

Ed majors study market, find brighter job outlook

Editor's Note: This article is part of a series on the job-market outlook for University graduates.

By **MARIAN GREEN**
Of the Emerald

The teacher demand is rising after the past decades' tight education job market, says education college dean Robert Gilberts.

Students should no longer assume that an oversupply of teachers exists, Gilberts says. "The assumption of an oversupply is going to precipitate a shortage," he predicts.

According to National Center for Education statistics, the number of students graduating with education degrees decreased from an all-time high of 317,000 in 1972 to 183,000 in 1980 — a 43 percent decrease.

The Centers' predictions for 1988 estimate the number of graduated teachers at only 149,000 — just over half the 1972 amount.

The 1988 figures indicate there will be enough teachers to meet approximately 80 percent of demand. These figures suggest a freshman entering college in 1981 will have a good chance of employment after graduation.

Shortages already exist in teaching areas such as math, science, english, vocational education and special education, Gilberts says. There also is a "serious shortage" of counseling and education psychology majors, he says.

The education college offers degrees in teacher education, special education, education psychology and educational management.

The college provides 65

percent of the elementary teachers in Oregon. Combined, the six state higher education institutions provide 90 percent of the elementary and secondary school teachers in the state.

"We're turning out as many (graduates) as needed," Gilberts says of Oregon's elementary school needs. "The elementary population will begin growing by the middle of the decade, and a lot of teachers are going to be retiring."

Jobs are available for graduates who want to stay in Oregon if they don't mind teaching in the more rural parts of the state.

"If one takes all the positions, there's an equal balance," Gilberts says. "A lot of graduates leave, and others come in from other states."

Graduates who are "place bound" to the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area have difficulty finding jobs, Gilberts says.

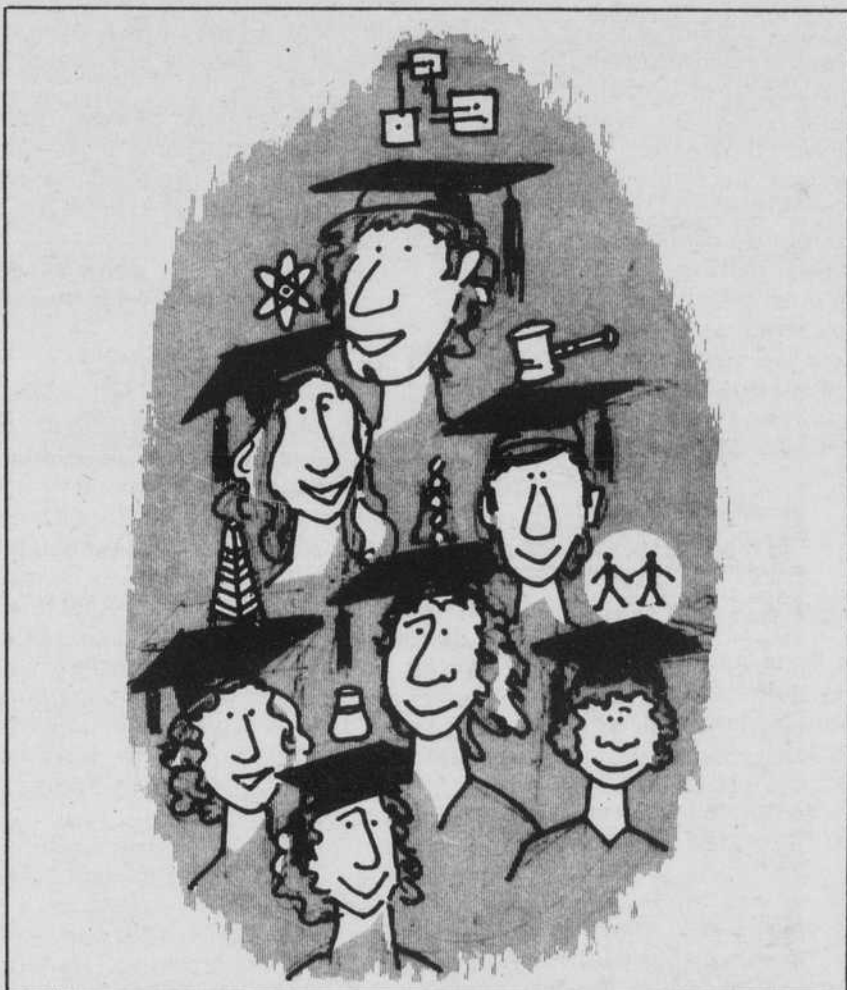
Teaching salaries vary with school level and type of education degree. Beginning salaries start at \$11,000 and upper-level salaries for those with doctorates start at \$21,000, Gilberts estimates.

Despite the optimistic job outlook for most teachers, a few education areas still have too many teachers.

For instance, social science "always has an oversupply of teachers," Gilberts says. "Social science majors often get teaching credentials as sort of an insurance policy."

Physical education also suffers from teacher oversupply, he says. Gilberts attributes this to a "growing interest in outdoor and physical activity, but the interest has grown faster than the marketplace."

University teaching jobs usually are available only to those with doctorates. "That's gotten to be an oversupplied field because of the cutbacks in funding for higher education," Gilberts says.



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SUAB lobbyists plan state Legislature visit

The Student University Affairs Board will travel to Eugene; Sen. Fred Heard, D-Salem to present student views to the Legislature Thursday.

Students who want to suggest topics for the lobbying effort should leave their suggestions in the SUAB mailbox, Suite 4, EMU, or visit the SUAB office, Suite 3, EMU. Students also can talk to their SUAB representative, says SUAB chairer Julie St. Clair.

During Thursday's visit, the representatives will visit Sen. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene; Rep.

Margie Hendrickson, D-Eugene; Sen. Fred Heard, D-Klamath Falls and other legislators.

SUAB's lobbying effort won't conflict with the ASUO Executive's effort, St. Clair says.

"If there are 15 voices that can speak in addition to the ASUO Executive, why not go with that?"

SUAB is a 16-member committee that usually voices student concerns in the University Assembly.



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