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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
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Sept. 29, 1992

UM ENROLLMENT DROPS SLIGHTLY

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana's fall semester enrollment of 10,614 students is the second highest in the school's history, President George Dennison announced today.

The figure represents a drop of 174 students or 1.6 percent compared with last fall's record-high enrollment of 10,788 students.

The number of new students has remained stable, Registrar Phil Bain said. The decline is largest among continuing students, who were most likely to be affected by the shortened summer break associated with semester conversion.

"Switching to semesters shortened the time for students to earn money during the summer," Bain explained. "This reduced income coupled with the need to pay for half a year (at a time) instead of a third presented real financial difficulties for a number of students. We also expect some students speeded up their graduation before semester conversion."

The ratio of women to men remains about 50-50, and graduate student enrollment is unchanged, Bain said.

When the other state University System schools switched to semesters, they, too, experienced a drop in enrollment, Bain noted. The decrease will let UM reopen spring admission, which had been temporarily delayed.

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Contact: Registrar Phil Bain, 243-2412 or 243-2995

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