

DH20010379 E1

STUDENTS

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Summertime, and Summer School Is Booming

For students seeking early graduation and colleges tight on space, the programs make sense

BY SUSANNAH DAINOW

FOR SOME COLLEGE STUDENTS, summer means lots of R&R. Others opt for jobs to pay bills or internships to get a leg up in the professional world. For Christopher Mikes and an increasing number of students, however, summer spells more hours in the classroom.

"I'm just trying to get through school real quick," says Mr. Mikes, a finance-and-economics major at Florida State University who is taking six courses this summer so he can graduate in just two years. "I've never been anyone who could sit around and do nothing."

Summer-school enrollments at many colleges have been on the rise for several years, as students seek to knock off requirements or take courses they couldn't get into during the regular academic year, and as colleges try to make full use of facilities to deal with burgeoning enrollments.

Hastening the trend this year is the recent slowdown in the economy.

IMPACT OF THE ECONOMY

At Indiana University at Bloomington, summer-term enrollment among undergraduates is up 6.3 percent over last year, after four years of declines. "The only thing that really could be the intervening variable on that is the economy," says Leslie J. Coyne, the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs in charge of extended programs. "We just turned around way too quickly."



PHIL SEARS, SILVER IMAGE, FOR THE CHRONICLE

Christopher Mikes, a student at Florida State U.: "I'm just trying to get through school real quick. I've never been anyone who could sit around and do nothing."

Enrollments on the Rise

The following are among the many colleges with increases this year in the number of students in their summer programs.

	Summer 2000	Summer 2001	Percentage increase
Durham Technical Community College*	2,094	2,356	12.5%
Florida State U.	15,552	17,687	13.7
Ivy Tech State College	18,784	22,871	21.8
San Diego State U.	2,500	7,100	184.0
U. of California at Berkeley	12,808	15,817	23.5
U. of Central Oklahoma	5,596	5,712	2.1
U. of Georgia	13,691	14,251	4.1
U. of Texas at Arlington	9,189	9,833	7.0
Washington State U.	4,912	5,036	2.5

* Degree programs only

SOURCE: CHRONICLE REPORTING

As students' opportunities for summer jobs and internships dwindle, summer classes become the most viable option for having a productive break, he adds.

INTERNSHIPS EVAPORATE

Philip D. Gardner, research director at Michigan State University's Collegiate Employment Research Institute, says two companies cancelled summer-internship offers for Michigan State students this year, and some new graduates had job offers pushed back by as much as six months.

"What happens when the economy

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slows down is kids tend to stay in school," he says.

The crash of the dot-com sector has made computer-science and engineering students particularly vulnerable to rescinded offers of employment, Mr. Gardner says, noting that some consulting firms and telecommunications companies have cancelled internships and postponed job offers.

The impact of sour economic times on enrollment is perhaps felt most strongly at community colleges. At Durham Technical Community College, in North Carolina, summer-school enrollment is up 13 percent from a year ago.

"Of course, the economy always affects enrollment at community colleges," says Wanda S. Winslow, a spokeswoman for Durham Tech. "We often see people turn to community college to either re-skill or update their skills."

Ivy Tech State College, a multicampus system in Indiana, has seen a 21.8-percent rise in enrollment this summer—the fifth increase in a row. Officials there attribute the latest growth to booming enrollments

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SHAWN SPENCE FOR THE CHRONICLE

Leslie J. Coyne of Indiana U., on growth at the summer school: "The only thing that really could be the intervening variable on that is the economy."