

U-M freshman can enter professional schools

The University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) will offer some of next fall's entering freshmen "preferred admission" to three U-M professional schools.

U-M called it a pioneer program to broaden undergraduate education. Highly qualified high school seniors who anticipate doing later work in engineering, business administration or pharmacy will receive what amounts to simultaneous admission to U-M undergraduate and professional schools.

Negotiations are under way to include the Law School, Medical School, School of Dentistry, School of Library Science and School of Natural Resources in the program in 1987, according to Peter O. Steiner, dean of LSA, who helped develop the experimental admissions venture.

FRESHMEN who enter LSA under the program will be guaranteed admission to a particular degree program in professional schools if they remain in good academic standing and meet standards established by the individual professional schools.

Prerequisite undergraduate courses

will be held to a minimum. Students in the preferred admissions program will receive counseling from members of the professional school faculties.

The preferred admissions program does not streamline or shorten a student's education. Unlike the U-M's pioneering Intelflex program, which combines pre-med and Medical School courses in an integrated seven-year program for selected students, graduate professional studies will not begin until students complete a normal four-year undergraduate degree.

BELIEVED to be the first of its kind in the nation, the preferred admissions program is designed to combat growing "over-professionalism" by freeing outstanding undergraduates to broaden their course selections.

Dean Steiner estimates the preferred admissions program will eventually involve about 150 students, or 5 percent of the 3,000 students expected to enroll in LSA each fall.

Since the program is new, it will start small, but high school seniors will be invited to apply starting this month, for selected degree programs to be announced.

"Academic and other critics have offered severe warnings about the so-called vocationalism or over-professionalism of American undergraduates," Steiner explained. Talented students interested in a professional career face a dilemma, Steiner said.

"When they choose a quality university to enhance their chances of professional school admission, they face the tyranny of the grade point average and a perceived necessity to narrow course selections to fit the professional path. They miss a lot that a great university has to offer."

"I am appalled that so many students do things merely because they

think they will be helpful in getting into professional schools -- for example, avoiding difficult courses, or our honors program, for fear that competition with other top students may lower their grade point averages."

THE UNDERGRADUATE years are a marvelous time to explore broadly the kinds of things that lead to an education for life rather than just for a livelihood.

"Our preferred admissions program is meant to reduce the pressure of professional school admission upon our very best undergraduates so that they can experiment freely and take intellectual risks."

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History contest set

The Detroit Historical Society will receive a \$6,000 special grant for a student National History Day Contest in Michigan. Donor is Great Lakes Gas Transmission Co., according to John Buckbee, Detroit Historical Society director.

National History Day is conducted annually in 43 states. Its purpose is to encourage students in grades 6-12 to take a more profound interest in history. Participating students are invited to develop entries in the form of research papers, videotapes, model

building, artistic displays and more.

Those who win locally will gather at the Detroit Historical Museum in the spring of 1986 and 1987 to compete for the right to participate in the national runoffs in Washington, D.C. The Detroit events will be arranged by the Detroit Historical Department.

The 1986 History Day contest will be of particular importance because it will introduce special plans for 1987 dealing with Michigan's Sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of statehood.

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