The University of Dallas could soon offer degrees in electrical engineering and nursing. The University faculty sent proposals last month for programs in electrical engineering through the University of Texas at Arlington and in nursing through Texas Woman's University, according to Academic Dean Dr. Charles W. Eaker.

The initiative for these programs aims to give students the opportunity to pursue both a liberal arts education and a technical profession in the fields of nursing and electrical engineering in a reduced time frame. The programs could also boost enrollment numbers since they would equip UD to better meet the academic and career needs of potential students.

Students who enrolled in the engineering program could graduate in five years with a bachelor's in physics from UD and a degree in electrical engineering from UT Arlington, reported Eaker.

Currently, students interested in pursuing engineering individually arrange a program of studies between UD and their engineering school of choice, according to physics professor Dr. Sally F. Hicks, but the new program would make things simpler.

"The benefit of having a program such as the one being considered with UTA is that there is a clear path for any UD student who wants to be a liberally educated engineer," said Hicks.

Under the current proposal, students who participate in the UTA electrical engineering program would take most of their classes at UD during their first four years and all courses at UTA in their last year, said Eaker.

Typically, six to 10 students in every class show interest in pre-engineering at UD, according to Dr. John Plotts, vice president of enrollment. Having electrical engineering as a degree option on the UD website could increase those numbers, said Plotts.
"I do think that there are a lot of students who are committed to a liberal arts education and who want to do engineering," he said.

The five-year nursing program, Plotts said, will be an even bigger draw, if it goes forward.

**Continued...**

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