

ATS provides preview of 2018–2019 enrollment

By CHRIS MEINZER

ATS member schools are in the midst of the Annual Report Form (ARF) data collection process. New for this fall, ATS requested that member schools provide their enrollment data by October 31. The intent of this expedited process for enrollment is to enable ATS to provide a more timely indication of enrollment trends for fall 2018.



At the time this article was written, about two-thirds of the ATS membership, or about 190 schools, had reported enrollment information. Overall across ATS schools, an increase in enrollment is expected, but this is due almost exclusively to the addition of ten new members. These new schools will add nearly 6,000 students to fall 2018 enrollment figures, with more than 4,800 students enrolled at Liberty University Rawlings Schools of Divinity, now the largest school within ATS.

When enrollment is analyzed across the same set schools between fall 2017 and fall 2018, ATS anticipates that enrollment will be essentially flat, with the median

change down about 1%. As in prior years, there are underlying projected trends in degree category enrollment that are worth noting. The chart below shows the percentage of schools that have reported enrollment increases so far between fall 2017 and fall 2018. For example, 45% of all ATS schools reported enrollment increases in total enrollment, and 45% of all ATS schools reported enrollment increases in the MDiv. Percentages are also shown for all degree categories and ecclesial families.

There are some interesting trends noted when reviewing degree categories. Once again in fall 2018, more than half of all ATS schools reporting so far are reflecting

Percent of schools showing enrollment increases from fall 2017 to fall 2018

Degree Category	All ATS	Evangelical	Mainline	Roman Catholic/ Orthodox
Total	45%	45%	45%	45%
MDiv	45%	45%	40%	55%
Professional MA	60%	55%	65%	60%
Academic MA	55%	60%	55%	50%
Advanced Professional	50%	45%	60%	35%
Advanced Academic	45%	55%	30%	55%
Other	40%	55%	20%	40%

increases in enrollment in the professional MA degrees (60%) and academic MA degrees (55%). Nearly two-thirds of mainline schools have enrollment increases in their professional MA degrees. In all ATS schools that have reported so far, the median change in professional MA enrollment is 4.0%, and the median change in academic MA enrollment is 1.7%.

These enrollment patterns may change as the remaining 90 or so ATS schools report their data. ATS will be sure to provide additional updates as the data collection process

progresses, and member schools should anticipate an update in the next *Colloquy Online*. If this article generates some strategic questions for your institution or you are interested in placing your school's enrollment in the context of broader ATS trends, please do not hesitate to contact me at meinzer@ats.edu.



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