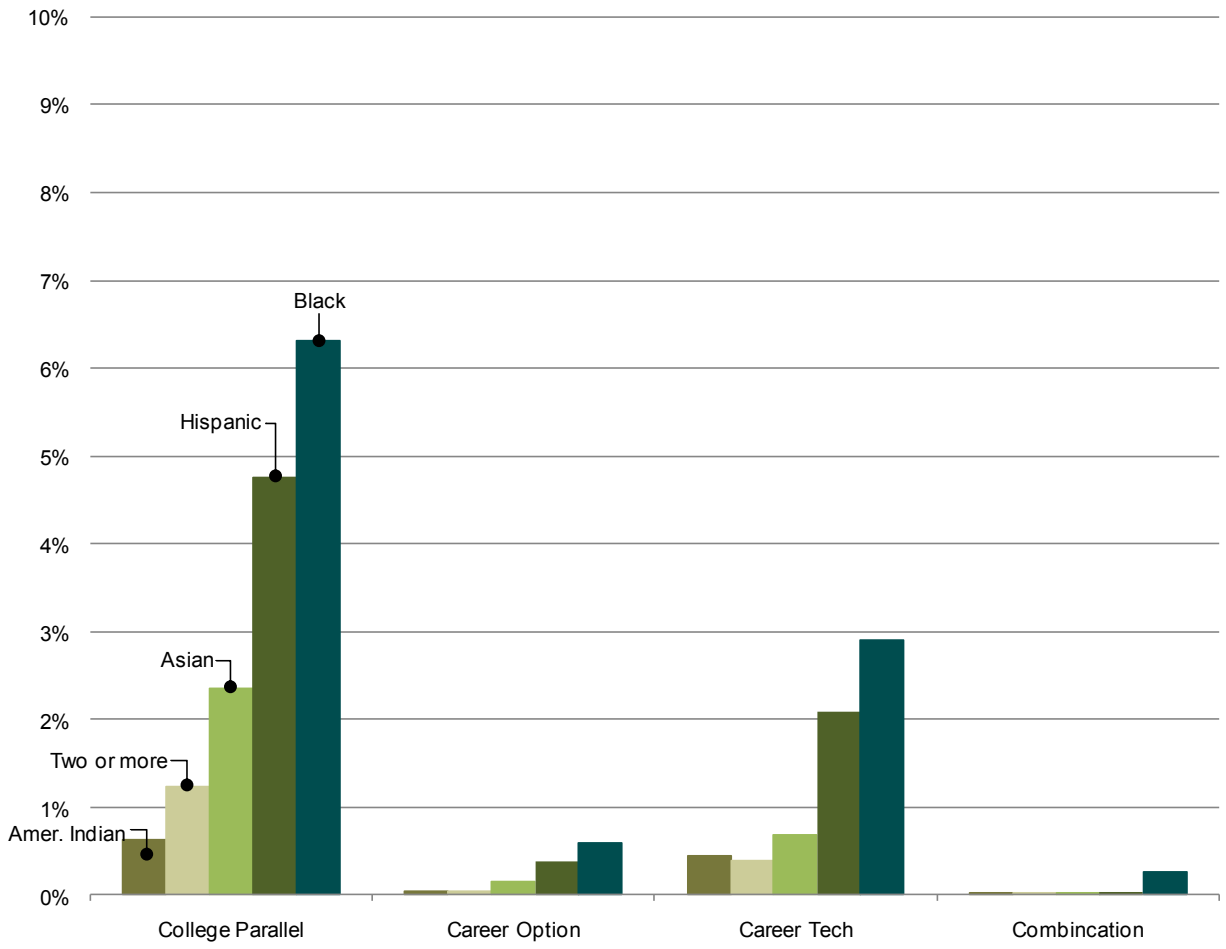


Figure 8 – Program Type Enrollment by Minorities: 2009



Note: Figures show the percentage of minorities for all students. Hispanic includes anyone who identified themselves as Hispanic, regardless of any other racial identification. Asian includes Asians and Pacific Islanders. Combination refers to any multiple identification of Asian, Black, or American Indians.

Career Clusters

The Iowa Department of Education reports CTE programs by the 16 career clusters. Each student major aligns to a career cluster with other similar programs. Page 13 lists all of the career clusters with a brief description. Information on career clusters can be obtained from www.careerclusters.org.

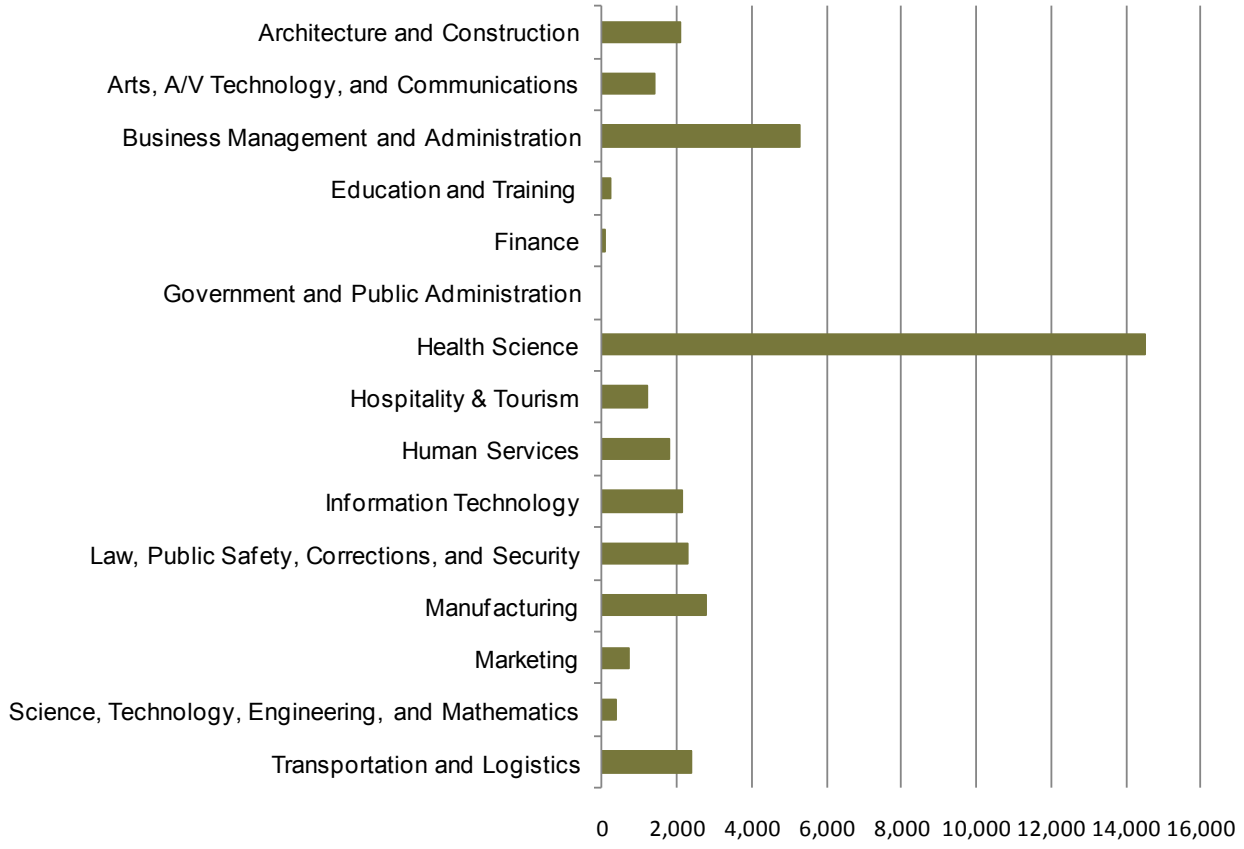
Enrollment in CTE programs can be broken down to specific areas of study. Health science remains the largest career cluster in the community colleges (14,489), followed by business management and administration (5,257) and manufacturing (2,753). Unfortunately, the U.S. Department Education groups education programs by different standards so that national comparisons are not possible.

Health sciences enrollment grew 507 percent from 2009 to 2010—the largest of all CTE programs. Business management and administration grew 121 percent over the same period.

- Health sciences is the largest career cluster.
- Business management, and administration is the second largest, followed by manufacturing.

Most of the jobs lost during the 2008-09 recession were in the manufacturing industry (Iowa Workforce Development, 2009). Therefore, it is not surprising that enrollment in manufacturing fell 4.1 percent to 2,287 students. Architecture and construction programs—which are also associated with the hard-hit construction industry—fell 2.5 percent.

Figure 9 — Enrollment by Career Clusters: 2010



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.

High School Students

Community colleges offer joint enrollment options to high school students who can earn college credit toward a one- or two-year degree or transfer to a four-year institution. There are several options available for students, including Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), contracted courses between high schools and community colleges, career academies, and tuition.

Joint enrollment increased 7.1 percent to 27,956 students. Joint enrollment accounts for 26.2 percent of total enrollment, which increased from last year. Joint enrollees are also spending more time on campus. The average credit hours per student increased to 5.6 credit hours.

According to the most recent study released by the U.S. Department of Education, 813,000 students enrolled in joint enrollment programs in the United States—roughly five percent of all high school students (Kleiner and Lewis, 2005).

- High school student enrollment grew 7.1 percent.
- 27,956 high school students are enrolled for college credit at Iowa's community colleges.
- On average, students enroll in 5.6 credit hours.

The Iowa Department of Education (2009) showed that joint enrollees tend to be either juniors or seniors in high school and, on average, do better on the ACT than students who did not jointly enroll. Additionally, almost a third of joint enrollees transition to a four-year college after graduating from high school.

Table 5 – Joint Enrollment by College: 2010

College	Unduplicated Enrollment	Percent of All Students	Credit Hours	Average Credit Hours per Student
Northeast	1,536 |||	29.9% |||||	14,736 ||||||||||||||	9.6 ||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||
North Iowa Area	1,024 ||	27.4% |||||	4,974 ||||	4.9 ||||||||||||||||||
Iowa Lakes	984		28.3% |||||	10,104 ||||||||||	10.3 ||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||
Northwest Iowa	634		38.5% |||||||	3,261 |||	5.1 ||||||||||||||||||
Iowa Central	2,003 ||||	32.3% ||||||	11,066 ||||||||||	5.5 ||||||||||||||||||||
Iowa Valley	716		22.7% ||||	3,731 |||	5.2 ||||||||||||||||||
Hawkeye	1,167 ||	17.5% |||	4,955 ||||	4.2 ||||||||||||||
Eastern Iowa	3,057 ||||||	32.6% ||||||	20,094 ||||||||||||||||||||	6.6 ||||||||||||||||||||||||
Kirkwood	2,696 |||||	14.6% ||	11,355 ||||||||||	4.2 ||||||||||||||
Des Moines Area	7,940 ||||||||||||||||	32.2% ||||||	39,890 ||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||	5.0 ||||||||||||||||||
Western Iowa Tech	2,064 ||||	32.1% ||||||	11,181 ||||||||||	5.4 ||||||||||||||||||||
Iowa Western	1,587 |||	23.3% ||||	9,198 ||||||||	5.8 ||||||||||||||||||||||
Southwestern	554		31.6% ||||||	2,904 ||	5.2 ||||||||||||||||||||
Indian Hills	1,340 ||	24.3% ||||	6,232 ||||||	4.7 ||||||||||||||||||
Southeastern	654		18.2% |||	3,153 |||	4.8 ||||||||||||||||||||
Total	**27,956**	**26.2%** |||||	**156,833**	**5.6** ||||||||||

Note: High school student includes Postsecondary Enrollment Option, contracted courses, and tuition paying students. For the student count, each "|" denotes 500 students; for percentage of all students, each "|" denotes 10 percent, for credit hours, each "|" denote 1,000 hours; finally, for average credit hours per student, each "|" denotes 0.25 hours.

Enrollment Projections

The 2008-09 recession sent enrollment into unprecedented levels. Previously, surges in enrollment from recessions eventually led to enrollment declines as the economy recovered, which was true in 1976 and during the farm crisis in the early 1980s.

Projections for 2010 estimated enrollment would be 113,920 students, compared to the 106,597 who actually enrolled.

The Iowa Department of Education estimates that enrollments will decline next year as the economy is anticipated to recover. Next year, fall enrollment is anticipated to be 103,290 students, a 3.1 percent decline from this year. Enrollments will be expected to recover by 2013 when enrollments are anticipated to be around 107,699.

- Fall 2010 enrollment fell below projections.
- Enrollment is expected to decrease 9.3 percent based on current conditions.

A major premise is the economy will recover throughout 2010 and 2011. However, recent economic data has shown the economic recovery is slower than anticipated, which may demur a decline in community college enrollment.

Table 6 – Projected Enrollment: 2009-2013

Fiscal Year	Actual Enrollment	Predicted Enrollment	Predicted Percent Gain
2010	106,597	113,920	13.1%
2011		103,290	-9.3%
2012		105,615	2.3%
2013		107,699	2.0%
2014		109,675	1.8%

Note: Projections are based on previous year enrollment, high school enrollment, real U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), and Iowa unemployment rate.

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