USL Head Start trainees gain credits toward degree

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Fifty-three participants in the university Supplementary Training Program will complete their summer courses on Aug. 8, according to Dr. G.L. Coussan, USL professor and director of USL's University College.

The participants are enrolled in courses in the program which provide college level training for professional and non-professional staff members in Full Year Head Start Programs. The university course was made possible under a continuing grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The objectives of the Supplementary Training Program are to provide academic training of the type and character which will enable professional and non-professional persons to function more effectively in their child development roles and enable them to advance to positions of greater responsibility or to other types of positions more suitable to the interests and capabilities of each individual staff member. Coussan said that the plan for the program at USL was so designed as to provide a long-range plan of classes with college credit for Head Start Staff. Classes offered each semester the program is in effect, enable enrollees to earn credit in two courses per semester. One course has immediate application in Head Start and earns credit for the enrollee toward a teacher education degree while the other course, also providing credit, is a regularly required course in teacher education. Trainees thus may earn as much as 18 semester credits each year while they are fully employed and while they are also receiving consultative assistance in areas of specialization.

Classes being offered this summer under the program are English 102, Composition and Rhetoric, taught by Thomas Morgan; Art 115-117, taught by Donald Thornton; and History 221, taught by William Ford. All are USL instructors.