

Provisional students having better success this summer

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Daily Texan Staff

Students in the Provisional Admissions Program have a better chance now of staying at the University than students enrolled in the program in previous years, a UT admissions official said Friday.

"Last year we had a 60 percent success rate," said Paul Pedersen, assistant director of admissions. "We had a 5 percent increase in success rate [between 1992 and 1993]."

Pedersen said more students succeed because the pace of the courses taken by the provisional students follows the pace of classes in the long semester.

"The students that come into the program are better prepared" as well, Pedersen added.

This summer, 560 freshmen entered the University on a provisional basis, hoping to make it through a program that requires them to take four classes and maintain a 2.25 GPA.

If the students meet these standards, they will be admitted as regular students, said Director of Admissions Shirley Binder.

Students enrolled in the program are required to take 12 hours, either over the summer or in the spring semester.

They are required to take English 306, math, psychology or sociology, and biology or chemistry.

Texas residents who were not admitted to the University because of their class rank or SAT score are eligible for the Provisional Admissions Program.

When the program was first put in place in the late 1960s, students originally had to get a 2.0 GPA. This GPA requirement was raised to a 2.25 with no grade less than C and at least one B. The current standards, in place since 1993, allow students to get a D if they make a 2.25 GPA and no grade of an F or X.

"I think that overall, the provisional program is fair," said provisional student Chris Yuan. "If you came in with the right attitude, and if you're willing to work, you'll be okay."

Other students feel that the program is unfair.

"If they had regularly admitted students go through what we're going through, I think they'd fail out," said Jeanette Cajide. She said that 12 hours over the summer was too much.

"It would be a lot better if we only had to take nine hours," she added.

Pedersen said students in the program during the spring semester find it more difficult because there are more students on campus and students are less focused.

The Learning Skills Center has also made an effort to provide special help to provisional students.

Denise Swann, director of the Learning

Skills Center, said the center "has developed a specific program for provisional students."

She said the new way the program is set up is a "more realistic approach, more of what a regular semester is like."

LSC has seen an increase in the number of students seeking assistance in the past two years, Swann said. She added that in the beginning of the summer, an "extraordinary number" of students came into the LSC, but the number of students that come into the center now has become more manageable.

The LSC has also set up a new program to help students with the math in Chemistry 304K and opened up a writing lab so students can get special help in English.

Health care

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