

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Applications to Laurier Brantford grow by 400 to 500 percent

For Immediate Release

**January 22, 2003
08-03**

**Contact: Dr. Leo Groarke
Dean, Laurier Brantford
(519) 756-8228 ext. 5702**

**or Tracy Arabski
Manager, Laurier Brantford
(519) 756-8228 ext. 5701**

BRANTFORD – Applications to Laurier Brantford for the coming fall have increased by more than 500 percent, in large part because of the new concurrent degree program in teacher education.

Figures released by the Ontario Universities Application Centre show that 257 high-school students list Laurier Brantford as their first choice. That compares with the 51 that Brantford had received at a comparable point last year. The number of students who list Brantford as one of their choices grew from 160 last year to 1,049 – an increase of 555 percent.

Interest in Laurier Brantford’s core curriculum program in contemporary studies has grown. Forty-one students listed the program as their first choice last year and this year 58 made it their first choice. All-choice applications have doubled, growing from 137 to 263.

“We are extremely pleased with the demand for our programs,” said Leo Groarke, dean of Laurier Brantford. “Our unique curriculum in contemporary studies has been slowly gaining in popularity, this year doubling the number of interested applicants. And our new teacher-education partnership with Nipissing has already established itself as a program in great demand.”

– more –

Laurier launched the concurrent bachelor of arts/bachelor of education (BA/BEd) program with Nipissing last year. Ten students with an interest in teaching at the junior-intermediate level listed it as their first choice, while 13 others had it among their choices. This year Laurier is also offering the primary-junior level. First-choice applications to the BA/BEd program so far total 199 and all-choice applications total 786.

Laurier Brantford was launched, in part, to capitalize on an increasing demand for postsecondary education. It opened in the newly renovated Carnegie Library in 1999 with close to 100 students. It has since added a residence facility that will accommodate 145 students, acquired two buildings to increase teaching and office space, and now has 325 full-time and 80 part-time students.