Liberal-arts programs improve

UNL curriculum requires liberal-arts emphasis in majors

By Kip Fry Staff Reporter

UNL is one of many colleges and universities nationwide upgrading their liberal-arts programs. The trend has been toward more vocational subjects in recent years. But things are starting to change.

"Things go in waves," said John Yost, UNL vice chancellor for research and dean of graduate studies. "We've been very much a part of the national resurgence. We have given attention to improving education, which has to do with liberal arts.'

Yost was a member of the Chancellor's Commission on General Education, which recommended this fall that students be required to take a minimum of 29 hours of liberal-arts education at UNL, about one-fourth of their program. Education reformation

UNL is among the two-thirds of the nation's colleges and universities that have reformed general education in the past decade, he said.

Not only has there been revamping in the curriculum, such as making a course in western civilization a requirement. Yost said that it is the enthusiasm of faculty members that really makes the difference. Because of this, students are more likely to give greater attention to the communication skills they will find valuable later in life, he said.

"Some want to move to an era of the great books, while others are more interested in an interdisciplinary program," Yost said. "It is not possible to return nostalgically to the liberal arts. Liberal education is most appropriate for the technological age. It's a

Students are no longer apt to hold the attitude of the late 1970s that asked what one was going to do with a philosophy major, according to Stephen Milliard, assistant dean of the college

Now they are starting to think that

tremendous challenge.

of arts and sciences. Going to the

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it could lead to some useful careers," practical, he said. Hilliard said.

they might get in business, especially if ment of Teaching called for a general they have to shift three, four or five improvement of higher education. times in a career," said Frederick Link, Chancellor Yost said that the report chairman of the English department. supports "liberal education through an **Enriched** majors

"The world and the future is uncertain enough that students say that they are there will be no added requirements, instead of what is practical," Link said. arts components in each major course Hopefully students will discover that of study. English, philosophy and history are

A report recently completed by the "Students are worried about jobs Carnegie Foundation for the Advanceenriched major."

By emphasizing liberal education, going to do what they want to do, Yost said but rather, stronger liberal-

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