FALL 2015 ENROLLMENT REPORT

Action Requested: Receive the Fall 2015 enrollment report.

Executive Summary: During Fall 2015, Iowa’s public universities enrolled 2,085 more students than were enrolled during the prior year. The Fall 2015 headcount enrollment is 80,132 students compared to 78,047 students during the prior year, representing a 2.7% increase and an all-time high. The Fall 2015 Enrollment Report addresses the Board’s Strategic Plan priority to provide “access, affordability, and student success.”

Highlights of Enrollment Report:

- Headcount Enrollment. The Fall 2015 enrollment at SUI is 32,150, an increase of 763 students (+2.4%) from the prior year; at ISU, it is 36,001, an increase of 1,269 students (+3.7%) from the prior year; and at UNI, it is 11,981, an increase of 53 students (+0.4%) from the prior year.

- FTE Enrollment. Full-time equivalent enrollments result from converting the total number of credit hours to an equivalent number of full-time students. The total number of credit hours of undergraduates is divided by 15.0; the total number of credit hours of graduate students is divided by 9.0; the total number of credit hours of professional students is divided by 15.

  - The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment at the public universities increased by 1,858 (+2.6%) from 70,983 in Fall 2014 to 72,841 in Fall 2015. This change resulted largely from a recalibration associated with the credit hour value of the professional student enrollment.
The index of FTE to headcount enrollment for Fall 2015 was 0.91 which remained the same as the prior year. The FTE ratios ranged from 0.86 at UNI, 0.88 at SUI, and 0.95 at ISU.

Part-time students, most of whom are graduate or professional students, make up less than 15% of the total enrollment.

Residence. Approximately 61% of all students enrolled at the public universities are residents of Iowa. The number of resident students increased by 1,345 students (+2.8%) from 47,799 in Fall 2014 to 49,144 in Fall 2015. A portion of this increase resulted from the reclassification of veterans.

Approximately 65% of all undergraduate students at the public universities are residents of Iowa. The number of resident undergraduate students increased by 1,458 students (+3.7%) from 39,670 in Fall 2014 to 41,128 in Fall 2015.

Enrollment by college and program. At the University of Iowa, the largest enrollments are in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (55.6%) and the College of Business (12.2%). At Iowa State University, the largest enrollments are in the College of Engineering (25.9%) and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (23.4%). At the University of Northern Iowa, the largest enrollments are in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences (32.0%) and the College of Education (23.7%).

At SUI, the programs with the largest undergraduate enrollment are Psychology (1,090), Health and Human Physiology (774), and English (766). There are 307 undergraduate students formally admitted into a teacher preparation program which is an increase of 22 students (+7.7%) from the prior year.

At ISU, the programs with the largest undergraduate enrollment are Mechanical Engineering (2,304), Kinesiology and Health (1,208), and Animal Science (1,026). There are 689 undergraduate students formally admitted into a teacher preparation program which is a decrease of 30 students (-4.2%) from the prior year.

At UNI, the programs with the largest undergraduate enrollment are Elementary Education and Teaching (1,278), Business Administration and Management (588), and Accounting (537). There are 2,533 undergraduate students formally admitted into a teacher preparation program which is an increase of 72 students (+2.9%) from the prior year.

Diversity1. The number of racial/ethnic minority students at the public universities increased by 894 students (+9.0%) from 9,897 in Fall 2014 to 10,791 in Fall 2015. This is the largest number of racial/ethnic minority students ever at the public universities and represents 13.5% of the total Fall 2015 enrollment.

Approximately 59% of the racial/ethnic minority students at the public universities are Iowa residents. The number of resident racial/ethnic minority students increased by 573 students (+10.0%) from 5,750 in Fall 2014 to 6,323 in Fall 2015.

The number of undergraduate racial/ethnic minority students at the public universities increased by 920 students (+11.7%) from 7,846 in Fall 2014 to 8,766 in Fall 2015. The number of resident undergraduate racial/ethnic minority students at the public universities increased by 636 students (+13.9%) from 4,586 in Fall 2014 to 5,222 in Fall 2015.

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1 Does not include international students.
The number of new freshmen racial/ethnic minority students at the public universities increased by 286 (+15.2%) from 1,877 in Fall 2014 to 2,163 in Fall 2015. The number of resident new freshmen racial/ethnic minority students at the public universities increased by 121 students (+12.7%) from 950 in Fall 2014 to 1,071 in Fall 2015.

New Freshmen. The number of new freshmen at the public universities increased by 883 students (+7.1%) from 12,504 in Fall 2014 to 13,387 in Fall 2015.

There were 50,779 new freshman applicants to the public universities for Fall 2015 which represents an increase of 2,721 (+5.7%) from Fall 2014. Of the total number of applicants, 42,162 (83.0%) were admitted, which represents an increase of 2,388 (+6.0%) from the prior year. Of the total number admitted, 13,387 (31.8%) enrolled as new freshmen at the public universities in Fall 2015.

The mean ACT scores for entering freshmen at the public universities in Fall 2015 ranged from 22.7 to 25.4 compared to the national mean of 21.0 and the state mean of 22.2.

In Fall 2015, the state mean increased from 22.0 in the prior year to 22.2 while the national mean remained the same from the prior year. At ISU and SUI, the mean ACT score increased from the prior year by 0.1 point each, from 25.3 to 25.4 and from 25.0 to 25.1, respectively. At UNI, the ACT mean remained the same at 22.7 from the prior year.

The entering class of 2015 was the seventh class of new, direct from high school students who were admitted under the Regent Admission Index Board of Regents admission policy. Of the total number of new freshmen who enrolled, only 775 (5.8%) students had an RAI <245.3

Undergraduates. The number of undergraduates at the public universities increased by 2,171 students (+3.5%) from 61,389 in Fall 2014 to 63,560 in Fall 2015.

Graduate-Master’s Students. The number of graduate-Master’s students at the public universities increased by 95 students (+1.5%) from 6,200 in Fall 2014 to 6,295 in Fall 2015.

Graduate-Doctoral Students. The number of graduate-doctoral students at the public universities increased by 26 students (+0.5%) from 4,929 in Fall 2014 to 4,955 in Fall 2015.

Professional Students. The number of students in professional programs at the University of Iowa and Iowa State University decreased by 21 students (-0.9%) from 2,404 in Fall 2014 to 2,383 in Fall 2015.

International Students. The number of international students at the public universities increased by 162 students (+1.9%) from 8,615 in Fall 2014 to 8,777 in Fall 2015. The majority of international students (87.9%) were from Asia (Attachment D).

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2 Excludes international students or students without an RAI. Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa impute an RAI for those students without high school rank while the University of Iowa does not impute an RAI. An Alternative RAI formula will take effect for the entering class of Fall 2016.

3 A Regent Admission Index (RAI) greater than or equal to 245, in addition to completion of the required core subjects, qualifies an Iowa resident for automatic admission to any Iowa public university.
Students with Disabilities. The number of self-identified students with disabilities at the public universities increased by 75 students (+3.5%) from 2,172 in Fall 2014 to 2,247 in Fall 2015. The three public universities provide a variety of services and accommodations to students with disabilities, including extended deadlines; special housing arrangements; and course materials and exams in electronic format.

Transfer Students. The number of transfer students at the public universities decreased by 92 students (-2.3%) from 4,036 in Fall 2014 to 3,944 in Fall 2015. SUI and ISU had decreases from the prior year, 108 (-9.6%), and 11 (-0.6%), respectively. UNI had an increase of 27 students (+2.8%) from the prior year.

Approximately 62% (2,447) of all transfer students at the public universities in Fall 2015 were from Iowa public community colleges.

In Fall 2014, there were 93,772 students enrolled in Iowa community colleges which represents a decrease of 0.5% from the prior year; approximately 68% (63,357) were enrolled in college parallel (transfer) programs at the community colleges.4

During FY 2014, 5,385 Iowa community college students received an associate of arts award; and 4,188 Iowa community college students received an associate of science award.4

Enrollment by Gender. The number of women enrolled at the public universities increased by 994 (+2.6%) from 38,237 in Fall 2014 to 39,139 in Fall 2015. The number of men enrolled at the public universities increased by 1,183 (+3.0%) from 39,810 in Fall 2014 to 40,993 in Fall 2015.5

Graduates. During the 2014-15 academic year, there were 16,527 graduates who earned 16,879 degrees at the public universities. The number of graduates increased by 159 (+1.0%) and the number of degrees increased by 141 (+0.8%) from the prior year.

Veterans. In Fall 2015, the number of students at the public universities receiving V.A. benefits increased by 179 students (+14.6%) from 1,224 in Fall 2014 to 1,403 in Fall 2015.6 The number of veterans attending the public universities who were not receiving V.A. benefits was 402 in Fall 2015 which was an increase of 72 students (+21.8%) from the prior year.7

STEM Enrollment. The enrollment of students in STEM-related programs at the public universities increased by 982 students (+2.9%) between Fall 2014 and Fall 2015 from 33,308 to 34,290.

STEM Graduates. The number of graduates from STEM-related programs at the public universities increased by 529 students (+8.5%) between Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 from 6,220 to 6,749.

4 Source: Condition of Iowa Community Colleges 2014.
5 This number does not include the post-doctoral students at ISU that are not identified by either gender or residence.
6 This number includes transfer of eligibility recipients.
7 Veterans who are not receiving benefits are self-identified.
Special Schools. The special schools provide statewide services\(^8\) to students who are identified by their local school district and for whom Individualized Education Programs are developed. This number can fluctuate from year to year.

- In Fall 2015, the total number of students served on-campus by the Iowa School for the Deaf was 104, which is a decrease of two (-1.9%) students from the prior year. There were 95 Iowa resident students and nine non-resident students served on-campus. The number of Iowa resident students increased by two (+2.2%) while the number of non-resident students served on campus decreased by four (-30.8%) from the prior year. There were five students served off-campus by the School in Fall 2015.

- In Fall 2015, there was no on-campus enrollment at the Vinton campus. The Iowa Educational Services for Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI) served 576 statewide students in Fall 2015, which is an increase of 14 students (+2.5%) from the prior year.

Enrollment Projections.

- Enrollment at the public universities is projected to increase by 5,649 students (+7.0%) from 80,132 students in Fall 2015 to 85,781 in Fall 2025.
- All three universities under projected their next year’s enrollments for Fall 2015.
- The special schools did not project on- or off-campus enrollments because the services they provide are determined by the number of students identified by the local school districts and for whom IEPs are developed.

Trends/Changes.

- This is the ninth consecutive enrollment increase for ISU and in the combined enrollment at the public universities during the past eight years. All three universities experienced enrollment increases in Fall 2015. This is the fifth year that SUI’s enrollment surpassed 31,000 and the fourth for ISU. SUI and ISU experienced all-time high enrollments in Fall 2015.
- There was a significant increase in the number of resident students in Fall 2015 from 47,799 to 49,144 (+2.8%). However, the peak enrollment of resident students occurred in Fall 2013 with an enrollment of 50,654.
- During the past 10 years, there has been an increase of 4,032 students (+43.1%) in the number of new freshmen. In Fall 2015, the combined new freshman enrollment at the public universities increased by 883 students (+7.1%) from 12,504 in Fall 2014 to 13,387 in Fall 2015; this is the third consecutive year of new freshman enrollments greater than 12,000. All three universities had increases in the number of new freshmen in Fall 2015 (+12.3%, +3.1%, and +6.6%, respectively).
- This is the ninth consecutive year of an enrollment increase in the number of undergraduates at the public universities. In Fall 2015, there was an increase of 2,171 students (+3.5%) from the prior year. During the past 10 years, there has been an increase of 11,576 undergraduate students (+22.3%) from 51,984 in Fall 2005 to 63,560 in Fall 2015.

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\(^8\) Off-campus students may receive more than one type of direct services.
This is the 18th consecutive year of an enrollment increase in the number of self-identified racial/ethnic minority students at the public universities, resulting in an all-time high enrollment (10,791) of racial/ethnic minority students.9 The proportion of racial/ethnic minority students at the Regent universities increased from 8.2% in Fall 2005 to 13.5% in Fall 2015.

- SUI and ISU had increases every year in each of the last 10 years; UNI had increases in eight of the last 10 years in the number of racial/ethnic minority students.

The number of degrees awarded at the public universities has increased each year during the past six years. The number of degrees in 2014-2015 is the highest number (16,879) during the past 19 years. The number of graduates in 2014-2015 is the highest number (16,527) during the past 10 years.

Between 2007-2008 and 2012-2013, the number of public high school graduates fluctuated from a high of 34,573 in 2007-2008 to a low of 32,547 in 2012-2013.

- In 2012-2013, there were 32,547 public high school graduates, which represents a decrease of 684 (-2.1%) from the prior year.
- In 2015-2016, the number of 12th graders in Iowa public high schools is expected to remain the same as the prior year.10
- The number of 12th graders in Iowa public high schools is projected to increase slightly (less than 1.0%) between 2014-2015 and 2018-2019.
- Approximately 27% of the graduating class of 2014 indicated that they intended to pursue postsecondary education at a public four-year college.

In 2015, approximately 67% (22,675)11 of the high school graduates took the ACT. Of those who took the ACT, 18,799 (82.9%) had a score of 18 or greater; 13,825 (61.0%) had a score of 21 or better. There were 3,187 (14.0%) racial/ethnic minority students who took the ACT.

In 2015, there were 7,796 new freshmen at the Regent universities who were Iowa residents which was an increase of 439 students (+6.0%) from the prior year. This represents approximately 23.0% of the total number of public high school graduates in Iowa during that time.12

In 2014, there were 4,295 public high school graduates who were racial/ethnic minorities; 3,120 (72.6%) took the ACT.13

In Fall 2015, there were 1,071 new freshmen at the public universities who were Iowa residents and racial/ethnic minorities, which represents 18.6% of the public high school graduates who were racial/ethnic minorities and 33.6% of the ACT test takers who were racial/ethnic minorities. The number of new freshmen at the public universities who were Iowa residents and racial/ethnic minorities in Fall 2015 increased by 121 (+12.7%) students from the prior year (from 950 to 1,071).

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9 This number does not include international students.
12 Source: WICHE.
The enrollment of undergraduates in STEM-related programs at the public universities increased by 887 (+3.4%) from 25,841 in Fall 2014 to 26,728 in Fall 2015. The enrollment of graduate students in STEM-related programs increased by 118 (+2.2%) from 5,453 in Fall 2014 to 5,571 in Fall 2015. The enrollment of professional students in STEM-related programs decreased by 23 students (-1.1%) from 2,014 in Fall 2014 to 1,991 in Fall 2015.

- The number of women in STEM-related programs increased by 542 (+4.0%) from 13,456 in Fall 2014 to 13,998 in Fall 2015.

- The data tables prepared for the Fall 2015 Enrollment Report are available on the Board of Regents website.

- Fall 2015 enrollment highlights provided by the institutions are available on pages 8-10.
INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

☑ In Fall 2015, the University of Iowa enrolled 5,241 new first-year undergraduate students, the largest first-year undergraduate enrollment in the University’s history, and more than 575 new first-time, first-year students than the fall of 2014 (4,666).

☑ The total enrollment of 32,150 is an increase (by 763 students) over last year’s total enrollment of 31,387. This enrollment among other categories includes 23,357 undergraduate, 5,688 graduate, 1,306 post-doctoral, and 1,799 professional students.

☑ The quality of the first-year undergraduate class continues to be strong as evidenced by an average high school GPA of 3.66 (the highest high school GPA in UI history), an average ACT score of 25.4 (a slight increase over 2014), and by the fact that the number of Old Gold Scholarship recipients (students with a 30 or higher ACT score and a 3.8 or higher high school GPA) increased from 523 in 2014 to 700 in 2015.

☑ Students who identify themselves as racial minority represent 20.6% of the incoming first-year undergraduate class.

☑ The first-year undergraduate class includes students from all 99 Iowa counties, all 50 states, and 26 countries.

☑ All qualified Iowa applicants were admitted; resident students make up 55% of all UI students.

☑ In summary, this year’s first-year class represents a continuing commitment to the University’s strategic goals for serving the state of Iowa by encouraging and promoting the enrollment of resident students, while being an attractive option for non-resident and international students. The University continues its long-standing commitment to making progress on its goals for timely degree completion and the diversity of the student body.
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

The university’s Fall 2015 enrollment of 36,001 is the largest in school history, an increase of nearly 3.7 percent (1,269 students) over the previous record of 34,732 in Fall 2014.

It’s the seventh year of record enrollment and the ninth consecutive year of growth at Iowa State. In the last decade, overall enrollment at Iowa State has grown 40 percent. The student body represents every Iowa county, every U.S. state and 118 countries.

More Iowa undergraduates are attending Iowa State than ever before: 19,285 students, or 64.2 percent of ISU’s undergraduate student body, are Iowans. Overall, 21,064 Iowans attend ISU, also a record. Iowa State’s freshman class of 6,231 students includes 3,586 Iowans (both records).

Iowa State’s student numbers set records in the following categories this fall:

- **Record undergraduate enrollment** of 30,034, an increase of 1,141 students from last fall’s record of 28,893.
- **Record graduate enrollment** of 5,096, an increase of 146 students from the Fall 2014 record of 4,950.
- **Record international student enrollment** of 4,041, an increase of 13 students from last fall’s record of 4,028.
- **Record diversity.** Total U.S. multicultural and international enrollment is 8,366, or 23.24 percent of the student body. (The previous record set in Fall 2014 was 8,093, or 23.3 percent of the student body.)
- **U.S. multicultural enrollment** is 4,325 (12 percent of total enrollment), a new record and an increase over last fall’s 4,065 students.
- **Record U.S. multicultural enrollment among new freshmen:** 888 students, up from last year’s record of 802. Multicultural students represent 14.3 percent of new freshmen at Iowa State.
- **Record total Iowa resident enrollment** of 21,064, up 804 students from last fall.
- **Record Iowa resident undergraduate enrollment** of 19,285, up 807 from last year’s record of 18,478.
- **Record total U.S. nonresident enrollment** of 10,609, up 414 students from last year’s record of 10,195 students.
- **Record U.S. nonresident undergraduate enrollment** of 8,611, up 398 students from last year’s record of 8,213.
- **Record U.S. nonresident new freshman enrollment** of 2,369, up 129 students from last year’s record of 2,240 students.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

The University of Northern Iowa’s total enrollment for Fall 2015 is 11,981, which is up 53 students from Fall 2014 and is the first increase in total enrollment since 2010. Eight-eight percent of Northern Iowa students are Iowa residents, which is identical to last year. UNI students come from 98 counties in Iowa, 42 other US states, and 65 countries.

There are 1,916 new freshmen at Northern Iowa, which is an increase of 119 or 6.6% compared to last year. This increase includes 100 more Iowa residents and 19 more non-residents. The entering freshmen class is 91.4% Iowa residents, which is similar to the previous four years. This is the third consecutive year the entering freshmen class has increased. The academic quality is similar when comparing the mean ACT score of the entering classes the previous two years. The mean ACT of 22.7 is virtually unchanged, and remains above the state of Iowa and national mean scores. The middle 50% ACT composite score range is also virtually unchanged from the Fall 2014 entering class. The percentage of Northern Iowa freshmen who ranked in top 10% or top 20% of their high school senior class both increased from last year, and the percentage of class who have an RAI score below a 245 declined to 13.5% from 14.6% in Fall 2014.

New transfer students increased for the first time in five years, with 979 students transferring to Northern Iowa. This compares to 904 transfers in Fall 2014. Iowa residents comprised 91% of the entering transfer class, which is up from 89.9% last year. All of our growth in transfer students came from Iowa residents.

The Northern Iowa student body is also more diverse than ever before. For the past two years, Northern Iowa has exceeded the Iowa Board of Regent’s goal of 8.5 percent total minority enrollment. Fall 2015 is our highest rate of all time with 9.4 percent of total enrollment comprised of minority students, compared to 8.9 percent in Fall 2014. Hispanic students have increased 17.7 percent since Fall 2013. In the Fall 2015 entering freshmen class 10.1 percent are minority students.

Northern Iowa students are taking less time to graduate. The four-year graduation rate is 39.9%, which is up from the previous year rate of 39.2 percent, and now represents our highest four-year rate. The six-year graduation rate also improved to 67.6 percent, compared to 63.8 for the previous year. In 2014-2015, 2,761 Northern Iowa students graduated. This count includes 2,475 Iowa residents, representing 89.6 percent of total graduates.
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AT IOWA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
FALL 2015