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Interest increasing in benefits for part-time university students

Although the figure hasn't reached the national level of 57 per cent, the proportion of part-time UNL students has been rising and now stands at 26.63 per cent for second semester.

Part-time students are being called the "new majority" in higher education, and this growing number of part-time students has led to an increased interest in the benefits and privileges extended to part-time students.

According to a 1974 American Council on Education (ACE) report on Financing of Higher Education for Adult Students, "part-time students on the whole are massively discriminated against in federal and state institutional aid programs, Social Security survivor's benefits, tuition rates and financial aid programs."

At UNL, most grants, with the exception of the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, and all Social Security benefits are awarded to full-time students only, according to Doug Severs, Financial Aid Counselor.

Priority

Positions in the work-study program and National Direct Student loans may be granted to part-time students only after full-time students whose applications reached the office before the deadline have been taken care of, Severs said.

The definition of part-time student changes among the various departments of the university. Enrollment figures for part-time students are based on the classification of students carrying 12 or more hours as full-time, while those with 11 or less are considered part-time. This is also the classification the financial aids office uses.

The Bursar's Office classifies a part-time student as someone taking from four to six hours, and said that fees are different for full- and part-time students, but that both pay a tuition rate of \$18 an hour.

Students taking from four to six hours pay \$47 in fees for the semester while full-time

students pay a semester fee of \$61.50.

Health care

According to Dr. Ken Hubble, director of the University Health Center, anyone carrying four or more hours is entitled to full health center benefits. Student's fees include \$25 for health care.

If students taking less than four hours can show that their primary vocation is that of a student, they can either pay the \$25 fee and receive service for the semester, or pay seven dollars for each office visit, plus a rate for laboratory and pharmacy work which is 50 per cent higher than that charged to students.

According to the Office of University Housing students

taking six or more hours are allowed to live in a residence hall. Under certain circumstances, students taking less than six hours may receive permission from Richard Armstrong, director of housing, to have a residence hall room.

According to Dean Waddel, associate dean of libraries, anyone who can prove that he is a registered student, full- or part-time, may use the libraries and check out books.

The UNL Athletic Ticket Office indicated that only full-time students are given special price rates and the right to buy student tickets to athletic events. Part-time students are treated the same as the general public.

daily nebraskan

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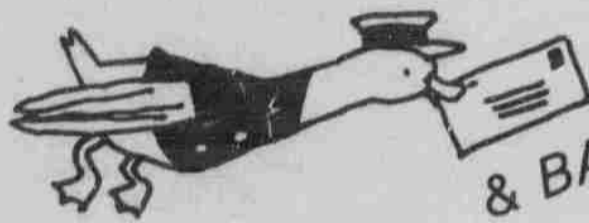
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