

UNL College Directory

University colleges diverse in mission, philosophy, goals

By Mindy Wilson
Staff Reporter

Agriculture



It's more than just agriculture. The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources deals with a broad array of academic programs, said Donald Edwards, the college's dean.

"It serves agricultural, foods, agribusiness and natural resource programs," Edwards said.

Much of this variety has just recently been implemented, Edwards said.

In the past two years, he said, the college has put in place 10 new majors and changed the name of the college. Now the college, which has 1,260 undergraduate students and 525 graduate students, offers 21 majors, Edwards said.

The college also offers many outside opportunities, he said. It encourages internships, Edwards said, and it has an active alumni association that continues to work with students after graduation.

One of the goals of the college, he said, is to help at-risk students.

"We feel that every student who enters this college should graduate," Edwards said.

And after they graduate, students have ample opportunities for jobs, Edwards said. But, he said, students need to be flexible in the type of job they are looking for and the area they want to live in.

Architecture



The College of Architecture is one of a kind — at least in Nebraska.

Joseph Luther, assistant dean of the College of Architecture, said the college offers the only professional architecture program in the entire state.

The college has about 425 undergraduate students and 125 graduate students, Luther said. This number is kept small by high admission standards, as students need to have an ACT score of 22, a SAT score of 970 or finished in the upper one fourth of their graduating high school class to be admitted to the college.

These higher standards lead to a "fast-paced and competitive college," Luther said. Many students are turned away, he said, but the quality of education is higher because classes are smaller.

"The program is very narrowly focused on architecture," Luther said.

To become a professional architect, he said, students must complete 127 hours on the undergraduate level and an additional 52 hours of graduate work.

While working toward a degree, Luther said, students concentrate on two areas — art and science. This gives them a balance between their right and left brains, he said.

And the college offers students outside opportunities, Luther said, such as a placement program for internships and international exchange programs. The college has a women's program, he said, and is starting a chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects this year.

Arts & Sciences



Diversity. That's what students get in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Anne Kopera, the coordinator of advising for the college, said this diversity is an advantage.

The college offers more than 50 majors and minors, Kopera said, "from dance to math to psychology."

The diversity of this broad, liberal arts college gives students a wide variety of classes to choose from, Kopera said. And after graduation, she said, there are numerous options students can pursue with their degrees.

The college, which has 4,600 to 4,700 students, is the oldest and largest college at the university, Kopera said. It acts as a service college to all the other colleges, she said, in that students from other colleges meet general requirements by taking classes in the arts and sciences college. This provides a basic education for all students who graduate from UNL, Kopera said.

Business Administration



What makes the College of Business Administration unique?

According to Nancy Stara, the college's associate dean, it's the close relationship the college has with the business community. This relationship is then passed on to the students, she said.

Dvec Buss, the college's director of advising, said the college, which has over 3,000 undergraduate students and offers nine majors, keeps good relations by working closely with several corporations in the area. The corporations sponsor workshops in which stu-

dents learn to enhance their leadership skills, she said.

Also, these corporations often invite students to visit and see how the businesses operate on a day-to-day basis, Buss said.

Besides these benefits, Buss said, the college offers other opportunities to students through study abroad programs, as well as with the more than 17 student organizations within the college.

Currently, the business college is undergoing some changes. There have been some alterations in the curriculum, including allowing students to have minors in certain non-business areas, Buss said.

And, Buss said, the college is building onto its facilities. The new addition, she said, will have more classrooms and space for students to study, and will be open within the next year to year and a half.

Journalism



The intense dedication of its students makes the College of Journalism outstanding, said Will Norton Jr., the college's dean.

The journalism college offers three areas of study — advertising, broadcasting and news-editorial. Each of these areas require a large commitment on the part of the student, Norton said.

The college requires students to take five core courses with long labs. Each of these courses call for detailed assignments that involve long hours both in and out of class, but these courses prepare students for their future careers, Norton said.

After these five core courses are completed, Norton said, the students then take theory courses, which give them a perspective on the meaning of the skills and information they've already learned.

The commitment that it takes to complete the difficult courses helps to make Nebraska graduates exceptional, Norton said.

The journalism college, which has about 1,000 students, is "always considered one of the top colleges in the country," Norton said. When UNL students compete against other journalism students, they do very well, and this brings attention to the university, he said.

This year, Norton said, the broadcasting and news-editorial departments finished fourth and sixth, respectively, in national competitions. And UNL had students gain three out of 40 internships in the country given by DOW Jones, while no other school had more than one, he said.

Engineering



In the College of Engineering and Technology, students are given a solid foundation for the future.

Kerry Shepherd, communications coordinator for the college, said that for this foundation, the college offers a broad education, which is complemented by study in engineering methods.

The result, Shepherd said, is that students are taught to design systems and processes to solve "problems arising in any conceivable area of modern life." These areas include the environment, transportation, energy, communications and information processing, she said.

The college, which has more than 2,000 students, has a faculty that is committed to providing a quality education, Shepherd said. One way this is accomplished, she said, is by keeping the ratio of students-to-faculty low; the college's ratio is 12 to one.

Besides having outstanding faculty, Shepherd said, the college also has outstanding students. Its students rank at the top of the Big Eight and surrounding universities on the basis of ACT and SAT scores, she said, and after graduation, these students are recruited by government agencies, industrial companies and the top graduate schools in the country.

Nursing



They're in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney and Scottsbluff.

Who are they? They're students in the College of Nursing, which has campuses in four locations.

According to the College of Nursing's Dean Rosalee Yeaworth, this attracts students to the college.

"We're one of the few colleges that gives them a choice of campuses," she said.

And, Yeaworth said, students come to the college because of the reputation of the faculty.

"They really care about the students," she said.

During their training at the college, which has 790 undergraduate students and 135 students on the graduate level, students get a wide range of experiences, Yeaworth said.

Students are trained to care for all ages, "from premature infants to the elderly," Yeaworth said. Also, students learn how to give care in home, hospital and nursing home situations,

she said.

After graduation, Yeaworth said, the students of the college are sought after by employers.

"Our students are seen as valuable by employers of nursing students," Yeaworth said.

Teachers College



In the Teachers College, getting outside experience is important.

James O'Hanlon, the college's dean, said that besides student teaching, students get experience through practicums. Students are required to have at least one semester of practicum experience, he said, but most have a practicum for a period of several years.

The college has about 2,000 undergraduate students, O'Hanlon said. But it also has an additional 500 students on the graduate level who have already received a degree from another college and have come back to get their teaching certification, he said.

Students in the college have an advantage, O'Hanlon said, in that relations between teachers and students are close. The professors are coaches and mentors to their students, he said.

The college also has several outstanding programs, O'Hanlon said. The special education and speech pathology programs are strong, and a new elementary program has received national publicity for its quality, he said.

Home Economics



It's about caring for people, changing lives and making a difference.

This is the College of Home Economics, said Karen Craig, dean of the college. The programs offered in the college are action-oriented, Craig said, and they develop professionals who are useful in everyday society.

The college, which has about 1,000 undergraduate students and 125 graduate students, offers programs in consumer science and education, human development and the family, nutritional science and hospitality management and textiles, clothing and design.

The programs are related to current topics, Craig said, such as dietetics is related to healthy living and fashion merchandising is related to retailing.

"We use the basics as a framework to build skills that people use to solve problems in everyday life," Craig said.