



News Release

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Public University Headcount Numbers Decline Slightly; FTE Enrollment Up

PIERRE, S.D. – After 13 straight years of setting records, headcount enrollment at South Dakota’s six public universities was down slightly this fall, the South Dakota Board of Regents announced Tuesday. Full-time equivalent enrollment, often considered to be a better measure of growth and retention within the higher education system, was up by nearly 100 students.

The number of full-time equivalent students for the Fall 2011 term—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system—increased by 94.5 students to a total of 26,719.5, or 0.35 percent. Total headcount at the six public universities this fall was 36,103, a decrease of 337 students, or less than 1 percent, over a year ago.

“This leveling off in headcount is not a surprise, given that we followed on the heels of a very strong 8 percent increase last year. Students tend to be a bit more cautious, given an uncertain economy. And three successive years of state budget cuts to higher education in South Dakota do impact the bottom line for students, so that continues to be a concern for us,” said Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “On the other hand, we are seeing a modest growth in full-time students this fall and that is a very good thing. It tells us that students are taking more courses and persisting to the conclusion of their studies,” Warner said.

South Dakota Public University System: Fall 2011 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-time Equivalent			
	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	4,722	4,415	-307	-6.50%	3,241.5	3,134.7	-106.8	-3.29%
DSU	3,101	3,102	1	0.03%	1,708.0	1,746.1	38.1	2.23%
NSU	3,296	3,580	284	8.62%	2,097.0	2,201.9	104.9	5.00%
SDSMT	2,354	2,311	-43	-1.83%	1,996.6	1,982.4	-14.2	-0.71%
SDSU	12,816	12,725	-91	-0.71%	10,512.5	10,420.9	-91.6	-0.87%
USD	10,151	9,970	-181	-1.78%	7,069.4	7,233.5	164.1	2.32%
TOTAL	36,440	36,103	-337	-0.92%	26,625.0	26,719.5	94.5	0.35%

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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 1996-2011

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%

South Dakota Public University System Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment 1996-2011

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%