

Contact: Rachel Boon

2024-2025 DISTANCE EDUCATION REPORT**Committee Action Requested:** Receive the 2024-2025 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 stable levels with the prior year and reflect the shift from pandemic service delivery needs to a steady state of modest program and enrollment expansions. The universities' ongoing investment in new programs, technology platforms and professional development appears to support all 99 counties as well as on-campus students. Non-credit learning among youth and adults in Iowa supports a wide range of workforce, community and personal development needs across the state and more robust ways to track the positive outcomes of non-credit learning are under development.

Table 1: Distance Education Summary

Distance Education	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Credit courses and programs¹					
No. of programs ²	197	204	216	229	253
No. of course sections	6,810	4,671	4,162	4,219	4,373
No. of student enrollments (dup)	181,867	145,405	136,370	137,838	147,848
Total number of credit hours	506,006	366,421	360,174	366,273	376,314
Non-credit courses					
No. of enrollments (dup)	605,072	1,086,110	1,146,546	1,175,643	1,217,968

- 2024-2025 top subject areas with highest credit enrollment:
 - Arts & Sciences; Business; and Education (Attachment B)
- 2024-2025 top subject areas with the highest non-credit enrollment:
 - 4-H Youth Development; Ag & Natural Resources; Human Sciences and Health Services (Attachment C)

¹ Only off-campus or online courses and programs are included. Registrations do not include Saturday and evening classes on campus.

² 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.

Introduction

This report reflects on online and distance education offerings at Iowa’s public universities during the 2024-2025 academic year. In line with trends over the past decade or more, online and other forms of distance education are critical means to provide education opportunities to Iowans and continue to serve both online students seeking flexibility and students in urban and rural areas seeking access to education and advancement opportunities within their local communities. Enrollments were up slightly over last year as new programs are added to the distance and online inventory. After fluctuations during and immediately after the core pandemic years, it appears that the past two to three years have found more stable patterns.

Distance Education Student Enrollment

Table 2 displays a summary of enrollment by delivery mode, level and credit. For undergraduate and graduate credit courses, the most frequently used delivery mode is the web. As shown in Table 3, many students choose to mix on-campus and online courses throughout the year, offering flexibility to work around other activities, internships or work responsibilities while staying on track for on-time graduation.

Table 2: 2024-2025 Distance Education Course Enrollments by Level

Mode	UG Enrollment			Grad. Enrollment			Credit Enrollment Total			Non-Credit Enroll. Total		
	SUI	ISU	UNI	SUI	ISU	UNI	SUI	ISU	UNI	SUI	ISU	UNI
Web-based	41,840	61,346	15,205	12,367	5,376	4,189	54,207	66,722	19,394	30,248	163,965	3,853
On-Site	1,177		1,064	802		567	1,979		1,631	115,668	862,720	5,112
Other Off-Campus	0		912	0		539	0		1,451	18,285		683
Hybrid courses	1,045		227	1172		20	2,217		247	17,434		0
TOTAL	44,062	61,346	17,408	14341	5,376	5,315	58,403	66,722	22,723	181,635	1,026,685	9,648

Table 3: Online only and Mixed Enrollment (Academic Year)

	Students in Only Online Courses			Students in On-campus & Online Courses			Total		
	Undup Hdcnt	Total Course Enrlmnts	Total Credit Hours	Undup Hdcnt	Total Course Enrlmnts	Total Credit Hours	Total Undup Hdcnt	Total Course Enrlmnts	Total Credit Hours
2024-2025									
SUI	7,887	22,275	63,539	17,143	34,266	82,689	25,030	56,541	145,228
ISU	11,378	4,836	29,901	55,344	20,248	131,979	66,722	25,084	11,378
UNI	2,031	10,141	29,608	5,257	34,282	92,525	7,288	44,423	122,133
TOTAL									
2023-2024									
SUI	7,887	22,275	63,539	17,143	34,266	82,689	25,030	56,541	145,228
ISU	5,093	10,701	31,407	5,158	49,333	125,181	10,251	60,034	156,588
UNI									
TOTAL									
2022-2023									
SUI	8,090	23,011	65,885	17,293	36,007	87,777	25,383	59,018	153,662
ISU	5,099	10,527	30,782	5,189	47,672	120,583	10,288	58,199	151,365
UNI	1,354	6,981	21,045	5,414	34,409	93,288	6,768	41,390	114,333
TOTAL	14,543	40,519	117,712	27,896	118,088	301,648	42,439	158,607	419,360

Collaborative Efforts Among Regent Universities

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

The Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) available online at all three universities is an ongoing collaboration. Enrollment in the BLS continued its downward trend in 2024-25. The Bachelor of Applied Studies (BAS) grew as programs developed by UNI in the past two years expanded through the UNI@Iowa Community College effort.

Table 4: 2024-2025 Bachelor of Liberal Studies and Bachelor of Applied Studies Participation

PROGRAM	SUI	ISU	UNI	TOTAL
Bachelor of Liberal Studies				
Enrollment	181	153	130	464
Graduates	51	55	33	139
New Admissions	86	39	34	159
Bachelor of Applied Studies				
Enrollment	88		122	210
Graduates	24		8	32
New Admissions	35		14	49

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 to help talented professionals answer the call to teach (<https://iowateacherintern.org/>). In 2024-25, the RAPIL program recommended 42 individuals (up from 37 in 2023-24) for initial Iowa Teacher Licensure. Efforts to expand this successful program continue with the current cohorts have 45 in the coursework/candidate phase. RAPIL has been intentional in efforts to expand cohorts moving from 18 in 2021 up to these current levels.

Distance Education Program Offerings

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

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

<https://iowastateonline.iastate.edu/>

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

All three universities have continued to add programs online. Since 2020, they have gone from 197 programs online to 253 programs, growth of 28% (table 1).

New Distance Learning Programs

All three universities added new online programs in 2024-25 to meet workforce needs or fill gaps in the online degree marketplace (table 5). Degrees were at the certificate, bachelor's and master's degree levels. focused on business and management skills, health-related and special education support high-demand workforce needs.

Table 5: New Online or Distance Programs, 2024-2025

Instit.	Degree or Certificate	Program Major***	Delivery Method/Site(s)	Requires on-campus component.
ISU	Certificate	Cyber Security Undergraduate Certificate (Distance)	Online	
ISU	Masters	Digital Health, M.D.H. (Distance)	Online	
UNI	Certificate	Transformative Education	Online	
UNI	BA	Early Childhood Education Online Transfer Program	Online	
UNI	MBA	Business Administration	Online	
UNI	MA	Interdisciplinary Studies	Online	
UNI	MA	Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs	Online	
UNI	Endorsement	Early Childhood Education/Birth-Grade 3 Inclusive Settings	Online	
UNI	Endorsement	Instructional Strategist I & II	Online	
SUI	BS	Sport and Recreation Management <i>Recreation Management</i>	Online	
SUI	CERT (GR)	Radiochemistry	Hybrid	X
SUI	CERT (GR)	Special Collections Librarianship and Archives	Online	
SUI	CERT (GR)	Business Communication	Online	
SUI	CERT (GR)	Strategy	Online	
SUI	MHA	Health Management and Policy <i>Executive</i>	Online	
SUI	MPH	MPH Program <i>Practicing Professionals</i>	Hybrid	X

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, part-time transfer specialists at

community college campuses in Council Bluffs, Creston, Harlan, Sheldon, and Sioux City and a part-time student employee from Iowa State University. In December 2025, WIRRC added Iowa Lakes Community College to expand its support in Western Iowa. There is no additional budget request necessary for this expansion of service.

WIRRC operates on three lines of effort in support of the Board of Regents Strategic Plan and the strategic plans of the three universities.

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

Personalized contact with prospective students

Transfer specialists meet with 200+ prospective transfer students across Western Iowa throughout the year. The transfer specialists present in several College Experience classes at the Community Colleges, and most new student orientations. Center staff support university representatives participating in transfer fairs at each community college in the region.

- In 2024-25, 120 students transferred from one of the four WIRRC supported community colleges to a Regent university. Some of those transferred to campus and some stayed in their communities and enrolled in distance education programs.
- On average, WIRRC annually provides \$10,000 in scholarships to support transfer students enrolling in distance education programs or local residents seeking online graduate degrees to support their career development.

Promote distance education options

The Center awards scholarships to Western Iowa residents to pursue distance education options, including support of UNI@IACC in the region. In addition to many one-on-one meetings and community events, the Center uses social media, digital, mail, and billboards to promote distance education opportunities that support local employers across the region. A part-time student employee from ISU has developed many marketing and communication opportunities in the online space.

- In 2024-25, there were more than 2,500 residents of the 25 counties served by WIRRC enrolled in distance education programs through the universities.

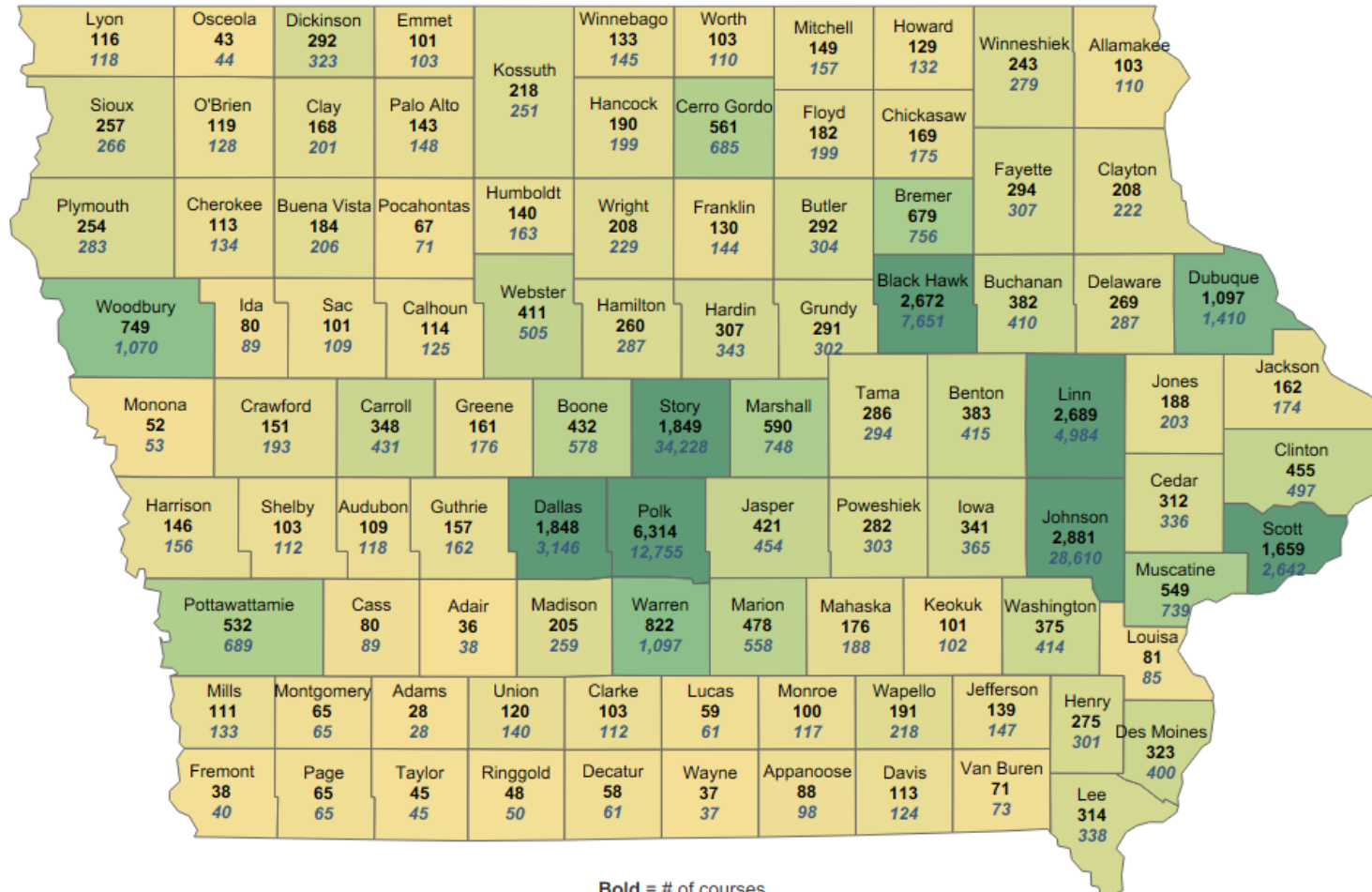
Coordinate educational, cultural, and economic development outreach

The Center works local Chambers of Commerce on youth and workforce development promotions. For example, it worked with the UNI Elementary Education Program Coordinator to bring students from the Sioux City Career Academy to Cedar Falls to explore options at the University of Northern Iowa. The Center coordinated a visit by a professor from UNI's Criminal Justice program to speak with students at Iowa Western and Western Iowa Tech.

The Center facilitated a youth writer's workshop in Harlan with the UI ArtShare program. We also worked with ArtShare to bring a soloist to from UI to perform with the Cherokee Symphony Orchestra. The Center coordinated the delivery of emergency medical training in both Atlantic and Harlan with the University of Iowa's Simulation in Motion team, as well as a virtual presentation by the UI's Radiation Sciences program to students at Woodbine High School's IGNITE health care career academy.

State Appropriation	FY25
WIRCC	\$268,297

2024-25 Distance Education Credit Courses & Enrollment by Iowa County



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

TOP 2024-2025 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	15115	2004	28,532	411	2,913	1,439	46,560	3,854	50,414	49068	75,696	12,761	137,525
Business	8821	7740	7,516	1,253	3,032	459	19,369	9,452	28,821	41927	24,768	8,546	75,241
Education	5498	1316			4,443	2,378	9,941	3,694	13,635	20048		20,929	40,977
Interdisciplinary	11,588	893	17	261	293	20	11,898	1,174	13,072		797	677	1,474
Engineering	573	10	3,299	963			3,872	973	4,845	1159	9,492		10,651
Health & Human Sciences			6,949	1,210			6,949	1,210	8,159		22,264		22,264
Ag & Life Sciences			4,525	517			4,525	517	5,042		12,393		12,393
Social & Behavioral Sciences					6,727	1,019	6,727	1,019	7,746			23,400	23,400
Nursing	1192	1956					1192	1956	3,148	8867			8,867
Design			3,122	441			3,122	441	3,563		7,748		7,748
Medicine	946	80					946	80	1,026	2600			2,600
Public Health	198	192					198	192	390	1167			1,167
Veterinary Medicine			224	320			224	320	544		1,561		1,561
Pharmacy	0	100					0	100	100	200			200
Law	131	50					131	50	181	293			293
Library			7,162				7,162		7,162		7,162		7,162

**TOP 2024-2025 TOP NON-CREDIT COURSE REGISTRATIONS
BY INSTITUTION AND SUBJECT AREA**

	SUI	ISU*	UNI	REGENT TOTAL	PERCENT OF REGENT TOTAL
Ag, Natural Resources & Conservation		233,750	1,134	234,884	19.3%
4-H Youth Development		548,446		548,446	45.0%
Health, Family & Human Sciences Extension		156,359	295	156,654	12.9%
Health Professions & Related Clinical Services	86,478			86,478	7.1%
Visual and Performing Arts	33,041			33,041	2.7%
Business, Management, Marketing & Related Services	6,593		4,788	11,381	0.9%
Community and Economic Development		15,281		15,281	1.3%
Education	11,068		2,410	13,478	1.1%
Physical Sciences	9,324		395	9,719	0.8%
County-originated (Direct Educational Contacts)**		72,849		72,849	6.0%
All other non-credit registrations	35,131		626	35,757	2.9%
Total Registrations	181,635	1,026,685	9,648	1,217,968	100.0%

ISU Extension and Outreach faculty and staff and county agricultural extension district staff reported a total of 940,322 youth and adult direct educational contacts. The designated reporting time period represents July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.*

***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		
2020-21	1117	-1.85%	63.4%	644	3.04%	36.6%	1,761	-0.1%
2021-22	1163	4.12%	61.5%	729	13.20%	38.5%	1,892	7.4%
2022-23	1158	-0.43%	65.3%	616	-15.5%	34.7%	1,774	-6.2%
2023-24	1,092	-5.7%	63.6%	625	1.5%	36.4%	1,717	-3.2%
2024-25	1089	-0.27%	63.69%	648	3.68%	37.31%	1,737	1.16%

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		
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%
2023-24	1,233	0.6%	72.6%	462	-1.5%	27.4%	1,695	-0.8%
2024-25	1,107	-10.2%	72.0%	430	-10.2%	28.0%	1,537	-9.3%

* 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		
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%
2023-24	718	9.0%	66.9%	355	14.5%	33.1%	1,073	10.7%
2024-25	839	16.9%	66.0%	432	21.7%	34.0%	1,271	18.5%