

Applications increase, but...

College of Nursing limited

By Dionne Searcey
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska College of Nursing continues to limit the number of enrollees, although demand for graduates is strong and the number of applicants has risen, an official said.

Mary McMamee, associate dean of the College of Nursing, said more students could not be accepted because instructors needed more time to work with nurses one-on-one and facilities such as clinics were limited. Instructors need to work closely with students to supervise them, she said.

"Nursing is an... intensive kind of study," she said.

Sybil Sedivy, student services adviser at the college, said the college received 329 undergraduate applications for the 1990-91 school year, compared to 290 in 1989-90 and 224 in 1988-89.

Of the 329 applicants, 152 wanted to enroll at the Lincoln campus. The program located in Fairfield Hall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln may be more popular because UNL has residence halls and more campus activity, said Donna Baker, executive director of the Nebraska Nurses Association.

Admission to the Scottsbluff campus was requested by 35 applicants and admission to the University of Nebraska Medical Center's campus by 142.

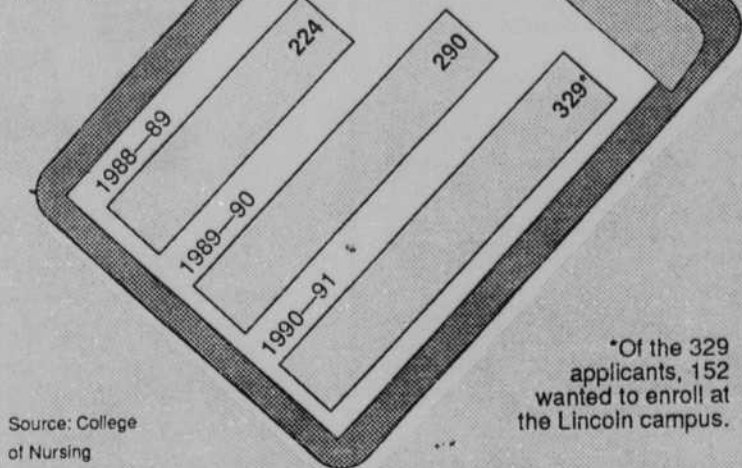
Only 75 applicants are accepted into the Lincoln program. The Omaha and Scottsbluff programs are limited to 75 and 25 students.

Sedivy said the increasing number of applicants should have one benefit -- making the college more competitive, thereby raising standards for admission.

Sheila Exstrom, nursing education consultant in the Bureau of Examining Boards, said the number of applicants was increasing because students

Rise in College of Nursing applications

Number of applicants, 1988-91.



Source: College of Nursing

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Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

find that as nursing graduates they have no difficulty finding jobs. And as the profession has become less stereotyped as a women's career, more men have become interested, she said.

The need for nurses is growing, too, as technology increases, Exstrom said, because people are living longer and need more medical care.

A slight increase in nurse's salaries also have boosted interest in the field, she said. Salaries range from \$8 to \$15 an hour in western Nebraska to \$12 to \$15 an hour in eastern Nebraska.

Five new associate degree nursing schools have opened for the 1990-91 school year in community colleges across the state, Exstrom said. The

added programs could alleviate the demand on the university's program and help satisfy the growing number of interested students, she said.

The schools will be located on the campuses at Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, Omaha and Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

Exstrom said 25 to 35 students per campus are admitted into the program.

Sedivy said the new programs should help NU's program. The registered nurses graduating from the community colleges hopefully will apply to the University of Nebraska's nursing program to obtain their bachelor's degrees, she said.



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Terry Blue, guitarist for the band David Basse and the City Light Orchestra, jams during the Bluesfest at Broyhill Plaza on Wednesday.

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