

1,200 UNL students shortchanged by aid cutbacks

By Nancy Stohs

Work-study, student loans, scholarships and grants once gave low-income students a means of financing a college education.

For about 1,200 UNL

students this fall, difficult-to-get federally-insured bank loans or part-time jobs seem to be the only avenues left. Either that or drop out of school.

That's the estimated

number of UNL students out of 6,000 who applied on time but were shortchanged this fall because of federal student aid cutbacks of \$754,954 last spring.

This does not include 700

or 800 late applicants who weren't given funds, according to Jack Ritchie, financial aids director.

The application deadline for incoming freshmen was Feb. 15 and March 1, 1973 for upperclassmen.

No funds were given students with financial needs of \$1,400 or less. Financial need is determined by family income.

According to Ritchie, federal funds were denied because the 43% figure of financially needy students estimated by UNL in their fund application, was so much higher than the state college average.

Ritchie said the cutbacks probably affected the

enrollment drop expected at

The other current option—getting federally-insured loan through the student's hometown bank—promising. Many banks either deny loans to underclassmen or set ceilings on individual or total dollar amounts loaned to students.

In early August, the State Investment Council disbanded Nebraska's student loan program, which had given about 1,100 loans using \$1.2 million in state funds.

The loans were authorized by the 1972 Legislature and permitted the Council to use state employees pension funds to buy federally insured loans made by banks to students.

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