

College of Liberal Arts aids job hunters

by Beverly Hamilton
Battalion Staff
Liberal arts graduates across the country have had trouble finding jobs — especially with high unemployment — but the Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts has worked to

increase students' chances of finding jobs.
The associate dean of liberal arts, Dr. Candida Lutes, said the college has worked in three areas to help students find jobs: career opportunity minors, cooperative education and

workshops for liberal arts students.
Lutes said the cooperative education program is helpful to liberal arts students who want job experience in their major or a related field. The program places students in a job related to

their major and the student alternates work terms with school semesters.
Lutes will speak at the American Association of Colleges' national conference Nov. 18 and 19 in New Orleans about the value of participating in the cooperative education program and how colleges can set up their own program.

Lutes will discuss liberal arts workshops at the University. The college has sponsored workshops to give student strategies for job placement, Lutes said.
The biggest problem with the liberal arts co-op program at

ed for in the co-op program, Lutes added.
In addition to the co-op program, Lutes said Texas A&M liberal arts students have other opportunities that students at smaller liberal arts colleges may not have.

related to their major. Of responses received in the survey, graduates were working in a variety of job areas. Job descriptions ranged from teaching aides, computer operators, loan officers to a fashion model and an animal keeper at a zoo.

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The associate dean of liberal arts, Dr. Candida Lutes, said the college has worked in three areas to help students find jobs: career opportunity minors, cooperative education and workshops for liberal arts students.

Texas A&M, Lutes said, is "getting students into it."
She said there are about 20 students each semester involved in the liberal arts co-op program, but there also are many companies who want to hire liberal arts students as co-ops and can't find students to fill the positions.
Once a student co-ops, he usually wants to do it again, Lutes said. When students graduate, they usually work for the company with which they work-

ed for in the co-op program, Lutes added.
In addition to the co-op program, Lutes said Texas A&M liberal arts students have other opportunities that students at smaller liberal arts colleges may not have.

She said liberal arts majors here get a strong, well-integrated education while students at smaller colleges may not have a wide breadth of course work.

She also said that a number of the colleges let their students overspecialize. There is a greater risk of this happening in smaller colleges because the faculty specialize in liberal arts and not science and technology.

Lutes said Texas A&M students don't seem to have a problem being placed in jobs. She said that only about 5 percent to 6 percent of Texas A&M liberal arts graduates have expressed difficulty finding jobs after graduation.

The College of Liberal Arts sent out questionnaires to December 1979 graduates asking about job placement after graduation. Of the questionnaires returned — approximately 25 percent of those sent out — all graduates were involved in some sort of post-graduate work, either a job or graduate school, Lutes said.

But, she said, liberal arts students don't always work at jobs

related to their major. Of responses received in the survey, graduates were working in a variety of job areas. Job descriptions ranged from teaching aides, computer operators, loan officers to a fashion model and an animal keeper at a zoo.

A large percentage of liberal arts graduates choose graduate study. At Texas A&M, the liberal arts department has the highest percentage of graduates pursuing graduate study — about 45 percent. About 50 percent of the history majors in graduate studies, Lutes said. The lowest enrollment in graduate work is 9 percent by the political science department.

Enrollment in the College of Liberal Arts has stayed about the same over the past few years with about 1,700 students in the program, approximately 7 percent of the student body, Lutes said. The psychology department is the largest with 234 students. Journalism and political science has 234 students. The English department has 177 students and the economics department has 136 students.

The smallest departments are philosophy with 21 students, theater arts — which is a department within the English department — with 43 students and anthropology with 43 students enrolled.




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