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## UIS sees record-setting enrollment for spring semester

**By CHRIS DETTRO****THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

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The University of Illinois Springfield has set a record for spring enrollment, following on the strength of a record-setting enrollment last fall.

The university said Wednesday that 4,862 students are enrolled this spring, an increase of 327 over last spring. Spring 2010 enrollment topped a record set in spring 2007, when 4,613 students were enrolled.

The 7.2 percent increase is primarily due to more continuing students, according to both UIS Chancellor Richard Ringeisen and Tim Barnett, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"We are making significant strides in retaining students," Barnett said. "UIS is a unique combination of a state liberal arts university with a public affairs mission."

Enrollment at UIS in fall 2009 was the largest ever in the institution's 39-year history, with 4,961 students.

Ringeisen said recent additions to the campus, such as the Center for First Year Students, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Diversity Center and more undergraduate advisers, contributed to the record enrollment in both fall and spring.

"The larger-than-expected increase in spring enrollment is a sign that UIS is attracting and retaining students at a record pace," Ringeisen said. "It shows that new students are sensing the excitement and that our continuing students want to stay with us more than ever. We are extremely proud of our students, faculty and staff."

Additionally, the number of students majoring in degree programs at UIS that are fully online is at an all-time high for a spring semester, according to Ray Schroeder, director of UIS's Center for Online Learning, Research and Service. The total number of students with online majors is 1,290, an increase of 9.7 percent over last spring.

UIS offers 26 online programs, counting undergraduate and graduate degrees, minors and certificates. More than 25 percent of UIS students are online degree program students, and more than half of all students at UIS are taking at least one online class.

Chris Dettro can be reached at 788-1510.

### **Enrollment comparison**

2010: 4,081 continuing students; 781 new students

2009: 3841 continuing students; 694 new students

### **UIS online programs**

#### **\*Undergraduate online degrees**

Business administration (B.B.A.), computer science (b.s.), economics (b.a.), english (b.a.), history (b.a.), liberal studies (b.a.), mathematics (b.a., minor), philosophy (b.a., minor), women and gender studies (minor)

#### **\*Graduate online degrees**

Computer science (M.S.), environmental studies (m.a.), human services administration (m.a.), liberal and integrative studies (m.a.), legal studies (m.a.), management information systems (m.s., minor), public administration (m.p.a.), public health (m.p.h.), teacher leadership (m.a.)

#### **\*Certification program**

Mathematics, teacher education (secondary)

#### **\*Certificates available online**

Business process management (graduate), digital organizations (graduate), environmental risk assessment (graduate), emergency preparedness and homeland security (graduate), IT project management (graduate), legal aspects of education (graduate), chief school business officer (post master's)

*Source: University of Illinois Springfield*

Comments (7)

IGetIt

22 hours ago

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[Redacted comment content]

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Not to be a spoilsport but UIS is benefitting from the economy. More kids are staying home and commuting rather than going away. SIU-C is taking a pounding for the same reason.  
Reality Check  
21 hours ago  
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[Redacted comment content]

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with all the new students, you would think that they would stop increasing tuition.....  
Liberty\_First  
20 hours ago  
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[Redacted comment content]

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When SSU changed to UIS in 1995, they were 4600 students. After spending millions and millions and doubling the budget for sports, new buildings, an expensive athletic center and dorms along with increasing employment and adding expensive high paid administrators they have about the same number of students, driven away commuter students, made the place unaffordable and shorted faculty and staff of decent pay raises. Great Job! Sound like how the state has been managed.  
trueconservative  
10 hours ago  
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[Redacted comment content]

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As a graduate of UIS I think it's great. Hope they keep it up it's a great school.  
College Student  
6 hours ago  
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[Redacted comment content]

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I agree with Liberty\_First. I am a commuter-type student and cannot afford the tuition and fees. Well, I take the tuition part back a bit. The fees for stuff that frankly I do not use is outrageous. Rec center, student life, athletics, etc. All of the fees are what makes my bottom line hurt.  
obscureknight  
2 hours ago  
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Liberty\_First and College Student -

May I clue the two of you in to how things work in Illinois? Construction of new buildings on the main campus, especially multi-story ones, is dependent upon the number of day-time, full-time undergraduate students enrolled during the academic year: the more day-time, full-time undergraduates there are, the more readily the Capital Development Board will allocate money for new buildings on the campus while the fewer the number of day-time, full-time undergraduates there are, the less likely the Capital Development Board will allocate money for new buildings. During the 1970's and the 1980's, the bulk of the student body were part-time, evening students, which meant that most of the main campus buildings were idle during the day, at least as far as the Capital Development Board was concerned. To get more buildings, SSU had to attract more full-time, day-time undergraduates and that meant increasing the number of townhouse apartments and other amenities.

I am sorry that you do not like the current arrangement but it was either change to accommodate the prejudices of the Capital Development Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Legislature or permanently close down the campus.

obscureknight  
2 hours ago  
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Reality Check -

the tuition levels are directly tied to the level of funding from the General Revenue Fund that is allocated to the university by the legislature;

if the legislature were to approve a significant hike in the income tax or in the state sales tax, then it is likely that a hike in future tuition rates could be avoided; however, since both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party are engaged in a colossal game of 'chicken' with respect to state revenues, be prepared for future tuition hikes

for further details on the budget process for state universities, please refer to the web site of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the procedure known as RAMP (Resource Allocation Management Process)

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