

Stockton Reports More Students Took Classes This Summer, Lightening Course Loads for Fall

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Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@Stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593

Galloway, NJ – More students enrolled in courses at Stockton University this summer to accelerate their degree programs or lighten their course loads for the fall and spring terms.

Stockton's overall summer enrollment grew to reach the full-time equivalent (FTE) of 1,991, up 6.9 percent from 1,863 in Summer 2014. In 2013, the FTE was 1,808.

"We remained fairly steady among undergraduates, having witnessed strong growth last year, and we saw very strong growth among graduates," said Rob Gregg, dean of the School of General Studies, which offers summer courses at Stockton.

Undergraduate FTE grew by 5.8 percent, with 1,613 in Summer 2015 and 1,524 in Summer 2014. The FTE in Summer 2013 was 1,482.

Stockton saw significant summer growth in its graduate programs, which total 14 with a new Doctorate in Organizational Leadership set to begin in January. Graduate FTE climbed to 11.6 percent, with 378 in Summer 2015 and 339 in Summer 2014. The FTE for Summer 2013 was 326.

Stockton offered 238 courses – 135 of them offered online – at its main campus in Galloway and instructional sites in Hammonton and Manahawkin. Gregg said the variety of courses offered, from those that are required for students' majors to some popular general education courses, accounted partly for the success of the summer sessions.

Gregg attributed the overall growth to a number of other factors.

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“The tuition has held steady for the summer courses, while there have been increases during the academic year,” he explained. “As students get closer to graduating, taking that one requirement in the summer so that they can finish up their studies begins to look very appealing.”

The growing number of online courses offer convenience to students, who do not need to live close to campus to take a course and can still earn money in the shore economy, Gregg added.

Holding three different sessions with more courses over the summer enabled students to find another course that suited their time constraints even if a course was canceled, he said.

“As a result, we do not lose as many students, and they do not go away disappointed that they can't earn credits toward their graduation,” Gregg said. “All in all, price and convenience help account for the continued success of the summer school.”

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