



A STUDY OF DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS AT
OKLAHOMA A. AND M. COLLEGE

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A "distinguished student," as the term is used in this study, is a student whose name appeared on the Dean's List of Distinguished Students for the fall and spring semesters (1933-34). To qualify for this honor during any given semester, a student must pass not less than 15 semester hours of work with a grade of B or better, without receiving an incomplete, a conditional, or a failing grade. The standard used in this study is

considerably higher than that used by the institution, since it includes only students whose names appeared on the lists for both semesters. This reduced the number from approximately 600 to 218.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO SCHOOLS

School	Number of Students	Enrollment Ratio
Agriculture	33	29
Engineering	51	48
Home Economics	19	18
Science and Literature	55	52
Education	24	23
Commerce	36	48

It will be noted that the correspondence between the actual numbers of distinguished students and the number one should expect from the standpoint of total enrollment, or enrollment ratio, is rather close. The School of Commerce, however, has a much smaller number than the total enrollment ratio would lead one to expect. This difference may be due either to "selection" or differences in standards among the various schools or both.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO CLASSES

Class	Number of Students	Enrollment Ratio
Freshman	47	71
Sophomore	52	54
Junior	62	49
Senior	55	36
Specials	2	8

The sophomore class has just about maintained its enrollment ratio. We should, according to total enrollment, expect 54 and the class actually furnished 52. The freshman class, however, furnished only 66 per cent of its quota while the junior and the senior classes furnished 126 per cent and 153 per cent respectively. A senior, therefore, has almost twice as good a chance of becoming a distinguished student as a freshman. "Student survival," better methods of study, and higher grades in major subjects are likely responsible for this difference.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO TRANSFER STUDENTS

Class	Number of Students	Enrollment Ratio
Sophomore	15	11
Junior	23	23
Senior	16	15
Total Transfer Students	54	49

Transfer students furnished proportionately the same number of distinguished students as those who did all of their work here. In fact, the transfer students in the sophomore year did slightly better.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO SEX

School	Male	Female
Agriculture	32	1
Engineering	50	1
Home Economics		19
Science and Literature	32	23
Education	10	14
Commerce	19	17
Total	143	75
Quota	141	77

In spite of the fact that women students make in general higher grades than men, scholarship at the upper end of the distribution curve

is approximately equal. According to total enrollment we should expect 141 distinguished men students and the actual number is 143. It might appear that this close correspondence was due to the fact that Agriculture, Home Economics and Engineering are in general not co-educational and therefore not competitive. Yet, if we consider the data of the other three schools where men and women are more evenly divided, we get precisely the number of men and women students as we should expect from the total enrollment ratios.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO ROOMING CONDITIONS

	Number of Students	Enrollment Ratio
Private	104	114
Dormitories	51	34
At Home	43	38
Fraternities	18 (& 6)	32

The table shows that the dormitories had proportionately the largest number of distinguished students and those that roomed at home come next. The fraternities made perhaps the poorest showing. Although this is considerably improved by taking into account six distinguished students who belong to fraternities but do not room in the fraternities.

The age of the distinguished student was not found to be significant. The median distinguished student was six months younger than the median student of total enrollment.

Available data shows that the distinguished student has a high intelligence rating. The available data covered only about half the cases since transfer students were not required to take the entrance tests. According to entrance tests, 87 per cent have a rating of B or better (51 per cent of A's, 36 per cent of B's).

Occupation of Father	Number of Students	Enrollment Quota
Agriculture	70	65
Trade	44	65
Domestic and Personal Service	2	2
Manufacturing and Mechanical Service	27	15
Extraction of Minerals	20	11
Public Service	7	13
Professional Service	38	24
Transportation and Communication	4	8
Clerical	3	3
Not Specified, Indefinite, etc.	3	12

It is interesting to note that students whose fathers were connected with the extraction of minerals, mostly oil, made the best showing. Manufacturing and mechanical service ranked next. As one should expect, the professional group ranked high, and agriculture, in spite of adverse economic conditions and poorly equipped rural and small town schools, made a very satisfactory showing.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO HIGH SCHOOLS

The distinguished students came from 125 different secondary schools. Ninety-eight of these came from high schools within the state, three from junior colleges and 24 from secondary schools outside the state. On the basis of size, high schools were divided into four groups: Group 1, high schools in cities over 100,000; group 2, high schools in cities between

10,000 and 100,000; group 3, high schools in cities between 5,000 and 10,000; and group 4, high schools in cities under 5,000.

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Number of Students	24	21	47	98
Enrollment Quota	30	26	44	42

It will be noted that high schools in cities from 5,000 to 10,000 provide about as many distinguished students as we should expect from the total number that are enrolled here from these schools. The larger cities, however, do not furnish their proportionate number, while the small town high schools furnish more than twice their quotas. This is perhaps the most surprising fact in the whole study, and is difficult to explain. It may be that the best students in the smaller towns come here while in the larger cities they go elsewhere. It is also possible that the student from the small high school may take his work more seriously here.

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