

More students enroll in remedial classes

(CPS)--More and more college freshmen are enrolling in remedial courses designed to teach them what they should already know, according to a new report by the U.S. Department of Education.

One out of every four entering freshmen, for instance, takes at least one remedial math class, says the survey of over 500 colleges and universities compiled by the department's National Center for Education Statistics.

More than one of every five students also take remedial writing courses, the study shows, while 16 percent take reading review courses.

"It's just a sign of the times," laments Elaine El-Khawas, vice-president for policy analysis and research with the American Council on Education.

"It's a very disturbing reality that so many students are not adequately prepared for college," she says, attributing the problem to "a decade of loose high school graduation standards."

And it's getting worse. Among the 500 institutions surveyed, nearly two-thirds offer more remedial courses now than they did in 1978.

One-third of the schools offer the same number of remedial courses as six years ago, while only four percent have cut the number of review courses they provide.

The report suggests many four-year colleges' plans to shift remedial education to junior and two-year colleges have failed.

The University of California System, for instance, two years ago planned to redirect some 2,400 students to nearby community colleges by 1986.

Likewise, Ohio State began admitting only freshmen who had four years of English, three years of math, science, social science and foreign language, and planned to send those not qualified to two-year colleges.

"The reality is that, as good as the policy sounds to shift remedial courses to two-year colleges, it simply has not worked," El-Khawas observes.

"Students who want to get a

four-year degree will go to a four-year institution which offers remedial courses rather than attend a junior college for two-years and then have to move to a four-year school," she says.

Although two-year schools are offering more remedial courses, the majority of four-year colleges have increased their remedial course offerings

as well.

Public colleges have the highest number of entering students in so-called catch-up courses, the study says.

Private school students, on the other hand, took the fewest number of catch-up classes. Only 15 percent took remedial classes in math, 12 percent in writing, and nine percent in reading.

Addressing long-standing concerns by some educators that the nation's high schools are not adequately preparing students for college, the report cautions the increased popularity in remedial courses could also be linked to lower college entrance requirements and tougher courses in general.

Regardless of the problem's cause, "it's far better that col-

leges recognize and address the fact that many students aren't prepared for college level courses in specific areas," says El-Khawas.

Also, many high schools have started to raise their graduation requirements to include more math, writing, and reading courses, she adds, which may help slow the trend later.

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ball club.

According to Athletic Director Reuben M. Smitley, the record is "successful" and it's because of Bowen, whom Smitley calls "the best coach in District 19."

Next year's team will include Jim Leedy, the team's second leading rebounder and scorer. Other returning players are Doug Wisenhaupt, Jeff Godzak, and James Henderson, Bowen said.