

Issue Brief: USHE Enrollment

HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

SUMMARY

An input measure of higher education is the number of students who enroll at an institution. This Issue Brief provides information showing enrollment growth by USHE institution over the past decade.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The following tables provide a historical perspective of the two ways students are counted at USHE institutions. The blue line in each figure measures the headcount of students on campus the third week of fall semester. This measure is a predictor of the number of students who will continue through that semester. It counts each student as one, whether that student is taking one credit hour or 15. The red line depicts the Annualized Budget-Related FTEs. The “annualized” accounts for variations between Fall and Spring semesters. The “budget-related” counts only those students who are funded using state tax resources. It does not count self-supported students, such as those in continuing education or those in remedial education at the universities. The FTE takes the total number of student credit hours and divides it by 30 to determine the full-time equivalent.

Over the past decade, enrollment in USHE has grown from 88,393 annualized budget-related FTEs to 103,071. From 2000 to 2004, enrollments grew fairly steady, but then dropped for three years. Enrollments in 2008 grew by 1,645, FTEs and by 3,669 in 2009. As the 2009-2010 school year is only half over, annualized data is not yet available, but using Fall 3rd Week Headcount, the enrollment is up by 8,981. No new funding was provided during the 2009 Legislature to help with enrollment increases.









