

COUNSELING, LEARNING AND CAREER SERVICES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Learning Skills Center · A332 Jester Center · Austin, Texas 78784 · (512)471-3614

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Dr. John Ruszkiewicz Director, Freshman English

Dr. Light German Coordinator, English Writing Lab

Dr. Lance Bertelsen Assistant Professor, English

FROM:

Pat Heard

Coordinator, Learning Skills Center

DATE: April 1, 1986

Thank you for arranging to meet with those of us who are beginning to make preliminary plans for this summer's "PREVIEW" group. Perhaps it will facilitate your own thinking about all of this in advance of our meeting if I share a little of what's been discussed in our previous three meetings that might affect students' enrollment in English 306 during the second summer session.

There will be approximately 75 freshman minority students involved in the program, 30 of whom may be Engineering students. It has not yet been decided whether they will be primarily "high risk" students, high achievers, or a mixture of the two. All will probably be regularly admitted students rather than provisional students, but some may have fairly low SAT scores while being in the top quarter of their high school class.

Most students will not take the Math and English placement tests until they arrive on campus one week before the beginning of the second summer session. They will be enrolled in two courses: English 306 and Math 301 if they don't place out of them. Students who place out of English 306 will be enrolled in Sociology 302. Engineering students who place out of Math 301 will be enrolled in Physics 306; and all other students who place out of Math 301 will be enrolled in Chemistry 305. Our best "guesstimates" at this point are that about 54 students might be enrolled in English 306, 21 in Sociology 302, 20 in Physics 306, 22 in Chemistry 305, and 33 in Math 301.

The Learning Skills Center will be providing support for the Sociology, Math, Physics, and Chemistry courses by training peer tutors to teach "supplemental instruction" groups for these courses two days per week. These "SI"

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groups teach specific learning strategies appropriate for the course content as it develops. Some individual tutoring will also be provided as needed. We are hoping that the English Department can provide assistance with the English course as it did with last summer's PREVIEW pilot group of 25 Engineering minority freshmen, and we'd like to talk with you both about scheduling these English classes and using the Writing Lab resources and services.

I'm attaching a very tentative sample schedule which will give you some idea of the possible times involved.

The meeting will be this Friday, April 4, 1:00-2:00 p.m., in the office of Suzan Armstrong-West in the Student Services Building. Suzan is coordinating the PREVIEW program, and others attending the meeting will be Tom Backus and Julie Thomas from the College of Engineering.

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