

## Who is floating the administrative bloat in higher education?

Written by Administrator

Monday, 03 March 2014 22:20 - Last Updated Monday, 03 March 2014 23:16

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### Demo Memo

Is "administrative bloat" a reason for the rising cost of college?



The number of full-time faculty per administrator declined at every type of school between 1990 and 2012, according to an analysis of labor force trends at institutions of higher education.

At public four-year schools, the number of full-time faculty per administrator fell from 1.9 in 1990 to 1.1 in 2012. At public community colleges the ratio fell from 2.2 to 1.5. At private four-year colleges the figure fell from 1.3 to 0.8.

The bloat is real and it could be a factor in rising costs. Administrative positions are growing as a share of total institutional employment, while full-time faculty is shrinking as a share of employment at most types of schools. The analysis defines administrative positions as those that provide student, academic, or professional support such as vice presidents, provosts, financial analysts, human resources staff, computer administrators, lawyers, health care workers, and so on.

In an attempt to cut costs over the years, institutions of higher education have replaced full-time faculty with part-time instructors. Most college teachers today are part-timers. But much of the savings from faculty cuts have been spent on administrators, the report concludes.

Source: American Institutes for Research, Delta Cost Project, Labor Intensive or Labor Expensive?

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From **Demo Memo by Cheryl Russell** <http://demomemo.blogspot.com/>

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