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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Stetson University Reaches Record Undergraduate Enrollment – *Again*

Census figures reveal second-largest class of first-year students

DELAND, Florida, Sept. 26, 2018 – Stetson University has reached another record enrollment this fall with 3,150 undergraduate students, a 2.1 percent increase over last year. Also this fall, Stetson is welcoming its second-largest class of first-year students in university history, with 895. An additional 294 graduate students are enrolled at Stetson’s DeLand and Celebration campuses, while Stetson College of Law in Gulfport, Florida, reported 896 students enrolled for the fall, up from 867 a year ago. Across all of Stetson’s campuses, total enrollment reached 4,340, up from 4,273 a year ago.

“It’s the highest enrollment in the history of the institution for total undergraduate enrollment and the second-biggest freshman class,” said Resche Hines, Ph.D., assistant vice president of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Stetson.

The university conducts an official census each September and reports the enrollment information to the federal government, college guides and other sources. The largest class of first-year students came in 2015 with 950 students entering in the fall semester.

“We are looking to strategically continue to diversify the student body in a lot of different areas and continue to have a robust, holistic student body that is representative of our local, state and national community,” Hines said.

He noted the university has increased the number of Army ROTC students on the DeLand campus and added an Air Force ROTC program for students this year. Also, last year the university started a Hillel program, providing Jewish cultural and religious experiences to the Stetson community, and expects to attract more Jewish students in coming years.

Stetson’s goal is to maintain an average enrollment for the academic year of about 3,000 undergraduates. That requires enrollment to be slightly higher each fall because typically a small number of students do not return between the fall and spring semesters.

“This retention, though it’s lower than the last two years, it’s within our historic range,” Hines said. “If you look at our retention over the last 10 years, we’ve been between 76 and 80 percent....We’re consistently working to move that metric.”

[About Stetson University](#)

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is one of the oldest private universities in Central Florida, providing a transforming education in the liberal arts tradition. Stetson stresses academic excellence and community-engaged learning, and consistently earns high marks in national rankings. Stetson encourages its students to go beyond success to significance in their lives, the lives of others and their communities. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

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