Over this past summer, plans began in earnest to create a new summer session, “Summer Start,” for a small population of freshman applicants for Fall 2016. The program is intended for students who may have otherwise been waitlisted or denied, and for those who could be at a higher risk for retention if admitted. Instead, some of these students will be offered admission to begin their Purdue enrollment in mid-July 2016.

During a five-week session that ends on the Friday before Boiler Gold Rush (BGR), these students will complete seven credit hours from a small selection of courses including COM 11400, PSYC 12000, HIST 15100 and a freshman seminar class such as GS 29000 or their school's equivalent. They will then have the option to participate in BGR before beginning the fall term with all other matriculating freshmen.

The new summer session will offer small class sizes and strong academic support, which will continue through their summer education. Summer Start students will be encouraged to live in University Residences during the summer session, although they won't necessarily live in the hall or room where they would live beginning with the fall term.

Financial aid will be available for the summer term and customized communication will ensure students and their families have the information they need to transition to Purdue in July. Once admitted for summer, students will not have the option to switch to a fall start. They will continue in the fall, already ahead of many fall-starting classmates.

The new summer session is modeled after successful programs at other universities where, data suggest, such students who begin in the summer are more likely to succeed academically, build lasting relationships with their peers, and enroll in subsequent summer terms.
Over the past five years, total summer enrollment has steadily increased, with undergraduate enrollment climbing 27.3 percent since 2011.

With Think Summer’s A-Z list of guaranteed courses, students can more easily plan ahead, factoring summer classes into their overall plan of study.

Since 2011, there have been increases in the number of Indiana residents, domestic nonresidents, and international students enrolling in summer coursework. However, domestic nonresidents and international students represent larger percentages of the summer population in 2015 than they did in 2011.

In 2015, international students were 30.1 percent and domestic nonresidents were 31.3 percent of the summer undergraduate population. In 2011, the comparable percentages were 27.7 percent internationals and 29.9 percent domestic nonresidents. Indiana residents were 42.4 percent of summer enrollment in 2011 but only 38.6 percent in 2015. These data include undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

With 4,277 total students, the College of Engineering remains the disciplinary college with the largest summer enrollment. However, with growth of 70.0 percent and 41.6 percent, respectively, Exploratory Studies and the School of Management have grown at a faster pace since 2011.

Over the last five years, Engineering has grown 33.9 percent, while the colleges of Education and Science and Purdue Polytechnic have grown 24.6, 22.1, and 21.1 percent, respectively. These data include undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.
The total number of credit hours earned in Summer 2015 is a 22.2 percent increase over 2011, with undergraduates representing a small majority of the total, 55.8 percent. Since 2011, there has been a 28.9 percent growth in the number of credit hours undergraduate students earned during the summer.

In 2015, the number of credit hours registered for summer online and hybrid courses combined surpassed that of courses held only on-campus. Based on student registration by credit hours, between Summer 2014 and Summer 2015, there was a 16.1 percent decrease in credit hours for on-campus courses compared to a 38.2 percent increase in online credit hours. The number of courses that have both online and on-campus components also showed an increase – up 12.1 percent over 2014.

Professional credit hours not shown, as over 97% were taken on campus in Summer 2014 and 2015.