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UD Receives National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

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DAYTON, Ohio, September 24, 1984 -- To foster knowledge of and interest in traditional liberal studies, the University of Dayton has obtained a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to establish a core curriculum program in its College of Arts and Sciences.

The NEH has awarded the University $182,369 to help fund the program, and an additional $20,000 in federal matching funds will also accompany the grant. Total cost for the program is $370,000, with UD supplying the remaining funds. Initially 120 students will be enrolled in the curriculum, which will begin in the fall of 1985, and eventually 360 students will participate.

The core curriculum consists of 19 three-credit-hour courses. Students must take at least 12 of these courses over five semesters during their freshman, sophomore, and junior years. Courses in the program are related thematically and structurally, and are designed to parallel and complement each other by focusing on a common theme: Western Pluralistic Values. Courses in philosophy, religious studies, history, English, and science will all relate to this theme, so that knowledge acquired in one course will more closely build upon and supplement knowledge acquired in other courses.

The core curriculum is set up so that students majoring in any discipline (English, biology, engineering, business, and so on) will be able to participate in the program. It also fulfills all the requirements of the General Education Policy adopted last September by the University, which states that all students will complete, before graduating, a required number of courses in the areas of philosophy.
or religious studies, history of western civilization, natural science, social science, and literature or the arts.

"The core curriculum will enable students to fulfill this general education requirement with a comprehensive and fully integrated sequence of courses," said Michael Payne, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and principal author of the grant application.

Faculty as well as students are expected to benefit from the program. It will enable faculty to work in groups with colleagues from various disciplines in developing complementary and interdisciplinary approaches to common issues and themes.

"The declining interest in liberal arts' disciplines began in the '60s, due to a shift in undergraduate schools toward specialization and vocational education," said Payne, who will be the program's director. "The core curriculum is designed to help students compare, contrast, and critically evaluate competing world views. Critical skills are essential for understanding and evaluating the complexities of the twentieth century."

-30-