



Contact: Rachel Boon

**2022-2023 DISTANCE EDUCATION REPORT****Action Requested:** Receive the 2022-2023 Distance Education Report.

**Executive Summary:** The Distance Education Report is submitted as required by Board Policy 3.12.D. Data on credit and non-credit enrollments all show significant growth over pre-pandemic levels, reflecting a general upward trend that has been in place for over a decade. Growth in student demand has encouraged investment in the professional development and technology platforms necessary to provide high-quality online and hybrid courses across many disciplines. Strong and continuous growth in non-credit participation among youth and adults in Iowa demonstrates the role of the universities in meeting a wide range of workforce, community and personal development needs in the state.

Table 1: Distance Education Summary

Distance Education	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	% Change Over 5 Yrs
<b>Credit courses and programs<sup>1</sup></b>						
No. of programs <sup>2</sup>	189	195	197	204	216	+14.3% 
No. of course sections	3,707	3,739	6,810	4,671	4,162	+12.3% 
No. of student enrollments (dup)	96,483	98,147	181,867	145,405	136,370	+41.4% 
Total number of credit hours	267,371	269,811	506,006	366,421	360,174	+34.7% 
<b>Non-credit courses *</b>						% Change Over 5 Yrs
No. of enrollments (dup)	723,004	589,013	605,072	1,086,110	1,146,546	+58.6% 

\*In 2021-22, ISU Extension and Outreach faculty and staff and county agricultural extension district staff reported a total of 867,337 youth and adult direct educational contacts. The designated reporting time period represents October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. This reporting period varies from prior years for ISU due to changes in data tracking systems.

- 2022-2023 top subject areas with highest credit enrollment:
  - Arts & Sciences; Business; Education; and Interdisciplinary (Attachment B)
- 2022-2023 top subject areas with the highest non-credit enrollment:
  - 4-H Youth Development, Ag & Natural Resources, Human Sciences, and Health Professional and Clinical Services (Attachment C)

<sup>1</sup> Only off-campus courses and programs are included. Registrations do not include Saturday and evening classes on campus.

<sup>2</sup> Includes undergraduate and graduate degree, certificate and endorsement offerings. Certificates and endorsements serve to meet an agency's requirements to practice a profession or to show proficiency in a topic or subject area.



**Collaborative Efforts Among Regent Universities**

The Statewide Online Education Council (SOEC) is the collaborative council that ensures online education is effectively coordinated across the institutions. The goals for SOEC are set in consultation with the Council of Provosts each year.

Topics from this past year's SOEC meetings included but were not limited to:

- State Authorization and new professional licensure disclosure requirements
- Support for the two Regent Resources Centers (Western Iowa Regional Resource Center and Lakeside Lab) including budgets and marketing needs
- Addressing Regents Distance Education Task Force recommendations on course sharing, including improving website communication to students about existing opportunities for cross-enrollment

In line with the 2022 BOR Distance Education Task Force recommendation 2 on shared resources, the university Instructional Designers formed a network in the past year. They met monthly in 2022-23 and will meet quarterly moving forward. As a group they created cross-institutional working groups on various teaching and learning topics to share knowledge and resources across campuses.

The Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) available online at all three universities is an ongoing collaboration, with the addition of a *Professional Studies* major in 2022 (Table 4). Enrollment in the BLS dipped again in 2022-23 and the Bachelor of Applied Studies (BAS) continued strong enrollment. New admissions in BAS programs grew in 2022-23 and an increase in the graduates from these programs is likely to follow in the next couple of years.

Table 4: 2022-2023 Bachelor of Liberal Studies and Bachelor of Applied Studies Participation

PROGRAM	SUI	ISU	UNI	TOTAL	% change from Prior Year
<b>Bachelor of Liberal Studies</b>					
Enrollment	215	174	193	<b>582</b>	-5.2% ↓
Graduates	62	65	44	<b>171</b>	-9.0% ↓
New Admissions	79	29	59	<b>167</b>	-19.3% ↓
<b>Bachelor of Applied Studies (SUI only)</b>					
Enrollment	101		114	<b>215</b>	+29.5% ↑
Graduates	23		0*	<b>23</b>	-8.0% ↓
New Admissions	47		32	<b>79</b>	+46% ↑

\*UNI's BAS programs are new, and most students are enrolled part-time. The first graduates were in Fall 2023 and will be reflected in next year's report.

Under the leadership of the Council of Provosts, the Regent universities continue to deliver courses through the Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure (RAPIL) program, which helps talented professionals answer the call to teach (<https://iowateacherintern.org/>). In 2023, the RAPIL program recommended 38 individuals (up from 31 in 2022 and 18 in 2021) for initial Iowa Teacher Licensure. RAPIL has begun efforts to expand this successful program, so the current cohorts have 39 in the internship year, and 48 in the coursework/candidate phase.

**Distance Education Program Offerings**

Visit the below university websites for lists of programs that are fully or partially available via distance education.

<https://distance.uiowa.edu/>

<http://www.distance.iastate.edu/>

<https://online.uni.edu/>

All three universities have continued to add programs online. Since 2018, they have gone from 189 programs online to 214 programs, growth of 14.3% (table 1).

**New Distance Learning Programs**

All three universities added new online programs in 2022-23 to meet workforce needs or fill gaps in the online degree marketplace (table 5). Short-term certificates (typically six to 18 credits) have grown in popularity and are well-suited to offering as online, hybrid or cohort-based programs in communities around the state where employers are seeking to upskill or grow the workforce. Targeted undergraduate and master's degrees (ex. elementary education and business analytics) also support high-demand workforce needs.

Table 5: New Online or Distance Programs, 2022-2023

<b>Instit.</b>	<b>Degree or Certificate</b>	<b>Program Major***</b>	<b>Delivery Method/Site(s)</b>	Requires on-campus component.
SUI	BLS	Bachelor of Liberal Studies <i>Professional Studies</i>	Online	
SUI	CERT (GR)	Talent Development	Online	
SUI	CERT (GR)	Transportation Planning	Online	
SUI	CERT (GR)	Corporate Finance	Online Cedar Rapids Des Moines (Pappajohn Education Ctr)	x
SUI	CERT (GR)	Financial Decision-Making	Online Cedar Rapids Des Moines (Pappajohn Education Ctr)	x
SUI	CERT (GR)	Responsible Resource Management	Online Cedar Rapids Des Moines (Pappajohn Education Ctr)	x
SUI	EDS	Educational Policy and Leadership Studies <i>Educational Leadership</i>	Hybrid	
SUI	EDS (GR)	Dyslexia Specialist <i>Added Endorsement Prog PK-12</i>	Hybrid	
SUI	MS	Business Analytics <i>Professional</i>	Online	
UNI	Certificate	Adapted Physical Education	Online	
UNI	Certificate	Advanced Studies Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Online	
UNI	Certificate	Applied Business Concepts	Online	
UNI	Certificate	Organizational Communication and Inclusive Leadership	Online	
UNI	BA	Elementary Education - Purple Pathway for Paraeducators	Online	
UNI	BA	Individual Studies: Human Services Pilot	Online	
UNI	MA	Learning Technologies and Instructional Design	Online	
UNI	Endorsement	Teacher Librarian	Online	x
ISU	Certificate	Early Childhood and Family Policy	Online	

**Western Iowa Regional Resource Center**

The Western Iowa Regents Resource Center (WIRRC) operates in partnership with four community colleges, serving a 25-county region of western and southern Iowa. WIRRC functions with one part-time coordinator in Sioux City and part-time transfer specialists at community college campuses in Council Bluffs, Creston, Harlan, Sheldon, and Sioux City. WIRRC operates on three lines of effort in support of the Board of Regents Strategic Plan, the Regents Distance Education Strategic Plan, and the strategic plans of the three universities. The lines of effort are:

- Personalized interaction with potential students;
- Promote distance education options; and
- Coordinate educational, cultural, and economic development outreach.

**Personalized contact with prospective students**

In 2022-23, transfer specialists met with 107 students to discuss transfer opportunities. The specialists interacted with several College Experience classes at the community colleges, and eight new student orientations. Community college students who transferred to Regents universities were highlighted during National Transfer Week on community college promotions and social media. Center staff supported outreach engagements by the University of Northern Iowa at three of the community colleges, along with helping university representatives participating in transfer fairs at each community college in the region. The Center also brought representatives from all three universities and the Lakeside Laboratory to meet with the transfer specialists to ensure all were aware of updates and the opportunities available.

**Promote distance education options**

The Center awarded five scholarships to area residents to pursue distance education options. The coordinator and transfer specialists participated in eleven radio interviews. The transfer specialists met with several high school guidance counselors. The coordinator presented the distance education opportunities at each public university at a monthly meeting with Northwest Area Education Agency superintendents. WIRRC representatives also participated in eleven transfer fairs and two Air National Guard outreach events. The Center used social media, digital, mail and billboards to promote distance education opportunities across the region. The Center promoted the UNI@IACC initiative and partnered with the UNI student success specialists at Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) and Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC). The Center engaged with the University of Iowa's Marketing Institute to develop updated graphics, marketing materials, a comprehensive digital marketing plan and overhaul the website.

**Coordinate educational, cultural and economic development outreach**

The Center worked with the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce on several youth and workforce development promotions. The visit was facilitated by the Dean of UNI's Business College to IWCC along with presenting to the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development committee. The partnership between WIRRC and Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) was cited by the Aspen Institute as a best practice and contributed to NCC being a national finalist for Community College of Excellence designation.

The University of Iowa's Biomedical Science program and Iowa State University's Computer Science division did virtual presentations with the relevant programs at the Sioux City Career Academy. The Center participated at the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce Small Business Expo and presented to the WITCC board. The Center also facilitated connections for upcoming events such as the University of Iowa providing a youth writing workshop in Harlan and sending a soloist to perform with the Cherokee Orchestra.

Challenges, opportunities and planned efforts for the next academic year

WIRRC will coordinate with Lakeside Lab to generate greater collaboration with regional community colleges. In addition, staff will engage with regional businesses and non-profit organizations to identify the feasibility of internships and research activities.

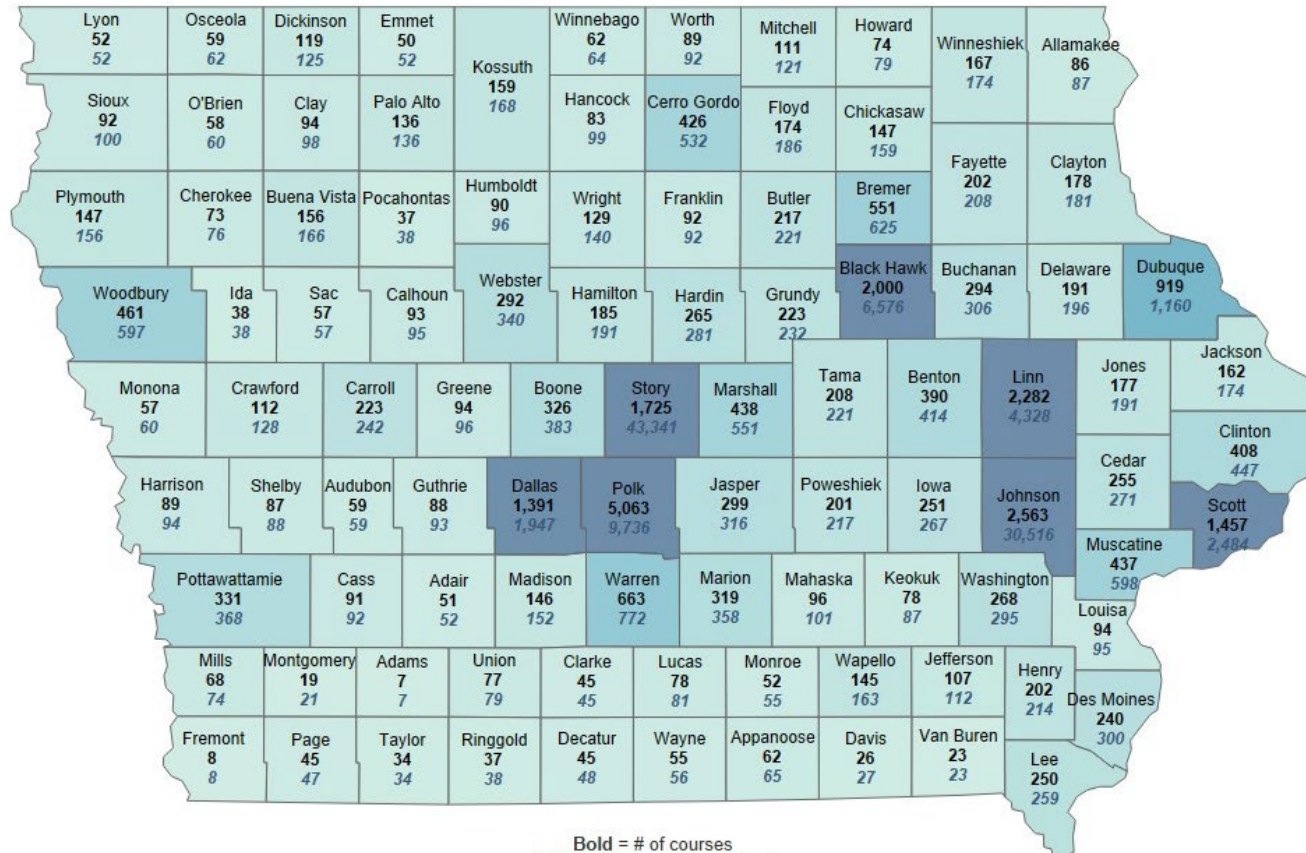
WIRRC has engaged with the University of Iowa to expand engagement with arts programs across the region.

The Center remains challenged in delivering outreach activities due to the distance that faculty and staff from the institutions must travel, and in some instances, concerns over costs. Staff will work to identify appropriate venues for video/virtual outreach; however, face-to-face interactions have had the greatest impact, both in terms of exchanged information as well as perceptions of the institutions by area residents.

Building on the recommendations from the Marketing Institute, WIRRC is in the process of hiring a student employee to design and implement a digital marketing plan to increase awareness and promote distance education options.

<b>State Appropriation</b>	<b>FY23</b>
<b>WIRCC</b>	<b>\$268,297</b>

2022-23 Distance Education  
Credit Courses & Enrollment by Iowa County



**Bold** = # of courses  
*Italics* = headcount enrollment  
Shading indicates concentrations of enrollment

Source: Iowa Board of Regents  
Workbook: Distance Education Report Map of Iowa

Iowans from 731 communities enrolled in Regent university online or distance courses for credit in 2022-23.



**TOP 2022-2023 CREDIT COURSE REGISTRATIONS BY LEVEL, INSTITUTION AND ACADEMIC UNIT**

Academic Unit	SUI UG	SUI Grad	ISU UG	ISU Grad	UNI UG	UNI Grad	Total UG	Total Grad	Grand Total duplicated headcount	SUI Total Credit hours	ISU Total Credit hours	UNI Total Credit hours	Grand TOTAL Credit hours
Humanities, Arts & Sciences	17,272	1,745	15,128	1,164	3,137	677	35,537	3,586	39,123	55,105	33,801	11,065	99,971
Business	8,632	8,115	6,576	789	2,436	149	17,644	9,053	26,697	43,650	20,426	6,576	70,652
Education	5,354	1,518	0	0	3,843	2,347	9,197	3,865	13,062	19,937		17,545	37,482
Interdisciplinary	10,319	504	18,733	186	338	1	29,390	691	30,081	19,961	56,036	847	76,844
Engineering	651	11	1,591	736	0	0	2,242	747	2,989	1,440	6,476	0	7,916
Human Sciences	0	0	5,179	874	0	0	5,179	874	6,053	0	17,215	0	17,215
Ag & Life Sciences	0	0	3,851	493	0	0	3,851	493	4,344	0	10,163	0	10,163
Social & Behavioral Sciences	0	0	0	0	5,603	622	5,603	622	6,225	0	0	19,114	19,114
Nursing	1,125	1,708	0	0	0	0	1,125	1,708	2,833	7,957	0	0	7,957
Design	0	0	2,439	214	0	0	2,439	214	2,653	0	6,443	0	6,443
Medicine	1,298	130	0	0	0	0	1,298	130	1,428	4,110	0	0	4,110
Public Health	126	222	0	0	0	0	126	222	348	1,018	0	0	1,018
Veterinary Medicine	0	0	0	246	0	0	0	246	246	0	805	0	805
Pharmacy	102	9	0	0	0	0	102	9	129	111	0	0	111
Law	97	80	0	0	0	0	97	80	177	373	0	0	373

**TOP 2022-2023 TOP NON-CREDIT COURSE REGISTRATIONS  
BY INSTITUTION AND SUBJECT AREA**

	SUI	ISU	UNI	REGENT TOTAL	PERCENT OF REGENT TOTAL
Ag, Natural Resources & Conservation		211,902	2,202	<b>214,104</b>	18.7%
4-H Youth Development		441,342		<b>441,342</b>	38.5%
Human Sciences		182,479	677	<b>183,156</b>	16.0%
Health Professions & Related Clinical Services	104,750			<b>104,750</b>	9.1%
Visual and Performing Arts	20,112			<b>20,112</b>	1.8%
Business, Management, Marketing & Related Services			5,143	<b>5,143</b>	0.4%
Community and Economic Development		12,136		<b>12,136</b>	1.1%
Communication, Journalism and Related			853	<b>853</b>	0.0%
Health-related Knowledge and Skills	11,305			<b>11,305</b>	1.0%
Foreign Lang., Literature and Linguistics	10,046			<b>10,046</b>	0.9%
Basic Skills, Developmental, Remedial Ed	16,987			<b>16,987</b>	1.5%
All other non-credit registrations		65,442		<b>65,443</b>	5.7%
<b>Total Registrations</b>	<b>222,569</b>	<b>913,301*</b>	<b>10,676</b>	<b>1,146,546</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*\*ISU Extension and Outreach faculty and staff and county agricultural extension district staff reported a total of 913,301 youth and adult direct educational contacts\*\*. The designated reporting time period represents July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.*

*\*\*Direct educational contact = ISU Extension and Outreach professional and adult (or youth) client/participant are linked together at the same point in time with the exchange of educational content designed for an adult audience or youth audience); client/participant can be identified and quantified.*

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Fiscal Year	Undergraduate DE Courses			Graduate DE Courses			Total DE Courses Sections	% Change from Prior Year
	Undergrad Courses	% Change from Prior Year	% of Total DE Courses	Graduate Courses	% Increase over Prior Year	% of Total DE Courses		
2018-19	1169	-0.51%	66.42%	591	4.97%	33.57%	1,760	1.27%
2019-20	1138	-2.65%	64.55%	625	5.75%	35.45%	1,763	0.17%
2020-21	1117	-1.85%	63.43%	644	3.04%	36.57%	1,761	-0.11%
2021-22	1163	4.12%	61.47%	729	13.20%	38.53%	1,892	7.44%
2022-23	1158	-0.43%	65.28%	616	-15.5%	34.72%	1,774	-6.24%

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fiscal Year	Undergraduate DE Course Sections			Graduate DE Course Sections			Total DE Courses Sections	% Change from Prior Year
	Undergrad Courses	% Change from Prior Year	% of Total DE Courses	Graduate Courses	% Increase over Prior Year	% of Total DE Courses		
2018-19	502	2.4%	49.6%	511	-6.1%	50.4%	1,013	-2.0%
2019-20	556	4.9%	52.0%	514	-5.2%	48.0%	1,070	-0.2%
2020-21*	2,206	296.8%	70.1%	941	83.1%	29.9%	3,147	194.1%
2021-22	1,181	---	70.5%	493	---	29.5%	1,674	---
2022-23	1,241	5.1%	72.6%	469	-4.9%	27.4%	1,710	2.2%

\* During this reporting time frame ISU transitioned away from defining distance education course sections by an X section indicator. In order to have a uniform total, course sections for this fiscal year were defined as those offered as delivery type www or hybrid with a distance education unit flag to indicate overseen by a distance education unit.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Fiscal Year	Undergraduate DE Courses			Graduate DE Courses			Total DE Course Sections	% Change from Prior Year
	Undergrad Courses	% Change from Prior Year	% of Total DE Courses	Graduate Courses	% Increase over Prior Year	% of Total DE Courses		
2018-19	508	6.1%	58.4%	362	-19.7%	41.6%	870	-6.5%
2019-20	563	10.8%	62.4%	339	-6.4%	37.6%	902	3.7%
2020-21	1,525	170.9%	80.3%	375	10.7%	19.7%	1,900	110.7%
2021-22	763	-50.0%	69.4%	337	-9.9%	30.6%	1,100	-42.1%
2022-23	659	-11.9%	68.0%	310	-8.0%	32.0%	969	-11.9%