

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ANNUAL DATA REPORT

The Academic affairs data set provides data concerning: “Who our students are;” “What they study;” and “How we deliver instruction” at Shepherd University. The Board of Governors Agenda Book has three sets of academic affairs data: a comprehensive data set, a comparison of Shepherd with its national and regional peers, and a data set that reflects the slide presentation for the May 7th Board of Governors meeting.

The most important points concerning academic affairs at Shepherd University are as follows:

1. There is a demonstrated pattern of continued student enrollment growth.
2. There is largely a traditional university student body. More than three-fourths of Shepherd students are enrolled in a full-time set of classes and about three-fourths of all part-time students are of non-traditional college age (25 years or older). Almost one-fifth (18.4%) of all Shepherd classes are taught in the evening hours (after 4:30 P.M.).
3. There is an emphasis of course demand by students in applied areas of education. The largest share of Shepherd’s graduates (68%) major in what are generally regarded as “applied fields,” i.e., the RBA, Business Administration, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Primary and Secondary Education, Nursing, Art (Graphic Arts), Computer Information Science.
4. There are especially strong, widely known, and growing programs in the arts, humanities and the sciences.
5. There are new majors that have been developed in recent years in Environmental Studies, Music Education, Spanish and Spanish Education. Shepherd will offer its first coursework in a new B.S. in Computer Engineering degree in the Fall of 2008 and the Board is being requested to provide support for Shepherd to request the HEPC to permit the University to plan for a new major in Computer Information Technology. There are tentative plans for the latter major to begin offering courses in the fall of 2009.
6. There are new and expanding graduate programs. Enrollment growth is particularly robust in the M.B.A. program.
7. Heavy reliance on adjunct instruction is a problem in many of our academic programs. The highest proportion of undergraduate credit hours offered through adjunct instruction in any one program is 37%. However, a model for bringing in additional full-time faculty is in place and fully supported by the University President.

In sum, Academic Affairs is continually updating the curriculum and providing new course offerings as student enrollment, demand and interest warrants such action.

Dr. Mark Stern, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will present the Academic Affairs annual report to the Board for informational purposes.