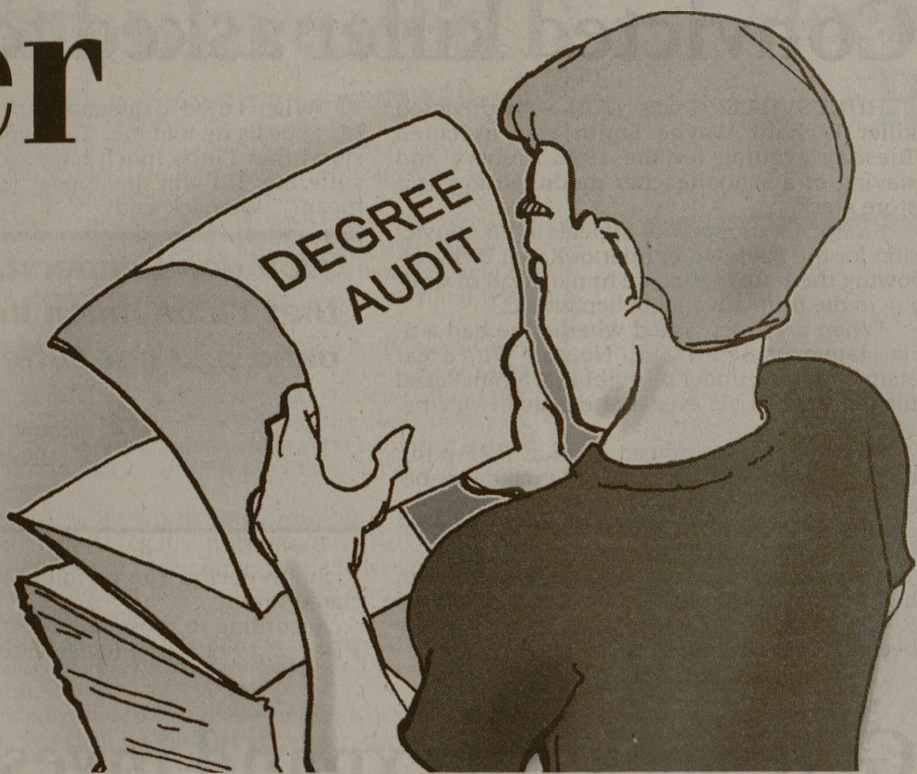


## A Matter of Time

Need to graduate, rising requirements force students from 12-hour schedules.



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

BY SUZANNE BRABECK  
The Battalion

The arrival of the newest batch of Aggie rings last Thursday may prove to be motivation for some full-time students to increase their course load from the minimum 12 hours. Other students may also feel the pressure to take on a more demanding course load to graduate early, appease their parents or to break out of the poor-college-student mode.

As students plan for graduation and ordering their senior rings, some may opt to increase their course load from 12 hours, which is the minimum course load for full-time status during the fall and spring semesters. A student who takes four hours during a five-week summer semester or eight hours during a 10-week semester is classified as a full-time student.

Erin Stanley, a sophomore management information systems major, said students who take only 12 hours per semester are setting themselves up for a long college career. "If you only take 12 hours every semester and you don't go to summer school you are never going to graduate," Stanley said.

The shortest degree plan offered at A&M is 128 hours. The number of hours degree plans and colleges require varies, but students who take only 12 hours each semester will not be seeing a diploma any time soon. In the Texas A&M Undergraduate Catalog, many degree plans that are broken down by a semester step out a course load of up to 19 hours a semester.

Jessica Hartsell, a freshmen political science major, said her advisor suggested she take 12 hours. "I am taking 13 hours, and I think I'm going well because I do not feel so pressured for time," Hartsell said. "I have no idea how many hours I have to take, but I came in with 19 hours, so that helped to relieve some pressure."

Suzanne Connell, a junior sociology major, said the 12-hour minimum requirement may be linked to financial matters for the University. It is more expensive to take fewer hours in the long run because students are charged per credit hour for many fees. If students require more semesters to graduate, they will pay the base fees numerous times.

Donald Carter, registrar for admissions and records, said he does not know why 12 hours is set as the precedent for full-time status.

"The 12-hour requirement was set by the federal government and federal loan programs, professional association and insurance companies," Carter said. "All [of them] use the criteria, as well. The University can make exceptions for some cases, such as co-op students, students working on an internship and students with disabilities, if the proper steps are taken."

Brian Pautler, a senior mechanical engineering major, said he received one credit hour per semester for his internship while maintaining full-time status.

"I didn't really think it was fair, though, because I still had to pay all of the fees as if I was attending A&M, and I was 300 miles away," he said. "I had to pay for student computing fees, the Rec Center and every other one you can think of. Also, since my one class cost me \$300, the company I was working for paid for my tuition because they didn't agree with the policy."

Connell said taking fewer hours keeps students enrolled in the University longer and it seems that could positively benefit the University.

Lashe Ingram, a junior biomedical science major, said harder classes require more focus from students. "I think 12 hours is sufficient to be considered full-time," Ingram said. "But it depends on what kinds of classes you are taking. If you are taking four science classes, that is enough; as opposed to if you are taking mainly electives."

While some students view 12 hours as a small course load, others feel it creates options for more flexible schedules.

Ingram said there are a lot of factors that revolve around picking student's schedules, such as working, involvement in extracurricular activities and how busy they are.

Kellee Walker, a junior psychology major, said time spent in lab is time spent away from classes.

"With my major, 12 hours is plenty because I have so many research hours," she said. "Plus, I am working part-time, and if I had to take more hours, there is no way I could pass my classes. Since I go to summer school, I'll still get my ring during football season and graduate in May."

Another consideration some students make when planning their schedules is how much of a time commitment Bonfire will be.

Whitney Turner, Krueger Hall Bonfire co-chair and a sophomore business major, said time spent on activities must be taken away from class time.

"I took 13 hours because I knew I would be too busy to take the 15 hours my parents wanted me to," Turner said. "I'll probably compensate in the spring. I am planning on being here for more than four years."

Annie Neighbors, a freshmen biomedical science major, said students who rely on a high grade-point ratio for their future plans are inclined to take fewer hours.

"I am taking 11 core hours and a kinesiology class because I want to make good grades," Neighbors said. "I didn't play sports because my body is worn out, and then in four years I will be left with not very good grades. And I realized sports wouldn't support me."

### Hope Pregnancy Centers OF BRAZOS VALLEY

**FACING AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?**  
**YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.**

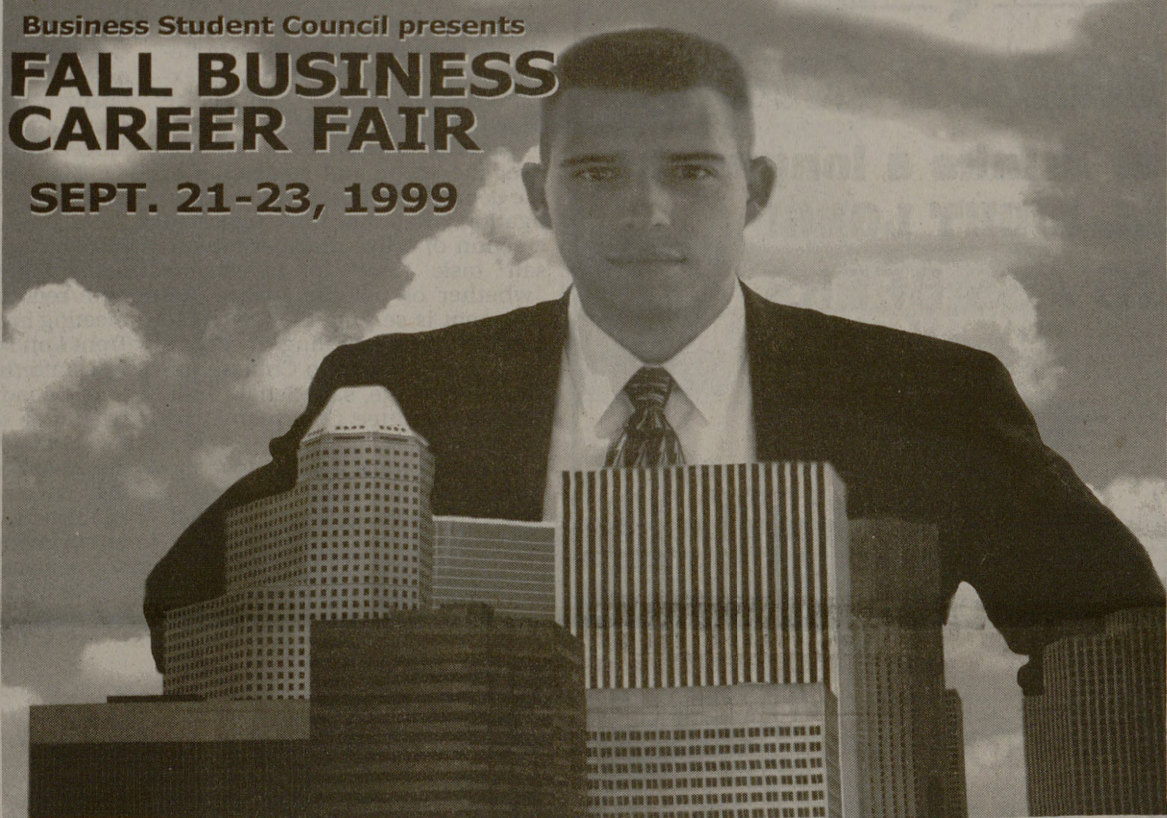
Pregnancy Counseling Service  
Complete Confidentiality  
Full Information on Options  
Pre and Post Abortion Counseling  
Free Pregnancy Test

846-1097

3620 E. 29TH ST • BRYAN  
www.rtis.com/hope

STUDYING ABROAD IN SPRING SEMESTER 2000??  
THERE'S MONEY FOR YOU!  
APPLY TODAY  
(APPLICATION DEADLINE 10/29/99)  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FEE SCHOLARSHIP  
COME TO AN INFO MEETING  
MONDAY 9/27/99 OR TUESDAY 10/5/99  
358 BIZZELL HALL WEST  
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM OFFICE  
161 BIZZELL HALL ☎ 845-0544

### Business Student Council presents FALL BUSINESS CAREER FAIR SEPT. 21-23, 1999



#### Receptions

September 22nd

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Briarcrest Country Club

#### Featured In Wehner

Wednesday, September 22nd

Allstate Insurance Company  
American Express Financial Advisors  
Andersen Consulting LLP  
Arthur Andersen Associates  
Avantus Group

BankOne Corporation  
Bed Bath & Beyond  
CINTAS Corporation  
Deloitte and Touche  
Deloitte Consulting, LLC  
Donovan and Watkins  
Eckerd Drug Co.  
El Paso Energy  
EnFORM Technology  
Enron Corporation

Entergy  
Ernst and Young  
Exxon  
Federal Express  
Foley's  
Frito-Lay, Inc.  
Garden Ridge  
General Electric  
General Mills  
Grant Thornton  
Guaranty Bank

Haliburton  
Harold's  
Hastings  
Hewitt Associates

IBM Global Services  
IMG Financial Group  
International Paper  
JCPenney  
Koch Industries  
Kurt Salmon Associates  
Luby's Inc.  
McLane Company  
Mervyn's California  
National Instruments  
Northwestern Mutual Life  
Norwest Financial  
Office Depot  
Olde Discount Corporation  
Otis Elevator Company  
PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Randalls/Tom Thumb  
Sewell  
Sherwin-Williams Company

Sprint  
Stage Stores, Inc.  
(Bealls, Palais Royal, Stage)  
Summit Group  
Tactica Technology Group  
Texaco, Inc.  
Texas A&M Career Center  
Toys R Us/Babies R Us/Kids R Us  
TXU (Texas Utilities)  
UCS  
USG Corporation  
Walgreen Company  
WalMart Stores, Inc.  
XTRA Lease

Reception tickets are sold in Wehner from 9:00 - 4:00 on September 20 - 22 for \$5.  
If you have any questions, visit our website at <http://wehner.tamu.edu/bsc>

# SWE



Society of Women Engineers  
General Meeting

When: Wed., Sept. 22nd

Time: 6:45 p.m. - Free Food

7:00 p.m. - General Meeting

Where: ENPH 202

Topic: Salary Negotiation / Career Center Info.