

Officials Say Stricter Academic Standards No Problem for N.C.

Most students are already taking required courses, school officials say, but math skills might be weak.

By LIZ STRITTMATTER
Staff Writer

If the Board of Governors decides to implement higher standards for admission to UNC-system schools, most high school students will already be prepared, N.C. education officials say.

The current standards require four years of English, three years of math, three years of science and two years of social science.

The proposed plan, discussed at a Feb. 11 BOG meeting, would change the math requirement to four years, including one course beyond algebra II, and two years of the same foreign language.

But at South Stokes High School in Walnut Cove, most college-bound students already take the necessary classes, said senior counselor Janet Reynolds.

"The average student takes two years of language already," Reynolds said.

Problems would only come for students who struggled in math, she said.

"If there is a part that will be a stumbling block, it will be students who are strong in areas other than math and attempt higher-level math and have difficulty," she said.

Carol London, director of guidance at Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem, also cited potential problems with students who were not strong in math.

She said Bishop McGuinness Memorial held one algebra II class over two years for students who did not excel in math. It would be impossible for a student in this class to get into UNC-Chapel Hill, she said.

But London said that, in general, adjusting to the new requirements would be easy for the school.

"We are beyond the requirements."

Marsha Edwards, a guidance counselor at Independence High School in Charlotte, said a change in requirements would not greatly impact most students.

She said school officials had always recommended that college-bound students take higher-level and Advanced Placement courses.

She added that the school's college-

bound students were already in upper-level classes.

"If you take middle-of-the-road classes, you're in with kids that aren't in to learn," Edwards said.

But some BOG members were concerned that N.C. high schools would need to hire more teachers and add classes to accommodate students seeking admission to system schools.

Reynolds said she didn't see a problem because classes were small enough for more students to be added.

"Right now, class sizes are fine," she said.

London said Bishop McGuinness Memorial would not have problems, either, because they already had a full range of the required classes.

BOG members also said they hoped the proposed stricter requirements would bring in students with higher grade point averages, or quality point averages, and higher Scholastic Aptitude Test scores.

But Reynolds said she didn't think SAT scores would improve if requirements were raised.

"Most students have taken the SATs before they begin their advanced math," she said, citing that students generally

took their SATs during their junior year.

London agreed. "Kids getting into Carolina already have (exceptional grades and SAT scores)," she said.

"More competition comes with time on its own, without a change in stan-

dards," she added.

But Edwards said she believed that the requirement change could result in higher grades and SAT scores of incoming freshmen.

She said if students took academical-

ly challenging courses, scores would rise. "The more information crammed in their heads, the better."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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Daily Crossword

By Alan P. Olschweg

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ACROSS

- 1 "Mass in B Minor" composer
- 5 Inventor Nikola
- 10 Big theory
- 14 Christiania today
- 15 Self-evident truth
- 16 All over again
- 17 Start of Evan Esar quote
- 20 Me in Marseilles
- 21 Alternatives
- 22 Eloquent speech
- 23 Misprint
- 25 Thanksgiving guest of honor?
- 27 Outstanding!
- 28 Part 2 of quote
- 31 Part 3 of quote
- 34 Cacophony
- 35 Greek letters
- 37 Small boy
- 38 Explanations
- 42 Holds in high regard
- 44 Bitter vetch
- 45 Headline maker
- 47 Ross or Bering
- 48 Part 4 of quote
- 50 Part 5 of quote
- 55 Southern constellation
- 57 French friend

DOWN

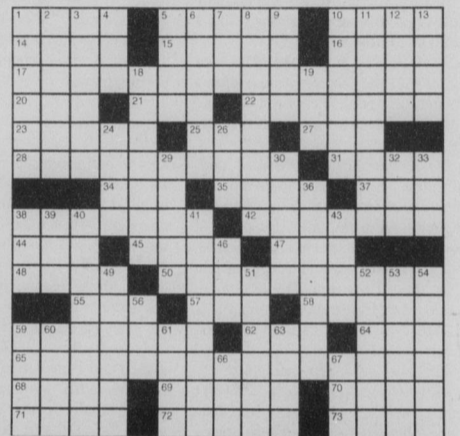
- 1 Archers
- 2 Off the line
- 3 Aviator
- 4 Much in demand
- 6 Has reality
- 7 Palindromic sibling
- 8 Get around
- 9 Love of Don Quixote?
- 10 Breed of fowl
- 11 Counteracting agent
- 12 Pianist Peter
- 13 Charles II's lover Nell
- 18 Act of twisting
- 19 Nasser's short-lived nation
- 24 Vegas quote
- 26 Five before six?
- 29 sanctum
- 30 French cup

ACROSS

- 58 Carolina river
- 59 Cliquish
- 62 Marie Saint
- 64 Compete in a 10K
- 65 End of quote
- 68 Give off
- 69 Expands one's staff
- 70 Yawn
- 71 Scions
- 72 Capture
- 73 Quick kiss

DOWN

- 32 Aries
- 33 Begley and Begley
- 36 Of the breastbone
- 38 Gridiron zebra
- 39 Important time
- 40 Hit man
- 41 Administers an oath to
- 43 Relaxation
- 46 Uncle
- 49 Price-fixing groups
- 51 Middle manager?
- 52 Part of the FBI
- 53 Overthrows
- 54 Past, present, and future
- 56 TV alien
- 59 Aits in the Seine
- 60 Verne's captain
- 61 Expressions of satisfaction
- 63 Flower jar
- 66 Song syllable
- 67 CIA foe, once



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