

Dear usmnews.net

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The University's PR machine just released a carefully misleading report proclaiming [University of Southern Mississippi Celebrates Record-Breaking Freshman Class](#). While I'm not going to pick apart the details of this report, I do want you and your readers to note a carefully buried fact: "[a] preliminary total of 14,579 students are currently enrolled at the University, down slightly from the final enrollment count of 14,792 last year." The undisputed fact is that the University student body has become smaller once again, and with it the income stream that supports the University.

Name withheld

Dear name withheld,

Let's look back to last year when according to [the IHL](#), USM's "unduplicated headcount" once again dropped from 15,249 (Fall 2013) to 14,845 (Fall 2014). (usmnews.net cannot explain the discrepancy between the enrollment count reported in the recent USM press release and the numbers provided by the IHL.) This change represented a 2.6% drop in enrollment. usmnews.net readers may recall that enrollment dropped from 16,468 students (Fall 2012) to 15,325 students (Fall 2013) (The different 2013 enrollment numbers contained in this report were taken from IHL's website.) for a devastating 2013 6.9% drop in enrollment. Since 2012, nearly 2000 students have vanished from the Southern Miss campus. Clearly, USM is facing a significant decline in student population.