



From Benedictine University

Undergraduate enrollment, freshman interest in science increase in 2011

Lisle, Illinois – The number of freshmen at Benedictine University who expressed an interest in science rose for the fourth consecutive year in 2011, while overall undergraduate enrollment grew by nearly 3 percent over the previous year.

Benedictine's total undergraduate enrollment increased to 3,825 during the Fall 2011 semester, up from 3,731 in 2010. Benedictine also enrolled more transfer students (400 compared to 392 one year ago) and more graduate students (3,188 compared to 3,161 in the fall of 2010) during the Fall 2011 semester than a year ago.

Fifty-one percent of the incoming freshman expressed an interest in science, up from 48 percent one year ago. The number of students who expressed an interest in the offerings of the College of Education and Health Science and a major in Humanities also increased.

“We were very pleased by the interest expressed by many of our freshmen in our new majors,” said Karen L. Campana, Director of New Student Advising at Benedictine. “We have seen an increase among both freshman and transfer students in programs like Criminal Justice, Physical Education and Graphic Arts and Design.”

Five hundred two freshmen began fall classes at Benedictine University in late August, nearly double the number of freshmen (262) who began the fall term 10 years ago. The average grade point average of this year's freshman class is 3.3 (on a 4.0-point scale) and the average incoming composite ACT score is 23.

Fifty-five percent of the freshmen are female and 38 percent indicated they are minority students, the same percentages as in 2010. Seventy-seven percent are from the suburbs, a slight decrease from a year ago. Forty-five freshmen are from out-of-state, an increase of 3 percent from 2010.

“We are also pleased that we are growing our student population from out of state,” Campana said. “Even some of our new transfer students come from as far as Nevada.”

Benedictine University also welcomed 400 students who transferred from community colleges and other four-year institutions. More than 100 previously attended College of DuPage.

The number of Phi Theta Kappa (two-year national honor society) students who enrolled rose 2 percent from 2010, as did the number of transfer students from Chicago (up 2 percent) and the number of Hispanic/Latino students (up 2 percent).