REPORT RESUMES

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CORRELATIONS BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGES AND SAT SCORES AND FINAL SCHOLASTIC INDEXES--BMCC GRADUATES, JUNE 1966 THROUGH AUGUST 1967.

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THIS STUDY OF 487 GRADUATES (JUNE 1966 TO AUGUST 1967) FOCUSES ON THE DEGREE OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE GRADUATES' PERFORMANCE IN HIGH SCHOOL (MEASURED BY GPA AND SAT SCORES) AND THEIR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AT BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MEASURED BY CUMULATIVE INDEX AT GRADUATION). MAJOR FINDINGS INCLUDE (1) WEAK ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGES OR SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST SCORES AND BMCC ACHIEVEMENT, (2) A WIDE SPREAD OF SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AMONG ALL GRADUATES, (3) SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AMONG VARIOUS CLASSES AND BETWEEN MALES AND FEMALES, (4) SOME CONFORMITY TO EXPECTED SCHOLASTIC PATTERNS AMONG VARIOUS GRADUATING CLASSES, (5) FOR THE WOMEN, A CLOSER CONFORMITY TO EXPECTED PATTERNS, (6) THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF ASSOCIATION FOR LIBERAL ARTS AND SECRETARIAL STUDENTS (ALL WOMEN), (7) A LESSER DEGREE OF ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS, (8) ABOUT THREE OUT OF TEN GRADUATES WITH A HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGE OF LESS THAN 75 PERCENT, (9) A MAXIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GPA OF 87 PERCENT FOR MEN AND OF 95 PERCENT FOR WOMEN, AND (10) AN AVERAGE INDEX OF THE GRADUATES OF 2.54, WITH CONCENTRATION IN THE LOWER GROUPINGS. (HH)

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BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

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The Office of Institutional Research Professor Irving Cohen

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGES
AND SAT SCHORES AND FINAL SCHOLASTIC INDEXES:
BMCC GRADUATES, JUNE 1966 THROUGH AUGUST 1967

Between June 1966 and August 1967, BMCC graduated 487 students. They are distributed, as follows, by graduating class and by sex.

Total RMCC Graduates, By Date of Graduation and Sex June 1966 through August 1967

Date of Graduation	<u>Total</u>	Male	<u>Female</u>	Percent <u>Male</u>	of Total Female
June 1966	163	99	64	60.7	39.3
August 1966	16	10	6	62.5	37.5
January 1967	14	6	8	42.9	57.1
June 1967	244	110	134	45.1	54.9
August 1967	50	29	21	58.0	42.0
Total	487	254	233	52.2	47.8

There are a number of interesting trends revealed in this table. There is for example, a significant reversal in the relative percentages of boys and girls in the second major graduating class of June 1967 compared to our first major graduating class in June 1966. In June 1966, boys comprised 3/5 ths (60.7%) and girls 2/5 ths (39.3%) of the graduates: in June 1967, these percentages were almost reversed: girls comprised 54.9% and boys 45.1% of the graduates. This opens areas for investigation, such as correlation with entry data, curriculum factors and other aspects.

Our attention in this study, however, is focused on the degree of association between the graduates' performance in high school or other schools before admittance to BMCC as measured by high school averages and SAT scores (verbal, mathematical and combined) and the academic success achieved at BMCC as measured by the cumulative index at graduation.

Some of the major findings of the study include:

 The association between high school averages and BMCC is relatively weak; the coefficient of mank correlation amounts to 0.492. The association between SAT scores and achievement



is much weaker, with the coefficient of semi correlation measuring 0.271 for overall, 0.151 for verbal and 0.220 for mathematical SAT scores.

- 2, Scholastic achievement, as measured by BMCC indexes, is widespread among all graduates within the entire range of high school averages and SAT scores. Clusters of higher indexes seem to be as great among the graduates who entered with high school averages of less than 75 as those with higher averages.
- 3. There are marked and significant differences among the various graduating classes and curricula as well as between male and female students.
- 4. A definite trend towards conformity to expected scholastic patterns exists among the various graduating classes. The coefficient of mank correlation for high school averages and BMCC indexes rose from 0.572 for the June 1966 graduating class to 0.750 for the June 1967 graduating class.
- 5. On average, girls conform more closely to expected patterns of achievement (the correlation ratio for high school averages and BMCC indexes is 0.548 for all females) than boys (the comparable correlation ratio is 0.431 for all boys.
- 6. Liberal Arts and Secretarial Science students (all girls) show the highest degree of association (a correlation ratio of 0.659 for both) between high school averages and EMCC indexes. The Liberal Arts ratio was strongly influenced by the performance of the girls, who attained a ratio of 0.823.
- 7. Business students exhibit a lesser degree of association between expectancy and performance (for example, correlation ratios between high school average and BMCC indexes run between 0.261 for Banking and 0.642 for Small Business Operation). This may indicate the presence of additional influences on scholastic behavior.
- 8. Close to 3 out of every 10 students we graduated (28.5%) entered with high school averages of less than 75%. The differences between the girls and boys, however, are highly significant. Over 2/5 ths of these boys (42.3%) were admitted with averages below 75% against 1/7 th (14.2%) for the girls.
- 9. The maximum high school average for boys was 87% against 95% for girls. 9 out of 10 boys (90.5%) had averages of less than 80% while 2 out of every 5 girls (38.4%) had averages of 79% and over and 1 out of 4 (27.0%) had 80% or over.
- 10. The average index achieved by the average graduate was 2.54. Concentration, however, was in the lower groupings. The mode, the index of highest frequency, was 2.24 while the median, which split the scores in half, was 2.47. Two-fifths (40.6%) had indexes of 2.33 or less; 6 out of 7 (85.8%) had 2.99 or less and only 1.2% made B+ or better contrasted with the 10.4% who completed their studies with indexes up to 2.10. One fourth of our graduates (24.4%) had indexes of 2.24 or less.

Only comparable data were used in reviewing the information available. High school averages and BMCC indexes for the same students were available for 431 students but only 203 graduates had SAT scores in their files. Following are the samples used in this study compared to the total number of graduates.

Total Number of Graduates	Total 487	Male, 254	Female 233
Graduates with both high school averages and BMCC indexes	431	220	211
Graduates with both SAT scores and BMCC indexes	203	109	94

1. Graduate Student Indexes

The average graduate attained an average final cumulative index of 2.54. (See Table 1) This measure, however, tends to be somewhat misleading since there is pronowneed bunching of indexes towards the lower values (See Chart 1 *). The mode 2.24 is substantially below the arithmetic average. One-third of all the graduates (33.4%) had indexes which fell between the mode and the average. One half of all graduates (49.9%) had less than a C+ average (2.46). Less than 5% graduated with indexes that would qualify them for the Dean's list. One fourth (24.4%) of our graduates had indexes below 2.24 and 6 out of 7 students (85.8%) had less than a B average.

The following table abstracts pertinent statistics from the accompanying cumulative percentage table.

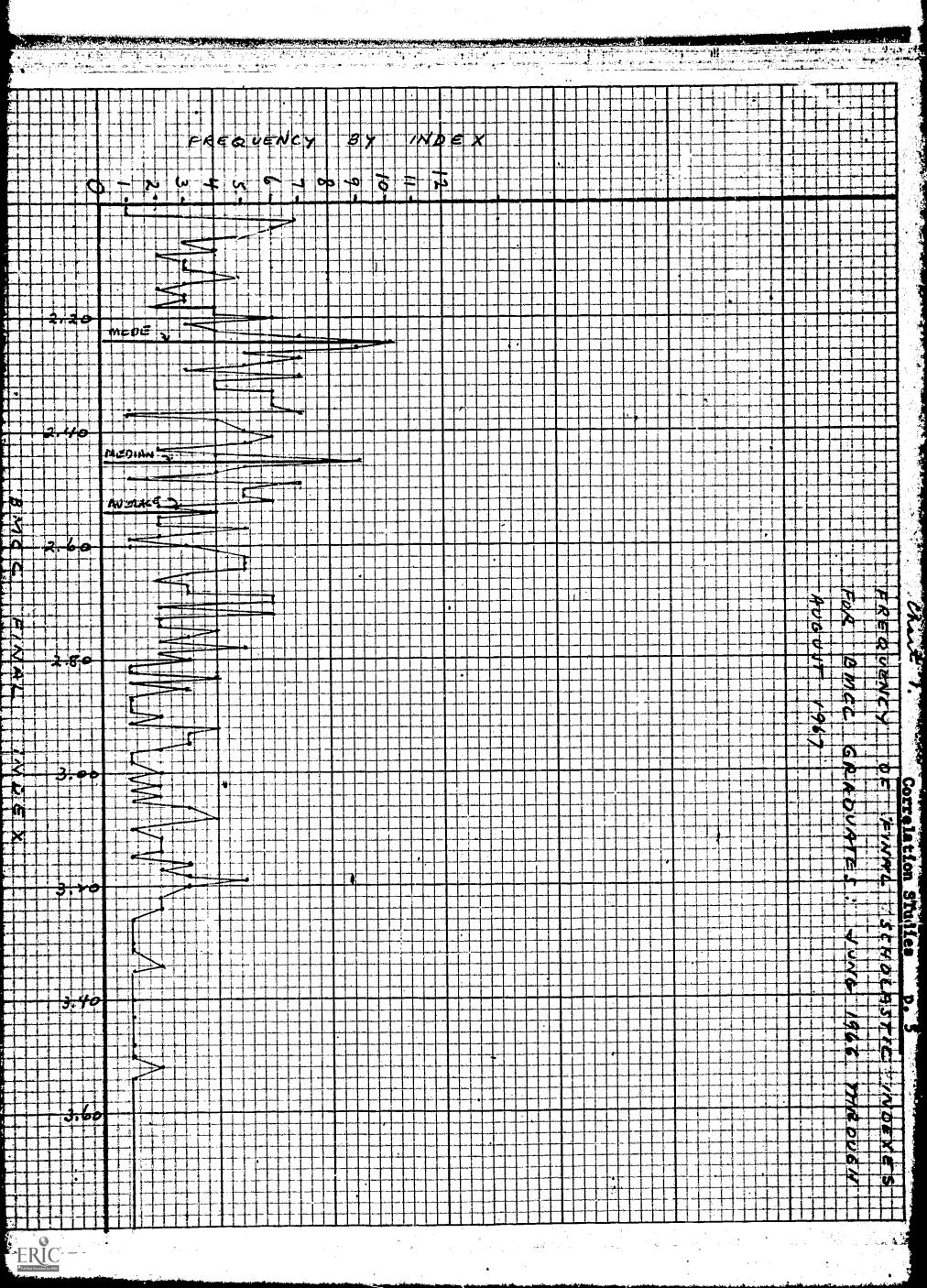
Characteristics of Graduate Inde	BMCC Index at Cumulative xesPercentage Point	Comment
Bottom 10%	2.10	
Bottom 20%	2,22	
Bottom 25%	2.24	mode
Bottom 40%	2.38	
Mid-point	2.47	median
53% of all graduates	2.49	less than C+ average
75% of all graduates	2.78	
14% of all graduates	3.00	B average or better
4% of all graduates	3.30	Dean's list
1% of all graduates	3.50	B+ average or better

^{*} This chart reveals a definite skewed distribution to the left with long flat tail to the right.

(text continued on p. 6)



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2. High School Averages vs Final BMCC Indexes

1. The distribution of indexes achieved by our graduates arrayed by their original high school averages are enumerated in Table 2 and their scatter illustrated in Chart 2. What is immediately striking is the widespread character of this distribution. There seems to be equal possibility for graduates with lower high school averages to achieve high schoolastic BMCC indexes as for those with higher high school averages to wind up with lower indexes. As analyzed later in this study, the overall degree of association is less than 0.5. For the present, we concentrate on the raw scores.

Review of the data within each high school average seems to indicate a major qualitative change after an 80% or 81% high average. Up until that point, the range of scores within each point group of high school averages does not show significant variation as the following summary of the range of scores, by high school average, reveals. Some variation is also indicated between the group below 70% and the group between 70% and 81%.

High School Average	Range of Indexes	Size of Range
64	2.34	
65	2.47	
67	2.01 - 2.42	0.41
68	2.02 - 2.33	0.31
69	2.22 - 2.63	0.41
70	2.01 - 3.20	1.19
71	2.01 - 3.21	1.20
72	2.01 - 2.86	0.85
73	2.04 - 3.05	1.01
74	1.99 - 3.19	1.20
75	2.03 - 3.21	1.18
76	2.04 - 3.29	1.25
77	2.02 - 3.61	1.59
78	2.01 - 3.36	1.34
79	2.03 - 3.15	1.12
80	2.01 - 3.32	1.31
81	2.02 - 3.63	1.61
82	2.33 - 3.57	1.24
83	2.25 - 3.94	1.69
84	2.52 - 3.62	1.10
85	2,61 - 3.18	0.57
86	2.67 - 3.49	0.82
87	2 .74 - 3.5 4	0.80
88	2.74 - 3.54	0.80
89	2.21 - 2.46	0.25
91	2.99	
92	3.18	
95	3,35	

It is interesting that the highest index was attained by a graduate with an 83% average; also graduates with 89% high school average had a level of achievement as low as those with 64% through 69%. Some with averages as low as 70% or

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Correlation Studies SCATTER LIAGRAM HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGES US BMCG INDERES TOTAL GRADUATES AUGUST 1967



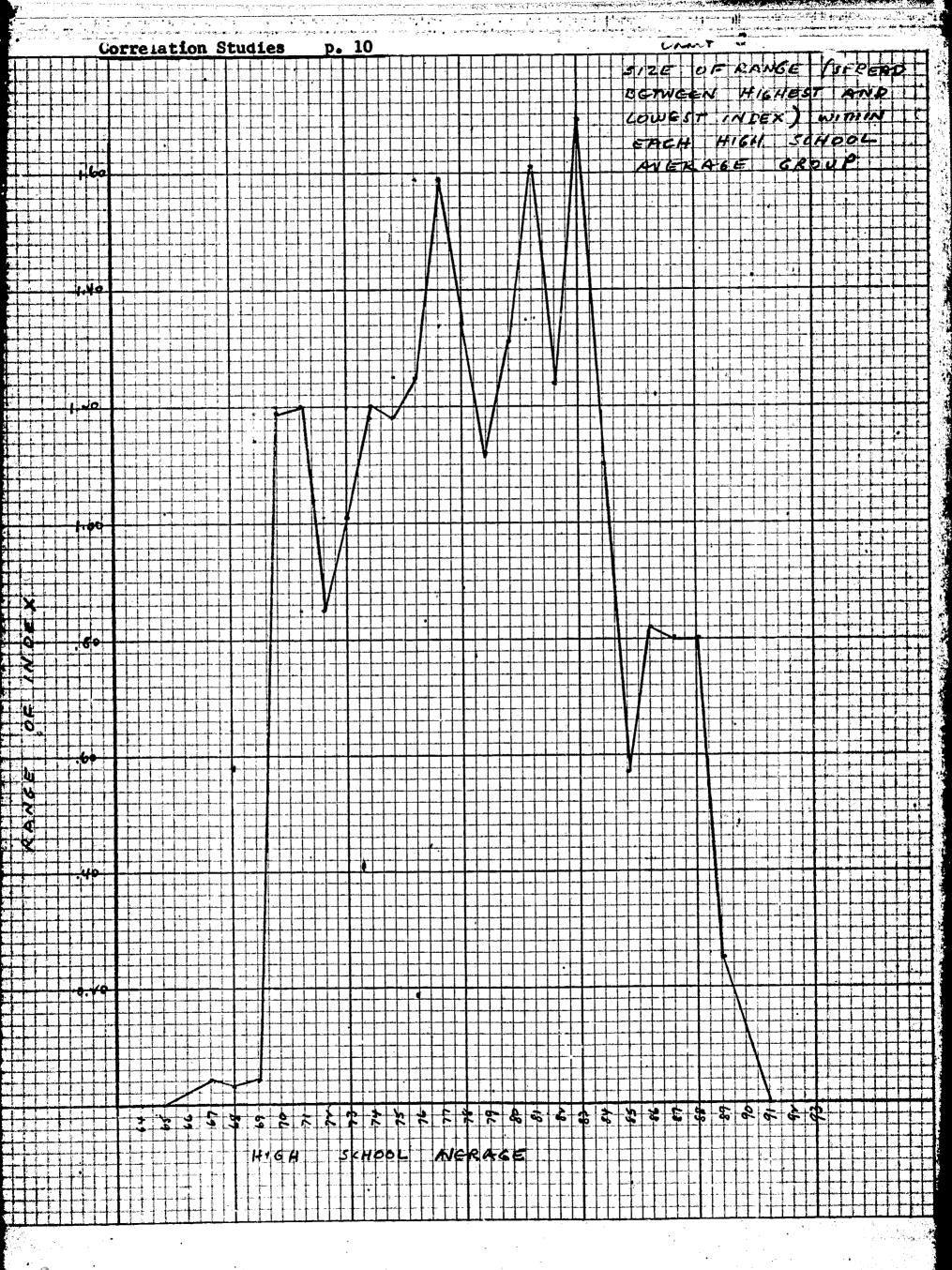
71% achieved the same success as those who entered with 91% and 92% averages.

The spread within each high school average group between the highest and the lowest index achieved shows almost a perfect bell curve with some tendency towards kurtosis (See Chart 3). Maximum variation and minimum degree of confidence in predictability of success is found in the 83% group. The 74% - 81% group also has wide divergences. Narrower divergences exist in the 69% to 74% suggesting, perhaps, greater confidence in predictability.

2. A companion question concerns the distribution of the graduates among the various high school averages. The following percentage table showing the cumulative proportion of graduates in each high school average sheds light on this question.

by High School Average and Sex

High School			
Average	Total	Male	<u> Pemale</u>
64	0.2	0.5	•
65	0.5	0.9	•
67	1.4	2.3	0.5
68	2.3	3.6	0.9
69	3,5	5.9	0.9
70	6.7	10,0	3.3
71	10.7	16.8	4.3
72	14.8	22.7	6.6
73	20.4	30.9	9.5
74	28.5	42.3	14.2
75	36.9	53.6	19.4
76	49.7	63.2	35.5
77	58.9	75.5	41.7
78	68.7	83.6	53.1
79	76.3	90.5	61.6
80	83.1	92.7	73.0
81	87.0	95.5	78.2
82	89.6	95.9	82.9
83	93.3	97.7	88.6
84	95.4	98.6	91.9
85	96.3	98.6	93.8
86	96.8	99.1	94.3
87	97.9	100.0	95.7
88	98.6		97.2
89	99.3		98.6
91	99.5		99.1
92	99.8		99.5
95	100.0		100.0



28.5% of our graduates had averages below 75%. The differences between the girls and the boys are highly significant. Over two-fifths of the boys (42.3%) were admitted with high school averages below 75% against 14.2%, or one in seven, for the girls.

Over 90% of the boys were admitted with averages of less than 80%. Two-fifths of the girls had averages in excess of 79%. Overall, somewhat more than three-fourths of graduates (76.3%) came in with under 80% high school averages.

The maximum high school average for boys was 87% against 95% for girls. One out of every 15 girls who graduated (6.2%) entered with high school averages of 85% or over.

3. Converting the array of indexes into averages for each high school average yields an average high school average for all graduates of 2.54, ranging from 2.15 for the 68% group to 3.35 for the 95% average (See Table 3). The average for the boys was .09 points below the girls; 2.51 for male vs 2.60 for female. The modal groups for the boys are 2.46 and 2.47 while the mode for the girls was 2.57.

This distribution is graphically portrayed on charts 4 and 5. Chart 4 shows indexes achieved by all graduates by high school average; chart 5 superimposes the male and female indexes on the total graduate histogram.

Although wide dispersion is shown (for example, the four minimum average indexes are found among the 67%, 68%, 72% and 89% high school groups), there appear to be three qualitative levels of achievement. One major division is up to the 70% average (although the 65% group exceeds all other groups up to 75%); the second division is roughly between 71% and 81% (these two terminal indexes are identical.) These are followed by a transitional small number of classes leading to the third major division beginning with the 83% average.

Analysis of achievement, by graduating class, shows interesting variation. The highest average index by any graduating class was 2.74, achieved by the January 1967 graduates; the lowest average index belongs to the August 1966 graduates, 2.39. The two major graduating classes to date, June 1966 and June 1967 wound up with similar success; in 1966, the average index was 2.55 and in 1967, 2.57.

These data are summarized from Table 3 as follows:

	Avera	*	
Graduating Class	Total	Male	Female
August 1967	2.49	2.42	2.59
June 1967	2.57	2.52	2.60
January 1967	2.74	2.60	2.95
August 1966	2.39	2,35	2.46
June 1966	2.55	2.53	2.58



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Variation among the indexes of the boys and the girls was definite. The girls showed a wider range (a spread of each 0.49 points as against 0.25 point spread for boys) and substantially higher scores (the range of indexes for the girls was 2.46 to 2.95 while the boys clustered between 2.35 and 2.60).

Achievement by curriculum is summarized from Table 4 as follows:

	Average BMCC Index							
Curriculum	Total	Male	Female					
Liberal Arts	2.57	2.59	2.56					
Accounting	2,53	2.47	2.65					
Data Processing	2.52	2.54	2.48					
Secretarial Science	2.64	449	2.64					
Business Technologies								
Advertising	2.51	2.43	2.75					
Banking	2.51	2.42	2.62					
Marketing	2.42	2.40	2 - 49					
Small Bus. Oper.	2.46	2.46	in the					

With the exception of Liberal Arts and Data Processing the girls did substantially better than the boys, most markedly in Advertising, Banking and Accounting.

Secretarial Science graduates achieved the highest average index (2.64) and Marketing (2.42) and Small Business Operation (2.46) the lowest. All other curricula clustered within a 0.06 index range of 2.51 and 2.57.

Variation was equally marked among the curriculum by graduating class (See Table 5). These can by summarized for total graduates as follows.

Graduating Class

Curriculum	August 1967	June 1967	January 1967	August 1966	June 1966
	To	tal			
Liberal Arts	2.43	2.56	2.74	2.52	2.62
Accounting	2.68	2.58	***	2,16	2.58
Data Processing	2.13	2.54	400	00 00	2.53
Secretarial Science	2.69	2.63		60-0m	***
Business Technologies					
Advertising	-	2.44	***	***	2.56
Banking	-	2.51	400 (74)	•	-
Marketing	2.30	2.42		2.05	2.49
Small Bus. Oper.	2.24	2.73	40 84		***

It is highly interesting that indexes in every curriculum deteriorated between June 1966 and June 1967, when the major classes graduated, except for Data Processing, which just about held its own. It is also of interest that the two newer

There

(text continued on p. 18)

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curricula which had no graduates in June 1966 achieved the highest indexes in June 1967: Secretarial Science 2.63 and Small Business Operation 2.73. This result could be a function of grading, student body, sex, or number of graduates.

The August graduates in both 1966 and 1967, in general, achieve substantially lower indexes than June graduates. This is to be expected since many of these are students who needed either extra credits or additional quality points to graduate.

3. Correlation Ratios between Index and High School Averages

The widespread character of achievement by high school average is expressed graphically in the three scatter diagrams (Charts 2, 5 and 6) the relationship between the high school averages with which our graduates entered and their final cumulative indexes. Chart 2 shows this relationship for all graduates; chart 5 for male and chart 6 for female graduates.

Instances of higher achievement, as measured by the indexes, seem to be as likely among the lower high school averages as among the higher. Examination of chart 2 on total graduates shows that students with the four highest high school averages scored much lower than students with far lower averages, as the following indicates:

High School Average	No. Instances of Equal or Higher Indexes Among Other Averages	Range of H.S. Average with Higher Indexes
95%	12	77% - 87%
92%	30	70% - 95%
91%	60	70% 95%
89%	202	69% - 95%

Close to half of all graduates (46.8%) achieved equal or better indexes than the graduates with the four highest high school averages, which ranged between 89% and 95%.

Similar variation is found among the indexes for boys and girls although, as the lines of regression in charts 5 and 6 indicate, girls tend to conform more closely to expected patterns of achievement than boys.

It is no surprise, therefore, to find that there is a weak association between high school averages and indexes. The overall coefficient of rank correlation for the school is 0.492; for boys it is 0.431 and for girls 0.548.

Coefficients of rank correlation are summarized by graduating class and curriculum and by sex in the following text table.



SCAFFER DIABRAM Correlation Studies HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGES VS. EMCC INDEXES = MALE GRADUATES 1966 THROUGH AUGUST 1967 ERIC

Correlation Studies SCATTER PIACEAM HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGE US Brice INDEXES FEMALE GRADUATES JUNG 1966 MAROUSH AUSUST 1967 AVER AGE H1614

Selected Correlation Ratios: Final Indexes of BMCC Graduates June 1966 Through August 1967 By High School Average and SAT Scores, By Graduating Class and Curriculum Total, Male, and Female Graduates

	Coefficie	nt of Rank Co	rrelation
Item	Total	Male	<u>Female</u>
High School Average vs BMCC Index Grand Total	0.492	0.431	0.548
By Graduating Class August 1967 June 1967 January 1967 August 1966 June 1966	0.511 0.750 0.393 0.547 0.572	0.873 0.339 0.484 0.496 0.797	0.355 0.823 0.598 0.776 0.401
By Curriculum Accounting Advertising Banking Data Processing Liberal Arts Marketing Secretarial Science Small Business Operation	0.383 0.453 0.261 0.496 0.659 0.498 0.659 0.642	0.284 0.310 * 0.338 0.601 0.412	0.517 0.559 * 0.542 0.823 0.564 0.659
By SAT Scores Verbal Mathematics Combined Verbal & Math	0.151 0.220 0.271	0.206 0.168 0.329	0,115 0,286 0,238

^{*} Sample too small for significant correlation ratios.

Our second major graduating class of June 1967 shows a greater tendency towards conformity to expected scholastic patterns than did the graduating class of June 1966. The coefficient of rank correlation rose form 0.572 in June 1966 to 0.750 in June 1967. This rise was apparently strongly influenced by the performance of the girls which rose from 0.401 in June 1966 to 0.823 in June 1967. The correlation ratio for the boys declined during the same period from 0.797 to 0.339. This may indicate that boys have a greater variety of influences on their scholastic behavior at the present time than do girls.

Because of the substantially smaller number of graduates involved in the other graduating periods, their correlation coefficients are subject to wider fluctuation.

Liberal Arts and Secretarial Science graduates showed the highest degree of association between high school averages and indexes. Again, it was the influence of the girls which brought up the indexes. Secretarial Science graduates were all girls and the girls in Liberal Arts showed a correlation of 0.823 vs 0.601 for the boys. The business students showed smaller degrees of association between expectancy and performance, indicating that, perhaps, here too, additional influences are present in scholastic behavior. Again, girls had higher coefficient ratios than boys in every curriculum.

4. Correlation Ratios between Indexes and SAT Scores

The scatter diagram for SAT scores vs BMCC indexes shows the practical absence of correlation (See Chart 7). A student with a combined verbal and mathematics SAT score of 525 achieved a 3.05 index while at the other end of the scale, a student with a 1240 combined SAT score finished with a 2.39 index. The highest indexes, 3.40 and above, were attained by students with combined SAT scores ranging between 750 and 1000 while the lowest achievers, those with indexes of 2.30 or below had combined SAT scores that ranged between 460 and 1100.

The coefficients of rank correlation corroborate these observations (See text table on p. 21). The degree of association for verbal SAT scores and indexes is 0.151 with the boys showing a slightly higher ratio of 0.206. The correlation between the mathematics SAT scores and indexes (r = .022) shows a small advance over the verbal scores. In this instance, the total was influenced by the girls (r = 0.286). Even though the correlation coefficients are so slight, it is interesting to observe that our boys tended to correlate more closely with verbal facility and girls with mathematical.

When the verbal and the mathematical scores are combined they form a new qualitative unit. Overall, the combined coefficient of correlation for the combined SAT scores and BMCC indexes amounts to 0.271. Here, the boys were distinctly higher than the girls: 0.329 vs 0.238.



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