

table because some people are willing to take a bribe."

She said that if Alamance County and North Carolina stopped offering cash incentives, companies would leave and go to states willing to pay incentives.

"The cash incentives all have benchmarks, and the people who get them have to reach the benchmark before we will give (cash) to them," Massey said. "We will recoup that money back in taxes. It is not like we lose the money that we give them."

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During the summer break for working in a similar manner, some students say. But some prospective students say they are skeptical about whether the online courses will be just as effective as a classroom course. The desire for a general education education with tests and professors may make these programs less ideal for students.

Registrar Clark Albertson said he gives as though the online programs are effective.

"The courses have grown a lot in the last 10 years," Albertson said. "Last year the numbers plateaued, and I think the economy had something to do with that."

Elon adopted the use of online courses eight years ago, and the number of participants has been growing since. According to Albertson, the university began with about 20 courses, which grew to 36, and now there are about 45 courses with 12 to 13 available spots in each.

For summer 2010, Albertson said there would be no change from the past couple of years, and roughly 1,200 students will be enrolled in summer online courses. He said these online courses have become significantly more popular to students because they add to the quality of a four-year college experience with no additional time, and perhaps even shorten students' time at school.

"It's not hard to graduate in four years, and you could even graduate in less than that while adding yourself some money in the process of those summer courses," Albertson said.

In terms of monetary issues, one may think additional courses yield additional costs. But according to Albertson, the classes are far from expensive.

"Costs are reasonable when compared to tuition of the spring and fall," Albertson said. "If you think of the costs for fall and spring courses, the online ones aren't bad at all. I think what's good is you get classes out of the way, and if you attend Winter Term, you can see yourself up to four courses per year."

Online classes cost \$200 per credit, and a four-credit course is \$750.

Albertson said he has not heard from a student who claims to not have gotten their money's worth. He said he has actually heard the opposite response.

"I think the classes are very thorough and students have enjoyed them," Albertson said. "That's why we've had such an increased in numbers."