

New students fight for classes

By Catherine Blalock
Staff Reporter

Increased enrollment at UNL has left many students scrambling to find a seat in their required 100-level courses.

Clay Wolf knows this all too well. The projected enrollment increase of 500 students, mainly freshmen, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has put a strain on the entry-level classes — not to mention Wolf and others like him.

Wolf, a freshman psychology major, went through New Student Enrollment in May, trying to avoid the heralded fight for classes.

His plan didn't work. After a morning filled with NSE activities and a meeting with an adviser, Wolf went to register. Only three of the classes he needed were available.

Wolf then headed back to his adviser for help and tried to register again, this time willing to take his English or math class at any time.

No such luck. For his third trip to the registration computers, Wolf's adviser told him simply to register for whatever classes he could get.

"I was frustrated and mad," Wolf said. "I ended up taking courses I had no interest in."

Some departments are offering more sections for their 100-level courses this fall, but demand generally has been greater than supply.

Gerry Brookes, vice chairman of the English department, said English 150 had a limit of 22 students. Three sections were added this fall, he said, but it still wasn't enough to accommodate students.

Offering more sections is better than increasing the number of students in a classroom, Brooks said.

"Students in bigger classes get less individualized attention," he said.

All English 150 sections are now full. Students wanting to take the class must wait until next semester, Brooks said.

But some students, like Ben Dar-

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Freshman psychology major

ling, had no trouble fitting into wanted classes.

"I was surprised by how easy it was," said Darling, a freshman actuarial science major. "NSE needs to keep doing it like that because it was perfectly set up."

Darling registered for classes during the first part of June and was able to get all the classes he wanted.

The scramble depends on which classes a student wants. Political Science 100 has been one of the more popular classes this fall.

David Forsythe, chairman of the political science department, said three or four sections were added this fall. But the decision was not tied to the increased enrollment, he said.

Class sizes range from 30 students to 75 students, he said. As soon as students could enroll, he said, the sections filled up.

"Most of our introductory courses are full all of the time," Forsythe said.

And overrides are not possible when all seats in the room are filled, he said. Instructors cannot just pack up their things and move to a larger classroom, he said, because there is no place to move.

"The university needs to build more large lecture halls," Forsythe said.

An increase in the political science budget also could ease the strain, Forsythe said. If five more faculty members could be hired, it would help a great deal, he said.

And a rise in students at one end of the spectrum can spell trouble for students on the other. Rob Krueger, who is teaching Math 103, said graduate students teaching math courses are finding it difficult to schedule extra time to grade papers.

"It adds to the work load. There are more assignments and tests to grade," Krueger said.

Usually only 35 students are in a Math 103 class, but those numbers have been expanded to accommodate the students, said Steve Dunbar, vice chairman of the math department. Overrides are allowed, he said.

Not all instructors are finding the increased number of students in a class a problem.

Brian Harbourne, who is teaching Math 106, finds himself in front of a group of 119 students. But Harbourne does not find this to be a problem because several years ago, he taught 90 students in Math 106.

Teaching math to 90 to 120 students is not a problem, he said. A class of that size is not an overload on the instructor, Harbourne said.

Yet some, like Brookes, think those growing class sizes detract from the quality of education.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said that although he would like to avoid growing class size, the university was doing all it could to accommodate students and at least get them enrolled in the classes they needed.

"Our first attempt is to add sections," Griesen said, "not to raise the class limit."

Incoming students need to realize that they don't have to take all their required classes first semester, he said. If students are unable to take an English class first semester, he said, they'll just have to take it later.

Adventure group offers trips

By Sarah Danberg
Staff Reporter

This semester, Outdoor Adventures participants will canoe in Nebraska, cross-country ski in Colorado and tour Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park.

And that's just the beginning, said student guide Becky Dolliver. There are trips planned for all levels of student ability, she said, and for almost everywhere.

The group plans to take a backpacking trip to Mexico next summer. A complete schedule is available at the Campus Recreation Center.

The cost of a trip, which runs

around \$100 for members, includes transportation, meals, equipment, insurance and leaders. Deadlines vary from trip to trip, and about 12 people usually go on each trip, Dolliver said.

In addition to guided trips, the group recently added a resource center, open to anyone wanting advice or help in planning a trip.

The program also sponsors a high-ropes course at Camp Easter Seals in Milford.

Outdoor Adventures, which began in 1971, is both run and funded by students.

"We don't make any money," she said. "It's run for students by students."

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