

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT THROUGH
THE GENERAL COLLEGE RESEARCH CENTER 1974-1975

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RESEARCH CENTER REPORTS

THE GENERAL COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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The General College Research Center is a facility for collecting and analyzing data and disseminating information on a variety of activities within the General College. Services offered by the Research Center may be classified into three general categories - 1) ongoing research in curriculum development, 2) course/program evaluation, and 3) technical/advisory services. These categories at times overlap and often form a complimentary information package to facilitate faculty decision-making.

Studies conducted by the Research Center staff are published in G.C. Research Center Reports and G.C. Research Center Technical Reports. G.C. Research Center Reports contain studies of general interest and are distributed to the entire faculty. Specialized studies published in G.C. Research Technical Reports are distributed to selected members of the faculty. However, copies of this document are available to any faculty member or other interested individuals upon request.

The following review summarizes the projects undertaken by the General College Research Center staff during the 1974-75 academic year.

In the area of curriculum development thirteen studies were conducted to provide faculty members with information on students' background and progress at several stages of their General College careers. This information may be used in conjunction with course and program evaluations to formulate policies and directions of the General College curriculum.

Studies published:

A Note on the Relationship Between First and Second Quarter Grades in the General College (Research Center Technical Report No. 1)

A Note on the Prediction of Academic Performance with the SCAT (Research Center Technical Report No. 2)

A Note on the Entrance Test Scores of Students Entering the General College Winter and Spring Quarters 1974 (Research Center Technical Report No. 3)

Credit Distributions of 1973-74 General College Baccalaureate Graduates (Research Center Technical Report No. 4)

Distributions and Grades from Pre-Admission Coursework of the 1973-74 General College Baccalaureate Admittees (Research Center Technical Report No. 5)

Demographic Data, Prior Training, and Blanket Credits of 1973-74 General College Baccalaureate Admittees (Research Center Technical Report No. 9)

Course Distribution and Grade Averages of Some Students Who Graduated from the General College in Fall Quarter of 1973 (Research Center Report No. 1)

STATUS REPORT: A comparison of the students in the Legal Assistants Program to students in the other occupational programs of the General College (Research Center Technical Report No. 8)

A Comparison of Students Enrolled in Occupational and Non-occupational General College Programs: Selected aspects of data collected by Bong Soo Eun (Research Center Technical Report No. 10)

A Descriptive Study of Students Who Received the A.A. Degree June, 1974 (Research Center Report No. 2)

Studies in Progress:

Placement Study: Student Placement in English and Mathematics

Quarter by Quarter Grades - Follow-up on Progress of Students Admitted to GC Winter 1974, Spring 1974, Fall 1974

Degree Comprehensive Examination: 403 Students Who Received the Associate of Arts Degree, An Evaluation of Course Performance and Overall Performance

Two additional studies related to curriculum development were conducted to improve the test instruments used in the General College Comprehensive Testing Program.

Studies Published:

First Results from Degree Comp Form 6A: A Report on an Attempt to Improve Some Items of Degree Comp Form 6 (Research Center Technical Report No. 6)

Studies in Progress:

SCAT, Entrance Comprehensive Examination Study - Validation of Tests in Entrance Test Battery Winter 1974, Spring 1974, Fall 1974

The second category of Research Center activity, course and program evaluation, involved a total of nineteen studies. Specific evaluations conducted at the request of instructors and division heads serve a variety

of informational needs. For example, an instructor may be interested in determining whether a new audio-visual aid is effective in teaching certain concepts. A division head may be interested in the same information in terms of equipment costs and use of the equipment or teaching technique in other courses. Evaluation results also provide information bearing on curriculum development. To date six program evaluations and 13 course evaluations have been published or are in progress.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Studies Published:

An Evaluation of the Human Services Generalist Program of the General College, University of Minnesota (Research Center Technical Report No. 11)

An Evaluation of the Human Services Generalist Program of the General College, University of Minnesota:
Addendum: Evaluation of the core curriculum (Research Center Technical Report No. 14)

Studies in Progress:

Human Services Generalist Admissions Study

Annual Review of Academic Progress of H.E.L.P. Center Students

Survey of Title IV Students' Use and Perceptions of H.E.L.P. Center Services

Study of the General College Paralegal Program

Academic Profile of Students Enrolled in Project Newgate

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Studies Published:

Evaluation of Books Used in GC 3821 and GC 3822: "Toward a Good Life" (Research Center Technical Report No. 7)

Course Evaluation of GC 3821/3822: "Toward a Good Life" Part II: Evaluation of the Instructional Process (Research Center Technical Report No. 12)

Studies in Progress:

Evaluation of GC 3821/22: "Toward a Good Life" Part III: Outcome Report

Evaluation: GC 1366 "Images of Women in Literature"

Evaluation: GC 3374 Film and Society

Evaluation of Video Tape: Orientation to GC 1405
"Fundamentals of Usage and Style"

Evaluation of Video Tape: Orientation to GC 1409
"Communication Skills: Individual Study"

Evaluation of GC 3335 "Music: Twentieth Century"

Evaluation of Video Tape: Counseling Test in Human
Services Generalist Course

Political Science Study: Questionnaire Evaluation

Evaluation of GC 1402 "Reading and Vocabulary Development"
Fall, Winter, Spring 1974-75

Evaluation of GC 3464 "Communication in Organizations"

Evaluation: GC 3560 "Personnel Administration"

The General College Research Center often functions as a technical/advisory agency which may be utilized by faculty and students. Technical/advisory services include compiling student advisor lists, providing data for college and University committees, administering the Entrance and Degree Comprehensive Examinations, and monitoring students' independent study projects. The Research Center also maintains two vehicles for faculty publications. This list of activities is not meant to be exhaustive; rather, it consists of a few examples of formal Research Center projects. Many of the technical/advisory functions of the Research Center are carried on very informally and are not recorded. However, the following activities were noted during the 1974-75 academic year.

Technical/Advisory
Activities:

Reports on curriculum information to Division Heads

Development of General College Protocols for Research
Involving Human Subjects

Quarterly preparation and updating of student advisor
lists based on students' statements of preference

Article on B. Andrieu's thesis

Article on L. Matusak's thesis

Quarterly administration of the Entrance Comprehensive
Examination

Tabulation of Entrance Comprehensive Examination scores

Preparation of percentile ranks on individual Entrance Comp tests for use by student advisors in placing students in appropriate English and Mathematics courses

REPMEAS: A Computer Program for Proportional Cell Frequencies Repeated Measures ANOVA (Research Center Technical Report No. 13)

Quarterly administration of the Degree Comprehensive Examination

Tabulation of Degree Comprehensive Examination scores

Dissemination of Degree Comprehensive scores to students

Analysis of questionnaire: "Need for Salesperson Certification"

Construction and data analysis of the "Dean Selection Questionnaire"

Provided assistance to three students in the Human Services Generalist Program

Teaching assistance in math classes taught by Dr. Giese

Program on questionnaire analysis

Advised two students doing an independent study project on Computer Data Bases and Confidentiality

Constructed consent form for use in the General College Comprehensive Testing program

Monitored five independent study students doing studies in the area of criminal behavior, corrections and Group therapy

Editing and revision of the Task Force Report on Academic Salaries

Preparation of General College Resource Center Multi-Media Resource Guide

Each year faculty members contribute articles to the G.C. Studies and the G.C. Newsletter on topics of special interest to the college and the educational community at large. These publications are distributed to many educational centers, colleges and Universities throughout the United States. The following list represents the articles authored by G.C. faculty members and published in the G.C. Studies during 1974-75.

"Teacher Evaluation: A Self-Appraisal Method," Daniel
Detzner (Social and Behavioral Science Division)
Vol. XI No. 1

"The General College Legal Paraprofessional Program:
An Evaluation," Rober Larson (Science, Business and
Mathematics Division) Vol. XI No. 2

"The Influence of John Dewey's Philosophy on the Founding
of the General College," Elvin O. Balkum (Art, Communi-
cation and Philosophy Division) Vol. XI No. 3

"At Large: The General College Reading/Writing Skills
Center and Its Satellites, 1974-75," Vernelle Kurak
(Art, Communication and Philosophy Division) Vol. XI No. 4

Copies of all General College Research Center publications and reports are
available through the General College office, 106 Nicholson Hall. Information
on work in progress may be obtained by contacting the General College Research
Center office, 306B Nicholson Hall.