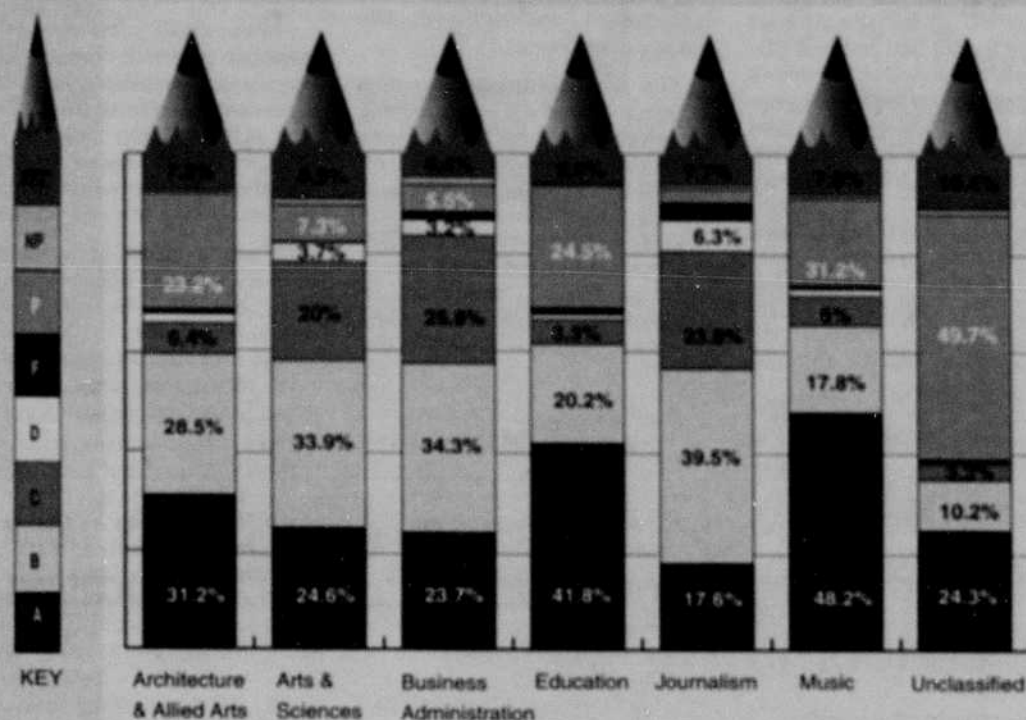


MAKING THE GRADE

Fall 1994 grade distribution among University professional schools and the larger departments.



SOURCE: University of Oregon Office of the Registrar

* XYZ represents other grades given by Registrar.

DENNIS BOLT/EMERALD

Grades: A 'B' is considered average

Continued from Page 1

undergraduates, and the College of Education has more graduate students than the School of Journalism. Together, these two factors explain why GPAs in the College of Education tend to be higher, on average, than those in the journalism school.

"Ninety percent of our students are graduate students," said Martin Kaufman, dean of the College of Education. "This is the first year that [the University has] offered undergraduate studies in the field of education."

The curriculum for the College of Education is rigorous, he said.

"Also, graduate students tend to be much older, usually in their late 40s, and they tend to be more serious about their studies," he said. "There is also a philosophical and pedagogical difference."

The journalism school is still harder than most of the University's schools, according to students.

Journalism 202, or "Info Hell," has a well-known reputation on campus. The focus of the Information Gathering course is a lengthy paper that must incorporate at least 35 different sources.

"In journalism, we want to see how students do," said Duncan McDonald, dean of the journalism school. "It's a better examination of their performance as a major."

"The pre-courses are not intended to weed people out, but

to provide a consistent core of education," he said.

Regardless of which department they are in, students are generally surprised when they get As, McDonald said. "They often don't think they deserved them. At the same time, grades are not punishment."

Another reason grades tend to be higher in different schools within the University is that a C used to be average. Now a B is considered average.

If students get Cs, they feel they have failed, McDonald said.

"Are people penalized for doing satisfactory work?" he asked. "I don't think so; students' expectations have just gone up."

The journalism school also believes in a standard distribution; there should be a greater number of Cs than As or Bs, McDonald said.

Kaufman said it is difficult to earn As in the education college.

"We are setting our criteria high," Kaufman said. "Students actually have to perform against a fixed standard."

"We are not trying to get an even distribution," he said. "We don't aim for, say, 25 As, 30 Bs and 60 Cs. There are a lot of doctoral students here as well, almost as many as there are masters students."

"These individuals have more invested in their educations, so they work harder and are more serious about their grades," Kaufman said.

Undergraduates in the journalism school are aiming for higher grades because many of them are attempting to enter graduate schools, McDonald said.

According to journalism students, the difficulty of classes often depends on the instructors.

"I took a mass media course and a grammar course in the journalism school, and they were pretty easy," said Nicole Kristal, a freshman journalism major. "It all depends on the instructors. They might be good in their field, but they are not necessarily good as teachers."

Each school sets its own criteria for grades.

Much like the journalism school, the College of Arts and Sciences also tends to give out a standard distribution of grades.

"Seventy percent of all University undergraduate grades come from the College of Arts and Sciences," said Risa Palm, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "We don't occupy a particular niche."

Each instructor within the college tends to set his or her own criteria, she said.

The reason the School of Architecture and Applied Arts has a higher average GPA than other schools is that many of its courses are graded pass/no pass only, said Robert Melnick, interim dean for the school.

"Students get focused on the quality of their work instead of a letter grade," he said.

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CORRECTION

In the Monday, Feb. 12 edition of *The Emerald*, the article titled "Dinner, dancing celebrate Singapore" stated that Su-Lin Lim was Singapore Cultural Night coordinator. Lim was not the coordinator. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

WRITE

for the ODE.
Call the freelance editor at 346-5511 for information

ET ALS

MEETINGS

EMU Board will sponsor a House Committee meeting today at 4 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. The Budget Committee will also meet today at 4 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3720.

College Democrats will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 461-9780.

RELIGION

Wesley Foundation will sponsor a Christian Fellowship Night tonight at 7 at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-4694.

Newman Center will sponsor a student Mass and social tonight at 9 at 1850 Emerald St. For more information, call 343-7021.

MISCELLANEOUS

Outdoor Program will present "The Blizzard of Ahhs" video today at noon in the Outdoor Program office. For more information, call 346-4365.

Career Center will sponsor a workshop, "Finding a Job in the Real World: Job Search Strategies for Graduate Students Seeking Non-academic Employment," today at noon in EMU Cedar Room E. For more information, call 346-6008.

Endangered Species Group will sponsor a "Meet the Manatee" video and discussion today at 1 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 345-3927.

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