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News from Western Western KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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THREE PROGRAMS AT WESTERN ADD ACADEMIC DIMENSIONS

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Programs that spell academic awareness will be evident this fall as Western Kentucky University rolls out the red carpet the first day of classes, Monday, August 28.

Dormitories open Saturday and Sunday, August 19 and 20, and several new and revised programs in the academic area will be available to the 1972-73 student when he arrives on campus. They are:

*A new means whereby students may gain academic credit;

*A completely revised Honors Program, including a successful pilot program for high school junior scholars;

*A student exchange program with France.

At its June meeting, the Western Board of Regents approved a request by the Academic Council to implement a proficiency testing program through which students at Western may gain academic credit.

"Credit-by-Examination" is "to help students gain recognition for what they know and can do irrespective of how, where, and when they obtained the knowledge," said members of the committee on proficiency testing in their report seeking approval by Western Academic Council. Through the "Credit-by-Examination" program, students have four ways in which they may "demonstrate, by means of proficiency examinations, a specified level of competence," explains Dr. Ronnie Sutton, head of the committee and associate dean for Scholastic Development at Western. These are:

*The College Level Examination Program (ACT);

*The Advanced Placement Program (APP) of the College Entrance Examination Board;

*American College Testing Program (ACT);

*Departmental Examinations developed by a faculty committee in campus departments.

"What a person knows is more important than how and when he came to know it," the committee report stated in its initial request for approval.

The second and third areas of increased academic awareness at Western include a reorganized Honors Program and institution of a student exchange program with France, both headed by Dr. Paul R. Cortis, assistant professor of speech and theatre at Western.

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(more)

At its January meeting, the Western Board of Regents named Dr. Corts Director of the University Honors Program and called for the appointment of a committee composed of faculty representatives from the colleges at Western, in addition to two student representatives from the Honors Program.

According to its new director, re-examination of the Honors Program's objectives led to making special programs available to all students with 3.3 averages and above -- "approximately six to ten percent of the full-time student population at Western," says Dr. Corts, and opening of the program to superior high school students.

Implementation of the first high school junior scholars program in which Western recruited 15 top high school juniors from across the state was the first practical step initiated by the Honors Program committee.

The committee also has taken immediate action in the following ways:

- *Formation of a campaign to familiarize the faculty and student body with honors;
- *Development of a new advisement program for honor students;
- *Encouragement of honor students to utilize the advanced placement program;
- *Proposal of a course development to include an honors colloquium, special topic and independent investigations.

A program for the travel-oriented student adds another dimension to the rapidly growing academic awareness at Western. The Western Kentucky University in France Program was also approved this spring by the Board of Regents.

Six students will spend nine months at the University of Montpellier in October. In exchange for each five Western students, the University of Montpellier will send one of its students to Bowling Green, says Dr. Corts, who is also heading this program.

Dr. Corts says the Western in France program is open to students from all subject areas -- not just French majors -- and a student may study any field offered by the French University. From Sept. 7-30, Western students will attend an accelerated French language study at Leon to prepare them for their regular classes at Montpellier.

In this program, students may earn as many as 30 semester hours for the year, says Corts.