

Losses in Student Headcount for Full-, Half-, and Part-Time Students Program and Demographic Changes in Student Headcount: 2001-02 to 2003-04

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community colleges and the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) are concerned about the recent decline in student enrollment at Oregon institutions. *Unduplicated student headcount declined nearly 19% for community colleges in 2003-04 from the 2001-02 level.* One particular area of concern is whether students enrolling less than full-time comprise a disproportionately large segment of the decline in the overall enrolled population.

Our findings indicate part-time students were lost between 2001-02 and 2003-04 at a much higher rate than full- or half-time students. Part-time enrollment declined by 73,485 students in 2003-04 from 2001-02 levels, a decrease of nearly 22%. This is much higher, in both real numbers and percentage, than full-time and part-time combined.

Between 2001-02 and 2003-04, community colleges enrolled nearly 30,000 fewer students ages 25-44. While female headcount has decreased more than male headcount in real numbers, men have had a greater percentage decrease in enrollment than women. Headcount declined for students not receiving Pell Awards, but increased for those who did receive an award. Among Professional Technical programs, Professional Technical Supplemental had the largest headcount decrease in both real numbers and percentage of students enrolled in the program.

The following report explores the changes in unduplicated student headcount according to enrollment status (full-, half-, or part-time) from 2001-02 through 2003-04. Student enrollment is analyzed by age, gender, ethnicity, receipt of Pell Award, and type of program in order to identify which students are being lost as student enrollment decreases.

DEFINING TERMS

Full-Time Enrollment: Student attempted 36 or more credits or at least 510 clock hours during the academic year.

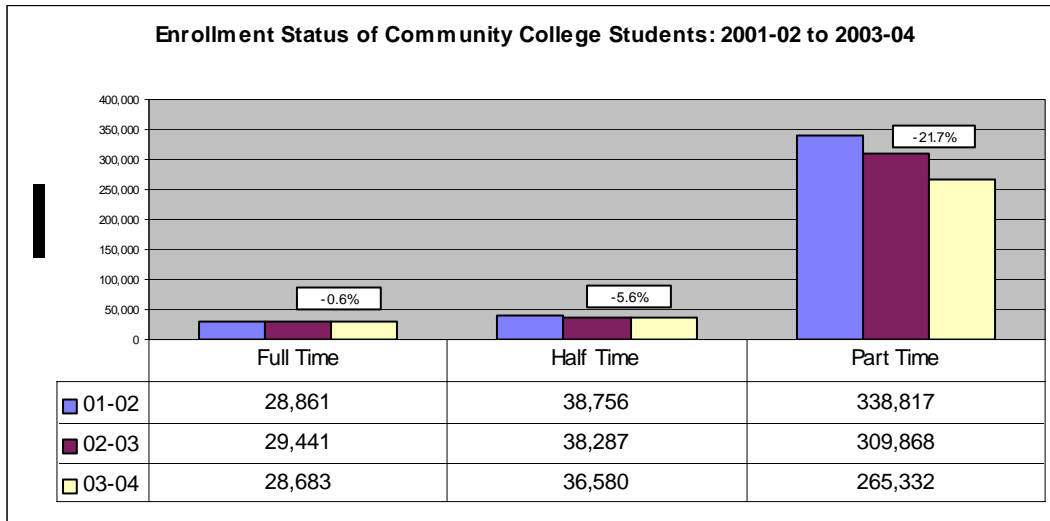
Half-Time Enrollment: Student attempted at least 18 credits or at least 255 clock hours (but less than 36 credits or 510 clock hours).

Part-Time Enrollment: Student attempted less than 18 credits or less than 255 clock hours.

RESULTS OF INTEREST

Our findings indicate part-time students were lost between 2001-02 and 2003-04 at a much higher rate than full- or half-time students. Figure 1 presents the unduplicated headcount of full-, half-, and part-time students in academic years 2001-02 to 2003-04. Part-time enrollment declined by 73,485 students in this time period, a decrease of nearly 22%. This is much higher, in both real numbers and percentage, than full-time and part-time combined.

Figure 1. Unduplicated Headcount of Enrolled Students: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Age

- Headcount decreased the most in real numbers for the 25-44 age category; 29,169 fewer students in this age range enrolled in community colleges in 2003-04 than did in 2001-02.
- Among students ages 18 to 64, a larger percentage of part-time students were lost than half-time or full-time students.

Gender

- In real numbers, women experienced a greater loss in headcount than men. However, men had a greater percent decrease in headcount (-20% and -17%, respectively).
- Both men and women had greater percentage decreases in part-time headcount than for full- or half-time.

Ethnicity

- Caucasians had the largest decline in real numbers of students (34,773). However, Asian students had the highest percentage decline in headcount (-32.2%).
- Among students of known ethnicity, all ethnic groups had their largest percentage decline in headcount for part-time students. All ethnic groups except International lost half-time enrollment as well.

Pell Awards (indicate high financial need)

- From 2001-02 to 2003-04, headcount declined 21% for students not receiving Pell Awards, but increased 16% for those who did.
- Headcount for students not receiving Pell Awards declined for all three types of enrollment in 2003-04 from 2001-02 levels; -8.9% for full-time, -11.9% for half-time, and -22.4% for part-time. In contrast, headcount for students receiving Pell Awards rose for full-time (+15.7%), half-time (+19.1%) and part-time (+12.6%) students.

Program

- Among Professional Technical programs, Professional Technical Supplemental had the largest headcount decrease in both real numbers (-19,081) and percentage (-39.7%) of students enrolled in the program.
- Professional Technical Preparatory (PT Prep) rose for full-time students, but declined for both half and part-time. Professional Technical Supplemental (PT Supp) headcount percentages declined in all enrollment categories, ranging from 40% to 74%. Professional Technical Apprenticeship (PT Appr) also had losses in headcount for full-, half-, and part-time students. Developmental Education (Dev Ed) headcounts rose for full-time and half-time students in this time period, but dropped 7% for part-time students.

CONCLUSION

While we are unable to determine the exact reason part-time students are attending community college at a lower rate in 2003-04 than 2001-02, we are aware of some potential negative effects of declining student enrollment.

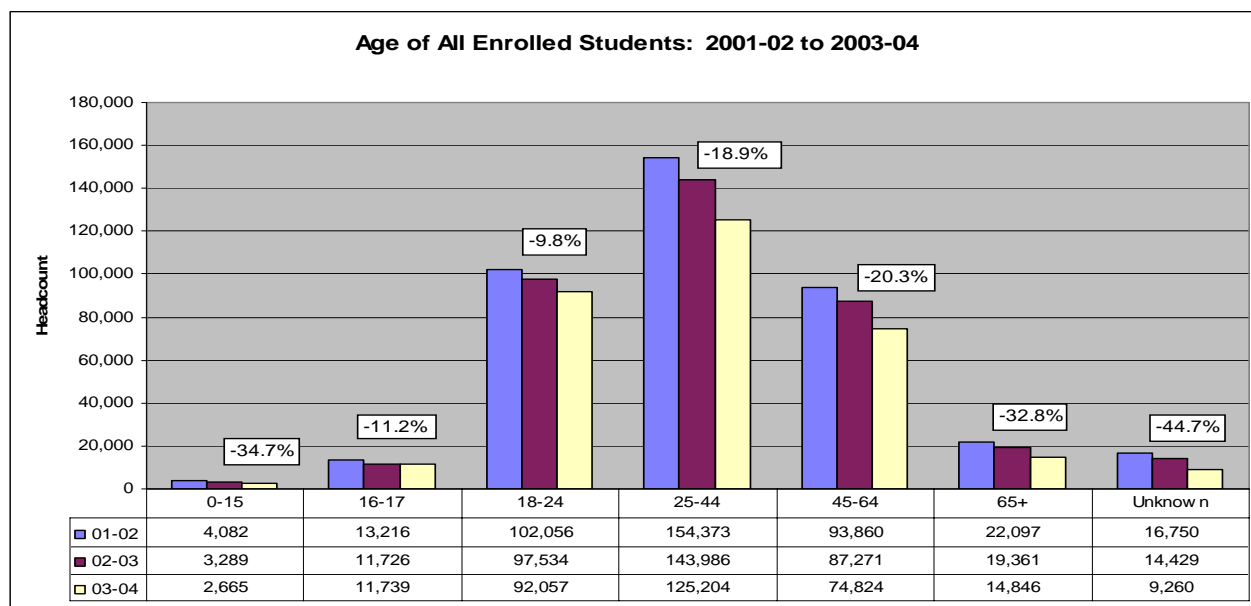
In some cases, students attend community colleges part-time in order to complete coursework to enhance their job skills, and a number of students may be less able to pay for additional education or training programs due to the faltering economy. If this trend continues, it could negatively impact the overall skill level of the Oregon workforce. Some students will not be as well-prepared for career advancement opportunities, and others will not have adequate training to meet the challenges of increasingly technology-based work environments.

The large percent decline in enrollment of students who did not receive Pell Awards may indicate that financial aid played a significant role in a student's decision to attend community college between 2001-02 and 2003-04. Students taking fewer than six credit hours are not eligible for a Pell Award, and may not have sufficient discretionary income to pay for community college courses.

Age of Enrolled Students

Since 2001-02, every age category has seen declines in headcount. Headcount decreased the most in real numbers for the 25-44 age category; 29,169 fewer students in this age range enrolled in community colleges in 2003-04 than did in 2001-02.¹ Figure 2 presents the ages of all students enrolled in academic years 2001-02 through 2003-04.

Figure 2. Unduplicated Headcount of Enrolled Students According to Age Category: 2001-02 to 2003-04

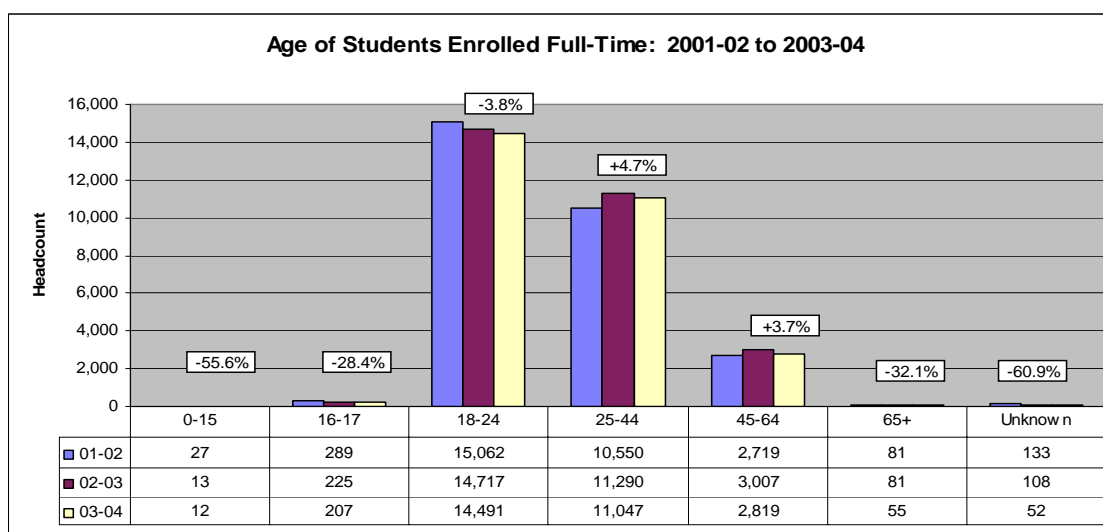


Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Among students ages 18 to 64, a larger percentage of part-time students were lost than either half-time or full-time students. Students age 0-15, 16-17, and 65+ also experienced large percentage losses in part-time headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04. Figures 3, 4, and 5 present the ages of students according to their enrollment status.

Figure 3. Unduplicated Headcount of Full-Time Enrolled Students According to Age Category: 2001-02 to 2003-04

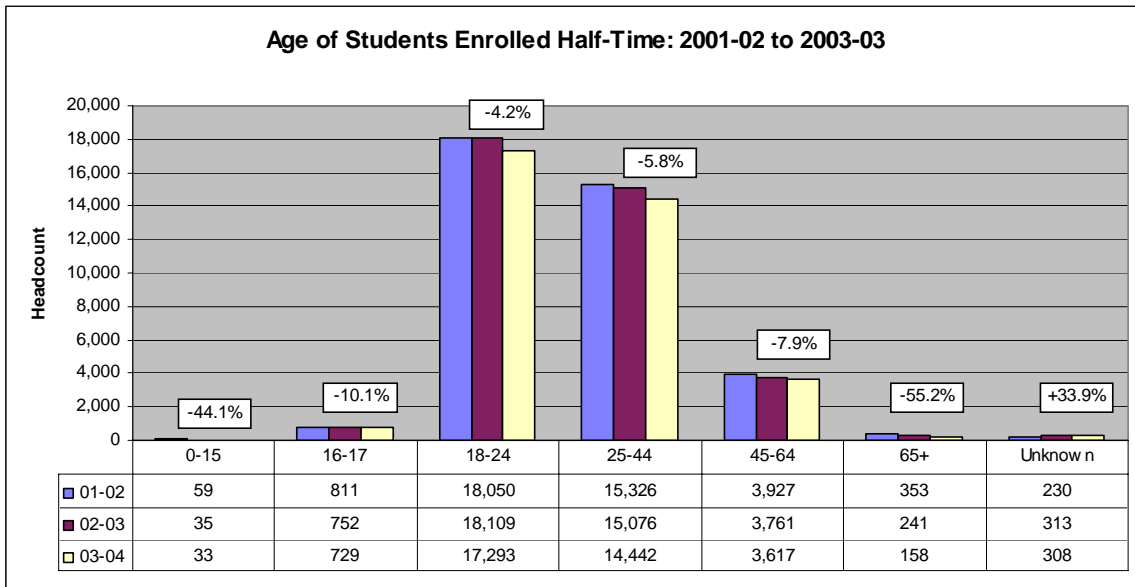


Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

¹ Please note: Age categories do not contain an equal number of years. These categories were chosen to portray age groups of interest. Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development November 2004

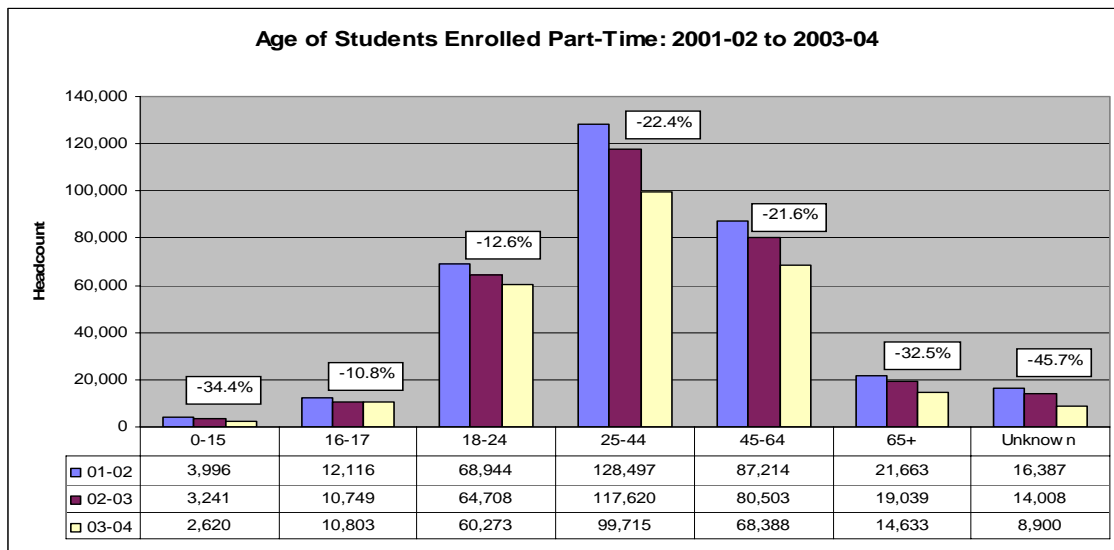
Figure 4. Unduplicated Headcount of Half-Time Enrolled Students According to Age Category: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Figure 5. Unduplicated Headcount of Part-Time Enrolled Students According to Age Category: 2001-02 to 2003-04



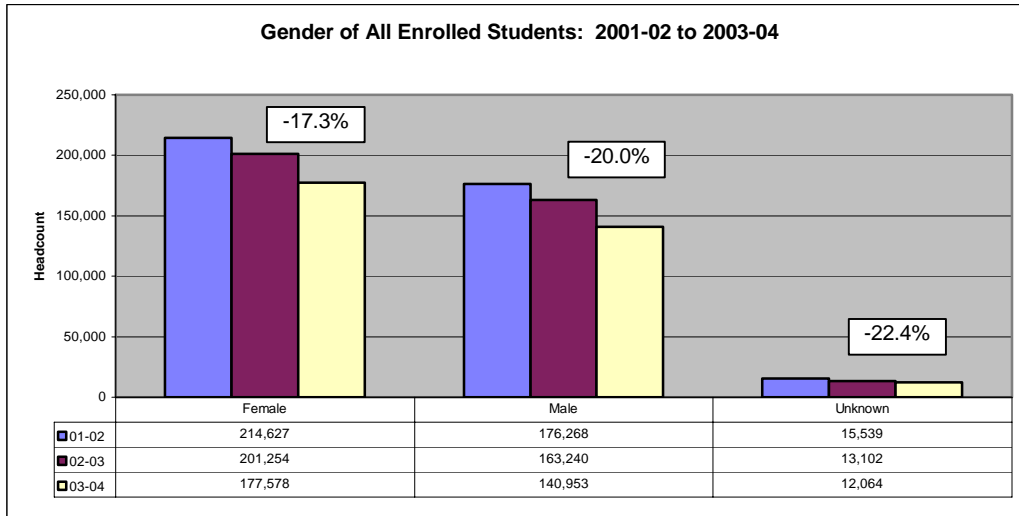
Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Gender of Enrolled Students

In real numbers, women experienced a greater loss in headcount than men from 2001-02 to 2003-04. However, men had a greater percentage loss of headcount (-20% compared to -17%). Figure 6 displays the gender of all enrolled students in academic years 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Figure 6. Unduplicated Headcount of Enrolled Students According to Gender: 2001-02 to 2003-04

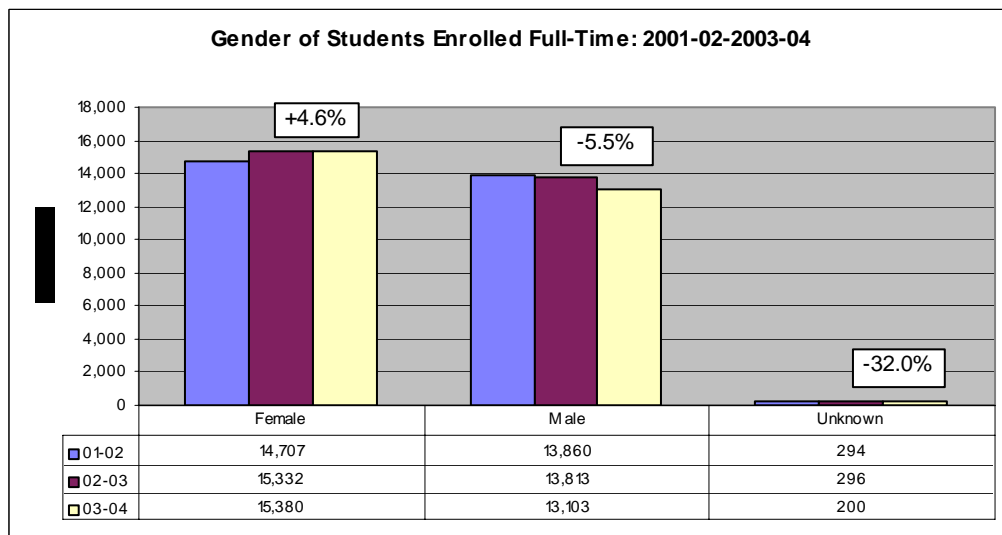


Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Both men and women had greater percentage decreases for part-time headcount than for full-time or half-time. In fact, both full-time and half-time headcount increased for females, while all of the decline in headcount for women occurred for part-time students. Headcount decreases were seen for men in all enrollment categories. Figures 7, 8, and 9 present the gender of enrolled students according to enrollment status.

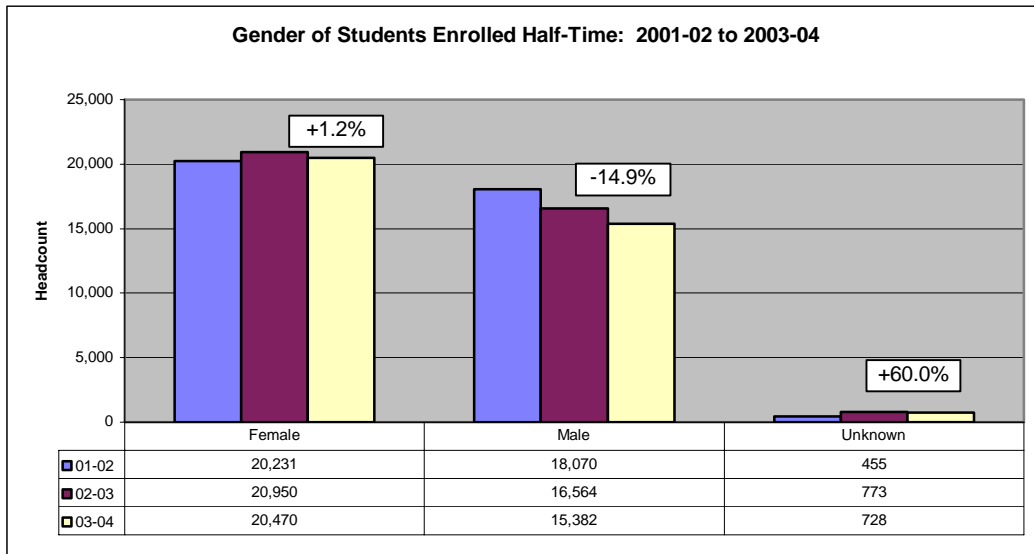
Figure 7. Unduplicated Headcount of Full-Time Students According to Gender: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

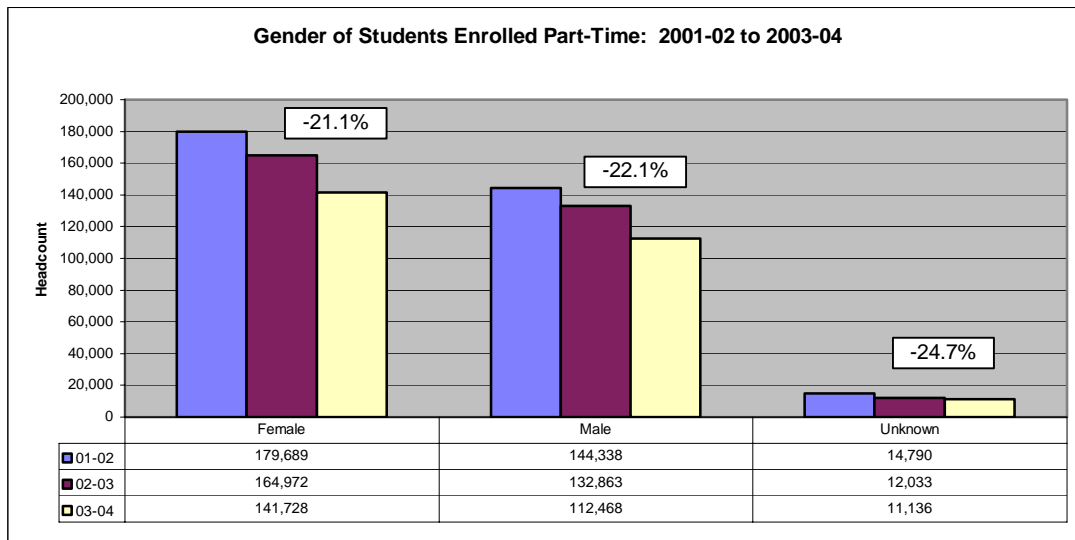
Figure 8. Unduplicated Headcount of Half-Time Students According to Gender: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Figure 9. Unduplicated Headcount of Part-Time Students According to Gender: 2001-02 to 2003-04



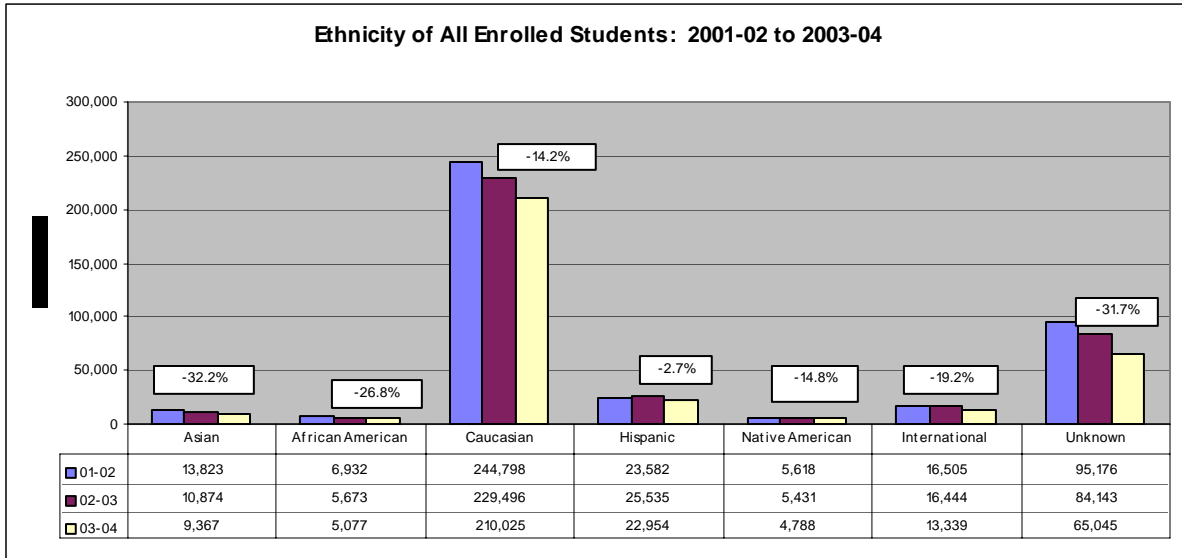
Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Ethnicity of Enrolled Students

Each ethnic group had declines in student headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04, and Caucasians had the largest decline in real numbers of students (-34,773). However, Asian students had the highest percentage decrease in headcount (-32.2%). Figure 10 displays the ethnicity of all students enrolled in academic years 2001-02 to 2003-04.²

Figure 10. Unduplicated Headcount of Enrolled Students According to Ethnic Group: 2001-02 to 2003-04

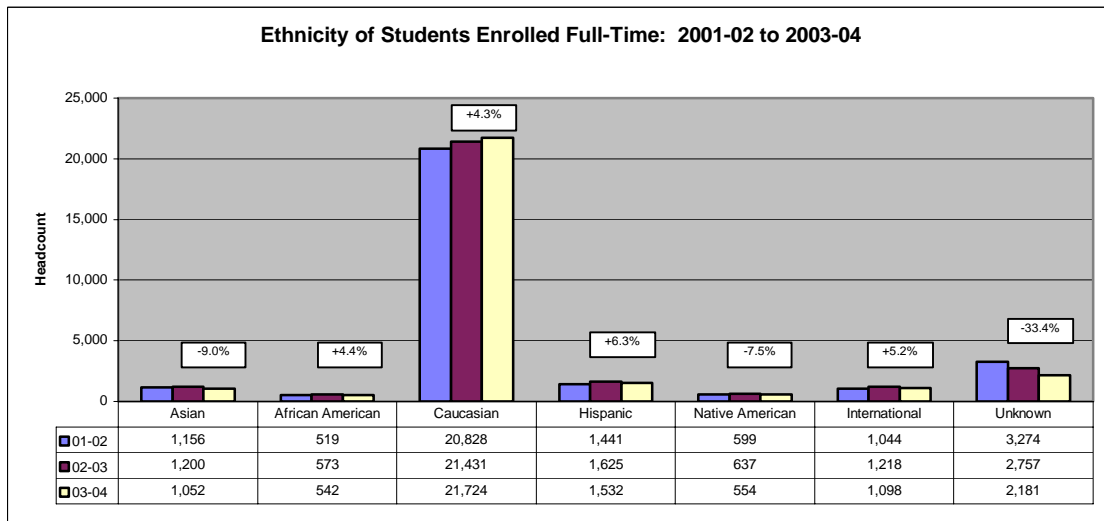


Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Among students of known ethnicity, all ethnic groups had their largest percentage decline in headcount for part-time students. All ethnic groups except International lost half-time enrollment as well. Figures 11, 12, and 13 display the ethnicities of enrolled students according to their enrollment status.

Figure 11. Unduplicated Headcount of Full-Time Students According to Ethnic Group: 2001-02 to 2003-04

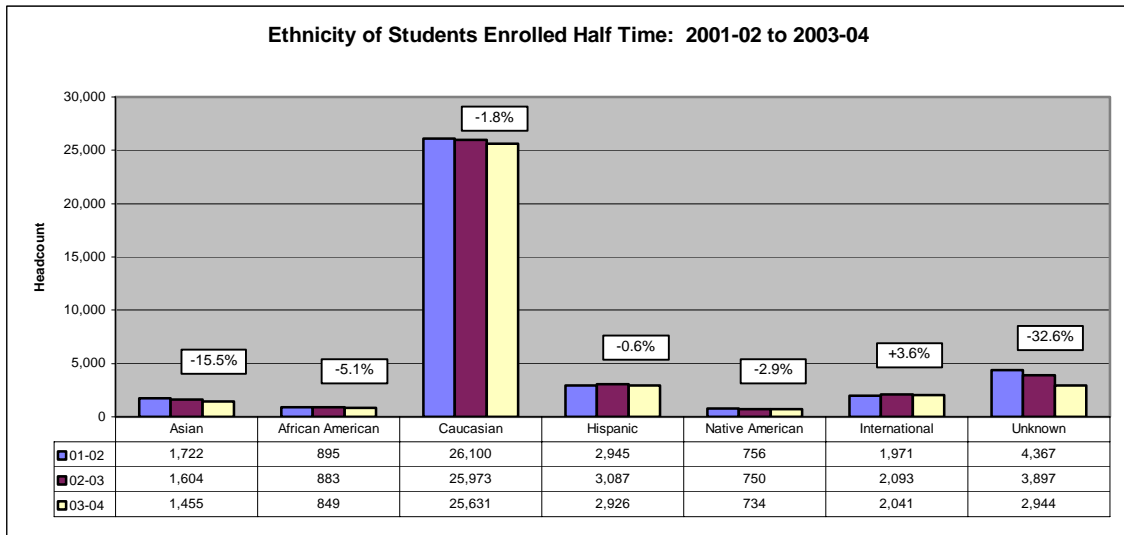


Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

² It is important to note we do not know why ethnicity is unknown for some students. In addition to invalid responses supplied by students (unreadable answers, etc.), some colleges may not ask this question of students, some of these students may not choose to pick one response if they are of multiple ethnicities, or some students may not wish to designate an ethnicity.

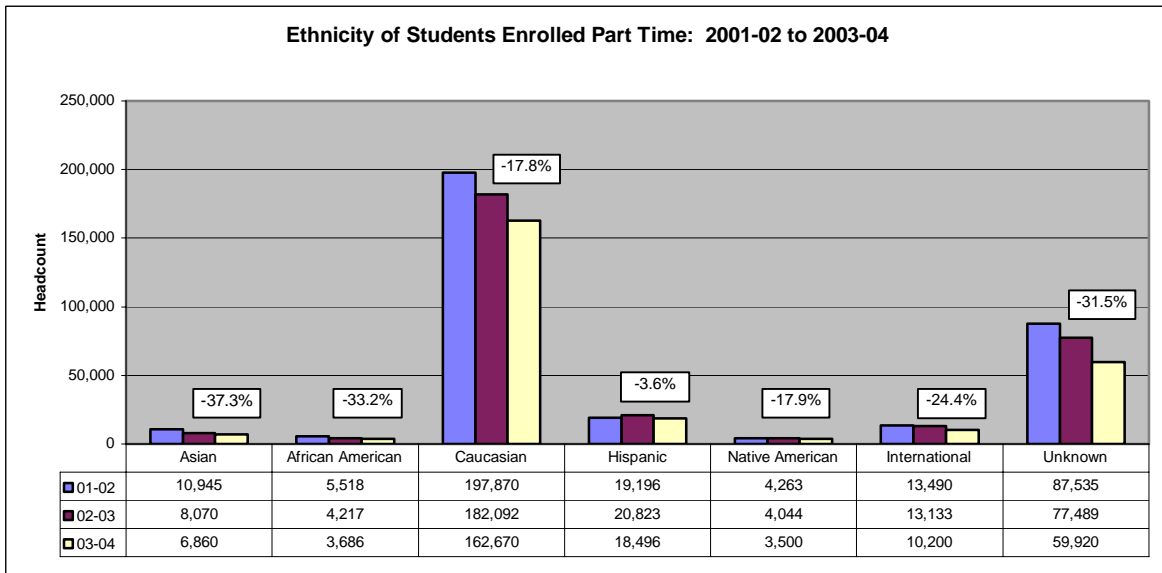
Figure 12. Unduplicated Headcount of Half-Time Students According to Ethnic Group: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Figure 13. Unduplicated Headcount of Part-Time Students According to Ethnic Group: 2001-02 to 2003-04



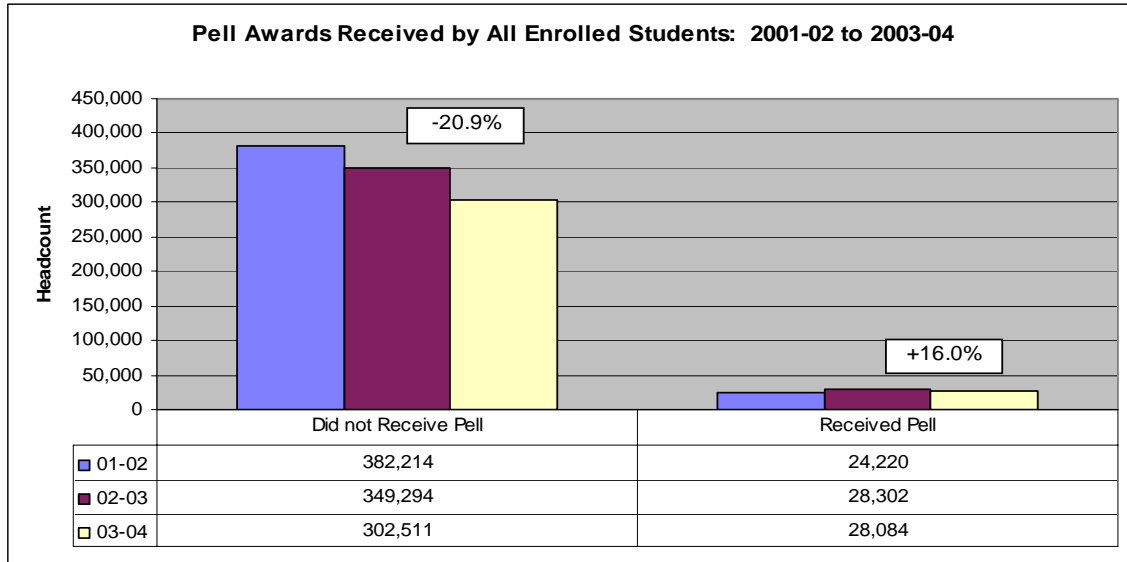
Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Enrolled Students Receiving Pell Awards

Receiving a Pell Award for postsecondary education indicates a student has high financial need. Because the Oregon Community College Unified Reporting System (OCCURS) does not currently include information about student income, receipt of a Pell Award is used in this report as a way to identify students with particularly high financial need. From 2001-02 to 2003-04, headcount declined 21% for students not receiving Pell Awards, but actually increased 16% for those who did. Figure 14 displays enrolled students who did and did not receive Pell Awards in academic years 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Figure 14. Unduplicated Headcount of Students Receiving Pell Awards: 2001-02 to 2003-04



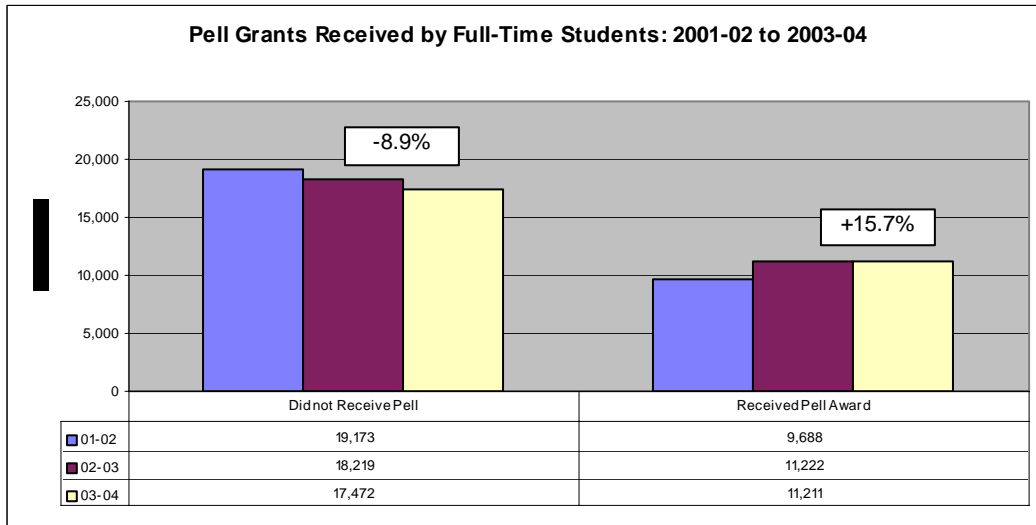
Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Central Oregon CC did not supply this information in 2001-02 and 2002-03, but did supply it in 2003-04.

Headcount for students not receiving Pell Awards declined for all three types of enrollment in 2003-04 from 2001-02 levels; -8.9% for full-time, -11.9% for half-time, and -22.4% for part-time. In contrast, headcount for students receiving Pell Awards rose for full-time (+15.7%), half-time (+19.1%) and part-time (+12.6%) students. Figures 15, 16, and 17 display the number of students receiving Pell Awards according to enrollment status.

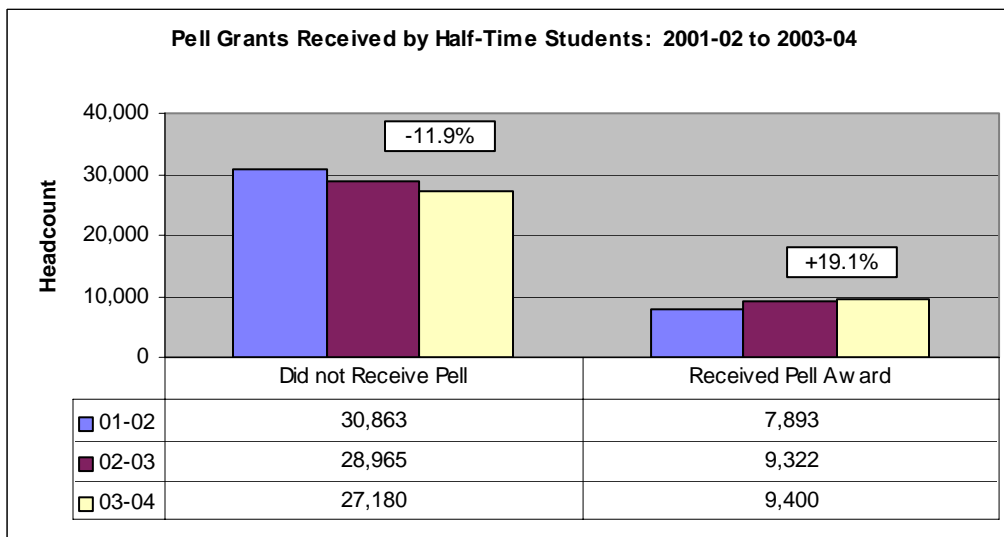
Figure 15. Unduplicated Headcount of Full-Time Students Receiving Pell Awards: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04. Central Oregon CC did not supply this information in 2001-02 and 2002-03, but did supply it in 2003-04.

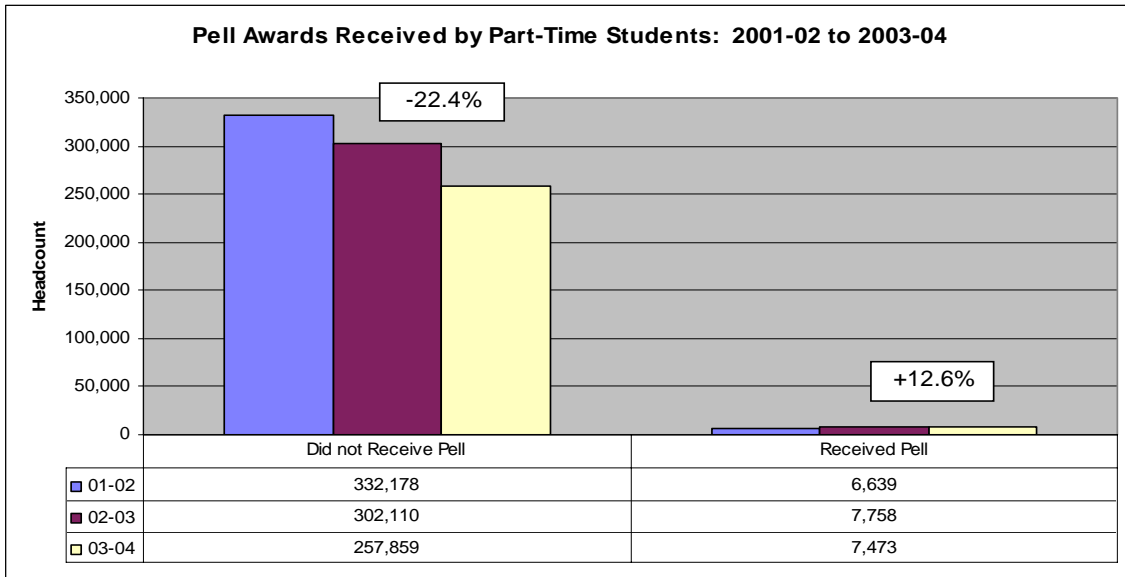
Figure 16. Unduplicated Headcount of Half-Time Students Receiving Pell Awards: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04. Central Oregon CC did not supply this information in 2001-02 and 2002-03, but did supply it in 2003-04.

Figure 17. Unduplicated Headcount of Part-Time Students Receiving Pell Awards: 2001-02 to 2003-04



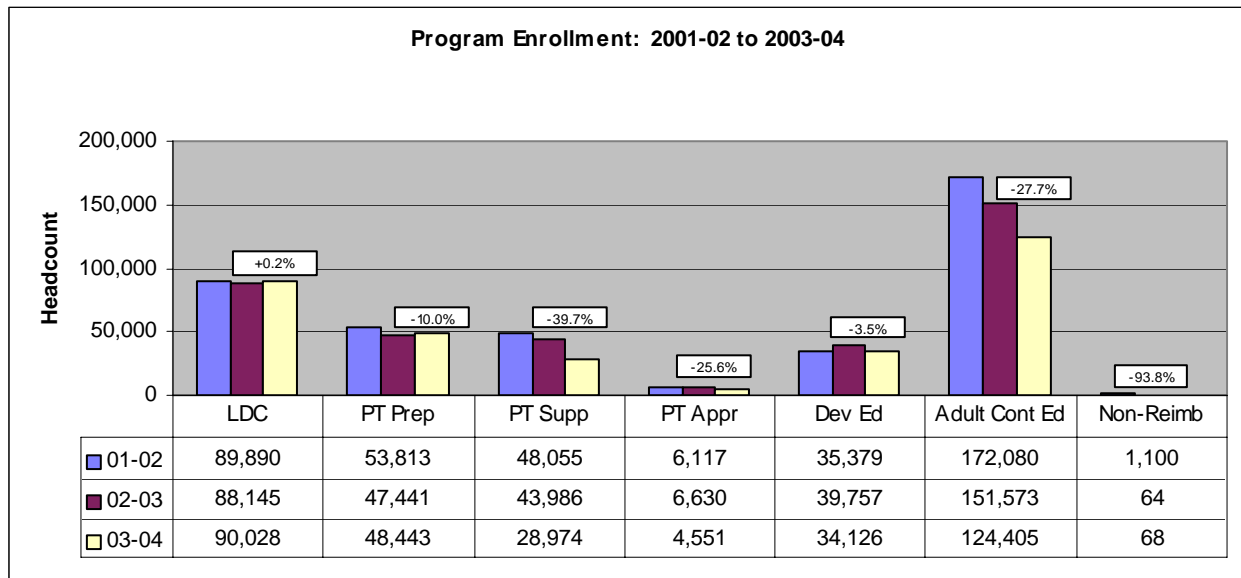
Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: The text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04. Central Oregon CC did not supply this information in 2001-02 and 2003-03, but did supply it in 2003-04.

Programs of Enrolled Students

With the exception of Lower Division Collegiate (LDC), headcount declined for all community college program categories. Among Professional Technical programs, Professional Technical Supplemental had the largest headcount decrease in both real numbers (-19,081) and percentage (-39.7%) of students. Developmental Education had about 3.5% fewer students in 2003-04 than in 2001-02. Figure 18 displays headcounts for program categories for students enrolled in academic years 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Figure 18. Unduplicated Headcount of Enrolled Students According to Program: 2001-02 to 2003-04

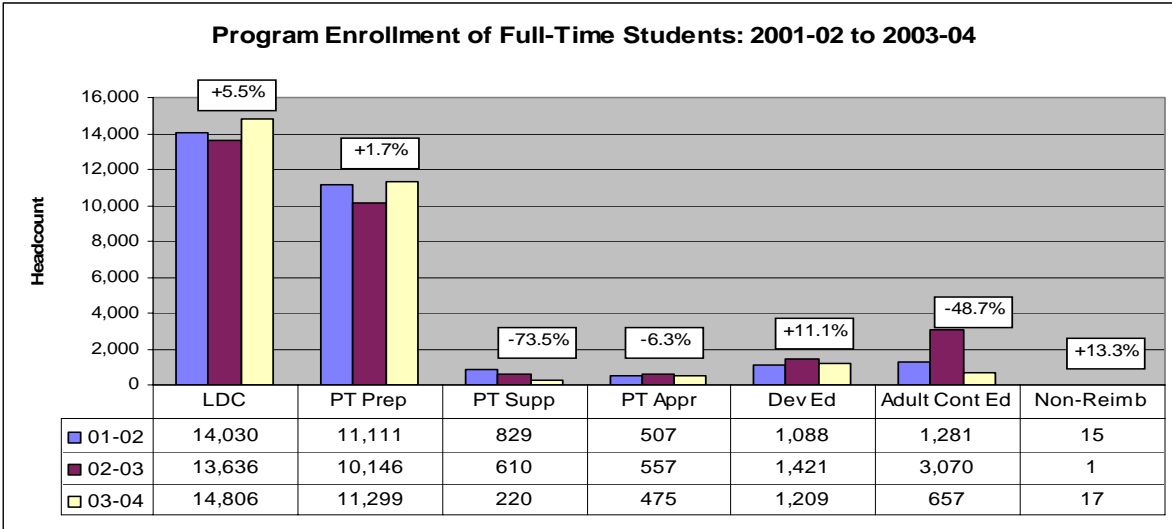


Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Headcount increased from 2001-02 to 2003-04 for full- and half-time LDC students, but declined 3% for part-time students. Professional Technical Preparatory (PT Prep) rose for full-time students, but declined for both half- and part-time. Professional Technical Supplemental (PT Supp) headcount percentages declined 40% to 74% in all enrollment categories. Professional Technical Apprenticeship (PT Appr) also had losses in headcount for full-, half-, and part-time students. Developmental Education (Dev Ed) headcounts rose for full-time and half-time students in this time period, but dropped 7% for part-time students. Tables 19, 20, and 21 display headcounts for community college program categories according to student enrollment status.

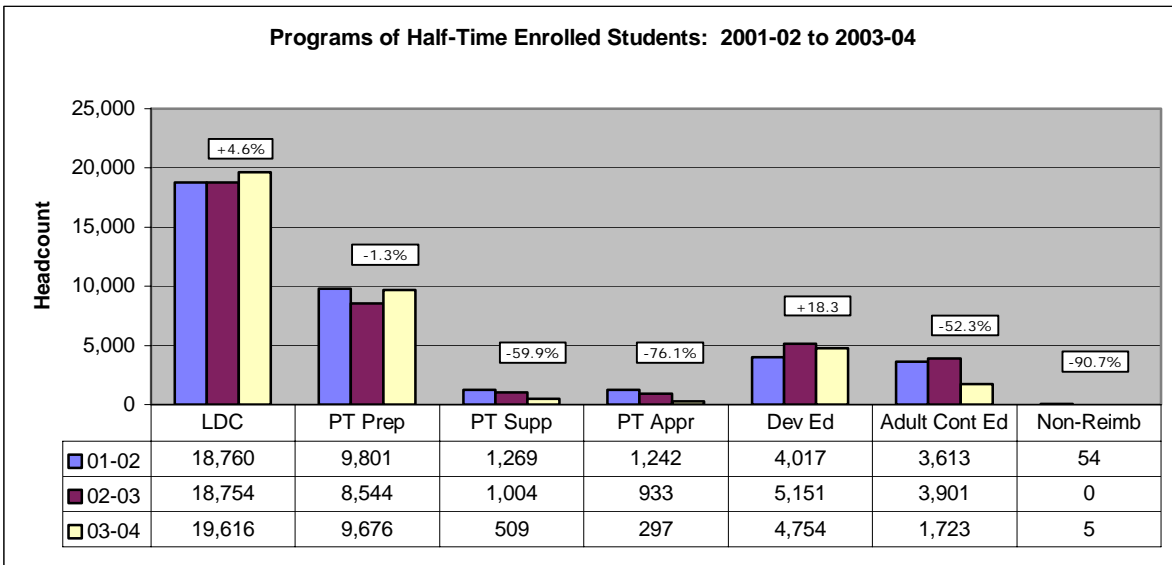
Figure 19. Unduplicated Headcount of Full-Time Students According to Program: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

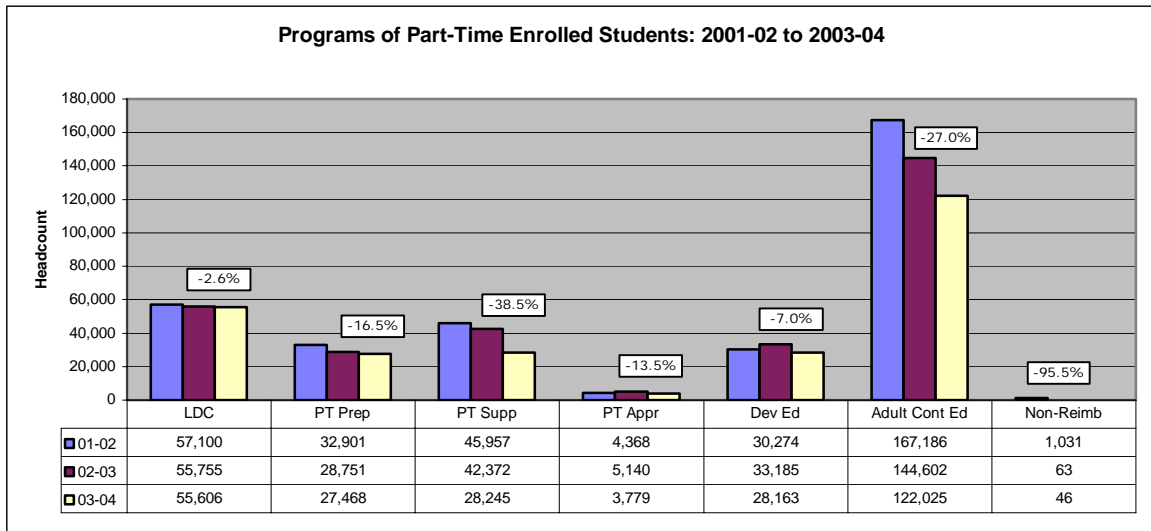
Figure 20. Unduplicated Headcount of Half-Time Students According to Program: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Figure 21. Unduplicated Headcount of Part-Time Students According to Program: 2001-02 to 2003-04



Source: OCCURS Data, November 2004

Note: Text boxes display the percent change in unduplicated headcount from 2001-02 to 2003-04.