

019-1986
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Feb. 23, 1987

First-choice applications
increase 16.4% at Laurier

The numbers are up again as the annual count is taken of high school students applying to enter Wilfrid Laurier University in the fall.

Those naming Laurier as their first choice on the three-choice provincial application form total 2,686, up 16.4 per cent over last year's total of 2,308. The province-wide increase in first-choice applications was 7.1 per cent.

And those naming Laurier as either first, second or third choice total 8,956, compared with 7,993 last year, an increase of 12 per cent.

With about 1,300 first-year places, Laurier ranks first in the province in the ratio of applications to openings in the first-year class. And Laurier is the only Ontario university that has registered an increase in applications every year for the past 12 years.

"There are many reasons for our continuing ability to attract more applications," said Arthur Stephen, director of institutional relations at Laurier.

"The university is becoming increasingly well known for its academic excellence, and our smaller size continues to appeal to many students."

Other statistics show that applications to Laurier in arts, business, and music all increased over last year, with Laurier's gains all above the provincial average.

Only science suffered a decline, but first-choice applications were up.

George Granger, associate registrar for admissions at Laurier, said it was too early to say what effects the rising number of applications would have on admission requirements for the fall.

"I would anticipate that there might be a rise in the admission requirements for those applying for arts and business." Last year, those requirements stood at 70.5 and 79 per cent respectively.