

# VCCS Enrollment Trends — Fall 2004 Update

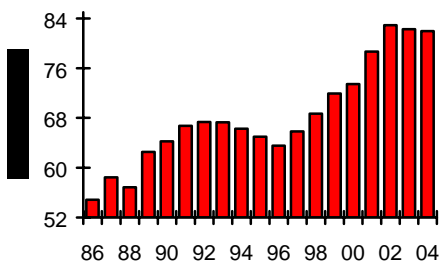
[Last update was for Fall 2002 enrollments]

## Changes: one and five year comparisons

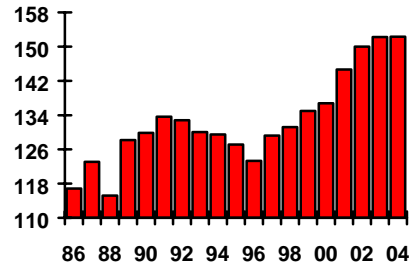
	Fall 1999 to 2004		Fall 2003 to 2004	
	N	%	N	%
• Total enrollment	17,330	12.8	64	0.04
• Full-time	9,342	24.3	-411	-0.9
• First-time	10,096	35.6	783	2.1
• Age-24 yrs. & younger	20,458	31.6	2,751	3.3
• Transfer majors	12,149	27.6	3,002	5.7
• Minority students	8,703	21.4	88	0.2
• Developmental students	2,553	11.5	-928	-3.6
• Dual credit H.S students	7,250	81.0	1,905	13.3
• Distance learning students	14,104	105.0	2,581	10.4

## Fall and annual enrollments

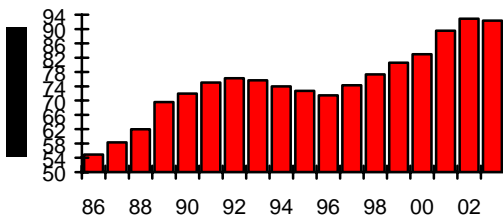
Fall Term FTES



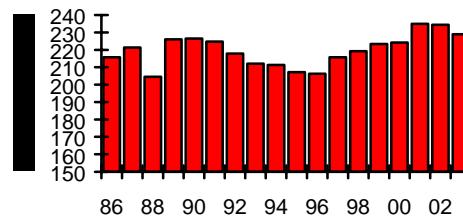
Fall Term Headcount



Annual FTES

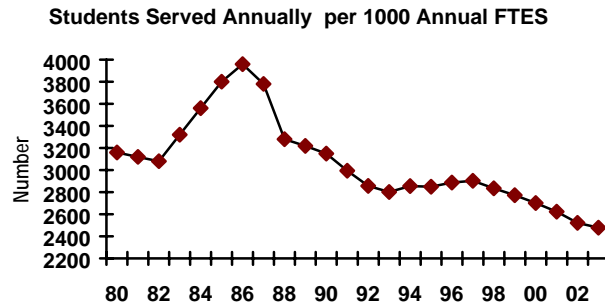


Annual Unduplicated Headcount



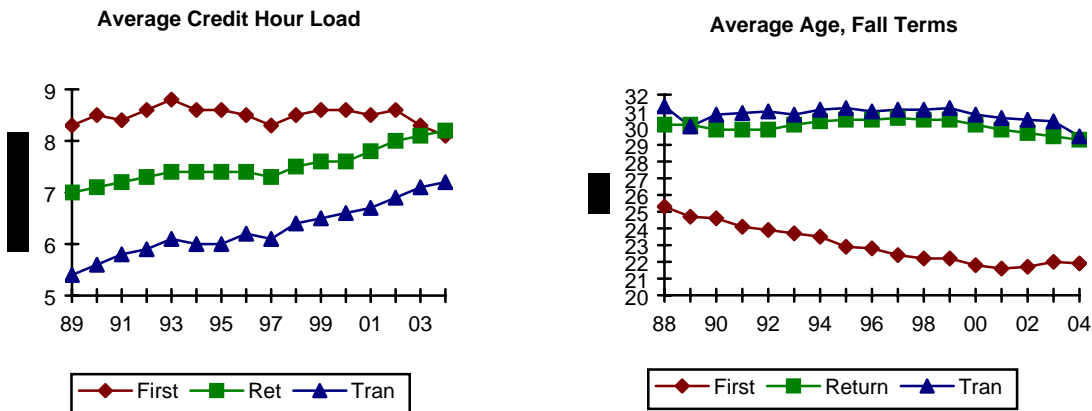
Over the last two fall terms enrollments have not changed substantially. FTES has decreased slightly and students served has increased slightly. For annual, FTES was steady for 2003-04, but the number of students served during the year decreased.

## How many students served per 1,000 annual FTES?



The efficiency of generating annual FTES continues to go up, reflecting increased student credit loads and spring retention [2003-04 annual data do not include the reduced loads for fall 2004]. The number of students enrolled per 1000 FTES has dropped for the sixth consecutive year, moving from a high of nearly 4000 students in '86 to less than 2500 last year.

## Student Age and Course Credit Hour Load

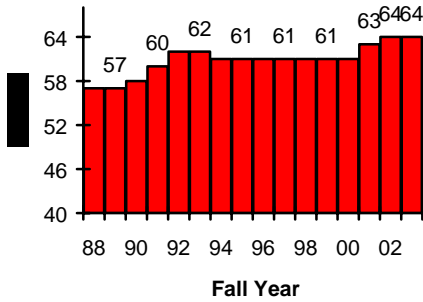


After increasing each year since the mid-90's, the average credit hour load (8.1 hrs.) for the total student population has leveled, actually dropping slightly in Fall 2004. The average load for first-time students decreased substantially for both Fall 2003 and 2004. And, this is the case even if first-time dual credit students, who only enroll for one or two courses, are excluded. As might be expected for returning students, a much larger group, credit hour loads continue to increase, but only a small increase for Fall 2004. Note that for the total student body, a load change of .1 is associated with an FTES change of over 1000.

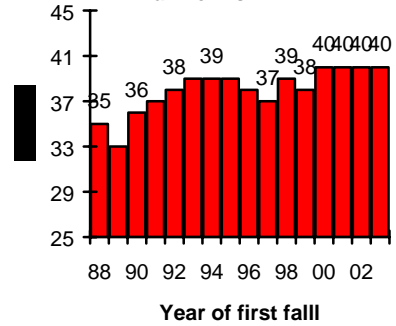
The average credit hour load for returning students has increased a full credit hour over the last decade, to about 8 credits. For the fall, this difference equaled over 7,000 FTES.

## Term-to Term and Year-to-Year Retention

Spring Retention Rates



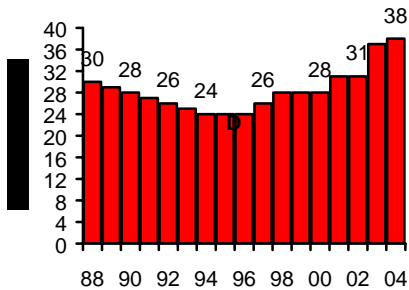
Students Enrolling in Consecutive Fall Terms



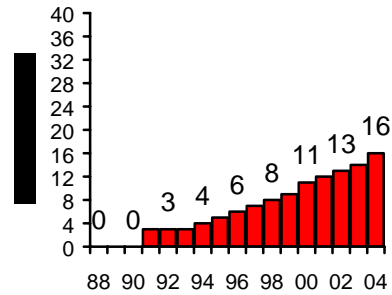
The fall-to-spring retention rate remained at a record level for Fall 2003 students, partially explaining a decrease in annual unduplicated headcount for 2003-04 with no change in annual FTES.

## First-time and Returning Student Enrollments

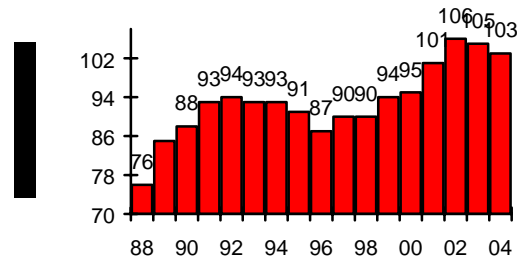
All Students Enrolling for the First Time



First-time Dual Credit Students



Returning Students, Fall Terms



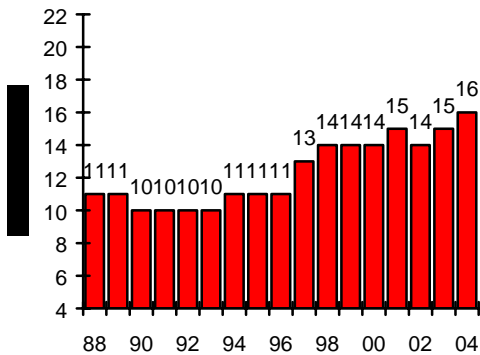
First-time student numbers increased markedly in Fall '03 and '04. This jump follows a period of steady growth since the mid-90's and is due primarily to large increases in numbers of dual credit students. With these increases, dual credit students now account for more than 40 percent of all students entering for the first time. This requires a shift in how first-time numbers are to be interpreted. For example, they are not now as likely to be full-time students.

If dual credit students are excluded, the number of first-time students actually decreased for Fall 2004.

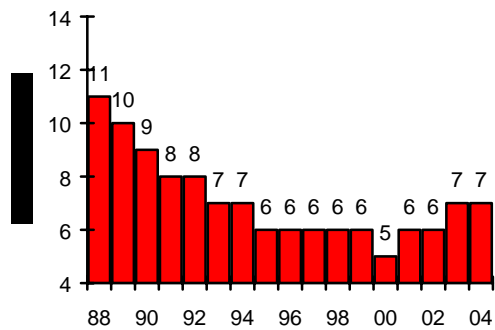
The number of returning students also declined in Fall 2003 and 2004.

## **Recent High School Graduates and Older First-time Students**

Spring Graduates Enrolling Fall Term\*



Students 25 and Older Enrolling for the First-time



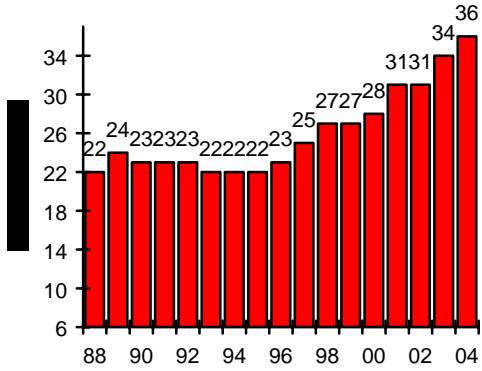
\* H. S. Graduate estimates used for NVCC in 02-03.

After maintaining a constant share for over a decade, the number of high school graduates moving directly to the VCCS has increased 40 percent since the early 90's. With a 2 point gain in share for Fall 2004, the VCCS share of a Va. graduating class is now more than 20 percent. For Fall 2003 and 2004, however, the percentage taking a full-time course load was substantially below that of prior years.

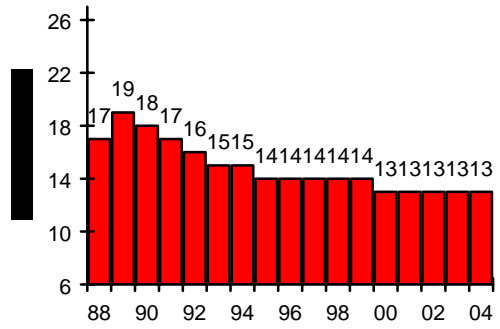
The number of older first-time students, those 25 years of age and over, increased significantly in Fall 2003 and remained higher in 2004.

## **New Students (including Transfers) by Age**

**New Students 24 and Younger,  
First-time and Transfer**



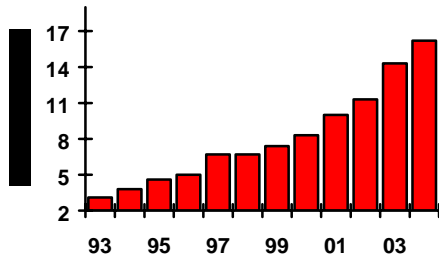
**New Students 25 and Older,  
First-time and Transfer**



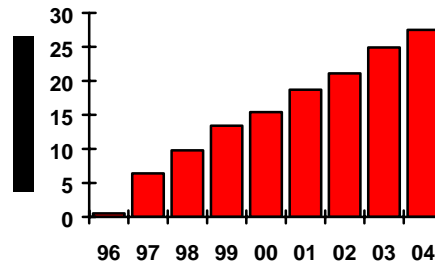
Looking at all new students, combining transfers with first-time students, growth continued for students 24 and younger, but the numbers are level for the 25 and older group.

**Dual credit and distance learning enrollments (headcount).**

Dual Credit, Fall Term



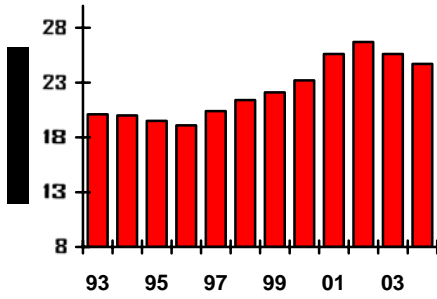
Distance Learning, Fall Term



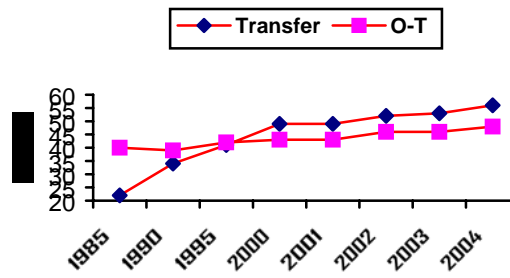
Dual credit and distance learning student numbers continue to increase at double-digit rates

**Numbers of students enrolling in developmental courses and choosing transfer and career-technical programs**

Developmental, Fall Term



Fall Program Enrollments

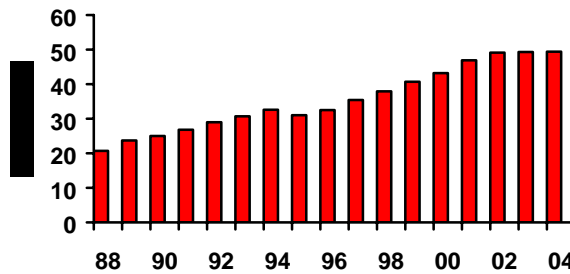


The percentage of students entering the transfer and career-technical studies programs is increasing, even with level overall student numbers. More students are choosing transfer programs.

Following a long period of either steady or increasing numbers of students enrolling in developmental courses, the number of developmental students decreased by 3 to 4 percent in Fall 2003 and 2004.

**Minority Student Enrollments**

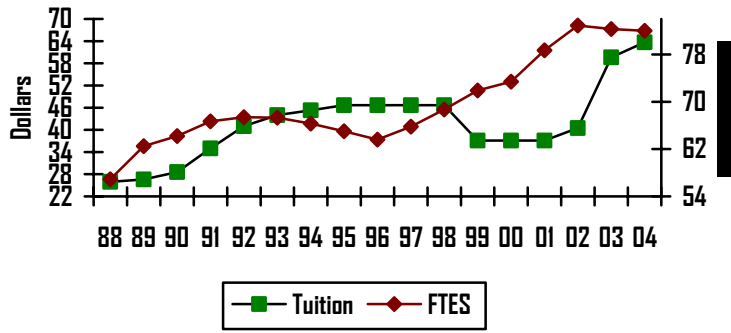
Minority Fall Enrollments



Following a long period of growth that had outpaced that for the total student population, minority enrollments leveled in Fall 2003 and remained level for Fall 2004.

**Tuition and enrollment**

Tuition Rates and Fall FTES



A simple plotting of tuition and FTES suggests that enrollment growth slows with substantial tuition increases (see 90-93 and 02-04), but of course the tuition-enrollment relationship is not a simple correlation.