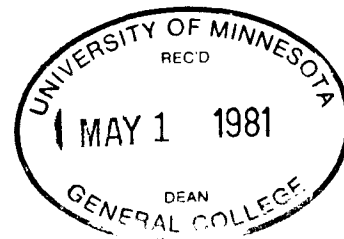


A Demographic and Academic
Description of General College
Students Fall 1980

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General College Research Reports
University of Minnesota

This report summarizes characteristics of General College (GC) students who were enrolled in the College during Fall Quarter 1980. Previous reports of this nature have summarized characteristics of students enrolled Fall Quarters 1979, 1978, and 1976. While such reports 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 provide longitudinal comparisons of student characteristics over time.

The data for this report was collected from the Office of Admissions and Records Data Retrieval Center and through the GC Student Survey. The latter questionnaire was completed by most of the GC students who attended new student orientation/registration during Summer 1980. A total of 1009 students new to GC Fall Quarter completed the survey. Data contained in Tables F-P (Part I) in this report were collected from the Student Survey.

Data collected from the Data Retrieval Center provides characteristics for all GC students enrolled Fall 1980 (N=3348) as well as those who were new to GC during Summer or Fall 1980 (N=1374). Approximately 87% of these new GC students were identified as freshmen (Part III-Table A).

The summary of student characteristics is divided into three parts. Part I (Page 6) gives **demographic** characteristics as well as information about students' plans and academic and counseling needs. Part II (Page 10) 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 14) 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. When appropriate, comparisons are made between the 1979 and 1980 data.

1. While the average age of the GC student (22 years) has remained relatively stable over the last two years, there was a greater proportion of males enrolled in the College during 1980 compared to 1979. In 1979 there were about 5% more males compared to females, while in 1980 there were about 13% more males.
2. Although strict comparisons are difficult because students were much less likely to report their ethnic background in 1980, the ethnic backgrounds of GC students were somewhat different for 1980 compared to 1979. For all students enrolled Fall 1980 and based on those reporting ethnic background there were nearly twice as many Asian-American students in 1980 (4.3% vs. 2.3%), and slightly fewer Black students in 1980 (9% vs. 10%). Other ethnic groups were represented similarly in both 1979 and 1980. In 1979 and 1980, about 80% of the GC students identified themselves as Caucasian. For students enrolled for the first time during Summer of Fall 1980, the ethnic patterns were different. In 1980 there were fewer Chicano students (1.6% vs. 3.0%), fewer Blacks (8.3% vs. 9.8%), fewer international students (1.6% vs. 2.6%), and fewer students identified as Spanish heritage (.4% vs. .8%). There were greater numbers of first time enrolled Asian-American students in 1980 (6.0% vs. 2.4%).
3. In 1980 slightly fewer students came from the 7-county metropolitan area (79% in 1980 vs. 81% in 1979 for first time enrollees). In 1980 the educational training of students' parents tended to be higher compared to 1979 students.

4. In 1979, 24% of the entering freshmen said they did not plan to work while attending college, and in 1980, 13% did not plan to work and 14% were not sure. In 1980, 48% of the entering freshmen expected to be receiving financial aid to attend college.
5. Over 75% of the 1980 students indicated plans to transfer from GC. The vast majority planned to transfer to other colleges within the University. In 1979 about 66% indicated transfer plans. In 1980 fewer students had no plans to transfer and fewer were unsure about their transfer plans compared to 1979.
6. In 1980, 28% entered the College with one or more years of previous college experience compared to 23% in 1979. Also in 1980, entering students were less likely to have come to the College directly from high school. The percentage of students who have been away from any school for more than ten years doubled between 1979 and 1980 (1.5% vs. 3.6%).
7. In 1980, 82% of the entering students had academic aspirations which included a Bachelor's or graduate degree. Seventy percent had similar aspirations in 1979. In 1979 more students (5.7%) indicated the Associate's degree as the terminal degree compared to 1980 (2.3%).
8. In 1980 students expressed a greater need for counseling that focused on study skills, career and educational planning, anxiety management, and interpersonal relationships (making friends) compared to 1979.
9. About 5% of the 1980 entering students identified themselves as having a physical, emotional, or learning disability.

10. * The high schools represented by GC students in 1980 were similar to those in 1979. Highland Park (St. Paul) and Edina-West were represented most frequently. About 7% of the students were non high school graduates in 1980, slightly more than in 1979.
11. The mean high school percentile rank tended to be lower in 1980 (33rd percentile for all students) compared to 1979 (36th percentile), but many more high school ranks were reported in 1980. One third of the high school percentile ranks were missing in 1980 while two thirds were missing in 1979. As in 1979 only about one third of the GC students reported scores on either the PSAT or ACT exams. The mean scores on these tests were similar in 1979 and 1980.
12. Similarly to 1979, over 60% of the students were either undecided or did not identify a valid University major. Pre-business was again the most commonly cited major. Pre-IT was ranked second to business in 1980 and seventh in 1979. Psychology was ranked second in 1979 and third in 1980.
13. U of M cumulative GPA was slightly lower in 1980 compared to 1979 (2.57 vs. 2.62 without including N grades in the calculation). The cumulative credit completion ratios were identical for both years, while previous college GPA (when applicable) was slightly higher in 1980 (2.02 vs. 1.99).

Summary

Based on data presented in this report, the GC student in 1980 is likely to be male rather than female, older than the traditional collegiate freshman or sophomore, and white rather than non-white. Nearly 50% of GC students

will be receiving some form of financial aid and most plan to work while attending college. Students were very likely to place in the bottom half of their high school class academically, and 50% of the GC students placed in the bottom third of their high school class academically. Most students have educational aspirations which include at least a Bachelor's degree, and most are undecided about a collegiate major; for those who have indicated a choice, business, IT, and psychology are the most common. University of Minnesota academic achievement records show that the typical GC student has about a C+ average and has completed about 75% of his or her attempted courses. *

Compared to 1979, the 1980 GC student population includes more males and Asian-Americans, has plans to work while attending college, and has higher educational aspirations. Further, the 1980 student body includes more transfer students and students who have been out of high school for a longer period of time. The 1980 GC student data compared to 1979 show a stronger interest in IT majors and transferring from GC. Since high school percentile rank was more complete in 1980 compared to 1979, strict comparison between the two years is difficult on this variable. However, the available data show the average high school percentile rank to be lower for the 1980 GC students. These differences bear watching as they indicate trends that the College will need to take into account in future planning.

Part I - Demographic Data

	All GC Students Fall 1980		New to GC Summer or Fall 1980	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
A. <u>Sex:</u>				
Male	1884	56.3	786	57.2
Female	1464	43.7	588	42.8
Total	3348		1374	
B. <u>Ethnic Background:</u>				
American Indian	58	1.7 (2.0)	23	1.7 (2.0)
Asian American	124	3.7 (4.3)	69	5.0 (6.0)
Black	260	7.8 (9.0)	96	7.0 (8.3)
Chicano	57	1.7 (2.0)	19	1.4 (1.6)
International (foreign)	61	1.8 (2.1)	19	1.4 (1.6)
Other Spanish	20	0.6 (0.7)	5	0.4 (0.4)
White	2315	69.1 (80.0)	924	67.2 (80.0)
Missing data	453	13.5 -	219	15.9 -
C. <u>Age:</u>				
Less than 17 yrs.	1	-	1	0.1
17-18	407	12.2	393	28.6
19-20	1178	34.3	514	37.4
21-22	674	20.1	175	12.7
23-26	512	15.3	144	10.4
27-30	164	4.8	36	2.7
31-35	107	3.2	24	1.6
36-40	29	0.8	4	0.2
41-50	31	0.9	12	0.9
51-	9	0.2	4	0.3
Missing data	236	7.0	67	4.9
Mean		21.9		20.6
Median		20.4		19.3
Mode		19		18
Std dev		4.7		4.2
Range		16 to 59		16 to 57
D. <u>Home County:</u>				
Metro Area (7-counties)	2662	79.5	1083	78.8
Central Minnesota	63	1.9	35	2.5
Southeast Minnesota	65	1.9	39	2.8
Southwest Minnesota	62	1.9	28	2.0
Northeast Minnesota	31	0.9	18	1.3
Northwest Minnesota	12	0.4	6	0.4
Out of State	197	5.9	96	7.0
Out of Country	99	3.0	34	2.5
Missing data	156	4.7	35	2.5

E. <u>Parent's Occupation</u>	N	%	N	%
Managerial	257	7.7	24	1.7
Skilled Trades	242	7.2	25	1.8
Professional	213	6.4	28	2.0
Sales	150	4.5	11	0.8
Service Trades	66	2.0	6	0.4
Clerical or Office	69	2.1	8	0.6
Farm	22	0.7	1	0.1
Unskilled	8	0.2	3	0.2
Other	201	6.0	21	1.5
Missing data	2120	63.3	1247	90.8

Note: The following Tables F-P (noted with *) contain data collected from the GC Student Survey completed by 1009 GC students during freshman orientation Fall 1980.

*F. <u>Parent's Education:</u>	<u>Mother</u>		<u>Father</u>	
	N	%	N	%
8th grade or less	51	5.1	76	7.5
Some high school	59	5.8	50	5.0
High school grad or equivalent	333	33.0	197	19.5
Some college	208	20.6	151	15.0
Post high sch voc training or certificate	87	8.6	86	8.5
Bachelor's degree	156	15.5	196	19.4
Master's degree	40	4.0	114	11.3
Doctorate degree	6	0.6	54	5.4
Missing data	69	6.8	85	8.4

*G. <u>Will you be receiving financial aid to attend college?</u>	N	%
Yes	482	47.8
No	488	48.4
Missing data	39	3.9

*H. <u>Do you plan to work while attending college?</u>	N	%
No	131	13.0
Yes, 1-10 hrs/wk	143	14.2
Yes, 11-20 hrs/wk	407	40.3
Yes, 21-35 hrs/wk	137	13.6
Yes, 36 or more hrs/wk	45	4.5
Not sure	141	14.0
Missing data	5	0.5

*I. <u>Do you plan to transfer from GC?</u>	N	%
No	70	6.9
Yes, to another college within the Univ.	732	72.5
Yes, to another college outside the Univ.	41	4.1
Not sure	163	16.2
Missing data	3	0.3

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

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
8th grade or less	1	0.1
Some high school	12	1.2
High school grad	605	60.0
GED diploma	38	3.8
One year or less of college	197	19.5
Two years or more of college	79	7.8
Other	73	7.2
Missing data	4	0.4

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

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Less than 1 yr	617	61.1
1-2 yrs	201	19.9
3-5 yrs	99	9.8
6-10 yrs	53	5.3
More than 10 yrs	36	3.6
Missing data	3	0.3

*L. What is the highest academic degree you wish to obtain?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
None	39	3.9
Certificate (less than AA)	23	2.3
Associate's degree	75	7.4
Bachelor's degree	472	46.8
Master's degree	288	28.5
Doctorate degree	65	6.4
Missing data	47	4.7

*M. How well prepared do you feel in the following skill 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	112	11.1	449	44.5	402	39.8	46	4.6
Writing	149	14.8	657	65.1	160	15.9	43	4.3
Reading	276	27.4	582	57.7	107	10.6	44	4.4
Study	95	9.4	549	54.4	306	30.3	59	5.8
Musical and artistic	186	18.4	362	35.9	412	40.8	49	4.9
Library and research	107	10.6	620	61.4	234	23.2	48	4.8
Time management	131	13.0	607	60.2	221	21.9	50	5.0
Science	126	12.5	505	50.0	326	32.3	52	5.2
History, social science	177	17.5	595	59.0	185	18.3	52	5.2
Art, music, literature apprec	206	20.4	442	43.8	304	30.1	57	5.6
Decision making	279	27.7	577	57.2	92	9.1	61	6.0
Career and college major plans	215	21.3	506	50.1	220	21.8	68	6.7

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

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Financial	357	35.4
Family	37	3.7
Study skills	550	54.5
Career & educational planning	570	56.5
Making friends	74	7.3
Marriage or couples	24	2.4
General stress reduction	131	13.0
Chemical dependency	21	2.1
Test or speech anxiety	146	14.5
Other	20	2.0

*O. What are you planning to major in?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Undecided	248	24.6
Business	175	17.3
Humanities	39	3.9
Social science	60	5.9
Math or science	144	14.3
Medical science	76	7.5
Education	39	3.9
Other	176	17.4
Missing data	52	5.2

*P. Do you have a physical, emotional, or learning disability?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	54	5.4
No	877	86.9
Missing data	78	7.7

Part II - Academic Background

Before U of M

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

	All GC Students-F 80	
	N	%
St. Paul Public School District		
Highland	107	3.2
Johnson	17	0.5
Harding	13	0.4
Humbolt	11	0.3
Murray	22	0.7
Washington	14	0.4
Central	20	0.6
Mechanic Arts	7	0.2
Other St. Paul Public District	5	0.2
Minneapolis Public School District		
Washburn	55	1.6
Roosevelt	40	1.2
Marshall	39	1.2
Southwest	39	1.2
North	24	0.7
Edison	28	0.8
West	20	0.6
Central	22	0.7
South	24	0.7
Other Minneapolis Public District	22	0.7
Other Public Schools	520	15.5
Metro Public Schools		
Edina-West	91	2.7
St. Louis Park	80	2.4
Edina-East	67	2.0
Lindberg-Hopkins	48	1.4
Minnetonka	47	1.4
Ramsey-Roseville	43	1.3
Eisenhower-Hopkins	41	1.2
Richfield	40	1.2
Wayzata	39	1.2
Armstrong-Robbinsdale	38	1.1
Golden Valley	36	1.1
Jefferson-Bloomington	30	0.9
St. Anthony Village	30	0.9
Lincoln-Bloomington	27	0.8
Moundsview-New Brighton	27	0.8
Robbinsdale	27	0.8
Sibley-West St. Paul	24	0.7
Irondale-New Brighton	23	0.7
Savage-Burnsville	22	0.7
Fridley	21	0.6
Private Schools		
Cretin-St. Paul	35	1.0

6.5

10.1

23.9

8.2

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Benilde-St. Louis Park	27	0.8
Grace-Fridley	23	0.7
Holy Angels-Richfield	21	0.6
Hill-Murray-St. Paul	21	0.6
Other Private Schools	150	4.5
Non-high school grad	226	6.8*
Noncodeable	14	0.4
Missing data	981	29.3

¹ Metro and out-state with less than 20 students represented

B. High School Class Size:

	All GC Students F 80		New to GC SS or F 80	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1-50	32	1.0	16	1.2
51-100	79	2.4	35	2.5
101-150	185	5.5	75	5.5
151-200	183	5.5	72	5.2
201-250	168	5.0	84	6.1
251-300	96	2.9	46	3.3
301-350	126	3.8	55	4.0
351 or more	1391	41.5	577	42.0
Missing data	1088	32.5	414	30.1
Mean	406		390	
Std dev	270.9		187.8	

C. Year of High School Graduation:

	All GC Students F 80		New to GC SS or F 80	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Before 1960	24	0.7	7	0.6
1960-1970	128	3.8	30	2.2
1971-1973	124	3.7	37	2.7
1974-1976	385	11.5	87	6.4
1977-1979	1270	37.9	329	24.1
1980	552	16.5	546	39.7
Missing data	865	25.8	338	24.6

D. High School Percentile Rank:

Percentile Rank	All GC Students F 80		New to GC SS or F 80	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1-10	262	7.8 (11.5)	129	9.3 (13.7)*
11-20	396	11.9 (17.4)	160	11.6 (17.0)
21-30	439	13.2 (19.3)	187	13.6 (19.8)
31-40	395	11.8 (17.4)	167	12.1 (17.7)
41-50	375	11.2 (16.6)	162	11.8 (17.2)
51-60	201	6.0 (8.8)	80	5.8 (8.5)
61-70	89	2.7 (3.9)	29	2.1 (3.1)
71-80	54	1.6 (2.4)	14	1.0 (1.4)

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
81-90	37	1.1 (1.6)	12	0.9 (1.3)
91-99	22	0.6 (0.9)	3	0.2 (0.3)
Missing data	1078	32.2	431	31.4
Mean		33.3		31.6
Std dev		19.8		18.6
Median		31.2		30.2

* Percentages in parentheses based only on those reporting percentile rank

E. High School Grade Point Averages (GPA):

	All GC Students F 80 (N=3348)			New to GC SS or F 80		
	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std Dev</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std Dev</u>
Overall GPA	2525	2.28	0.46	1029	2.25	0.44
Academic GPA	2525	2.22	0.48	1029	2.20	0.46
English GPA	2510	2.24	0.61	1028	2.21	0.59
Math GPA	2389	2.37	0.71	990	2.34	0.70
SocSci GPA	2492	2.16	0.64	1024	2.11	0.63
NatSci GPA	2155	2.00	0.71	886	1.98	0.70

F. Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT):

Score	All GC Students F 80				New to GC SS or F 80			
	Verbal		Math		Verbal		Math	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
6-10	5	0.1	-	-	5	0.4	-	-
11-20	73	2.2	13	0.4	29	2.1	5	0.4
21-30	282	8.4	189	5.7	116	8.4	66	4.8
31-40	545	16.2	506	15.1	248	18.1	232	16.9
41-50	213	6.3	350	10.5	75	5.5	152	11.1
51-60	28	0.8	78	2.3	8	0.5	23	1.7
61-70	-	-	10	0.2	-	-	3	0.2
Missing data	2208	65.8	2208	65.8	893	65.0	893	65.0
Mean		33.9		38.2		33.4		38.1
Std dev		8.4		8.4		8.1		7.8

G. American College Testing Program (ACT):

Score	All GC Students F 80 (N=3348)									
	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	7	0.2	18	0.5	67	2.0	59	1.8	9	0.3
6-10	127	3.8	171	5.1	259	7.7	267	8.0	69	2.1
11-15	426	12.7	401	12.0	326	9.7	301	9.0	258	7.7
16-20	383	11.4	393	11.7	304	9.1	221	6.6	411	12.3
21-25	134	4.0	100	3.0	102	3.0	192	5.7	211	6.3
26-30	10	0.3	2	0.1	26	0.8	45	1.3	116	3.5
31-35	-	-	1	-	2	0.1	1	-	12	0.4
Missing data	2261	67.5	2262	67.6	2262	67.6	2262	67.6	2262	67.6
Mean		15.5		14.8		13.9		14.6		18.3
Std dev		4.3		4.4		5.8		6.3		5.5

H. American College Testing Program (ACT):

Score	New to GC SS or F 80 (N=1374)									
	Composite		Eng		Math		Soc Sci		Nat Sci	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1-5	1	0.1	8	0.6	16	1.2	18	1.3	1	0.1
6-10	42	3.1	62	4.5	103	7.5	97	7.1	25	1.8
11-15	157	11.4	148	10.8	120	8.7	109	7.9	87	6.3
16-20	155	11.3	150	10.9	121	8.8	99	7.2	160	11.6
21-25	47	3.4	36	2.6	37	2.7	65	4.7	88	6.4
26-30	2	0.1	-	-	7	0.5	16	1.2	41	3.0
31-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.1
Missing data	970	70.6	970	70.6	970	70.6	970	70.6	970	70.6
Mean	15.6		14.8		14.0		14.8		18.4	
Std dev	4.1		4.3		5.5		6.1		5.2	

Part III - U of M

Academic Background

A. <u>Class in School</u>	All GC Students F 80		New to GC SS or F 80	
	N	%	N	%
Freshman	1615	48.2	1201	87.4
Sophomore	1159	34.6	138	10.0
Junior	383	11.4	21	1.5
Senior	144	4.3	3	0.2
Adult Special	47	1.4	11	0.8
B. <u>Total Quarters Registered</u>	N	%	N	%
1	1265	37.8	1263	91.9
2-3	392	11.7	111	8.1
4	612	18.3	-	-
5-6	347	10.3	-	-
7	242	7.2	-	-
8-9	166	5.0	-	-
10	93	2.8	-	-
11-12	90	2.7	-	-
13	42	1.3	-	-
15-16	33	1.0	-	-
More than 16	41	1.2	-	-
C. <u>Major Field of Study After Enrollment</u>	N	%	N	%
Undecided	1120	33.5	507	36.9
Invalid	446	13.3	15	1.1
Pre-Business	441	13.2	214	15.6
Noncodeable	376	11.2	160	11.6
Pre-IT	78	2.3	54	3.9
None	77	2.3	-	-
Psychology	57	1.7	25	1.8
Pre-Journalism	52	1.6	34	2.5
English	44	1.3	20	1.5
Computer Science	38	1.1	25	1.8
Pre-Nursing	38	1.1	25	1.8
Pre-Elem Educ	35	1.0	15	1.1
Studio Arts	25	0.7	12	0.9
Theatre Arts	23	0.7	11	0.8
Speech Communications	22	0.7	15	1.1
Music	22	0.7	13	0.9
Architecture	22	0.7	11	0.8
Marketing	21	0.6	18	1.3
Social Work	21	0.6	14	1.0
Other (less than 20)	390	11.6	186	13.6
			(less than 11)	

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

	All GC Students F 80 (N=3348)		
	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std Dev</u>
U of M Cum Credits Attempted	3348	37.8	45.3
U of M Cum Credits Completed	3348	28.9	35.4
U of M Cum GPA [*]	2029	2.57	0.58
U of M Cum GPA ^{**}	2029	2.27	0.77
U of M Cum CC ^{***}	2077	0.77	0.24
U of M Cum CC ^{****}	2071	0.83	0.22
Previous College GPA	388	2.02	0.63

* N grades not included in calculation

** N Grades included in calculation and counted as F grades

*** All credits completed divided by all credits attempted

**** All credits completed divided by all credits attempted with W grades deleted from the denominator