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Higher college expenses make more students work part time

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Rising college costs have forced more and more University students to hold down jobs while attending school.

About 49 percent of full-time college students between the ages of 16 and 24 were employed or seeking employment while attending school as of fall 1985, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

This figure was only 39 percent in 1970 and only 26 percent in 1960. Reduced financial aid, and higher tuition and living costs contributed to the increase, according to a College Board report.

To meet the financial burden of higher education, many students have chosen part-time work over student loan debts, the report added.

"There is an increasing number of students who are working their way through college, and there will be more if the federal government's financial aid projections come true," said Larry Smith, director of the University's Career Planning and Placement Service.

Two offices at the Job Location and Development center, 1511 Agate St., help students and area residents find work. The student employment office has helped nearly 500 non-work-study students find jobs in the Eugene area since

September, said Jon West, assistant director of the student office. Most of the jobs require 10-30 hours of work per week and pay from minimum wage to \$7 an hour.

The general employment office helps about 5,000 work-study students and area residents find jobs per year, said Lucky Wahdrus, the general office's service representative.

Working may or may not damage a student's performance in school.

"If (students) are motivated, a part-time job should not interfere with school. If you are having to work to pay your way through school, then you want to be in school," Smith said.

But Bill Kelter, a University student who works 20 hours per week, said working affects his ability to do well in school.

"To a certain degree, it takes away a lot of time when I could be doing better things like studying," Kelter said.

"I would rather not work because I'm going to be doing plenty of that after college. But without that job, I would have no spending money at all," he said.

The money he earns barely makes a dent in his school expenses, Kelter said. But he has managed to pay about \$1,600 toward his education over the last four terms.

University enrollment down slightly

University enrollment is down, according to figures recently released by the University Registrar, but the decline is seen as a normal occurrence that happens during winter term every year.

At the end of the fourth week of classes, winter term's enrollment was listed at 15,709 — a slight drop from fall term's 16,375. Registrar statistician Mark Turner said he blames the decrease on tradition.

"Winter term enrollment is always lower than fall term," Turner said.

Fall term enrollment is consistently higher than other terms, said Herb Chereck, University Registrar.

After fall term, many students graduate, are disqualified, change their minds about their education or simply run out of money.

"We traditionally have the same percentage of drop each spring," Chereck said. From fall term 1984 to winter term 1985,

enrollment decreased 3.2 percent. This year, it dropped 4.1 percent, Chereck said. But that's nothing to be alarmed about, he added.

"If you would go back and do a 25-year history in universities, you would always see a decrease at this time," said Jim Buch, director of admissions.

The decrease may represent a change in student behavior, Buch said. "It's not a head count of students — it depends on the number of courses taken."

A drop in fall-term enrollment when there is traditionally a surge of new students is something to be concerned about, Buch said. "But this fall was much higher than last," he said.

Enrollment figures have steadily increased over the years, he said. In fall term of 1982, 15,405 students enrolled at the University; in fall term of 1983, 15,478 enrolled; and in fall term of 1984, 15,840 students enrolled, Buch said.

Incoming freshmen receive phone calls

By Lynda Singletary
Of the Emerald

One effort to recruit and retain freshmen begins about eight months before the student arrives at the University. The New Student Telephone Project employs University students to telephone incoming freshmen. Employees answer questions, offer reassurance and confirm the students' plans to attend the University.

The eight-year-old program, operated by the Orientation Office, resumed last week and will continue into spring term.

"The goal is to reach every student admitted before May 29," said Marcia Schmaedick, the project's coordinator.

"The callers reach approximately 2,500 students or 70 percent of the freshman class," said Roger Morris, director of the Orientation Office.

"The phone call is not a hard sell," Schmaedick said. "The callers talk to the student about the University in general and address their particular questions or hesitations," she said.

Morris credits the program with increasing enrollment,

which is up 3.4 percent over last year, based on fall term fourth-week figures.

"The University of Oregon is the only school in this area that has this kind of program, and we're the only school in this area experiencing an increase," he said.

"The figures decline somewhat from fall to winter and winter to spring (but) the percentiles are comparable," said Mark Turner, an Office of the Registrar statistician.

After receiving 15 hours of training, callers work 10 hours a week.

"I've had experience with freshmen before. A lot of them are out of state and don't have any brothers or sisters in college, so they don't know what to expect," said Maureen Cronin, a University caller.

Callers attempt to reach each student five times before giving up.

The program has a budget of about \$5,000, allocated from the University's base salary.

"The base salary is institutional money that will always be there. The program would always happen," Morris said. "The payoffs are good."

"The call is often the turning point for people to come here," he added.

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