MEMORANDUM

TO: Pat Pitney

CC: Paul Jenny
    Gwen White
    Mike Sfraga

FROM: Juli Gillispie

DATE: February 10, 2004

RE: Freshmen categories

There are several different ways that freshmen can be counted at UA based on their age, high school graduation date, type of degree declared, and full-time/part-time status. The attached informational paper will, hopefully, help alleviate the confusion that can occur when discussing the different categories of freshmen. All headcounts presented are from the fall 2002 and 2003 opening freeze. In addition, there is a table that shows the fall opening numbers for each of the categories. This copy differs from that sent out January 27 due to the fall 2002 IPEDS numbers being restated due to an error in the original data submission.

If you have any questions please let me know.
The Many Ways to Count Freshmen

There are several different ways that freshmen can be counted at UA based on their age, high school graduation date, type of degree declared, and full-time/part-time status. This informational paper will, hopefully, help alleviate the confusion that can occur when discussing the different categories of freshmen. All headcounts presented are from the fall 2002 and 2003 opening freeze. A table showing the fall opening numbers for each of the categories is below.

**All freshmen**
A freshman is any admitted degree-seeking student that has earned less than 30 SCH in their academic career prior to the semester in which they are enrolled. In fall 2003 there were 6,767 freshmen at UA an increase of 19.1% from fall 2002 when there were 5,684 freshmen.

**First-time freshmen**
A first-time freshman is a freshman that is attending higher education for the first time. Freshmen that were enrolled in higher education concurrently with high school are first-time freshmen the first semester they enroll after high school graduation. In fall 2003 there were 2,597 first-time freshmen at UA an increase of 4.5% from fall 2002 when there were 2,486 first-time freshmen.

**Recent first-time freshmen**
There are two ways to determine if a first-time freshman is a recent high school graduate, one is by age and the other by the date of high school graduation. In the UA in Review and nearly all other reports including Missions and Measures compiled by SWIR, a recent first-time freshman is under the age of 20 years as of Oct. 1. Reporting to IPEDS, in even years for the student migration component of the enrollment survey, relies on the high school graduation date. If that date is missing, then the date of most recent activity on the BANNER high school record is used as a proxy for the graduation date. In fall 2003 there were 1,851 recent high school graduates when using the age criteria compared to 1,687 in fall 2002; an increase of 9.7%. When using the IPEDS criteria in fall 2003 there were 1,699 recent high school graduates compared to 1,638 in fall 2002; an increase of 3.7%.

**Classic first-time freshmen**
A classic first-time freshman (CFTF) is a recent first-time freshman, using the age criteria, that is enrolled full-time and is seeking a baccalaureate degree. In fall 2003 there were 1,344 CFTF compared to 1,229 in fall 2002, an increase of 9.4%.

The different categories are used to meet reporting standards in surveys and reports so that national comparisons are possible. In addition, consistent usage of the definitions for each category allows UA to make trend comparisons within UA over time.

### Different Categories of Freshmen
**Fall 2002 - 2003**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>% Change 2003-2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Freshmen</td>
<td>All degree seeking students with less than 30 SCH</td>
<td>5,684</td>
<td>6,767</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-time Freshmen</td>
<td>Freshmen that are enrolled for the first time</td>
<td>2,486</td>
<td>2,597</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classic First-time Freshmen</td>
<td>First-time freshmen that are seeking a baccalaureate degree and are under 20 years of age</td>
<td>1,229</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent High School graduate (age method)</td>
<td>First-time freshmen that are under the age of 20 years as of Oct. 1</td>
<td>1,687</td>
<td>1,851</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent High School graduate (date method)</td>
<td>FF that graduated from high school prior to the fall term</td>
<td>1,638</td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>