

Students watch professionals

By MARTHA BLISS
Of the Emerald

Pre-dents have access to program they could really sink their teeth into

University pre-dental students finally can join pre-medical students in mentioning preceptorship experience on their dental school applications. Under the preceptorship program, students observe professionals at work.

The Pre-Dent Clinical Observation Program, begun last week, is the first of many services planned to help pre-dental students gain dental school acceptance.

Thirty dentists in Lane County have opened up their offices to the preceptorship students. Although they cannot actually assist in the dental work, the students will receive eyewitness accounts of dentistry as it really is.

Mark Hamm, a senior pre-dental student and director of the program, hopes to work students into a two-week rotation system among the dentists so they can

observe as many dentist office arrangements as possible.

"Some dentists have their own office and some work in groups," Hamm explains. "The student can see which arrangement he likes best. He can also observe dentists with different specialties."

Hamm also says much of a dentist's work is managerial and thereby unexpected by dental school graduates when they first set up practice. He explains that such skills as appointment scheduling and equipment financing can be just as important as the dental skills in operating a successful office. Hopefully, the preceptorship program will clue the students in to such minor yet es-

sential aspects of dentistry.

The program's goal is actually two-fold. First, it will enable the pre-dental student to see if dentistry really interests him. Hamm says many "pre-dents" have misconceptions about the field simply because little counseling about it is available at the University.

The program also has a long-range goal for the University's pre-health sciences department. Through the program, the department can keep a closer check on University pre-dental students. In this way, they can compile more accurate profiles of the students who are accepted into dental schools and can also record what various schools look for in students.

Hamm says that before this term, the pre-health sciences department actually had little information on the University's pre-dental students, since most of them are either biology or general science majors who make little contact with the department.

In accepting students for the



program, Hamm and his co-director, Mark Finch, look for students with substantial grade-point averages and solid interest in dentistry.

"Some of the students who applied for the program weren't worth the dentists' time," Hamm says. "The ones we rejected probably wouldn't get into dental school anyway."

Hamm says the average

grade-point average of pre-dental students accepted by the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center in 1974 was 3.12. He says the 1975 average was "about 3.38," and expects the 1976 average to hit 3.4.

Pre-dental students interested in participating in the preceptorship program may pick up applications or talk to either Hamm or Finch in 107 Friendly.

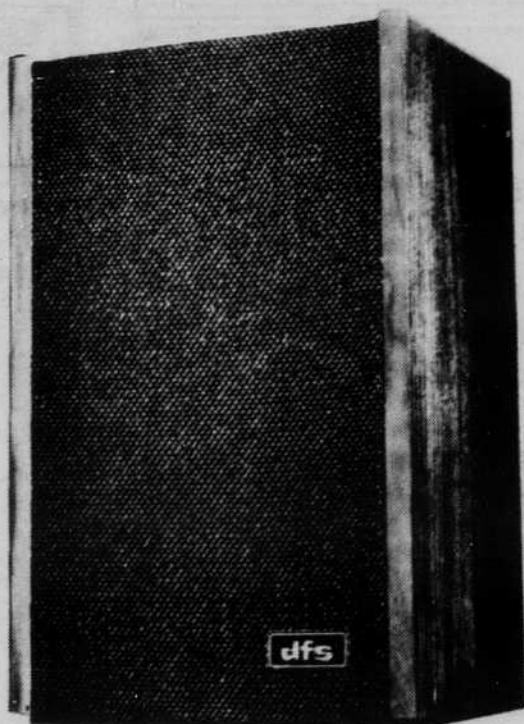
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