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Students Naming WLU as first choice
double in two years, report reveals

Within a two year period, the number of Grade 13 (Year 5) students putting Wilfrid Laurier University as their first choice of university has almost doubled.

As of this date, 1,009 Grade 13 students applying to enter university this fall have listed WLU as first choice in their three-choice application form to the Ontario Universities Application Centre at Guelph. Last year, 708 put WLU first. Two years ago the total was 506.

Other statistics revealed that 3,208 students in all have applied to enter Wilfrid Laurier University this fall as either their first, second or third choice, up by 36 per cent over last year's 2,357 at the same date.

The percentage growth is the largest for any university in Ontario. And it is in dramatic contrast with the overall growth rate of only 2.7 per cent for all universities in Ontario.

The university will admit about 1,055 students to its first year this fall, including Grade 13 students, Grade 12 specials, transferring students, adult specials, and those from other categories.

Wilfrid Laurier University remains among the smaller universities in Ontario, limiting its enrolment to a total of about 2,900 full-time undergraduate students in all years.

Dr. Frank C. Peters, WLU president, said he is "highly gratified" at the number of students selecting Wilfrid Laurier University as their first choice.

The growth was distributed among all areas of study. Percentage increases this year over last year for some areas (with the provincial average increase for all universities in brackets): general arts at WLU up 37% (4%); honors arts 23% (4%); general science 53% (1%); honors science 40% (1%); honors music 41% (-.6%); honors business 41% (21%).

"While there has been a trend toward those areas that appear to be most directly career oriented, such as business, it is interesting to note the solid percentage increase in those entering traditional arts courses at WLU," Dr. Peters said.