

UNIVERSITY

Transfer students say LCC good experience

One-third of students start out at CC level

By Cathy Peterson
Emerald Reporter

More than one-third of students attending schools in the Oregon State System of Higher Education have also attended Oregon community colleges at one time or another.

According to a preliminary study from the state system and the Oregon Office of Community College Services, 34 percent of the sample of graduating students in the state had Oregon community college experience, said Susan Weeks, director of Institutional Research Service for the state system.

In the last three years more than 1,000 students who have enrolled at the University attended Lane Community College at some time, said Marie Matsen, research analyst at LCC.

Students and education administrators say students are getting good preparation at community colleges, such as LCC in Eugene, before transferring to state universities.

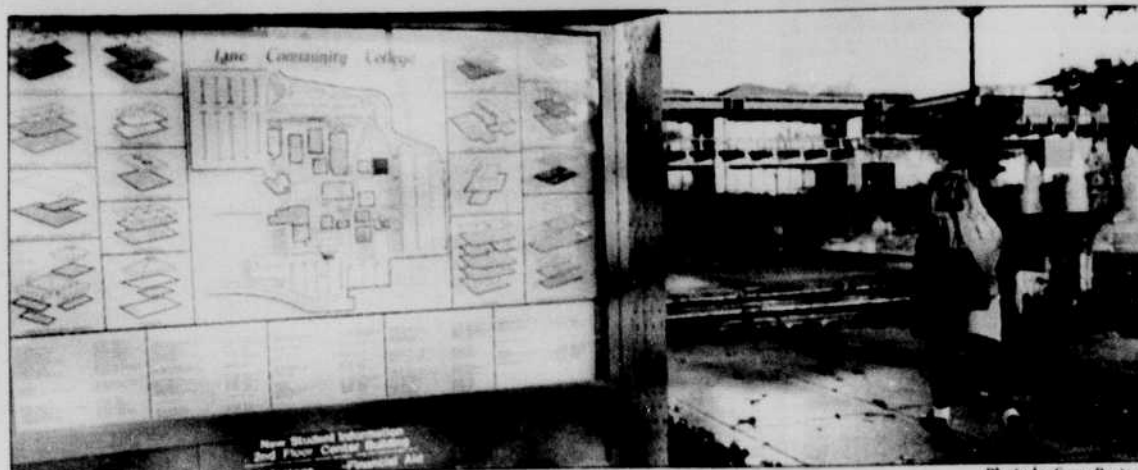
Bob Walter has been a University student for two years. After taking two years of classes at Lane, he transferred to the University and entered the journalism department.

"Education is a pretty precious commodity. I want to get the most I can out of it," he said.

Walter said he's studying Latin American history and taking Spanish. He hopes to get a job as a reporter in Central or Latin America when he graduates.

"I really enjoyed my education at Lane," Walter said. "I had a good experience."

He said he was careful to pick good teachers, and he dropped classes when he wasn't satisfied with the course — two things he said he's also done at the University. "I've had to use as much discrimination in choosing classes at the University as I had to at LCC."



Many University students found it helpful to start their collegiate careers at Lane Community College before enrolling. Photo by Sean Poston

As many as 3,000 students seek academic counseling each term, said LCC Counseling Center Director John Winqvist, with half of those seeking information about transferring to other schools.

"The majority talk about Oregon," Winqvist said. Most of the students who transfer have either earned a two-year associate arts degree at LCC or have tried to fulfill entrance requirements for the University.

"In general, people are well-satisfied with their preparation here," Winqvist said.

J.P. Berg, a junior English major, said he attended LCC for a year at his parent's encouragement before transferring to the University. He had been accepted to OSU, the University and several other schools, but he chose to stay in town because of his family's ski business.

"I always knew I'd end up at the University," he said. Berg said most of his friends went to OSU, but many of his high school classmates joined him at LCC.

"The instructors were great there," he said.

Senior Frances O'Connor said going to LCC before enrolling at the University made a big difference in her education.

"I'm really glad I did it the way that I did," O'Connor said. "I think now, if I had gone straight into the University, as big as it is, I might have been overwhelmed."

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