

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Applications to Laurier increase by 12.3 per cent in one year

University president credits quality programming and responsiveness to student needs

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is again proving to be one of the more popular choices amongst high-school students seeking university admission for fall 2000. Preliminary figures show that Laurier is enjoying one of the largest increases in the number of applications in the province and the greatest increase among area universities.

Numbers released today by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) indicate that the total number of applications from high-school students has climbed by 12.3 per cent when compared to numbers recorded last year. OUAC processed 8377 applications to Laurier by February 02, 1999, and reports it had processed 9404 by February 03 of this year. Applications to all Ontario universities have increased by 6.6 per cent, and only Brock and Trent have recorded increases greater than Laurier's.

The University attributes its annual increase in applications to quality programming and responsiveness to student needs.

"Two of the biggest on-campus issues involve affordability and housing," explains Laurier president and vice-chancellor Bob Rosehart, "and we've been able to respond with a competitive scholarship grid and by guaranteeing residence to first-year students. Numbers mandated by the government show we also meet the students' long-term needs with one of the province's best graduation rates, the number one short-term employment rate and one of the lowest loan-default rates."

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The greatest single increase in applications involves Laurier's new joint degree program in business and computing. The program, which allows students to gain valuable employment experience on co-op work terms while earning both an honours bachelor of business administration and an honours bachelor of science in computing and computer electronics, attracted 50 applications when it was launched in the fall of last year; this year applications have increased by 584 per cent to a total of 342.

Total applications to kinesiology and physical education have increased by 29.7 per cent, climbing from 755 in 1999 to 979. Applications to all arts programs have increased by 17.3 per cent, from 3565 to 4182. And applications to music climbed 15.8 per cent, from 279 to 323.

Laurier's admissions office will now review the applications to determine which students will receive an offer of admission for the fall. The number of students admitted in September will be determined once the Ontario government announces next year's funding to universities.

The application statistics for all Ontario universities can be found on the OUAC web site at [www.ouac.on.ca/news/uapp/feb00u/summary.html].