

NEWS RELEASE.

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier top choice of Ontario high school applicants

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WATERLOO, Ontario - Wilfrid Laurier University is the top choice of a growing number of Ontario high school applicants according to the latest figures released by the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) in Guelph.

The number of high school students who have selected Laurier as their first choice has increased 13.3 per cent over 1996, the highest of any institution in Ontario. Students can apply to only three universities, and make their choices in order of preference.

Laurier has also posted the second highest increase in total applications in Ontario. Compared to 1996, the number of students applying for entry has increased 7.5 per cent.

"The competition to attract students is increasing, and the growth in the number of students who are interested in coming to Laurier is very encouraging," **Arthur Stephen, Acting Vice President, University Advancement** said.

Competition for entry to Laurier's undergraduate programs is intense. Applications to business and economics programs have jumped 17.9 per cent. Honours science degree applications have climbed 12.1 per cent, and arts degree programs have increased 7.1 per cent.

Admission standards for all programs are expected to remain high. In 1995, 98.1 per cent of students admitted to the University had high school graduation averages of 75 per cent or more, one of the highest percentages in the country. Currently, Laurier has an undergraduate enrolment of 5,134 full-time and 1,848 part-time students. Offers of admission will be made in June.