

University attempts to make admissions process faster

By Tricia Schwennesen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Applying for admission to the University may get a little easier. What used to be a tedious process of applying — mailing off all your pertinent life information and then waiting for weeks for a reply — has changed with the possibility of applying in person and getting a same-day response.

About 70 potential students applied for admission as part of Duck Preview activities at the University on Nov. 15. Duck Preview attracted about 1,500 potential students.

Director of Admissions Martha Pitts said the application process is actually on-site admissions counseling, not formal admission. Counseling provided students

with help if the student did not meet minimum admissions requirements.

"We are not an open admission school," Pitts said. "We are a selective admission school."

Tracy Lampman, associate director of admissions, said the on-site admissions counseling was a unique opportunity in a pilot program.

"It's possible we could expand it,

but I don't know of any plans to offer it in any other arena," she said.

Lampman said the pilot will be evaluated and may become a regular feature of Duck Preview.

Interested students at the preview supplied their application for admission, an official copy of their transcripts, SAT scores and paid the application fee at Duck Preview.

"Most of the students that came were admissible, and we were able to let them know they were admissible," Pitts said.

Applications were reviewed and evaluated by admissions counselors. Students were then notified that they met the necessary requirements, and formal letters of admission were mailed out to those students a week later, she said.

"We did not want to be a thumbs up or thumbs down school," Pitts said. "The students and their families felt very well served."

Mike Kirk, a freshman architecture major and Duck Preview volunteer, said on-site admissions counseling is a good idea.

"It cuts down on the waiting," he said. "Plus, when you go to a campus and walk around, you get a different feel for things."

Amy Elder, a sophomore elementary education major, said on-line admissions counseling may encourage some students to procrastinate on applying and take for granted that they will be admitted.

Elder said she waited at least three months to find out if her transfer application had been approved.

"I was nervous about getting in," Elder said. "It would have eased my mind and I would have been able to plan ahead."

"It would have been nice — I would have known if I could stay in Eugene to get a four-year degree or if I needed to look at other options."

Kirk said it's important for interested people to talk to current students about what campus life is really like.

"I think that's the real deciding factor for kids," he said. "It's the realistic stuff, the part you have to live with every day of your life."

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