

Job listings ease students' dilemma

Employment offices on campus post a wide variety of prospects

By KEN KOOPMAN
Of the Emerald

It's a scary situation. After weathering long registration, tuition payment and book-buying lines, students must face a whole new problem — where to find that part-time job to pay the bills.

The solution may lie right on campus.

Student jobs listings are available at the University branch of the state employment service, located at 1511 Agate St., and right next door at the work study job placement office.

The state employment service, while open to the general public, specializes in finding students temporary or part-time jobs.

A bulletin board displays numbered cards with detailed job descriptions. Interested students simply give the desired job number to a staff member, who then tells the student how to contact the employer.

"An average of five to seven new jobs come into our office each day," says Ken

Masterson, supervisor of the work placement offices.

A random check of the new jobs listings shows openings for a pizza dough maker, guitar instructor, statistical typist, bartender and house cleaner. Most jobs pay between \$3.50 and \$4.50 an hour to start.

If a new job listing is not filled the same day (most are), it is posted on a larger board with categorized job listings.

Masterson says students must be prepared before coming to the office.

"Students should come into our office already prepared to make a decision regarding their employment," Masterson says. "Appearance, qualifications, availability and the desire to work are essential ingredients for beginning your job search."

The office also lists jobs that pay less than the minimum wage, such as baby-sitting or ironing. Various "how-to-find-a-job" pamphlets also are available.

Next door, at the work-study

placement office, jobs are open only to students classified as eligible by the University's financial aid office.

Eligible students then must register at the work-study placement office.

Current job openings also are posted on bulletin boards at the work-study placement office. Placement office employees arrange appointments with interviewers who review job requirements with prospective student workers. If a student is qualified, the office gives the student a referral certification card and instructions to contact the employer.

"We can't and won't refer a student who is not qualified to fill the job," Masterson says.

"Our system is actually a self-screening process. The basic specifications of the job are posted, and it's up to the student to decide if he or she is qualified for the position."

In the past, work-study students have found an abundance of jobs.

This term, more than 2000 students

have work-study eligibility, but not all will be looking for work. Last year's figures show that only two-thirds of eligible students apply for jobs.

That percentage may be higher this year because less aid is being awarded in loans, grants and other aid.

"Some students receiving financial aid packages use only the loans or grant money and skip the work-study, but with the cutbacks and the tight economy, I would guess more of the work-study allotment will be used this year," Masterson says.

Future job availability is hard to predict, but work placement offices are finding employment for University students who need jobs.

Masterson urges students who are looking for work to check the job boards frequently.

"There is usually a steady stream of jobs that comes through our offices, but sometimes that stream is reduced to a trickle," he says.

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College gets \$10,500 for new research

The problems of and possibilities for undergraduate research have been the subject of renewed nationwide interest, according to a newsletter published by the University's Honors College.

The Honors College has received a \$10,500 grant to begin undergraduate research fellowships, modeled after a similar program recently started at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The grant, presented to the college by The Oregon Community Foundation, through the Carl and Alma Johnson Fund, will be used to "encourage, facilitate and reward" high-quality undergraduate research leading to completion of an honors college senior thesis.

The grant is intended to support undergraduate research fellowships, purchase basic reference materials and expand computer facilities. Beginning this fall, the Honors College will offer undergraduate research fellowships to seniors of superior academic accomplishment whose thesis or project shows particularly promising results.

About 20 senior fellows will be supported with grants of up to \$400.

All seniors in the Honors College who plan to graduate during the next calendar year can obtain more information from Alan Kimball, Honors College director.

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