

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Student confirmations to Laurier up 7.4 per cent over last year**

*University prepared to meet academic and residence needs of 163 additional students*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Despite raising the admission average for some programs and increased competition among Ontario universities, Wilfrid Laurier University is again proving to be a popular choice for people seeking entry to university in September.

Numbers released today by the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) show that 1963 high-school students have confirmed that they will attend Laurier this fall. That is 163 more students than Laurier's total first-year target of 1800 students and represents a 7.4 per cent increase when compared to the confirmations received at a comparable point (July 8) in last year's recruiting cycle. Provincially, confirmations have increased by 5.9 per cent.

"We purposely adjusted our first-year targets after last year's increased enrolment – in some cases raising our admission standards to 86 per cent – and students are still eager to attend," explained Laurier president and vice-chancellor Bob Rosehart. "That says volumes about the quality of our programs."

The OUAC figures indicate students are showing greater interest than anticipated in Laurier's arts programs, the sciences and in kinesiology and physical education, as well as in two new offerings.

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The University's new joint program, which earns students a Bachelor of Business Administration and an Honours Computing and Computer Electronics (HCCE) degree, has received 17 confirmations, while the expanded HCCE received 109. University officials consider the combined 126 confirmations outstanding given the fierce level of competition for students in newly created or expanded programs funded by the Ontario government's Access to Opportunities Program (ATOP).

Students are also confirming attendance at Laurier's new Brantford campus. Twenty-eight of the 1963 high-school confirmations released today are for Laurier Brantford.

Following last year's 18.5 per cent increase in total student confirmations, Laurier is prepared to address this year's increase. Earlier this month, the Board of Governors authorized the hiring of 10 new faculty members, which will allow the University to maintain small class sizes. The University also continues to guarantee accommodations to all first-year students who applied for residence by June 1.

"Laurier will provide an excellent degree of service to students," said David McMurray, assistant vice-president of student services and dean of students. "In addition to existing residence spaces, including the recent acquisition of the 250-bed University Place, we are currently building an 86-single-bed extension to Willison Hall. We've also purchased the former Paragon Park and will place students there as units become available for September."