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Tennessee Higher Education Increases Enrollment for the Fourth Consecutive Year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – *October 10, 2019* – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) today released the latest student enrollment data for the fall 2019 semester, indicating an increase of 1,541 students, which is a 0.7% increase compared with 2018.

“This is our fourth year of continued enrollment growth in Tennessee. It is encouraging to see our state’s continued momentum at a time when many states are experiencing a decline in higher education enrollment,” said THEC Executive Director Mike Krause. “This indicates progress toward our goal of having 55% of Tennesseans with a degree beyond high school, and most importantly, our ability to ensure an educated workforce.”

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) reported that 87,863 students enrolled in community colleges this fall, with Cleveland State and Roane State Community Colleges experiencing the largest growth at 3.2% and 3.1%, respectively.

The University of Tennessee (UT) system’s enrollment is up due to increases at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the University of Tennessee, Martin. Overall, enrollment at UT institutions increased 2.4% over last fall.

Among locally governed institutions (LGIs), significant increases occurred at both the University of Memphis and Tennessee State University.

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About the Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly. The Commission develops, implements, and evaluates postsecondary education policies and programs in Tennessee while coordinating the state’s systems of higher education, and is relentlessly focused on increasing the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential.

Tennessee Higher Education Enrollment Comparison, 2018-19

Tennessee Board of Regents	Fall 2019	Change
Chattanooga State Community College	8,050	-2.3%
Cleveland State Community College	3,370	3.2%
Columbia State Community College	6,317	1.5%
Dyersburg State Community College	2,840	-4.6%
Jackson State Community College	4,888	0.8%
Motlow State Community College	6,998	1.6%
Nashville State Community College	7,885	-4.8%
Northeast State Community College	6,085	-0.8%
Pellissippi State Community College	10,700	-1.8%
Roane State Community College	5,861	3.1%
Southwest Tennessee Community College	9,439	1.0%
Volunteer State Community College	9,150	0.0%
Walters State Community College	6,280	2.2%
TOTAL	87,863	-0.2%
LGIs		
Austin Peay State University*	10,616	0.9%
East Tennessee State University	14,190	-1.0%
Middle Tennessee State University	21,721	0.4%
Tennessee State University*	8,088	4.0%
Tennessee Technological University	10,140	-0.4%
University of Memphis	21,685	1.1%
TOTAL	86,440	0.6%
UT		
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	11,590	0.3%
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	29,460	3.3%
University of Tennessee, Martin	7,280	3.5%
University of Tennessee Health Science Center	3,252	-0.7%
TOTAL	51,582	2.4%
GRAND TOTAL	225,885	0.7%

Note: * In this table, the fall 2018 comparison reflects APSU's Fall I count, which is comparable to their Fall 2019 data (this excludes the Fall II count at Fort Campbell).

**The increase in headcount total year over year for TSU can be partially explained by significant growth in their graduate school headcount due to a new single course offering in coding.