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Chapter 5: The Details of the ADAPT Program for College Freshmen

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CHAPTER FIVE

The Details of the ADAPT Program for College Freshmen

The following paragraphs were taken from the brochure mailed to all prospective University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshmen. Forty students who expressed an interest in the ADAPT courses from the brochure were selected for the program. No attempt was made to select students on the basis of their previous school work or test scores.

The ADAPT Program

ADAPT is an alternate program for beginning college students. It offers students the advantages of instruction by senior professors and membership in a group of students who work together in shared classes. ADAPT courses are specially coordinated courses chosen from the areas of the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities and designed to contribute to the students' general education. ADAPT courses count toward the required distribution of courses in all colleges of the University.

ADVANTAGES

This is what some students have said about ADAPT:

“Your get to know the other students and the professors very well. The classes are small, and you have the same people in every class.”

“The concept of developing your own ideas (abstractly) is stressed. All the classes try to do related things—or teach us things in one class that we are able to use in other classes.”

“You must be willing to try new learning experiences.”

“ADAPT makes you work and work hard, but I think the most important aspect of ADAPT is that ADAPT makes you think about yourself and others.”

“The learning in the class is a little different than you are used to doing. You'll learn to trust in your own outcome instead of believing what the teachers say is true all the time. It's a challenge that can be rewarding.”

“I would recommend ADAPT to everyone.”
At the first meeting of the ADAPT classes a handout that gave the class schedule and stressed the interactive aspects of the ADAPT program was given to the students.

"The ADAPT program stresses activity centered learning. Your involvement in the total variety of classroom experiences provided in this program is essential. Many of the ADAPT classes will begin topics with open-ended, flexible exploration experiences. On the basis of what you and your student colleagues learn from these exploration activities, the ADAPT instructors will help you invent definitions and concepts and apply them to new experiences. In order to benefit from the ADAPT program, you should plan to actively participate in all of the scheduled ADAPT classes and seminars."

Participants normally take three of the special ADAPT courses each semester; in addition, they select other courses from the regular University offerings.