

Reading courses offered

More college students drop out of college because of the inability to study and read well than for any other reason.

Businessmen, professionals, housewives—persons from all walks of life are being inundated with a tremendous amount of reading material each day and are unable to cope with it all.

Large numbers of high school students graduate with less than a ninth grade reading ability.

What do all these problems have in common? The solution, help, is available at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Rebecca Patterson and Kate Sandberg, reading specialists at the school's Anchorage Community College, have developed a program which they feel is able to help adult readers at all levels. The two specialists teach varied reading classes, direct the University's Reading Lab and will coordinate study skills seminars during the spring and fall of 1977.

Three courses will be offered in the spring semester beginning Jan. 17. Included are Speed Reading, Study Reading for College and Reading Lab. The instructors recommend these classes for all adults, particularly those people returning to college.

Although the Anchorage Borough School District has established a complete reading program at the elementary and secondary levels, the ACC instructors feel the reading process does not stop developing at high school graduation.

"Have you ever read a textbook or other material, sat back and realized you didn't remember anything from it?" Miss Patterson asked. "Learning critical reading techniques which increase comprehension and memory will help students at all reading levels to understand advanced material," she said.

"The Reading Lab course reaches students who would like help in basic reading and vocabulary skills in order that he or she be able to read college materials easily," explained Mrs. Sandberg. "Our intermediate course, Study Reading for College, stresses myriads of different study and vocabulary skills such as concentration, time schedules, mastering a textbook and text anxiety."

"Speed Reading should not be tackled until reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge are good," explained Miss Patterson, "although this advanced course at ACC works on analytical comprehension also."

The average high school graduate reads at 250 words per minute, according to the instruc-

tor. "The entire idea of speed reading is to be flexible, setting different rates for different types of material," Miss Patterson said. "A person can vary reading speed using different techniques depending on what the person is looking for in the selection," she said.

Students taking a reading course at the University have access to texts for different levels of reading comprehension, vocabulary, rate and study skills.

Controlled Reader machines, tapes, self-instruction kits and filmstrips also are available to provide for every student's needs. Students may at their convenience utilize these learning tools in the lab.

"We don't, however, emphasize reading machines in our courses," Mrs. Sandberg said, explaining that the student would begin to depend on them, feeling lost at home or in another reading situation.