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SUCCESS OF GENERAL COLLEGE STUDENTS IN UPPER DIVISION CLASSES

DURING THE QUARTER

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RESEARCH CENTER REPORTS

THE GENERAL COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

During the Fall Quarter, 1968, thirty-nine General College students registered for a total of 46 upper division courses in various departments of the University. The overall pattern of grades earned in these courses was mixed. Surprisingly, some General College students did very well in certain courses usually considered "difficult", while other students, predictably, did poorly. Only one course, Public Health 50, was taken by more than two students, with very discouraging results.

Table 1 gives GC credits completed and NPA for students who began their collegiate experience in the General College and for students who transferred into the General College. As the table shows, upper division courses are generally taken by General College students who have accumulated a considerable number of credits. The data in the table also makes it evident that some students with low NPA's, who probably should not be advised to take combination programs, are in fact enrolling in upper division classes. The absence of NPA's in the upper range probably is due to the selection factor that allows students with the higher NPA's to transfer to other units within the University.

Table 1  
Credits Completed and NPA  
of Students Electing Upper Division Courses

	Credits Completed				N P A		
	Regular	Transfer	Total		Regular	Transfer	Total
90-	9	-	9	10.0-	-	1	1
80-89	2	3	5	9.0-9.9	-	-	-
70-79	3	1	4	8.0-8.9	3	4	7
60-69	-	-	-	7.0-7.9	9	2	11
50-59	2	3	5	6.0-6.9	6	1	7
40-49	2	1	3	5.0-5.9	2	1	3
30-39	1	1	2	4.0-4.9	1	-	1
20-29	-	-	-	3.0-3.9	-	-	-
10-19	1	-	1	2.0-2.9	-	-	-
0-9	1	-	1	1.0-1.9	-	-	-
	<u>21</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>30</u>		<u>21</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>30</u>

The individual record of each student who took an upper division course is summarized in Table 2. The courses taken, for the most part, were reasonably related to the individual's program and background. As one might expect, the results show a disproportionate number of W's. On the other hand, there were only two I's and no F's except in PubH 50. In PubH 50, six out of the ten enrolled students received a grade of F; one received a D; two received C's; and there was one incomplete.

On the basis of the data, it would seem that selected upper division courses should be made available to students whose records and preparation indicate that they have a reasonable chance to pass such courses. However, students must be discouraged from taking upper division courses as a means of qualifying for transfer when their records indicate that they will not successfully complete transfer and when it appears that they are taking such courses only in an attempt to build up acceptable transfer records. Such transfer records should be made up of suitable lower division courses.

Table 2  
Individual Record of Students

A. Regular GC Students

<u>Student</u>	<u>Credits Completed</u>	<u>NPA</u>	<u>Outside Courses Passed</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade</u>
<b>1. Passing Grade</b>					
1	128	6.8	12	Econ 50A Hlst 53	A B
2	16	6.0	1	Span 55	A
3	8	8.0	1	Span 85	D
4	96	7.1	4	Mus 51	D
5	30	7.0	3	Mus 57	A
6	99	7.5	7	Arts 53	C
7	99	6.8	10	Arts 70	B
8	93	7.1	10	Arts 71	C
9	55	6.2	2	Mort 51	C
10	144	7.7	8	PubH 50	C
11	103	7.2	5	PubH 50	C
<b>2. Failing Grade</b>					
1	49	6.4	-	PubH 50	F
2	78	7.3	4	PubH 50	F
3	97	8.1	3	PubH 50	F
<b>3. Incomplete</b>					
1	83	5.7	7	Mus 61	I
2	81	5.1	9	Mus 81	I
<b>4. Withdrawals</b>					
1	98	8.6	4	Hlst 56	W
2	42	7.3	2	Hma 54	W
3	70	6.1	4	Jour 65	W
4	79	7.3	7	Soc 80	W
5	56	4.3	-	Mort 50 Mort 51 Mort 62	W W W

Table 2 (continued from previous page)

Individual Record of Student

B. Students Who Transferred into GC

<u>Student</u>	<u>Credits Completed</u>		<u>NPA</u>	<u>Outside Courses Passed</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade</u>
	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>GC</u>				
<b>1. Passing Grade</b>						
1	23	82	6.8	4	Econ 65	B
2	42	36	5.7	2	SW 90 SW 91	X A
3	41	55	10.0	5	Soc 53	C
4	38	87	8.4	14	The 51A The 92	C B
5	40	55	8.3	7	Arts 60A	A
6	65	74	8.9	7	Math 65 Phys 50 Phys 50A	B B C
7	38	55	8.6	1	PubH 50	D
<b>2. Failing Grade</b>						
1	39	49	7.3	3	PubH 50	F
2	33	80	7.2	5	PubH 50	F

C. Information about student not available

1	Arab 51	C
2	SSci 51	C
3	BLaw 98	I
4	Dent 50	D
5	PubH 50	I
6	PubH 50	F
7	Hum 54	W
8	SW 90	W
9	Th 74	W