

## A Growing Population: eLearning Students at Edison State College

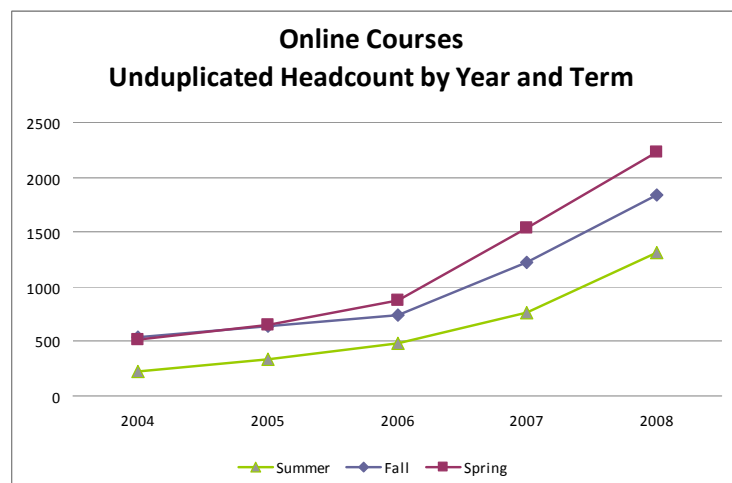
Distance/eLearning has become an integral part of college education during the past several years. A study published by the College Board and Babson Survey Research Group at Babson College in *Inside Higher Ed* (November 2008) indicates that:

In Fall 2007, some 3.94 million students enrolled in at least one online course, an increase of 12.9 percent over the previous year. That falls between the 9.7 percent growth for Fall 2006 and the 19.7 compound annual rate since Fall 2002...over a fifth of all American students in higher education took at least one online course in Fall 2007.

Edison has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of students enrolling in its **eLearning Courses** since the first sections were offered in Fall 2004. This growth is observed for both those who are enrolling in their first course and for those who are signing up for another course. eLearning Courses offer students time and geographic flexibility and access to more course options. Edison offers two types of eLearning Courses:

**1. Internet Courses** that require students to have access to a computer and to the Internet. Course information and assignments are accessed through an Internet browser. Internet courses may include a textbook, on-campus sessions for orientation, discussion, labs and tests. Internet courses may provide the opportunity for interaction between the student, the instructor and classmates through the course Chatroom, Discussion Board and e-mail.

**2. Blended Learning Courses** that combine several modes of instructional delivery. For example, a course may be delivered through a combination of online, videotaped, interactive video, computer conferencing, multimedia or print-based materials. Some on-campus sessions are required for orientation, discussion, labs and tests.



Term	% Change in Unduplicated Headcount	% Change in Sections
Fall 2005	15.1%	3.2%
Fall 2006	14.0%	13.9%
Fall 2007	39.9%	41.0%
Fall 2008	33.3%	47.9%
Spring 2006	20.8%	28.9%
Spring 2007	25.7%	17.4%
Spring 2008	42.7%	46.5%
Spring 2009	31.3%	42.3%
Summer 2005	34.0%	47.4%
Summer 2006	28.8%	29.6%
Summer 2007	36.7%	35.7%
Summer 2008	42.1%	49.4%

The number of eLearning sections per semester has expanded from 30 in Fall 2004 to 149 in Spring 2009. In Fall 2009, 194 sections will be offered. Enrollment has swelled from 649 in Fall 2004 to 3,466 in Spring 2009.