

Applications and admissions climb for UNLV's Graduate College

The 1991-92 academic year has shown a significant increase in applications and admissions to UNLV's Graduate College.

Applications for spring 1992 climbed by 44 percent over the number submitted for spring semester 1991—646 applications for this spring compared to 449 for spring 1991.

Last fall also showed an increase in the number of people applying for admission to the Graduate College. For fall semester 1991, 991 people applied, up 15 percent over the figure for fall of 1990 which was 870.

The number of students admitted for fall 1991 was a record 553, an increase of 7 percent over fall 1990 when 517 graduate students were admitted.

Of the 553 admitted for fall 1991, 472 actually enrolled for classes.

Cheryl Bowles, associate dean of the Graduate College, said one reason the number of applications is so much higher than the number of students admitted is because some of UNLV's graduate programs have only a limited number of spaces open each semester. Additionally, some applicants do not meet the entrance requirements set by the graduate college and by the individual programs.

Bowles said the growth in

both applications and admissions reflects the steady climb UNLV's Graduate College has experienced for the past several years.

"For the last six years or so, our admissions have climbed steadily, sometimes by as much as 10 to 17 percent per year," Bowles said. "During that same period of time, the national average for increases in graduate school admissions has been about 1 or 2 percent."

Bowles said she expects the number of applicants will continue to increase.

However, the university may have trouble keeping up with the demand for expanded master's and doctoral offerings, she said.

"Because of the recent state budget cuts, we are having to re-evaluate our plans to offer additional master's and doctoral programs," Bowles said. "The starting date for some of the programs probably will be delayed by a semester or more."

"Without the money we were expecting to receive, we can't hire new faculty members. Without faculty members with expertise in the new program areas, we can't offer those programs."

"Clearly, the citizens want more graduate programs at UNLV. Our application and admission figures show us that."

Bowles added that having

an advanced degree can be particularly important in tough economic times such as the nation now is experiencing.

"Having a graduate degree can give job applicants an edge in a tight job market," she noted. "Also, more and more employers are requiring graduate degrees for certain jobs."

UNLV's Graduate College serves as an umbrella college for all of the university's graduate students, regardless of their field of study. Currently, UNLV has about 3,200 graduate students and 65 graduate programs.

Don't wait until it's too late

Seniors planning on entering a graduate college should start making preparations now.

Professional program national entrance exams, such as the GMAT and GRE, must be taken before the spring 1992 semester ends for fall admission.

Graduate program application deadlines are also coming up fast. Don't wait until the summer to apply for fall admission.

Interested seniors should call the Graduate College at 739-3320 or individual colleges to find out test and application deadlines.

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