CUNY Enrollment Trends: Fall 1849-2010

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| Year | Enrollment |
| 1849 ¹ | 202 |
| 1860 | 758 |
| 1870 | 1,788 |
| 1880 | 2,133 |
| 1890 ² | 3,112 |
| 1905 | 4,454 |
| 1930 ³ | 36,249 |
| 1940 ⁴ | 52,550 |
| 1950 | 71,223 |
| 1960 ⁵ | 89,526 |
| 1965 ^{6,7} | 130,922 |
| 1970 ^{8,9} | 185,998 |
| 1975 ¹⁰ | 250,784 |
| 1980 ^{11,12} | 172,229 |
| 1985 | 182,626 |
| 1990 | 200,688 |
| 1995 | 205,835 |
| 2000 | 195,403 |
| 2005 ¹³ | 220,727 |
| 2010 ¹⁴ | 262,321 |
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Sources:

- 1849: CCNY annual enrollment. Rudy, W.S. (1949). The College of the City of New York: A History 1847 1947. (p. 92). New York: The City College Press.
- 1860: CCNY annual enrollment. Eleventh Annual Register of the Free Academy, 1859-1860. (pp. 77-101).
- 1870: CCNY annual enrollment. Twenty-second Annual Register of the College of the City of New York, 1870-1871. (pp. 29-46). Normal College (Hunter) enrollment Annual Report of the President of the Normal College for the Year 1870. (p. 6).
- 1880: CCNY annual enrollment. Thirty-second *Annual Register of the College of the City of New York, 1880-1881.* (pp. 59-84). Normal College (Hunter) enrollment *Eleventh Annual Report of the President of the Normal College for the Year Ending December 31, 1881.* (p. 25).
- 1890: CCNY annual enrollment Rudy, W.S. (1949). The College of the City of New York: A History 1847 1947. (p. 225). New York: The City College Press. Normal College (Hunter) enrollment Twentieth Annual Report of the Normal College For The Year Ending December 31, 1890. (p. 24).
- 1905: CCNY estimated, based on 1904 enrollment *The College of the City of New York: Fifty-fifth Annual Register 1903-1904.* (p. 133). Normal College (Hunter) enrollment *Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Normal College For The Year Ending December 31, 1905.* (p. 24).
- 1930: CCNY estimated, based on February 1931 enrollment *The City College: Annual Register for 1930-1931.* (p. 317). Hunter College estimated, based on annual enrollment for 1936 Kroo, K. (1991). *Purpose and Ambiguity: The Feminine world of Hunter College, 1869-1945.* (p. 197). Brooklyn Horowitz, M. M. (1981). *Brooklyn College: The First Half Century*. (p. 26).
- 1940: Estimated, based on March 1940 enrollment. Report of the Chairman, Board of Higher Education. (1940). (p. ii). *Two Constructive Years in Public Higher Education, The City of New York.*
- 1950: Estimated fall 1950 enrollment based on fall 1951 enrollment reported in CUNY Board Meeting Minutes, April 1952.
- 1960: Estimates exclude unavailable data for QCC & SI CC. Hunter CUNY Board Meeting Minutes, Sept. 1960; Brooklyn, City, Queens CUNY Board Meeting Minutes, Sept. 1961. Bronx Rosenstock & Ryan. (2008). A Half Century in Pursuit of Excellence. (p. 11).
- 1965: CUNY Summary of Enrollments Fall 1965.
- 1970 and beyond: CUNY Student Data Book (OIRA) and Show-Registration data.

Notes:

- ¹ 1847: A public referendum established the the Free Academy, renamed the College of the City of New York in 1866.
- ² 1870: Hunter College established.
- ³ 1930: Brooklyn College established.
- ⁴ 1937: Queens College established.
- ⁵ 1955: Staten Island Community College, 1957: Bronx; 1958: Queensborough established.
- ⁶ 1961: The City University of New York was created by the State Legislature from the pre-existing municipal college system.
- ⁷ 1961: Graduate School, 1963: BMCC, KCC; 1964: John Jay; 1964: NYC Community College (reported as CC through 1979).
- ⁸ 1966: York, 1967: Mt. Sinai School of Medicine became affiliated with CUNY, 1968: Baruch, Lehman, Hostos; 1969: Medgar Evers.
- ⁹ Fall 1970 was the first semester of Open Admissions.
- ¹⁰ 1971: LaGuardia; 1973: Law School, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education established at City College.
- ¹¹ 1976: The College of Staten Island established, merging Staten Island CC and a bachelor's granting institution, Richmond College (1965). 1980: NYC Technical College was established in name (reported as a CC since 1964). NYCTC renamed NYCCT in 2002.
- ¹² Fall 1976 was the first semester that tuition was required.
- ¹³ 2005: School of Professional Studies established.
- ¹⁴ 2006: School of Journalism established