



**Press Release: Ferris State University Summer Enrollment Up for Eighth Year in a Row**

**Anne Hogenson** to: Archive

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From: Anne Hogenson/FSU  
To: Archive/FSU@FERRIS

Included below is a press release regarding the increase in Summer 2011 enrollment at Ferris State University. Related questions may be directed to Anne Hogenson, Communications Specialist, University Advancement and Marketing.

<p>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 25, 2011 2:30 PM</p>	<p>Anne Hogenson Communication Specialist Ferris State University University Advancement and Marketing annehogenson@ferris.edu   (231) 591-2333</p>
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**Ferris State University Summer Enrollment Up for Eighth Year in a Row**

BIG RAPIDS, Mich. – For an eighth consecutive year, summer enrollment has risen at Ferris State University.

University officials report that, system-wide, 6,245 students have enrolled for Summer 2011 courses, 220 more than in Summer 2010. The most notable increases are on the Big Rapids campus and in online courses. Kristen Salomonson, Ferris’ dean of Enrollment Services, attributed much of the growth to the variety of courses and scheduling options Ferris has developed to help students earn degrees more quickly.

“We work hard to provide a summer experience that meets the needs of as many of our students as possible,” Salomonson said. “The variety of our course offerings, both in the classroom and online, enables students to more effectively manage their academic progress. As a result, many students may complete their degrees earlier based on their summer enrollment.”

The numbers indicate that Summer 2011 enrollees are focused on graduation – Ferris State also posted an increase of 1,445 total credit hours taken, a rise not accounted for simply by the extra students, Salomonson noted. She said that those attending during summer semester are hitting the books and taking larger course loads, pursuing their degrees year-round now that additional general education and degree program courses are available.

“I’m trying to graduate sooner,” said Micah Otteson of Big Rapids, a junior in Ferris State’s Social Work program. “The more general education classes you take during the summer, the more specific program courses you can take during the regular semesters.”

In addition to her summer coursework, Otteson will perform an internship and continue to work

in her on-campus student job, adding valuable academic and work-related experience to her portfolio.

“The key issue for us is providing opportunities for meaningful experiences that help move our students to graduation,” explained Fritz Erickson, Ferris’ provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “This means adding more online classes as well as classes that support internships and practicums directly related to students becoming employed in their chosen fields.”

On top of the incentive of early graduation, Ferris State has offered an additional bonus: a \$15-per-day housing program to make students’ summers on campus more affordable.

“The reduced housing rates for summer are also a great incentive for students to stay in Big Rapids and take courses. It would be difficult to find a more economical place to live for the summer than one of our residence halls,” added Salomonson, who explained that early indicators have led officials at Ferris State to expect strong enrollment numbers for fall semester, as well. Factors such as increases in summer orientation session registration and scholarship applications suggest another strong fall for Ferris, which, in addition to its main campus in Big Rapids, offers courses statewide at satellite locations in Alpena, Auburn Hills, Clinton Township, Dowagiac, Flint, Garden City, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Greenville/Sidney, Howell, Lansing, Midland/Bay City/Saginaw, Muskegon, Petoskey, Port Huron, Scottville, Traverse City and Warren. With more than 180 degree programs, including doctoral, master’s, bachelor’s and associate degrees, the university’s mission is to prepare students for successful careers, responsible citizenship and lifelong learning.

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**Anne Hogenson**  
Communications Specialist  
University Advancement & Marketing  
Ferris State University  
420 Oak Street, Prakken 101  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 591-2333  
Fax: (231) 591-2985  
E-mail: [annehogenson@ferris.edu](mailto:annehogenson@ferris.edu)