

# UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT: Number of applications increases at UI

Staff report

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University of Idaho officials will be pleased with fall enrollment figures if the number of applications received for this semester are any indication.

"Interest in the institution continues to increase, with applications up at all levels," said Steve Neiheisel, the UI's associate vice president for enrollment management.

Final fall enrollment numbers will not be available until after the university conducts its official 10-day head count Sept. 4.

"We expect it will be positive, and we will have a number of positive things we can say when we have the official numbers," Neiheisel said.

Neiheisel said it would be premature to make estimates on how many students are enrolled before those 10 days are up.

"There really is a lot of fluctuation in the opening 10 days," he said. "Students are adding and dropping classes."

However, he cited increases in applications to the university as a reason to remain optimistic about enrollment.

He said applications from students wishing to transfer to the UI from other colleges and universities are up 11 percent from last year, for a total of 1,557 transfer applicants.

The university also received 5,103 applications from prospective freshmen, a 6-percent increase over last fall. Graduate student applications increased 4 percent this fall for a total of 1,743 prospective students.

Despite the larger number of applications, Neiheisel said many students are choosing to attend community colleges because of the nation's ongoing economic downturn.

"People are coming back (to community colleges) for the quicker, career turnaround-type experiences," he said.

That motive may eventually affect the UI's enrollment when community college students decide to transfer to the university to complete their bachelor's degrees, he said.

Last fall's 10-day head count revealed a statewide enrollment of 11,791 students, an increase of more than 150 students from 2007.