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FIRST-YEAR ENROLLMENT UP AT CUNY

First-year enrollment at the City University of New York increased by 4 percent this fall to 39,938 students, CUNY announced on Tuesday morning. Since 2014, the number of freshmen enrolling at CUNY's 18 senior and community colleges has increased by nearly 7 percent. "The growth of our freshman classes is a testament to our successful efforts to evolve, expand and continuously improve educational offerings on campuses across CUNY," Interim Chancellor Vita C. Rabinowitz said in a statement. "Students are increasingly drawn to the quality and affordability of a CUNY education." The number of freshmen at the 11 senior colleges increased from 20,158 to 21,214 — a 5.3 percent increase. And among the seven community colleges, first-year enrollment increased from 18,260 to 18,724. CUNY attributed the increase in first-year enrollment to financial incentives by the state and city governments, the city waiving CUNY application fees for public school students from low-income families. They also attributed it to the state's Excelsior Scholarship program, a program that has been described as "free tuition" for full-time students at public colleges and universities but has come under fire for credit requirements.

— Madina