

Integrated Speaking Practice set 1

Passage, Conversation, and Question

Directions: The University is making a change in the courses it will offer. Read the article from the university newspaper about the change.

Give yourself 45 seconds to read the article.

Sculpture Courses to Be Discontinued University administrators announced yesterday that the sculpture program, a division of the art department, will be eliminated. “The main reason is a lack of student interest,” reported one administrator. “Although the number of art students has increased, fewer and fewer art majors are taking sculpture classes.” Furthermore, the department’s only sculpture professor is retiring this year. “Given the art department’s limited budget,” the administrator explained, “it just doesn’t make sense to hire a new full-time professor to teach sculpture for only a handful of students.”

Read the transcript.

Narrator: Now listen to two students discussing the article.

Male student: Everything alright?

Female student: Yeah, I’m just upset about that article I showed you this morning ...

Male student: Why, what’s the big deal?

Female student: Well, as an art major, I think it’s a big loss for the department. The university’s got it all wrong.

Male student: What do you mean?

Female student: Well, the low enrollment isn’t because art majors don’t want to take these classes. Problem is, who has time to take them when there are so many other requirements?

Male student: I don’t understand.

Female student: See, the classes they’re eliminating are all optional. The required courses are mostly painting and drawing, and they take up all our time. What we really need are different requirements—then art majors could take a better variety of classes ... all the things we’re interested in.

Male student: That makes sense. But, the thing about the professor ...

Female student: Well, that’s true. But still, they’re being drastic. If money’s the problem, they could hire a part-time professor! Or, most of the professors in the department have secondary fields ...

Male student: Really? Female student Yeah! At least a few painting teachers are also great sculptors. I'm sure one of them could teach a class.

Directions: Give yourself 30 seconds to prepare your response to the following question. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.

The woman expresses her opinion of the university's plan. State her opinion and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds