12-20-1957

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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

NEW PROGRAM AT MSU CHALLENGES BRIGHT STUDENTS

A special program for exceptional students will be tried out winter quarter by the Montana State University Psychology Dept., according to staff members Dr. Robert B. Ammons and Dr. Jesse E. Gordon.

The department will offer two special courses, one for freshmen and one for juniors and seniors, and will report on the experiment to students and faculty at the end of the quarter. Further curriculum planning for bright students will be based, in part, on the results of the trial.

One of the five sections of the freshman-level course, Introduction to Psychology, will be designated a special section, according to Dr. Ammons, who will teach the special group. This section will be limited in size and will be designed to challenge the superior student to learn to his full capacity. Class lectures and "text-teaching" will probably be eliminated in part, and other activities, following the interest of the select group, will take their place, Dr. Ammons said. The course will be flexible enough to allow students to explore topics of psychological significance which are of interest to them in the manner they find most rewarding, he said. Admission to the section will be by personal application to Dr. Ammons.

The special offering for juniors and seniors, entitled Problems in Psychology, will be taught by Dr. Gordon. Emphasis in this course will be on material that cuts across subject-matter lines and is of interest to students of varied backgrounds, such as majors in literature, business, economics, pharmacy, history, biology, and other fields. Some possible topics are the analysis of imaginative productions, consumer motivations, and electoral behavior. Major stress will be
on providing students with the tools of psychological research in areas which are at the borders of psychology and other disciplines. Admission is by personal application to Dr. Gordon.

The experiment is prompted by the growing national interest in providing enriched educational opportunities for exceptional students, the professors said. It was given impetus by the recent discussions on the campus of a proposed honors program for the University, in which Dean George Waggoner of the University of Kansas, a specialist in education for superior students, took part.