

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
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Colleagues,

I'm writing this morning with a quick update on our fall enrollment, which we've all been watching closely. In the two weeks leading up to the start of the semester, we witnessed continued decline in our entering first-year class, which has slipped below 1600 students. As you know, we had built an entering class that was likely to exceed 1750 students prior to the pandemic. But not surprisingly, the uncertainties created by COVID-19 have had an impact. Some students have reported dissatisfaction with the many restrictions in place, while others have worried that it remained unsafe to be on campus. Despite this trend, between our returning students and a significant increase in graduate enrollment, our overall enrollment at UW-Stevens Point appears to have remained roughly stable compared to last year. Even better, our applications for Fall 2021 have started strong and are up from even the great start we had last year. So, the news is mixed but generally encouraging.

I want to note especially the difference that faculty and instructors have made in working so hard to provide online alternatives to in-person learning. Preparing for multiple modalities has been a heavy lift, I know. But it's clear that this option has helped to keep many students enrolled who might otherwise have stepped out. Students have appreciated the flexibility this has provided them, and that we have not forced their choices.

As you've seen, we have a [dashboard](#) now available to track the virus on campus, and we've experienced some early confirmed cases. My fingers are crossed for a quiet Labor Day weekend, with appropriate face coverings and physical distancing.

Have a good weekend.

Greg

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