NU departments garner special accreditation

It's been known for some months that all three University campuses have been fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools until 1976.

But the frosting on the cake is the specialized accreditation that is awarded some University departments by national professional accrediting associations in their respective fields, according to University vice president Mark Hobson. Every department in the University of Nebraska system that is "eligible" for specialized accreditation has been awarded it except the art department, Hobson said.

"Eligible" programs are those with a corresponding national accrediting association to evaluate them. Usually, the national accrediting groups revolve around a professional area. The political science department, English department and math department among others, are not given

"specialized" accreditation because there is no national group to award it.

The art department has never applied for specialized accreditation because the general accreditation of the University is sufficient, according to Robert Spence, art department chairman.

"The national art accreditation is intended to help out schools that are not parts of accredited institutions, like the Chicago Art Institute or the Kansas City Art Institute," Spence said.

"This is a well-regarded institution and a well-regarded art department, and we've never felt it necessary to document that."

He said Nebraska students never have difficulty with admission to graduate schools because the art department lacks specialized accreditation.

"Our reputation is good enough to stand on its own," he said.

New programs, like UNL's industrial engineering program, are not awarded specialized accreditation until at least the first class graduates, Hobson said.

"No accrediting group even wants to look at accreditation until graduates emerge," Hobson

Frequently accreditation applies to licensing laws in professional fields. If a student shows he has graduated from an accredited institution, he has an

advantage in obtaining a license to practice his profession.

"The first graduates of the new industrial engineering program shouldn't have any trouble getting their licenses because all other engineering programs and many in the College of Arts and Sciences have specialized accreditation," Hobson said. "A majority of their hours will be under fully accredited programs."

General accreditation by: North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

Applies to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln University of Nebraska-Omaha University of Nebraska Medical Center

Specialized accreditation by: National Recognized Professional Accrediting Associations

The following departments on all three campuses have specialized accreditation by national

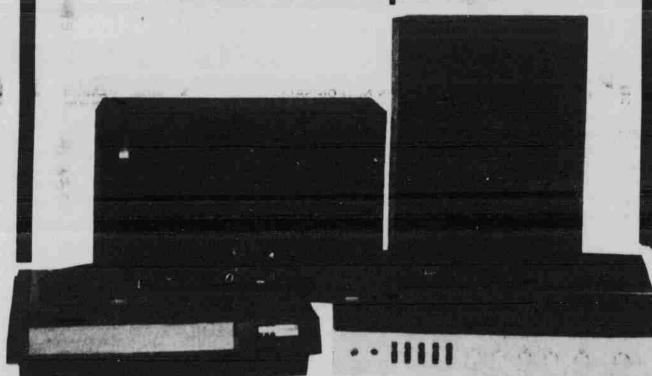
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