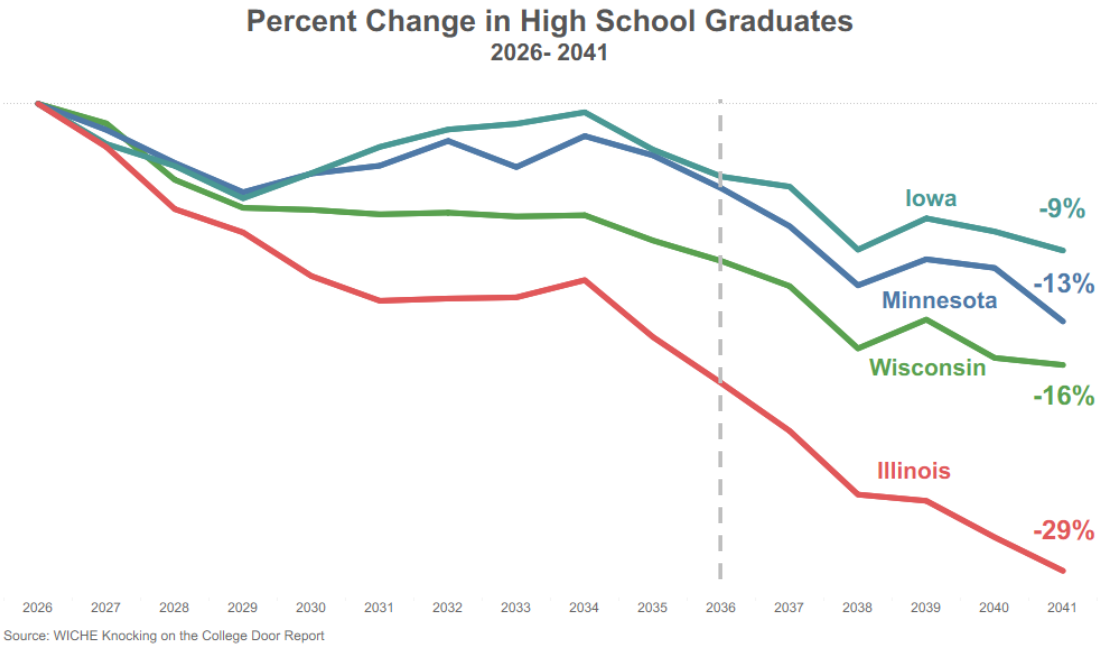
Contact: Jason Pontius

FALL 2026 ENROLLMENT REPORT

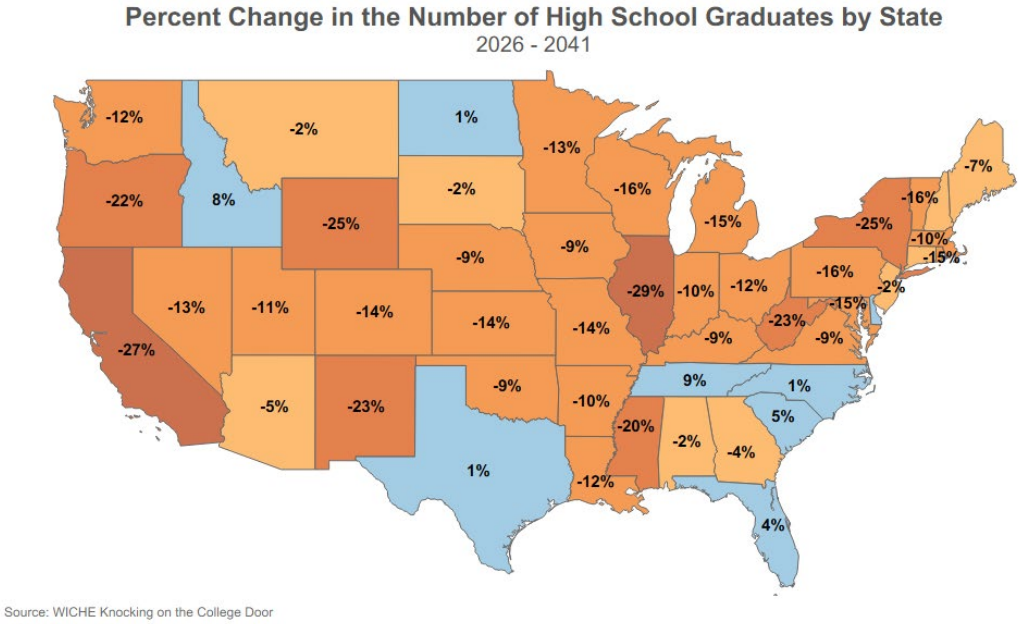
Action Requested: Receive the Fall 2026 Enrollment Report

Executive Summary: Total student enrollment at Iowa's public university enrollment decreased by 352 students or -0.5% from Fall 2025 to Fall 2026. During this time, total undergraduate enrollment increased by 98 students or 0.2%.

Iowa High School Graduate "Enrollment Cliff": 2026 represents the peak of high school graduates in Iowa and the first year of decline for most states. Projections of high school graduates have been updated to include 2037 through 2041 which indicate further declines. The graph below shows the percent change over time in high school graduates for Iowa and adjacent states that send large numbers of students to the Regent universities. The dashed vertical line shows where prior projections of high school graduates had ended.

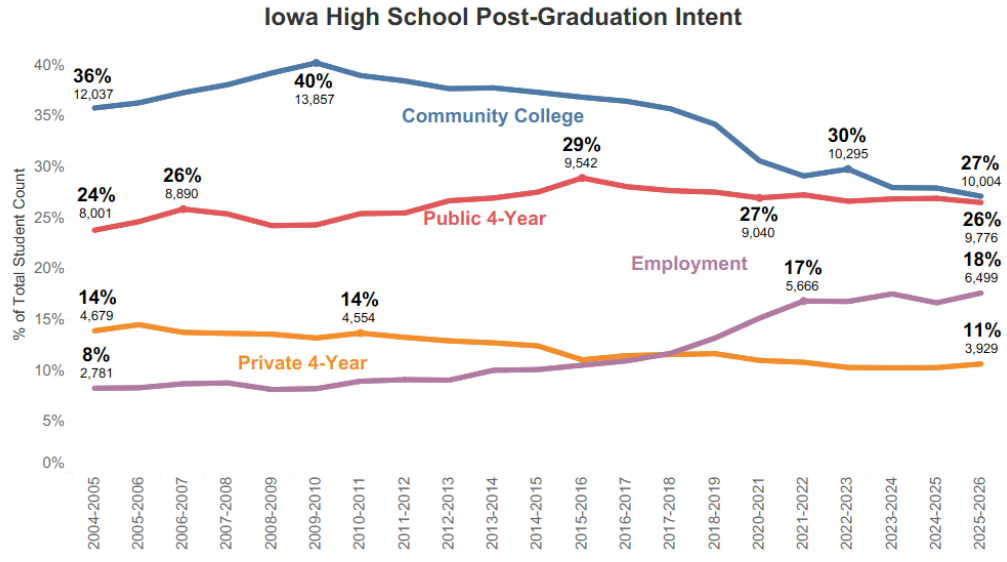


Overall, the high school graduate population of the United States is expected to decline 12% between 2026 and 2041. The graphic below shows that the change will not be distributed evenly. Of particular concern is the state of Illinois and its projected 29% decline in high school graduates. In Fall 2026, 11,288 Illinois residents were enrolled at a Regent university, the single largest source of out-of-state students (see pages 10-11 below for more details).



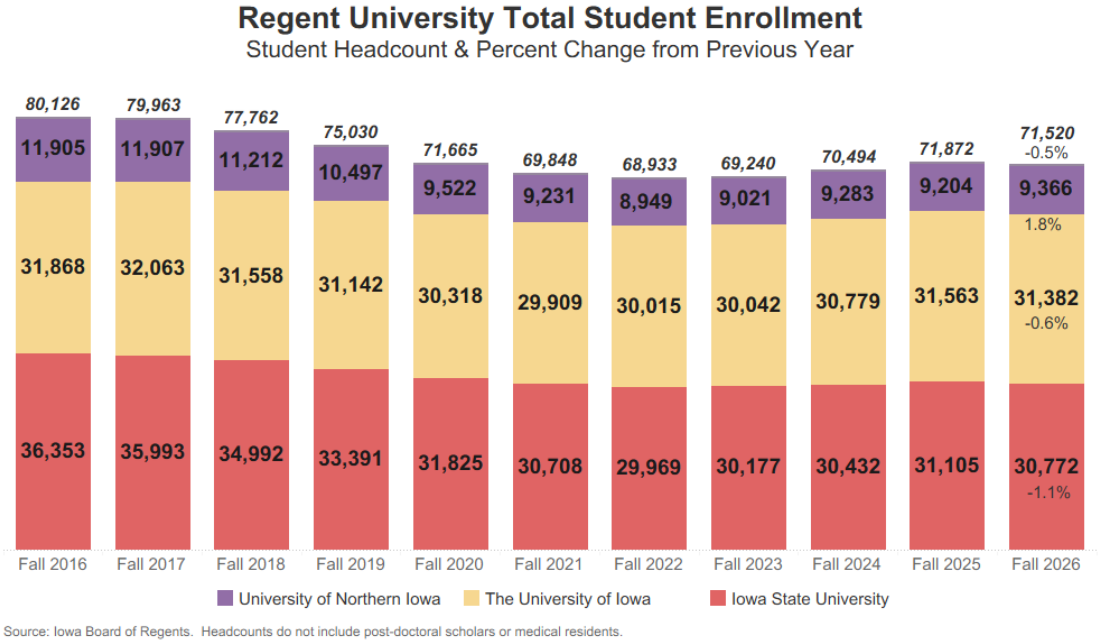
Source: WICHE Knocking on the College Door

Market Share of Iowa High School Graduates: The percentage of Iowa high school graduates intending to enroll at a four-year public university has remained largely flat over the past 20 years (see below). During that same time the number of graduates intending to pursue a community college or private college education has declined while the number of students who plan to directly enter the workforce has increased.

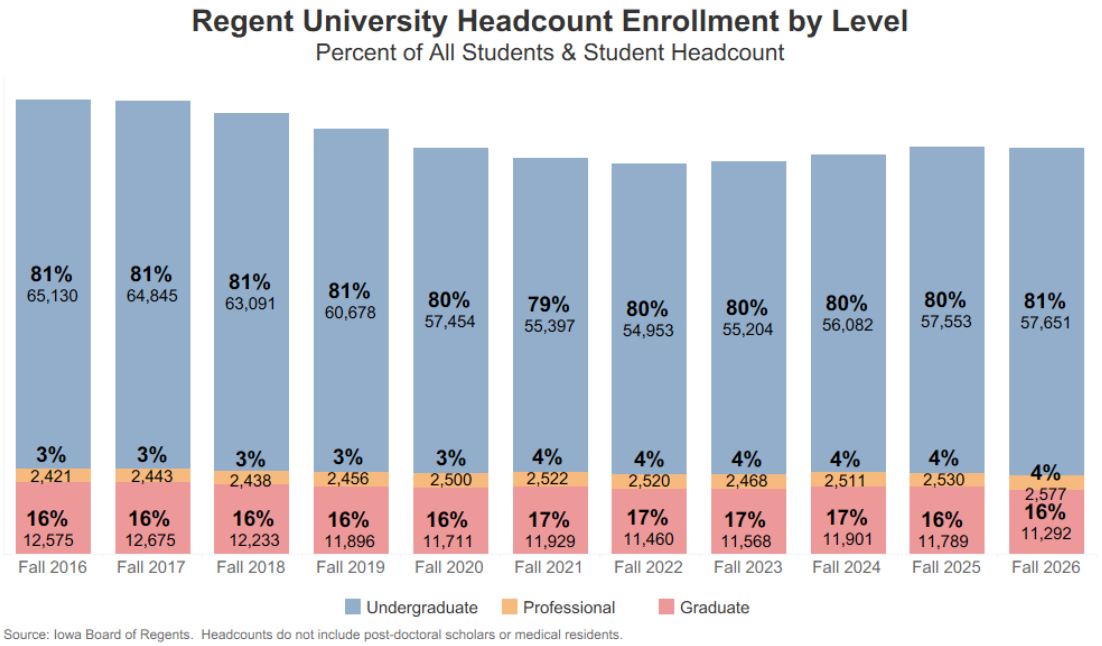


Source: Post graduation intent is based on Iowa high school surveys of graduating high school seniors as reported to the Iowa Department of Education.

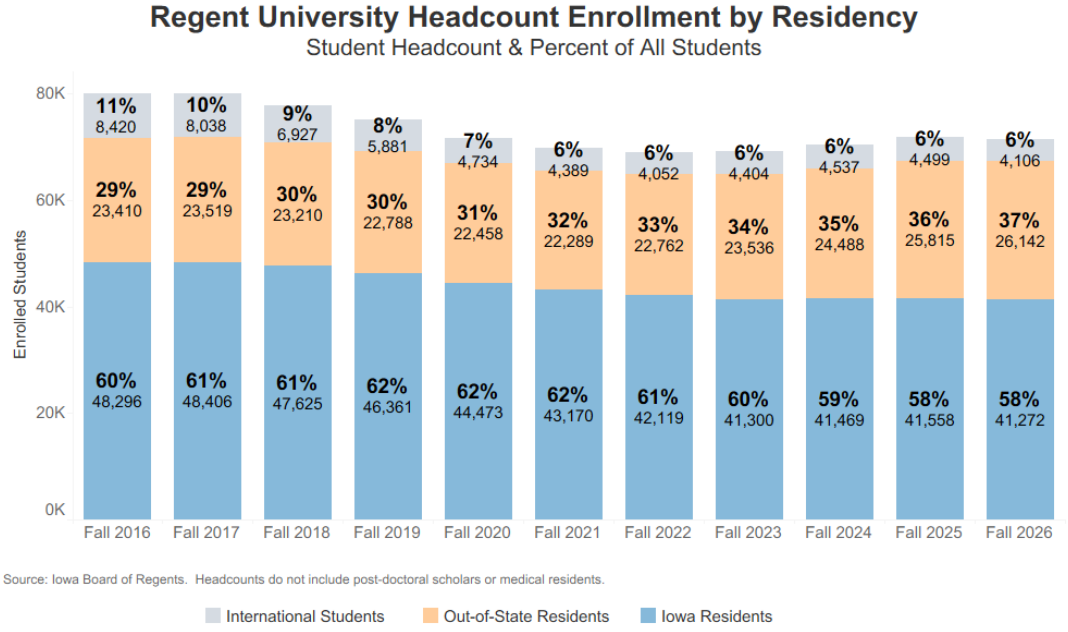
Total Enrollment: Regent university total enrollment decreased by 352 students, or -0.5%, from Fall 2025 to Fall 2026. Iowa State University saw a decrease of -1.1%, the University of Iowa saw a decrease of -0.6%, and the University of Northern Iowa saw an increase of 1.8%.



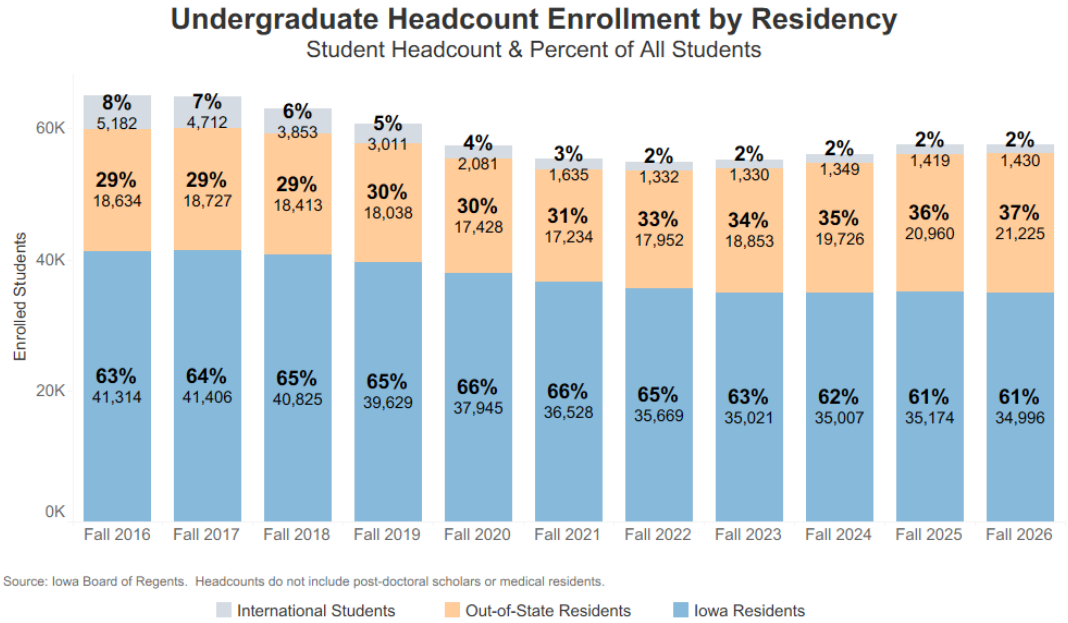
Education level: From Fall 2025 to Fall 2026, 98 additional undergraduate students, 47 additional professional students, and 497 fewer graduate students were enrolled (see “Regent University Headcount Enrollment by Level”).



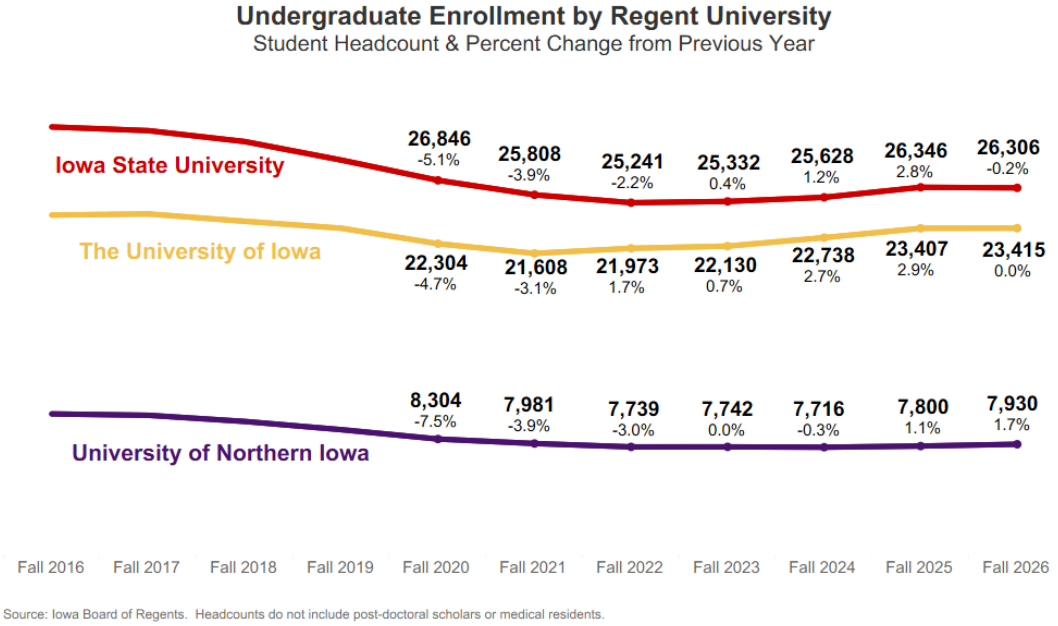
Residency: The number of Iowa residents decreased by 286 while the number of out-of-state residents at a Regent university increased by 327 students between Fall 2025 and Fall 2026. The number of international students declined by 393 over the same time frame.



Undergraduate Residency: Between Fall 2025 and Fall 2026 the number of undergraduate resident students decreased by 178 students, while the number of out-of-state undergraduates increased by 265. The number of international students was down in 2026, while international undergraduate students grew by 11.

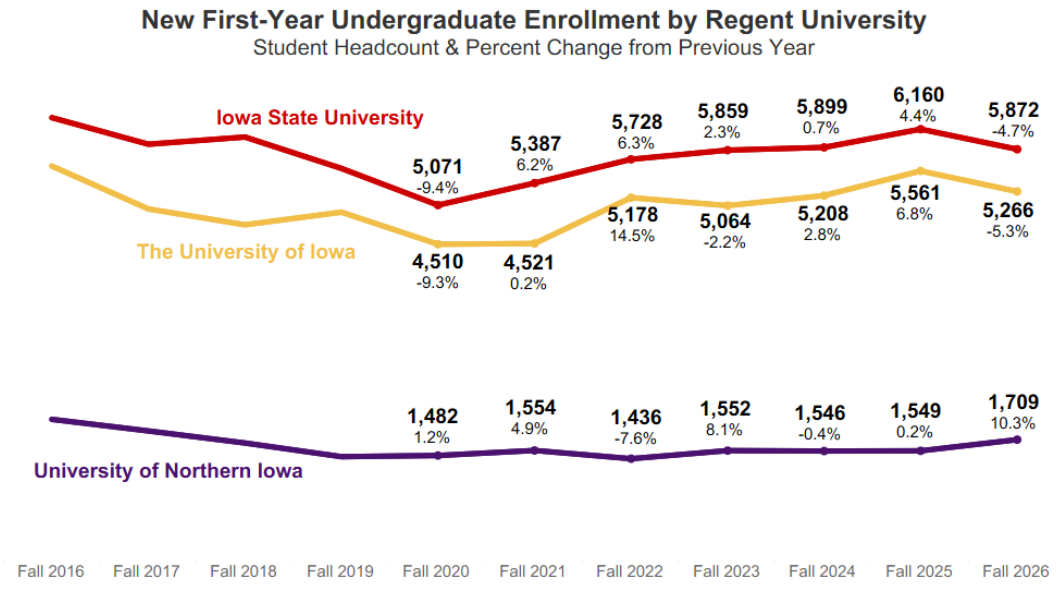


Undergraduates: The University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa both experienced increases in undergraduate enrollment from Fall 2025 to Fall 2026 while Iowa State University experienced a small decline (see "Undergraduate Enrollment by Regent University" below).



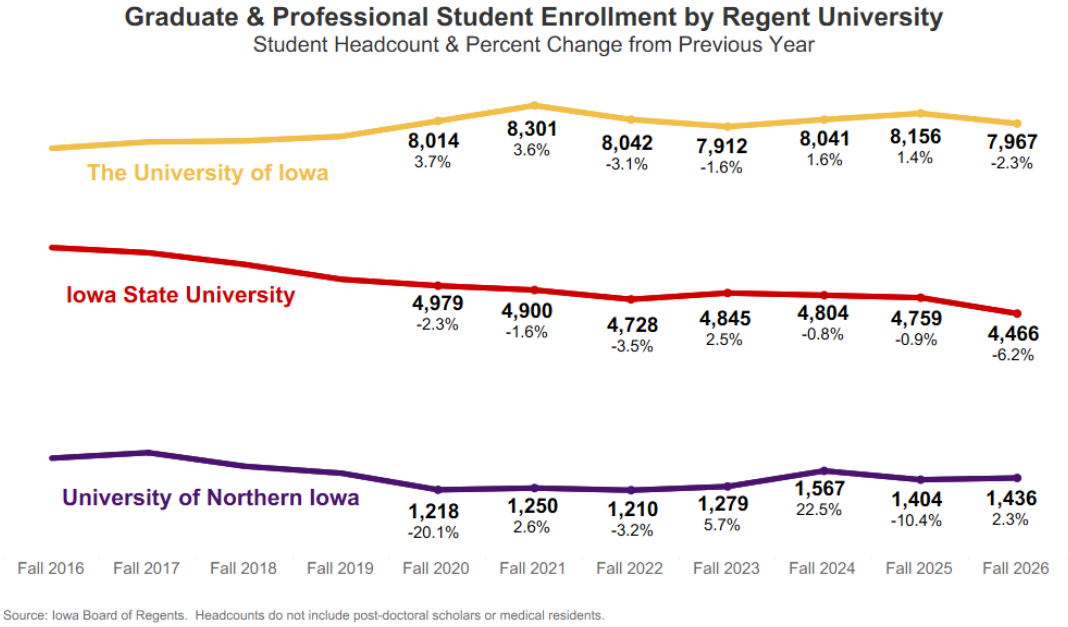
Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.

New first-year students: Both the University of Iowa and Iowa State University experienced declines in new first-year undergraduate enrollment (-5.3% and -4.7%, respectively) while the University of Northern Iowa saw 10.3% enrollment growth in first-year undergraduates (see "New First-Year Undergraduate Enrollment by Regent University").



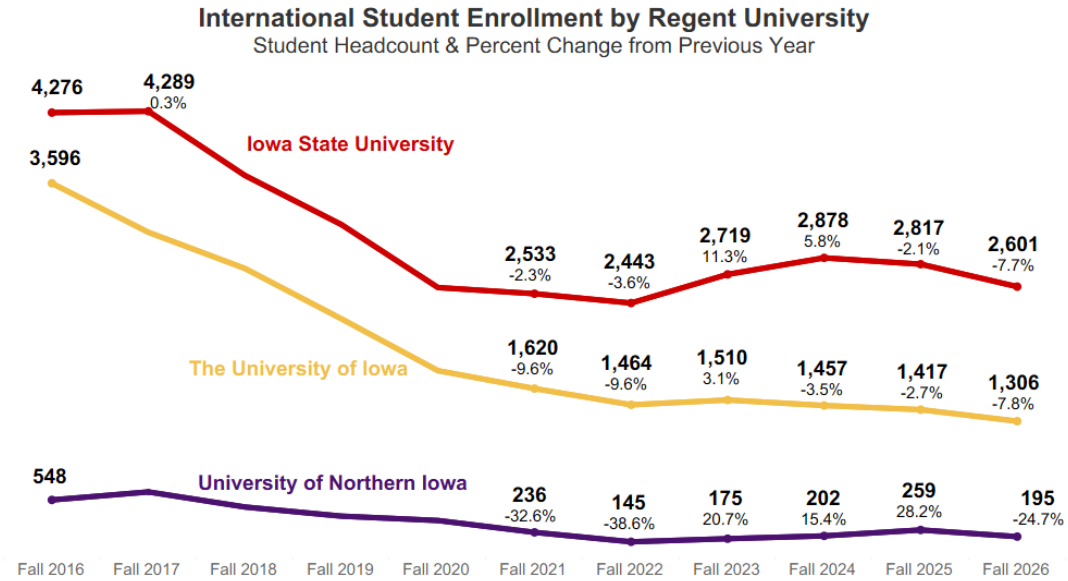
Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.

Graduate & professional students: The University of Northern Iowa was the only Regent university to increase its number of graduate and professional students (2.3% increase), while Iowa State University and the University of Iowa both experienced declines of -6.2% and -2.3%, respectively (see "Graduate & Professional Student Enrollment by Regent University").



Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.

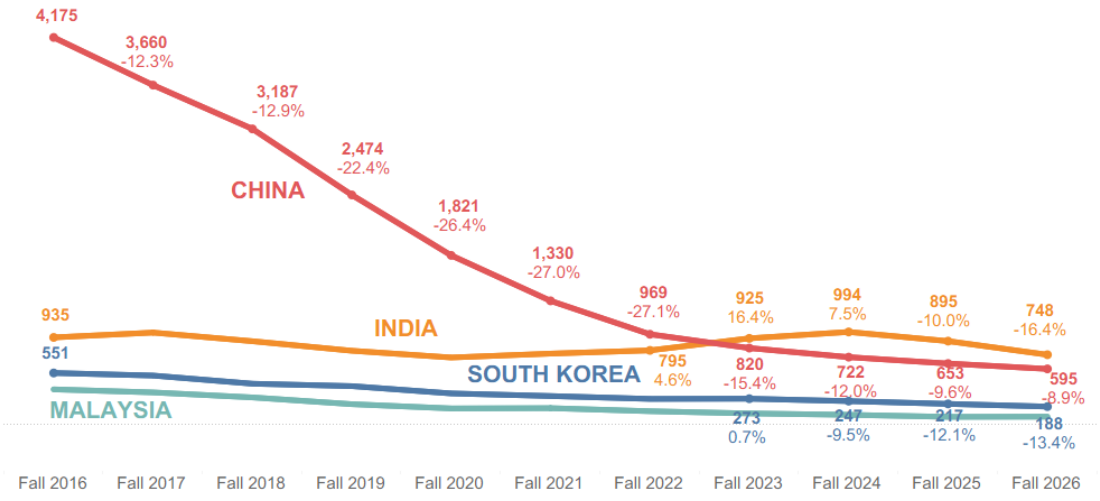
International students: Total international student enrollment declined at all three Regent universities for Fall 2026. Since 2016, 50% of the decline in total Regent University enrollment can be attributed to the decline in the number of international students.



Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.

Chinese student enrollment declined for the eleventh straight year. The Regent universities also showed declines among the other top countries from which students matriculate.

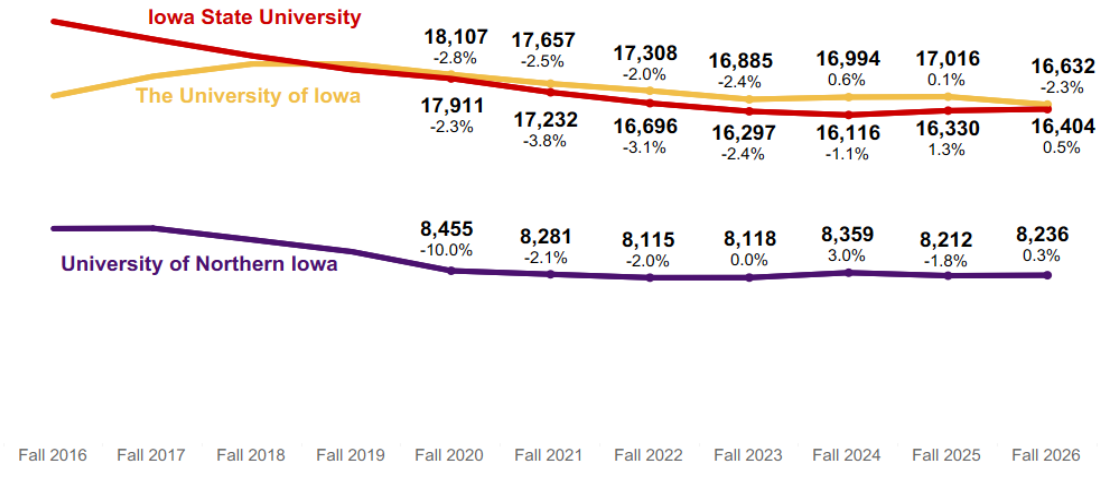
Top Countries of Origin for International Students at Regent Universities
Student Headcount & Percent Change from Previous Year



Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.

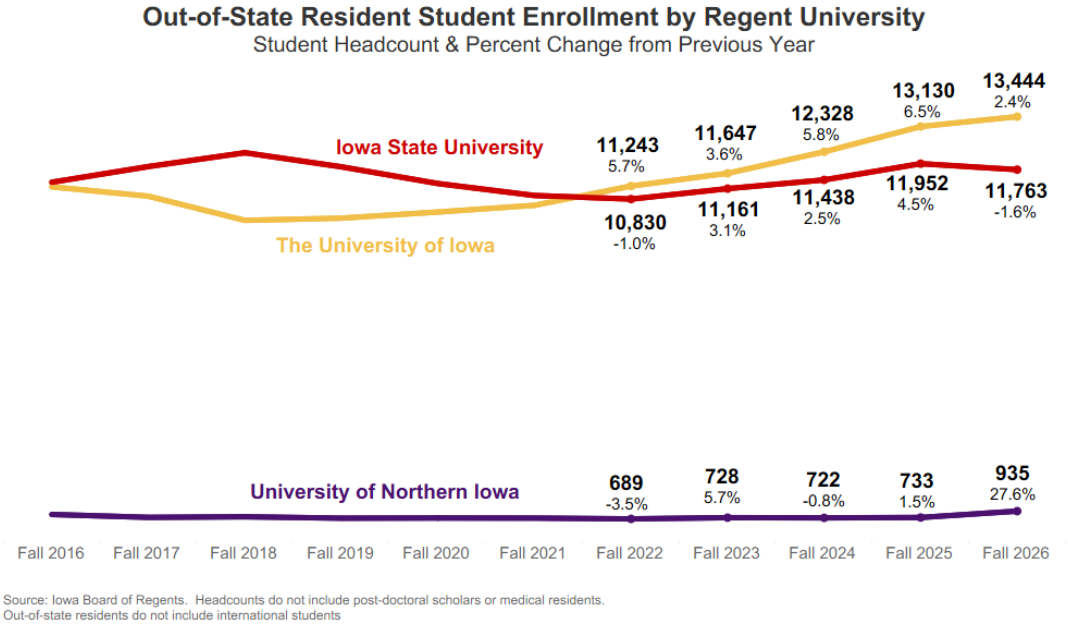
Iowa Resident students: The number of Iowa residents attending a Regent university decreased slightly (-0.7%) since Fall 2025. While the University of Iowa was down -2.3%, the University of Northern Iowa (0.3%) and Iowa State University (0.5%) both added resident students between Fall 2025 and Fall 2026 (see “Iowa Resident Student Enrollment by Regent University”).

Iowa Resident Student Enrollment by Regent University
Student Headcount & Percent Change from Previous Year



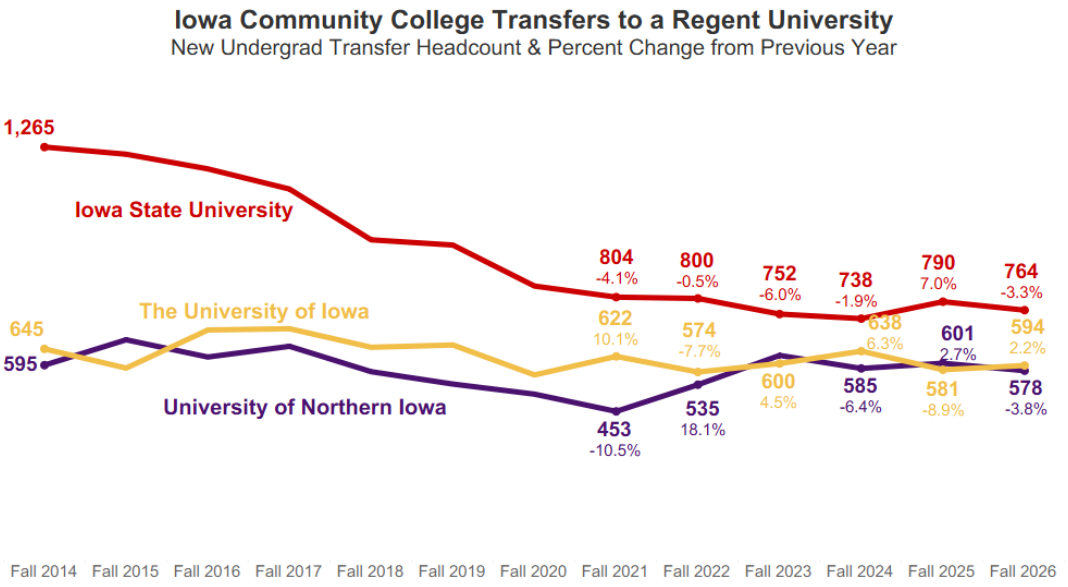
Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.

Out-of-state students: The University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa both increased their number of out-of-state students between Fall 2025 and Fall 2026. UNI was up an impressive 27.6%, the University of Iowa was up 2.4%, while Iowa State enrollment decreased -1.6% (see "Out-of-State Resident Student Enrollment by Regent University").



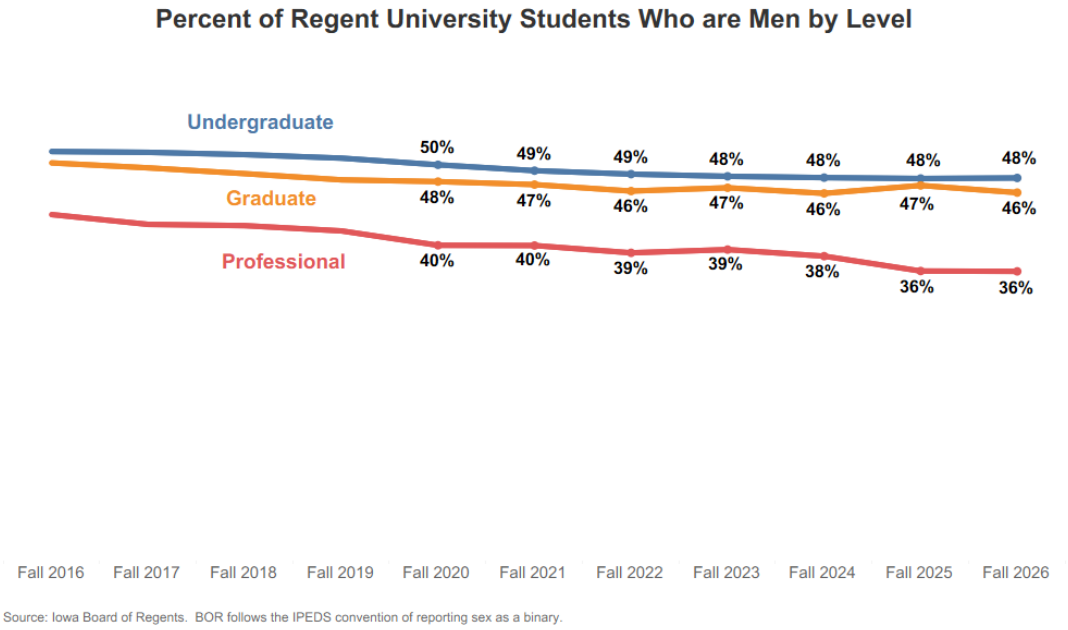
Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.
Out-of-state residents do not include international students

Iowa community college transfer students: Iowa community college transfers were up 2.2% at the University of Iowa but down 3.8% at the University of Northern Iowa and 3.3% at Iowa State (see "Iowa Community College Transfers to a Regent University").



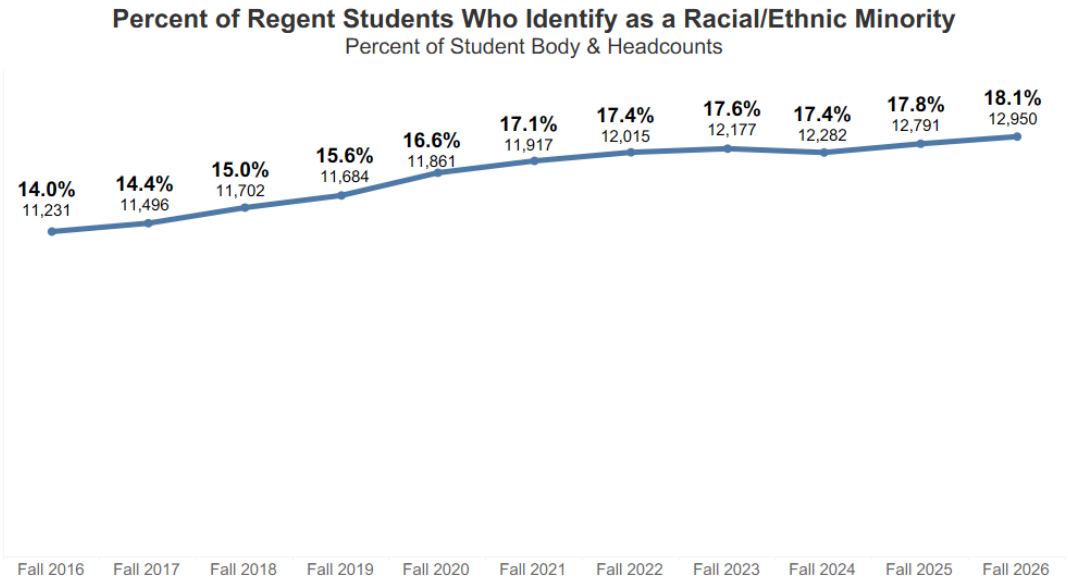
Source: Iowa Board of Regents.

Men: For Fall 2026, the percentage of undergraduate and professional school students who are men was little changed from Fall 2025(see "Percent of Regent University Students Who are Men by Level" graphic below).



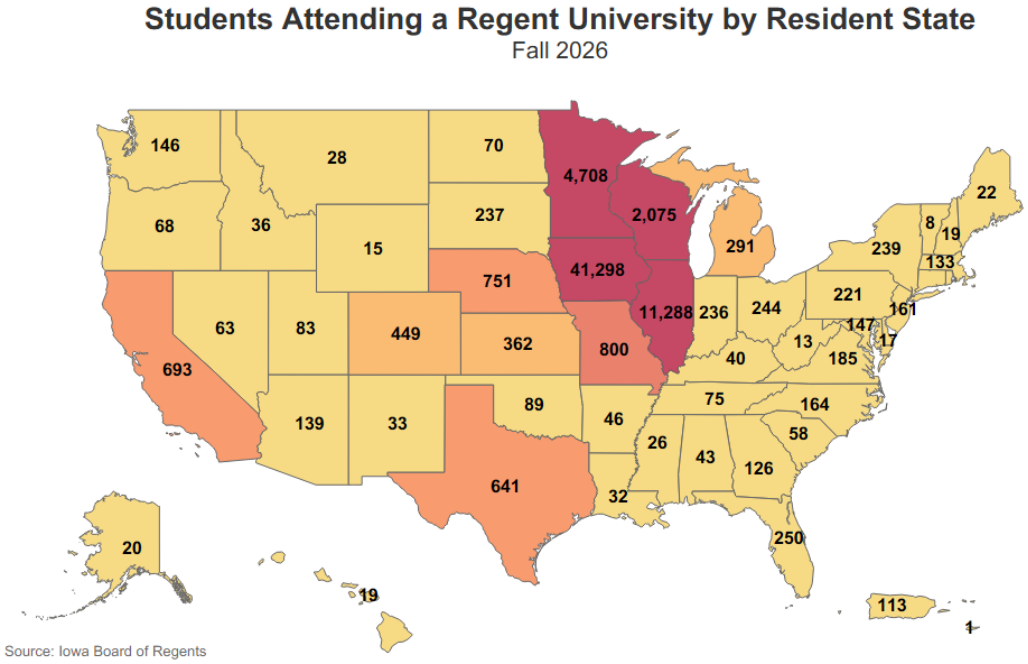
Source: Iowa Board of Regents. BOR follows the IPEDS convention of reporting sex as a binary.

Race/Ethnicity: The racial/ethnic composition of the Regent universities has continued to grow as the state of Iowa continues to become more diverse. Note: the automatic admission process for the three Regent universities has never included race or ethnicity as a factor since it began in 1958 (see "Percent of Students Who Identify as a Racial/Ethnic Minority" graphic below).

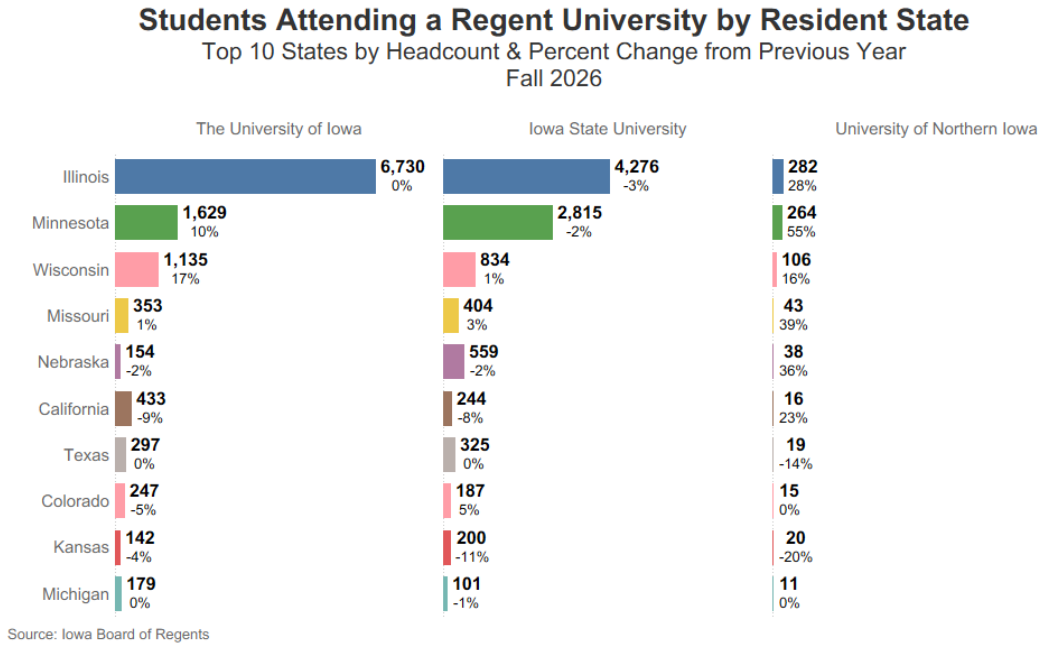


Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Percentages are of all enrolled undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. International students are excluded.

State of origin: The Regent universities draw students from all 50 states and several U.S. territories. Illinois and Minnesota contributed the most students with 11,288 and 4,708 in Fall 2026, respectively (see “Students Attending a Regent University by Resident State” graphic below).

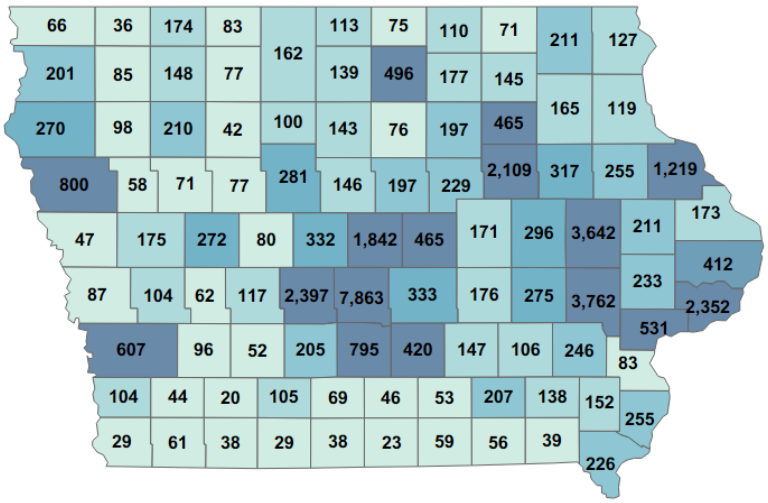


The number and distribution of students from outside of Iowa differ by university. For example, the University of Iowa has the largest number of students from Illinois and Wisconsin, while Iowa State University enrolls the most students from Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska.



Iowa county of origin: Students from all 99 Iowa counties enrolled in Iowa's public universities in Fall 2026. Enrollment numbers tend to be highest in counties with larger populations (see "Iowa County of Origin for Iowa Residents" graphic below).

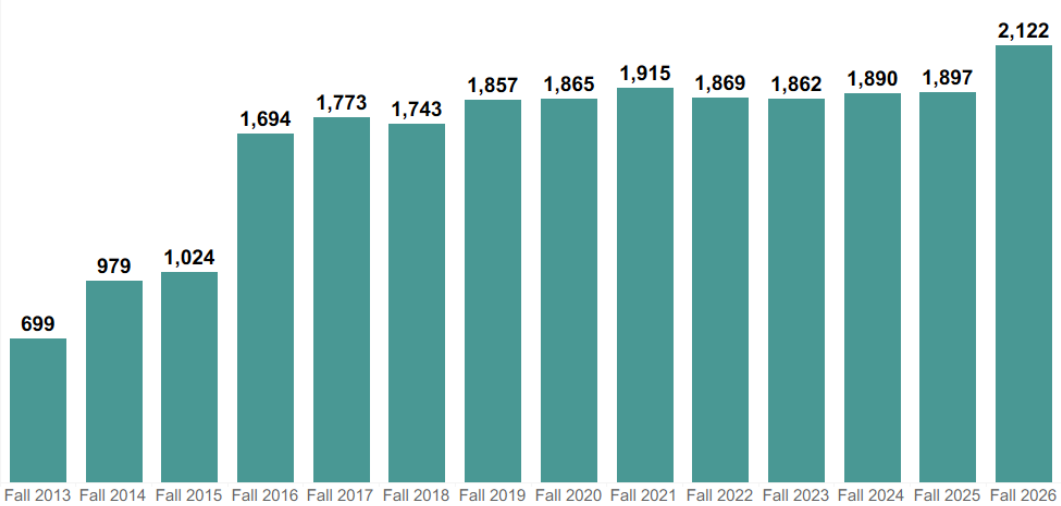
Iowa County of Origin for Iowa Residents at a Regent University
Fall 2026



Source: Iowa Board of Regents

Veterans: In Fall 2026, the number of veterans who enrolled at a Regent university hit an all-time record after increasing 12% from Fall 2025 (see "Veterans Enrolled at Regent Universities").

Veterans Enrolled at the Regent Universities
Student Headcounts



Source: Iowa Board of Regents. Headcounts include veterans both with and without benefits. Headcounts do not include post-doctoral scholars or medical residents.

Teachers: In Fall 2026, the number of students enrolled in teacher preparatory programs increased across all three universities (see "Enrollment in Teacher Preparation Programs" below).

