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Freshman Computer Initiative Endorsed by University of Dayton Enrollment Figures

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**FRESHMAN COMPUTER INITIATIVE ENDORSED
BY UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ENROLLMENT FIGURES**

DAYTON, Ohio — A fully wired campus. A computer for every first-year student. Midnight e-mail to faculty, online discussions with off-campus experts and 24-hour access to the library.

The University of Dayton's commitment to its "technology-enhanced learning environment" has received a resounding endorsement from this fall's crop of students, who are the first to purchase or lease a computer through the University. The annual cost of the computer is factored into each student's financial aid determination.

A record 7,173 students applied for enrollment this fall at the University of Dayton, compared to 6,559 a year ago and 5,463 two years ago. Demand was so great that, for the first time in about 20 years, UD established a wait list for students who were not accepted immediately but still wanted to be considered for admission. The option was offered to 717 potential students, and 184 were eventually accepted for the fall class.

Overall, UD accepted 80 percent of those who applied and will welcome 1,775 freshmen when orientation opens Aug. 21.

Selectivity is up: Last year 87 percent of those who applied were accepted. There are modest improvements in quality indicators including class rank and SAT test scores. Average ACT scores dropped slightly from 25 to 24.8, and the number of National Merit scholars in the first-year class decreased by one, from 14 last fall to 13 this year.

Diversity goals, particularly for enrolling African-American and Hispanic students, were exceeded. Seventy-four African-American students will enroll as freshmen, compared to 50 in last year's class, and 43 members of the class are Hispanic, up from 38 last year. Seven international students will join the class, compared to five last year.

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The fall enrollment figures endorse the University's blend of technology-enhanced education and personalized attention, say UD officials.

"We had a vision of technology and education, and we determined that in order to execute it at the highest quality level, our students needed to be connected 24 hours a day in a convenient way and using uniform software," said Chris Muñoz, associate provost for enrollment management at UD. "It's so gratifying and so important for this inaugural year of the computer initiative that enrollment has exceeded our goals and expectations."

Popular majors cover the breadth of the University.

Majors showing increased interest among first-year students include management information systems (12 majors last year compared to 30 this fall), English (10 to 23) and finance (15 to 23). Civil engineering increased from 22 freshman majors last fall to 35 in the incoming class, and communication enrollment has increased from 46 to 59. Sixteen freshmen have chosen to major in international business, as compared to 10 last year.

The fall class draws from UD's traditional markets. Sixty-four percent of the students are from Ohio, followed by Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. Fifty-three percent of the class are women and 47 percent are men.

The pool of college-age students is expected to continue to increase over the coming years, with the highest number of children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools since the baby boomers of 1970, according to a July 2 report from the U.S. Census Bureau. The college enrollment of traditional college-age students, those under 25 years old, reached a record high of 9.4 million in 1997, according to the report.

The University of Dayton is the largest private university in Ohio and one of the 10 largest Catholic universities in the country.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For media interviews, contact **Chris Muñoz** at (937) 229-3717 or via e-mail at munoz@kahn.admin.udayton.edu. The school enrollment reports compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau are available online at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html>.