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## CLASSES

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The curriculum in the economics department is changing to reflect shifts in society and new emphasis on different issues, said department head Joe Stone.

Courses in labor economics, for example, now take into account a more complex labor force instead of examining issues in the context of collective bargaining, he said.

In part, curriculum changes in economics reflect research that has crossed disciplinary boundaries, Stone said.

For instance, an new area of study called public choice resulted from a mingling of economics and political science, Stone said.

"Public choice takes a lot of topics that have traditionally been primarily in the realm of political science and takes standard economic approaches and applies them to them," Stone explained.

For example, public choice scholars study politicians as entrepreneurs facing a set of incentives and make predictions from that model, he said.

Stone predicted that trends in economics will include more emphasis on environmental issues, natural resources, government programs, tax revenue systems, health care systems, and the effect of aging on the work force.

Interdisciplinary work has also influenced the psychology department, said Mike Posner, 1989-90 chairman of the undergraduate education committee.

The psychology curriculum reflects stronger links between psychology and the biological sciences and psychology and the social sciences, he said.

A new introductory course called "Brain and the Mind" ties biological knowledge of brain processes with psychology's understanding mental events, Posner said.

Another new course, "Mind and Society," reflects developments in the last 10 to 15 years

that link aspects of psychology to the general social sciences, Posner said.

The three areas included in the anthropology curriculum — physical, cultural and archeology — are also changing to mirror the outside world, said Paul Simonds, head of the anthropology department.

Many physical anthropologists witnessing the destruction of the world's forests where they conduct their research have become avid conservationists, Simonds said. Professors are now discussing primates' chances of survival in a rapidly disappearing environment, he said.

As Oregon opens to the Pacific Rim and Asian trade, knowledge of cultural anthropology in that area will be helpful, Simonds said. The department has hired a new professor to teach Pacific Rim and Asian culture.

National and international politics also influence archeology. "Right now, it's difficult for American archaeologists to do anything in Iraq," Simonds said.

### Reporting the news

Arnold Ismach, dean of the journalism school said the school is reforming its curriculum to adapt to the changing work field.

The increasing importance of graphics in the media inspired a regular course in visual communications, Ismach said.

Information Gathering, a newer prerequisite course for pre-journalism majors, gives students a foundation in research methods and includes newer information sources such as electronic data bases, he said.

Now that print and broadcast are using increasingly similar technology, blurring the lines between the media, the journalism school is trying to prepare its students to be aware of this, Ismach said.

The journalism school also offers courses in international journalism, media in developing countries and women in the

media, Ismach said.

The mass media and the increasing number of organizations have influenced the curriculum in rhetoric and communication, said David Frank, area director of rhetoric and communication.

The rhetoric and communication curriculum now places more emphasis on preparing students to work in organizations, in part, because there are more organizations in society, Frank said. Organizations also value communications skill, a valuable tool that students need to command when they leave the University, he said.

The influence of the mass media has prompted a resurgence of the importance of critical thinking and speaking in the modern world, which in turn has influenced the rhetoric and communication curriculum, Frank said.

Rhetoric courses try to address the impact that mass media have had on culture, Frank said. The final term of threeterm sequence in rhetoric theory examines politician's use of the media and analyzes the arguments they make.

### Teaching teachers

One of the most dramatic changes in curriculum has taken place in the College of Education. Beginning this fall, a five-year teacher education program will be implemented by the College of Education, said Dean Robert Gilberts.

The new program requires prospective teachers to complete a bachelor's degree before beginning a fifth year of education curriculum, Roberts said.

Roberts said the fifth-year program will incorporate a full year of field experience along with the pedagogical knowledge students need to be teachers.

"They'll practice in the public schools some of the things they've learned, so that they'll be able to integrate that knowledge through practice," Roberts said.

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