

Fall 2019 Enrollment Snapshot for Illinois Public Universities

The following fall enrollment snapshot for the Illinois public universities was produced using data collected over the last five academic years via IBHE's Fall Enrollment I survey. It emphasizes full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE)¹.

Overall Fall Enrollment (FTE)

As shown in *Table 1*, overall fall enrollment in 2019-20 at Illinois public universities (including both undergraduate and graduate programs) slightly increased (+463 FTE) from academic year 2018-19 and is down -4.8% (-8,321 FTE) from academic year 2015-16. Western Illinois University (-11.7%), Southern Illinois University Carbondale (-8.9%), and Northeastern Illinois University (-6.9%) experienced the largest overall enrollment declines relative to 2018-19. The University of Illinois at Chicago (+5.7%), Eastern Illinois University (+2.6%), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (+2.5%), Chicago State University (+2.3%), and Illinois State University (+1.6%) experienced overall increases relative to 2018-19.

Table 1: Combined Undergraduate and Graduate Enrollment (based on FTE)

	Combined FTE Enrollment (Undergraduate and Graduate)					Change in Enrollment	
	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2015 to 2019	Fall 2018 to 2019
CSU	3,618	2,734	2,429	2,267	2,320	-35.9%	2.3%
EIU	7,282	6,234	5,339	5,892	6,046	-17.0%	2.6%
GSU	3,920	3,886	3,554	3,320	3,296	-15.9%	-0.7%
ISU	18,183	18,533	18,308	18,115	18,404	1.2%	1.6%
NEIU	6,366	6,101	5,777	5,201	4,842	-23.9%	-6.9%
NIU	16,502	15,712	14,982	14,352	13,779	-16.5%	-4.0%
SIUC	14,995	13,880	12,463	10,851	9,887	-34.1%	-8.9%
SIUE	11,985	11,870	11,523	10,942	10,704	-10.7%	-2.2%
UIC	28,687	28,935	30,418	31,620	33,415	16.5%	5.7%
UIS	3,921	3,985	3,526	3,211	3,101	-20.9%	-3.4%
UIUC	47,644	48,765	49,736	50,849	52,142	9.4%	2.5%
WIU	9,561	8,934	8,134	7,260	6,407	-33.0%	-11.7%
Total	172,664	169,569	166,189	163,880	164,343	-4.8%	0.3%

Undergraduate Enrollment (FTE)

Overall undergraduate fall enrollment at public universities declined -1.5% (-1,788 FTE) from academic year 2018-19 to 2019-20 and -7.7% (-10,134 FTE) when compared to 2015-16. As shown in *Table 2*, Western Illinois University (-12.6%), Southern Illinois University Carbondale (-11.3%), and Northeastern Illinois University (-9.3%) experienced the largest undergraduate

¹ Full-time equivalent (FTE) is a single value that includes all attempted credit hours for all students (full- and part-time) converted into a full-time basis by program level (undergraduate, graduate, and professional). For example, 15 undergraduate hours are the equivalent of one undergraduate FTE and 12 graduate hours are the equivalent of one graduate FTE.

enrollment declines from 2018-19 to 2019-20. The University of Illinois at Chicago (+4.5%), Chicago State University (+5.3%), Eastern Illinois University (+3.3%), and Illinois State University (+1.2%) experienced increases in undergraduate enrollment relative to 2018-19.

Table 2: Undergraduate Enrollment (based on FTE)

	Undergraduate FTE Enrollment					Change in Enrollment	
	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2015 to 2019	Fall 2018 to 2019
CSU	2,571	1,721	1,535	1,500	1,579	-38.6%	5.3%
EIU	6,429	5,264	4,442	4,944	5,108	-20.5%	3.3%
GSU	2,447	2,456	2,387	2,332	2,310	-5.6%	-0.9%
ISU	16,792	17,056	16,826	16,559	16,764	-0.2%	1.2%
NEIU	5,522	5,222	4,902	4,380	3,974	-28.0%	-9.3%
NIU	13,328	12,649	12,136	11,601	10,984	-17.6%	-5.3%
SIUC	11,670	10,829	9,763	8,369	7,421	-36.4%	-11.3%
SIUE	10,350	10,273	9,912	9,302	8,977	-13.3%	-3.5%
UIC	17,022	17,416	18,949	20,385	21,300	25.1%	4.5%
UIS	2,265	2,287	2,282	2,162	2,151	-5.0%	-0.5%
UIUC	34,041	34,592	34,657	34,761	34,720	2.0%	-0.1%
WIU	8,407	7,818	6,981	6,203	5,422	-35.5%	-12.6%
Total	130,844	127,583	124,772	122,498	120,710	-7.7%	-1.5%

Graduate Enrollment (FTE)

Total graduate enrollment at public universities increased +5.4% from (+2,251 FTE) fall of 2018-19. As shown in Table 3, the University of Illinois at Springfield (-9.4%) and Western Illinois University (-6.8%) had the largest declines in fall graduate enrollment relative to 2018-19. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (+8.3%) experienced an increase in graduate enrollment relative to 2018-19, along with the University of Illinois at Chicago (+7.8%), Northeastern Illinois University (+5.7%), Illinois State University (+5.4%), Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (+5.3%), and Northern Illinois University (+1.6%).

Table 3: Graduate Enrollment (based on FTE)

	Graduate FTE Enrollment					Change in Enrollment	
	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2015 to 2019	Fall 2018 to 2019
CSU	1,047	1,013	894	767	741	-29.2%	-3.4%
EIU	853	970	897	948	938	10.0%	-1.1%
GSU	1,473	1,430	1,167	988	986	-33.1%	-0.2%
ISU	1,391	1,477	1,482	1,556	1,640	17.9%	5.4%
NEIU	844	879	875	821	868	2.8%	5.7%
NIU	3,174	3,063	2,846	2,751	2,795	-11.9%	1.6%
SIUC	3,325	3,051	2,700	2,482	2,466	-25.8%	-0.6%
SIUE	1,635	1,597	1,611	1,640	1,727	5.6%	5.3%
UIC	11,665	11,519	11,469	11,235	12,115	3.9%	7.8%
UIS	1,656	1,698	1,244	1,049	950	-42.6%	-9.4%
UIUC	13,603	14,173	15,079	16,088	17,422	28.1%	8.3%
WIU	1,154	1,116	1,153	1,057	985	-14.6%	-6.8%
Total	41,820	41,986	41,417	41,382	43,633	4.3%	5.4%