



A Demographic and Academic  
Description of General College  
Students Fall 1979

by

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June, 1980

Research Report 2-80

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This report summarizes characteristics of General College (GC) students who were enrolled in the college during Fall Quarter 1979. Previous reports of this nature have summarized characteristics of students enrolled Fall 1978 and Fall 1976. While reports of this nature cannot answer completely all the complex questions related to characteristics of GC students, they do allow for a broad overview of the current GC student. Furthermore, if routinely collected, they can also provide longitudinal comparisons to monitor student characteristics over time.

The data for this report was collected from the Office of Admissions and Records Data Retrieval Center and the GC Student Survey. The latter questionnaire was completed by most of the GC students who attended new student orientation/registration during the summer of 1979. A total of 1034 students new to GC Fall Quarter completed the survey. Tables in this report collected from the Student Survey are identified by an asterisk (\*).

Data collected from the Data Retrieval Center provides characteristics for all GC students enrolled Fall 1979 (N=2937) as well as those who were new to GC during Fall 1979 (N=1235). Approximately 88% of these new GC students were identified as freshman (Part III-Table A).

The summary of student characteristics is divided into three parts. Part I (Page 4) gives demographic characteristics as well as information about students' plans, needs, and reasons for attending GC. Part II (Page 9) provides data related to the students' academic activity prior to attending GC, such as high school attended, high school rank, and standardized test scores. Part III (Page 13) includes academic background at the University

of Minnesota, such as major, GPA, and credit completion ratio.

The following is a summary of the data presented on Pages 4-13. The actual Tables should be consulted for a more thorough analysis.

1. Slightly more male than female students with an average age of 22 years were enrolled. Approximately 20% of the students identified themselves as non-caucasian.
2. Eighty per cent (80%) of the students came from the 7-county metropolitan area and over 80% of their parents are high school graduates. Sixty-five per cent (65%) of the parents have some post high school training.
3. For over 90% of the students, GC was their first or second choice of college and 50% applied only to GC. Nearly 60% learned about GC from friends or a high school teacher or counselor. For 61% of the students they were the first in their family to attend college. Seventy-five per cent (75%) plan to work while attending college.
4. Seventy per cent (70%) aspire to a Bachelor's degree or higher. Two-thirds plan to transfer from GC, most to another U of M college. The most frequently stated reasons for enrolling in GC were: to improve academic background (58%), to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas (49%), to complete courses to transfer (46%), and to learn more about things that interest me (45%).

5. Sixty per cent (60%) of the students expressed a need for career planning assistance. Career, academic, financial, and stress reduction counseling were most often identified as counseling needs. Students expressed the most need for developmental work in math, english, and science.
6. Highland and Edina-West High Schools were represented by the most students. About 8% of the students graduated from private high schools. About 6% were non-high school graduates.
7. The average high school percentile rank was at the 36th percentile. About 6% were above the 50th percentile. Based on 76% of the students, the average overall high school GPA was 2.30. Sixty-three per cent (63%) did not report a high school percentile rank. About two-thirds of the students failed to take either the PSAT or ACT pre-college exams.
8. Sixty-two per cent (62%) of the students were either undecided or did not identify a valid college major. Pre-business was the most frequently cited major, 11% followed by psychology (2%).
9. The mean GPA for U of M course work was about a C+ with a credit completion ratio of 77%.

## Part I - Demographic Data

	All GC Students Fall 1979		New to GC Fall 1979	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
A. <u>Sex:</u>				
Male	1538	52.4	649	52.6
Female	1399	47.6	586	47.4
Total	2937		1235	
B. <u>Ethnic Background:</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
American Indian	52	1.8	24	1.9
Asian American	65	2.2	28	2.3
Black	282	9.6	115	9.3
Caucasian	2259	76.9	933	75.5
Chicano	65	2.2	35	2.8
International (foreign)	64	2.2	30	2.4
Other Spanish	24	0.8	9	0.7
Missing Data	126	4.3	61	4.9
C. <u>Age:</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Less than 17 yrs.	1	-	1	0.1
17-18	420	14.3	413	33.4
19-20	1016	34.6	435	35.2
21-22	579	19.7	157	12.7
23-26	384	13.1	105	8.5
27-30	169	5.6	40	3.2
31-35	92	3.1	19	1.5
36-40	36	1.2	6	0.5
41-50	38	1.3	9	0.7
51-59	10	0.3	1	0.1
Missing Data	192	6.5	49	4.0
Mean	22.0	-	20.4	-
Median	20.4	-	19.1	-
Mode	19	-	18	-
Std Dev	5.2	-	4.1	-
Range	15-59 yrs.		15-58 yrs.	
D. <u>Home County:</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Metro Area (7- counties)	2349	80.0	1002	81.1
Central Minn	42	1.4	16	1.3
Southeast Minn	52	1.8	24	1.9
Southwest Minn	48	1.6	28	2.3
Northeast Minn	25	0.9	10	0.8
Northwest Minn	8	0.3	6	0.5
Out of State	169	5.8	82	6.6
Out of Country	90	3.1	43	3.5
Missing Data	154	5.2	24	1.9

E. <u>Parent's Occupation:</u>		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Managerial	331	11.3	152	12.3	
Skilled Trades	365	12.4	127	10.3	
Professional	291	9.9	119	9.6	
Sales	208	7.1	73	5.9	
Service Trades	120	4.1	52	4.2	
Clerical or Office	109	3.7	40	3.2	
Farm	33	1.1	16	1.3	
Unskilled	8	0.3	5	0.4	
Other	281	9.6	102	8.3	
Missing Data	1191	40.6	549	44.5	

F. * <u>Parent's Education:</u>	<u>Mother</u>		<u>Father</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
8th Grade or less	72	7.0	89	8.6
Some high school	49	4.7	53	5.1
High school grad	357	34.5	224	21.7
1-2 yrs post high school	238	23.0	188	18.2
3-4 yrs college	53	5.1	48	4.6
College grad	133	12.9	194	18.8
Some grad school	22	2.1	30	2.9
Master's degree	39	3.8	66	6.4
Doctoral or professional degree	6	0.6	69	6.7
Other	7	0.7	7	0.7
Missing Data	57	5.5	67	6.5

\*Tables identified with asterisk taken from data collected from the General College Student Survey completed during freshman orientation by 1034 students new to General College.

G. \*Do you plan to work while attending college?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
No	251	24.3
1-10 hrs/wk	225	21.8
11-20 hrs/wk	398	38.5
21-35 hrs/wk	111	10.7
36 or more hrs/wk	36	3.5
Missing Data	13	1.3

H. \*Was General College your:

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
First choice	490	47.4
Second choice	479	46.3
Third choice	32	3.1
Less than third choice	19	1.8
Missing Data	14	1.4

I. \*To how many other colleges did you apply?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
None	516	49.9
One	345	33.4
Two	99	9.6
Three	39	3.8
Four	17	1.6
Five	8	0.8
Six or more	3	0.3
Missing Data	7	0.7

J. \*How did you learn about General College?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
College recruiter	125	12.1
Friends	289	27.9
Family	194	18.8
Guidance counselor or h.s. teacher	310	30.0
Media (newspaper or radio)	17	1.6
Other	162	15.7

K. \*How many other college acceptances did you receive this year?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
None	693	67.0
One	192	18.6
Two	81	7.8
Three	29	2.8
Four	9	0.9
Five	2	0.2
Six or more	2	0.2
Missing Data	26	2.5

L. \*Do you have brothers or sisters currently attending the University or who have attended previously?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	382	36.9
No	635	61.4
Missing Data	17	1.6

M. \*Do you plan to transfer from General College?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
No	106	10.3
Yes, to another college within U of M	650	62.9
Yes, to another college outside U of M	34	3.3
Not sure	230	22.2
Missing Data	14	1.4

N. \*What is the highest academic degree to which you aspire?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Certificate (less than AA degree)	20	1.9
AA degree	59	5.7
Bachelor's degree	419	40.5
Master's degree	201	19.4
Doctoral or professional degree	103	10.0
Other	56	5.4
Missing Data	86	8.3

O. \*Why are you enrolled in General College? (mark all that apply)

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
My parents wanted me to go	174	16.8
My friends wanted me to go	53	5.1
I could not find a job	4	0.4
I wanted to get away from home	61	5.9
To be able to get a better job	425	41.1
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	503	48.6
To improve my academic background	600	58.0
There was nothing better to do	24	2.3
To make me a more cultured person	278	26.9
To complete courses necessary to transfer to another college	470	45.5
To be able to make more money	313	30.3
To learn more about things that interest me	467	45.2
To meet new and interesting people	406	39.3
To prepare myself for graduate or professional school	299	28.9
I was not accepted to my first choice college	294	28.4
I wanted a particular program in the General College	100	9.7
Other	58	5.6

P. \*How well prepared do you feel in the following areas?

	Very Well		Fairly Well		Not Well		Missing	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Math skills	127	12.3	486	47.0	394	38.1	27	2.6
Writing skills	172	16.6	623	60.3	204	19.7	35	3.4
Reading skills	315	30.5	584	56.5	103	10.0	32	3.1
Study skills	109	10.5	642	62.1	244	23.6	39	3.8
Library and research skills	151	14.6	616	59.6	230	22.2	37	3.6
Time management	144	13.9	630	60.9	218	21.1	42	4.1
Science	115	11.1	505	48.8	376	36.4	38	3.7
History, social sciences	185	17.9	618	59.8	190	18.4	41	4.0
Musical and artistic skills	236	22.8	415	40.1	342	33.1	41	4.0
Decision making skills	317	30.7	592	57.3	79	7.6	46	4.4
Career and college major plans	237	22.9	532	51.5	217	21.0	48	4.6



Q. \*Do you think you will have trouble passing any of your courses?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	40	3.9
No	571	55.2
Not sure	402	38.9
Missing Data	21	2.0

R. \*Do you feel that you will need any special tutoring or remedial work in any of the following areas?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
English	259	25.0
Reading	109	10.5
Mathematics	426	41.2
Science	204	19.7
Social science	64	6.2
Foreign language	131	12.7

S. \*Do you need help in deciding or planning for a job or career?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	320	30.9
No	382	36.9
Not sure	309	29.9
Missing Data	23	2.2

T. \*In which of the following areas would counseling be helpful to you? (mark all that apply)

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Financial	354	34.2
Family	46	4.4
Academic	377	36.5
Career	430	41.6
Making friends	51	4.9
Marriage or couples	23	2.2
Stress reduction	120	11.6
Chemical dependency	19	1.8
Test or speech anxiety	105	10.2
Other	23	2.2

Part II - Academic Background  
Before U of M

A. High Schools (represented by 20 or more students):

All GC students Fall 1979 (N=2937)	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
St. Paul Public School District		
Highland	89	3.0
Johnson	19	0.6
Harding	17	0.6
Humbolt	16	0.5
Murray	16	0.5
Washington	15	0.5
Central	13	0.4
Mechanic Arts	11	0.4
Other St. Paul Public District	9	0.3
Minneapolis Public School District		
Washburn	50	1.7
Roosevelt	41	1.4
Marshall	40	1.4
Southwest	34	1.2
North	31	1.1
Edison	28	1.0
West	28	1.0
Central	23	0.8
South	21	0.7
Other Minneapolis Public District	19	0.6
Metro Public School Districts		
Edina-West	74	2.5
St. Louis Park	59	2.0
Edina-East	58	2.0
Minnetonka	48	1.6
Lindberg-Hopkins	48	1.6
Armstrong-Robbinsdale	40	1.4
Ramsey-Roseville	40	1.4
Wayzata	38	1.3
Richfield	36	1.2
Golden Valley	31	1.1
Robbinsdale	30	1.0
Moundsview	25	0.9
Sibley-West St. Paul	25	0.9
Eisenhower-Hopkins	24	0.8
St. Anthony Village	23	0.8
Cooper-Robbinsdale	22	0.7
Kellogg-Roseville	21	0.7
Jefferson-Bloomington	20	0.7
Other-Bloomington	36	1.2

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Private Schools		
Cretin-St. Paul	24	0.8
Benilde-St. Louis Park	23	0.8
Regina-Minneapolis	22	0.7
Other Metro Private	141	4.8
Other Private	11	0.4
Other Public Districts <sup>1</sup>	446	15.2
Non-High School Grad	186	6.3
Noncodeable	15	0.5
Missing Data	851	29.0

<sup>1</sup>Metro and out-state with less than 20 students represented

B. High School Class Size:

	All GC Students		New to GC	
	Fall 79		Fall 79	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1-50	24	0.8	14	1.1
51-100	67	2.3	29	2.3
101-150	187	6.4	96	7.8
151-200	153	5.2	58	4.7
201-250	157	5.3	67	5.4
251-300	75	2.6	30	2.4
301-350	115	3.9	48	3.9
351 or more	1223	41.6	511	41.4
Missing Data	936	31.9	382	30.9
Mean	411	-	393	-
Std Dev	282.4	-	194.0	-

C. Year of High School Graduation:

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Before 1960	31	1.1	8	0.6
1960-1969	104	3.5	23	1.9
1970-1972	119	4.5	29	2.3
1973-1975	298	10.1	70	5.7
1976-1978	1066	36.3	197	15.6
1979	562	19.1	557	45.1
Missing Data	747	25.4	299	24.2

D. \*How many years has it been since you last attended any school?

New to GC Fall 79 (N=1034)

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Less than 1 year	674	65.2
1-2 years	197	19.1
3-5 years	77	7.4
6-10 years	45	4.4
More than 10 yrs	15	1.5
Missing Data	26	2.5

E. \*What is the highest grade level you completed before enrolling in GC?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
8th Grade or less	7	0.7
Some high school	24	2.3
High school graduate	708	68.5
One year or less of college	183	17.7
Two years or more of college	52	5.0
Other	45	4.4
Missing Data	15	1.5

F. High School Percentile Rank:

Percentile Rank	All GC Students Fall 79		New to GC Fall 79	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1-10	105	3.6(9.7) <sup>2</sup>	17	1.4(14.1) <sup>2</sup>
11-20	172	5.8(15.9)	19	1.5(15.7)
21-30	199	6.8(18.4)	25	2.0(20.7)
31-40	202	6.9(18.7)	20	1.6(16.5)
41-50	168	5.7(15.5)	18	1.4(14.8)
51-60	96	3.2(8.9)	6	0.4(5.0)
61-70	66	2.3(6.1)	9	0.7(7.4)
71-80	42	1.4(3.9)	3	0.3(2.5)
81-90	18	0.6(1.6)	2	0.2(1.7)
91-99	12	0.4(1.1)	2	0.2(1.7)
Missing Data	1857	63.2 -	1114	90.2 -
Mean	36	-	33	-
Std Dev	20.5	-	21.5	-
Median	33.5	-	30.0	-

<sup>2</sup>Percentages in parenthesis based only on those reporting percentile rank

G. High School Grade Point Averages (GPA):

	All GC Students Fall 79			New to GC Fall 79		
	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std Dev</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std Dev</u>
Overall GPA	2243	2.30	0.47	939	2.29	0.46
Academic GPA	2243	2.24	0.49	939	2.23	0.47
English GPA	2220	2.26	0.62	932	2.27	0.60
Math GPA	2100	2.41	0.71	886	2.36	0.71
Soc Sci GPA	2202	2.18	0.64	921	2.16	0.62
Nat Sci GPA	1898	1.99	0.71	806	2.01	0.71

H. Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT):

Score	All GC Students Fall 79				New to GC Fall 79			
	Verbal		Math		Verbal		Math	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
11-20	60	2.0	13	0.4	39	3.2	4	0.3
21-30	257	8.8	180	6.1	127	10.3	90	7.3
31-40	434	14.8	424	14.4	203	16.5	213	17.3
41-50	204	6.9	296	10.1	89	7.2	134	10.8
51-70	35	1.3	77	2.6	10	0.8	27	2.2
Missing Data	1947	66.3	1947	66.3	767	62.1	767	62.1
Mean	34.4	-	38.0	-	33.3	-	37.4	-
Std Dev	8.6	-	8.5	-	8.4	-	8.0	-

I. American College Testing Program (ACT):

Score	All GC Students Fall 79 (N=2937)									
	Composite		Eng		Math		Soc Sci		Nat Sci	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1-5	12	0.4	19	0.6	86	2.9	50	1.7	18	0.6
6-10	125	4.3	177	6.0	255	8.7	279	9.5	57	1.9
11-15	394	13.4	348	11.8	320	10.2	286	9.7	263	9.0
16-20	360	12.3	357	12.2	264	9.0	178	6.1	362	12.3
21-25	124	4.3	119	4.1	91	3.1	184	6.3	200	6.8
26-30	10	0.3	4	0.1	28	1.0	46	1.6	109	3.7
31-35	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	15	0.5
Missing Data	1912	65.1	1912	65.1	1912	65.1	1913	65.1	1913	65.1
Mean	15.4		14.9		13.5		14.5		18.2	
Std Dev	4.5		4.7		5.9		6.3		5.6	

J. American College Testing Program (ACT):

Score	New to GC Fall 79 (N=1235)									
	Composite		Eng		Math		Soc Sci		Nat Sci	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1-5	4	0.3	7	0.6	38	3.1	20	1.6	5	0.4
6-10	52	4.2	57	4.6	104	8.4	115	9.3	26	2.1
11-15	156	12.6	147	11.9	110	8.9	120	9.7	100	8.1
16-20	143	11.6	148	12.0	105	8.5	71	5.7	149	12.1
21-25	47	3.8	45	3.6	38	3.1	67	5.4	85	6.9
26-30	2	0.2	-	-	8	0.6	11	0.9	34	2.8
31-35	-	-	-	-	1	0.1	-	-	5	0.4
Missing Data	831	67.3	831	67.3	831	67.3	831	67.3	831	67.3
Mean	15.3		15.1		13.3		14.1		18.1	
Std Dev	4.3		4.4		6.0		6.0		5.4	

Part III - U of M  
Academic Background

A. Class in School:

	All GC Students Fall 79		New to GC Fall 79	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Freshman	1557	53.0	1086	87.9
Sophomore	898	30.6	114	9.2
Junior	212	7.2	13	1.1
Senior	106	3.6	2	0.2
Adult Special	115	3.9	18	1.5
Missing Data	49	1.7	2	0.2

B. Major Field of Study After Enrollment:

	All GC Students Fall 79		New to GC Fall 79	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Undecided	951	32.4	470	38.1
Invalid	400	13.6	25	2.0
Noncodeable	376	12.8	186	15.1
Pre-business	335	11.4	177	14.3
None	106	3.6	-	-
Psychology	47	1.6	24	1.9
Pre-journalism	38	1.3	20	1.6
Pre-nursing	34	1.2	17	1.4
Pre-elem educ	27	0.9	18	1.5
English	27	0.9	17	1.4
Dental Assisting	23	0.8	17	1.4
Pre-I.T.	23	0.8	12	1.0
Pre-phys educ	22	0.7	8	0.6
Studio Art	21	0.7	9	0.7
Architecture	20	0.7	11	0.9
Computer Science	20	0.7	11	0.9
Theatre Arts	20	0.7	16	1.3
Radiology	17	0.6	10	0.8
Other (less than 20)	447	15.2	Other (less than 10) 187	15.1

C. U of M Cumulative Credits, GPA, and Coefficient of Completion (CC):

	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std Dev</u>
All GC Students Enrolled Fall 79			
U of M Cum Credits Attempted	2937	37.1	45.1
U of M Cum Credits Completed	2937	28.7	35.7
U of M Cum GPA <sup>3</sup>	1734	2.62	0.59
U of M Cum GPA <sup>4</sup>	1734	2.34	0.77
U of M Cum CC <sup>5</sup>	1782	0.77	0.24
U of M Cum CC <sup>6</sup>	1773	0.83	0.22
Previous College GPA	326	.1.99	0.64

<sup>3</sup>N grades not included in calculation

<sup>4</sup>N grades included in calculation and counted as F grades

<sup>5</sup>All credits completed divided by all credits attempted

<sup>6</sup>All credits completed divided by all credits attempted with W grades deleted from the denominator