

Cruising Through College

Students use easy classes to painlessly bolster their grade-point ratios

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

As midterm grades approach, and for freshmen at Texas A&M fortunate enough to have their grades sent home, it may be time to start looking for some easy classes to register for in the spring.

While some students may begrudge the University for being one of two universities left in the nation to require four kinesiology classes as part of its core requirements, some students may soon find these classes are more beneficial than they thought. Kinesiology courses can be used to raise one's grade-point ratio (GPR) and also work off the freshmen 15."

Kaycee Moreland, a senior speech communication major, said even though her kinesiology class is at 8 a.m., the extra grade points will be nice.

"I took intermediate swimming because I was a life-guard this past summer, and I felt it would be an easy class," Moreland said. "As a graduating senior, I took a kinesiology that would not be challenging for me because it gives me more time to concentrate on the harder classes of my major."

While some students may feel kinesiology classes are too demanding for a one-hour course, the option to change the grading standard to pass/fail is available.

"The only reason that I would change my class to pass or fail, which would not count on my GPR, would be if I couldn't get out of bed enough to attend my swim class at 8 a.m.," Moreland said.

Besides kinesiology classes, students may opt to take other electives to boost their GPRs, such as music classes, basket weaving, floral arranging or other classes.

Meredith McClung, a senior nutritional sciences major, said she took a music class because she was interested in it, and it seemed like it would be a good break from her core classes.

"I wasn't expecting it to be hard. But I didn't take the class because I thought it would be easy, but because I found the subject matter interesting," McClung said. "It is nice to be able to add cultural classes or electives into your schedule to balance out your course load. When I was figuring out my schedule, I thought it would be a good stress reliever."

Another option for students to take advantage of, especially during their years as an underclassmen, is the two-hour course Center for Academic Enhancement 101, Succeeding in College.

Adan Macias, a sophomore general studies major, said it takes up a lot less time than other courses but is beneficial because it teaches students how to study.

"Succeeding in College is a sure 'A,'" Macias said. "I heard about the class from my adviser, who suggested it to help get my GPR up. Hopefully after this semester I won't have to take electives to boost my GPR, because I haven't heard about too many other courses that are supposed to be easy here."

Matthew McWilliams, a junior finance major, said he advises students to ask people who have been here for awhile about classes as easy because they have more experience.

"My brother was a senior when I was an incoming freshman here, and he told me what to take," McWilliams said. "He told me not to take chemistry, but to take geology, which is 'rocks for jocks.' I also took Management 105 [Introduction to Business] because I was told it was not much work, it was fun and it would boost my GPR, too."

Michael Ghebray, a senior education major, said MGMT 105 was a fun and easy class.

"It was a really easy 'A,'" Ghebray said. "The tests were pretty direct and were basically over definitions."

Ghebray said he recommends taking easy 'A' classes although he does not know too many of them.

"If you are ever in doubt, just go to Blinn," he said. "Everything is easier there."

McWilliams said it is good to take a class that does not relate to one's major every semester to prevent burnout and hopefully find an easy class to take.

"I took Anthropology 351 [Classical Anthropology] as an elective, and it turned out to be very easy," McWilliams said. "All we had for that class was a course packet. It had all the class notes and old exams. The tests were just the old tests rearranged."

McWilliams said students have to search for the easy classes, but they are there.

If students are lucky enough to find an easy professor, McWilliams suggests they keep taking him or her until they run out of his classes.

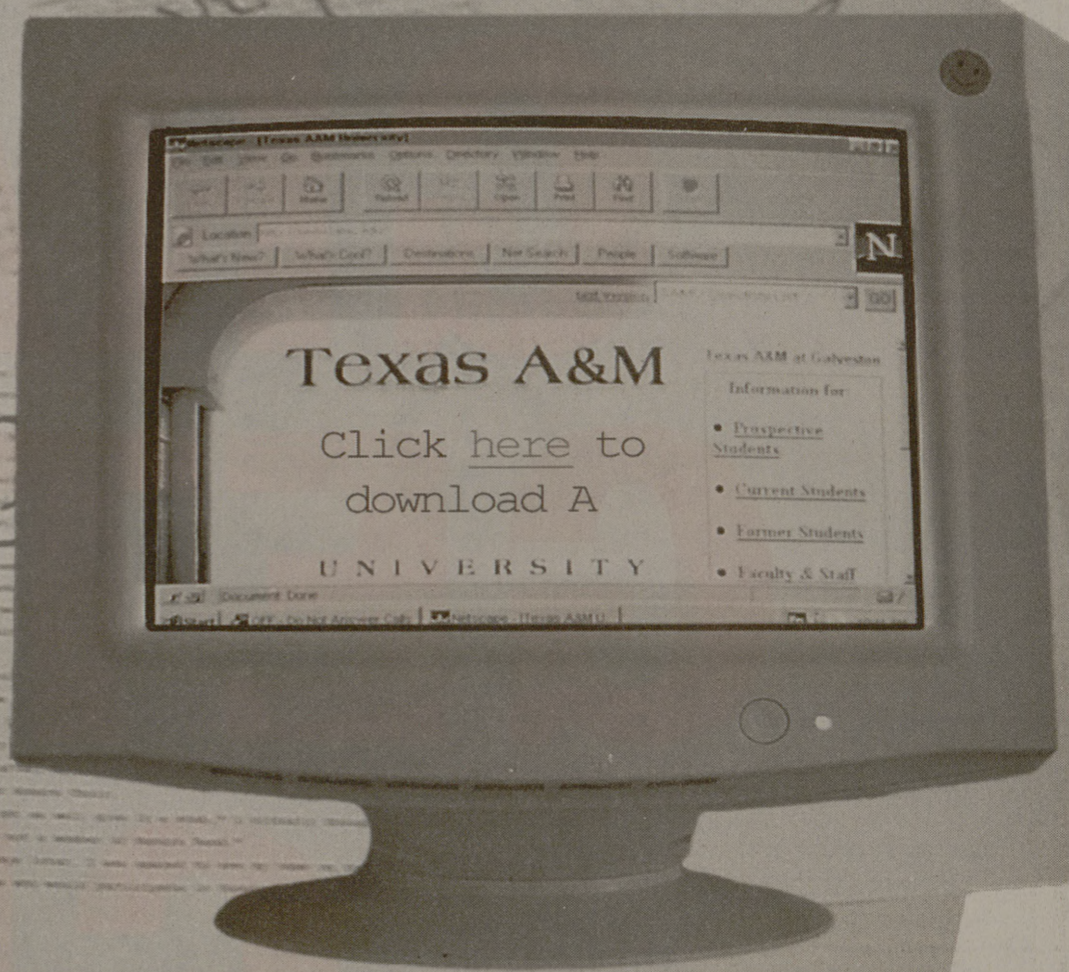


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