

New English requirements to take effect this spring

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When you buy your course schedule book for next semester, don't be alarmed to find that the University will not be offering various freshman and sophomore English courses.

Changes in the University's English requirements, approved by all UT colleges and the UT System Board of Regents, have narrowed the sequence of English courses for all entering students to three specific courses, said Maurine McElroy, undergraduate adviser in the Department of English.

The English sequence now consists of three courses, which will be spread out

over a three-year period, and two courses that will fulfill writing component requirements. The first three courses are offered by the Department of English, and the two courses with substantial writing components are developed and offered by each department of the University, McElroy said.

McElroy said the department implemented the changes to give upper-division students writing experience when "they are more mature and are writing about areas of their majors."

To avoid confusion during spring preregistration, McElroy said the Department of English sent a letter to deans, department chairmen and advisers explaining

the sequence changes.

McElroy said she received numerous calls during fall preregistration, but she thought the explanatory letter would increase awareness and eliminate confusion.

McElroy said students should not have any transitional problems. Students registered under the old catalogs can register for the new courses if the courses specified in their catalogs are no longer available, she said.

Bill Stewart, peer adviser in the College of Liberal Arts, said he does not think students will have problems understanding the new requirements. He said the office will not know about student confusion until preregistration.

During Electives Expo, which will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday in the Academic Center, departmental faculty advisers, including advisers from the Department of English, will be available with information on pre-advising and electives for the spring semester.

Stewart said transfer students who took two lower-level English courses before entering the University may receive English requirement credit for only the first-year requirement. Although such students have completed two courses, the University may not consider the classes equivalent to its second-year requirements, he said.

The first-year English requirement is now E306 or E306Q, which both can be taken

during either the fall or the spring semester.

Course schedule books will no longer list E307 and E308, the second English courses in the first-year sequence under the old catalogs, according to the department's guidelines.

English 316 will fulfill the University's second-year English requirement, McElroy said. English 314L and E318M now will be offered as electives, with E316K as a prerequisite.

The department warns students registered under their college's new catalogs not to think the electives will count as the second-year English requirement.