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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM spring enrollment up 202 from year ago" (1981). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 6755.
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UM SPRING ENROLLMENT UP 202 FROM YEAR AGO

MISSOULA--

Spring-quarter enrollment at the University of Montana stood at 8,226 at the end of the first three weeks of classes, an increase of 202 students over the same time a year ago.

In figures released today by Phil Bain, UM registrar, full-time equivalent enrollment also shows an increase of 148 over last spring. FTE enrollment is computed by dividing all graduate credits by 12 and all undergraduate credits by 15 and adding the results. Twelve and 15 are the number of credits the Board of Regents considers average course loads for full-time graduate and undergraduate students, respectively, Bain explained.

Bain attributes the increase in enrollment in part to the sluggish economy.

"When jobs are scarce, men and women are more apt to enroll in college to acquire marketable skills that will improve their chances for employment," he said. "Our increase in enrollment is a reflection of the conviction on their part of the value of higher education."

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