

Why study in summer?

by Karen Eagle
Staff Writer

It is 93 degrees; humidity is 100 percent. You have just spent \$128 and you are sitting in a classroom wondering, "Is it worth it?"

In a five-week period, students find themselves wading through volumes of information in record time.

According to Richard Settle, the RTVMP associate director of operations, "A student doesn't really have time to absorb what he hears through lectures or reads because the class moves so fast."

In spite of the heat, expense and work, people come to summer school. According to Mildred Prillaman, administrative assistant to the summer school director, the summer program offers many advantages for a student.

Prillaman said summer school gives students the opportunity to graduate early by going year-round. Students can take courses that might be closed-out or not offered during the regular terms or bring up quality point averages.

Prillaman also said that some students are visitors who are not in a degree program here at UNC, but are taking summer courses for enrichment.

Ken Mack, a senior majoring in psychology, said he was in summer school "to bring up the Q.P." Terry Casey, a

speech communications major, is attending summer school "to lighten the load during the regular year."

Kathy Henderson, a junior majoring in journalism, is going to summer school to get ahead. Kathy said, "I got advanced standing of a semester, so I decided to take a semester in the summer and graduate early."

Prillaman said, "Preparation time between classes has been cut so severely that teachers have to cut down on outside requirements."

But, Prillaman said class enrollment in the summer is so low that more individual attention is available. She said a class that may attract 35 students during the fall or spring may attract only 15 students in the summer.

Keith Norwood, a broadcast journalism major, believes that "good professors keep the quality up and continue to make the courses interesting."

Dr. Russell Graves, professor of dramatic art, thinks the quality depends on the subject and student. He said, "Some courses are best taught under intense circumstances, such as foreign languages."

The most popular courses taken are physical education, business, education, and psychology in that order. Prillaman said, "Summer lends itself to physical education. If you have one heavy lecture



Solitary study in summer school.

photo by L.C. Barbour

course, your physical education course won't interfere."

Other popular courses are chemistry, physics, and other lab courses. Prillaman feels that students take lab courses in the summer so their fall and spring terms are free for extra activities.

There has been a slight decline in summer school enrollment for about the last five years. "This is a trend that's experienced all over the country,"

Prillaman said. Enrollment is generally less during the second session, she added.

The total enrollment for the 1977 summer school was 11,784 with 6,675 students attending the first session and 5,109 students attending the second session. In comparison 12,047 students attended summer school in 1972.

According to Prillaman, the cost of summer school is approximately 40 percent of a regular term's tuition and fees.

Part of tuition pays the salaries of the faculty and staff. Prillaman says there are approximately 600 faculty members and about 750 courses. Over 30 percent of the faculty are full professors.

How do professors feel about summer school? "It's refreshing," said Graves. Because of the shorter period, the material has to be restructured.

Settle said, "Any student who exerts the energy to go to summer school wants or needs the class a little more."

If you are the student sitting in the classroom wiping sweat from your brow, wondering why you are here, stop wondering and pay attention. Those five weeks are shorter than you think!

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