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### Adult education may become biggest business

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#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Adult education may become biggest business" (1967). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 3055.  
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# NEWS

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11-8-67  
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### ADULT EDUCATION MAY BECOME BIGGEST BUSINESS

MISSOULA--

By the year 2000 adult education may become the biggest business in the nation if the current growth pattern continues according to Dr. James F. Hall, coordinator of extension and continuing education at the University of Montana.

Dr. Hall quoted current estimates indicating a national total of nearly 22 million registrations in higher adult education programs by the end of the century.

Basing his statement on a six-year study, "Higher Adult Education: Its Present and Future," just released by the Association of University Evening Colleges and National University Extension Association, Dr. Hall noted that the growth of higher adult education is proceeding at a faster rate than that of undergraduate study at American colleges and universities, and is far exceeding predictions of a similar study published three years ago.

The University of Montana is a member of the National University Extension Association.

The six-year report is a compilation and analysis of program and registration data provided annually since 1960 by 233 of the nation's colleges and universities, which make up the membership of the AUEC and NUEA.

According to the report, the total number of all programs offered in higher adult education institutions has increased 26.8 percent during the six years. There has been a 9.2 percent average increase, making an overall increase of 61.9 percent.

The University of Montana reports a total of 2,680 persons registered for seminars, conference, extension and continuing education for the 1966-67 academic year. Dr. Hall said this is an additional 650 persons over the previous year, a gain of more than 24 percent, indicating that the Missoula school is keeping pace with the national trend. In the UM extension program alone, 1054 persons are registered for the current year.

UM seminars and adult education programs are conducted by various divisions at the University, including the Schools of Law, Forestry, Journalism and Business Administration.