



Distance Education Enrollments at Illinois Colleges and Universities

Data for Summer 2006/Academic Year 2005-2006

Executive Summary

Illinois colleges and universities reported a total of 385,120 enrollments in all distance education delivery modes during academic year 2005-2006.

Distance Education Enrollments

A survey completed by the Illinois Virtual Campus shows that there were **111,240** distance education enrollments in **7,232** distance education courses for the Summer 2006 term. This is a **20%** increase in enrollment from Summer 2005 when there were **6,382** courses and **93,039** enrollments.

Online Course Enrollments

Illinois colleges and universities reported offering **5,470** online class sections that generated **96,414** enrollments during the Summer 2006 term. This is an increase of **842** online course sections (**18%**) and **19,539** enrollments (**25%**) from the **4,628** online course sections and **76,875** enrollments reported for the Summer 2005 term.

Impact

Marilyn McConachie of Northern Illinois University, says, **"The number of online courses NIU offers is expanding every semester. Students in our region are demanding more online courses and more online components in regular courses."**

Sharpen the Focus

Phone interviews with selected institutions sharpen the focus to provide a deeper understanding of distance education enrollment trends in Illinois.

The phone interviews were conducted in September 2006 and included two community colleges, a public university, and an independent institution. City Colleges of Chicago, Southeastern Illinois College, Northern Illinois University and Midstate College were chosen.

The interview consisted of five questions. The questions and individual responses are interspersed with the numerical enrollment data within this report.

To view the entire "Sharpen the Focus" see http://www.ivc.illinois.edu/pubs/enrollment/Sharpen_Summer06.html.

Fast Facts

Distance education course enrollments topped the **100,000** mark for the first time in a Summer term.

Online course enrollments showed the largest increase (**25%**) of all delivery modes from Summer 2005 to Summer 2006.

Community Colleges represent **37%** of all distance education enrollments for Summer 2006.

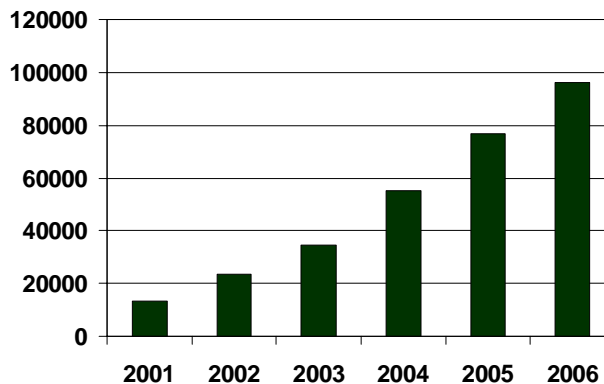
All distance education delivery modes except **Internet and Open Broadcast TV** have shown a decline in enrollments from the 2004-2005 to the 2005-2006 academic year.

In 2005-2006, **online course enrollments** represented **76%** of all distance education enrollments.

Enrollments in Online Courses

This graph shows the online course enrollments reported by Illinois colleges and universities for the Summer terms since Summer 2001.

Enrollments in Online Courses at Illinois Colleges and Universities Summer 2001 to Summer 2006



Sharpen the Focus

How many new distance education students does your institution have the capacity to enroll for the Fall 2006 term?

City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) – For Fall 2006 semester, CCC enrolled 3,531 students in online courses. This was an increase of 791 students across our seven campuses when compared to the Fall 2005 semester. Our current capacity is approximately 4,500 students per semester; however, we have an excellent pool of instructors which would allow CCC to open additional sections to cover any increase in demand.

Southeastern Illinois College (SIC) – We have a capacity for 1,060 students in online courses for Fall 2006 and currently have 821 students enrolled in these courses. We have a capacity to enroll 90 in telecourses and have an enrollment of 47. Interactive video courses have a capacity of 354 and an enrollment of 198.

Northern Illinois University (NIU) – This is hard to determine, since each college sets different limits on sizes of online classes. The range of capacity would be approximately 750-1,000 students.

Midstate College (MC) – For the Fall 2006 term, we enrolled 77 new students for online courses. We had a record total for eLearning for the Fall 2006 term where we enrolled 344 students taking 627 courses online, for an average of 1.8 courses per student. Midstate College currently has the capacity to enroll 519 more online students. However, if the need arises, we will not hesitate to increase the accounts available in the Learning Management System.

Sharpen the Focus

Does your institution plan to expand its distance education offerings in the near future? If so, in what way?

CCC – We will develop additional courses and course sections as student and faculty demand dictates. We are developing a process for requesting the design of online courses. We have recently experienced an increase in the number of requests for course development which has required us to review our current processes for these services.

SIC – Southeastern Illinois College plans to continue to expand course offerings each semester. We are in the process of requesting broad approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association to offer online degrees. One of our goals is to develop additional hybrid lab science and mathematics courses.

NIU – The number of online courses NIU offers is expanding every semester. Students in our region are demanding more online courses and more online components in regular courses. We are responding to the demand and to faculty interest by developing high quality online courses, focused first on degree completion and then on certificate programs.

MC – Midstate College plans to expand its distance education course and program offerings in the near future. We currently have approval to offer the majority of our programs online, and we are in the process of requesting approval to offer all programs online from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Each term we develop an average of 3 new courses. Also, we have plans to begin offering a 2+2 program with Huntington Junior College in North Carolina for Realtime Reporters.

Changes in Enrollment by Delivery

Online Enrollment Percentage

Online enrollments accounted for **87%** of all distance education enrollments in the Summer 2006 term compared to **83%** of the total enrollments in the Summer 2005 term.

All Other Delivery Mode Percentage

The percent of enrollments in delivery modes other than online decreased or remained the same between 2005 and 2006. Stored media courses represented **11%** of all enrollments in 2005 but dropped to **8%** in 2006. Correspondence courses represented **4%** in 2005 but dropped to **3%** in 2006. Interactive TV enrollments were **4%** in 2005 but dropped to **3%** for 2006. The number of enrollments in broadcast TV courses was **2%** in 2005 and remains constant for 2006.

Online Enrollments by Sector

Community College Enrollment

During the Summer 2006 term, community colleges reported offering **2,161** online course sections that generated **29,838** enrollments.

Public University Enrollment

Public universities reported offering **586** online course sections that generated **10,322** enrollments.

Independent For-Profit Colleges and Universities

Independent for-profit colleges and universities reported offering **2,284** online courses that generated **50,861** enrollments.

Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges and Universities

Independent not-for-profit colleges and universities reported offering **439** online courses that generated **5,041** enrollments.

Institutions with the largest online enrollments

The Illinois institutions reporting the largest online course enrollments during the Summer 2006 term in each sector of higher education in Illinois were:

Parkland College (2,999) and **College of DuPage (2,007)** from the community college system.

University of Illinois at Chicago (3,231) and **University of Illinois at Springfield (1,513)** from the public universities.

DeVry University (50,413) from the independent for-profit colleges and universities.

DePaul University (1,280) from the independent not-for-profit colleges and universities.

Sharpen the Focus

What is the most important trend in distance education at your institution?

CCC – We are experiencing several important trends at City Colleges of Chicago. One is the integration of synchronous technologies such as Skype, Blackboard Chat and Elluminate into our online courses which constitutes an effective way of creating a better synergy in our online courses. The use of this means of communication can assist in reducing students' anxieties in taking online courses and can increase the students' learning outcomes.

We have added a part time staff of Instructional Designers to the Center for Distance Learning (CDL) to assist faculty with course design and development issues, course organization and course management support. CDL Instructional Designers are available to consult with faculty on how they can help meet their learning objectives by integrating appropriate technology into their online curriculum.

Finally, there is a growing demand from city agencies to develop partnerships with CCC to assist them with the development of online and blended training courses. CDL recently partnered with Harold Washington College's Public Agency and Special Programs Department and the Chicago Fire Department to design a blended training program for Fire Safety Directors. This program was designed to train and certify designated personnel in Chicago high rise buildings on emergency preparedness procedures.

SIC – Online courses are the primary distance education delivery mode at Southeastern Illinois College. Interactive video course enrollment has leveled, while telecourse enrollment has declined. The trend in online education is moving toward more multi-media components such as streaming audio and video. Also, live audio chat has been incorporated into some classes as a synchronous method of instruction. Although we always look for innovative ways to deliver instruction, we feel that pedagogy should drive the technology rather than the technology driving the pedagogy.

NIU – An increased number of online courses and steadily rising enrollments presents many challenges and is stimulating discussion about quality standards, assessment, media management infrastructure, definitions of online course and online student, and other policy issues.

MC – The most important trend in distance education for Midstate College is the increasing student demand for more online courses in all programs. Most importantly, we continue to work with faculty and students to ensure the quality of our online courses remains the same as our face-to-face courses. Since Winter 2004, we have had an average of 85% online students successfully completing a term.

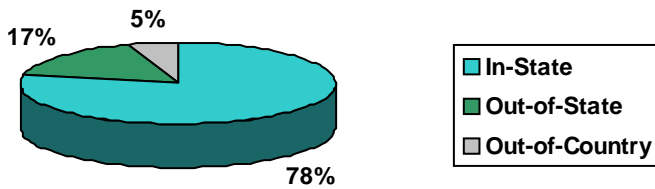
Online Enrollments by Residency

The vast majority of all online course enrollments reported by Illinois public colleges and universities were from students residing in the state. Independent colleges and universities had a majority of online student course enrollments living in the USA outside of Illinois.

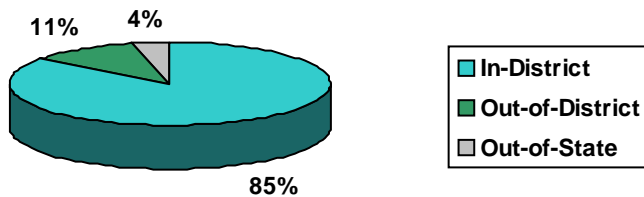
The residency of students enrolled in online courses varied by sector with community colleges having the highest percentage of Illinois residents (**96%**), followed by the public universities (**78%**), and the independent not-for-profit colleges and universities (**69%**). The graphs below show the distributions of online enrollments at all Illinois public universities, public community colleges, independent for-profit colleges and universities, and independent not-for-profit colleges and universities by residency.

**Online Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Residency
for Summer Term 2006**

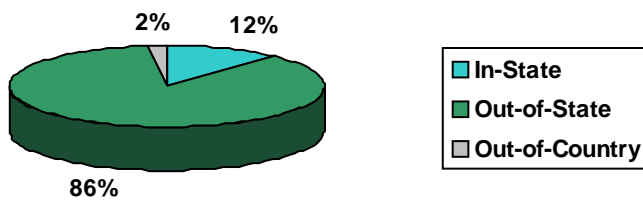
Public Universities



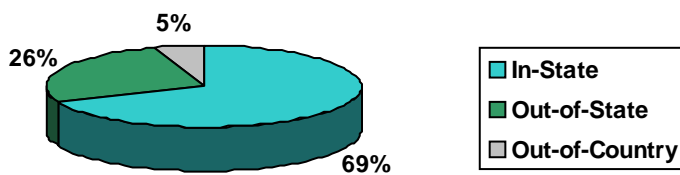
Community Colleges



Independent For-Profit Colleges and Universities



Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges and Universities



Sharpen the Focus

What additional information about enrollment at your institution is significant?

CCC – Academic advisors play a significant role in guiding students towards their academic achievement. Providing campus advisors with information concerning online courses allows them to answer pertinent questions about distance learning and assist students in determining whether an online course is the right decision for them. CDL provides ongoing information and support

to ensure that our campus advisors have the necessary information concerning our processes and procedures. This partnership has been one of the factors that is attributed to our current increase in student enrollment.

SIC – Online course enrollment is a significant percentage of our overall unduplicated head count. For example, Fall 2006 unduplicated head count in online courses is 545 and the overall unduplicated headcount is 2,020. Online enrollment represents approximately 27% of our overall enrollment. Interactive video enrollment remains fairly stable while our telecourse enrollment continues to decline.

MC – Midstate College has implemented a process that helps students succeed in eLearning. Before students can enroll in an online course, they are asked a series of questions to determine whether they have the potential to succeed in online courses. Next, the students complete two competency tests which allow the eLearning Coordinator to assess the students’ abilities to complete online courses. The results of the competency tests are used to place the students in the appropriate eLearning orientation. There are three levels of orientation. They are basic, intermediate and advanced. At orientation, students are given a step-by-step guide book written specifically for the Learning Management System Midstate College utilizes. This year, Midstate College hired an eLearning Support Representative. The position has provided online students with additional support. The eLearning Support Representative trains and supports Midstate College students as well as works in partnership with the Computing Services Department as the need arises, and makes sure the students’ needs are handled in a friendly, professional and efficient manner. The Support Representative makes courtesy calls to all new eLearning students during the first week of each term making sure the students understand what is expected of them and to make sure all their needs are met early in the term. So far, this change has proven to be a successful addition to our eLearning staff.

Annual Academic Year Enrollments

Illinois colleges and universities reported a total of **321,838** online course enrollments and **385,120** course enrollments in all distance education during **academic year 2005-2006** (Fall 2005, Spring 2006, and Summer 2006). This is an increase of **71,063** online course enrollments (**28%**) and an increase of **62,062** course enrollments (**19%**) in all distance education delivery modes from the previous academic year (2004-2005).

Table 3 in the appendix shows the changes in distance education enrollments by delivery mode from academic year 2004-2005 to academic year 2005-2006.

Sharpen the Focus

How do students enrolled in your distance education courses differ from traditional students in the support services they seek?

CCC – Many of our online students are characteristically independent learners and have a tendency to be more familiar with the technology; therefore, we see a large population of online students utilizing the online registration process. We do have a stipulation that all first time students must come to one of the seven CCC campuses for their initial enrollment for completion of general placement testing and advisement.

SIC – Southeastern Illinois College provides the same support services to distance education students as it does for on-campus students. Typically, support service needs for online students do not differ from on-campus students with one exception. Online students may require technical support for computer and course management system related issues. To support students in this area, Southeastern has developed a series of multi-media and text/graphic-based tutorials. A sample online course is available for students to use to practice and explore. Also, students are given the option to attend on-campus online course orientations. They may also schedule an individual appointment for one-on-one assistance. Email and telephone support are also provided.

NIU – Distance education students seek services that are entirely online. Some university offices are still making the transition to fully online services. We provide www.niuonline.niu.edu with links to all student resources available online or by phone. In addition, we give speedy service to students seeking help online or by telephone from the NIU Outreach office. Sometimes, distance education students need to talk to a person, and we help them to do just that.

MC – Our online students have the same support services via the Web as the on-campus students. Our learning management system has a section called “In the News.” Midstate utilizes this section to keep online students informed of school news and functions the same as on-campus students. Midstate College provides direct Technical Support for students 8:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Friday. In addition, Technical Support is available after hours through use of cell phones and a support email address which is sent to six employees. Our eLearning students have two online libraries offering over 25,000 books online as well as numerous database links. Within the next few months, Midstate College will begin utilizing a portal to enhance the existing services to meet students’ growing needs for flexibility in student services.

The Illinois Virtual Campus greatly appreciates the cooperative effort of all Illinois colleges and universities and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) in submitting the distance education course enrollment data for this report.

Distance education enrollment reports for all terms since Fall 1999 can be found on the Illinois Virtual Campus website at <http://www.ivc.illinois.edu> in the Publications area.

Appendix

The following tables show several different views of the course enrollments in distance education for the Summer Term 2006 and the Academic Year 2005-2006

Table 1	Distance Education Enrollments by Delivery Mode
Table 2	Change in Distance Education Enrollments by Delivery Mode from Summer 2005 to Summer 2006
Table 3	Change in Academic Year Enrollments by Delivery Mode from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006
Table 4	Academic Year Enrollments by Delivery Mode from 2000-2006
Table 5	Enrollments in Online and All Distance Education Courses by Sector
Table 6	Distance Education Enrollments by Sector and Delivery Mode
Table 5	Distance Education Enrollments by Residency
Table 6	Distance Education Enrollments by Delivery Mode - Fall 1999 to Summer 2006
Table 7	Distance Education Enrollments by Institution

Table 1
Summer 2006
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode

Delivery Mode	Courses		Enrollments	
	#	% Total	#	% Total
Internet	5,470	75.64%	96,414	86.67%
Stored Media	761	10.52%	8,509	7.65%
Interactive TV	183	2.53%	1,203	1.08%
Open Broadcast TV	245	3.39%	1,701	1.53%
Correspondence	573	7.92%	3,413	3.07%
Total	7,232	100.00%	111,240	100.00%

Table 2
Change in Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode
from Summer 2005 to Summer 2006

Delivery Mode	Summer 2005	Summer 2006	Change	
Internet	76,875	96,414	+19,539	+25%
Stored Media	9,924	8,509	-1,415	-14%
Interactive TV	1,250	1,203	-47	-4%
Open Broadcast TV	1,530	1,701	+171	+11%
Correspondence	3,460	3,413	-47	-1%
All Distance Education	93,039	111,240	+18,201	+20%

Table 3
Change in Academic Year Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode
from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006

Delivery Mode	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change	
Internet	250,755	321,838	+71,063	+28%
Stored Media	39,964	32,531	-7,433	-19%
Interactive TV	13,469	12,246	-1,223	-9%
Open Broadcast TV	5,522	6,502	+980	+18%
Correspondence	13,348	12,003	-1,347	-10%
All Distance Education	323,058	385,120	+62,062	+19%

Table 4
Academic Year Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode
from 2000-2006

Delivery Mode	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Internet	46,678	81,454	125,074	174,451	250,755	321,838
Stored Media	36,906	47,864	45,715	42,946	39,964	32,531
Interactive TV	14,095	16,884	14,443	16,195	13,469	12,246
Open Broadcast TV	10,586	10,465	10,625	7,144	5,522	6,502
Correspondence	8,284	9,031	9,768	11,138	13,348	12,003
All Distance Education	116,549	165,698	205,625	251,874	323,058	385,120

Table 5
Summer Term 2006
Enrollments in Online and All Distance Education Courses
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Sector

Sector	Internet		All Distance	
	#	% Total	#	% Total
Community Colleges	29,838	30.95%	40,811	36.69%
Public Universities	10,674	11.07%	12,165	10.94%
Independent For Profit Colleges and Universities	50,861	52.75%	50,862	45.72%
Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges and Universities	5,041	5.23%	7,402	6.65%
All Institutions	96,414	100.00%	111,240	100.00%

Table 6
Summer Term 2006
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Sector and Delivery Mode

Sector	Internet	Stored Media	Open		Correspondence	Total
			Interactive TV	Broadcast TV		
Community Colleges	29,838	6,325	907	1,293	2,448	40,811
Public Universities	10,674	42	246	365	838	12,165
Independent For-Profit Colleges & Universities	50,861	0	0	0	1	50,862
Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges & Universities	5,041	2,142	50	43	126	7,402
All Institutions	96,414	8,509	1,203	1,701	3,413	111,240

Table 7
Summer Term 2006
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Residency

		In	Out	In	Out	Out
		District	of District	State	of State	of Country
Community Colleges						
	All Distance Education courses	87%	10%	97%	3%	*
	Internet courses	85%	11%	96%	4%	*
Public Universities						
	All Distance Education courses	n.a.	n.a.	78%	16%	6%
	Internet courses	n.a.	n.a.	78%	17%	5%
Independent For-Profit Colleges and Universities						
	All Distance Education courses	n.a.	n.a.	12%	86%	2%
	Internet courses	n.a.	n.a.	12%	86%	2%
Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges and Universities						
	All Distance Education courses	n.a.	n.a.	72%	24%	4%
	Internet courses	n.a.	n.a.	69%	26%	5%
All Illinois Colleges and Universities						
	All Distance Education courses	n.a.	n.a.	54%	43%	3%
	Internet courses	n.a.	n.a.	49%	48%	3%

* = Out-of-Country counts are included in Out-of-State column.

n.a. = not applicable

Table 8
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode
Fall 1999 to Summer 2006

Term	Internet	Stored Media	Interactive TV	Correspondence	Open Broadcast TV	All Distance Education
Fall 1999	5,887	5,264	3,695	N.R.	N.R.	14,846
Spring 2000	9,888	6,429	4,075	1,441	4,381	26,214
Fall 2000	13,582	10,174	5,916	3,187	4,303	37,162
Spring 2001	19,764	13,957	6,410	2,519	3,591	46,241
Summer 2001	13,332	12,232	1,769	2,578	2,692	32,603
Fall 2001	23,254	15,381	7,646	2,705	3,552	52,538
Spring 2002	34,155	20,052	7,547	3,963	3,302	69,019
Summer 2002	23,651	12,431	1,691	2,363	3,330	43,466
Fall 2002	40,550	15,337	6,416	2,909	4,001	69,213
Spring 2003	50,125	17,310	6,508	4,239	4,099	82,281
Summer 2003	34,399	13,068	1,519	2,620	2,525	54,131
Fall 2003	50,093	14,782	8,982	2,578	2,959	79,394
Spring 2004	69,015	17,158	5,707	5,201	2,587	99,668
Summer 2004	55,343	11,006	1,506	3,359	1,598	72,812
Fall 2004	80,165	14,821	5,936	5,205	1,801	107,928
Spring 2005	93,715	15,219	6,283	4,683	2,191	122,091
Summer 2005	76,875	9,924	1,250	3,460	1,530	93,039
Fall 2005	105,207	11,960	5,634	4,087	2,382	129,270
Spring 2006	120,217	12,062	5,409	4,503	2,419	144,610
Summer 2006	96,414	8,509	1,203	3,413	1,701	111,240

(N.R. = None Reported)

Table 9
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Institution
Summer Term 2006

Institution	Internet	Broadcast TV	Interactive TV	Stored Media	Correspondence	Total
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing	35	0	0	0	0	35
Bradley University	436	0	0	0	0	436
Carl Sandburg College	317	0	117	22	0	456
Chicago State University	527	0	0	29	0	556
City Colleges of Chicago						
Harold Washington College	637	486	0	0	0	1,123
Harry S. Truman College	120	148	0	0	0	268
Kennedy-King College	73	55	0	0	0	128
Malcolm X College	78	78	0	0	0	156
Olive-Harvey College	85	70	0	0	0	155
Richard J. Daley College	183	126	0	0	0	309
Wilbur Wright College	245	196	0	0	0	441
College of DuPage	2,007	39	0	1,030	2,166	5,242
College of Lake County	1,730	0	0	228	0	1,958
Danville Area Community College	441	0	0	0	0	441
DePaul University	1,280	0	0	0	0	1,280
DeVry University	50,413	0	0	0	0	50,413
Eastern Illinois University	686	0	0	0	0	686

Institution	Internet	Broadcast TV	Interactive TV	Stored Media	Correspondence	Total
Elgin Community College	408	0	0	647	0	1,055
Governors State University	701	365	0	0	207	1,273
Heartland Community College	622	0	41	0	0	663
Highland Community College	124	0	21	38	0	183
Illinois Central College	1,543	42	0	0	109	1,694
Illinois Eastern Community Colleges						
Frontier Community College	28	0	0	28	8	64
Lincoln Trail College	258	0	0	0	2	260
Olney Central College	360	0	0	0	61	421
Wabash Valley College	204	0	0	0	11	215
Illinois Institute of Technology	390	43	8	0	0	441
Illinois State University	1,054	0	0	0	0	1,054
Illinois Valley Community College	243	0	0	132	0	375
John A. Logan College	499	0	0	292	0	791
John Wood Community College	367	0	159	144	0	670
Joliet Junior College	1,119	0	0	322	0	1,441
Judson College	34	0	0	38	0	72
Kankakee Community College	387	0	0	10	61	458
Kaskaskia College	1,536	0	0	0	30	1,566
Kishwaukee College	669	0	2	0	0	671
Lake Land College	1,488	0	38	0	0	1,526
Lewis and Clark Community College	904	0	0	115	0	1,019
Lewis University	416	0	0	0	0	416
Lincoln Land Community College	717	0	0	0	0	717
McHenry County College	781	0	0	363	0	1,144
Midstate College	448	0	0	0	0	448
Moody Bible Institute	520	0	0	0	0	520
Moraine Valley Community College	1,233	0	0	602	0	1,835
Morton College	222	0	0	30	0	252
Northeastern Illinois University	0	0	37	0	0	37
Northern Illinois University	171	0	80	0	0	251
Olivet Nazarene University	0	0	0	2,002	0	2,002
Parkland College	2,999	51	0	125	0	3,175
Prairie State College	271	0	0	4	0	275
Quincy University	105	0	42	102	0	249
Rend Lake College	103	0	78	94	0	275
Richland Community College	524	0	5	0	0	529
Rock Valley College	370	0	0	19	0	389
Roosevelt University	387	0	0	0	126	513
Rush University	357	0	0	0	0	357
Sauk Valley Community College	199	0	0	43	0	242
Shawnee Community College	180	0	45	197	0	422
South Suburban College	674	0	0	263	0	937
Southeastern Illinois College	629	0	70	19	0	718
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	536	0	0	0	281	817
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	87	0	0	0	0	87
Southwestern Illinois College	808	0	64	780	0	1,652
Spoon River College	222	0	0	0	0	222
Triton College	618	0	0	160	0	778

IVC Enrollment Report

Institution	Internet	Broadcast TV	Interactive TV	Stored Media	Correspondence	Total
University of Illinois at Chicago	3,231	0	0	0	0	3,231
University of Illinois at Springfield	1,513	0	0	0	0	1,513
University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign	1,355	0	46	0	28	1,429
University of St. Francis	1,081	0	0	0	0	1,081
Waubensee Community College	1,449	2	267	186	0	1,904
Western Illinois University	813	0	83	13	322	1,231
William Rainey Harper College	1,164	0	0	432	0	1,596
Totals	96,414	1,701	1,203	8,509	3,413	111,240

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