



University System of Georgia  
Board of Regents

# **A Comparative Analysis of Credit Hour Productivity**

Curriculum Inventory Report  
Fiscal Year 2005

Office of Strategic Research and Analysis  
July 2005

# University System of Georgia Curriculum Inventory Report

## Comparative Analysis of Credit Hour Productivity Fiscal Year 2005

### Trends in Credit Hour Production

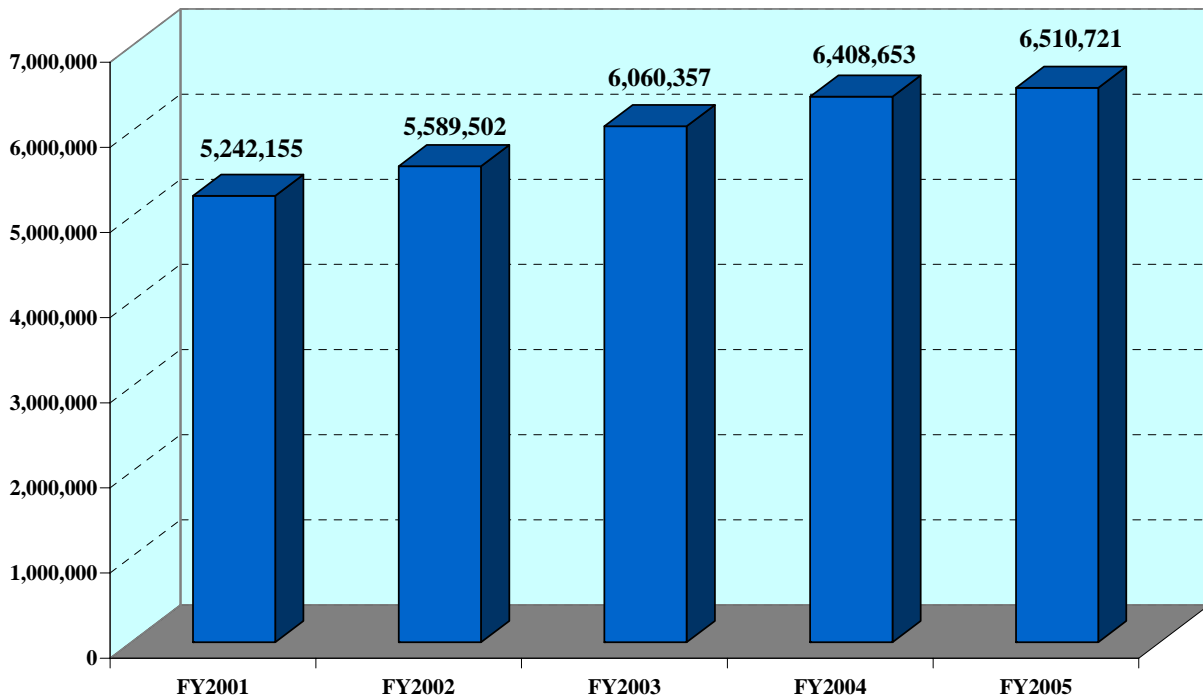
The following charts illustrate five-year trends in the University System's credit hour productivity. FY2001 through FY2005 data are included in the analysis. Credit hour production is analyzed based on the level (lower, upper, and graduate/professional) and budget program criteria used in the funding formula. "Program" refers to academic disciplines categorized into five program groups.

### Total Credit Hours

Total semester credit hour production increased by 1.6 percent from FY2004 to FY2005, representing the smallest one-year increase in the five-year period. Previous one-year increases were in the range of 6 to 8 percent. Longitudinal gains are illustrated in the FY2001 to FY2005 comparisons (see Figure 1). In FY2005, 1,268,566 additional semester credit hours were generated than in FY2001. This represents a 24.2 percent increase in credit hour production.

**Figure 1**

**Total Semester Credit Hours  
FY2001-FY2005**



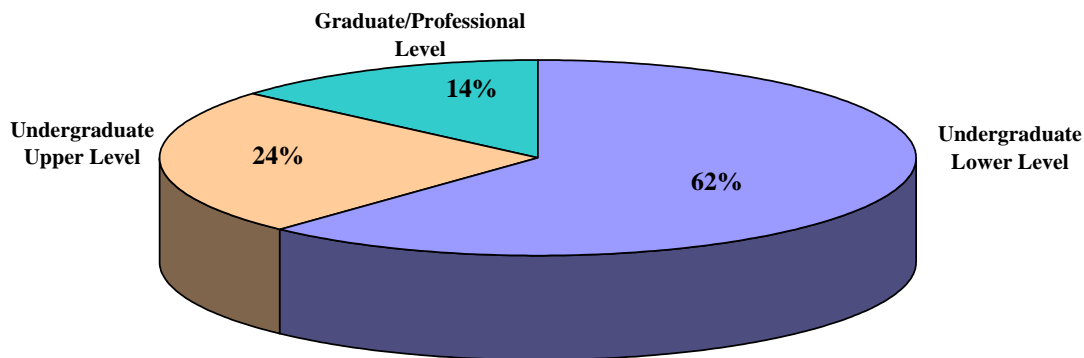
Total USG Semester Credit Hours, FY2001 to FY2005					
	FY2001 to FY2002	FY2002 to FY2003	FY2003 to FY2004	FY2004 to FY2005	FY2001 to FY2005
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 347,347	+ 470,855	+ 348,296	+ 102,069	+ 1,268,566
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 6.6%	+ 8.4%	+ 5.8%	+ 1.6%	+ 24.2%

Credit Hour Distribution by Level

The distribution of credit hours across lower, upper, and graduate/professional course levels has not changed in the five-year period. Undergraduate credit hours continue to account for 86 percent of the total semester hours generated, as compared to 14 percent for graduate/professional hours. Lower level undergraduate credit hours comprise 62 percent of the total hours generated. Upper level undergraduate credit hours comprise 24 percent of the total hours generated. Upper level undergraduate credit hours account for 24 percent of the fiscal year totals (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2**

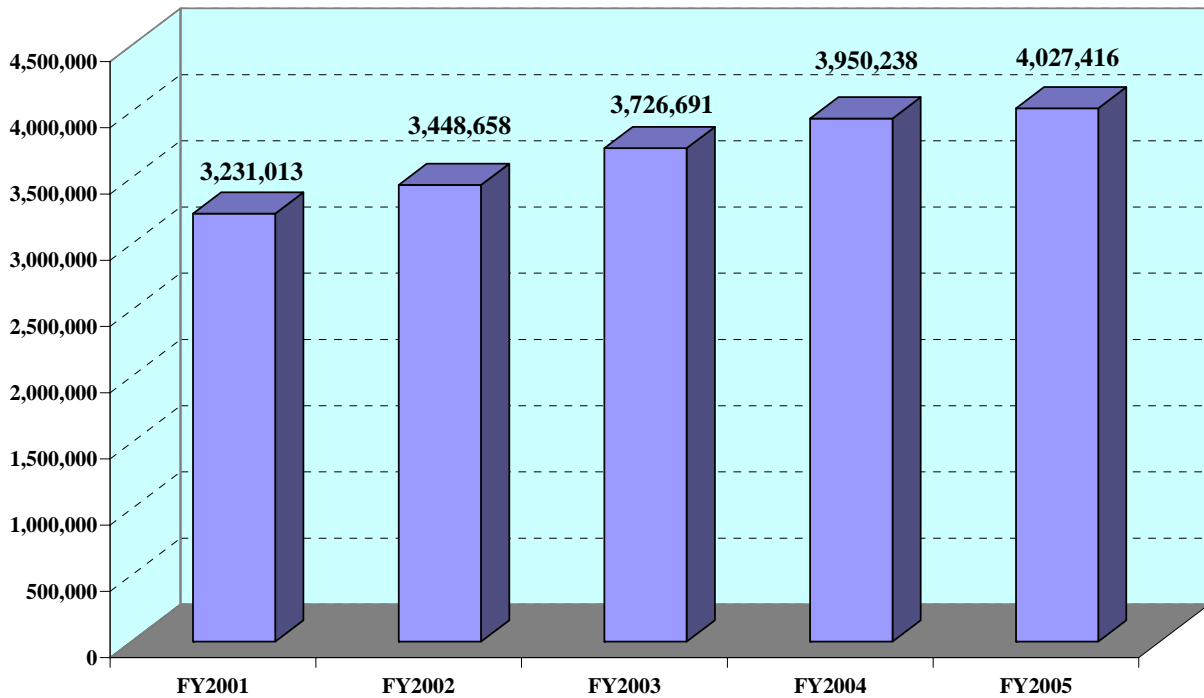
**Distribution of Semester Credit Hours by Course Level  
FY2005  
Total Credit Hours = 6,510,721**



*Lower Level Credit Hours.* Lower level courses include learning support, freshman, and sophomore courses. A 2 percent increase from the previous year was seen in FY2005, equating to an additional 77,178 lower level undergraduate credit hours (see Figure 3). This was the smallest increase in the five-year period, where gains were in the range of 6 to 8 percent. In FY2005, 796,404 more lower level credit hours were generated than in FY2001.

**Figure 3**

**Total Semester Credit Hours of Lower Level Courses  
FY2001-FY2005**

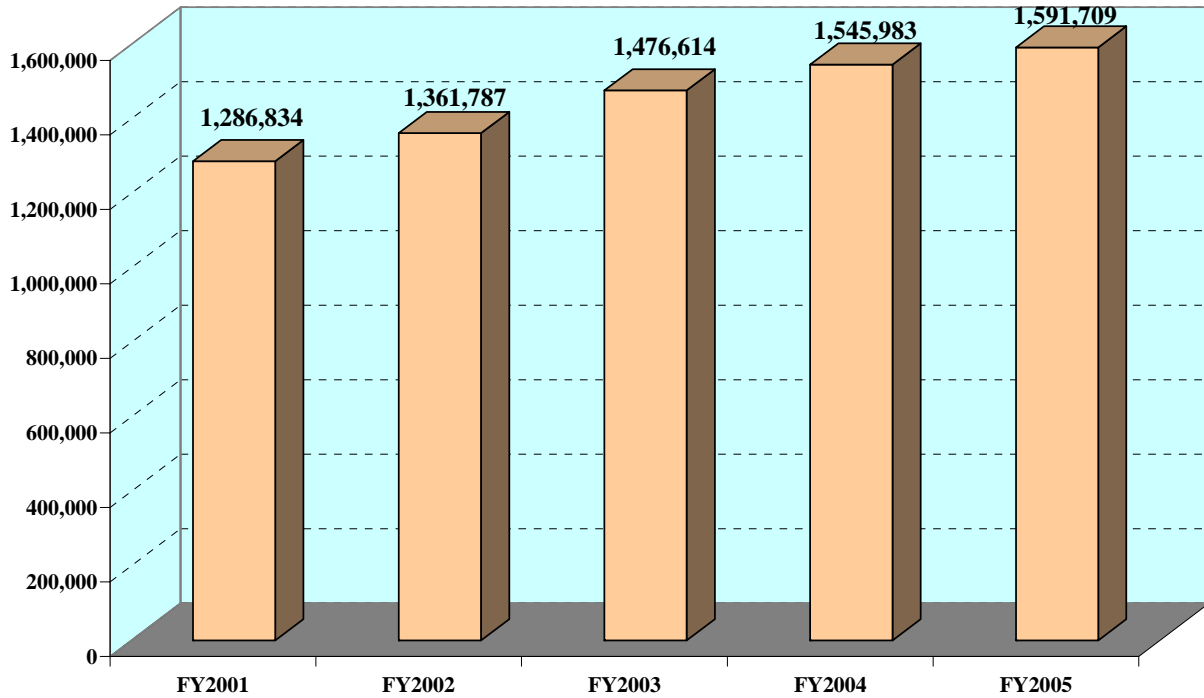


	<b>FY2001 to FY2002</b>	<b>FY2002 to FY2003</b>	<b>FY2003 to FY2004</b>	<b>FY2004 to FY2005</b>	<b>FY2001 to FY2005</b>
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 217,645	+ 278,033	+ 223,548	+ 77,178	+ 796,404
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 6.7%	+ 8.1%	+ 6.0%	+ 2.0%	+ 24.7%

*Upper Level Credit Hours.* Upper level courses are undergraduate courses taught at the junior and senior level. A 3 percent increase, or an additional 45,726 upper level credit hours, was seen in FY2005 from the previous year (see Figure 4). This was the smallest increase in the five-year period, where annual growth levels of 5 to 8 percent were realized. FY2005 yielded 304,875 additional upper undergraduate credit hours, as compared to FY2001.

**Figure 4**

**Total Semester Credit Hours of Upper Level Courses  
FY2001-FY2005**

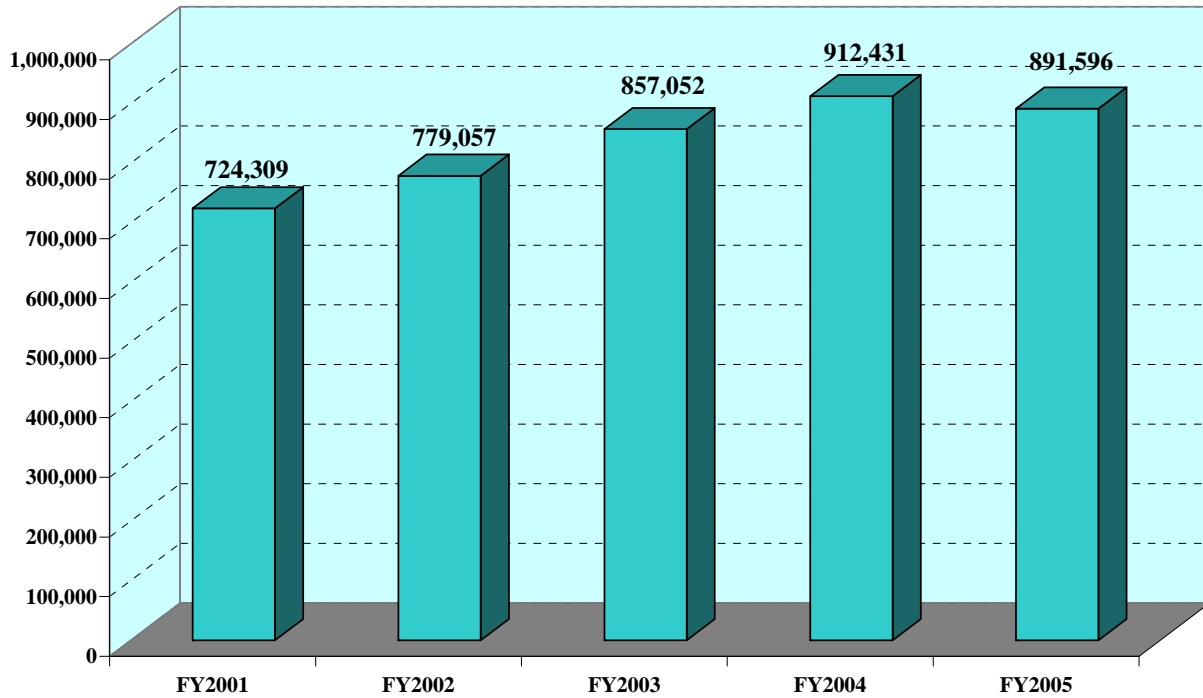


	FY2001 to FY2002	FY2002 to FY2003	FY2003 to FY2004	FY2004 to FY2005	FY2001 to FY2005
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 74,953	+ 114,827	+ 69,369	+ 45,726	+ 304,875
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 5.8%	+ 8.4%	+ 4.7%	+ 3.0%	+ 23.7%

*Graduate/Professional Level Credit Hours.* Credit hour generation at the graduate/first professional level declined in FY2005 (see Figure 5). A 2.3 percent decrease was seen in FY2005, as compared to the previous year. This downward shift reverses the trend where annual gains figured in the range of 6 to 10 percent.

**Figure 5**

**Total Semester Credit Hours of Graduate/Professional Level Courses  
FY2001-FY2005**



	<b>FY2001 to FY2002</b>	<b>FY2002 to FY2003</b>	<b>FY2003 to FY2004</b>	<b>FY2004 to FY2005</b>	<b>FY2001 to FY2005</b>
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 54,749	+ 77,995	+ 55,379	- 20,835	+ 167,288
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 7.6%	+ 10.0%	+ 6.5%	- 2.3%	+ 23.1%

### Credit Hour Distribution by Budget Program Area

Based on their academic grouping, all courses offered throughout USG institutions are categorized into one of five budget program areas for the funding formula. These groups are defined as follows:

**Group 1** - Law, Letters, Library Science, Psychology, and Social Sciences.

**Group 2** – Area Studies, Business, Communications, Education, Home Economics, Mathematics, Public Affairs, and Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Group 3** – Agriculture, Architecture, Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, Fine and Applied Arts, Foreign Languages, Health Professions, Physical Sciences, and Technologies.

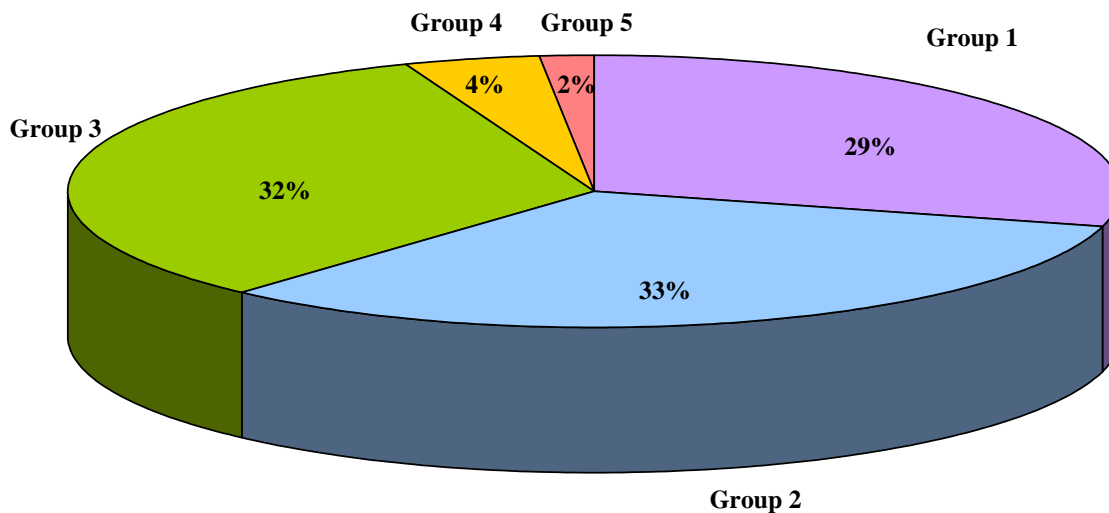
**Group 4** – Remedial/Learning Support.

**Group 5** – Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine.

The proportion of total credit hours for each grouping has not noticeably changed in the five-year period. Groups 1 (29 percent), 2 (33 percent), and 3 (32 percent) account for most of the credit hours generated system-wide. Groups 4 and 5 are proportionately much smaller, accounting for 4 percent and 2 percent respectively of the total credit hours generated (see Figure 6).

**Figure 6**

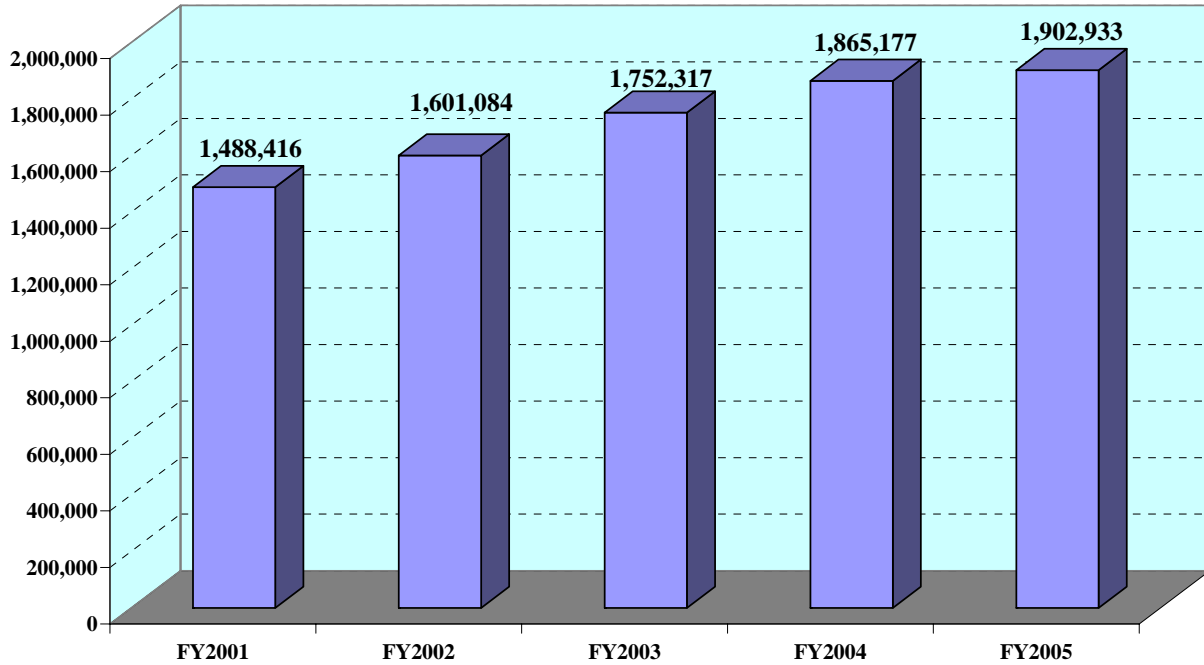
**Semester Credit Hour Distribution by Budget Program Area  
FY2005  
Total Credit Hours = 6,510,721**



*Group 1 Credit Hours.* A modest increase of 2.0 percent was seen in Group 1 credit hour generation from FY2004 to FY2005 (see Figure 7). Previous increases were as high as 9.5 percent, as seen in the FY2002 to FY2003 comparisons. Group 1 credit hour production in FY2005 grew by almost 28 percent from FY2001.

**Figure 7**

**Semester Credit Hours by Budget Program Area  
Group 1  
FY2001-FY2005**

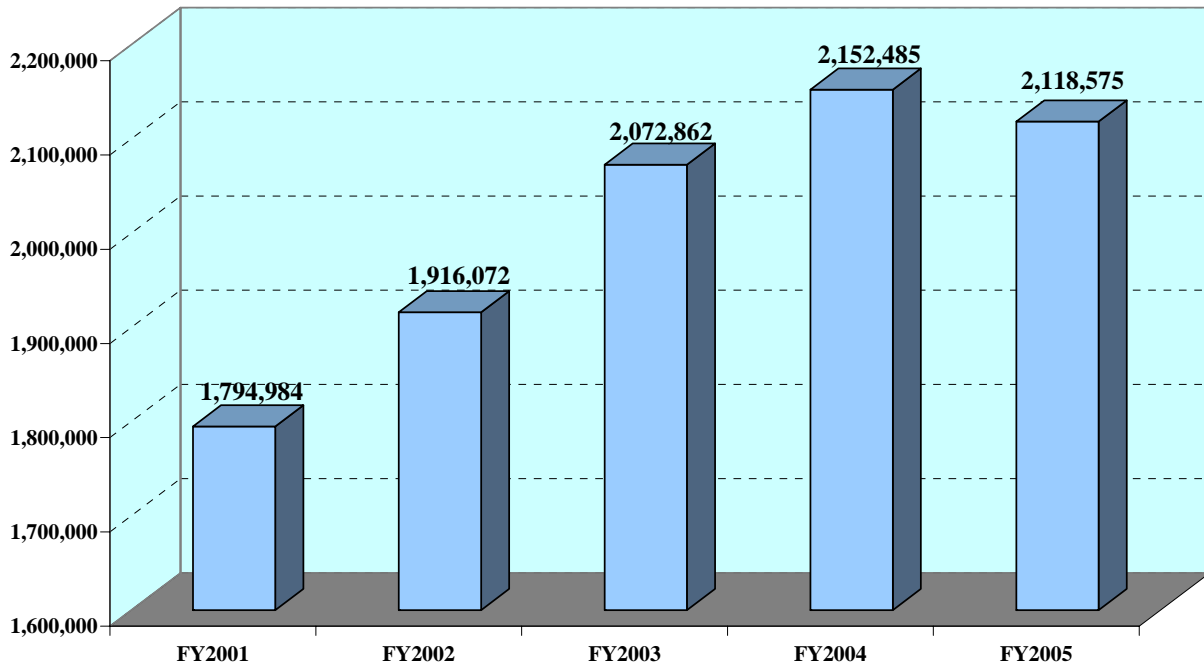


	<b>FY2001 to FY2002</b>	<b>FY2002 to FY2003</b>	<b>FY2003 to FY2004</b>	<b>FY2004 to FY2005</b>	<b>FY2001 to FY2005</b>
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 112,668	+ 151,233	+ 112,861	+ 37,756	+ 414,518
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 7.6%	+ 9.5%	+ 6.4%	+ 2.0%	+ 27.9%

*Group 2 Credit Hours.* A slight decrease of 1.6 percent was seen in Group 2 credit hour generation from FY2004 to FY2005; however, this decline was not substantive enough to offset gains from FY2001 (see Figure 8). Credit hour production of Group 2 courses in FY2005 was 323,590 hours greater than in FY2001.

**Figure 8**

**Semester Credit Hours by Budget Program Area  
Group 2  
FY2001-FY2005**

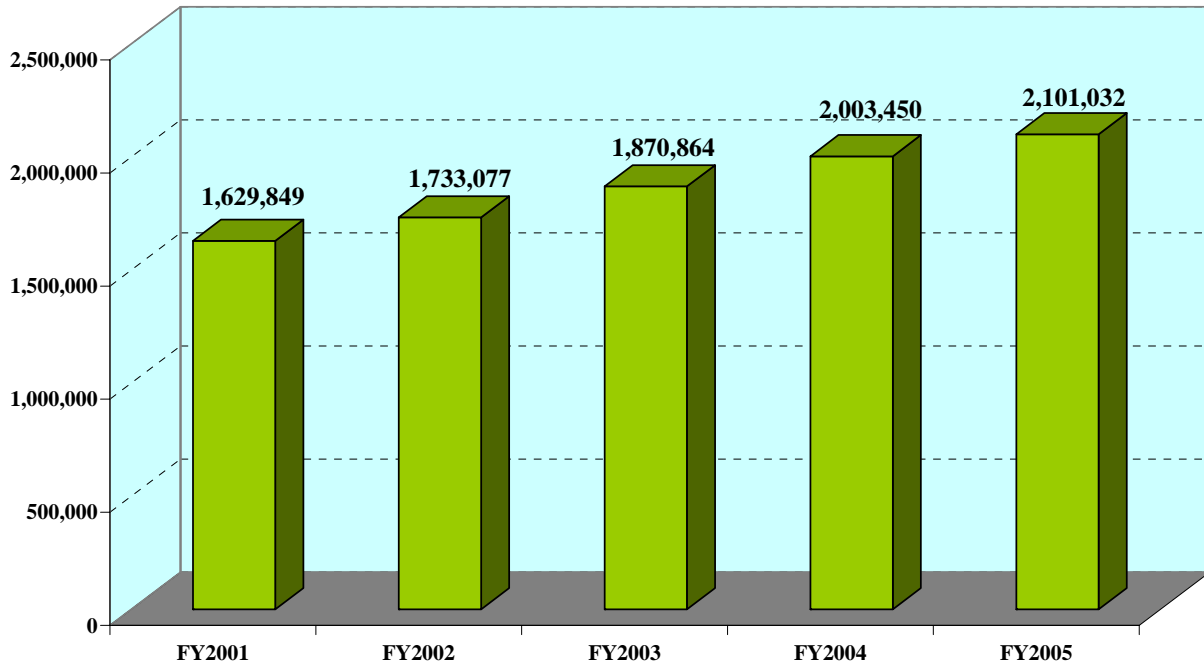


	FY2001 to FY2002	FY2002 to FY2003	FY2003 to FY2004	FY2004 to FY2005	FY2001 to FY2005
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 121,088	+ 156,790	+ 79,623	- 33,911	+ 323,590
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 6.8%	+ 8.2%	+ 3.8%	- 1.6%	+ 18.0%

*Group 3 Credit Hours.* Group 3 credit hours increased by 4.9 percent in the one-year comparison (see Figure 9). An additional 471,183 Group 3 credit hours were generated in FY2005 than in FY2001.

**Figure 9**

**Semester Credit Hours by Budget Area  
Group 3  
FY2001-FY2005**

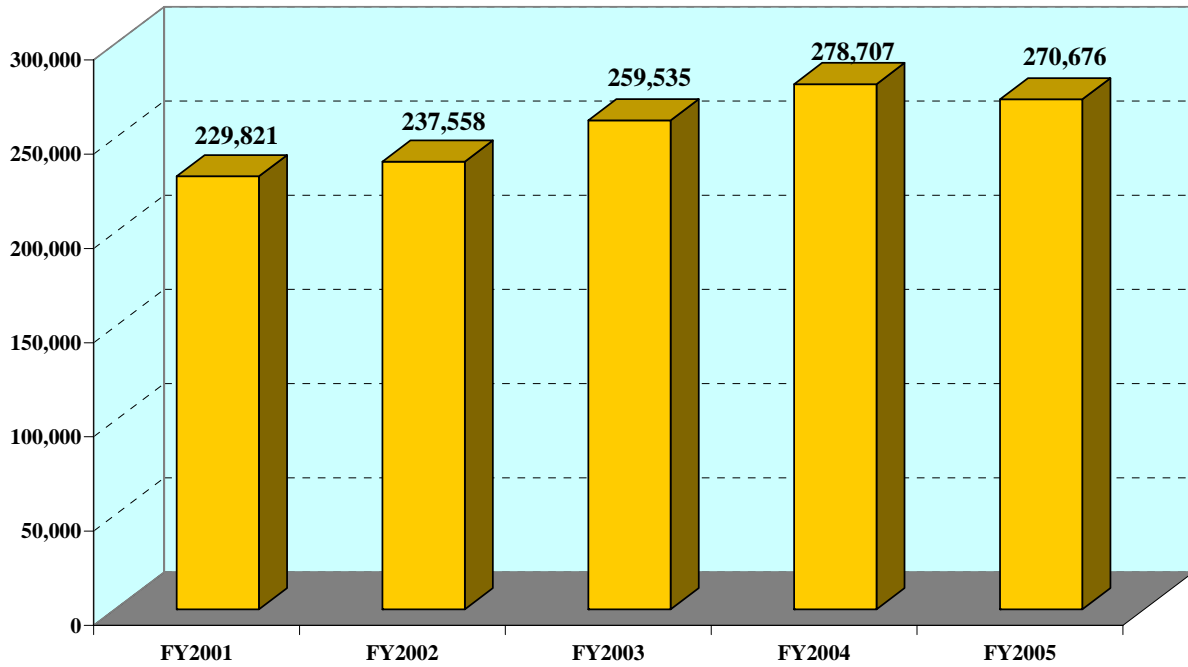


	<b>FY2001 to FY2002</b>	<b>FY2002 to FY2003</b>	<b>FY2003 to FY2004</b>	<b>FY2004 to FY2005</b>	<b>FY2001 to FY2005</b>
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 103,229	+ 137,787	+ 132,586	+ 97,582	+ 471,183
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 6.3%	+ 8.0%	+ 7.1%	+ 4.9%	+ 28.9%

*Group 4 Credit Hours.* Remedial/Learning Support credit hours decreased by 2.9 percent in FY2005, reversing a trend of previous years (see Figure 10).

**Figure 10**

**Semester Credit Hours by Budget Program Area  
Group 4  
FY2001-FY2005**

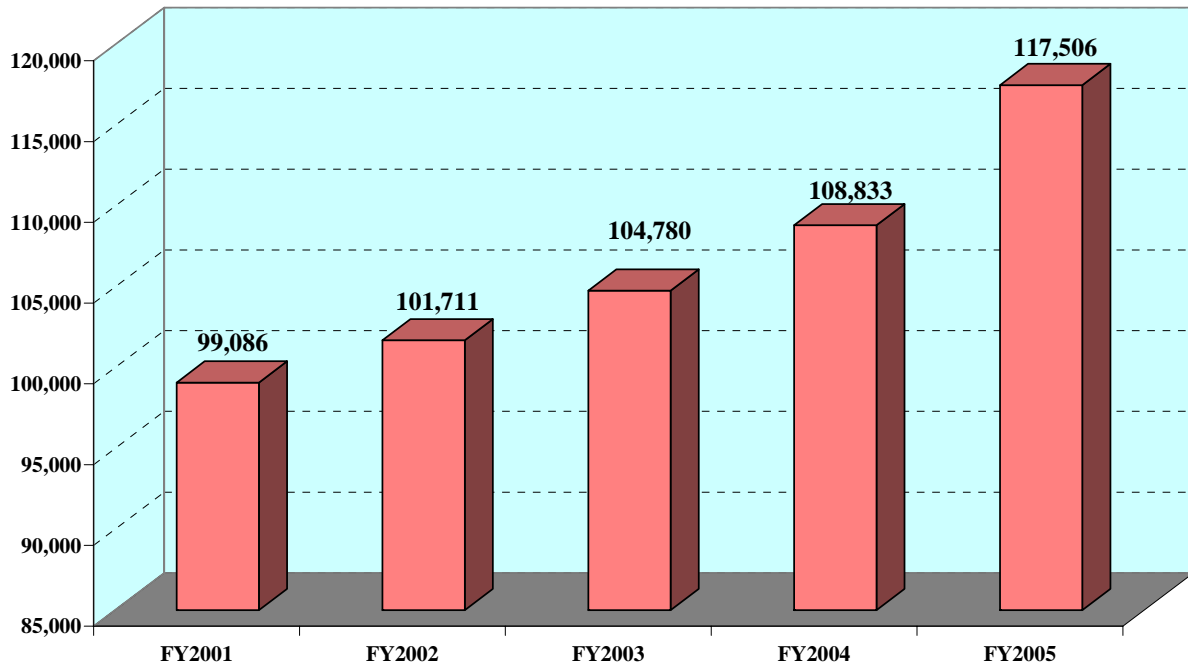


	FY2001 to FY2002	FY2002 to FY2003	FY2003 to FY2004	FY2004 to FY2005	<i>FY2001 to FY2005</i>
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 7,737	+ 21,977	+ 19,172	- 8,031	+ 40,855
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 3.4%	+ 9.3%	+ 7.4%	- 2.9%	+ 17.8%

*Group 5 Credit Hours.* Group 5 credit hour production increased by 8 percent in FY2005 (see Figure 11). While growth in this budget program area is usually stable at around 3 to 4 percent, the increase noted in FY2005 is primarily due to a curricular change at Medical College of Georgia in response to modified accrediting and industry standards.

**Figure 11**

**Semester Credit Hours by Budget Program Area  
Group 5  
FY2001-FY2005**



	FY2001 to FY2002	FY2002 to FY2003	FY2003 to FY2004	FY2004 to FY2005	FY2001 to FY2005
<b>Actual Change</b>	+ 2,625	+ 3,068	+ 4,054	+ 8,672	+ 18,420
<b>Percent Change</b>	+ 2.7%	+ 3.0%	+ 3.9%	+ 8.0%	+ 18.6%

**Summary**

Changes in credit hour production by group and level reflect factors such as overall trends in enrollment, part-time/full-time student status, and major choice. Factors outside the USG, such as the state of the Georgia economy and opportunities for jobs for students, also affect credit hour production. Although fluctuations over time are to be expected, the overall trend reflects the steady growth of the System.

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