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## Astronomy

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Because of the high demand for the class, John Safko created the self-paced program in 1979. In 1996, with 600 students enrolled, the program switched to computer-based tests.

"We saw our enrollment jump from 600 to 900 the next semester," Hurst said.

Ever since then, self-paced astronomy has been a high-enrollment course. About 1,050 students are enrolled this semester, and Hurst expects 65 percent of those students to make A's in the class.

"Students usually make A's, C's or F's in the course," she said.

First-year English student Brandi Shiles said she was warned against taking the class, but thought the self-paced design would make it easy. Shiles, however, waited until late in the

semester to begin the class work and decided to take an F in the class.

"I'm just going to take the F and retake the class later. I would have to neglect my other classes, and I can't do that," Shiles said.

Hurst said students can opt to take the low grade and retake the class; however, they must do so the next semester.

"They can just continue where they left off. But those credits already completed only carry over for one semester. After that, they're gone," Hurst said.

While some students aggressively don't recommend the class, there are others who do.

"Students are either really, really happy with the class or they're not," Hurst said.

Even though the self-paced program might receive bad comments, enrollment remains high.

"We had 50 overrides this semester. So I guess students are hearing something good by word

of mouth," Hurst said. Hurst said that how students prepare for the tests also affects their grade and their overall opinion of the class.

"We always tell students: You get what you put into the course," she said.

Students are encouraged to refer to the study guides in the course manual and use the sample questions online.

"So many students try to just learn off of the sample questions. You can't just memorize for this class," Hurst said.

First-year advertising student Jennifer Gomez, who has four evaluations remaining, said she would recommend the class to those who are willing to put in the time and won't procrastinate.

"It's still hard, but it's worth it if you can invest the time," Gomez said.

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecockudesk@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockudesk@hotmail.com)



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## Tuition

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Honors College, said that while he thought the bracketing system seemed to be favored, the range of the full-time bracket is still in contention. Full-time status could be set at 12 to 16 hours or 12 to 18 hours, with per-credit charges above or below these ranges.

"The lower the band, the more seriously it would affect students who are pursuing ambitious academic programs, and some of those programs are not by choice," Sederberg said. "There are some programs that you cannot graduate in eight semesters if you don't have a whole lot of AP hours without taking 17 or 18 hours in some of those semesters."

Sederberg also said that if the bracket were set too low, students attempting double majors or minors might be discouraged. He said that students seeking enrichment in electives might also reconsider.

"It's quite possible the university orchestra and band will be hurt, and most interestingly, the students who are most competitive for national awards — therefore, by whose achievement add luster to the university," Sederberg said.

Such a change might also affect recruitment, he said.

Students as well are concerned about the possibility of a different tuition system.

"The thing that makes me mad is they didn't even come out and, you know, offer information on what they were going to do and why they needed to do it," said Matt Maass, a first-year finance and international-business student. Maass said he found out about the possible change through one of his professors.

"I'm still signed up for 19 hours next semester, but if they do this where after 16 you have to pay, I'll probably just stop taking extra classes," Maass said. "I'm trying to do two languages now, and that won't be possible because I'll have a sixth class every time with that."

Sederberg said he was fairly sure that a change of some sort would happen.

"I think it's a possible change in the sense we don't know what it's going to look like," Sederberg said. "I think more and more deans are beginning to look at this more closely. All of this began to develop very rapidly."

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