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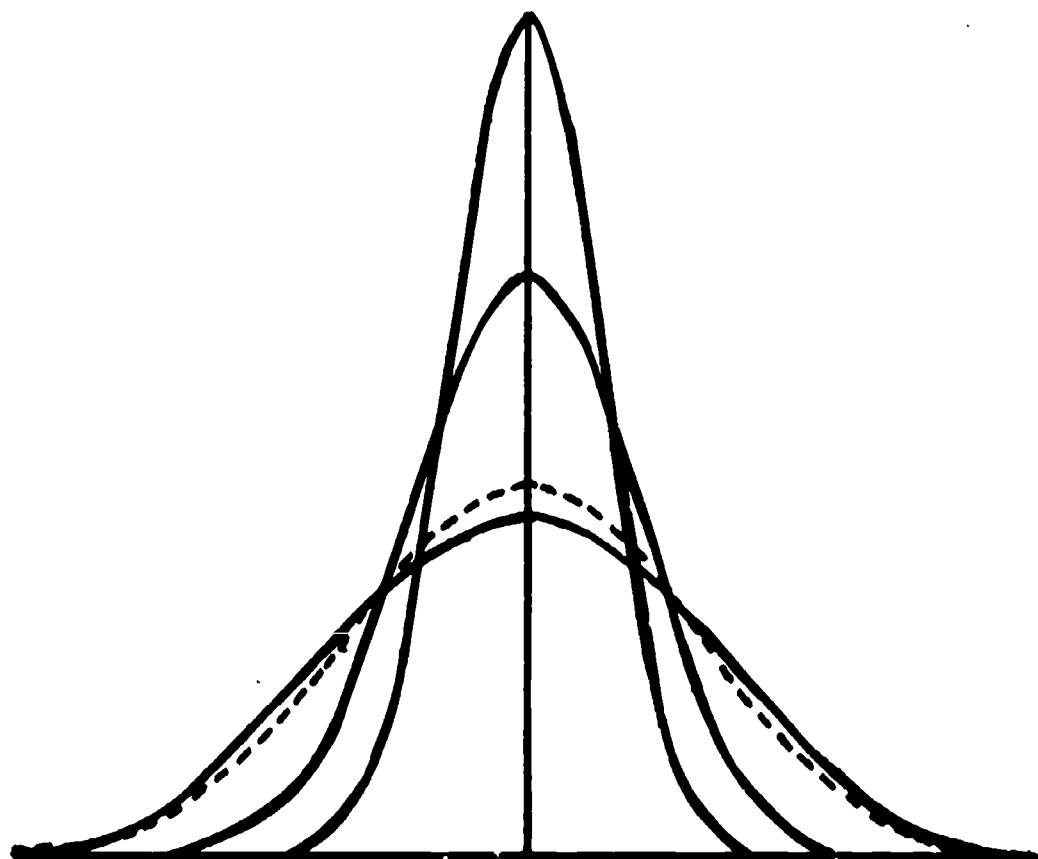
ABSTRACT

Each year the Cooperative Institutional Research program of the American Council of Education publishes national normative data on characteristics of first-time, fulltime freshmen college students. This report compares the national 4-year college norms with the norms of Fort Hays Kansas State College and analyzes these norms statistically to identify areas which are significantly different. The responses of FHKSC freshmen differed significantly from the national norms on questions pertaining to: distance from home to college; highest degree planned; education of parents; and credit hours taken during the fall semester, in addition to some other questions. (MJM)

Office of Institutional Research

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FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE AND OTHER FOUR YEAR COLLEGES: A COMPARISON OF ENTERING FRESHMEN FALL 1973



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A COMPARISON OF ENTERING FRESHMEN
FALL 1973

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FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE AND OTHER FOUR YEAR COLLEGES

A COMPARISON OF ENTERING FRESHMEN

Fall 1973

Each year the Cooperative Institutional Research program of the American Council on Education publishes national normative data on characteristics of first-time, full-time freshman college students. This study helps determine: (1) the effects of colleges on students, and (2) the changes from year to year which indicate new trends among college freshmen.

The national four year college norms are compared with the norms of Fort Hays Kansas State College and analyzed statistically to identify areas which are significantly different. Due to the large sample size of Fort Hays State and the national sample, it was appropriate to use a z-test to determine significance at the 95% or higher confidence level. The z-test was used only on the total (men and women) column.

The responses of Fort Hays State freshmen differed significantly from the national norms on questions pertaining to: distance from home to college; highest degree planned; education of parents; and credit hours taken during the fall semester in addition to some other questions.

National norms indicated that 78.3% of the freshmen were 18 years of age. At FHKSC the percentage of 18 year old freshmen was 87.8% (Table 1).

While the national norms indicated 15.9% of the freshmen were 51-100 miles from their homes to their college, 32.5% of Fort Hays' freshmen were from this distance. Also the national average showed 12.8% coming from more than 500 miles, and at FHKSC only 0.7% came from more than 500 miles (Table 1).

The number of college applications submitted was significantly different for those freshmen applying to one college only. The number of college acceptances, however, differed in two categories: (1) one college only and (2) three others (Table 2).

Among 412 FHKSC freshmen, 43.4% intended to earn a bachelors degree, but nationally only 26.8% said they anticipated getting a bachelors degree. Another difference existed at the doctoral degree level. Only 4.4% of Fort Hays State's freshmen planned to work on a doctoral degree, while 13.5% of all freshmen planned to do so (Table 2).

When the freshmen were asked what the highest degree they planned to earn at FHKSC, their replies agreed with national norms in each area except the bachelors degree (Table 2).

The freshmen noted some reasons as very important for attending the college of their choice. Some freshmen wanted to live away from home. Others cited a good academic reputation as important. Still, others indicated an interest in a special education program (Table 3).

Finances are a very important aspect of going to college, and the income of the students at FHKSC varied little from the income of students across the nation. Also the income of the parents of students at FHKSC and across the nation were nearly the same (Table 4).

A young person's educational plans are influenced somewhat by his parents educational background. It is interesting to note that, of 538 FHKSC respondents, 44.6% said their father was a high school graduate, 10.8% said their father was a college graduate, and 5.4% indicated that their father held a graduate degree. National norms indicated 25.5%, 18.2% and 14.5% for a high school graduate, a college graduate and a graduate degree respectively. Fort Hays State freshmen also indicated that 4.8% of

their mothers had some high school, 45.8% were high school graduates, 21.3% had some college and 9.6% held a college degree. Across the nation, the freshmen indicated that 10.5% of their mothers had some high school, 39.9% were high school graduates, 15.6% had some college, and 15.0% held a college degree (Table 5).

When asked about a probable career, the freshmen showed interest in business, medicine, education, forestry and law. They also disclosed that their probable major field of study would lie in agriculture, biological science, business, engineering, health professions, and social sciences to list a few. Some of the reasons cited for these choices were availability of a job, rapid advancement, independence, chance for steady progress, to make contributions to society, to avoid pressure, to work with ideas, to work with people and an intrinsic interest in their chosen field (Tables 5 and 6).

The credit hour load per semester at FHKSC varied somewhat from national norms. While national averages showed 6.0% of the freshmen taking more than 18 hours, FHKSC had 0.6% taking more than 18 hours. Also 54.2% of FHKSC freshmen were carrying 12 to 15 hours while the national norms showed 45.7% of all four year college freshmen were enrolled in 12 to 15 hours (Table 6).

Tables 7, 8, and 9 compare such things as residence during the fall semester; current religious preference, scholarships and grants; federally insured or college loans; objectives considered to be essential or very important; political orientation; a variety of issues from politics, education and society; and students accomplishments in college.

The following tables list some of the questions asked and the responses given by freshmen at Fort Hays State and by freshmen at other

four year colleges (N = 243) throughout the United States. These tables are composed of only those questions in which the responses of Fort Hays State freshmen were statistically different from national norms.

TABLE 1

Age and Distance from Home to College

| Item | No. of Respondents | Fort Hays State | | | Four-Year College National Norms | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|----------------------------------|--------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| No. of students | 544 | 38.1 | 61.9 | 100.0 | 49.1 | 50.9 | 100.0 |
| Age by Dec. 31,73 | 543 | | | | | | |
| 16 or younger | | | | 0.0 | | | 0.1 |
| 17 | | | | 2.4 | | | 4.8 |
| 18 | | | | 87.8 | | | 78.3* |
| 19 | | | | 8.5 | | | 14.3 |
| 20 | | | | 0.4 | | | 1.2 |
| 21 | | | | 0.4 | | | 0.3 |
| 22 | | | | 0.2 | | | 0.2 |
| 23-25 | | | | 0.0 | | | 0.4 |
| 26-29 | | | | 0.0 | | | 0.1 |
| 30 or older | | | | 0.4 | | | 0.2 |
| Distance From Home to College | 541 | | | | | | |
| 5 miles or less | | | | 12.0 | | | 7.6 |
| 6-10 miles | | | | 2.2 | | | 8.2 |
| 11-50 miles | | | | 16.6 | | | 19.9 |
| 51-100 miles | | | | 32.5 | | | 15.9* |
| 101-500 miles | | | | 35.9 | | | 35.6 |
| more than 500 miles | | | | 0.7 | | | 12.8* |

*p < .05

TABLE 2

Number of College Applications and Acceptances
and Highest Degree Planned Here

| Item | Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| No. of College Applications | 539 | | |
| this college only | | 67.3 | 37.2* |
| one other | | 17.1 | 20.9 |
| two others | | 12.2 | 17.6 |
| three others | | 3.2 | 11.3 |
| four others | | 0.2 | 6.4 |
| five others | | 0.0 | 3.6 |
| more than five others | | 0.0 | 3.1 |
| No. of College Acceptances | 402 | | |
| this college only | | 59.5 | 32.8* |
| one other | | 21.9 | 27.1 |
| two others | | 15.9 | 20.7 |
| three others | | 2.5 | 11.1* |
| four others | | 0.2 | 4.8 |
| five others | | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| more than five others | | 0.0 | 1.5 |
| Highest Degree Planned Here | 495 | | |
| none | | 9.9 | 4.9 |
| associate | | 4.6 | 3.2 |
| bachelor's (B.A., B.S.) | | 67.3 | 76.1* |
| master's (M.A., M.S.) | | 11.9 | 11.3 |
| Ph.D. or Ed.D. | | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| M.D., D.D., D.D.S., or D.V.M. | | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| L.L.B. or J.D. | | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| B.D. or M.Div | | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Other | | 4.0 | 1.4 |

*p < .05

TABLE 3
 Highest Degree Planned Anywhere and Important Factors
 In Choosing this College

| Item | No. of Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|--|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Highest Degree Planned Anywhere | | | |
| none | 412 | 6.1 | 2.5 |
| associate | | 3.6 | 1.3 |
| bachelor's | | 43.4 | 26.8* |
| master's | | 33.7 | 38.7 |
| Ph.D. or Ed.D. | | 4.1 | 13.5* |
| M.D. | | 4.4 | 8.8 |
| L.L.B. | | 2.2 | 6.1 |
| B.D. or M.Div. | | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| other | | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Reasons Noted as Very Important in Selecting this College | | | |
| parents wanted me to come here | 538 | 10.2 | 8.8 |
| wanted to live away from home | 533 | 11.6 | 20.5* |
| teacher advised me | 528 | 5.9 | 5.7 |
| has a good academic reputation | 537 | 35.4 | 57.0* |
| offered financial assistance | 531 | 17.1 | 22.3 |
| advice of someone who attended | 544 | 33.5 | 20.9 |
| offers special educ. program | 528 | 23.5 | 31.5* |
| has low tuition | 532 | 15.4 | 19.2 |
| advice of guidance counselor | 531 | 6.6 | 9.4 |
| wanted to live at home | 528 | 7.4 | 8.6 |
| could not get a job | 525 | 2.7 | 1.7 |

*p < .05

TABLE 4
Student Income and Parents Income

| Item | No. of Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|---|--------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Total Income Last Year Independent of Parents | 529 | | |
| none | | 22.1 | 19.3 |
| less than \$500 | | 35.0 | 32.3 |
| \$500-\$999 | | 19.1 | 23.9* |
| \$1000-\$1999 | | 17.4 | 16.5 |
| \$2000-\$2999 | | 4.2 | 4.7 |
| \$3000-\$4999 | | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| \$5000-\$9999 | | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| \$10000 or more | | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Estimated Parental Income | 494 | | |
| less than \$3000 | | 2.2 | 3.3 |
| \$3000-\$3999 | | 2.0 | 2.7 |
| \$4000-\$5999 | | 6.9 | 4.3 |
| \$6000-\$7999 | | 10.1 | 6.0 |
| \$8000-\$9999 | | 14.2 | 8.1* |
| \$10,000-\$12,499 | | 18.6 | 14.7 |
| \$12,500-\$14,999 | | 15.2 | 13.7 |
| \$15,000-\$19,999 | | 13.2 | 17.3 |
| \$20,000-\$24,999 | | 7.7 | 11.7 |
| \$25,000-\$29,999 | | 3.4 | 5.7 |
| \$30,000-\$34,999 | | 2.6 | 4.1 |
| \$35,000-\$39,999 | | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| \$40,000-\$49,999 | | 1.0 | 3.2 |
| \$50,000 or more | | 1.8 | 3.8 |

*p < .05

TABLE 5
Parents' Education and Probable Career

| Item | No. of Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Father's Education | 538 | | |
| grammar school or less | | 0.7 | 6.5 |
| some high school | | 8.9 | 12.4 |
| high school graduate | | 44.6 | 25.5* |
| post-secondary other than college | | 2.8 | 4.9 |
| some college | | 17.1 | 15.2 |
| college degree | | 10.8 | 18.2* |
| some graduate school | | 1.7 | 2.8 |
| graduate degree | | 5.4 | 14.5* |
| Mother's Education | 539 | | |
| grammar school or less | | 6.1 | 3.8 |
| some high school | | 4.8 | 10.5* |
| high school graduate | | 45.8 | 39.9* |
| post-secondary other than college | | 7.4 | 7.6 |
| some college | | 21.3 | 15.6* |
| college degree | | 9.6 | 15.0* |
| some graduate school | | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| graduate degree | | 3.5 | 5.1 |
| Probable Career Occupation+ | 488 | | |
| business (other) | | 13.5 | 7.0* |
| doctor (M.D. or D.D.S) | | 2.9 | 6.3* |
| educator (secondary) | | 9.0 | 6.4* |
| educator (elementary) | | 4.7 | 6.0* |
| farmer or forester | | 7.4 | 1.8* |
| lawyer | | 2.5 | 5.4* |
| nurse | | 9.8 | 3.2* |

*p < .05

+Portions of this table have been omitted.

TABLE 6

Probable Major, Reasons for Career Choice and Student Load

| Item | No. of Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|--|--------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Probable Major Field of Study+ | 497 | | |
| agriculture (incl. forestry) | | 6.0 | 1.4* |
| biological sciences | | 4.0 | 7.9* |
| business | | 20.9 | 13.4* |
| engineering | | 1.6 | 5.1* |
| health professions | | 15.3 | 8.8* |
| social sciences (other) | | 3.0 | 6.7* |
| Reasons Checked as Very Important for Long-Term Career Choice+ | | | |
| job opening available | 507 | 55.8 | 50.1* |
| rapid advancement | 500 | 26.8 | 32.3* |
| independence | 503 | 29.2 | 38.6* |
| chance for steady progress | 501 | 36.5 | 46.6* |
| contribution to Society | 504 | 43.1 | 52.3* |
| avoid pressure | 502 | 11.6 | 16.8* |
| work with ideas | 502 | 37.8 | 51.2* |
| be helpful to others | 502 | 61.0 | 66.6* |
| work with people | 502 | 59.6 | 65.3* |
| intrinsic interest in field | 499 | 63.5 | 72.4* |
| Credit hours to be taken during Fall term+ | 520 | | |
| more than 18 hours | | 0.6 | 6.0* |
| 12-15 hours | | 54.2 | 45.7* |

*p < .05

+Portions of this table have been omitted

TABLE 7

Residence, Religion, Scholarships and Loans

| Item | No. of Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|---|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Residence during fall term+ with parents or relatives college dormitory | 540 | 17.4 79.6 | 23.8* 71.8* |
| Current Religious Preference+ | 541 | | |
| Baptist | | 6.1 | 14.4* |
| Jewish | | 0.0 | 4.2* |
| Lutheran | | 11.1 | 5.3* |
| Methodist | | 29.4 | 10.9* |
| Catholic | | 29.2 | 31.6 |
| None | | 3.5 | 9.8 |
| Scholarships or Grants+ | 399 | | |
| none | | 62.9 | 52.6* |
| \$1000-\$1999 | | 4.5 | 10.4* |
| \$2000-\$4000 | | 0.5 | 4.6* |
| over \$4000 | | 0.3 | 2.3* |
| Federally Ins. or College Loans+ | 391 | | |
| \$1000-\$1999 | | 6.1 | 10.0* |

*p < .05

+Portions of this table have been omitted.

TABLE 8

Important Objectives, Miscellaneous Questions and
Political Orientation

| Item | No. of Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|---|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Objectives Considered to be Essential or Very Important+ | | | |
| achieve in a performing act | 531 | 17.1 | 21.5* |
| be an authority in my field | 534 | 52.4 | 63.8* |
| influence political structure | 531 | 9.6 | 15.6* |
| influence social values | 532 | 27.4 | 33.2* |
| raise a family | 532 | 51.9 | 56.5* |
| be very well-off financially | 533 | 45.2 | 51.6* |
| help others in difficulty | 533 | 63.0 | 67.6* |
| be involved in environ. cleanup | 534 | 24.2 | 33.8* |
| develop philosophy of life | 531 | 62.1 | 72.5* |
| keep up with political affairs | 534 | 38.0 | 45.0* |
| Agree Strongly or Somewhat+ | | | |
| gov't. not protecting consumer | 535 | 73.1 | 77.8* |
| marijuana should be legalized | 534 | 26.6 | 46.6* |
| can do little to change society | 532 | 30.3 | 39.4* |
| benefits of college is monetary | 534 | 62.2 | 50.3* |
| regulate student publications | 532 | 42.3 | 29.6* |
| college has right to ban speaker | 531 | 29.6 | 22.9* |
| adopt open admissions at public college | 531 | 50.5 | 28.7* |
| use same degree standard for all | 529 | 85.6 | 77.4* |
| Political Orientation+ | | | |
| far left | 531 | 0.4 | 2.1* |
| liberal | | 26.7 | 33.4* |
| middle-of-the-road | | 62.3 | 49.1* |
| conservative | | 10.2 | 14.9* |

*p < .05

+Portions of this table have been omitted.

TABLE 9
Student Activities

| Item | No. of Respondents | FHKSC | Four-Year College National Norms |
|---|--------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Students Estimate Chances are Very Good That They Will+ | | | |
| graduate with honors | 529 | 4.9 | 9.8* |
| join a social fraternity or sorority | 533 | 11.1 | 17.1* |
| live in a co-educational dorm | 533 | 7.5 | 20.6* |
| be elected to an honor society | 531 | 1.7 | 5.3* |
| make at least a "B" average | 531 | 31.8 | 36.0* |
| work at outside job | 531 | 36.2 | 28.8* |
| seek individual counseling | 528 | 3.0 | 6.4* |
| enroll in honors courses | 528 | 3.8 | 8.4* |
| get a bachelors degree | 532 | 53.6 | 74.9* |
| transfer to another college | 520 | 10.6 | 13.6* |
| be more successful than most | 524 | 13.5 | 17.9* |
| marry while in college | 524 | 12.0 | 6.8* |

*p < .05

+Portions of this table have been omitted.