



# News Release

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## Fall Enrollment Remains About the Same at Public Universities

PIERRE, S.D. – Fall enrollment at South Dakota’s six public universities remained essentially flat compared to last year, dropping just one-quarter of one percent, the South Dakota Board of Regents reported today. Headcount enrollment was down by 93 students across the entire system.

Total headcount at the six public universities was 36,439, a decrease of 0.25 percent over last year. The number of full-time equivalent students for the Fall 2015 term—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the regents’ system—decreased by 52.8 students to a total of 26,683.8, or -0.20 percent.

Enrollment growth within the system was led by Dakota State University at Madison, which posted a better than 3 percent increase in headcount enrollment and nearly 7 percent growth in its full-time equivalent students. South Dakota School of Mines & Technology also was up slightly in both its headcount and FTE students.

“Given the very low unemployment rates, flat enrollment is not surprising,” said Mike Rush, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “We just need to continue to emphasize the critical role higher education plays in individual success and in the economic vitality of our state.”

### South Dakota Public University System: Fall 2015 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-time Equivalent			
	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	4,489	4,395	-94	-2.09%	2,919.7	2,882.5	-37.2	-1.27%
DSU	3,047	3,145	98	3.22%	1,739.6	1,858.9	119.2	6.85%
NSU	3,580	3,496	-84	-2.35%	2,143.8	1,995.2	-148.6	-6.93%
SDSM&T	2,798	2,843	45	1.61%	2,391.2	2,404.6	13.4	0.56%
SDSU	12,557	12,589	32	0.25%	10,179.9	10,141.5	-38.4	-0.38%
USD	10,061	9,971	-90	-0.89%	7,362.3	7,401.1	38.8	0.53%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,532</b>	<b>36,439</b>	<b>-93</b>	<b>-0.25%</b>	<b>26,736.5</b>	<b>26,683.8</b>	<b>-52.8</b>	<b>-0.20%</b>

The historical trend of headcount and FTE enrollment in South Dakota’s public university system, dating back to 1996, is shown in the following charts:

**South Dakota Public University System  
Headcount Enrollment 1996-2015**

Fall Term	System	% Change
1996	26,508	
1997	25,719	-2.98%
1998	26,560	3.27%
1999	26,616	0.21%
2000	27,134	1.95%
2001	28,446	4.84%
2002	29,533	3.82%
2003	29,716	0.62%
2004	29,844	0.43%
2005	30,720	2.94%
2006	30,901	0.59%
2007	32,148	4.04%
2008	32,943	2.47%
2009	33,779	2.54%
2010	36,440	7.88%
2011	36,103	-0.92%
2012	36,430	0.91%
2013	36,365	-0.18%
2014	36,532	0.46%
<b>2015</b>	<b>36,439</b>	<b>-0.25%</b>

**South Dakota Public University System  
Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment 1996-2015**

Fall Term	System	% Change
1996	22,347	
1997	21,714	-2.83%
1998	21,917	0.93%
1999	21,606	-1.42%
2000	21,616	0.04%
2001	22,339	3.35%
2002	23,008	3.00%
2003	23,605	2.59%
2004	23,534	-0.30%
2005	24,089	2.36%
2006	24,144	0.23%
2007	24,512	1.52%
2008	24,926	1.69%
2009	25,468	2.17%
2010	26,625	4.54%
2011	26,720	0.35%
2012	26,468	-0.94%
2013	26,782	1.18%
2014	26,737	-0.17%
<b>2015</b>	<b>26,684</b>	<b>-0.20%</b>