

UO offers continuing-education classes

The Continuing Education Program caters to people looking to update their skills

By Ben Romano
Higher Education Reporter

The University offers courses for Oregonians who never want to stop learning. The Continuing Education Program has classes and seminars as well as courses through Distance Education "to serve the educational needs of all Oregon residents."

The program is open to people who are not from Oregon as well. CEP caters to professionals who are looking to update their skills, program director

Curtis Lind said.

Other students are preparing for a second career or learning new skills to stay competitive in their current occupations, he added.

"Almost everything we do is technology based," Lind said. The program offers classes and seminars on topics ranging from Web page authoring to multimedia presentations.

The program serves approximately 300 people per month, Lind said. The majority of these students take 12 to 15 hours of classes, usually in the form of weekend seminars.

Community colleges offer similar curriculums, but "the pace in

the classes is more rigorous" in CEP, Lind said. CEP classes also cost more than community college classes, averaging about \$200.

For students who are not near one of the continuation centers, such as the Portland and Beaverton locations, CEP offers a variety of Distance Education courses. These courses are taught entirely online, partially online or through traditional correspondence, Lind said.

"[Distance Education] provides access to those for whom access is a problem," Lind said. People with schedules that will not allow them to attend traditional classes can also benefit from this

program.

Classes offered through Distance Education include astronomy, economics and political science.

There is no one-on-one student interaction in the entirely online classes. This can be a disadvantage for some students, Lind said.

"Student learning is equivalent, but the process is very different," Lind said. "Distance Education isn't for everyone."

CEP offers courses beginning spring and summer terms. For registration information, call (800) 824-2714, or visit the Continuing Education Web site at center.uoregon.edu.

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Study finds brief use of diet pill not harmful

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A study released Tuesday found no sign that brief use of the diet pill Redux caused dangerously leaky heart valves, as many feared when the medicine was withdrawn from the market last September.

The study, conducted at Georgetown University, appears to largely exonerate Redux, a prescription appetite suppressant. It found the medicine is no more likely than sugar pills to seriously harm the heart during the two or three months that most people took it.

However, it did not rule out the possibility that taking Redux for many months — as the drug was intended to be used — could have harmed people. It also did not ex-

amine whether the chemically similar phen-fen, which was pulled from drugstores at the same time as Redux, is bad for the heart valves.

"These results should be reassuring for the majority of patients who have been on Redux," said Dr. Neil J. Weissman, who directed the study.

His study is the first large, carefully controlled experiment to see whether Redux truly caused the damage that many suspected.

Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, which makes Redux and fenfluramine — the fen in phen-fen — pulled both drugs off the market at the request of the Food and Drug Administration. The government acted after a Mayo Clinic team reported 24 cases of heart valve problems among people taking phen-fen.



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