

College on a growth spurt

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Okanagan College has grown again.

The total number of students enrolled in programs at the college's four major campuses has climbed by almost four per cent, compared to last year.

A total of 8,329 students were registered in programs and courses as of Sept. 16.

Last fall, the college had 8,005 students enrolled.

"We can likely expect that this

will be the 12th consecutive year that we exceed government's total enrolment targets," said college president Jim Hamilton in a news release. "More importantly, the strong demand for our programming indicates we are providing relevant and valuable education for our communities."

Salmon Arm, Vernon and Kelowna each recorded headcount growth over last year:

Salmon Arm grew by 23 per cent to 638 students from 525.

Vernon grew 6.8 per cent to 1,070

students, from 1,001.

Kelowna grew 3.5 per cent to 5,237 from 5,059.

While Penticton recorded a decrease in headcount (913 from 966), the number of course registrations at that campus actually grew by four per cent, to 2,777 from 2,672. Overall course registrations at the college were up 5.7 per cent.

The number of international students also grew: 683 international students were registered this fall compared to 534 registered at the same time last year.