

Institutional Research

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH



Fall 2008

About Institutional Research

Our central mission is the collection, organization and analysis of institutional and other data to support institutional management, operations, decision-making and planning functions.

Contacting

Institutional Research

We welcome your questions or comments about information in this newsletter.

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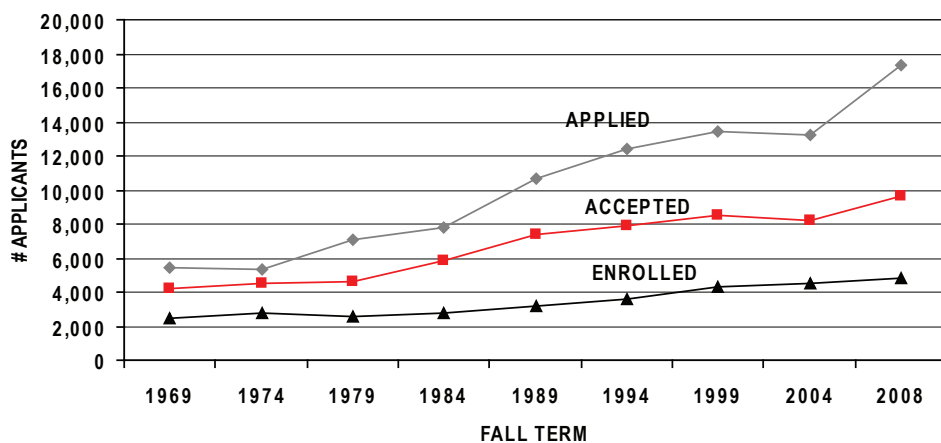
UGA Fact Book celebrates 40 years in print

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the University of Georgia Fact Book (<http://www.oir.uga.edu/factbks.htm>). In the preface to the first edition (1969), the editor describes the book as a “pilot project which may become an annual publication.”

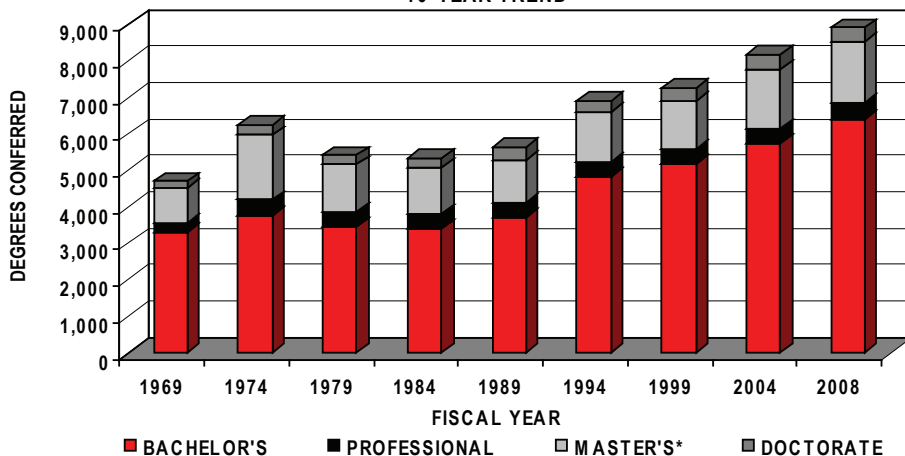
Over time, the content and format have changed, however the Fact Book has remained constant in its purpose to present useful and relevant information in support of institutional decision-making. This fall the 2007 Fact Book won first place at the annual Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) conference.

To commemorate the Fact Book's anniversary, the 2008 edition will contain supplementary pages providing forty-year trends for selected topics, and will be available in January 2009. Here are some examples:

FRESHMAN APPLICANTS BY ADMISSION STATUS
40-YEAR TREND



DEGREES CONFERRED BY DEGREE LEVEL
40-YEAR TREND



*Includes Educational Specialist degrees.

OIR plays pivotal role in UGA's SACS re-accreditation

The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) is a unit within the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at UGA and is a partner to accreditation and assessment efforts across campus. OIR maintains the webpages for both offices.

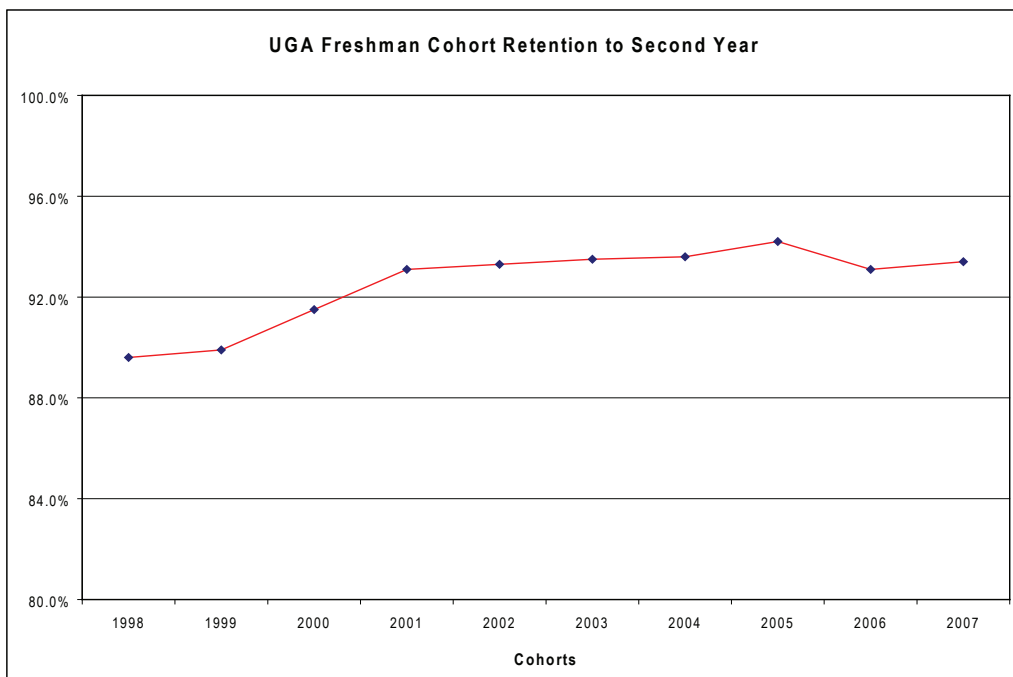
One vital role that OIR plays in UGA's efforts to be re-accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS) is creating and maintaining the web presence for UGA's Student Learning Initiative.

Designed to fulfill the requirement for a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), the Student Learning Initiative is a central element for eligibility for re-affirmation of SACS accreditation.

All members of the university community are able to provide input in this process. For more information about UGA's Student Learning Initiative, visit <http://www.sli.uga.edu>.

Freshmen retention/graduation rates reported

Every fall, OIR produces a report tracking first-time full-time freshmen retention and graduation rates. The percentage of UGA first-time full-time freshman returning for their second year has risen from 89.6% for the 1998 cohort to 93.4% for the 2007 freshmen class. The six-year graduation rate for the 2002 cohort was 79.7%, up from 73.7% for the 1998 cohort. Four-year graduation rates have risen to 52.3%. The full report can be viewed online by visiting <http://www.oir.uga.edu/oirstdy.html>.



OIR welcomed newest staff member Kathy Shi in September. She is the Database Administrator.

The Importance of Timely and Accurate Data

Because OIR is charged with the responsibility of providing accurate, up-to-date information to senior officials as well as the University System office, it is important that we have the most accurate data possible. In some cases, University funding or data projections are based on the information we provide, thus it is absolutely critical that we have complete and timely information. OIR works closely with other units on campus such as the Registrar's Office, Faculty Affairs, Admissions, and Human Resources to ensure accuracy of data, and we appreciate the efforts of sectioning officers and others across campus who submit information in a timely and accurate way. If you have questions or comments, please call Dr. Gardner at 425-3183 or gardnerd@uga.edu.

The Role of the Office of Institutional Research

OIR is a decision-support unit. What does that mean? An important mission of the Office of Institutional Research is to provide timely information to campus officials so they can make well-informed decisions. We provide information through a variety of publications and reports, as well as web-based information. OIR staff members are constantly collaborating with others on campus. Let us know how we can help you.

