FALL 2018 ENROLLMENT REPORT

**Action Requested**: Receive the Fall 2018 Enrollment Report

**Executive Summary**: During Fall 2018, Iowa’s public universities enrolled 2,206 fewer students than during Fall 2017. This represents a -2.8% decrease in enrollment over one year but a +2.0% increase over five years. The total headcount (i.e., number of students) of 77,860 is the fourth highest enrollment in the history of the Regent universities.

![Regent University Total Headcount Enrollment](chart.png)

From Fall 2017 to Fall 2018, the University of Northern Iowa saw a decrease of -695 students (-5.8%), the University of Iowa saw a decrease of -510 students (-1.6%) and Iowa State University saw a decrease of -1,001 students (-2.8%). See “Total Headcount Enrollment by Regent University” below.

![Total Headcount Enrollment by Regent University](chart2.png)
Highlights of the Enrollment Report:

- **Education level:** From Fall 2017 to Fall 2018, the number of graduate students and professional students decreased by -458 and -5, respectively, while the number of undergraduate students decreased by -1,743 (see “Regent University Headcount Enrollment by Education Level” graphic below).

- **Residency:** The number of Iowa residents and out-of-state students decreased from last year by -788 and -563, respectively, while the number of international students decreased by -855 (see “Enrollment by Residence” graphic below). The single largest contributor to this drop in international students is China with 471 fewer students in Fall 2018, a one-year decrease of -12.9%. This follows a similar drop (-522 students) from the year prior.
• New freshman: The number of new freshman undergraduate students is down for two of the three universities from one year ago. Iowa State University experienced a +1.7% increase, the University of Iowa had a -4.4% decrease, and the University of Northern Iowa saw a -9.4% decline in new freshman undergraduate students (see “New Freshman Enrollment by Regent University” graphic below).

• Undergraduates: Iowa State University had a one-year decrease of -2.6% in undergraduate enrollment, the University of Iowa had a decrease of -2.1%, and the University of Northern Iowa had a decrease of -4.4%. (see “Undergraduate Enrollment Trends by Regent University” graphic below).
• **Graduate & professional students**: The University of Iowa had a one-year increase of +0.1% in the number of graduate and professional students enrolled, Iowa State University had a decrease of -3.9%, and the University of Northern Iowa had a decrease of -13.2% (see “Graduate & Professional Enrollment by Regent University” graphic below).

![Graduate & Professional Enrollment by Regent University](image)

• **International students**: International student enrollment at the Regent universities declined -11% overall in one year with most countries sending fewer students than in Fall 2017. The international student decline was led by continued drops in students from China (down -28% since Fall 2015). Most of the declines were among Chinese undergraduates (down -18% from Fall 2017) and not among Chinese graduate and professional students (down -1% from Fall 2017).

![Country of Origin for International Students](image)
• **Resident students:** Iowa State University had a one-year decrease of -4.1% in Iowa resident enrollment, the University of Iowa had an increase of +3.3%, and the University of Northern Iowa had a decrease of -5.4%. (see “Iowa Resident Student Enrollment Trends by Regent University” graphic below).

![Iowa Resident Student Enrollment by Regent University](image)

• **Out-of-state students:** Iowa State University had a one-year increase of +2.2% in the number of students from outside the state of Iowa. The University of Iowa had a one-year decrease of -7.0%, and the University of Northern Iowa had a decrease of -7.2% (see “Out-of-State Enrollment by Regent University” graphic below).

![Out-of-State Enrollment by Regent University](image)
• **Transfer students**: Iowa’s public universities have seen a -11.2% decrease in the total number of transfer students enrolling from Fall 2017 to Fall 2018. The largest group of transfers come from the Iowa community colleges, which saw a -12.2% decrease in enrollment over the last year (Iowa State University led the others with a one year drop of -264 transfer students). See “Trends in Transfers into the Regent Universities” graphic below.

![Trends in Transfers into the Regent Universities by Transfer Institution](image)

• **Women**: Women comprise almost half of all students enrollment at the three public universities. The percentage of women varies greatly by university with 53% at the University of Iowa, 43% at Iowa State University, and 60% at the University of Northern Iowa (see “Percent of Regent University Students Who are Women” graphic below).

![Percent of Regent University Students Who are Women](image)
• **Race/Ethnicity**: Students who identify as a racial or ethnic minority continue to grow in both numbers and as a percent of the student population. Fall 2018 established the largest total number (11,729) and percentage (15.3%) of racial/ethnic minority students enrolled at the three public universities (see “Percent of Students Who Identify as a Racial/Ethnic Minority” graphic below).

![Percent of Students Who Identify as a Racial/Ethnic Minority at the Regent Universities](image)

• **STEM majors**: The number of students enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) majors at Iowa’s public universities has grown significantly over the past 10 years. That number has dropped among undergraduates over the past two years, likely driven by growth in business majors and declines in engineering majors (see “Total Regent STEM Majors by Education Level” graphic below).

![Total Regent STEM Majors by Education Level](image)
State of origin: Large numbers of students continue to come from outside of Iowa to enroll in our public universities. Illinois and Minnesota contributed the most with 10,355 and 4,096 students in Fall 2018, respectively (see “Student State of Origin for Fall 2018” graphic below).

As previously noted, there has been a one year decline of -2.4% in the number of students attending a Regent university from out-of-state. The single largest source of that decline is due to -291 fewer students from the state of Illinois. The University of Iowa saw a decline of -493 students from Illinois since Fall 2017.
• Iowa county of origin: Students from all 99 Iowa counties enrolled in our public universities in Fall 2018. Enrollment numbers tend to be higher in counties with major metropolitan areas (see “Regent University Student Enrollment by County” graphic below).

![](image1)

• University enrollment by Iowa county: Proximity to home is one factor that influences university choice. While each Regent university draws students from the entire state, the graphic below shows the preferred university destination by Iowa county. The percentage shown equals the number of students who attend the preferred university in that county / the total number of students in that county who attend any Regent university (see “University with Highest Student Market Share by County” below).

![](image2)
• **Top university college enrollment:** The table below shows the academic colleges with the highest enrollment across the three Regent universities. The top five are Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Business, Agriculture, and Education.

![Largest Colleges by Fall 2018 Undergraduate Enrollment](image)

Source: Iowa Board of Regents; the ISU School of Education was considered a college for this display.

• **Veterans:** In Fall 2018, the number of students at the public universities who received Veterans Affairs (V.A.) benefits dropped by 103 students (see “Veterans Enrolled at Regent Universities” below).

![Veterans Enrolled at Regent Universities](image)
Special Schools: From Fall 2017 to Fall 2018, the number of students served by the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI) decreased -1.2%. The Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) saw a -10.2% drop in students served over the last year (see “Special School Enrollment” below).
INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

- In Fall 2018, the University of Iowa enrolled 4,806 new first-year undergraduate students.

- The University’s reported total enrollment is 31,656. This enrollment includes 23,989 undergraduate, 5,826 graduate, and 1,841 professional students. Per the methodology adopted by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, postgraduate scholars are not included in the total enrollment count (1,292 for Fall 2018).

- The quality of the first-year undergraduate class continues to be strong as evidenced by an average high school GPA of 3.71, and an average ACT score of 25.7.

- About 19% of the first-year undergraduate class (905) identify as a racial/ethnic minority. About 21% of the first-year class are first-generation students.

- The first-year undergraduate class includes students from 96 Iowa counties, 43 states (as well as Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; and bases for the U.S. Armed Forces), and 43 countries (including the U.S.).

- All qualified Iowa applicants were admitted; 58.3% of the first-year undergraduate class are Iowa residents. Overall, 59% of the University’s total enrollment are resident 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. New academic programs attract extremely talented students to the University. The University continues its long-standing commitment to making progress on first-year retention, timely degree completion and the diversity of our student body, through implementation of the 2016-2021 strategic plan, coordinated recruitment efforts, and a variety of student success, academic support, and first-year programs.
INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

- Iowa State University’s fall 2018 enrollment is 34,992, fourth largest in school history. This represents a decrease of about 3.7 percent (1,329 students) over the university’s enrollment of 36,321 in Fall 2018 (including post-docs). It is important to note that effective Fall 2018, Iowa State University has aligned its enrollment reporting with each of the Regent Institutions and no longer include our Intensive English Orientation Program (IEOP) and post-doctoral students in our enrollment reports. This reduced our enrollment numbers by 32 and 351 respectively.

- In the last decade, overall enrollment at Iowa State has grown 30 percent. Enrollment of Iowa undergraduates at Iowa State continues to be strong: 17,518 students, or 59 percent of the 29,621 undergraduates, are Iowans. Overall, 19,022 Iowans attend ISU, which equals 54.3 percent of the student body. Iowa State’s freshman class of 6,047 students includes 3,362 Iowans. Iowa State is proud to remain the top choice for more Iowans than any other school in the world.

- The student body represents all 99 Iowa counties, all 50 U.S. states, and 124 countries. Total U.S. multicultural enrollment is 4,863, which surpasses the previous record set in Fall 2017 of 4,674.

- Iowa State’s student numbers set records in the following categories this fall:
  - U.S. multicultural enrollment is 4,863 (13.9 percent of total enrollment), an increase over last fall’s 4,674 students.
  - New U.S. multicultural enrollment increased by 8.3%, up 97 new students from last year, with 1,261 students
  - U.S. nonresident undergraduate enrollment of 10,308, up 279 students from last year’s record of 10,279.
  - Number of females in STEM majors of 7095, up 59 from last year and 1073 above the 10-year average of 6,022.
  - Average HS GPA for new students is highest on record at 3.64 with an Average ACT of 25.09, third highest in history.

Fall 2018 enrollment by college:

- Agriculture and Life Sciences: 5,083
- Business: 4,931
- Design: 1,928
- Engineering: 9,531
- Human Sciences: 4,385
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: 8,034
- Veterinary Medicine: 762
- Interdepartmental Units and Graduate Undeclared: 338
- Total Enrollment: 34,992
INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

- The University of Northern Iowa’s Fall 2018 enrollment is 11,212, which is 695 fewer than last year.

- 89 percent of UNI students are Iowa residents and they represent all 99 Iowa counties. UNI students also hail from 45 other U.S. states.

- Students who identify themselves as racial minority represent 10.1 percent of the student body, or 1,131 students. This tops last year’s 9.72 percent and represents a new UNI record. This is the first time in UNI history that this figure has been above 10 percent. While the total enrollment decline was 695 students, minority enrollment declined by only 26 students (19 undergraduates and 7 graduate students).

- There are 480 international students enrolled at UNI this fall, representing 60 different countries, and includes 297 undergraduates and 183 graduates. This is the highest number of international graduate students in recent years.

- Undergraduates included 9,561 students, which is 85.3% of UNI’s total enrollment. Undergraduate enrollment is 444 lower than last fall.

- The incoming freshman class was comprised of 1,661 students, which includes 1,529 Iowa residents and 132 non-residents (121 domestic non-residents and 11 international).

- There are 802 new transfer students. Similar to recent years, approximately 71% are transferring to UNI from an Iowa community college.

- Graduate students represent 14.7% (1,651) of UNI’s total enrollment. Graduate student enrollment is 251 less than last fall.

- The retention rate for last fall’s new first-time full-time freshmen was 83.6%

- The trend of UNI students taking less time to earn their degree continues. The 3-year graduation rate for the freshmen class of Fall 2015 is 5.12%. This is a new record, along with the 5-year graduation rate for the freshmen class of Fall 2013 is 64.77%.