

# UNIVERSITY

## Classes more crowded this year

By Carrie Dennett  
Emerald Reporter

This year more students are fighting for space in overcrowded classes than in recent years.

Although most students have experienced this frustration, overcrowding in classes and departments means some students will not be able to fulfill cluster or major requirements as quickly as planned.

Psychology major Kristi Patterson has had to postpone graduation for an extra term because of class crowding.

"All the 400-level psychology classes were filled before registration," she said. "I have never gone to pre-registration and had everything be filled."

Patterson also was unable to get into the geology or English classes she needs to fulfill clusters.

"I walked out of registration with six credits, and I almost lost my financial aid because of it," Patterson said.

She is now up to 12 credits, but she still cannot graduate in June as planned.

The Office of Academic Advising in Oregon Hall has seen other students who face problems graduating due to class crowding.

"Students have told us that they will not be able to graduate a year or a year and a half from now, but I have not had anyone come to me and tell me that they cannot graduate after this term," said Marla Strange, associate director of the advising office.

For example, in the sociology department, juniors are having trouble getting into required classes.

"The upper-division classes for us closed much more quickly than last year," said Barbara Luton, who works in the sociology department. "It's rough for all the students, but especially for the juniors, since the seniors were able to register on Thursday."

Strange listed three reasons why classes may be more crowded this term.

"Number one: We had a major curriculum revision this year," she said, referring to the change in the structure and numbering of many courses.

"In the process of the curriculum revision, it seems to me that there is a lower number of actual classes," she said.

This year the psychology department condensed four of its introductory classes into two. This may or may not be a problem, said Strange, depending on how many actual seats are available in each of the three classes this term.



Photo by Andre Ramirez

*More students are fighting for seats in crowded classes this year, and some may be forced to postpone graduation if they can't complete their requirements.*

Changes in the professional schools' requirements also may affect crowding. Prior to this fall, students in the professional schools were required to take only 12 core classes, compared with 18 for the rest of the University.

Beginning with this year's entering freshmen, all University students must take 18 core classes, placing more students in competition for these classes.

A third problem this year is the University's acceptance of additional transfer students, despite long range plans to decrease enrollment. These students usually have more specific requirements

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