

SAT schedule changed

A reduction in the number of times the Scholastic Aptitude Test is given will have little effect on UNL enrollment but could cause problems for high schools students, a university official said.

Al Papik, UNL director of admissions, said the new "truth-in-testing" law would have little effect on UNL enrollment. The law requires testing organizations to file their standardized tests with the state director of education within 30 days of the test scores' release.

Only about 3,000 to 4,000 students take the SAT, Papik said, because most UNL students take the American College Test. The ACT isn't specified in the "truth-in-testing" law, he said.

The SAT will be offered only four times instead of eight during the first six months of 1980, which will handi-

cap high school seniors, Papik said. There will be extra pressure on seniors, who will have to schedule a Saturday testing date, he said.

Papik said many colleges are using the SAT and ACT scores for strict admittance requirements. But after a year-long study into the possibility of selective admission, the NU Board of Regents decided to continue an open admittance policy.

However, Papik said, UNL still is fairly selective because students with below-average grades in high school probably will not go to college.

Papik said regents are looking into the possibility of raising the minimum grade point average a student can have before he is placed on scholastic probation. He said the regents are considering a uniform GPA standard for all three NU campuses.

Students race for SA . . .

By Patti Gallagher

For those working desperately to make last month's paycheck stretch to cover next month's rent, free room and board for 18 hours of work a week might not sound too bad.

Perhaps that is what prompted more than 200 people to apply for positions as student assistants in UNL residence halls this semester.

According to Richard McKinnon assistant director of Housing and Resident Education, 220 students have applied for SA jobs since the posters went up three weeks ago. With one SA per floor—and two on the larger floors of Abel Hall—118 will be accepted.

The deadline for picking up application forms for SA is today at 5 p.m. and applications will be accepted through Feb. 18. Forms are available in the Housing Office at Seaton Hall, room 1101.

All UNL students with at least a 2.5 grade point average, are eligible for a student assistant position, McKinnon said. Although junior or senior class standing is preferred, all levels are considered. SAs do not have to have been former dormitory residents, he said.

Applicants can ask for a specific floor or hall, he said.

Not stringent

The requirements for an SA are not stringent, according to Complex Director Elaine Greene. Those who select the SAs are "not looking for a personality type," Greene said.

There are "helpful variables in personality, but more than one type of personality can become an SA," she said.

Two qualities an SA should have, or be

willing to attain, are the ability to communicate and willingness to work, according to both directors.

The primary role of an SA is that of "helping students make the most of their living arrangements," McKinnon said. "They can, as needed, provide information, support, and contact with resource agencies."

In a single week, an SA may take on the role of academic adviser, social worker, counselor, disciplinarian, proxi-mother or father, and friend.

From helping "to develop a supportive environment," to enforcing university policy, to programming floor workshops on sexual relationships or alcohol use, McKinnon said SAs "encourage the development of a sense of community."

Open time

Although the SA is required to schedule only 18 hours weekly, he or she also must leave time open each week to be available to floor residents, McKinnon said.

"Some find it takes more time than they had anticipated and that it might limit them," he said. "But some find it the most exciting thing they've ever done."

Because availability is a major function of the student assistant, they are not allowed to hold outside employment, McKinnon said.

Exceptions to this rule are made however, if the employment is relevant to a student's academic training, he added.

Getting a free semester's housing should not be the most attractive feature for SAs, McKinnon said. "If they're in it just for the money, then it's probably not worth it."

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A survey to judge the effectiveness of the off-campus job bulletin board in the Administration Building has received only minimal response, according to Gail Wheeler of the UNL Financial Aids Office.

Wheeler, who circulated the survey, said only 18 students have filled it out and of those, four have been hired through the service.

Wheeler said the survey is designed to find out how many students were hired, what kinds of jobs students want and how to improve the bulletin board.

Reasons given for not applying for jobs listed were to job location or low pay, she said.

The types of jobs students wanted included career-oriented jobs, late night jobs, tutoring, skilled labor, warehouse work and jobs that allowed study time.

Suggestions for improvement of the board were: provide work applications at the board, post job openings in the Nebraska Union, keep the board up to date and set up tentative interviews in the Financial Aids Office.

In an attempt to keep the board more current, Wheeler said she has sent self-addressed postcards to employers so they can inform her when jobs have been filled.

She said all job openings haven't been posted in the Union because it is hard to keep two job boards current.

Rather than interview students in the Financial Aids Office, most employers prefer that job descriptions on the board are written as accurately as possible, Wheeler said.

There is a definite shortage of career-oriented jobs, Wheeler said, but added that she intends to spend time this summer finding employers with jobs that relate to students' academic work.

Usually when a student wants a job related to his course of study, Wheeler said she will brainstorm with the student and call companies that might hire him.

She said many employers have posted jobs for years with the UNL Financial Aids Office. The office also seeks employers by phone, in person and by advertising in a brochure sent to 2,000 employers in Lincoln.

Brochures for summer jobs are to be sent the second or third week of March and summer job information should be posted by the end of March, she said. However, some employers won't respond until April, she added.

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