Curriculum Changes in New Plan Allow Pre-Meds More Freedom

By GARY HANOVICH

The Rice pre-medical students are now part of the family. Curriculum changes built into the new plan instituted this year in the academic division now allow these students much more freedom in planning their courses.

CHEMISTRY 220 (volumetric quantitative analysis) has been converted to a one semester course and will be offered in the fall semester before comparative anatomy, which will be offered in the spring. Organic Chemistry, which in the past was numbered 300, is now open to sophomore students and can be taken prior to Chemistry 220.

A more liberal policy now allows the pre-medical student to postpone the start of a foreign language to his sophomore year so that another introductory science can be taken in the first year.

The difficulties in the pre-medical programs of the past have generally stemmed from the science requirements of the medical schools. Organic chemistry, physics, and one semester each of comparative anatomy and quantitative analysis are mandatory.

THE MAJORITY of pre-medical students are biology majors. With the introductory courses of Biology 100 and Chemistry 120, curriculum required by medical schools, and the prerequisites for a degree in biology, the biology pre-med has been forced to take nine science courses and allowed only one of them in his freshman year.

In the past this has resulted in three or four laboratory courses per year in the junior and senior years for these unsuspecting academic students. The administration has allowed, and even suggested, in past years that pre-medical students take quantitative analysis in summer school.

The net result of the changes made by the committee which revised the academic curriculum is more freedom for Rice pre-med, and a general feeling among these students of being adopted into the family.