

# Degree combines law, psychology

What do you get when you cross a lawyer with a psychologist?

According to Asst. Psychology Prof. Bruce Sales, director of the law-psychology program, you get a person able to integrate the two fields.

Graduates of the five-year program receive a Ph.D. in psychology and a regular, Juris Doctor, law degree.

The primary objective of the program, as it was designed, is to give the student the necessary skills to do applied research and write on issues and problems in the legal system, in general, and in the criminal and correctional systems, in particular.

Sales cited examination of the jury process and whether or not it insures a defendant a fair and impartial trial, prison reform, problems and crime and delinquency problems as probably subject areas for students' study.

The law-psychology program is the first one in the country, Sales said. The interdisciplinary model itself is not new, but the law-psychology combination is, he added.

The program was approved last spring by the NU Board of Regents. Information about the program was sent to national law, psychology, sociology and political science societies and to colleges and universities across the country.

Applicant response has been excellent, Sales said. Over 1000 applications have been received to date, he said.

Of the 55 applications received for the 1974-75 year, 5 were accepted, he said.

The program's students are counted in with psychology graduate students, so there is no increase in the psychology department's total graduate student number. The students are counted in the law college as regular law students. This eventually, as five students are added yearly, will increase the teacher-student class load.

Right now, Sales said, the five students are taking first year law courses. The second summer session after the first year the law-psychology students will take law and social sciences.

According to Sales, in the next year to year and a half undergraduate courses will be offered in the law and psychology or sociology area.

Eventually, Sales said, courses in the law and psychology program will be open with special permission to second or third year law students, all Ph.D. graduates and persons in behavioral or social science graduate programs.

Interdisciplinary courses of this kind "increase the efficiency of the university," Sales said.


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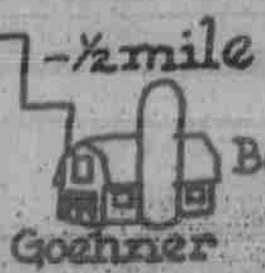
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