



News Release

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Fall Headcount Enrollment Grows Slightly at Public Universities

PIERRE, S.D. – Fall enrollment at South Dakota’s six public universities increased slightly compared to last year, up one-quarter of one percent, the South Dakota Board of Regents reported today. Headcount enrollment was up by 92 students across the entire system.

Total headcount at the six public universities was 36,531, an increase of 0.25 percent over last year. The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students for the Fall 2016 term—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the regents’ system—decreased by 84.1 students to a total of 26,599.7, or -0.32 percent.

Dakota State University at Madison reported growth in both its headcount (1.43 percent) and FTE (2.03 percent). Headcount enrollment growth within the system was led by Northern State University at Aberdeen, which posted a 2.6 percent increase.

“Our continued attention to growing enrollments is very important for South Dakota and its economic well-being,” said Mike Rush, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “We remain committed to increasing the number of students with postsecondary education. Increasing the number of students with four-year and graduate degrees is a critical component of meeting the state’s goal to have 65 percent of 25 to 34 year olds with some type of postsecondary credential.”

South Dakota Public University System: Fall 2016 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-time Equivalent			
	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	4,395	4,244	-151	-3.44%	2,882.5	2,824.9	-57.6	-2.00%
DSU	3,145	3,190	45	1.43%	1,858.9	1,896.7	37.8	2.03%
NSU	3,496	3,587	91	2.60%	1,995.2	1,953.4	-41.8	-2.10%
SDSM&T	2,843	2,859	16	0.56%	2,404.6	2,394.2	-10.4	-0.43%
SDSU	12,589	12,613	24	0.19%	10,141.5	10,130.1	-11.4	-0.11%
USD	9,971	10,038	67	0.67%	7,401.1	7,400.4	-0.7	-0.01%
TOTAL	36,439	36,531	92	0.25%	26,683.8	26,599.7	-84.1	-0.32%

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 1996-2016

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%
2015	36,439	-0.25%
2016	36,531	0.25%

South Dakota Public University System Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment 1996-2016

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%
2015	26,684	-0.20%
2016	26,600	-0.32%