

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME ENROLLEES BY TYPE OF DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTION IN CENTRAL MASS (2000-2010)

Four-year institutions continue to account for most of the full-time enrollment in higher education institutions in Central Mass, but their share fell from 79.4 percent to 74.3 percent over the past decade. While full-time enrollment at four-year institutions grew at a fairly consistent pace in the past decade, there was a sharp increase in enrollment at two-year institutions in recent years. Between 2000 and 2008, the annual rates of growth in full-time enrollment at four-year (2.6 percent) and two-year institutions (3.4 percent) were not that different. Between 2008 and 2010, however, the number of full-time enrollments at two-year institutions increased from 4,950 to nearly 7,000, an annual growth rate of 18.7 percent. This far exceeded the annual rate of growth in full-time enrollment at four-year institutions (2.9 percent).

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System.

Note: In the above stacked-area chart, the different areas represent the number of enrollees by institution type. For example, enrollment in less-than-two-year institutions was nearly 500 in 2010, compared with more than 21,500 at four-year institutions that year. All three areas combined represent the total number of enrollees in post-secondary educational institutions in Central Mass, of which there were more than 29,000 in 2010. The areas are stacked in order of size in 2010, with enrollment at four-year institutions, the largest enrollment group, on the bottom and enrollment at less-than-two-year institutions, the smallest group, at the top.

