

R E P O R T R E S U M E S

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THE COLLECTION AND UTILIZATION OF STUDENT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA
BY JUNIOR COLLEGES.

BY- ROUECHE, JOHN E.

CALIFORNIA UNIV., LOS ANGELES

PUB DATE MAR 67

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.25 HC-\$0.24 6P.

DESCRIPTORS- *JUNIOR COLLEGES, *STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS,
*STUDENT RECORDS, STUDENT ATTITUDES, *STUDENT RESEARCH,
QUESTIONNAIRES, RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES, BIBLIOGRAPHIES,
CLEARINGHOUSES, ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE FOR JUNIOR COLLEGE
INFORMATION

STUDIES RECEIVED BY THE CLEARINGHOUSE DEALING WITH
STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE RESEARCH BASED ON STUDENT
QUESTIONNAIRES, ON STUDENT RECORDS, AND ON REVIEWS OF
LITERATURE. DATA ARE REPORTED BOTH GRAPHICALLY AND IN TABULAR
FORM, ACCOMPANIED IN MOST CASES BY NARRATIVE COMMENT. GREATER
FREQUENCY IS NOTED IN UTILIZATION OF TOTAL STUDENT
POPULATIONS THAN OF SAMPLES OF THE STUDENT BODY, AND BASIC
SOCIOECONOMIC DATA ARE INCLUDED IN ALMOST ALL STUDIES. TWO OF
THE STUDIES UTILIZED ATTITUDINAL SCALES AND THIS RESEARCH
COULD HAVE STRONG IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AT
THE RESPECTIVE COLLEGES. THE STUDIES DO NOT, HOWEVER, INCLUDE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PLANNING. FOR THE MOST PART,
INSTITUTIONAL STUDY OF STUDENTS' BIOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS
APPEARS TO HAVE AS ITS OVERRIDING PURPOSE THE COMPILATION OF
DATA THAT MIGHT BE OF USE TO OTHER GROUPS WITHIN AND WITHOUT
THE JUNIOR COLLEGE. (A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF STUDIES SURVEYED IS
APPENDED.) THIS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN "JUNIOR COLLEGE
RESEARCH REVIEW," VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, MARCH 1967. (AL)

UCLA

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGE INFORMATION

JUNIOR COLLEGE RESEARCH REVIEW

A periodical review of research reports received and processed at the Clearinghouse for Junior College Information

The Collection and Utilization of Student Biographical Data by Junior Colleges

This is the second issue of *Junior College Research Review*, a publication of the Clearinghouse for Junior College Information. The Clearinghouse, located at UCLA, is one of thirteen currently operating within the U.S. Office of Education's Educational Research Information Center (ERIC).

The reports presented in this issue have been selected from those that have been received during the past six months. The Clearinghouse processes only those reports that summarize and collate information. It does not include collections of raw statistical data in its files, except as that data is part of the research reports themselves. We will be pleased to receive for inclusion in the Clearinghouse collection two copies of your recent research studies on any phase of junior college operations.

Sources: To date, the Clearinghouse for Junior College Information has received and processed seventeen studies of biographical data on groups of junior college students. Of these studies, eight were produced by junior college research offices, four by junior college counseling centers, and five by various junior college staff members.

Methodology: Eight studies secured requisite data by the use of student questionnaires, seven gained data from student records on file in the junior college, and one reviewed the literature of the field. Twelve studies surveyed the total student population and four used random-sampling techniques.

Biographical data was reported graphically and in tabular form. Narrative comments, in conjunction with data collected, were present in twelve studies; four contained none.

The populations studied in these reports vary widely. Six studies surveyed all students enrolled in the junior college, three studied the freshman class, and two studied nursing stu-

dents. Other studies examined separately the following groups: mature women students, previously disqualified students, students with reduced class loads, foreign language students, data-processing students, and students enrolled in the college's evening division.

Types of data collected and collated: Certain types of data were included in almost all studies, regardless of the populations surveyed. Fifteen studies reported on the ages of students; thirteen reported high schools attended; ten reported sex; nine reported various test scores; nine included information on the educational goals of students; and seven reported information on student residence. Other data collected included the following:

- Previous college attended
- Current and/or previous grade-point average
- Marital status
- Occupation
- Status as veteran
- Place of birth
- Parent's education and occupation
- Reasons for coming to college
- Number of credits earned to date
- Number of children
- Number of hours worked per week
- College major
- Number of credits taken currently
- Transportation to campus
- Race
- Religious preference
- Sources of financial support

Two reports were markedly different from the others. In one of its studies, Orange Coast Junior College used an experimental form of the Educational Testing Service *College Student Questionnaire*. In this study, scales were design to ascertain: satisfaction with the faculty; satisfaction with the student body; sat-

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isfaction with administrative regulations; satisfaction with the student's major field; study skills and routine; extracurricular involvement; family independence; and levels of liberalism, social conscience, and cultural sophistication.

San Joaquin Delta College included in its student study (JC 66-0172) questions such as the following:

- a) What *one person* influenced you most in your decision to attend a junior college?
- b) How well do you think your teachers at the junior college know their subject matter?
- c) How adequate is the *range* of courses offered at the junior college as preparation for your occupational objective?
- d) Is there any person on the staff of this college to whom you feel particularly responsible and who feels particularly responsible to you?

Both studies could be of significance to their respective junior colleges in that they survey areas having strong implications for program modifications. Both might be of interest to the

field because of the broad range of questions they ask.

Findings: Based on the limited number of institutional research studies reviewed here, the following may be concluded:

1. Although studies of students enrolled in particular programs often include recommendations for program modification, institutional studies of total junior college student populations typically do not make recommendations for specific planning.
2. Data collected is often compared with other data similarly obtained in earlier studies made at the same institution.
3. Total student populations are studied more often than are samples of the student body.
4. Institutional study of students' biographical characteristics appears to have as its overriding purpose the compilation of data that might be of use to other groups within and without the junior college.

John E. Roueche

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Community College Student Characteristics, by Alan W. Metcalf. State Office of Public Instruction, Olympia, Washington. April 1965. 87 p.

JC 66-0059

Disqualified Students Admitted to the Fall 1965 Semester, by August Bissiri. Los Angeles City College. August 1966. 48 p.

JC 66-0079

A Study of the Characteristics of Students Enrolled in Business Data Processing Classes, Los Angeles Metropolitan College, Fall 1965, by Helena Hilleary. Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. Sept. 1966. 29 p.

JC 66-0098

The Junior College Student, by James P. O'Grady. Florissant Valley Community College, St. Louis, Mo. May 1966. 28 p.

JC 66-0143

A Study of Merritt Students Who Elect a Beginning Foreign Language, Fall Semester, 1964, by Catherine Farley. Merritt College, Oakland, Calif. March 1965. 19 p.

JC 66-0145

A Report on Backgrounds of Students Selected for Admission to the Professional Nursing Program, by Catherine Farley. Merritt College, Oakland, Calif. Nov. 1965. 20 p.

JC 66-0162

They Came to Contra Costa College, by Donald A. Brophy. Contra Costa College, San Pablo, Calif. 1964. 55 p.

JC 66-0172

They Came to Delta College, Fall 1965, by Naomi Fitch. San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton, Calif. 1966. 98 p.

JC 66-0178

A Comparative Study of Characteristics of Evening Division Students Enrolled at Los Angeles Pierce College, by Walter Hadel and others. Los Angeles Pierce College, Woodland Hills, Calif. Sept. 1963. 29 p.

JC 66-0193

They Came to Diablo Valley College, 1963-1964. Diablo Valley College, Concord, Calif. 1963. 48 p.

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JC 66-0195

They Came to Diablo Valley College; Day and Evening, Fall Semester, 1965. Diablo Valley College, Concord, Calif. 1965. 54 p.

JC 66-0252

A Study of Students Who Reduced Their Class Load at Macomb County Community College During Fall Semester of 1965, by Lyle R. Robertson. Macomb County Community College, Warren, Mich. April 1966. 12 p.

JC 66-0262

Orange Coast College Student Profile, Fall 1965. Orange Coast Junior College District, Costa Mesa, Calif. June 1966. 44 p.

JC 66-0263

(Survey of) Orange Coast College Students Using American Council on Education's Freshman Information Form, Fall 1965. Orange Coast Junior College District, Costa Mesa, Calif. June 1966. 15 p.

Abstracts of all studies mentioned in *Junior College Research Review* may be obtained from the Clearinghouse on request. Please order by document number, using the tear sheet provided below.

Although we are not yet able to duplicate and distribute complete copies of documents, the collection is available for viewing at the Clearinghouse on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 and 5:00.

JC 66-0268

College Student Questionnaire Study. Orange Coast Junior College District, Costa Mesa, Calif. May 1965. 48 p.

JC 66-0329

A Comparison of Biographical Characteristics of Associate in Arts Degree Nursing Program Students, by Marie M. Roberts. Compton College, Compton, Calif. Oct. 1965. 89 p.

JC 66-0495

A Study of the Mature Women Students Attending Day Classes at Riverside City College During the Spring Semester, 1964, by Phyllis Sensor. Riverside City College, Riverside, Calif. Oct. 1964. 21 p.

Abstracts of documents processed in the ERIC system may be found in *Research in Education*, a publication of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. *Research in Education* may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Single copy, \$1.00; annual subscription of 12 issues, \$11.00.)

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Arthur M. Cohen, Editor
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