

## **INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

### **IU sees steady rise in spring students**

#### **Spring undergraduate enrollment up 5.5% over 2008 figures**

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Undergraduate spring enrollment at Indiana University this year is up 5.5 percent over spring semester 2008, and the economy may be to thank.

“It is a lot,” Roger Thompson, IU’s vice provost for enrollment management, said of the increase. The increase from spring 2005 to spring 2006 was 2.9 percent, for example.

“What we’re seeing is we’ve enrolled several large freshman classes, and you know, students are retaining. They’re continuing.”

In times of economic stress, he said, one might assume enrollment would drop due to the cost of education. But, at IU, administrators are seeing the opposite.

“We’re on track to have a record spring enrollment,” said Todd Schmitz, executive director of University Reporting and Research. Final spring semester numbers are not yet tallied, but first-day numbers are, and they break the enrollment record, as did fall enrollment.

“Spring enrollments at an all-time high, on the first day of class,” Thompson said. “Typically when the economy takes a downturn, you see more enrollment in higher education.”

Transfer students make up only a small percentage of the 5.5 percent increase, he said. “This is primarily students continuing from one semester to the next,” at IU.

One hundred Ivy Tech students enrolled in the Hoosier Link program in fall 2009. Through the program, students enroll in general education courses at Ivy Tech and in an IU course each semester and live on the IU campus in a residence hall. If they perform well academically, they transfer to IU, typically for their sophomore year. This school year, 28 Hoosier Link students were eligible to transfer to IU, but only 18 did so. Thompson suspects cost was a factor. More non-Hoosier Link, Ivy Tech students transferred to IU, he said, although he did not have that number.

On Monday Jan. 12, a total of 37,761 students — undergrads, graduate students, nondegree, and so on — were enrolled in classes on the Bloomington campus. The total number of students on campus is up 3.9 percent over spring 2008.

That number will go up in the coming weeks, Schmitz said, when stragglers and transfers enroll.

Typically, IU picks up about 1,000 students between the first day of classes and finals, he said.

The final number will still be down from fall enrollment, Schmitz said, due to attrition and students graduating mid-year.

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