



For the 220 high school students who have been living and attending daily classes on the UNL campus, it's over. The University's All-State program will end today.

It wasn't easy, but for the students, it's probably over all too soon.

"It's a real test of endurance, for the kids as well as the teachers," said Pat Rowan, associate professor of art. "It's a very comprehensive program."

Rowan, who has taught sculpture to All-State students for four summers, had his students working on body casts. The room in Richards Hall where they were working was a confusion of wood scraps, wire frames, buckets of water and about 30 students plastering each other with strips of cloth. An FM radio blared in the background.

Rowan explained why they were working on body casts.

"It's a way to get them involved with larger work. It helps them to get to know each other, gets them loose and free. It's a good place to start."

All-State students come from all over the state, said Earl Green, coordinator of the program.

"There is no selection process," he said. Involvement in the program depends on cooperation of high schools across the state and student interest.

Most of the cost of the program is paid for by the students themselves, Green said. Tuition was \$215 per student for the 16-day program.

For most of those students, the program involved a long day, beginning at eight in the morning and lasting until 10 p.m.

Music students spent most of those hours practicing in Westbrook Music Building.

According to Jack Snider, UNL band director, they were required to be involved in two out of three major activities: orchestra, band and chorus. Each activity called for an hour's worth of practice each morning, followed by sectional practice during the afternoon. Besides those activities, students could also sign up for swing choir, jazz band or piano classes.

As for all the work, "they thrive on it," Snider said.

The schedule for dance students at Mabel Lee Hall was just as full. Besides basic and advanced ballet courses, All-State students were introduced to modern and interpretive dance forms.

This year, for the first time, the program offered a theater program for All-Staters.

Green said the All-State program aimed to help students become more capable in their interests.

"It helps them to hone some skills and become more competent," he said. And the program acquaints them with the university environment. But the social aspect is just as important.

"The students get an opportunity to live with other students that share like interests," he said. "I think that's very good and wholesome."



Photos and story by Steve Boerner