

Wilfrid Laurier University



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July 16, 1996
43-96

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Laurier enrollment confirmation growth tops in Ontario

The number of graduating high school students who have confirmed that they will attend Wilfrid Laurier University this fall is up 34.3 per cent from July, 1995. That is the highest percentage increase of any of Ontario's 17 universities.

"Students are making their decisions earlier this year, and we are very pleased to see that so many are choosing Laurier," said Arthur Stephen, acting Vice-President: University Advancement.

First-year enrollment at Laurier will total about 1,700 students this September, 18 per cent higher than last year's 1,440.

The growth in the Laurier student body, which is part of the university's planned response to provincial government funding cutbacks, comes despite a province-wide decrease of 1.6 per cent in the number of people applying to Ontario universities. Applications to Laurier from graduating high school students - by far the largest source of post-secondary students - grew by 2.9 per cent this year, compared with a system-wide decrease of .9 per cent from the high school stream.

Confirmed enrolments are up for every faculty at Laurier, reflecting the strength of the university in many disciplines. Confirmations for Arts are up 68.4 per cent; confirmations for science, including computing, are up 29.9 per cent; business and economics, which grew substantially last year, is up 6.6 per cent; physical education is up 129.7 per cent; and music is up 23.5 per cent.

"It is important to note that we have managed to attract considerably more students this year without substantially lowering our standards," said Stephen.

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Laurier is already one of the toughest universities to get into in the country. Last year, 98.1 per cent of our new students had high school averages of 75 per cent or more, and the average entering grade was 83.6 per cent.

"I expect that at least 95 per cent of our incoming students this fall will be coming out of high school with a 75 per cent average or better," Stephen said.