

FALL 2024 ENROLLMENT

Systemwide Enrollment Is Up

Fall 2024 marks the eighth consecutive quarter the Community and Technical College (CTC) system experienced a substantial increase in year-over-year enrollment. Compared with last fall, headcount across the system increased 6 percent. On a full-time equivalent student (FTES) basis, year-over-year enrollment is up 8 percent.

Table 1. Fall headcount enrollment (six-year trend)

Fall quarter of:	Headcount	YoY % Change
2019	221,672	0%
2020	179,688	-19%
2021	167,885	-7%
2022	168,117	0%
2023	180,947	8%
2024	192,513	6%

Table 2. Fall full-time equivalent student enrollment (six-year trend)

Fall quarter of:	FTES	YoY% Change
2019	156,018	0%
2020	133,760	-14%
2021	123,012	-8%
2022	122,162	-1%
2023	131,316	7%
2024	142,070	8%

Select Enrollment Metrics

State-funded enrollment improved 8 percent year over year to almost 100 thousand FTES. Contract-funded enrollment increased 10 percent again, largely driven by increased Running Start and College in the High School participation, further discussed below. Student-funded enrollment, which tends to have broader swings from year to year, fell by 3%. This is most likely reflecting a stabilization after post-pandemic recovery.

Table 3. Fall full-time equivalent student enrollment by fund source (three years)

Fund-source	Fall quarter of:	FTES	YoY % Change
State-funded	2022	86,638	-3%
	2023	92,206	6%
	2024	99,533	8%
Contract-funded	2022	33,666	3%
	2023	36,921	10%
	2024	40,422	10%
Student-funded	2022	1,858	34%
	2023	2,189	18%
	2024	2,115	-3%

Concerning enrollment by the student's intended pathway, academic transfer programs increased roughly in line with overall enrollment, 8 percent. Professional/technical program enrollment showed an accelerated recovery from pandemic

impacts on in-person instruction, rising 7%. Adult basic education programs, also very heavily impacted by the pandemic restrictions on in-person instruction, continued to rise, but the pace of growth has slowed somewhat to 11%. The 'Other' category is largely non-credit continuing education programs, which are showing some stabilization after rapid recovery with the return to in person instruction beginning in fall of 2022.

Table 4. Fall headcount by student intent grouping (three years)

Student Intent Grouping	Fall quarter of:	Headcount	YoY % Change
Transfer	2022	70,584	
	2023	75,979	8%
	2024	82,251	8%
Basic Education for Adults	2022	19,498	
	2023	22,384	15%
	2024	24,710	11%
Professional/ Technical	2022	54,327	
	2023	56,156	3%
	2024	60,087	7%
Other	2022	23,708	
	2023	26,428	12%
	2024	25,465	-4%

As shown in Table 4, one significant driver of enrollment this fall was Basic Education for Adults (BEa), which has experienced increased demand over the last three years, particularly in English-language acquisition, or English as a second language, coursework. Much of this increase can be explained by the increases in refugees and migrants participating in language acquisition coursework across the system.

Table 5. Fall headcount enrollment by program

area (three years)

Program type	Fall quarter of:	Headcount	YoY % Change
Apprenticeship	2022	8,154	5%
	2023	8,710	7%
	2024	7,892	-9%
Baccalaureate ¹	2022	4,761	-7%
	2023	5,125	8%
	2024	5,633	10%
Running Start	2022	25,922	1%
	2023	29,619	14%
	2024	33,347	13%

Two areas that experienced significant enrollment gains during the decade leading up to the pandemic – applied baccalaureate (BAS) and Running Start – are again experiencing gains in fall 2024. Despite a small dip in fall 2022, largely due to a pause in new program implementation during the pandemic, enrollment in BAS programs has demonstrated resilience. BAS enrolments have remained above pre-pandemic levels and continue to grow.

Although Running Start participation appeared to have similar staying power in fall 2020, the program experienced a double-digit percent drop in fall 2021. Running Start enrollment recovered in fall 2023 and 2024, however, with enrollment surpassing its pre-pandemic level in fall 2024. This holds true for Running Start FTEs as well, with an increase of 11% in fall 2024 to 27,979 FTE, well above a previous peak of 25,864. This suggests Running Start students are returning to full-time participation.

Apprenticeship enrollments showed a small decline in fall 2024, but it should be noted that

¹ Baccalaureate enrolments here include only students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs ('matriculated' baccalaureate students)

apprenticeship enrollments vary during the year and this trend may not hold true with full year final enrollments. Additionally, newly implemented coding practices to identify apprenticeship students may partially explain the decline.

Finally, fall 2024 credential-seeking enrollments showed increases in all types of student status (whether students are new, returning, or continuing).

Table 6. Fall 2024 credential-seeking enrollments by student status (pre-pandemic and last two years)

	Fall 2019	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
New Student	34,524	36,977	37,389
Transfer In	11,433	11,009	11,292
Did Not Attend Previous Spring	15,679	10,815	11,108
Continuing Student	107,773	73,334	82,549
Total	169,409	132,135	142,338

Enrollments of new students into credential-level program exceeds pre-pandemic levels. Enrollments by continuing students is continuing to recover, although is still well below pre-pandemic levels. Over time, it is expected that the ongoing return of students that chose to ‘stop out’ during the pandemic (shown in the table as ‘Did Not Attend Previous Spring’) will help to stabilize the continuing student enrollments.

Select Demographics

The last three years have seen gradual increases in enrollments by students of color. During the pandemic, white students showed some of the steepest declines in enrollment, and while white students are returning to CTCs, enrollments are still well below pre-pandemic levels. By contrast, enrollments by Black and African American and Hispanic students in fall 2024 exceed fall 2019

levels. Enrollments by Black and African American students in fall 2024 are up 19% over fall of 2019, and enrollments by Hispanic students are up 4%.

Table 7. Fall enrollment headcount by race (three-year trend)

	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Am.Ind. / AK Native	1,374	1,488	1,548
Asian	17,690	18,735	21,051
Black / Afr.Am.	10,684	12,088	14,312
Hispanic	17,892	20,452	23,938
Pacific Islander	1,049	915	1,110
White	72,143	76,116	79,190
2+ Races	23,983	25,154	28,606
Not Reported	23,302	25,999	22,758

Table 8 shows fall enrollments by race as a percentage of total enrollments. This illustrates how CTC participation by students of color is working to close an equity gap, as enrollments by students of color are growing faster than enrollments by white students. It is important to recognize that behind overall enrollment, research into the types of enrollments and whether conditions adequately support students of color to persist and complete is necessary to address inequity in student success.

Table 8. Fall enrollment by race, as a percent of total enrolments (three-year trend)

	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Am.Ind. / AK Native	0.82%	0.82%	0.80%
Asian	10.52%	10.35%	10.93%
Black / Afr.Am.	6.36%	6.68%	7.43%
Hispanic	10.64%	11.30%	12.43%
Pacific Islander	0.62%	0.51%	0.58%
White	42.91%	42.07%	41.13%
2+ Races	14.27%	13.90%	14.86%
Not Reported	13.86%	14.37%	11.82%



CONTACT INFORMATION

Travis Dulany & Summer Kenesson
Policy Research
Education Division
360-704-1070
tdulany@sbctc.edu