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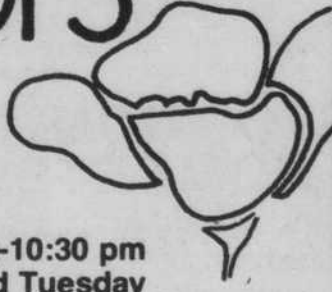
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Regional exchange program offers professional training

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

Students interested in participating in a reduced-cost West Coast exchange program next year that offers specialized professional training must apply by October 15.

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education sponsors an exchange program for qualifying students at resident prices when attending state universities and at about one-third the tuition rate when attending private universities. About 45 schools participate.

Admission requires two or more years of pre-professional course work and then offers out-of-state training for Oregon residents in occupational therapy, optometry, physical therapy, podiatry, public health and graduate library studies.

The library program was added after the University closed its own School of Librarianship.

The exchange program was formed to provide students in 12 western states an opportunity to participate in programs unavailable in their home states or university.

Created 25 years ago by state legislatures and governors, the program now incorporates 15 professional fields of study in 98 programs.

The home states pay support fees, established by WICHE commission to schools on behalf of each student they support through the program.

To be eligible students must apply for certification from their home state. Certification affirms that a student is a resident, according to state definition, and eligible for support if funds are available.

In Oregon certified students are then rated by priority of support based 60 percent on residency, and the rest on grade point average and statement of intent, says Pat Wignes, administrative assistant for the system of higher education. Long-time Oregon residents are preferred.

About 130 Oregon students participated in the program last year, although more than that number applied for the exchange, says Wignes. In addition, 24 Oregon students participated in a regional program for veterinary medicine.

Some states have imposed stipulations requiring students to return to their home state or pay back part or all of the support money, says Wignes.

"We've thought about imposing that rule but haven't done it yet," she says. "We hope students will return to Oregon after their training, but we don't require that they do."

Once students have received support through the WICHE program they are generally assured of continued support through the end of the program.

For more information contact students should contact their advisers or write to R. E. Lieuallen, Certifying office for Oregon, WICHE professional student exchange programs, P.O. Box 3175, Eugene, Oregon 97403, or call 686-4153.

Graduate aid deadlines near

Graduate students seeking assistance to finance their education have a number of options, says Fran Barkan of the graduate school.

The Office of Federal Relations, a part of the graduate school, has information on various types of grants, post-doctoral and graduate fellowships and research grants.

Barkan says most of the fellowships have deadlines in the fall and winter terms for the following academic year. "Students who think they might want financial assistance for graduate studies should check in the early fall for deadline schedules, or they will be too late," she warns.

Graduate fellowships provide funds for graduate studies up to the doctoral degree. A post-doctoral fellowship gives the new doctoral recipient funding to continue research after the Ph.D. is received. A research grant provides funding for a specific project.

Fellowships usually provide the student with a yearly stipend that can be used to pay for living expenses, tuition, books and so forth. In some cases,

tuition will be provided in addition to a sum for living expenses. Selection for fellowships is based, for the most part, on merit rather than need.

Most fellowships are intended to fund students in a particular field, or students of a particular sex or race. Furthermore, some fellowships are for students who have completed all degree requirements except for the dissertation, or for those students at the beginning of their graduate careers.

Potential applicants should be aware that there are more fellowships in some fields than in others, and that there are fewer funds than there were a few years ago, according to Barkan.

Therefore, students planning their finances for graduate education should also consider student loans, she says.

Information on loans is available from the Office of Financial Aid in Oregon Hall.

Students who want to consider applying for fellowships for graduate school should drop by the Office of Federal Relations, Chapman Hall, or call 686-5132.



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