

Enrollment is usually reported on using the number of students enrolled at the institution as of the official day of record, or census day. This provides the institution with a snapshot of students on a particular day during a semester. In this brief, we'll take a look at both census day snapshots and an overall view of headcounts for a term while also looking at how many hours students are taking during a semester.

Table 1 displays Fall enrollments from Fall 2009 through Fall 2013. There were additional students that attended COM at some point during the semester that weren't counted on the official day of record; these students can be seen in the second row of Table 1. For example, 118 additional students attended COM during Fall 2013. These students took advantage of late start classes offered as 12-week and/or 2nd 8-week classes.

Table 1.

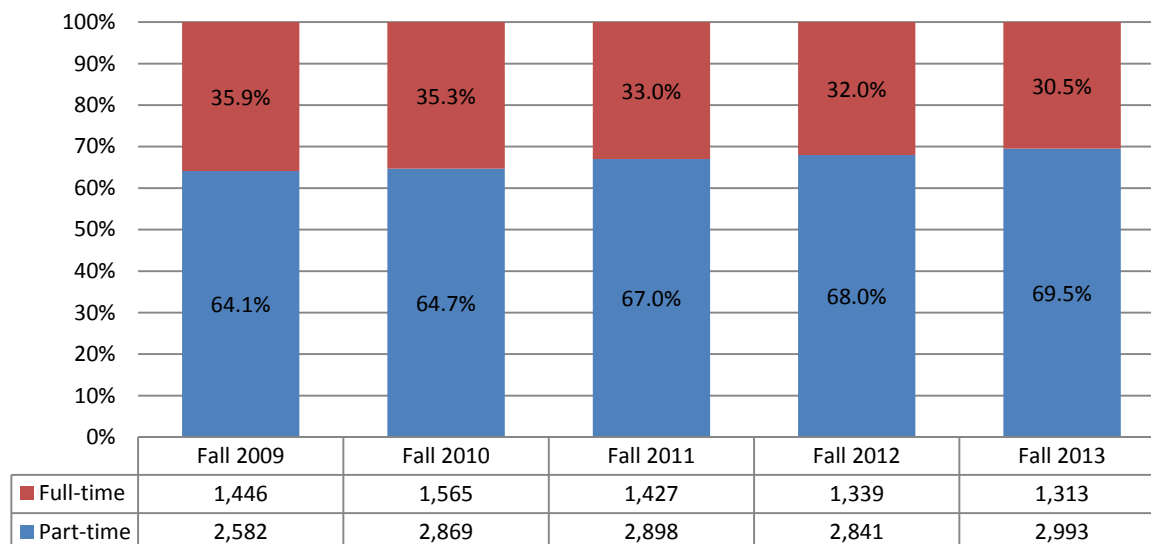
**Fall Headcounts
Fall 2009 through Fall 2013**

	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
Census Day Headcount	3,915	4,352	4,168	4,010	4,188
Additional Headcount after Census Day	113	82	157	170	118
Total Fall Headcount	4,028	4,434	4,325	4,180	4,306

Figure 1 shows that a large percentage of COM students attend as part-time students. The figures in this chart vary from those found on the COMMON Fact Sheet. The Fact Sheet is based on census data whereas Figures 1 and 2 take into account all students' enrollments: 16-week, 1st 8-week, 12-week, 2nd 8-week, and any other length classes offered during a Fall term. The data shows that there has been a decline in full-time enrollments from 35.9% in Fall 2009 to 30.5% in Fall 2013.

Figure 1.

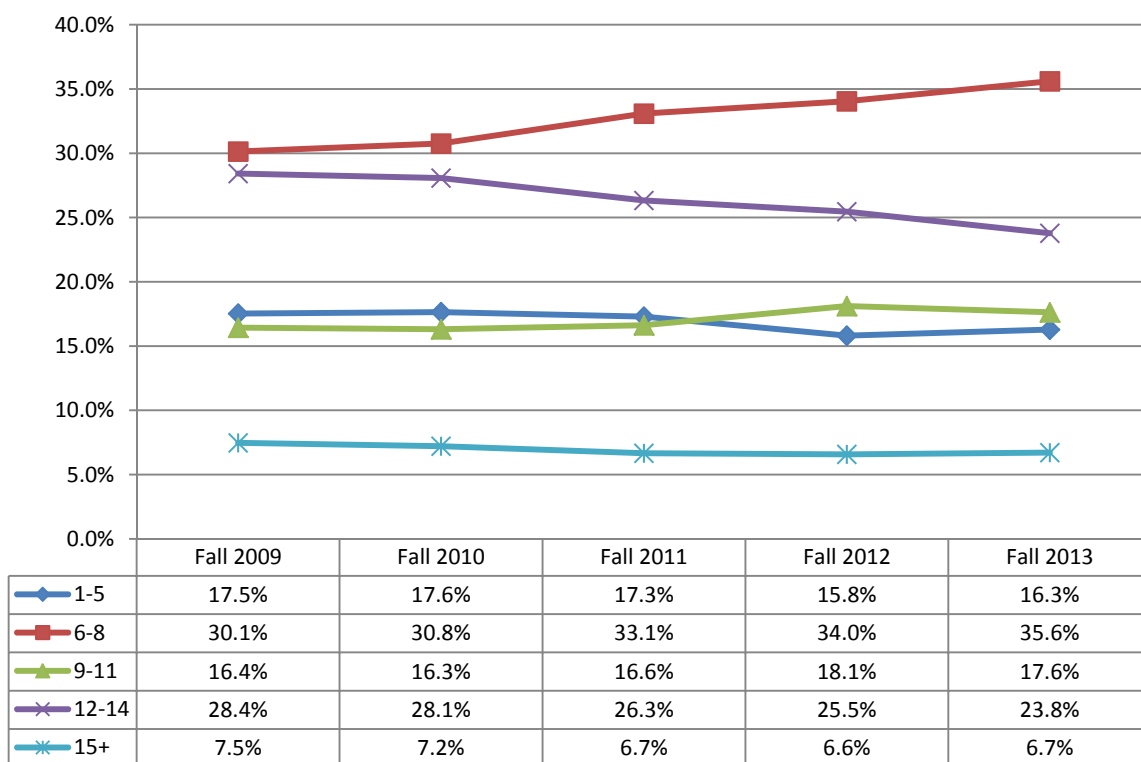
Fall Headcounts by Enrollment Status



The change in how many hours students take in a semester is even more evident when hours enrolled is categorized into groups. Figure 2 reveals that in Fall 2009 students taking 6-8 hours and 12-14 hours were within 2% of each other. In Fall 2013, the gap had increased to nearly 12%. All other categories remained fairly consistent.

Figure 2.

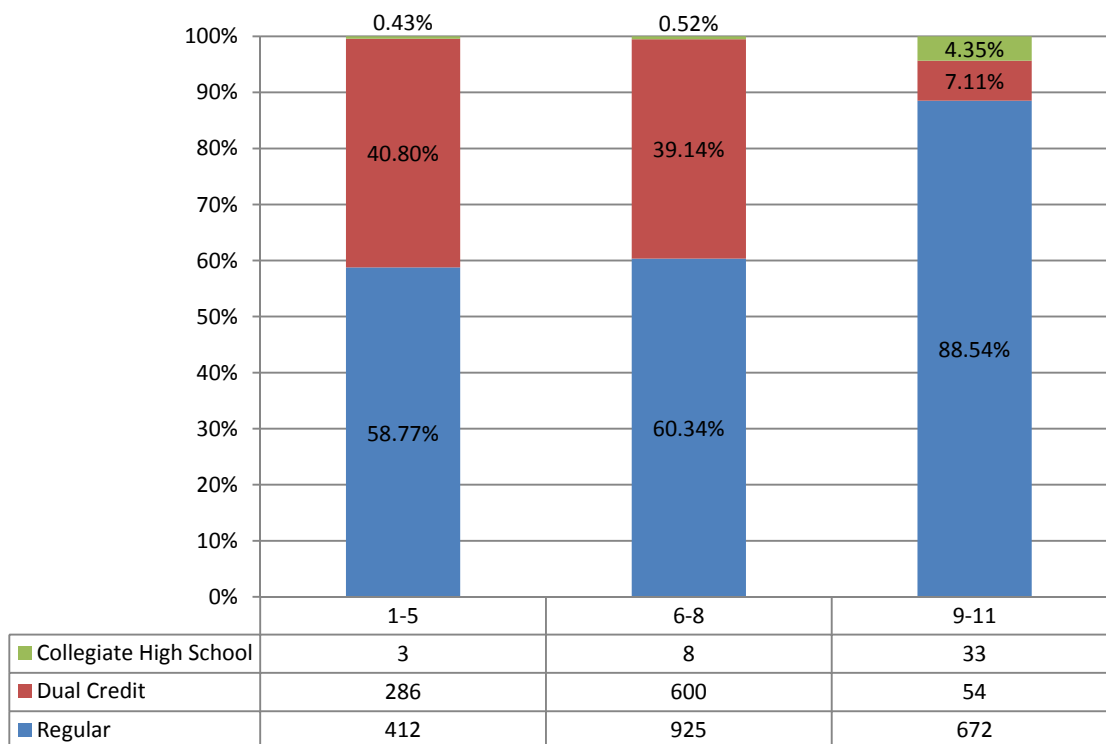
Fall Headcounts by Hours Enrolled



Dual Credit students accounted for 25.5% of Fall 2013 census enrollments. In Figure 3, Fall 2013 part-time students were categorized into 3 types: Collegiate High School, Dual Credit, and Regular. Dual Credit students accounted for approximately 40% of students taking either 1-5 or 6-8 credit hours. Almost 90% of students taking 9-11 hours are regular students.

Figure 3.

Fall 2013 Part-Time Students by Student Type and Hours Enrolled



College of the Mainland's location in an area that provides students with numerous choices for higher education, both locally and online, raises the question of whether COM's students take classes at more than one institution during a semester. Tables 2 and 3 look into concurrent enrollments of Fall 2013 students. Seventy-four students were found to have enrolled and persisted through the end of the semester at another institution in data returned from the National Student Clearinghouse. This equates to nearly 2% of Fall 2013 students taking at least one class at another institution.

Table 2.

COM Students Concurrently Enrolled by Hours Enrolled

Hours Enrolled at COM	N
1 – 5	44
6 – 8	16
9 – 11	8
12 – 14	5
15 – 17	1
Total	74

Table 3.

Top Institutions Attended by Concurrently Enrolled Students

Institution	N
University of Houston – Clear Lake	20
Galveston College	14
San Jacinto College	12
Houston Community College	8
Alvin Community College	6
University of Houston	3
Texas A&M University – Galveston	3

In conclusion, characteristics of College of the Mainland students are changing. These changes are in line with national characteristics of postsecondary students, as can be seen in an NCES report published on May 2014 (http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_csb.asp) that states only 41 percent of Fall 2012 undergraduate students at 2-year institutions attended full-time. In addition, increased enrollments of high school students taking advantage of the Dual Credit and Collegiate High School programs offered by COM also contribute to the increase in part-time students. Additionally, data from the National Student Clearinghouse indicates that some students are opting to take classes from multiple institutions during a semester.