

74-75/2

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED THE A.A. DEGREE JUNE, 1974

Prepared by James M. Robertson

With the Assistance of the Research Center Staff

ApH-  
340C-  
18

RESEARCH CENTER REPORTS  
THE GENERAL COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED THE A.A. DEGREE JUNE, 1974

In June 1974, 61 students received the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree from the General College. Of these 61 graduating students, 41 (67.2%) were male and 20 (32.8%) were female. This report is a descriptive study of the academic profiles of these students.

### Previous Educational Experience

Fifteen (24.6%) of the 61 graduating students had transferred to the General College from other schools, both from other colleges and also from technical schools. These 15 students transferred an average of 46.7 credits, implying that they had the equivalent of about one year's college work prior to their entrance in the General College.

### Time in School

The total group of students completed the A.A. degree in an average of 7.1 quarters. The modal (most frequently occurring) value was 7.0 quarters. This means that the average student took two years and one quarter to complete the A.A. degree.

This may be examined in finer detail. The 15 students who had previous college work averaged 5.1 quarters to complete the A.A. degree. (The mode is 5.0 quarters.) This indicates that even though they entered the General College with an average of one year's college credit, transfer students spend more than one additional year (about two additional quarters) completing the A.A. degree.

The students who did not enter as transfer students (46 students) took an average of 7.7 quarters to complete their A.A. degrees. (The modal value for this group was 7.0 quarters.) Thus, it seems that nontransfer students,

as well as those who transfer from other schools, require an average of more than two years to complete the A.A. degree.

### Distribution of Coursework in GC

Table 1 presents the average number of credits taken in each distribution area and the average numeric point averages (NPA) for students who took coursework in that area. In addition, the number of students who took no coursework in each area is presented.

The data in Table 1 may reflect the way students define the freedom afforded them through the General College curriculum. It should be observed that the distribution areas presented in the table do not in every case represent subdivisions within teaching units in the college. Therefore, the predominance of credits in the social science area is partially an artifact of the classification scheme used in the table.

As can also be seen in the table, blanket credit was given to 11 (19.6%) of the total number of students. The average number of blanket credits given was 39.4.

### Outside Coursework

While enrolled in the General College students have the opportunity to take courses in other colleges, either through Extension Division or through other "day school" colleges.

Seventeen students (27.9%) had worked in the Extension Division at some point in their college careers. Of the 17 students who had taken Extension Division courses, ten (58.9% of the seventeen) had worked either one or two quarters in Extension. At least in the case of the June 1974 graduates, Extension work did not represent a sizable proportion of student credit hours. The other seven students, with a considerable amount of Extension work, may represent some interesting individual stories.

In considering day school courses in other colleges (CLA, IT, Business, etc.), 49 students (80.3%) obtained some non-CC credits. The average number of non-CC coursework included in the programs of these students was 20.6 credits.

Finally, 12 students (19.7%) took no outside coursework. These students took the entire 90 credits required to complete the A.A. degree in General College courses.

### Grade Performance

The average NPA earned by the 61 June graduates in their General College courses was 7.7. (The median value was 7.7, the modal value was 8.1, and the standard deviation was 1.7.) This represents a high C-average. Only one student had an average less than C.

It is also encouraging to note that 27 students (44.3%) had an overall NPA of B or better. Finally, four students (6.6%) graduated with an A-average.

Table 1. Distribution of Coursework Taken Toward the A.A. Degree

	<u>Average Number of Credits Taken</u>	<u>Average NPA In Area</u>	<u>Number of Students With No Coursework In Area</u>
Physical Science	5.2	8.0	31 (50.8%)
Biological Science	7.4	7.4	14 (23.0%)
Social Science	20.6	7.7	1 (1.6%)
Art and Music	4.5	8.1	24 (39.3%)
Literature and Language	4.2	7.2	28 (45.9%)
Mathematics	3.7	7.5	29 (47.5%)
Writing and Speech	10.5	7.7	4 (6.6%)
Business	8.2	7.4	15 (24.6%)
Occupational	4.5	7.4	32 (52.5%)
Personal	3.0	8.1	36 (59.0%)
Work Experience	0.5	(S/N only)	58 (95.1%)