



On October 5th the University reached the 30th day of classes for Fall 2015. The 30th day gives us a consistent benchmark to compare enrollment across terms. The numbers outlined below are the official enrollment headcount of students taking credit-based courses on the 30th day of the fall semester.

Headcount and FYE Enrollment

To get an overall look at our current enrollment picture, both headcount enrollment and full-year equivalent (FYE) enrollment is captured and analyzed on the 30th day. The measure of headcount treats every student equally. Every student that is enrolled for one or more credits is one headcount. FYE works a little differently and factors in student credit hours. The equation for calculating FYE is the sum of undergraduate credits divided by 30 plus the sum of graduate credits divided by 20, or:

$$FYE = \frac{\sum \text{Undergraduate Credits}}{30} + \frac{\sum \text{Graduate Credits}}{20}$$

This means that an undergraduate student enrolled in 15 credits during the fall semester will count as 0.5 FYE, but a student enrolled in 3 credits will only count as 0.1 FYE.

In fall 2010, St. Cloud State hit an all-time high in headcount enrollment, reaching 18,319 students. After that year, the University experienced four consecutive years of declining fall enrollment. Fall 2015 brings on a modest increase of 45 students compared to fall 2014. This increase was influenced by new undergraduate students, graduate student enrollment, and high school students earning college credit through St. Cloud State (PSEO/Senior to Sophomore students).

The same is true for FYE with fall 2010 being the highest ever recorded. However, unlike headcount enrollment, FYE enrollment experienced a slight decline this year (down 24 FYE or 0.4%). The reason for the growth in headcount but decline in FYE is largely due to the aforementioned increase in high school students. Since these students take, on average, four credits per semester, their impact on headcount is significant, but is less significant on FYE.

Figure 1. Total Student Headcount as of 30th Day of Classes

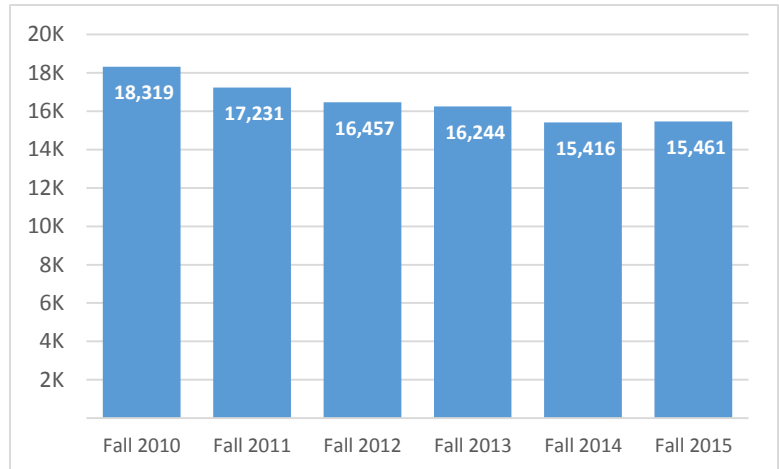
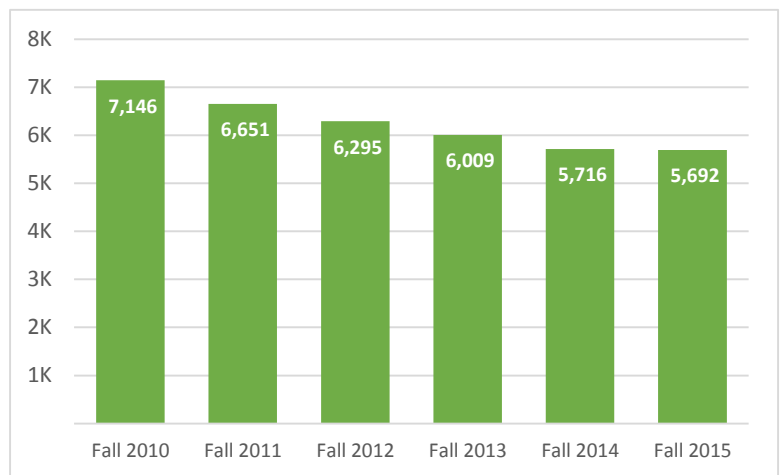


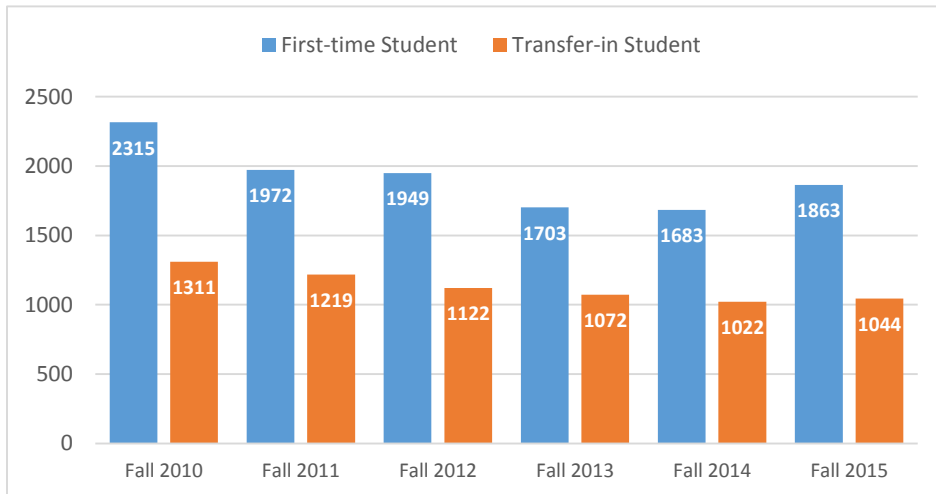
Figure 2. Total Student FYE as of 30th Day of Classes



New Undergraduate Student Enrollment & Quality

The most notable data point from this fall’s enrollment picture is the increase in First-time student enrollment, or students typically called new entering freshmen (NEF). In a span of five years, St. Cloud State’s first-time student enrollment went from 2,315 students in fall 2010 to 1,683 students in fall 2014; a drop of 27%. This fall, first-time student enrollment increased by over 10% to reach 1,863 students.

Figure 3. First-time (NEF) Student and Transfer-in (NET) Student Headcount Enrollment



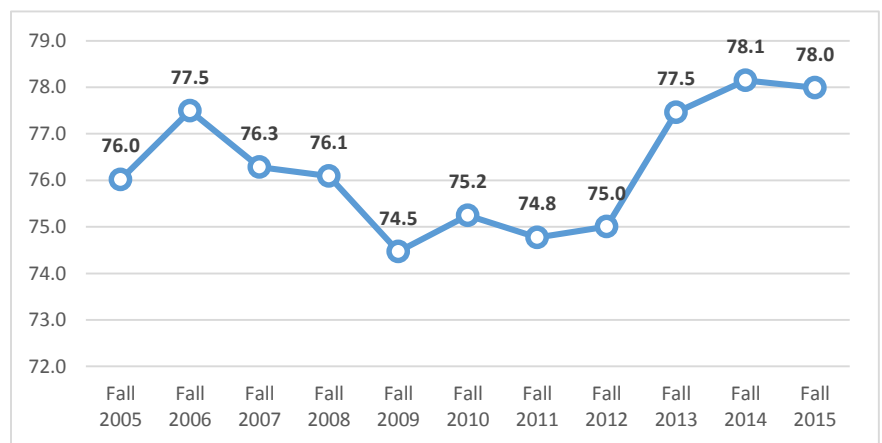
Within the first-time student population, student of color enrollment and international student enrollment increased by 14% and 15% respectively.

Transfer-in (NET) student enrollment increased by 2% compared to fall 2014. This increase breaks a string of five consecutive years of declining transfer-in student enrollment.

Together, first-time and transfer-in student enrollment increased by 202 students, a 7.5% increase.

The enrollment increase in first-time students was achieved by maintaining the academic quality of the new student class. A metric, called Quality Points Predicted (QPP), developed by the staff in the Office of Strategy, Planning & Effectiveness, measures the academic quality of incoming students. QPP utilizes high school GPA, high school class rank, and ACT score to predict each student’s first year quality points (attempted credits x GPA). The fall 2015 class has an average QPP of 78.0, just slightly lower than 78.1 that was calculated for the fall 2014 class.

Figure 4. First-time (NEF) Student Average Quality Points Predicted



This fall, the University Honors Program (UHP) accepted 159 new students to the highly selective interdisciplinary program. This is an increase of 20% over fall 2014 and is the highest number of new students selected for the program since at least fall 2002, when UHP enrollment was first electronically recorded.

Graduate Student Enrollment

For the second consecutive fall semester, graduate student headcount has increased. The 10% increase over fall 2014 brings total graduate student headcount to 1,832 students. For about 26% of St. Cloud State's graduate students, fall 2015 is their first semester enrolled in graduate education at St. Cloud State. The number of new graduate students at St. Cloud State increased by nearly 3% (13 students) this fall; the highest number of new graduate students since fall 2010. Considering that total graduate student headcount increased by 167 students, 13 of which coming from new students, returning students were the driving force behind this fall's increase.

Another noteworthy factor behind the increase in graduate students is international student enrollment. This fall, international graduate student enrollment increased by 28% (85 students) compared to fall 2014. International students currently comprise over 21% of the graduate student population.

Figure 5. Total Graduate Student Headcount

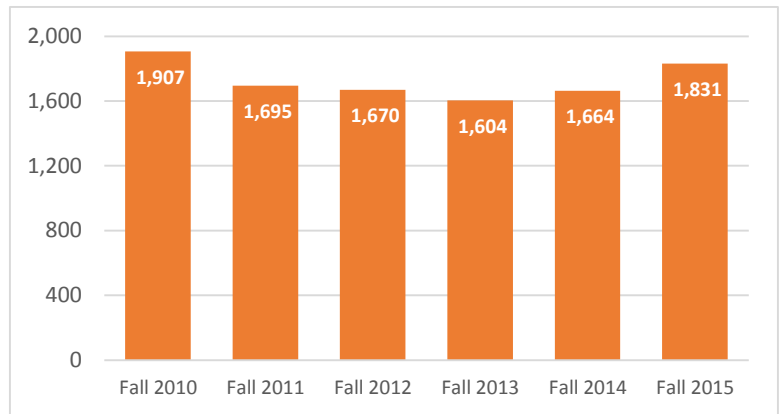
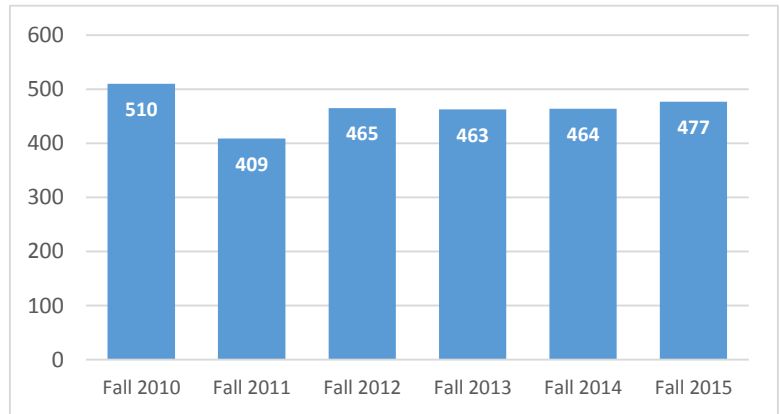


Figure 6. New Graduate Student Headcount

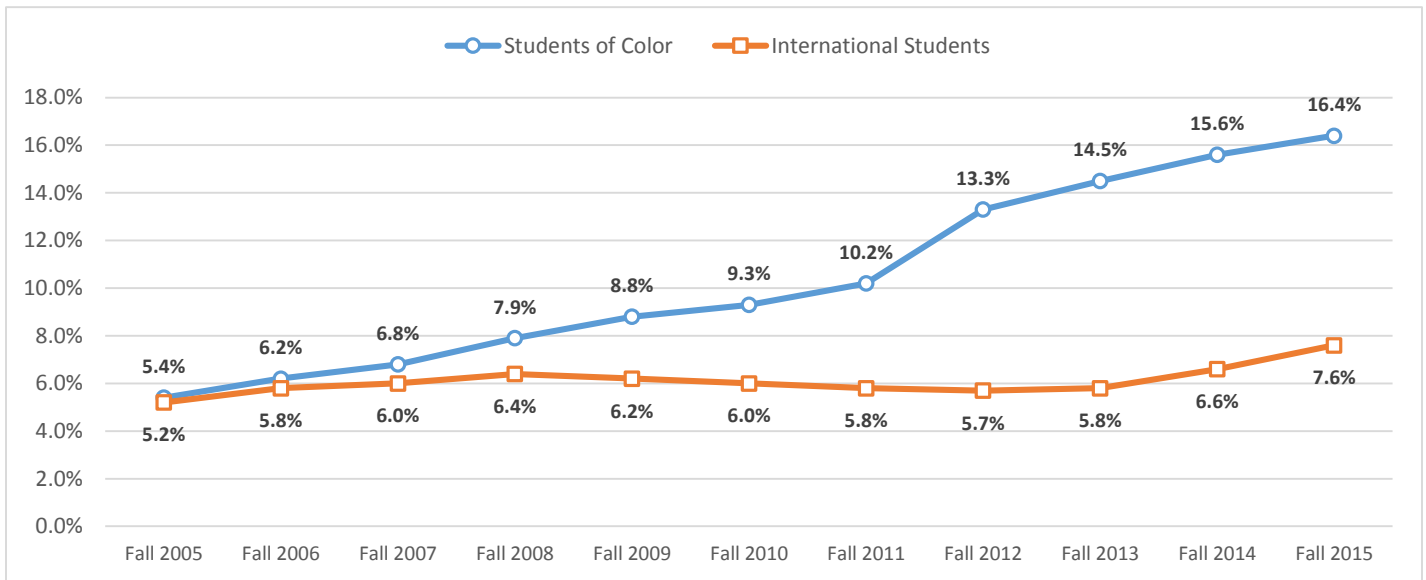


A Focus on Diversity

This headline has been repeated year after year: St. Cloud State reports an increase in student of color (SOC) enrollment. Since fall 2000, the reported domestic SOC headcount enrollment figure has increased each year. Even while St. Cloud State experienced a 16% total headcount enrollment decrease between fall 2010 and fall 2014, SOC enrollment managed to increase each year. This fall, SOC headcount enrollment is 2,543 students, which characterizes 16.4% of the total student body.

International student enrollment also recorded large gains in fall 2015. Overall, international student headcount increased by 14.5% bringing the total headcount figure to 1,172. This is the highest international student headcount enrollment ever at St. Cloud State. The previous high was recorded in fall 2010 with 1,101 International students enrolled.

Figure 7. Student of Color Enrollment and International Student Enrollment as Percent of Total Enrollment



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