

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®

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Fall College Enrollment Dropped 1.8% in 2012 Reports National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

Herndon, Virginia, December 18, 2012 – For the **first time**, the education community is being provided with real-time indicators of national postsecondary enrollment trends during the current term. [The National Student Clearinghouse® Research Center™](#) has just released its [Current Term Enrollment Estimates report](#), the first in a new series of term enrollment estimates to be released every fall and spring. The report finds that in fall 2012, overall enrollments declined by 1.8% from fall 2011, with the largest decreases taking place among four-year for-profit institutions (-7.2%) and two-year public institutions (-3.1%). The sectors experiencing the largest enrollment decreases in fall 2012 were the same sectors that experienced the largest growth during the recession. The report provides enrollment estimates based on data submitted by December 1 of each year, with subtotals by institutional sector, enrollment intensity, age group, and gender. Future reports will also include breakdowns by student level (undergraduate vs. graduate/professional).

Because colleges report student-level data to the Clearinghouse several times throughout the term, the Clearinghouse is able to provide immediate metrics to educators and policymakers on the current term. As of fall 2012, institutions actively submitting enrollment data to the Clearinghouse account for 94 percent of all enrollments at Title IV, degree-granting institutions.

The ability to monitor postsecondary enrollment trends is invaluable in determining the nation's progress in meeting its education goals. It is also important for state, federal, and institutional policymakers who must understand and project enrollment patterns in order to make informed decisions about financial aid and resource allocation.

“It is a great benefit to educators and policymakers to have this real-time information on changes in the college student population and where they are enrolling,” stated Dr. Doug Shapiro, Executive Director of the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. “Fresh information updated twice yearly is an invaluable tool for the higher education community and we are proud to provide this new resource.”

The Current Term Enrollment Estimates report for the upcoming spring term is scheduled for release in May 2013.

About the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center is the research arm of the National Student Clearinghouse. The Research

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Center collaborates with higher education institutions, states, school districts, high schools, and educational organizations as part of a national effort to better inform education leaders and policymakers. Through accurate longitudinal data outcomes reporting, the Research Center enables better educational policy decisions leading to improved student outcomes.

To learn more, visit <http://research.studentclearinghouse.org>.

About the National Student Clearinghouse

The National Student Clearinghouse (a nonprofit formed in 1993) is the unique and trusted source for higher education enrollment and degree verifications. The Clearinghouse serves as a single point of contact for the collection and timely exchange of accurate and comprehensive enrollment, degree, and certificate records on behalf of its more than 3,300 participating higher education institutions, which represent 96 percent of all students in public and private U.S. institutions. The Clearinghouse also provides thousands of high schools and districts with continuing collegiate enrollment, progression, and completion statistics on their alumni.

Through its verification and reporting services, the Clearinghouse saves the education community cumulatively nearly four hundred million dollars annually. Most Clearinghouse services are provided to colleges and universities at little or no charge, including enhanced transcript and research services, enabling institutions to redistribute limited staff and budget resources to more important student service efforts. Clearinghouse services are designed to facilitate an institution's compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, The Higher Education Act, and other applicable laws.

In addition, the Clearinghouse provides accurate, timely enrollment and degree verifications to student loan providers, employers, student credit issuers, the U.S. Department of Education, and others who access its registry more than half a billion times annually.

For more information, visit www.studentclearinghouse.org.

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