

Changes in student financial aid set for new school year

By Gary Henley
Of the Emerald

Student Financial Aid Associate Director James Gilmour said there will be two major changes regarding financial aid for the 1987-88 academic year.

The decision for the changes, said Gilmour, were made about the middle of last year. The changes were in effect January 1, 1987.

Gilmour added that the changes will be visible to some, but not to others who are on financial aid.

The first alteration will involve Guaranteed Student Loans.

Guaranteed Student Loans are defined as low-interest, long-term loans available through eligible lending institutions in your state of legal residence.

The GSL is now need-based, said director Edmond Vignoul.

"The premise of financial aid when the program began in

1965 was to provide an equal opportunity for an education," said Vignoul. "It was starting to go beyond that. Financial aid was never meant for families or students who could afford to pay for an education.



Edmond Vignoul

"The primary responsibility for meeting the costs of an education lies with the family and student. If the costs go beyond what they can afford, financial aid is there to help those who can't buy an education.

"In the past, if they earned less than \$24,000, they would receive financial aid, no questions asked."

Vignoul said Congress has now "tightened up," targeting the students that financial aid is meant for. In other words, it will now be tougher to qualify for a GSL.

The second change, said Gilmour, will involve "the definition of the independent student."

Said Gilmour, "before, a lot of students were able to meet the independent status. But Congress has now limited the money for the program, like everything else, and gotten more technical with who is an 'independent' student."

A publication (called Money Matters) of the University financial aid office, says in filling out financial aid forms, you must include your parents' information, because Congress has said families have the primary responsibility of funding a college education. If you can prove you are independent, parental financial information is not necessary.

"You are considered to be independent of your parents if you are 24 years old before January 1, 1987; an orphan or ward of the court; a veteran; a graduate or professional student

who will not be claimed as an exemption on your parents' U.S. income tax return for 1987; have legal dependents other than a spouse; were not claimed as an exemption on your parents' U.S. income tax returns for 1985 and 1986, and can demonstrate self-sufficiency during 1985 and 1986 by showing evidence of an annual income of at least \$4,000, not including financial aid."

With the changes, Vignoul said, there will now be an additional two weeks for the forms to be processed.

ESCAPE offers students practical work experience

By Eden Godbey
Of the Emerald

"Learning through doing" is the motto outgoing ESCAPE director Anna Siebenborn uses

to describe the program.

ESCAPE is an 18-year-old, ASUO-funded program that offers students a chance to earn upper-division credit for doing volunteer work in the University community. Many volunteers work at public schools, and community service institutions, such as rest homes, daycare centers and corrections facilities.

Siebenborn said of the program, "I think it's a really important service. We offer experience that teaches skills that you can offer employers."

Students who volunteer for public schools earn credit through the College of Education, community service volunteers earn credit through the human services department.

Mike Pelly, incoming director said students can earn credit for any major.

"I can't think of a major that can't be covered," he said.

Students can register for ESCAPE during regular registration and during the first two weeks of the drop/add period, according to a brochure. Once students register, they can choose their project for their particular major or have it chosen for them if need be, Pelly said.

The places students volunteer must be non-profit organizations. Students make a verbal agreement with the institution they wish to volunteer for, then they fill out objective forms with an ESCAPE coordinator and have midterm and final conferences with the coordinator to check how the volunteer is fulfilling his or her objectives.

New students to the program must attend seminars Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Fall seminar topics include rape crisis, drugs and alcohol, child development, classroom management, AIDS and career development, according to Pelly.

The purpose of the seminars is to orient the students with community issues and people, he said.

One of Pelly's goals for the school year is to increase awareness of the program among students and show "you don't have to be an education major to be in ESCAPE," he said. At this point, he has not planned a definite strategy for gaining participation, but he said the program recently became affiliated with a similar local program that will offer more internships.

Interested students can contact the office at 686-4351 or visit the office at Room M 111, EMU.

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