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CAMPUS PROFILE

2.1 CAMPUS HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS

Campus History

Kirkwood Community College was founded in 1966 as part of Iowa's statewide initiative to establish a comprehensive system of community colleges that would expand access to higher education and workforce training. Originally organized as Area X Community College, the institution was created to serve the educational and economic needs of Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties in eastern Iowa. From its inception, Kirkwood was designed to provide both career and technical training aligned with regional workforce demands and transfer-oriented academic programs supporting postsecondary access.

In its early years, the college operated from multiple temporary locations throughout Cedar Rapids, offering vocational and technical programs that built upon federally funded initiatives previously administered by the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Within a short period, Kirkwood broadened its mission to include arts and sciences coursework, student support services, and community education, reflecting an emerging comprehensive community college model.

In 1969, the college adopted the name Kirkwood Community College in honor of Samuel J. Kirkwood, one of Iowa's early governors and a strong advocate for public education and civic leadership. This renaming coincided with the development of a centralized main campus in southwest Cedar Rapids, marking a transition from multiple instructional sites to a permanent campus environment. Early academic buildings, including Linn Hall, established the foundation for sciences, liberal arts, business, and health related programs.

In recent decades, the college has adapted to shifting demographics, technological change, and evolving workforce needs through investments in online learning, regional and county centers, modernized facilities, and community-based partnerships. Enrollment patterns have reflected broader economic conditions, including increased demand during periods of workforce disruption, underscoring the college's role as an economic stabilizer and education provider.

Today, Kirkwood Community College serves a broad and diverse population through credit instruction, workforce development, continuing education, and community engagement across eastern Iowa. Its history of strategic growth, responsiveness to regional needs, and sustained public investment provides important context for long-range facilities planning and future campus development.



Facilities Overview

Kirkwood's main campus in southwest Cedar Rapids in Linn County is roughly 680 acres in a suburban setting and supports a wide range of academic programs. The campus includes more than two dozen major buildings totaling approximately 1.65 million square feet, with construction dates ranging from the late 1960s to the present. A defining feature of the campus is the integration of a more than 400-acre working farm, which supports agricultural, animal science, and natural resources programs and gives Kirkwood a physical character that is uncommon among community colleges.

Kirkwood's facilities are notably specialized and program specific, reflecting the college's strong emphasis on hands on, career focused education. High bay technical buildings house automotive, diesel ag, industrial, and skilled trades programs, while healthcare and veterinary facilities include simulation labs, and clinical teaching spaces. Academic buildings such as Cedar and Benton Halls blend general education classrooms, labs, faculty offices, library functions, and student services, supporting both transfer and career pathways.

Student life and community serving functions are organized around a network of centralized amenities. Iowa Hall is a large student center which serves as a social and activity hub, while the recreation center supports wellness and athletics. The campus also includes public facing facilities such as The Hotel at Kirkwood Center and Conference Center, reinforcing the college's role as a regional workforce development and community resource.

Locations

Main Campus, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Regional Centers

- Jones County Regional Center, Monticello, Iowa
- Linn County Regional Center, Hiawatha, Iowa
- Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa, Coralville, Iowa
- Washington County Regional Center, Washington, Iowa

County Centers

- Vinton Center, Vinton, Iowa
- Williamsburg Center, Williamsburg, Iowa

Educational Sites

- The Kirkwood Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Kirkwood Continuing Education Training Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Aeronautics Hanger, Lab and Classroom

Previous Masterplans

Kirkwood has developed six major Master Plans over its conception along with other initiatives to improve the campus. Below is a summary of each.

1967 ORIGINAL MASTER PLAN

Goals: Integration of the educational programs into the physical site.

Specific focus was placed on:

- Architectural Styles
- Landscaping
- Walkways
- Signage

Projects included:

Health Occupation Center, Vocational Technical, Administration Center, Arts & Science, Continuing Education, Merged County Services Center, and Construction of East Campus

1959 - 1979 MASTER PLAN

Goals: Thoughtful growth of educational programming and facilities.

Projects included:

Linn Hall, Downtown Cedar Rapids Resource Center, Iowa Hall, Benton Hall, Jones Hall, Washington Hall

Other outcomes:

- Start of Facilities Foundation
- Passed 5 year extension on Equipment Levy
- Approval of 20-1/4 Levy

1980 MASTER PLAN

Goals: To focus on general education classrooms, physical education and recreation, and a performing art classroom and theater.

Other Goals: Directional signage, significant campus landscaping, and renovation of existing spaces.

Projects included:

Johnson Hall, Kirkwood Hall, Cedar Hall & Ballantyne, Nielsen Hall, Recreation Center, Equestrian Center, and the Floral and Horticulture Building (now Art & Theatre Annex)

2004 MASTER PLAN

Goals: To Improve the planning for growth and development, renovation of College facilities, and improved infrastructure.

Projects Included:

Addition to Linn Hall, addition to Cedar/Benton Hall, and build a 40,000sf Leadership Development Center

2006 MASTER PLAN

Goals: Create a presence of campus within the community, improve student recruitment, incorporate new infrastructure to meet the needs of evolving curriculum, create learning facilities supporting independent and structured learning activities, and to create a sense of community for students, faculty, staff and administration.

Projects included:

Horticulture, Sim Center, Hotel at Kirkwood Center & Culinary Arts, Renovations at Linn Hall, Cedar Hall, Iowa Hall, Jones Hall, and Johnson Hall

2017 MASTER PLAN

Goals: To establish a sense of community and create a primary identity for students with a central hub, improve wayfinding both internal and external, and promote a sense of community by providing visual transparency between and within buildings.

Projects included:

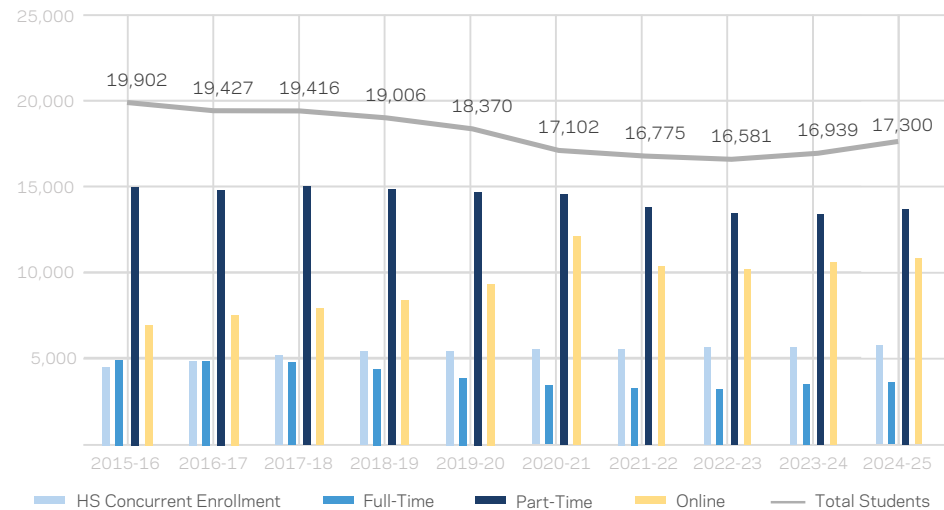
Rec Center Renovation & Addition, Washington Hall Renovation & Addition, Auto Tech Renovation, Iowa Hall Renovation & Addition, and new Veterinary Technology Building

2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Enrollment Data

Kirkwood Community College serves a large and diverse student population that has evolved over the past decade. Total headcount in 2024-2025 was 17,300 students, representing a recovery from pandemic-era lows but remaining below mid-2010s levels. Total head count and credit hours followed a similar trajectory, declining steadily through 2021-2022 and increasing modestly in recent years, reflecting stabilization. Throughout this period, part-time students have consistently made up the majority of the student body, accounting for roughly four out of five students, reinforcing Kirkwood's mission to serve a wide range of learners balancing education with work, family, and other responsibilities.

TOTAL STUDENT HEAD COUNTS



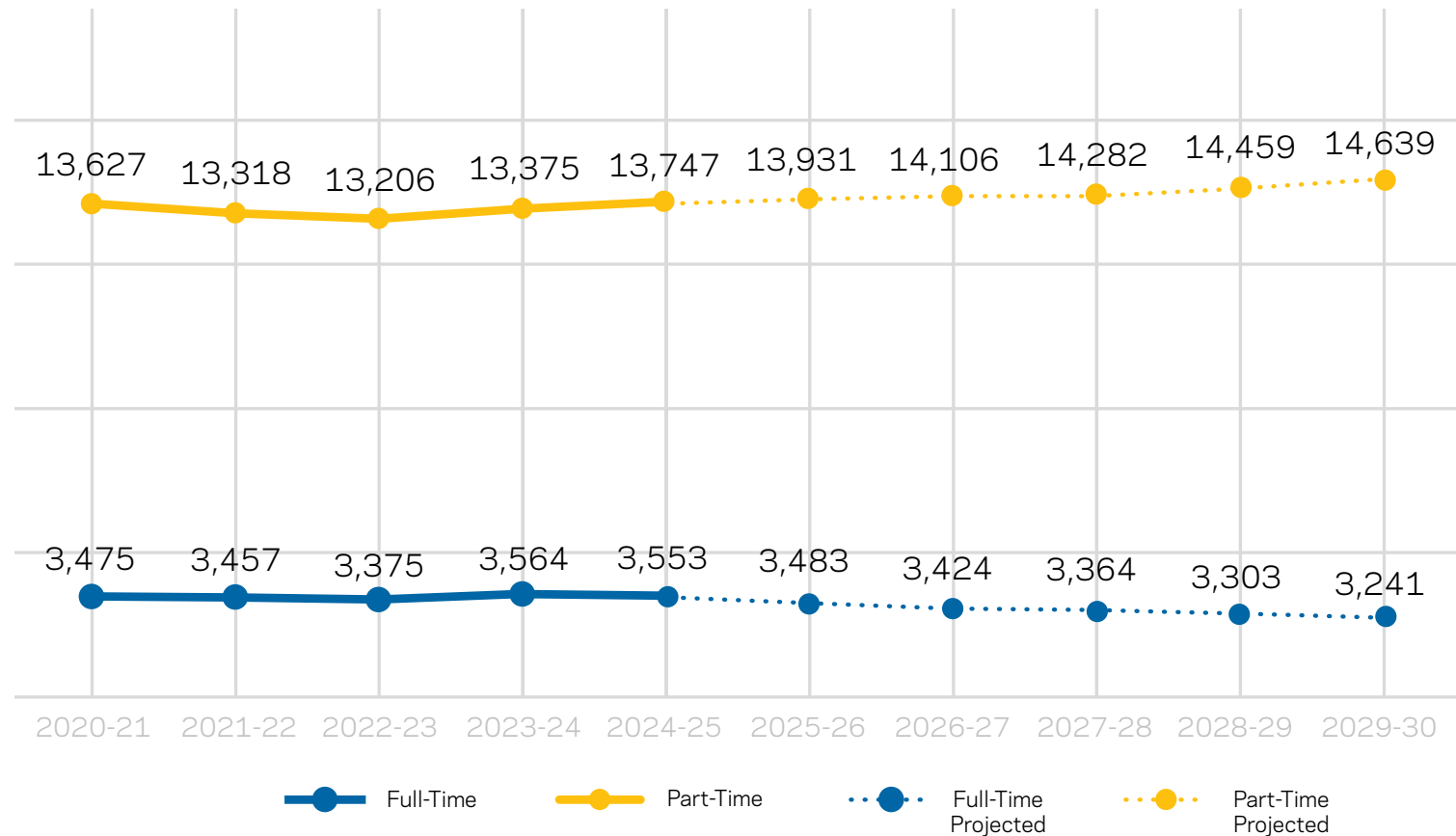
Academic Year	Full-Time	Part-Time	Online	HS Concurrent Enrollment
2015-16	4,906	14,996	7,045	4,753
2016-17	4,669	14,758	7,274	4,959
2017-18	4,406	15,010	7,530	5,354
2018-19	4,296	14,710	7,803	5,407
2019-20	4,081	14,289	8,869	5,481
2020-21	3,475	13,627	12,443	5,398
2021-22	3,457	13,318	10,198	5,620
2022-23	3,375	13,206	10,066	5,921
2023-24	3,564	13,375	10,275	6,321
2024-25	3,553	13,747	10,591	6,576

Source: Kirkwood Institutional Research Fact Book

Trends and Forecast

1. Credit hour enrollment is projected to have a slight decrease of 1% over the next 5 years
2. Online only credit hours are projected to continue increasing by 7% over the next 5 years
3. Full-time enrollment is declining with a projected decrease of 9 % over the next 5 years
4. Part-time enrollment is projected to continue increasing by 6% over the next 5 years
5. Overall headcount is projected to have a 3% increase over the next 5 years

HEAD COUNT FORECAST

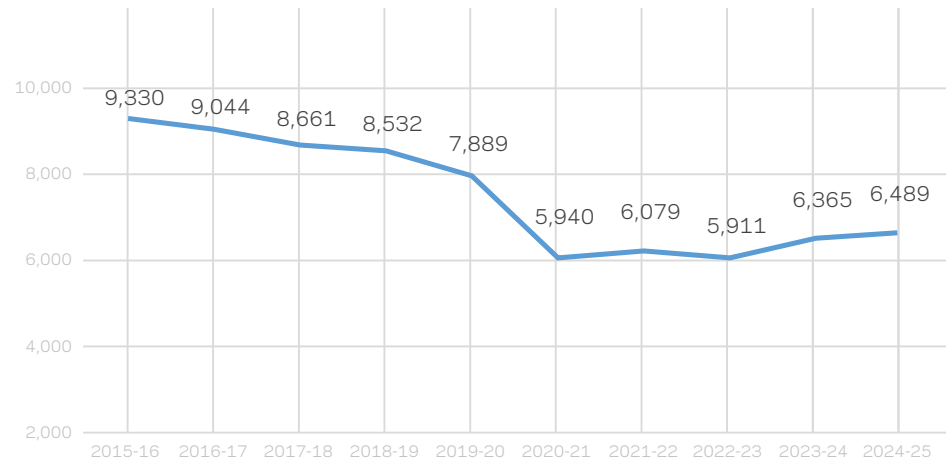


Enrollment Data

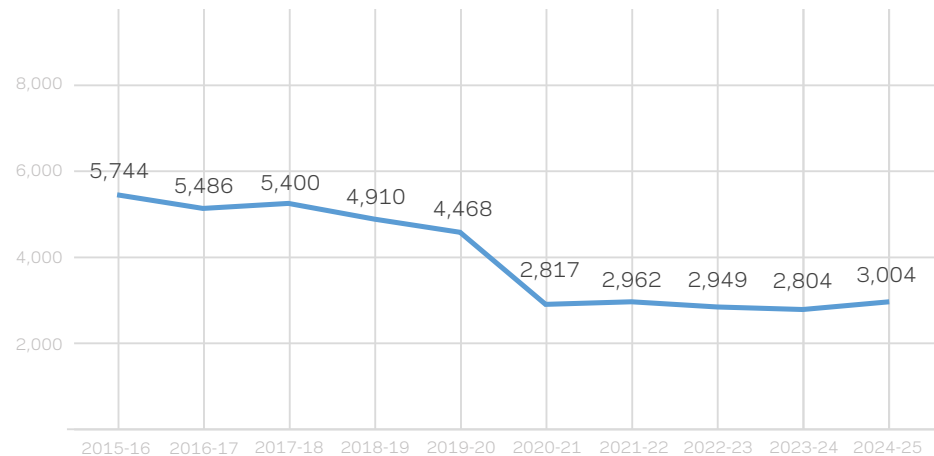
Instructional delivery and student location patterns continue to evolve. A majority of students take at least some coursework online, far more than pre-pandemic levels. While the main campus remains the single largest physical hub for students, regional centers and online instruction together now serve a significant share of the student population, reflecting long-term shifts in how and where students access programs. Academic program choice has remained remarkably stable over time, with approximately two-thirds of students enrolled in transfer-oriented programs and one-third in career and technical education, demonstrating sustained demand across both academic pathways.

Self-reported student intent data further illustrates Kirkwood's broad mission. The largest share of students report enrolling to explore career options, followed by relatively even proportions seeking to transfer, start or change careers, or earn postsecondary credit while still in high school. The increase in high school students earning postsecondary credit over the past decade aligns closely with the growth of K-12 partnerships. Collectively, these demographic patterns point to a student body that is younger, more diverse, increasingly part-time, and engaged through online and hybrid instruction. These factors have implications for facilities, scheduling, technology infrastructure, and student support services.

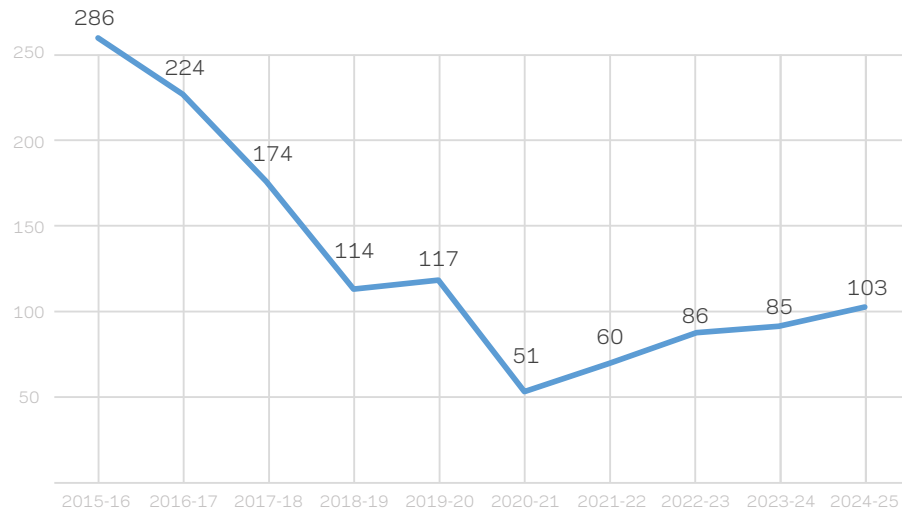
MAIN CAMPUS HEADCOUNT



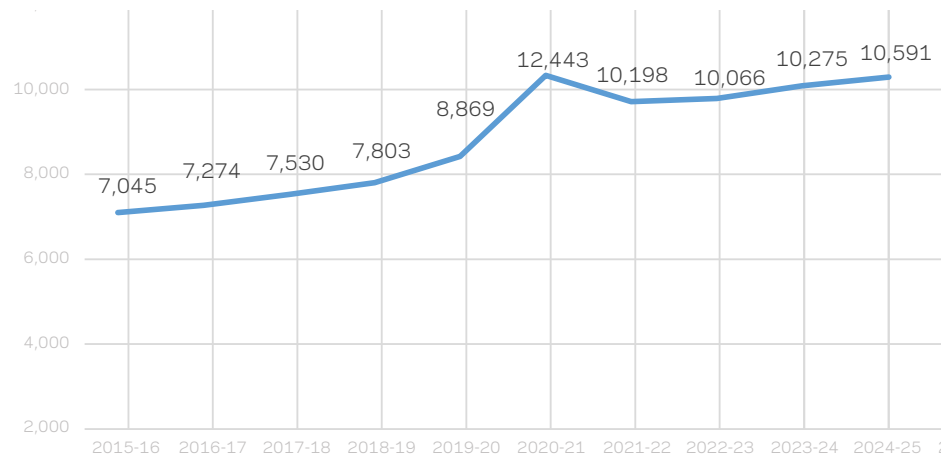
REGIONAL CENTERS HEADCOUNT



COUNTY CENTERS HEADCOUNT

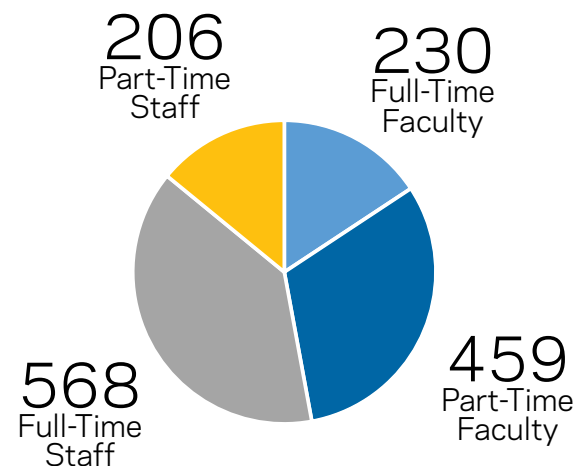


ONLINE HEADCOUNT



Kirkwood's students are predominantly between the ages of 18 and 22; however, the most significant age-related shift has been the steady growth of high school concurrent enrollment students. In 2024-2025, this group represents more than one-fifth of all credit students, nearly doubling its share compared to a decade ago, indicating substantial growth in concurrent enrollment and high school-based participation. At the same time, the proportion of adult learners age 23 and older has gradually declined, though these students continue to represent roughly one-quarter of the enrollment. Gender trends show a sustained majority of female students, with the gender gap widening over time as the male share of enrollment has gradually decreased.

STAFF AND FACULTY COUNTS

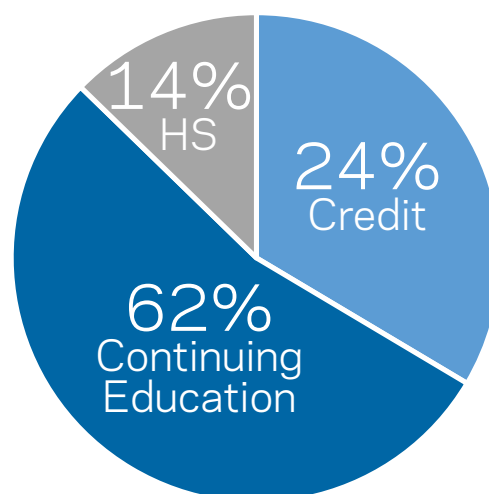


2024-2025 HEADCOUNT BREAKDOWN

27,704
Continuing
Education Students

10,724
Credit Students

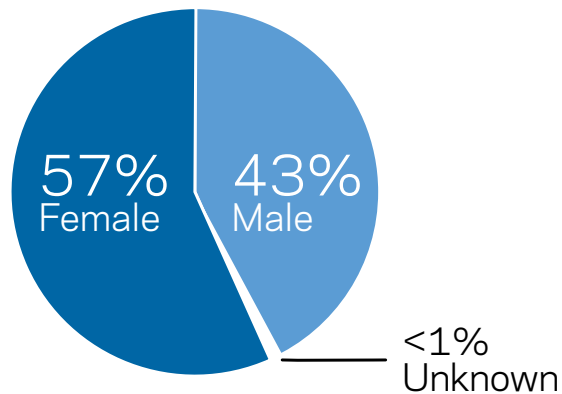
6,576
High School
Dual Enrollments



Source: Kirkwood Institutional Research Fact Book

Racial and ethnic diversity at Kirkwood has increased incrementally over the past decade. Among students who report race and ethnicity, more than one-quarter identify as students of color, with growth particularly evident among Hispanics, students identifying with two or more races, and Black students, who remain the largest single minority group.

2024-2025 GENDER BREAKDOWN

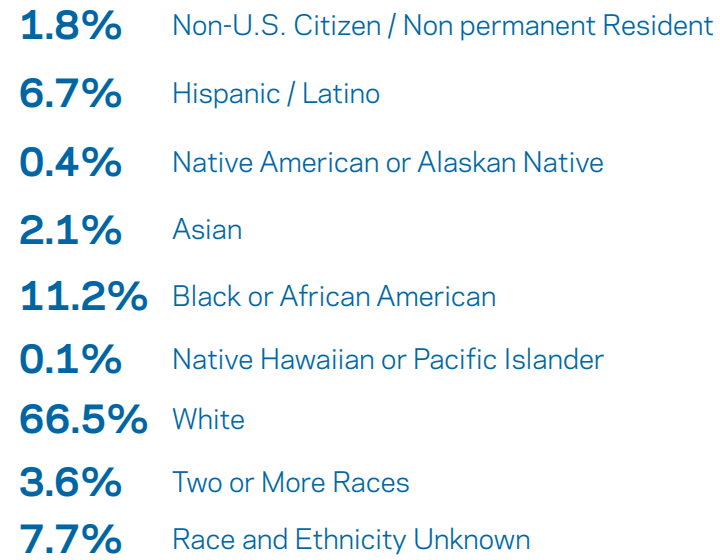


GEOGRAPHY OF STUDENTS



Source: Kirkwood Institutional Research Fact Book

RACE AND ETHNICITY



ENROLLMENT TYPES



PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

