

CCCS Spring 2018 Census Enrollment Report

February 15, 2018

Each spring, the colleges of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) conduct a census count of their students. The census count provides data to college and CCCS leadership and state budget officials about trends in student enrollment to inform college and state budget processes. The census date typically falls within the first 15 percent of the term; it is the last date that students can drop a class without academic penalty or add a class and receive state funding. CCCS colleges have different term beginning dates and thus different census dates.¹ The census is the official “snap shot” of student counts at a given point in time. However, the data continues to be refined throughout the semester until it is finalized in July.

Full-time equivalent students. Students are counted and funded on the basis of full-time equivalents (FTE). Thirty credit hours equal one FTE for undergraduate students. Thus, a student who takes 30 credit hours over the course of an academic year is counted as one FTE, while a student who takes 15 credit hours is counted as one-half FTE. Student FTE for graduate programs, such as the master’s degree in the physician assistant program at Red Rocks Community College, are based on 24 credit hours for a full-time student.

The spring 2018 census revealed 21,993.8 student FTE at CCCS colleges. Front Range Community College accounted for the greatest number of FTE, with 23 percent of the system total, followed by Pikes Peak Community College with 17.9 percent of the total. Together these two colleges accounted for almost 41 percent of CCCS FTE. In contrast, the six rural colleges comprised 11.2 percent of the total system FTE.

Compared to spring census 2017, FTE declined 0.9 percent. Five colleges experienced increases while eight colleges saw decreases. Figure 1 compares spring 2018 FTE with 2017 FTE by college.

Figure 1. Comparison of 2018 and 2017 Spring Census

College	Spring 2018 FTE	Spring 2017 FTE	# Change	% Change
ACC	2,288.5	2,293.6	-5.1	-0.2%
CCA	2,056.9	1,984.7	72.2	3.6%
CCD	2,222.4	2,308.6	-86.2	-3.7%
CNCC	335.7	348.0	-12.3	-3.5%
FRCC	5,066.1	5,237.4	-171.3	-3.3%
LCC	268.3	243.8	24.4	10.0%
MCC	337.6	342.7	-5.1	-1.5%
NJC	526.7	536.3	-9.6	-1.8%
OJC	414.3	442.4	-28.1	-6.4%
PCC	1,570.0	1,541.8	28.2	1.8%
PPCC	3,934.1	3,896.8	37.3	1.0%
RRCC	2,398.2	2,467.1	-68.9	-2.8%
TSJC	575.0	554.7	20.3	3.7%
CCCS	21,993.8	22,197.9	-204.2	-0.9%

Tuition residency. Student FTE are classified as in-state or out-of-state. Credit hours taken by students who meet the definition of a Colorado resident are used to calculate in-state FTE. In addition, state law also allows some students who do not meet residency requirements to pay in-state tuition. Examples include students who attend CCCS institutions under reciprocity agreements with New Mexico and Utah, Olympic athletes training in Colorado Springs, or specified U.S. military personnel and dependents. Ninety-four percent of spring census FTE were classified as in-state. Rural colleges tended to have higher proportions of out-of-state FTE, including 20.5 percent at Colorado Northwestern Community College, 16 percent at Otero Junior College, and 14.4 percent at Trinidad Junior College. Figure 2 shows spring census FTE by tuition residency status by college.

¹ In addition to different census dates, the Colorado Department of Higher Education reporting deadline affects when colleges freeze data for purposes of the census. Thus, the data may not include all information through a college’s census date.

Figure 2. Spring Census FTE by Tuition Residency Status

College	In State	Out of State	Total	College as % of CCCS Total
ACC	2,212.6	75.9	2,288.5	10.4%
CCA	1,966.3	90.6	2,056.9	9.4%
CCD	2,052.9	169.5	2,222.4	10.1%
CNCC	267.0	68.7	335.7	1.5%
FRCC	4,709.4	356.8	5,066.1	23.0%
LCC	230.0	38.3	268.3	1.2%
MCC	332.5	5.2	337.6	1.5%
NJC	459.2	67.5	526.7	2.4%
OJC	348.1	66.2	414.3	1.9%
PCC	1,540.1	29.9	1,570.0	7.1%
PPCC	3,728.5	205.6	3,934.1	17.9%
RRCC	2,307.3	90.9	2,398.2	10.9%
TSJC	492.3	82.6	575.0	2.6%
CCCS	20,646.2	1,347.6	21,993.8	100.0%
% of CCCS	93.9%	6.1%	100.0%	N/A

Student enrollment count. The CCCS spring census enrollment count totaled 78,317 students, just about the same as the preceding spring. Individual colleges saw more variation in their counts, however. Enrollment increased at Northeastern Junior College and the Community College of Aurora by 23.9 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively, while enrollment fell 7.8 percent at Morgan Community College.

Figure 3. Spring Census Student Count

College	Spring 2018 Student Count	Spring 2017 Student Count	# Change	% Change
ACC	9,779	9,775	4	0.0%
CCA	8,779	8,116	663	8.2%
CCD	8,015	8,394	-379	-4.5%
CNCC	1,031	1,004	27	2.7%
FRCC	18,729	19,171	-442	-2.3%
LCC	764	716	48	6.7%
MCC	1,280	1,389	-109	-7.8%
NJC	1,548	1,249	299	23.9%
OJC	1,237	1,304	-67	-5.1%
PCC	5,127	5,107	20	0.4%
PPCC	12,581	12,696	-115	-0.9%
RRCC	7,801	7,908	-107	-1.4%
TSJC	1,646	1,611	35	2.2%
CCCS	78,317	78,440	-123	-0.2%

Average undergraduate credit hours per student.

The spring census revealed that CCCS students enrolled for an average of 8.4 credits, essentially the same as a year ago. Rural college students averaged 9.8 credit hours, while urban college students averaged 8.3 credit hours. Figure 4 presents average credit hours per undergraduate student in spring 2018 and the change from spring 2017.

Figure 4. Average Undergraduate Credit Hours/Student

College	No. of Undergrad Students	Credit Hours	Average Credit Hours per Student	Change from Spring 2017
ACC	9,779	68,656	7.0	0.0
CCA	8,779	61,708	7.0	-0.3
CCD	8,015	66,672	8.3	0.1
CNCC	1,031	10,071	9.8	-0.6
FRCC	18,729	151,984	8.1	-0.1
LCC	764	8,048	10.5	0.3
MCC	1,280	10,129	7.9	0.5
NJC	1,548	15,801	10.2	-2.7
OJC	1,237	12,428	10.0	-0.1
PCC	5,127	47,101	9.2	0.1
PPCC	12,581	118,022	9.4	0.2
RRCC	7,770	70,551	9.1	-0.3
TSJC	1,646	17,249	10.5	0.2
CCCS	78,286	658,418	8.4	-0.1

Graduate students and FTE. As previously mentioned, the physician assistant program at Red Rocks Community College offers a master’s degree. Thirty-one students are participating this spring, 19 in-state students and 12 out-of-state students. These 31 students accounted for 46.5 FTE.