

At OU, women up, class load down

Oakland University's student body is increasingly female. New undergraduates are shifting away from health sciences and nursing to elementary education. The average number of credits taken by undergraduates continues to decline.

The figures are included in an evaluation of OU's all-time record enrollment of 12,585 students. It was prepared by David C. Beardlee, director of institutional research.

BEARDSLEE NOTED that headcount enrollment is 615 people higher than last fall. But the "fiscal year equated students" count (based on a full load of credit hours) climbed by only 107 students.

The average number of credits taken by undergraduates declined at all levels, even among the freshmen who could be classified as more traditional students.

At the senior level, only 22.5 percent of the students now carry 18 or more credits. There has been a shift among sophomores and juniors to 15 or 16 credit loads.

Only 35.7 percent of the freshmen now carry 18 or more credits, what was once considered a "normal" work load.

There are 10,315 undergraduates, up from 10,130 last fall, and the increase comes from larger numbers of returning students. There are 3,759 men, a drop of 917 and 6,315 women, an increase of 276.

GRADUATE enrollment is 2,271, up 430, and the graduate mix is almost identical to the undergraduate figure. The total student body is now 61.8 percent female.

Since 1980, OU's undergraduate growth has been in enrollment of women between the ages of 18 and 24. Male enrollments and the enrollments of old-

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er women have remained at nearly the same level or declined slightly.

One reason for the steady growth in enrollment of young women, OU officials speculate, is the wide range of curricular choices open to women today.

Men tend to enroll in the traditional "men's subjects" of engineering, computer and information science, management, and the science and math options — many of which have increased standards and/or enrollment caps at the undergraduate level.

Women's choices are spreading out over the curriculum in a much wider pattern of majors.

SELECTION OF majors by new undergraduates show management and economics up in headcount from 372 to 407 students and elementary education and undecided elementary education up from 105 to 200 students. Engineering and computer science majors, including the "undecided" codes, dropped from 341 to 279.

Graduate enrollment in education among new and continuing students rose from 877 students to 1,245 to account for the bulk of the increase at the graduate level. Engineering and Computer Information Science went from 223 to 340 students and management and MBA enrollments increased from 294 to 322 students.

In headcount, 1,245 of the university's 2,271 graduate students are now enrolled in education.

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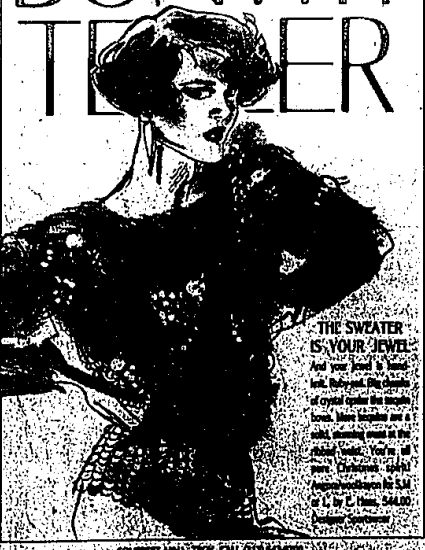
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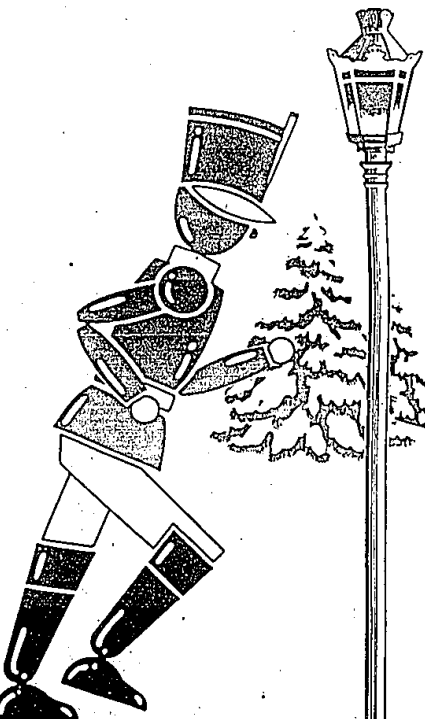
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