

University Studies— alternative education

by Jane Owens

"The University Studies Program isn't meant for everyone. It's designed for people with sufficient academic motivation to plan their own undergraduate education," according to John Scholz, University Studies program director.

Speaking to the Arts and Sciences Advisory Board last week, Scholz said the University Studies program offers a student the "least structured" way of getting a bachelor of arts or sciences degree at the University.

The program was approved by the Arts and Sciences college faculty last week. It permits a student to work with a faculty adviser to set up his own degree requirements.

The program will waive group and hour requirements for graduation and also the requirement that a student have a major.

However, students in the program must have a field of concentration, which can be specially designed, Scholz said.

Students also are expected to take about 60 per cent of their credit hours in regular University courses, Scholz said.

Students in the program also will be encouraged to take special University Studies courses, Scholz said. Two such courses, dealing with "human biology" and "writing and the forms of knowledge" will be offered next semester.

Students also can earn credit for supervised educational projects, including field work, study abroad or job experience during at least one summer, Scholz said.

One of the unique aspects of the program is the close relationship a student has with faculty advisers during his college years, the director noted.

A student and his adviser will use contracts as a means to evaluate independent study, Scholz said.

The 150 students participating in the University Studies program will be chosen on the basis of "academic competence," according to Scholz.

Admission to the program depends more on evidence of strong learning motivation than on aptitude test scores, he added.

"This program will be most useful to the person who has a good idea of what he wants to study," Scholz said.

Interested students should contact Scholz concerning admission to the program.

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