

# High-GPA engineers get priority

By Lynn Mongar

Inadequate financial resources have forced the College of Engineering and Technology to tighten admissions standards, according to the college's dean.

Acting Dean Lyle Young said that although enrollment has increased more than 50 percent, few new instructors have been hired. More than 3,000 students are now enrolled in the Lincoln and Omaha engineering colleges, Young said.

The new admissions policy requires students to maintain a 2.0 grade point average. And, if more students register than classroom space permits, the student with the highest grade point average will receive priority.

"Juniors with a shaky grade point average may not get the classes they need," he said.

However, Young said accommodations have been made for graduating seniors.

Civil Engineering Professor Mark Hammer said the policy is designed to educate those students with the greatest desire and ability for engineering.

"We're attempting to minimize the heartache for individuals before they get too far along in the program."

Student reaction to the policy has been mixed. Junior engineering student, Todd Flaska, said the policy has not kept him from taking any classes.

"It's probably the only thing they can do," he said.

However, Jeff Lindstrom senior mechanical engineering student, opposes the new policy.

"I think it's discriminating against people taking non-engineering courses."

Students are admitted on the basis of their first three semesters' work, which Lindstrom said, is mainly math and physics courses.

"I've done a lot better in my mechanical engineering courses than I did in my math and physics courses," he added.

Limited financial resources also hamper the college's attempt to attract new faculty members.

Young said faculty salaries must be raised about 15 percent to be competitive with salaries offered to engineers by industry. He said there are 11 faculty positions open this fall.

"Some of the faculty members are out looking for jobs now," Young said. "We've lost some good faculty members."

Young said faculty salaries can't be raised until the taxpayers give more financial support to the school.

The best way students can alleviate the situation is to ask their parents to support the school financially, according to Young.

He also said students will benefit from the 10 percent tuition increase, because it will upgrade the quality of education.



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