



Numbers game



The numbers don't lie.

That's especially true of Wofford College's mathematics department, where women hold 50 percent of the tenure-track faculty positions and represent nearly 68 percent of math majors. Both figures are well ahead of national averages.

According to the American Mathematical Society's Mathematical and Statistical Sciences Annual Survey, women held 37 percent of the tenure-track positions at undergraduate schools in 2018. About 42 percent of math majors were women in 2018.

The department has eight tenure-track positions. Dr. Rachel Grotheer became the department's fourth woman when she came aboard this past fall.

Dr. Charlotte Knotts-Zides says it has been exciting to see the growth in the number of women in the department.

"I think there is a different perspective that women bring to the math field," she says. "I definitely think our numbers are impressive. It is certainly a reflection of the women in the department as being capable of mathematics. I'm excited that our female students find themselves with these role models."

Dr. Deidra Coleman, who is in her fourth year at Wofford, says a bias against women in STEM education is a by-product of age-old stereotypes. She says that as a Black woman she has felt discouraged at times as she pursued her career path.

"I get the layer of being a woman and the layer of being a minority in a white-male dominated field," she says.

[Read more.](#)

Wofford's admission applications are up



After a record-setting year, Wofford College's Director of Admission Megan Tyler and the staff in Admission knew last January they had their work cut out for them to duplicate that success.

And then came COVID-19.

Despite the challenges created by the ongoing pandemic, applications for fall 2021 are currently up by 5.3%. That comes on top of the 9% increase for fall 2020.

"This year we were uncertain what we would see," Tyler says. "To have an increase coming off a record year positions us really well to enroll a strong class for next fall."

When the virus exploded and everything began shutting down last year, the Admission staff had to adapt quickly. Events that were scheduled to be in-person had to be held virtually, staff members had to learn new skills and implement new strategies quickly to reach prospective students.

[Read more.](#)

COVID-19 testing

All students, faculty and staff who are studying and working on campus this semester must submit negative COVID-19 tests before in-person learning resumes. The college's administration will send a message to students, faculty, staff and parents Friday afternoon to communicate plans for resuming in-person classes. Read the most recent campus update messages about COVID-19 testing and wellness guidelines at Wofford.edu/coronavirus.

JEDI Working Group 4 update: enrollment, recruitment and marketing



The obvious question for our group is how do we strategically increase BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) student applications and enrollment? To answer that question, we are examining the potential opportunities for enhancing existing recruitment and admission practices and the strategy used in our marketing and communications in light of statewide and national projections of high school graduates. We are also examining Wofford's benchmark peer and aspirational institutions in relation to their student enrollment and diversity, equity and inclusion recruitment initiatives. We want to establish ambitious, achievable goals for the college.

We are pulling information from JEDI listening sessions, our working group's listening sessions, reports done by the Office of Admission, Office of Institutional Research, College Board, South Carolina Department of Education, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, National Student Clearinghouse and Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Thus far, we've met with the following internal stakeholders: Brand Stille, vice president for enrollment; Megan Tyler, director of admission; Crystal Crawford, director of admission marketing and communication and data; and Jo Ann Brasington, vice president for marketing and communications. Working group members have also met the following external stakeholders: high school guidance counselors, college-access professionals, Black alumni

and United Methodist superintendents of the Spartanburg and Orangeburg districts.

We are discussing the following initiatives:

- Reevaluate the criteria used in nominations for the Wofford Scholars Program.
- Reassess how test-optional applicants are evaluated.
- Revise how First-Generation Scholarships are packaged.
- Increase the racial and ethnic diversity within the Office of Admission in future hires for open positions.
- Increase the number of pipeline programs and partnerships with college-access organizations.
- Increase the diversity in Bonner Scholar cohorts.
- Develop strategies to increase enrollment of Latinx and Asian students.
- Develop alumni partnership program to help recruit and guide prospective students through the college application process.

We welcome input from members of the Wofford community. That input will assist in the working group's efforts. We encourage the Wofford community to reach out to Arsenio Parks, senior assistant director in admission and diversity recruitment and initiatives coordinator (parksao@wofford.edu). Other members of the working group include Trustee Joyce Yette and the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion.

We are working to complete the data collection process and begin analysis. We are also planning for and scheduling additional listening sessions. The data and information collected will be used to establish recommendations and strategies for achieving our goals.

Our working group efforts are to build upon the **diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives taken by the admission and enrollment team.**

Office of Marketing and Communications

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