



COMMUNITY COLLEGES

# FACTSHEET

## National Comparison of Jointly Enrolled Students

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### About the Factsheet

This document contains data from the Community College Management Information System and other sources with summative data on topics of interest. Factsheet is not released at regular intervals.

### Contacts

Jeremy Varner  
Administrator  
Division of  
Community Colleges  
515-281-8260  
jeremy.varner@iowa.gov

Vlad Bassis  
Consultant (MIS)  
Bureau of  
Community Colleges  
515-281-3671  
vladimir.bassis@iowa.gov

Eric St Clair  
Consultant (Senior Year Plus)  
Bureau of  
Career Technical Education  
515-725-0127  
eric.stclair@iowa.gov

### Iowa Department of Education

Grimes State Office Building  
400 East 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA  
50319-0146

Phone: 515-281-3671  
Fax: 515-242-5988

[www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov)

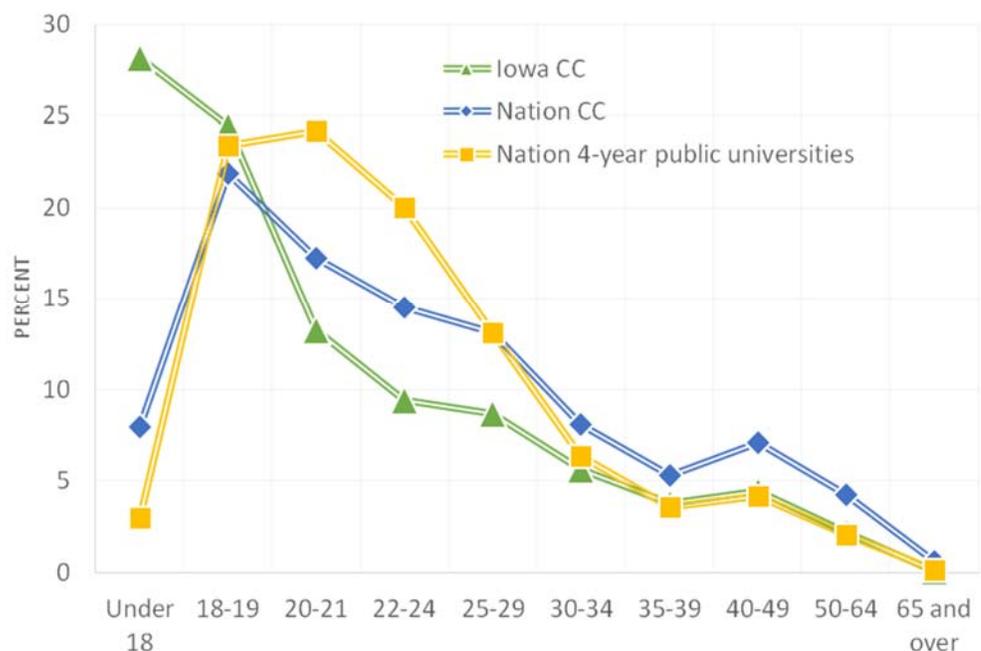
### Overview

Each year, tens of thousands of Iowa high school students jointly enroll in college credit coursework through one of Iowa's 15 community colleges, three public universities, or numerous private postsecondary institutions. The Division of Community Colleges defines joint enrollment as a high school student enrolling in a community college course. Students may enroll through contracted courses (which includes concurrent enrollment), Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), or as a tuition-paying student. For the purpose of this report, joint enrollment is expanded to include enrollment at a postsecondary institution.

The division conducts extensive statewide analysis of jointly enrolled students. This information is presented in the *Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges* report and *Joint Enrollment Report*. However, straight comparison of Iowa's enrollment to that of other states is difficult. A number of factors complicate interstate comparisons, but much of the difficulty stems from the lack of a unifying national definition for such offerings.

Nevertheless, this factsheet attempts to address the following question: where does Iowa rank nationally in terms of the enrollment of high school students in postsecondary coursework? The division gathered national statistics from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) on the age of the enrolled student population at two- and four-year public institutions during the fall of 2013. The division utilized the percent of students under the age of 18 as a proxy for joint enrollment since most high school students would fall into this age bracket. The findings are presented below.

### Age of Students Enrolled in US Public Postsecondary Institutions



## Analysis

The US Department of Education collects postsecondary enrollment data related to a variety of activities in the US colleges and universities into IPEDS. According to Fall 2013 IPEDS data, public two- and four-year public colleges and universities enrolled close to 15 million students nationwide.

Data was broken down and distributed among ten age groups (from under 18 to over 64). Nationally, the largest group of students (22.72 percent) was 18 or 19 years old. The distribution of age groups within Iowa community colleges, nations' community colleges, and nations' four-year universities varied significantly.

In Iowa community colleges, 18 and 19 year old students comprised the second largest age group of students. The largest group of Iowa community college students, distributed in IPEDS age categories, is comprised of students under 18 years of age: 28.2 percent of total enrollment.

## Summary

Data gathered through the Division of Community College's Management Information System (MIS) indicates that in the 2013-14 academic year 42,996 students enrolled in almost 337,000 credit hours through contracted courses (predominately concurrent enrollment), PSEO, and as a tuition-paying student at Iowa's community colleges. Compared to overall community college enrollment, jointly enrolled students accounted for 30.4\* percent of all credit student enrollment. Put another way, approximately

one in four community college students is also a high school student. Approximately 74 percent of jointly enrolled students were 17 or 18 years of age - not surprising given the majority of jointly enrolled students were in either 11th or 12th grade.

High school students do have the option of enrolling through PSEO at a four-year public or private institution; however, the vast majority of students enroll in postsecondary coursework through concurrent enrollment at an Iowa community college.

In order to conduct a national comparison, the division utilized data on the age of the enrolled student population at two- and four-year public institutions. The percent of enrolled students under the age of 18 was used to compare the population of jointly enrolled students in Iowa to similar students in other states. Comparing the population of jointly enrolled students at Iowa's community colleges to national data on two- and four-year public institutions clearly shows that Iowa community colleges lead the nation in the percent of students under 18 years of age enrolled in community colleges or in all public institutions, combined.

\*Includes Fall, Spring, and Summer terms enrollment.

## Additional Resources

- [Joint Enrollment Report](#)
- [The Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges](#)
- [Senior Year Plus Guide for Educators and Educational Administrators](#)

Percent of under 18 years old students enrolled in public 2-year colleges in Fall 2013

