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## Golf and Operations Course — Western Texas' New Program

AFTER ONE FULL semester of working with the Golf and Grounds Operations program at Western Texas College (WTC), Snyder, Tex., Instructor Perry Turnbow is guardedly optimistic about the future of the program.

Turnbow, a graduate of Texas Tech University in. Lubbock, Tex., was named to direct the new WTC program last spring. He was responsible for activating a curriculum which had been planned by the college with the advice of knowledgeable professionals in the field and approved by the Texas Education Agency.

Turnbow said he considers his first class enrollment, which started in late August, 1974, and was made up of 15 young men, a good turnout for a new program. He has been impressed by the caliber of the students, finding them generally serious about learning what the course has to offer.

Several of them have worked in and around golf courses and pro shops in their hometowns, and have had the opportunity to handle equipment and observe the conditions of the greens at various periods. Others have done yard maintenance work for their families and neighbors.

From the standpoint of student interest, Turnbow said he would rate golf course management highest. Students have also expressed interest in landscape contracting, wholesale nursery enterprises and contract maintenance work.

The curriculum for the first semester included Equipment and Shop, Principles of Plant Growth, Applied Communications, Principles of Management, and Physical Education. In addition, the students have attended various turfgrass workshops and equipment demonstrations to gain exposure to new ideas in those fields.

Western Texas College is one of west Texas' newer institutions of higher learning, having opened in new facilities in the fall of 1971. Only one building remains to be completed, but landscaping has not been finished. The students have had the opportunity to study landscape plans and plants by working on the landscaping.

In the spring semester, which is already underway, the students will be concentrating on the study of soils and fertilizers, turfgrass science, pest control and landscape construction.

Turnbow has prepared and submitted to the Texas Education Agency a revised curriculum to become effective next fall. He said he plans to broaden the curriculum to include more general management studies and some electives of special interest. The program will continue to be a two-year course of study and students who successfully complete it will earn the Associate in Applied Science degree.

During the summer, the students will be seeking employment to gain practical experience and to earn six hours of college credit at the same time. Prospective employers are invited to contact Turnbow at Western Texas College, Snyder, Tex., to make arrangements in advance for student labor.

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