

## GPA standards lowered

**David award easier**By Kip Fry  
Staff Reporter

Students with David Scholarships will no longer have to maintain a near-4.0 grade point average to keep their awards, said James Griesen, interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

Starting next fall, students will only have to keep an accumulated yearly GPA of 3.5, Griesen said.

The former system created problems because some scholarship students avoided "challenging courses" to keep their high GPAs.

"I don't think that's proper," he said. Griesen also said students in colleges which tend to be tougher, such as engineering, are not as apt to keep their high GPAs, making it harder for them to keep their scholarships.

David Scholarships are awarded by ACT scores and class ranks for incoming freshmen and by GPA for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

The David Scholarship received by about 283 students increased from \$500 to \$800 a year in fall 1985.

Questions about the standards were raised initially when the scholarship's trustee learned of the frustration students were feeling, Griesen said. The trustee did not like the fact that certain students were ineligible for renewals even though their GPAs were as high as 3.8.

The change has been approved by the Faculty Senate Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aid and Chancellor Martin Massengale. Although the change has not been approved officially from the trustee, Griesen said, it is expected.

The John C. and Nettie V. David Trust, from which the scholarship money comes, has an approximate annual income of \$210,000 that can be used for distribution, Griesen said. The trust was started by the Davids' son, Adrian, who graduated from the UNL law school in 1908.

**Scholarship deadline Monday for need-based financial aid**

Monday is the deadline for students who want to apply for need-based scholarships for the 1987-88 school year at UNL. Upperclass students who are applying for scholarships only, where need is not a factor, must apply by March 2.

Students must complete a financial-aid form, which will also serve as an application for other scholarships, loans and need-based UNL funds, said Bill McFarland, director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Students applying only for summer-session financial aid can apply March 3 through 30.

To be considered a priority applicant for any federal or institutional funds, including loans, students must turn in a financial aid form before April 11. A student can apply to receive a Pell Grant or Guaranteed Student Loan without being a priority applicant.

Students applying for need-based aid must be admitted to UNL in a degree-seeking or certificate program by April 1 to be eligible for aid.

**Workshop offered**

The Counseling Division of Student Center 4 will offer an opportunity for married students and spouses to learn and practice their communications skills. The first workshop will meet on four Mondays, Feb. 2 through 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. To register, contact Sue at 472-3461.

**Fast-talking forensic team argues into nation's top 20**By Stephanie Averill  
Staff Reporter

No experience is necessary to join one UNL team that's ranked in the nation's top 20.

Ask senior speech-communications major John Fritch. He admits that when he went to his first forensic tournament as a freshman, he had no idea what was going on.

But Fritch kept debating. And at first he kept losing. In fact, when he and his current partner, junior speech-communications major Brad Walker, first teamed up three years ago their record was 8-35.

But they've gotten better at arguing, and today they just keep winning. This season they have beaten such traditional debate powers as Redlands (Calif.) University and Baylor (Texas) University, and have a 43-19 record. They and the eight other UNL debate team members are ranked in the top 20 in the nation.

A total of 50 to 75 students are involved in university forensics (speech and debate), Walker said.

Coaches Jack Kay, speech-communications department interim chairman, and Matthew Sobnosky, doctoral student, are like guidance counselors sometimes, Walker said.

Even when faced with especially tough teams, Sobnosky will tell his debaters, "It doesn't matter, you'll win anyway."

Walker, who was involved in speech and debate in junior high and high school, has learned to enjoy his victories. After winning a big debate at the University of Southern California, he said, he felt like kicking his briefcase into the end zone of the football field.

Debate-team members collectively compete in about 15 tournaments coast to coast each year, Sobnosky said. The season begins in September and ends with national competition in late March or early



Linda Story/Daily Nebraskan

**Walker and Fritch**

April.

But he and Fritch try to change their strategy each time. They emphasize constant thinking in their debates, Fritch said.

Fritch and Walker have spent much of their time researching this year's national debate topic — possible

limitations to the first amendment, including the rights of free press and speech.

This weekend, Fritch and Walker will debate at Baylor University. The pair will also debate at Northwestern University March 27 through 30.

**It's eleven p.m.  
Do you know where your paper is?****Yes.**

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