

# NEWS RELEASE

**Wilfrid Laurier  
University**



## **Laurier matches or betters Ontario performance averages**

*Some Laurier programs generate a 100 per cent employment rate within two years*

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**Contact: Robert G. Rosehart  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2250**

**or Michael Strickland  
Media Relations Officer  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is today releasing data on three key performance indicators that shows Laurier matches or betters the provincial averages. Laurier is graduating a greater percentage of students than the provincial average, the University's graduates are proving to be more employable, and a lower percentage is defaulting on student loans.

"Clearly the numbers indicate that Laurier is competitive, and in one instance excels, in the areas that the Ministry of Education and Training has identified as important," says Laurier president Bob Rosehart. "Our graduates are extremely employable – in some cases 100 per cent employable – and they land jobs that allow them to repay their student loans. Laurier is also well ahead of the average when it comes to successfully educating students."

Graduation statistics indicate that 70.8 per cent of Ontario's first-year students in a bachelor or professional program in 1990 graduated between 1991 and 1997. The provincial average for programs that Laurier offers is lower at 66.7 per cent. Laurier's total for the same period is 82.0 percent – 15 per cent higher than the provincial average for comparable programs. (Please see table on page two).

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Data on the percentage of 1996 graduates who secured employment, gathered by a survey of 25,000 graduates, indicates that 90.8 per cent were employed within six months and 96.7 per cent found employment in two years. At the six-month mark, 93.8 per cent of Laurier graduates found employment and 97.0 per cent were employed within two years. The rate for Laurier graduates in computer science, fine arts and mathematics was 100 per cent.

And while 12.3 per cent of students who both received an Ontario student loan in 1995-96 and who graduated in that academic year defaulted, Laurier's default rate was 11.3 per cent. The provincial averages for employment and default changed little when programs similar to those offered by Laurier were calculated.

For information on the province-wide indicators, please contact Arnice Cadieux of the Council of Ontario Universities at 519-979-2165. A list of Laurier's performance indicators is available at [\[www.wlu.ca/wlu-hp/info/indicators.html\]](http://www.wlu.ca/wlu-hp/info/indicators.html).

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|                              | <b>LAURIER</b> | <b>ONTARIO</b> | <b>ONTARIO<br/>COMPARABLE</b> |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>GRADUATION RATE</b>       | 82.0%          | 70.8%          | 66.7%                         |
| <b>EMPLOYMENT (6 MONTHS)</b> | 93.8%          | 90.8%          | 90.5%                         |
| <b>EMPLOYMENT (2 YEARS)</b>  | 97.0%          | 96.7%          | 96.5%                         |
| <b>LOAN DEFAULT RATES</b>    | 11.3%          | 12.3%          | 12.5%                         |

Note: Ontario Comparable provides an average for Ontario universities that offer programs similar to those offered at Laurier.