

A-State spring 2023 registration numbers are in

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

The 11th day of class has come and gone at Arkansas State University, which means final registration numbers have been compiled and dispersed. “We went up in certain things, we were down in certain areas, but overall, we were flat, which is good. And it gives us momentum going into this fall semester,” said Dr. Bill Smith, chief communications officer. The total number of students for spring 2023 is 13,342. Four more students enrolled at the Jonesboro campus, while 13 students left Campus Queretaro. In spring 2022, there were 13,351 students enrolled. “Every university bases its enrollment off its fall numbers because everybody graduates in some form or fashion in the middle of the year. So, systemically, it’s always up, down, up, down, up, down. So springs are never more than falls. You always have to compare 11th day spring to 11th day spring,” Smith said. Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran, vice chancellor for enrollment management and global outreach, said A-State Online enrollment is continuing to grow due to the launching of new programs of study such as game design, cybersecurity and public health. “We’re getting programs with the diversification of the portfolio which I think will also help attract students both

online and on campus. That’s one of the things that we’re really working hard on is how to either redesign or create new on campus degrees that could also be online,” Sivakumaran said. General trends for this semester’s enrollment numbers include a decrease in online out-of-state graduate enrollment as well as on-campus graduate programs. International first-year student enrollment also decreased down to 60 students compared to last spring’s 123, but Sivakumaran said that was due to “pent up demand.” “Once that initial surge comes, then it just goes back down to normal. That’s what we saw, that this was seeing,” Sivakumaran said. “We are getting a lot of applications for international students to come here and we’re getting a lot of applications for domestic students to come here for next fall.” A-State is up 700 admits for the incoming first-year class compared to last year for this coming fall. “There’s a lot of work left to do because we have to yield those students. So just because they’re admitted doesn’t mean that they’re going to come to A-State. So this spring semester is very important,” Sivakumaran said. Marketing for those potential students includes promoting scholarships, updating admission booklets and promoting student life. “If you talk to an average high school student, they’ll talk about

A-State Daily Enrollment Report (ASUJ + ASUQ)										
January 23, 2023										
9th Class Day										
Student Type	Campus	Student Modality	Residence Status	Last Year	Today	Last Census	Difference From Last Year	% Difference From Last Year	Difference From Last Census	% Difference From Last Census
1-New First-Time Freshmen	Jonesboro	1-Traditional	1-Resident	45	26	44	-19	-42.22%	-18	-40.91%
			2-Non-resident	9	9	9	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
			3-International	123	67	123	-56	-45.53%	-56	-45.53%
		2-AOS	1-Resident	5	18	5	13	260.00%	13	260.00%
			2-Non-resident	8	7	8	-1	-12.50%	-1	-12.50%
			3-International	3	2	2	-1	-33.33%	0	0.00%
	Mexico	1-Traditional	2-Non-resident	1	2	1	1	100.00%	1	100.00%
			3-International	51	22	51	-29	-56.86%	-29	-56.86%
			3-International	51	22	51	-29	-56.86%	-29	-56.86%
2-Returning UG	Jonesboro	1-Traditional	1-Resident	4,364	4,029	4,358	-335	-7.68%	-329	-7.55%
			2-Non-resident	793	778	791	-15	-1.89%	-13	-1.64%
			3-International	329	409	329	80	24.32%	80	24.32%
		2-AOS	1-Resident	902	1,068	890	166	18.40%	178	20.00%
			2-Non-resident	199	240	197	41	20.60%	43	21.83%
			3-International	30	44	30	14	46.67%	14	46.67%
	Mexico	1-Traditional	1-Resident	9	7	9	-2	-22.22%	-2	-22.22%
			2-Non-resident	25	29	25	4	16.00%	4	16.00%
			3-International	763	785	763	22	2.88%	22	2.88%
3-New Transfer UG	Jonesboro	1-Traditional	1-Resident	123	99	121	-24	-19.51%	-22	-18.18%
			2-Non-resident	24	28	24	4	16.67%	4	16.67%
			3-International	10	4	10	-6	-60.00%	-6	-60.00%
		2-AOS	1-Resident	105	119	104	14	13.33%	15	14.42%
			2-Non-resident	39	33	37	-6	-15.38%	-4	-10.81%
			3-International	3	4	2	1	33.33%	2	100.00%
	Mexico	1-Traditional	3-International	0	1	0	1		1	
			3-International	0	1	0	1		1	
			3-International	0	1	0	1		1	
4-Graduate Students	Jonesboro	1-Traditional	1-Resident	486	451	487	-35	-7.20%	-36	-7.39%
			2-Non-resident	171	148	171	-23	-13.45%	-23	-13.45%
			3-International	191	210	189	19	9.95%	21	11.11%
	2-AOS	1-Resident	1,561	1,760	1,557	199	12.75%	203	13.04%	
		2-Non-resident	2,334	2,328	2,330	-6	-0.26%	-2	-0.09%	
		3-International	23	8	23	-15	-65.22%	-15	-65.22%	
5-High School Concurrent	Jonesboro	1-Traditional	1-Resident	652	616	650	-36	-5.52%	-34	-5.23%
			2-Non-resident	11	2	11	-9	-81.82%	-9	-81.82%
Grand Total				13,392	13,353	13,351	-39	-0.29%	2	0.01%

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Arkansas State University Enrollment Report According to the 9th Class Day.

the campus experience as the number one thing that they look for when they come here. (They want to) sit at a coffee shop or the Starbucks lounge and study,” Sivakumaran said. “Support is another thing like ‘what’s there to help me be successful?’” Smith said the significance of the 11th day of class for

enrollment numbers was tied to the disbursement of federal aid. “People drop out usually around the 11th day and that’s another reason why everybody has the 11th day and then we have to do this accounting to make sure the ones that we have are really the ones we have,” Smith said.

Chancellor Dr. Todd Shields is working on a recruitment to graduation committee to work on improving retention rates, as well as helping students the university brings in to graduate in a timely manner. If an incoming class is smaller, students must be retained at a higher rate in order

for growth to occur, which is what the committee aims to do. “Smaller classes are being replaced by growingly larger classes, that’s putting us back where we were,” Smith said. “It’s a slow process. It’s that classic ‘you can’t turn a cruise ship quickly.’” Over 2,400 students have been admitted for fall 2023.

“Swipe Out Hunger” provides meal swipes to students who need

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Swipe Out Hunger, a national non-profit organization, partnered with Arkansas State University to provide meal swipes for students in order to combat hunger on the campus. Swipe Out Hunger, founded in 2010 by a group of students at the University of California, Los Angeles, partners with college campuses across the United States and Canada to address the needs of students dealing with food insecurity. According to swipeouthunger.org, the organization promotes, “on-campus solutions, policy and advocacy pathways and community building practices to address student hunger.” Volunteer A-State and SGA sponsor this event on the A-State Campus. The two organizations partnered with Sodexo in order to make this event happen. From Jan. 30 to Feb. 3, students without meal plans can apply to receive meal swipes or Flex dollars. Students with meal plans can donate up to five meal swipes or the equivalent amount in Flex dollars. Madeleine Volner, a senior strategic communications



SGA President Carlee Bird

J Photo by Caroline Averitt | Staff Writer

major from Jonesboro and the President of Volunteer A-State, said, “Our goal basically is to provide students in need to access to food on campus.” Volner said through her work with the A-State Food Pantry through Volunteer A-State, she has seen food insecurity on campus. Brooke Leonard, a junior elementary education from Cabot and the Special Events

Chair of Volunteer A-State, plans any special events Volunteer A-State sponsors, which includes Swipe Out Hunger. “Some of our Red Wolf family, they can’t afford these meal plans and they can’t afford to eat so we need to make sure that we can support our other Red Wolves,” Leonard said. Students can apply for swipes or donate swipes online or by stopping by the table in the

Carl R. Reng Student Union. Links for applications and donations can be found on the Volunteer A-State social media pages and the Daily Digest. Carlee Bird, the president of the Student Government Association, said many who need swipes do not apply. She said SGA and Volunteer A-State plan to reach more students in need this year. The program, however,

does see many donations. “I always am donating my Flex left and right because I’m never going to get close to using it,” Bird said. Ellie Mayberry initiated the partnership with Swipe Out Hunger as an SGA senator in February 2021. Mayberry later served as SGA president. Volner said since the partnership began, it has continued to grow. Campus closed for inclement weather the evening of Jan. 30, which affected SGA and Volunteer A-State’s ability to host a table in the Student Union. Students will still be able to apply and donate online. “I’m thinking we’re going to work really hard to promote it through social media and really try and get word of mouth spreading out there, and so hopefully they’ll receive just as many donations,” Bird said. According to swipeouthunger.org, one in three college students in the United States face food insecurity. “There’s tons of people on this campus that struggle with food insecurity and this is a great way and very tangible way for students to partner with us to combat that,” Volner said.

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