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Women's Continuing  
Ed.

NEWSLETTER

THE MINNESOTA PLAN FOR THE CONTINUING EDUCATION OF WOMEN

University of Minnesota  
February 1963

I. Basic Demographic Data on Minnesota Plan Members . . . . . Vera M. Schletzer

The Women's Continuing Education Program was begun at the University of Minnesota in September, 1960. Data were taken from all application blanks as of July 31, 1962 and September 30, 1962.

Number: 898 application blanks were on file as of September 30, 1962. Of the persons represented, 360 joined during the first year of the program's operation, 419 joined during the second year, and 119 came during the first quarter of the third year. Included in this number are some women who have decided not to continue with their educational plans, some who have moved away from the area, and some who have successfully completed refresher courses or degree programs.

<u>Residence</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Minneapolis	415	53	487	54
St. Paul	178	23	204	23
Metropolitan area	91	12	101	11
Duluth	31	4	35	4
Elsewhere in Minn.	60	8	66	7
Out-of-state	4	1	5	1
	<u>779</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>100</u>

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Not specified	2	*	2	*
18-22	23	3	28	3
23-27	87	11	104	12
28-32	121	16	141	16
33-37	135	17	157	17
38-42	141	18	158	18
43-47	108	14	125	14
48-52	82	11	92	10
53-57	46	6	52	6
58-62	26	3	29	3
63+	8	1	10	1
	<u>779</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>100</u>

<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Not specified	6	1	6	1
Married	642	82	734	82
Divorced or separated	38	5	50	6
Widowed	29	4	38	4
Single	64	8	70	8
	<u>779</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>101</u>

<u>Number of children</u>	<u>Number July '62</u>	<u>% of mar- ried women</u>	<u>Number Sept. '62</u>	<u>% of mar- ried women</u>
0	60	8	62	8
1	85	12	105	13
2	213	30	249	30
3	197	28	220	27
4	101	14	118	14
5	36	5	45	5
6	9	1	12	1
7+	8	1	9	1
No information	0	*	2	*
	<u>709</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>822</u>	<u>99</u>

<u>Ages of children</u>	<u>Number July '62</u>	<u>% of mothers</u>	<u>Number Sept. '62</u>	<u>% of mothers</u>
Preschool only	126	19	153	20
Preschool through grade school	114	18	125	16
Preschool through high school	43	7	51	7
Preschool through adult	8	1	10	1
Grade school only	75	11	83	11
Grade school through high school	75	11	89	12
Grade school through adult	50	8	60	8
High school only	23	4	33	4
High School through adult	56	9	64	8
Adult only	77	12	90	12
No information	2	*	2	#
	<u>649</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>99</u>

<u>Education completed at time of filing application</u>	<u>Number July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Ambiguous (e.g. foreign)	9	1	9	1
Less than high school graduate	7	1	8	1
High school graduation	66	8	77	9
Technical or business training	44	6	52	6
Some college (less than 4 years)	293	38	341	38
College graduate	248	32	280	31
Some graduate or professional study (after college graduation)	51	7	61	7
Graduate or professional degree	39	5	45	5
College graduation plus additional courses not directed toward degree	22	3	25	3
	<u>779</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>101</u>

<u>Interval since last formal education</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No information	8	1	10	1
0-4 years	97	12	113	13
5-9 "	105	13	121	13
10-14 "	120	15	143	16
15-19 "	152	20	177	20
20-24 "	121	16	134	15
25-29 "	88	11	99	11
30-34 "	54	7	60	7
35-39 "	24	3	28	3
40-44 "	10	1	13	1
	<u>779</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>100</u>

<u>Interval since last informal education</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No information	25	3	25	3
0-4 years	256	33	304	34
5-9 "	101	13	116	13
10-14 "	103	13	117	13
15-19 "	114	15	130	14
20-24 "	79	10	90	10
25-29 "	60	8	69	8
30-34 "	24	3	28	3
35-39 "	14	2	15	2
40-44 "	3	*	4	*
	<u>779</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>100</u>

<u>Present Employment</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No information	2	*	2	*
None	524	67	619	69
Part-time	72	9	80	9
Full-time	181	23	197	22
	<u>779</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>100</u>

<u>Employment Plans</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>July '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Sept. '62</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No information	7	1	7	1
Not applicable	211	27	233	26
No work	284	36	323	36
Part-time	181	23	218	24
Full-time	96	12	117	13
	<u>779</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>100</u>

The question asked: "If you are not now working, do you plan to enter the labor force?" Some women who are already working chose to answer it also, so figures for "Not applicable" do not coincide with those in the "Present Employment" section. Also, many women whose immediate goal is a degree do not check employment as a goal, even though it is their ultimate one.

<u>Expressed interest of women enrolling in the Minnesota Plan</u>	<u>Number July '62</u>	<u>% of 779 women</u>	<u>Number Sept. '62</u>	<u>% of 898 women</u>
(There is no limit to the number of interests a woman could check.)				
Self-enrichment	416	53	471	52
Increased civic competence	158	20	175	19
Increased professional competence	195	25	223	25
Retraining in field of earlier specialization	105	13	123	14
Training in new field of specialization	254	33	297	33
Undergraduate degree within five years	286	37	339	38
Graduate degree	208	27	237	26
Other (vocationally oriented)	34	4	36	4
Other (non-vocationally oriented)	22	3	23	3
Nothing checked	17	2	21	2

<u>Occupations of Husbands</u>	<u>Number July '62</u>	<u>% of married women</u>
No information or unclassifiable	93	13
Professional and managerial	456	64
Clerical and sales	35	5
Semi-professional	35	5
Skilled occupations	29	4
Other occupations	23	3
Students	38	5
	<u>709</u>	<u>99</u>

## II. Educational Aims and Problems of Minnesota Plan Women. . . Kathleen M. Darley

The original application blank for the Minnesota Plan for Women's Continuing Education includes the statement, "Please state your educational aims and your educational problems", with approximately three inches of blank space to fill. Most applicants took this seriously and wrote a rather full reply. As might be expected, most of the problems were children too young to leave and too little money for tuition plus baby sitting.

The educational aims were tabulated with some interesting results. Many expressed doubts or gave more than one possible aim so these replies were tabulated more than once. For this reason percentages do not seem meaningful and have not been calculated. Nine hundred and twenty applications as of October 15, 1962 were analyzed in all. For one reason or another 40 women did not answer the question.

The following is a report of the field of study contemplated by the women at the time of their entry into the program. The single largest group (197) chose teaching in some form. Sixty were non-specific; 19 wanted to obtain a teaching certificate; 39 wanted elementary education; 14 each chose the Nursery, Kindergarten and Primary sequence, and Secondary Education. Eleven wanted college teaching. The other 40 chose specific areas such as speech therapy, remedial reading, etc. (see Table I.) The popularity of teaching may reflect somewhat its convenient hours and vacations for the mothers of school age children.

Social sciences in some form attracted 183 women with 78 considering some area of psychology, and 43 interested in social work. It is possible that some women did not fully understand the professional nature of these disciplines and the long term study involved at the time of application. Twenty women specified history as a major interest, and the others were scattered through sociology, international relations, etc. (see Table I.)

English and the humanities appealed to equal numbers--66 each, some with the idea of teaching them. Nineteen specified creative writing and 33 mentioned art. In this last category, it was unclear whether they meant art history or studio courses.

Fifty-three women stated an interest in areas related to medicine. The largest number of these (22) specified nursing, in which many hoped to expand an R.N. degree to a Bachelor of Science degree. Six were interested in medical technology; eight in public health fields; and five in occupational therapy. Seven women chose either pre-medicine or else mentioned occupations that require a medical degree.

While the areas of education, social sciences, English and the humanities, and the medical disciplines were the most often mentioned as fields of interest, the following table reveals the many areas chosen by smaller numbers of women in the program. At the present time we do not know how realistic or how idealistic these choices are. For those who have been counseled, it will be possible to determine to what degree aspirations were modified to meet realities. As a preliminary study, these figures can only indicate some of the initial ideas our applicants had. Certainly they show a wide variety of interests, and to a certain extent the practical nature of their tentative goals. At the very least, they seem to have taken the question seriously and to have expressed their desires fairly specifically.

TABLE I

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Architecture		2
Business - related		19
Accounting	6	
Business	7	
Economics	3	
Insurance	2	
Secretarial	1	
Education		197
Education - not otherwise specified	60	
Teaching certificate	19	
Nursery-Kindergarten-Primary	14	
Elementary Education	39	
Secondary Education	14	
College Teaching	11	

Education (cont.)

Specialties		40
Art Education	6	
Audio-Visual	1	
Gifted Children	1	
Handicapped Children	8	
Remedial Reading	7	
Retarded Children	7	
Speech Therapy	10	
English		66
English	26	
Literature	19	
Poetry	2	
Writing	19	
Home Economics		20
Design	1	
Home Economics	14	
Interior Decorating	3	
Nutrition	2	
Humanities		66
Art	33	
Humanities	13	
Music	12	
Philosophy	5	
Religion and Theology	3	
Journalism		15
Languages		29
French	12	
German	4	
Italian	1	
Languages - unspecified	7	
Russian	1	
Spanish	4	
Law		3
Library Science		23
Mathematics		14
Mathematics	10	
Programming	3	
Statistics	1	
Medical Fields		53
Nursing	22	
Nursing Education	3	
Public Health Nursing	8	

Medical Fields (cont.)

Hospital Administration	1	
Medical Technology	6	
Occupational Therapy	5	
Physical Therapy	1	
Pre-Medicine	5	
Medical Missionary	1	
Pathology	1	
Natural Sciences		20
Bacteriology	2	
Botany	1	
Chemistry	5	
Natural Sciences	4	
Physica	5	
Physiology	2	
Zoology	1	
Pharmacy		1
Social Sciences		183
Anthropology	2	
Family Life	5	
History	20	
International Relations	5	
Political Science	13	
Psychology	78	
Child	8	
Clinical	5	
Counseling	16	
Educational	2	
Industrial Personnel	1	
Mental Health =	3	
Psychology	39	
School	4	
Social Studies	60	
Social Sciences	4	
Social Studies	2	
Social Work	43	
Sociology	11	
Theatre		6
Theatre	2	
Radio and Television	4	
		<u>864</u>
<u>DIRECTORY</u>		
Coordinator & Co-director	Mrs. Vera Schletzer	106 TSMa 373-3850
Co-director	Mrs. Elizabeth Cless	153 Nicholson 373-3919

WOMEN'S CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM  
Temporary South of Mines A  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota