

## Southern Miss 2014 – 2015 Enrollment Numbers Drop Again

According to [the IHL](#), USM’s “unduplicated headcount” once again dropped from 15,249 (Fall 2013) to 14,845 (Fall 2014). 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<sup>1</sup> (Fall 2013) for a devastating 2013 6.9% drop in enrollment. Clearly, USM is facing a significant decline in student population. Additionally, the IHL numbers show that USM is lagging behind the system-wide 1.1% growth. Only Alcorn State showed a greater percentage decrease in enrollment with a drop of 131 students for a -3.4% decline. System wide, only one other university showed any decline in student population. Mississippi State showed a nominal loss of 23 student for a -0.1 % decline.

System-wide, there has been a increase of 871 students. Alcorn State, USM and Mississippi State account for a 558 student reduction. However, USM accounts for 404 of them or more than 72% of the loss in students. When we look at USM’s ongoing losses, the numbers have to worry the administration. In absolute numbers, Southern Miss accounted for nearly three quarters of the disappearing student population.

Unduplicated Headcount	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Number Change	Percent Change
	Actual figures	Preliminary figures		
Alcorn State University	3,848	3,717	-131	-3.4%
Delta State University	3,523	3,614	91	2.6%
Jackson State University	9,134	9,508	374	4.1%
Mississippi State University	20,161	20,138	-23	-0.1%
Mississippi University for Women	2,629	2,697	68	2.6%
Mississippi Valley State University	2,203	2,294	91	4.1%
University of Mississippi	22,291	23,096	805	3.6%
University of Southern Mississippi	15,249	14,845	-404	-2.6%
<b>System Total</b>	<b>79,038</b>	<b>79,909</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The different 2013 enrollment numbers contained in this report were taken from IHL’s website.

It will be interesting to hear what excuse President Bennett and Commissioner Bounds offer to explain the continuing decline in enrollment.