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By [\*Michelle Gregoire\*](#)  
*UNH News Bureau*

*November 16, 2000*

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DURHAM, N.H. -- This year's enrollment of first-year students at the University of New Hampshire is holding steady, at 2,595, up 26 from last year. It includes 1,334 resident and 1,261 out-of-state students. UNH received 10,057 applications from prospective first year students, an increase of 1,224 applications, up 14 percent from the previous year.

Mark Rubinstein, vice provost for enrollment management, says that interest in the university appears to have grown significantly for both New Hampshire students (an increase of 6 percent) and for students from outside the state (an increase of more than 15 percent), consistent with a broader trend. "Interest in colleges in New England appears to be growing, but we appreciate that UNH is among the schools that are attracting the attention of good students," says Rubinstein.

The caliber of applications remained high, with a mean SAT score of 1,113 for first-year students, up slightly from last year's mean of 1,104, but Rubinstein notes, "One should not read too much into modest fluctuations in test scores other than to conclude that we continue to attract strong students. Additionally, we are pleased to report that in the past year we have also met with greater success in attracting a more diverse group of these strong students."

Total student enrollment at the Durham campus is 13,426, compared to 13,556 last year, but the decrease occurred among non-degree candidates, says Rubinstein. Among degree-seeking candidates, there are 21 more students this year, for a total of 12,317, including 10,239 undergraduates and 2,078 graduate students.

At the graduate school, enrollment has remained steady, with modest gains in the number of U.S. minority students and international students, says Harry Richards, associate dean. He notes a shift in the mix of graduate degree candidates, with a slight increase in doctoral students and a decrease in master's degree students. There has been a slight decline in first-time

enrollees, which he attributed to the attraction of employment in a strong economy. The quality of admitted students remains high, he says.

Enrollment at the Manchester campus, with 666 degree candidates, increased slightly. "Freshman applications are ahead of last year's and reveal the modest beginnings of a positive trend resulting from strengthened recruitment efforts, program enhancements and consolidation of programs in the mill yard facility," says Ginger Lever, director of college relations and enrollment management at UNHM.

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