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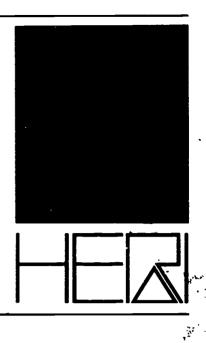
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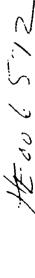
## ABSTRACT

This study of differential opportunities for men and women graduate students was undertaken for several reasons: (1) to help reach a consensus on a proper and operational definition of sex discrimination in graduate schools; (2) to turn the debate over sex discrimination toward efforts to document quantitatively the allegations previously substantiated by anecdotes; (3) to see whether the affirmative action legislation regarding students, which has been imposed on graduate institutions and caused great havoc in their operation, is required or justified, that is, whether it is the fault of institutions or of earlier conditioning of both sexes by society. The document begins with a review of earlier discussions of sex discrimination in graduate schools. This review is followed by attempts to document and explain differences by sex in the admissions process, time spent in graduate study, geographic and interinstitutional mobility, and financial aid practices. It is in these areas that the most explicit charges of differential treatment of the sexes have been made; these are also areas where new data can be brought to bear on the issue. Appendixes cover a survey of graduate school catalogues, doctoral-granting institutions that provide useable data on acceptable rates, and a survey of institutional studies. (Author/KE)

# Higher Education Research Institute



- Jan 1944.





#### FINAL REPORT

MEN AND WOMEN GRADUATE STUDENTS:

THE QUESTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

National Institute of Education Project No. 3-3006

Lewis C. Solmon

Higher Education Research Institute, Inc. and

University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
March 31, 1975

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#### PREFACE

This study of differential opportunities for men and women graduate students was undertaken for four reasons: (1) to help reach a consensus on a proper and operational definition of sex discrimination in graduate schools, (2) to turn the debate over sex discrimination toward efforts to document quantitatively the allegations previously substantiated by anecdotes, (3) to see whether the affirmative action legislation regarding students, which has been imposed on graduate institutions and caused great havoc in their operation, is required or justified; that is, whether differential treatment exists, and if so, whether it is the fault of institutions or of earlier conditioning of both sexes by society, and (4) to cope with the statement by my five-year old daughter that she will become a nurse and her boyfriend will become a doctor because girls are always nurses and boys are always doctors.

The monograph begins with a review of earlier discussions of sex discrimination in the graduate schools. This review is followed by attempts to document and explain differences by sex in the admissions process, time spent in graduate study, geographic and interinstitutional mobility, and financial aid practices. It is in these areas that the most explicit charges of differential treatment of the sexes have been made these are also areas where new data can be brought to bear on the issues.

This study was conducted over a two-year period with the assistance of many individuals: Kohann Whitney, Karla Kroesing, Paul Hemond, and Susan Cross served as research assistants. Susan Cross was primarily responsible for Chapter 1 which reviews the literature, and for the appendices on catalog content and institutional reports. Beverly T. Watkins



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made the manuscript readable by editing it in its entirety. Data files were provided by Penny Foster of the National Science Foundation, Clairebeth Cunningham and W.C. Kelly of the National Research Council, Alexander W. Astin of the University of California, Los Angeles, and Robert Altman of the Educational Testing Service. Special thanks are due the graduate deans who assisted in the study by responding to a survey in fall 1973.

Michelle Patterson and Clairebeth Cunningham deserve thanks -- and probably blame -- for encouraging me to undertake this study and for providing comments on early drafts. Michele Harway-Herman also provided valuable comments at several stages.



# Chapter 1

# The Current State of the Discussion

Discrimination against women has been a major theme in higher education over the last decade. Attention has focused on charges of differential treatment of women graduate students and women faculty. A review of the literature indicates the content and bases of the various allegations and the current state of the research into areas of possible discrimination.

Institutional policies and practices that affect prospective and enrolled graduate women include admissions procedures, financia: aid, and the maintenance of an environment that some think is inadequate to the needs of women students. Lack of day-care facilities, gynecological services, and part-time study opportunities is seen by some as evidence that certain campuses do not accommodate women as well as they accommodate men. Some think faculty are less accessible to women students and that men students receive more encouragement through working relationships with professors.

Institutional hiring practices affect the career advancement of a woman graduate. Claims have been made that men applicants are favored over women and that promotion and salary schedules are not comparable. Antinepotism policies have been attacked. The underrepresentation of women on the faculty, plus poor treatment, are said to hinder not only the women faculty themselves but also women graduate students, who remain unexposed to many successful academic women.



Defining Discrimination or Equity

No current definition of discrimination or equity could gain universal acceptance. Indeed, the confusion of both researchers and policy-makers over this concept is great. Current definitions of equity. such as "the state of being just. impartial and fair" from a popular dictionary, or the generally accepted "equal opportunity" for each sex, have no operational significance without defining justice, impartiality, fairness, and opportunity. Clearly, what is just or fair or equal opportunity in certain respects is unjust, unfair, or unequal opportunity in others. A measuring rod is necessary to evaluate these terms. Similarly, the frequently mentioned "full participation" is unclear. Does this mean that all men and women in America get a PhD? Certainly not. everyone make full use of his or her talents? Probably. which talents: those possessed at birth or talents acquired through high school? What if the talents of women are not as well developed as those of men?

Defining equity is a particular problem when the concept is interjected at a point in the life cycle when many differences between the sexes have already been established. If equity between the sexes was sought from birth onward, members of each sex would have to be treated identically. However, by the time an individual is seriously considering post-high school or postcollege activities, the treatment of the sexes has already been different. When a high school boy or girl contemplates the future, each has already been exposed to cultural influences ranging from nursery rhymes to television programs which clearly indicate that the accepted



paths for men and women diverge. Obviously, equal treatment of men and women beginning with the senior year of high school would result in outcomes different by sex, since these young men and women have different knowledge and are regarded differently by society at that point.

A major decision about the definition of equity, therefore, must be whether to accept equal treatment or to require compensatory treatment for members of each sex. Equal treatment means identical amounts of advice and encouragement and identical criteria for decisions on admissions, financial aid, and the like. However, previous inputs into, say, women's thought processes might require differentiated counseling and encouragement. Moreover, different channneling in elementary and secondary school might imply that admissions and aid decisions should be based on different criteria explicitly related to earlier training and to success in reaching goals that have been differentially established by sex. Equal treatment of people with different experiences will result in different opporutnities for men and women. Rather than equal treatment for all, equity for members of each sex in all likelihood will require differential treatment by sex.

It is usually argued that equity will be achieved when there is no discrimination and no prejudice. To discriminate is defined in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary as (1) "To mark or perceive the distinguishing or peculiar features of," and (2) "To make a



difference in treatment or favor on a basis other than individual merit." In a world of scarce resources, allocations are generally based on some peculiar features of individuals or groups. This approach would be acceptable if it could be agreed that the perceived differences among individuals did exist and that the characteristics that determined resource distribution were logical and just measures upon which to base this type of decision. Problems can arise when rewards are based on characteristics that people feel should not be reward?, or when people disagree over the particular characteristics of those receiving the rewards.

This latter situation may involve prejudice-literally "prejudging."

People often base their perceptions of individual traits on past
observations of groups of which they were members or on earlier
experiences no longer relevant. One reason for disagreement over
individual characterisites is that precise information is unobtainable
or at least expensive. Those distributing rewards may think the
cost of an imperfect, erroneous, or unjust distribution is less
than that of ensuring equitable distribution. This is not discrimination solely by prejudice; rewards are simply based on estimates of
individual merit which are not exactly correct.

These processes lead to some diverse policy implications. Assume that society views the distribution of a certain commodity (e.g., admission to postsecondary education) among individuals as inequitable. Does this inequity result from ignorance of the distribution of particular traits among groups, or are decision-makers acting





invidiously and explicitly making decisions on grounds other than merit? Merit might be defined as including traits that increase probability of graduation (e.g., ability, motivation, persistence), although other definitions are also possible. If inequity results from ignorance, one might advocate improving the information system so those making distributions will be aware of the characteristics of particular individuals or groups. However, if those making distributions are using an undesirable criterion, one might advocate legislation to change criteria and to police distribution activities.

Sociologists distinguish between two types of discrimination: that due to decisions by individuals or groups and that due to the organization of instituitons (or the rules of the game.) In the second type, a group may be discriminated against without any individual taking explicit action; however, rules can be changed by people to prevent on-going discrimination.

Those who believe that discrimination against women exists in education assume that decisions are based on nonmeritorious criteria and, hence, that legislation is necessary to change those criteria. One underlying assumption is that differences between the sexes relevant to postsecondary education do not exist, and that it is merely the desire of those in power to maintain their positions which leads to second-class status for women. Or perhaps differences exist, but the rules of the game favor men. Differential distribution of rewards from education may be due to ignorance of

the characteristics of each sex. However, the current status of the two sexes in education could result, at least in part, from actual differences, perhaps in their taste for level of education, given early experiences.

Individuals concerned with the treatment of women in higher education have defined discrimination in various ways, but they agree on several points. Discrimination exists when women are judged on group performance rather than on individual merit. Educational opportunity should depend not on class stereotypes based on the color or shape of one's skin (Sandler's phrase, 1972), but upon individual needs, desires, and potential for contribution," according to Cross (1972, p. 8). Freeman (1970) believes that the possibility of being discriminated against 1: as debilitating to women as actual acts of injustice: "To go through life never really knowing whether one is seen as an individual or as a category, to engage in one's work with questions as to how much of it will be judged strictly on its merit and how much as the product of a member of a group, to be unable to say that one is treated the same as others without hidden bias--these uncertainties in themselves wreak their own havee regardless of what the real situation may be" (p. 118).

The question of competency enters most discussions of discrimination. "When a woman with <u>superior qualifications</u> is bypassed in favor of a man with inferior qualifications, prejudiced discrimination may legitimatley be charged," said Bernard (1964, p. 49). This begs the question of defining "superior qualifications." Bernard,



pointing out that the best competitors suffer most from prejudiced discrimination, said, "Less qualified candidates can be rejected on many functional grounds: they are not well trained, they are not competent, they do not have the skills, etc. It is only when all other grounds for rejection are missing that prejudiced discrimination per se is brought into play." In a definition of discrimination against women professionals which also applies to academic women, Theodore (1971) said discrimination "occurs when females of equivalent qualification, experience, and performance as males do not share equally in the decision-making process nor receive equal rewards. These rewards consist of money, promotions, prestige, professional recognition and honors" (p. 27).

Another frequently mentioned concomitant of discrimination against women is restrictions or barriers within institutions and society. Theodore referred to the "lack of normative patterns to facilitate normal entry into the professions and the imposition of barriers which limit access to both the organization and to professional colleagues." Roby (1973) defined institutional barriers as "the policies and practices in higher education which hinder women in their efforts to obtain advanced education. These barriers include practices pertaining to student admissions, financial aid, student counseling, student services, and curriculum" (p. 38).

Any "barriers to individual development" constitute discrimination, according to Cross (1974). "To discriminate is to deny freedom of choice; it is to make decisions affecting the lives of individuals



without their consent and frequently without their knowledge."

This freedom of choice may be denied "by institutional practices that are consciously or unconsciously discriminatory," "by social pressures that define acceptable behaviors for women," or by women's "own social conditioning and attitudes regarding women's roles" (p. 30).

# Locating Discrimination in Higher Education

That fewer women than men are in graduate school and in faculty positions is well documented (Harris, 1970; Roby, 1973; Solmon, 1973). The proportion of women in higher education decreases as the level of academic attainment advances; approximately equal numbers of men and women enter U.S. colleges and universities as undergraduates, about one-third of the students admitted to graduate school are women, and less than one-fourth of the academic positions in the country are filled by women. What is not so apparent is whether the relatively small number of women in graduate education is the end product of years of discriminatory practices by society, or of explicit policies of institutions of higher education. If discrimination is occurring, where does it exist and to what extent? The major thrust of the literature on discrimination is toward understanding the dynamics of women's exclusion to determine possible causes and to suggest remedies.

Much controversy arises over practices that seem discriminatory to one person but legitimate to another. Bernard (1965), who faced this problem in her studies, thought that "the subject of discrimination on whatever basis - age or race, as well as sex - is extraordinarily complex, subtle, and difficult to be unequivocal about. Discrimination is extremely difficult to demonstrate and evidence - for or



against it - is not interpreted the same way by all observers", (p. 175).

Some investigators have concluded that overt discrimination does exist. Frank Newman, who headed a task force investigating higher education for the U.S. Office of Education (1971), reported that "discrimination against women, in contrast to that against minorities, is still overt and socially acceptable within the academic community" (p.80).

Jencks and Riesman (1969) cited the sex quotas of private institutions as a sign of open discrimination since these quotas are established "quite independently of the number or talent of each group of applicants" (p. 294). Roby (1973) quoted Peter Muirhead's discussion of quotas in his testimony before a House subcommittee hearing investigating sex discrimination in higher education in 1970. Muirhead, then associate cormissioner of education, referred to "fixed percentages of men and women" admitted each year. "At Cornell University, for example, the ratio of men and women remains 3 to 1 from year to year; at Harvard/Radcliffe it is 4 to 1" (p. 42).

Certain educators in positions where discrimination may be observed first-hand, have acknowledged its presence. In comments at Massachusetts Institute of Technology on American women in science and engineering, Bernard (1965) said she was rebuked by both Ben Euwema and Reisman, who read the manuscript of Academic Women, for not uncovering more evidence of discrimination. She noted that "both these men have sat on committees selecting candidates of one kind or another, and they know intimately the processes involved. They have heard the criteria discussed, including the sex of the applicant. It they say there is discrimination against women in academia, it must surely be there. But it is very difficult to prove." (p. 177). It is difficult to prove because it is difficult to define.



Alan Pifer (1971), President of the Carnegie Corporation, related his perception of discrimination in a speech to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. "That there is discrimination against women in higher education cannot be denied. Some of you in this room, along with men elsewhere, have practiced it, however unconscious you may have been of doing so. But to ascribe the situation entirely to prejudice against women is simply ludicrous. It is a far more complicated matter than that" (pp. 5-6).

Lewis (1969) suggested that discrimination, if it does exist, may be justifiable. "In actuality, it can be argued that graduate admissions committees should be more discriminatory than they are now, if 'discrimination' is interpreted in its basic sense of making careful and wise decisions regarding the potential outcomes of candidates for admissions" (p. 30). Lewis argued that if one looks at the past performance of young graduate women, one can predict low completion rates.

Intentional discrimination is not considered the major cause of women's minimal participation in higher education. The Carnegie Commission (1973) reported that "It would have been satisfying to state... that a systematic pattern of discrimination is (or is not) leveled against women in graduate and professional school. Our data, however, do not substantiate either the presence or the absence of such discrimination. What has been borne out is that within graduate education there is a great deal of inequality based on sex. But inequality is not the same thing as discrimination" (p. 137). Bernard (1964) suggested that women may choose not to enter graduate school rather than be refused access. "The picture seems to be one not of women seeking positions and



being denied, but rather one of women finding alternative investments of the time and emotion more rewarding, one in which academic professions - because of changing role demands, and changing faculty-student relationships, and changing faculty-administration relationships - seem relatively less attractive than in the past" (p. 67). Prejudiced discrimination is not a problem en masse but is most likely to affect isolated cases of "top-flight" women scholars.

Like Bernard, most researchers have found it exceedingly difficult to substantiate discrimination with statistics. As Roby (1973) pointed out, "Whether and to what extent women are discriminated against in college admissions is difficult to determine. No national statistics are available on college applicants who have been rejected by institutions of higher education. We know the characteristics of those who are accepted and we can compare women enrollees with men enrollees, but we do not know if the rejection rate is higher among women applicants, nor whether this varies by type of institution" (pp. 38-39). This current study will provide evidence on this issue. In the absence of this information, Roby looked at the number of women at each academic level and proposed that more women would be represented if the superior academic qualifications of women students were considered. He indicated that, "we must examine indirect and partial evidence" resolving the questions of discrimination.

Harris (1970) faced the same difficulty as Roby in trying to uncover possible discrimination. "That the overall distribution of women in institutions of higher education is highly suggestive of discriminatory attitudes and practices no one can deny, but research into the problem of



discrimination against women is handicapped at present by the scarcity of studies of individual colleges and universities" (p. 283). She believed that certain areas of discrimination were covert and referred to de facto discrimination (i.e., practices that ignore women's needs). Harris' examples of de facto discrimination include the lack of serious study of women by academics ("women are seen from the male perspective"), the lack of childcare facilities, proper health services for women, and maternity leaves.

Freeman (1972) summarized de facto discrimination: "As long as the university does not concern itself with the variety of life styles prevalent among academic women and the many needs they have that differ from those of men, it will inevitable discriminate against otherwise qualified women" (p. 16). The college environment is unwelcoming to women students and faculty, who are left with the feeling that they have not gained full acceptance. "If the university and the behavior of its faculty does not directly discriminate against women, their benign neglect does the job far more insidiously" (p. 16).

Caplow and McGee (1958, 1965) also saw women excluded from the academic world more from neglect than from rejection. "Women tend to be discriminated against in the academic profession, not because they have low prestige but because they are outside the prestige system entirely and for this reason are of no use to a department in future recruitment" (p. 111). Campbell (1970) pointed out that women's absence from higher education is a well-established tradition. "The attitudes that govern the procedures and structures of American higher education are not consciously inhumane, of course; they are 'discriminatory by inheritance'" (p. 57).



The egalitarian ideals of the higher educational system would appear to denounce discriminatory practices. As summarized by Caplow and McGee (1958, 1965) "the university is committed to the ideal of advancement by merit. In a community of scholars, scholarly performance is the only legitimate claim to recognition" (p. 192). Berelson (1960) also states that "the graduate school, in its dominating concern with research, admits students primarily or exclusively on the basis of one criterion: intellectual capability" (p. 57).

Some, arguing that judgment by merit operates less in selecting graduate than undergraduate students, thought that women are treated more equitable as undergraduates than as students attempting to enter the more rigorous regime of graduate school. "As the competition and the discrimination become stiffer - from undergraduate student to graduate student to faculty member - women who persevere become increasingly aware of discrimination on the part of educational institutions" (Harris, 1974, p. 34). The scholars' persistent belief in liberal education for everyone accounts for acceptance of undergraduate women, while other nonacademic criteria are partially responsible for selecting graduate students (Jencks & Riesman, 1969, p. 295).



# Socialization Factors

The attitudes of women toward themselves, as well as the attitudes of men educators toward women, are factors in women's underrepresentation in higher education, hence, it is important to see how socialization attitudes based on prevailing societal norms affects both women who might apply to graduate school and those who are members of the academic community.

The most frequently cited societal expectation concerns women's role as a wife and mother. Cross (1974) illustrated the prevailing attitute toward graduate study for women: "Few would maintain that a master's degree in any field is necessary or even desirable for women who expect to live out their lives as wives and mothers, and many people would argue that a Ph.D. is a downright disadvantage" (p. 38). Assumptions are made that women will drop out of graduate school to get married and bear children, or that family obligations will limit their productivity if they do earn a degree. "Many graduate and professional programs for which members of both sexes commonly apply tend to discriminate against women, and many authorities believe they have good reason. Women are poorer bets than men to finish such a program, and those who do are less likely to use their education productively. A university feels some obligation not only to educate individuals, but also to be of benefit to society; thus if an admissions committee must choose between a capable man and a capable woman for a place in its program, the choice can logically be made in favor of the man" (Lewis, 1968, p. 212). Bernard (1964) recounted the view of one department head: "I think that when the state and our staff invest large sums of money



and a great deal of time and effort in the professional development of a woman, we take a far greater risk than when we make a similar investment in a man. For this reason it seems sensible to me that when we are considering male and female candidates of presumably equal calibre, some small preference should be given to the men" (p. 49).

The faculty attitude "that women won't finish. . . and if they do... that they won't be in the national market place as professionals" becomes institutionalized in recruiting, admissions, and funding policies (Fox, 1970, p. 34). The result is a viscious circle: because certain policies do disregard women's needs, women fulfill the prophecy by dropping out or taking longer to finish.

Expectations for women's performance are imposed many years <u>before</u> the decision to attend graduate school is made. "It [discrimination] begins in the cradle, where boys and girls begin receiving different messages about their future roles" (Epstein, 1970, P. 50). The work of Maccoby (1966) and Kagan and Moss (1962) supported the belief that sex role behavior is learned in early childhood. But, as Roby (1973, p. 44) indicated, "There is no way we can draw up a balance sheet that distinguishes the extent to which discrimination operates to exclude women from advanced graduate and professional training and the extent to which self-exculsion from advanced training results from the sex-role socialization that inhibits women's aspirations."

Roby cited a study of high school students by Sewell and a study of college students by Davis to show that the aspirations of women are lower than those of men. The high school girls in Sewell's study received less encouragement from parents and teachers to "aim high"



in their life goals. The college women in the Davis study were less likely than the men to make plans to attend graduate school, even though more were in the top half of the class.

Horner (1970) explained women's thwarted ambition by focusing on socialization processes: women have a "motive to avoid success; i.e., a disposition or tendency to become anxious about 'achieving' because they anticipate or expect negative consequences (i.e., unpopularity or loss of feminity) because of success." This motive is "a <u>latent</u>, stable, personality disposition, acquired early in life in conjunction with sex, sex role standards, and sexual identity" (pp. 16-17). Attitudes of parents and men peers toward appropriate sex-role behavior aroused the fear of success in Horner's subjects, apparently lowering their aspirations. Horner's findings support Kamarovsky's argument that many college women sense a change in their parent's attitudes: values related to marriage and feminine ideals are rewarded more than scholarly study.

Rossi (1965) illustrated the negative feelings of college women toward "inappropriate sex role behavior" in a study of women in medicine, engineering and the sciences. When college women were asked why so few American women enter these fields, many responded that men disapprove. In engineering, the three reasons given most frequently were: "Women are afraid they will be considered unfeminine if they enter this field," "Most parents discourage their daughters from training for such a field," and "Men in this field resent women colleagues" (p. 95).

The feminine image that women in our society are expected to maintain contains a variety of noncharacteristics: "lack of aggressiveness,



lack of personal involvement (unless it is for the benefit of a family member), and lack of ambitious drive' (Epstein, 1970, p. 22). Riesman (1965) presented another popular conception of women: "From their early days of school they are more people-oriented than boys. They are more adept at the social side of life, and they have fewer distractions from it, whether in sports, or hotrodding, or science fiction, or many other things which are not exclusively, but largely, boys' hobbies" (p. 425).

These notions of feminine characteristics and interests may affect the fields that women do or do not choose. Feldman (1974) who found that college students readily differentiated between "masculine" and "feminine" fields on a seven point-scale, concludes that "because fields are viewed as feminine, women enter them, and because women are in them, they are viewed as feminine." (p. 45). Women are drawn into fields that are more teaching- than research-oriented: "Fields with strong teaching orientation offer less prestige, power, and privilege than research-oriented fields" (pp. 59-60). Such fields include the humanities, social work, education, and library science.

College women may also be handicapped by their lack of training in mathematics. She conducted a pilot test of sex differences in high school math preparation. In a random sample of freshmen admitted to the University of California, Berkeley, (UCB) in Fall 1972, Sells (1973a) found that 57% of the boys had taken four years of high school math (first-year algebra, geometry, second-year algebra, trigonometry and solid geometry) compared with 8% of the girls. "The four year math sequence is required for admission to Marh 1A, Chem 1A, and Physics 1A at Berkeley. These courses are required for majoring in every field



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at the University except the 'traditionally female' (and hence lower paying) fields of humanities, social sciences, education and social welfare" (p. 43).

Astin (1969) found that, "compared with the typical woman graduate, the woman who goes on to get a doctorate has a strong tendency to take her undergraduate major in a field considered masculine and more intellectually demanding" (p. 38). Because of the tendency of most women to follow society's norms, Rossi (1965) refers to these women who venture into traditionally masculine fields as "pioneers."

The limitation that socialization has placed upon women was summarized by Bem and Bem (1971): "As long as a woman's socialization does not nurture her uniqueness, but treats her only as a member of a group on the basis of some assumed average characteristic, she will not be prepared to realize her own pote tial in the way that the values of individuality and self-fulfillment imply that she should" (p. 22).



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# Admissions Criteria

Colleges and universities obviously cannot be held accountable for socialization factors that discourage women from applying to graduate school. However, for the women who do apply, the criteria by which admissions committees make their selections are of critical importance. Ideally, members of admissions committees base their judgments on characteristics independent of sex. Accepted measures of potential for academic success include evaluation of past performance (grades and letters of recommendation) and a standardized test, the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), to predict academic ability.

One problem in determining whether graduate admissions committees are using sex-neutral selection criteria is that most decisions are made by individual departments in closed-door meetings. Few departments have documented their selection criteria; they generally provide no specific written information on why particular candidates were denied admission.

Investigators have questioned the selection process, suggesting that women are not admitted in sufficient proportions if merit is the most important selection variable. (Harris, 1970; Sells, 1973; Roby, 1973). Other factors influencing selection decisions include information and attitudes about group norms. Past performance of women and men may be compared to predict student motivation, time to degree completion, and use of the degree in future employment. Because this information may influence a committee's decision, an investigation of possible discrimination must look at reported differences between men and women in attrition and time required to earn a degree, in motivation, and in productivity of graduates in employment, as well as at measures of student ability.



# Student Ability

A frequer complaint, that women need better academic qualifications than men to be admitted to graduate schoor, is generally based on studies indicating that women have higher GPAs than men from high school through graduate school. Harmon (1965), after looking at the high school records of PhD recipients, concluded that women doctorates are superior to their men counterparts on all measures derived from high school records in all fields of specialization. However, this is evidence concerning the successful degree recipients, not the full set of applicants. The Cooperative Institutional Research Program's annual survey of college freshmen, sponsored jointly by the American Council on Education (ACE) and the University of California, Los Angeles, has been cited by Hole and Levine (1971, p. 318) to show that a greater percentage of girls than boys have good grades: ". . . for the class of 1968 over 40% of the girls admitted to four-year colleges have P+ or better averages in high school, whereas only 18% of the boys had such grades." Similar findings are reported for college grades. A survey by the Carnegie Commission (Feldman, 1974) showed that "undergraduate GDA's of B+ or better were achieved by 37% of the men, compared to 52% of the women. greater proportion of men are entering graduate school with lower undergraduate averages than their (fewer in number) female counterparts" (p. 18). Roby (1973) cited ACE data indicating that both high school and college records of women graduate students are superior to those of men, concluding that "though admittedly indirect evidence, the data reviewed here strongly suggest that institutions of higher education maintain higher standards for the admission of women than they do for men" (p. 42).

Comparative GRE scores of men and women have not indicated the



greater ability of women students. (Chapter presents data on GRE scores of applicants.) Rees (1974) reported that at Yale, where men had higher GRE scores than women, women rated higher than men by a small margin on verbal ability, while men rated higher than women by a large margin on quantitative ability. At the City University of New York, women also rated higher in verbal and men higher in quantitative, but the margins were about equal. "Although rarely discussed in the literature, the use of test scores as admissions criteria helps men compensate for the better high school records of women," according to Cross (1974, p. 36). This lack of emphasis on the GRE may result from the difficulty in obtaining GRE information; also this information will not benefit the cause of women. (Evidence that women's GRE performance, unlike their GPAs, is not superior to men's is presented below.)

Not all schools or departments rely on grades or standardized tests as the primary means for student assessment. A study of psychology departments by an American Psychological Association task force found that college grades and test scores were not emphasized; the two most important criteria for selecting students were letters of recommendations and personal statements (Solmon, 1973). Although the personal statement provides a fair chance for the candidate to discuss his or her motivation, letters of recommendation are not necessarily free from sex bias: certain letters, written by men, contained comments irrelevant to the evaluation of scholarship. Letters of recommendation for National Science Foundation (NSF) fellowships, collected by the National Research Council, provide examples of sex-biased statements:

"I kept wondering how a girl could be so smart."

"The effect of her being married is, of course, the big unknown."



"If she were single and plain, I would expect her to be an outstanding Phb."

"Miss K. . . . is also musically and structurally gifted."

"I think she'd make some young anthropologist a good wife."

Such comments are alleged to perpetuate the impression that scholarly ambition is not a feminine virtue, distracting the reader from the more important concerns of student motivation and learning capacity.

Those who objected to current admissions procedures thought that women's acceptance rates would improve if grades were the most important criterion. Cross (1974) cited a survey of admissions policies indicating that most departments assign the greatest weight to the undergraduate record (p. 41). Women's superior grades put them in a strong competitive position, but the best they can hope for now is to be accepted in the same proportion in which they apply. Because women applicants are a more highly self-selected group than men applicants, the proportion of women accepted should reflect their superior qualifications. Scott (1970) noted that women should expect to be accepted in higher proportions, especially in areas where they are a minority. Women who apply to traditionally male-dominated fields, such as medicine, mathematics, physics, and economics, will do so only because they have execptional ability and straight A's in their special fields. "Thus while women graduate students are, to start with, a much more highly preselected group than are men graduate students, the women entering male-dominated fields will be a very preselected group indeed." (p. 287) Probably, "whenever a certain graduate or professional program regularly admits only a small and uniform percentage of women students, a quota system



may be presumed to be operating." Roby (1973) attacked the "equal rejection" theory in which "women applicants are separated from men applicants, and an equal proportion of each sex category is accepted which means that women are not judged on an equal competitive basis with men. Since women have better academic records than men, and in traditionally masculine fields like medicine and law only the very best women even apply, it is clear that the 'equal rejection' procedure discriminates against women" (p. 43).

Needed is information about the men and women who are <u>not</u> admitted to graduate schools, as well as about successful applicants. Clearly, the measures to evaluate student ability and motivation are far from perfect, but it is necessary to know how admissions committees compare men and women on certain standards to prove discrimination. Without this knowledge, "it might be that graduate admissions committees base their decisions on what they generally observe to be true, even though many cases do not conform with what is generally believed to be the typically observed behavior. However, what they observe may well be biased, and what they (perhaps unconsciously) <u>fail</u> to observe may be important." (Solmon, 1973, p. 310).



# Attrition and Time Required to Earn a Degree

PhD production is a costly endeavor when university resources and student opportunity costs are considered (Breneman, 1970). For this reason, departments reviewing admissions applications may consider the likelihood that a student will complete the degree in a minimal time period. "It is said that so many things can happen to interfere with a woman's commitment to graduate study - marriage, pregnancy, moving away with her husband, and so on - that a man is a better bet for a long-range comtribution to society. Although such practice seems unjust to the individual (since no one can predict which man or woman will complete the degree), many regard it as a more responsible use of graduate training resources" (Cross, 1974, p. 42).

Little information is available to date on degree-completion rates for women and men. Most studies suggest that a greater percentage of women drop out of graduate school, and that women take longer to complete degrees. When Sells (1973) interpreted Mooney's data on Woodrow Wilson Fellows who entered graduate school from 1958-1963, she analyzed for dropouts rather than completed degrees. She found that 44% of the men and 64% of the women had dropped out of the program after eight years. Stark (1967), who studied attrition and duration of PhD candidates at UCB, concluded that women are indeed unlikely to succeed in graduate school. He reported low completion rates for women in English, history, and political science, and remarking that "when one considers the almost total failure of these three departments to get their female students through to the doctorate, the fact that Chemistry got 31% of its women through seems a stunning accomplishment" (p. 24). Rees (1974) also cited statistics indicating that women either drop out or take longer than men to complete a degree.



"Rossi, in her special study of graduate sociology departments, found that although 39% of the students at the University of Chicago were women, over a nine-year period only 18% of the PhD graduates were women. And at Wisconsin, although 28% of the graduate students were women, only 4% of the degrees awarded went to women" (p. 182). These figures may not accurately reflect the situation, however, because, as Rossi pointed out, some women who intend to stop with a master's degree in social welfare may appear to be doctoral dropouts.

patterson and Sells (1973) reported that "the literature on graduate school attrition reveals two constant patterns: women are more likely to drop out, and students of both sexes are more likely to fail to complete doctoral programs in the humanities and social sciences than in the physical sciences" (p. 84). However, the factors operating to produce different attrition rates for men and women have not been adequately addressed.

Investigators have looked at such variables as field of study, financial aid, student employment, and marital status for clues on why students drop out, but the relationship of these factors to the women's higher dropout rate is only speculative. Harris (1970) referred to studies that indicate "the attrition rate for both sexes is higher in humanities and social sciences than in physical sciences and professional schools," concluding that "since women are more often found in the former two fields, their overall attrition rate is higher than that of men, but when the figures are compared by field, the differences are small." She presented the University of Chicago study's breakdown by field, which shows that "the overall difference



in attrition rates of men and women graduate students was in fact rather minimal, with women actually having a lower attrition rate than men in the humanities" (p. 286).

Financial aid is important to a graduate student's persistence. A survey of women PhDs in Oklahoma by Mitchell and Alciatore (1970) supported the contention that women could earn the degree in less time if they were aided financially. Both income loss and the cost of acquiring the doctorate are significantly related to the time taken to receive the degree. Some delays due to family responsibilities are related to finances. Stark (1967) showed that financial aid and lower attrition rates are significantly related. In comparing the amount of financial aid from different departments, Stark reported that only one-third of the students in English, history, and political science receive financial aid through a teaching or research assistantship, fellowship, scholarship, lectureship or associateship, compared with 90% of chemistry students. Since chemistry students have a much higher success rate than students in other fields, Stark concluded that "if you support an historian as well as you support a chemist, he is as likely as the chemist to succeed in graduate school. Or, conversely, if you starve a chemist the way most students in English are starved (and also deny him the learning experience provided by a research assistantship) the chemist turns out to be as likely as the English student to become a graduate school dropout" (p. 32). Astin's study (in press) of dropping out by undergraduates revealed not only the amount, but also the type of aid is significant.



The greater availability of financial support in the physical and biological sciences, compared with the social sciences and humanities, at least partly explains differences in attrition between men and women. Women are more likely to be studying in fields where there are fewer fellowships available. This should make it more difficult for them to complete their graduate studies" (Harris, 1970, p. 286).

Patterson and Sells (1973) were unconvinced that women's higher dropout rate results from financial difficulties. However, they reported that the Mooney study on Woodrow Wilson Fellows tends to support the importance of financial aid. Figures from the Mooney data "very clearly show that the presence of fellowship support for women in their second year of graduate school reduces their dropout rate by more than one-fourth. Second year fellowship is also associated with a lower dropout rate for men, but the difference is not nearly so great" (p. 88). The byproducts of financial aid, emotional support and experience as a colleaque, may be as important to the student's progress as the money. "The slightly higher attrition rates of women graduate students are largely explained by the lack of encouragement and by the actual discouragement experienced by women graduate students for their career plans" (Harris, 1970, p. 286).

Breneman (1970), looking at Mooney's study of Woodrow Wilson Fellows, was struck that the success rate varied by school. "The conclusion has to be that there are obstacles in the way of acquiring a Ph.D. related to sex, field of study, and graduate school, etc. which are not easily overcome simply by injecting more money" (p. 120).



Davis (1962) loosely interpreted his findings as indices of involvement in graduate school versus involvement in the world outside. Areas of involvement in his study include motivation (researchers have low dropout rates; students who do not prefer either teaching or research have high rates), division (natural science students have low dropout rates; humanities students have high rates; social scientists are in the middle), employment (full-time workers have high dropout rates; assistants have low rates; Fellows, part-time workers, and those with no employment or fellowship are generally in the middle), and age and family role (older students and fathers have high dropout rates).

Difficulty combining student and family roles may cause more women than men to drop out. Feldman (1973) reported the Carnegie survey finding that "Among married students, 21% of the women as compared with 9% of the men (gamma of sex differences = .4444) state that pressure from their spouse will or may cause them to drop out of school" (p. 988). Davis (1962) summarized data on marital status and expectations of graduate students: "Women students have lower marriage rates and higher marriage expectations than men, which suggests that women tend to drop out of graduate school when they get married" (p. 31).

Patterson and Sells (1973) reported on the differential effect of parenthood on women and men graduate students enrolled in one department at UCB: "... if a woman was married but had no children, she spent fifty hours a week on household chores. If she was married with children she spent sixty hours on household duties. Single men and women, on the other hand, spent about fifteen to twenty hours on



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household work a week. Married men, including those with children, devoted less than ten hours a week to housework." They concluded that "it is not surprising then that several studies found marital and family status was the best predictor of women's attrition rate" (p. 87-88).

The problem of interpreting differential attrition rates for men and women is magnified by the difficulty in collecting reliable information. As Siegel and Carr (1969) noted: "Data on attrition and enrollment are difficult to obtain and interpret because of the geographic mobility of American students - they frequently move from one educational setting to another without in fact interrupting the progress of their educational careers" (p. 6). The educational structure does not yet accommodate this mobility, and women students are victimized more than men: "We have yet to deal realistically with the portability of credits. And this problem is exaggerated for women who generally move, not at their convenience, but when husbands have completed a given segment of education " (Cross, 1974 p. 47). (Chapter 4 presents data on geographic mobility patterns of students of each sex and the interinstitutional mobility of doctorate recipients.)

Women generally complete their degrees later in life than men for a variety of reasons, e.g. temporarily terminating training after graduation to work for financial reasons or to break the academic routine, interrupting training to marry and have children, and extending training by attending college part-time (Astin, 1969).

Ultimately, many of these women complete a degree, but such delays account for the average 12-year lapse between graduation and PhD



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completion. (This time lapse and the actual number of years spent in graduate training are differentiated below.) Women in the Mitchell and Alciatore (1970) sample thought they could have begun their graduate study earlier. "More than 60% of all women in this study, and over 80% of those who exceeded the median time lapse from B.A. to Ph.D., indicated they would begin their doctoral study earlier in their lives if they were to do it again. In retrospect they were able to see ways in which they could have managed their lives so as to have achieved the degree at an earlier time" (p. 538).

Mitchell and Alciatore concluded that "greater cultural expectations regarding women doctorates and improvement of guidance and counseling may encourage women to earn the doctor's degree earlier in their lives so as to realize greater gains for themselves and for society" (p. 538).

The pattern of women's dropout rates does not differ significantly from that of men at certain schools. Rees (1974) reported that "our records seem to present strong evidence that, at least at the City University of New York, attrition rates are about the same for men as for women and women do complete the degree though it takes them almost a half year longer than men" (p. 183). According to Sells (1973b), the difference in men's and women's attrition rates at UCB has been dimishing since vomen students have organized on their own behalf in women's caucuses: "The long-standing sex difference of 20 percentage points in dropouts was gradually reduced to zero in the wake of women's increasing efforts to seize their own autonomy," she noted (p. 10). Attrition has decreased because "faculty are



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beginning to learn not to impose expectations and stereotypes based on the behavior of women in the 1960's on women of the 1970's."



# Student Motivation

The student's level of commitment to graduate study is presumably an important consideration of graduate admissions committees. Although grades, letters of recommendation, and the candidate's personal statement are measures of motivation, subjective opinions may also influence the committee's evaluation. Arguments that women are not as committed to graduate study as men have been challenged by individuals who think evidence does not support this generalization.

As a spokesman for educators who think many women pursue higher education for reasons other than scholarship, Lewis (1969) outlined a variety of nonacademic motives: to please others (a bright girl who continues under pressure from a favored instructor); to remain in a secure environment (arising from fear of the outside world or desire to find a husband), and to mark time until her husband graduates. Commitment to a scholarly field is a primary motive for men but not for most women, he found: "Too many young women are casually enrolling in graduate schools across the country without having seriously considered the obligation which they are assuming by requesting that such expenditures be made for them. And they are not alone to blame. Equally at fault are two groups of faculty: a) undergraduate instructors who encourage their female students to apply without also helping them consider the commitment that such an act implies, and b) graduate admissions committees who blithely admit girls with impressive academic records into their graduate programs without looking for other evidence that the applicant has made a sincere commitment to graduate study" (p. 33).



Rees (1974) quoted Virgil K. Whitaker, former dean of the Stanford graduate school, who held a similar view: "A much thornier problem, especially in the humanities, is provided by the young ladies. They mostly profess an undying devotion to learning, at least on their applications. But for many of them the need to find a place in the world that plagues both sexes is complicated, to speak quite bluntly, by the need to find a man. A fellowship provides support while they continue the hunt. . . there is . . . ample statistical support for the proposition that the hard-pressed American taxpayer, or even the generous donor is not getting his money's worth out of women graduate students if Ph.D.'s practicing their profession is the goal" P. 179).

Graham (1970) saw the period from age 18 to 25, when most young men are preparing themselves for a career, as a difficult time for women students. "Some young women are able to do graduate work and do it well in these years, but few pass through this period without serious qualms about the desirability of planning for a demanding professional life" (p. 1285).

That they are <u>not</u> taken seriously may be an impediment for women students. "The first thing that male students do is to suspect the intentions of women. The suspicion is generally that women come to graduate school to look for a man, not a degree," according to Fox (1970, p. 33). Women students do not receive positive support; it is considered unusual if they continue for their PhDs and no tragedy if they drop out. Graduate men, according to Fox, think women have the option to leave any time they want; they don't have to be there.



"Women scholars are not taken seriously and cannot look forward to a normal professional career," accroding to Caplow and McGee (1958, 1965). "This bias is part of the much larger pattern which determines the utilization of women in our economy. It is not peculiar to the academic world, but it does blight the prospects of female scholars" (p. 194).

Sells (1973b) conducted a pilot study at Berkeley in which faculty responded to the item, "The women graduate students in this department are not as dedicated as the men," and women graduate students responded to the item, "The professors in my department don't take female graduate students seriously." She found "large and statistically significant differences in faculty attitudes toward women, across disciplines, and most importantly, between faculty attitudes and student perceptions in History, English, Political Science, and Sociology." Faculty opinions ranged from 19% to 49% who believe women students are less dedicated, and students from 28% to 55% that women students are not taken seriously. Yet, "it is not clear whether students pick up and reflect faculty expectations with respect to their seriousness, or whether students behave in a manner which clicits expectations of lack of seriousness" (p. 8).

What appears to be less motivation by women students may actually be lack of self-confidence and a less positive self-image. Feldman (1974), in his survey for the Carnegie Commission, found that women have less confidence in their ability to do original work. "Women appear to be not as dedicated as men. However, given a close relation—ship with a professor or given a more positive self-image, women are just as likely as men to manifest signs of dedication. . . We cannot



establish that believing females to be less dedicated is an indication of blind prejudice. The belief becomes part of a cycle - a professor sees that women are not as dedicated as men and pays less attention to them. Paying less attention to them results in women becoming less dedicated; hence, the belief is upheld" (p. 123). While some women scholars lack confidence in their abilities, the problem may arise because the academic environment is structured for men. "They (women students) sometimes feel a personal inadequacy, and I often see my own students coming to the conclusion that they lack ability in various fields when, in fact, what they lack is the ability to structure their thinking in the way that men have defined their spheres" (Riesman, 1965, p. 427).

If women students are assumed to be less motivated than men students, they may be involved in fewer relationships with men students and professors who encourage them to continue in school. Husbands (1972) cited studies of graduate students in which "many researchers have emphasized the importance of reference groups in forming and reinforcing professional self-concepts" (p. 266). Married women students are at a particular disadvantage. "Married women graduate students in Erbe's national sample knew fewer persons in their departments than did men or single women; yet knowing many people in one's department was related to definite intentions to get the doctorate" (p. 266-267).

Numerous studies have attempted to determine whether marriage has a different impact on the motivation of men and women graduate students. Feldman (1974) reported that marriage is generally a positive influence for men and a negative influence for women,



stating that divorced women and married men have the greatest academic. success (p. 136). Graham (1970), however, cites studies indicating that women who are married when they receive a PhD are more capable academically than their unmarried women contemporaries. (The effects of marriage on men and women students who have received the doctorate are considered below.)

Marriage may limit women's aspirations in that women seldom seek a higher academic level than their husbands. According to Feldman (1974), "Traditionally, it has been deemed unacceptable in our society for a woman to dominate her husband in any way - including educationally. Thus, married women are freer to pursue postgraduate training if their spouses have also done so. No such limitations exist for men. Less than a quarter of married male students have spouses with graduate education as compared with over half of the married graduate women. These differences obtain for all age groups even women who return to graduate school after the age of 40 are more likely to have spouses with graduate education than men of a similar age" (p. 127). In Astin's (1969) sample of married women PhDs, 51% reported that their husbands also have a doctorate and an additional 12% were married to men with a professional degree. Only 10% were married to men who were not college graduates. Simon, Clark, and Galway (1967) also noted that "the Ph.D. places greater restrictions on the woman's choice of spouse than it does on the man's" (p. 223).

For whatever reasons, it has generally been confirmed that fewer women than men graduate students or PhDs are married. Astin (1969) compared the marriage rate of women PhDs with the population in

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general to find that only 55% (59% if nuns were excluded) had been married, compared with 86% of other women in the age group (40-44 years old).

Foldman (1974) suggested that "the tendency of married or divorced women to be older than men of similar status reflects the fact that women are more constrained by the role of spouse. Unlike women, men do not have to wait until their children are raised or until their spouse has an established career to continue in graduate school" (p. 129). Since about three-fourths of the married PhDs in her sample were married before completing graduate training, Astin (1965) concluded that some women can successfully combine wife and student roles. The women in Astin's sample had fewer children born later in life than those in the general population. Simon et al (1967) reported that, although 70% of the married women PhDs in their sample had at least one child, this percentage was lower than that for men (90% of the married men had children).

The possible constraints of marriage on women may be reflected in the greater number enrolled as part-time students. Feldman (1974) found that "while marriage reduced the frequency of full-time enrollment for both men and women, it is more likely to reduce it for women than for men." (p. 984). About one-half of the married men in his sample were full-time students, compared with less than one-third of the married women.



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## Postgraduate Employment and Productivity

Since the reputations of colleges and universities depend to some extent on the success of their graduates, candidates for admissions may be evaluated for their potential to be productive and visible in post-graduate employment. If it is assumed that women will invest more energy in their family lives than in productive employment, the decision to admit a high proportion of women to graduate school may be seen as disadvantageous by an institution. However, educators do not agree on which activities are productive, and evidence suggests that women PhD recipients do utilize their degrees.

Astin (1969) reported that "the higher a woman's educational attainment, the more likely she is to be in the labor force; the 1960 census data show that women's labor force participation is directly proportionate in their education, independent of age" (p. 2). The Astin survey indicated that not only are 91% of all women who received their doctorates in 1957 and 1958 employed, but their employment patterns are also stable; less than one-fifth of the fully employed have ever interrupted their postdoctoral careers and these interruptions have been for a total of about 14 months. "Once a woman decides to invest herself, her time, and her energy in pursuit of specialized training, the likelihood of her maintaining a strong career interest and commitment is very high" (p. 149).

Simon et al (1967) also found that a high proportion of women with PhDs are "practicing their trade." Practically all the unmarried women in their sample and 87% of the married women without children work full-time. Among the married women with children, 60% work full-time, while 25% work part-time. In Mitchell and Alciatore's (1970)



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survey of Oklahoma women PhDs, "Seven of the women had reached retirement age. Among the remaining women there was an almost incredible rate of 99 percent employment" (p. 536). The high employment rate of women PhDs in these studies demonstrates the trend toward greater labor force participation of academic women. In an earlier survey by Radcliffe (1956) of its graduates, 31% of the respondents were classified as "nonworkers," a greater unemployment rate than indicated in more current studies.

Employers today may be more receptive to hiring qualified women than they have been in the past. Certainly, more information is needed to determine how many women graduates are seeking and not finding jobs that utilize their training. Roby (1973) cited a 1970 study by

John Creager which suggests women graduate students are seriously preparing for employment: "70% of both men and women graduate students endorsed the view that 'career will take second place to family obligations' in their lives" (p. 50).

The student's future employment is, to some degree, determined by his or her department. "Since the department is a major source of information concerning job opportunities, this factor is, to a considerable extent, under departmental control. For example, professors may know that women Ph.D.'s are discriminated against for job placement; this knowledge may cause many women graduate students to quit the program. If the department has some reason for wanting these students to remain in the program, then the department will carefully avoid discussion of job opportunities" (Breneman, 1970, p. 33). Harris (1970) claimed that "the informal grapevine of job openings



from department to department across the country" is detrimental to women. "The cliche opening, 'Do you know a good man for the job?' reflects a continuous but largely unconscious discrimination against women" (p. 292).

Surveys have indicated that women PhDs do not think discrimination interferes with their attainment of a job as much as with their advancement on the job. In Mitchell and Alciatore's (1970) sample, two-fifths (42.4%) of the women reported they had not experienced any discrimination since receiving the PhD. A slightly larger percentage (48.8%), said they had felt some discrimination in the following areas: promotion or salary or both (24.95%), nepotism regulations (6.2%), administrative positions (4.5%), and a general atmosphere of discrimination (10.2%). Over one-third of the women in Astin's sample believed that discriminatory practices had adversely affected their careers. The forms of discrimination mentioned most often are lower salary schedules for women and differential treatment over promotion, tenure, and seniority.

Women's advancement in academe has been thwarted by the common assumption that women are more inclined toward teaching than research.

Astin (1964) commented that "women are less productive than men with respect to publications of scholarly writing, and this sex difference may reflect the basic differences in the attitudes, values, and interests of the two sexes" (p. 93). The typical work activities of Astin's sample were divided; half the time was spent teaching, one-fourth in research, and one-fourth in administration and service to clients. Simon et al (1967) reported that "when respondents were asked to describe the work they do, and were given choices of 'teaching,'



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'research,' 'both,' or 'other,' we found that while there was considerable variation by field, there was no consistent pattern between the sexes" (p. 224).

Some studies suggested that women's involvement in research equals that of men. Simon et al (1967) showed that married women PhDs who are employed full-time publish slightly more than men or ummarried women PhDs, a finding that contradicts Feldman's (1973) report that married women publish less than married men. Cross (1974) cited Creager to show that field of study has more to do with publishing than the sex of the student. Scientists are productive and educators are not. As mentioned above, women are involved in fewer research-oriented fields.

Some evidence has indicated that the <u>quality</u> of publications by women is not lower than that of men. Lindsey Harmon of the National Research Council, who has produced some unpublished tabulations with publications and citations indices of the Institute for Scientific Information, found that even though women doctorates publish fewer articles and books, their works are cited more often than those of men. Considering that citations come from two sources - former teachers and colleagues, and those who actually use the publication - this finding is noteworthy. If former teachers and colleagues favor men, the larger number of citations of women's work probably reflects greater use in new research.

Another explanation for women's lack of scholarly production is that women more often hold jobs at teaching institutions than at research universities (Cross, 1974). Simon et al (1967) supported the contention



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that women are less likely than men to be employed at universities.

"Among those respondents who work in academic institutions, the proportion of unmarried women compared to men who are employed at colleges rather than universities (state or private) is higher in the sciences and social sciences. In the humanities and education there is little difference by sex. There is also some tendency for married women to be employed at private rather than public universities" (p. 224).

Astin (1969) also found that women PhDs: place of employment varies by field. Most of the Astin population is employed in small colleges or universities: women in humanities and social science are likely to be in higher educational settings: women in education are probably in junior colleges: natural scientists are most often found in government, industry, or nonprofit organizations.



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#### Quality of the Graduate School

The quality of the graduate school has implications for future employment. Berelson (1960) saw the graduate school as "one of the most important distributors of talent in American life. Just as a person's eventual position in society depends on the class he was born into as well as on his own talent, so his eventual position in higher education depends on the standing of the (parental) institution where he took his doctorate as well as his scientific or scholarly capabilities. In each case, a good deal depends on what step of the ladder you start from" (p. 109).

Few studies have attempted to discern whether men and women students attend graduate schools of equal quality. Berelson reported that, by and large, women receive their doctorates from universities equal in quality to those from which men receive their degrees. About the same proportion of women students (47%) as men (43%) receive their doctorates from the top 12 universities. Whether women are admitted to the highest quality graduate schools in the same proportion as men is explored below.

Another question is whether women and men who apply to graduate schools come from undergraduate schools of similar academic status, and if the quality of their undergraduate training influences their graduate performance. Stark (1967), trying to determine whether the quality of an undergraduate institution affected the probability that the student would complete the PhD found that quality mattered in chemistry but not in other departments. In the chemistry department at UCB, proportions earning PhDs systematically decline from highest



quality undergraduate (91% obtained PhDs) to those students from obscure institutions (50% earned PhDs). Stark did not report these data by sex, although the majority of chesistry students probably are men.

Harris (1970) reported that "sex-segregated education does not benefit women. The Gourman Institute ratings for all women's schools are at least 200 points (on an 800 scale, 400 being accreditation level) below those of their supposedly equivalent men's schools, with Catholic schools collecting the lowest ratings of all. . . Even at the best-known women's schools, the smaller endowment, more limited lacilities, and smaller range of courses, especially in male-dominated fields, affect all women students" (p. 293). Because the best graduate schools can be more selective in their admissions, the quality of the student's undergraduate institution may be a screening device. In a similar manner, employers may determine the eligibility of applicants by the reputation of their graduate school. Thus, it is important to learn more about the distribution of men and women students in different quality levels of undergraduate and graduate institutions. (New data on the baccalaureate origins of doctorates are presented below.)

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#### Financial Aid

To determine whether discrimination against women occurs in allocation of financial aid, investigators have examined the same factors involved in women's acceptance rates. Information and attitudes about student ability, motivation, likelihood of completing a degree, and employment potential are important variables in financial aid decisions. Some observers argue that women do not receive a fair share of fellowships or school-related employment, especially when student performance is considered. Others believe that women should be bypassed in favor of men, since their commitment to graduate study and future employment is not as substantial.

On the dynamics of financial aid decisions, Riesman (1965) noted:

"One can observe, on committees deciding on graduate fellowships, that

there is a tendency, where a girl and a boy have relatively equal records,

to choose the boy, on the ground that he's a better bet for manpower

since he isn't likely to drop out because of marriage. And therefore

he will serve the society and the professor himself as a disciple" (p. 430).

Information on differences in financial aid by sex is not readily available. A survey by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) could not disclose the number of graduate fellowships and their value, because "This data was not given in consistent form, was not available, or the item was left blank" (Oltman, 1970, p.9). The present study reveals data on the <u>number</u> of men and women graduate students with aid, but it is still virtually impossible to obtain useful data on <u>amount</u> of aid by sex. Bernard (1964), looking at the 1959 National Science



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Foundation awards, reported that women receive awards in the same proportion that they apply; 12% of the applicants were women and 12% of the awards went to women. Simon, et al (1967) indicated that women are more likely than men to receive postdoctoral fellowships. These findings were consistent with those of Knapp and Greenbaum (1953), who found that women receive university fellowships somewhat more frequently than men. However, the finding on postdoctoral fellowships might be reflecting the greater difficulty women have in finding a job on receipt of the PhD.

Numerous investigators say that women and men receive financial support from different sources, and that women do not receive as much financial aid as men. Attwood (1972) reported the findings of a study by the American Association of Colleges (AAC) in which 68 different fellowship programs sponsored by 28 government agencies and private foundations provided data on numbers and percentages of women applicants, acceptances, and selection procedures. In 28% of the programs, the percentage of women recipients was close to the percentage that applied. In the remaining 45%, the percentage of women recipients was significantly higher than that of applicants. Attwood was concerned that far fewer women than men apply or are nominated for fellowships. She projected that "in 1972-73, about 80 percent of the nation's most prestigious fellowships and awards (would) go to men" (p.2). Astin (1973) reported that women were less likely to receive aid from the government or other institutions and more likely to rely on their own savings or support from their families or spouses.

Roby (1973) reviewed ACE data to expose differences between men's and women's sources of support, saying that graduate men are "somewhat



more dependent than women on their own efforts, through employment and use of savings or loans, while women are somewhat more dependent on contributions from their families (most frequently, their husbands)" (p. 48). This financial dependence of women on either husbands or families carries with it some psychological implications of "emotional indebtedness." "If women depend more on family support than do men, it may be daughters in lower middle class and working class families are especially penalized compared to their brothers. Not only may such families have lowered the educational aspirations of their daughters to a greater extent than their sons, but they may also consider it appropriate for sons' to work their way through college, but inappropriate for their daughters to do so" (p. 48).

Several studies have examined the differentail effect of marital status or family role on the financial standing of men and women graduate students. In the Carnegie survey reported by Feldman (1974), 60% of married men said their wives' jobs provide a source of income; 74% of married women graduate students stated that their husbands' job is a source of income. Feldman (1973) said that marital status does not appear to affect the granting of financial aid. "The general pattern is that men are more likely to receive fellowships. Decisions concerning financial aid may take into account sex but probably not marital status" (p. 992). Davis (1962) outlined a variety of financial situations: Single students have low incomes, low income needs, and seldom work full-time. Married women tend to have high incomes and be supported by a working husband. Husbands also tend to have high incomes and high income needs, and are generally partially dependent on



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the earnings of a working wife. Fathers have the highest income needs, and often work full-time to compensate for the loss of their wives' earnings. Davis saw fathers as the only group with financial difficulties; their income sources divert their attention from their studies.

Stark (1967) has suggested that the type and amount of aid a student receives depends on his or her department. Astin's (1969) findings also revealed that financial aid varies by field of study. Women in the natural sciences are far more likely than those in other fields to receive stipend—support through—assistantships or fellowships during graduate training, while women in education tend to bear the costs of graduate training themselves. Davis (1962), too, noted that natural science students have a distinct advantage over social science and humanities students, regardless of the type of stipend. He pointed out that PhD candidates have an advantage over master's candidates for most types of stipends. Since women tend toward fields that offer less aid and are more frequently M.A. candidates (NFS data) than men, these factors may be more relevant to the determination of financial aid than sex.

Davis (1964) reiterated Attwood's conclusion that women are i.r less likely to apply for stipends than men. While Davis did not speculate on why women fail to apply for aid, Attwood (1972) proposed that women might not hear of funds because information often spreads informally in departments, and women are not in these channels. Fields with higher participation by women, such as humanities and social sciences, generally have a higher level of women financial aid applicants. The highly self-selected group of women who apply for financial aid is

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extremely qualified; women students may have to demonstrate greater proficiency than men to receive stipends.

Because many fellowships require that students be enrolled full-time (Attwood, 1972), women who combine part-time studies with family responsibilities do not qualify. Roby (1973) said, "Those who are part-time students are almost automatically cut off from any chance for financial assistance" (p.50). The percentage of women and men enrolled as part-time students is similar, but the full-time status restriction is a coercive measure that discourages women who would like to attend school part-time. Age requirements for fellowships also penalize women who want to return to school after their children have grown.

Cohen and Mesrop (1972) pointed out that women are less likely to take out federal loans. "Why is it that in the years from 1966-1971, only 37 percent of the borrowers under the federal program were women?" (p. 71), they asked. Roby (1973) suggested that women students hesitate to borrow heavily against their future earnings, since they can expect to earn lower wages than men. Since it is more difficult for women to secure bank loans than men, federal loans must be more accessible to women students.

Astin (in press) has shown that for undergraduates the <u>type</u> of aid is a crucial factor affecting the probability of dropping out. This finding probably applies to graduate students also. Campus-related work (work-study, research assistantships) has the greatest effect on preventing dropping out. Loans have the most negative impact. Packages of aid are less desirable than aid of a single type. Hence, more study is needed on differences in types of aid to graduate students of each sex, along with research on numbers receiving aid and the amounts.



## Institutional Inflexibility

Various practices, such as the full-time status requirement for fellowships, are attacked by people who want to expand opportunities for women in higher education. An important step in alleviating de facto discrimination against women is to make institutions more receptive to the variety of life situations of students. "Related to the old-fashioned notion that education is reserved for the young who can spend full time at it are a host of practices and requirements that are grounded more in tradition than in logic. Why should scholarship and loan-aid be so commonly restricted to full-time students? Do residency requirements and regulations that call for continuous enrollment serve a purpose so valuable that we are justified in shutting out students whose life circumstances prohibit meeting them? Why must an individual's academic load be determined by the institution rather than by the learner?" (Cross, 1974, p. 48). Because some graduate departments either do not accept or attempt to discourage candidates older than 35, they limit opportunities for both women and men who have not followed the traditional academic pattern. The many women who interrupt their education to have children are particularly vulnerable to age restrictions. Discouraging part-time study is another practice that is not directed against women, but it operates to their disadvantage. Institutions with lower quality ratings have more part-time students than institutions with higher quality ratings (Feldman, 1974). Thus, women who want to attend school part-time may be more inclined toward lower quality schools, where part-time study is more widely accepted.



Lack of child-care facilities prevents many women from enrolling in graduate school. Roby (1973) cited a study by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1968 in which "women who planned but were not attending graduate school indicated that the availability of child-care facilities topped the list of the factors they considered most important as a condition to graduate study" (p. 53). The AAUW survey (Oltman, 1970) revealed that among the 454 schools surveyed, only 22 (or 5%) provide day-care services for women with small children. Policies on pregnancy, residence requirements, and birth control counseling also vary greatly. Large public institutions with medical resources and a heterogeneous student population are more likely to have liberal policies and to provide special services to married and pregnant women students. "On the other hand, small schools with less than 1,000 students do not have diversified special facilities, but appear to make up for this in more individualized treatment - counseling, needed adjustments, and scholarships. Private schools show a similar trend" (p. 14). "Although this AAUW survey found that 95 percent of the colleges claimed to offer opportunities for older women to complete degrees, a follow-up determined that only half of these institutions made any concessions in the rate of work, class hours, or customary academic practices to meet the needs of mature women" (Cross, 1972, p. 7).

The many women who return to college after age 30 are a more important potential resource for society than young women, since they are more motivated and more likely to "make direct use of their education than



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will the college girl in her early twneties" (Lewis, 1968, p. 213). It is inconsistent that colleges would put roadblocks in the way of the older woman who wants to return to school, but this is in fact what most of them do. Among the handicaps which the older woman faces is the loss of undergraduate credits which were obtained too long ago, the scheduling of classes at times which conflict with family responsibilities, and age limits in many graduate and professional programs. Perhaps these problems cannot be entirely eliminated, but few schools have yet made a serious effort to minimize them and to give the returning housewife a break (p. 213).

Many observers contended that the college environment, which ignores the special needs of graduate women, is debilitating to the psychological well-being of these women. The graduate school experience often alienates men, too, but this fact does not remedy the problems of women students. Alienation arises from the student's sense of powerlessness. Sells (1973b) told of a pilot project at Berkeley which brought women together to define their problems in graduate school and find solutions.

The major insight arising from the group process was the recognition by the women involved that their feelings were in fact not individual, and even more importantly, that they were not limited to students in their own department. Recognition of these feelings as pervasive characteristics of graduate student life seems to have made it possible to deal with them more effectively (p. 3).



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Bernard (1964) also saw the graduate school atmosphere as hard-nosed.

There is not only an absence of a nurturing aspect in the format of the great graduate universities, but a positive rejection of such an attitude, a tough-minded approach to learnning which they prize. A latent function of discrimination against women, is, in fact, to keep learning tough (p. 141).

Rather than teaching graduate women to cope with an inhospitable environment, most protesters advocate tempering the forces that isolate students and, particularly, women students.



## Student/Faculty Relationships

The student's "feeling of belonging" can be facilitated or undermined by his or her graduate advisors. The relationship between the graduate student and his mentor has a special significance.

The relationship, whatever form it may take, is especially sensitive because so much of the graduate student's future career depends on it. Because he has not yet been tested, the graduate student is not sure of himself; he is in a peculiarly difficult stage of his professional career, a fact which magnifies the ordinary human relations problems that arise in any situation where people interact (Bernard, 1964, p. 140).

The predominance of men faculty members may cause problems for women graduate students which are not encountered by men.

"Sexual ambiguity" causes tension in the cross-sex relationships.

The definition of roles is a potential problem for both the man professor and woman student, while a collegial relationship may develop comfortably between two men (Fox, 1970). Since this relationship is so vital to the student's progress, it is unfortunate if women students are handicapped.

Two factors that seem to have the greatest effect on graduate school performance are the student's self-image and relationship with professors (Feldman, 1974, p. 121). An area of disadvantage for women is the quality of interaction with faculty and perceived faculty attitudes. Holmstrom and Holmstrom, (1974) stated that a larger percentage of men students interact informally with professors.



Also, 21% of the men and 31% of the women students thought professors do not take women graduate students seriously.

Sells (1973b) found large sex differences in student's responses to the question, "Does the Professor with whom you have the most academic contact regard you primarily as: a colleague, an apprentice, an employee, or a student?" A University of Chicago study reported by Freeman (1972) showed that 47% of the men and 32% of the women perceive faculty as supportive of their plans for a career.

The absence of faculty women may deprive graduate women students of valuable contacts. "It is possible that the women student, observing the underrepresentation of women in high academic positions, decides that the higher intellectual life is 'for men only'"

(Husbands, 1972, p. 267). Freeman (1972), too, believes that

"The result is that few women have examples before them of how to be a female professional" (p. 11). In addition to serving as role models, women teachers might provide special emotional encouragement to women students through close working relationships.

Tidball (1973), in a study of successful women (defined as those appearing in Who's Who), found that a disproportionate number graduated from women's colleges. From this evidence, she inferred that women at these institutions have more effective women role models to identify with and emmulate. However, she was unable to control for innate ability and it may be that, in earlier years, the most able women attended women's colleges. If these bright women had attended coeducational institutions they might still have made Who's Who.



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# Discrimination Against Faculty Women

Women scholars who survive graduate school enter a new area of potential discrimination: the faculty structure. "The higher, the fewer" is a "rule" that explains the funneling process of women in academia. (Harris, 1970, p. 284). Women who are hired are most frequently in lower ranks. Women are utilized extensively as instructors in the top institutions, averaging 16% for all disciplines (Parrish, 1962). The rate declines to 10% for assistant and associate professors, and to 5% for professors. Harris (1970) said that Parrish's percentages of professors, associate professors, and instructors in 1960 have not changed except for the number of instructors. "Nor will they move up in this decade", she noted, "unless academic men learn to accept women at the top rank as well as at the bottom" (p. 290).

Women earned about 13 percent of all the Ph.D.'s awarded in the 1960's . . . and comprised about 22 percent of the faculty in all institutions of higher education. In all kinds of institutions, however, women are distributed unevenly, clustered in the lower ranks, in part-time positions, and in institutions or programs considered by some to be low-prestige" (p. 289).

In a disguised experiment, Simpson (1969) found that employing agents in colleges and universities did exhibit discrimination in hiring women applicants as qualified as men. Identical pairs of resumes for men and women were submitted to employers. Although the



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employers picked more qualified women over less qualified men, certain subjects (who also showed negative attitudes toward women on the Open Subordination of Women Attitude Scale) picked men over equally qualified women. Nepotism policies account for some women scholars being bypassed in favor of their husbands. Although nepotism regulations have been liberalized in public institutions in the last ten years, little change has occurred in the private sector (Oltman, 1970).

Not only are academic women teaching in colleges and universities in the lower professional ranks, but they are reportedly not promoted as quickly as men (Hold & Levine, 1971). According to Bayer and Astin (1968), women are more likely to receive a promotion than higher pay.

It appears that institutions often operate on differential pay scales for women and men whereby they justify the greater salaries for men on the basis of greater economic need on the part of those who are the primary family breadwinner (p. 199-200). In a replication of this study, Bayer and Astin (1975) concluded that

higher education still appears to have a long way to go before attaining equity between the sexes. On average, women would appear to merit approximately a 1/10 step in rank promotion in the 1972-73 academic year, and women who are full professors would average an increase for equity of almost \$1,700 in their salaries nationally (MS. p. 19).



Simon et al (1967) compared mean incomes by field and sex and found that "men earned noticeably more than women in only one field - education. In other areas, the differences ranged from about \$800 in the sciences to less than \$400 in the humanities" (p. 227).

Women are often channeled into fields that are not particularly well paid (Astin & Bayer, 1972).

Part of the discouragement of women graduate students may result from their observation of the difficulties women confront after graduation. The reported inequities in faculty ranks are as difficult to substantiate as the adverse treatment of women in graduate school. It is healthy to examine the system for possible injustices. How these injustices may be remedied is another area to be explored.



#### Recommendations

Most literature on discrimination against women focuses on areas where discrimination exists. Many authors believe in the "cause" of women and would admit that they have an emotional, as well as scientific, involvement in the subject matter. Fewer articles justify the practices and policies that have affected women in higher education. The scarcity of hard data to substantiate discrimination limits the value of many arguments that claim discrimination does or does not exist. Virtually all investigators imply that institutions need to document information on admissions, financial aid, and hiring procedures. The most valuable contribution of the studies thus far is that they point out patterns in higher education which need examination.

Cross (1974) suggested that fact-finding committees be established by colleges to assess local problems and needs. The committees could look into meeting national recognized needs, such as child-care centers, part-time study options, and adequate educational and career counseling for women of all ages. But they could also pay special attention to the full spectrum of local problems (p. 49). Some of the institutional self-studies already conducted are reviewed below.

Statistics for graduate students need to be examined each year for possible discriminatory patterns. Greater efforts to recruit women students must be made by individual campuses. The allotment of financial aid should be investigated as it relates to recruitment and employment opportunities for men and women graduate students.



The schools must also concern themselves with aiding both men and women graduates in their initial job search.

Since women have generally not been in leadership positions as students or faculty members opportunities for advancement must be made available to women (Oltman, 1970). The hiring, salary, and promotion opportunities for women faculty need investigation by individual schools. The development of better counseling and more programs to meet the specific needs of women students is also an area for action.

Counseling women in their undergraduate years may help to
motivate them to pursue higher levels of education by revealing
possible alternatives. Perhaps accommodations for child care and
part-time study would encourage more women to begin or complete degrees.

Sandler (1972) outlined univerisity health services for women.

Basic elements include medical services, counseling and educational services, and insurance coverage. Campuses that prohibit or discourage pregnant women students or faculty from taking leaves-of-absence need to reexamine the basis for such rules.

Recent legislation (Executive Order 11246 as amended by 11375;
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Equal
Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Equal Pay Act of 1963
as amended by the Education Amendments of 1972) pressured institutions
to examine the status of women students and employees. In
essence, these laws forbid discrimination against students and
employees in all federally assisted education programs. Those

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universities seeking federal contracts are required to present affirmative action plans and methods to implement them.

Discrimination may be discovered through the mechanism of the affirmative action plan, which is a projection of remedial steps based on the contractor's own analysis of its work force. If discrimination is found, the contractor's personnel system is reviewed for deficiencies, and the contractor must propose changes in the system and goals and time tables to bring employment up to parity (DHEW, 1974, p. 4).

Complaints are directed to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office for Civil Rights. Because of the large number of complaints, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has taken over many cases.

Various solutions have been recommended to improve the ratios of women accepted by graduate schools and hired by universities.

Rossi (1973) suggested that, with the current trend toward restricting enrollment, the proportion of women admitted be increased. This way, "the number of women would increase slightly, but the number of men would decline more than 50 percent" (p. 527). Chalmers (1972) offered several other approaches:

Initially HEW required the University of Michigan to increase the ratio of female admissions to all Ph.D. programs. Another group at Yale University proposed that whenever the proportion of qualified applicants to a particular graduate department fell below 35 percent, the department would be obliged to actively recruit women applicants. Still another formula



proposes that women should be admitted to post-baccalaureate programs in the same ratio as women who complete undergraduate degree programs in the department (school, college or university). Advocates of another solution urge admission of women in the same ratio as they apply (p. 520).

Accepting a fixed formula for admissions and hiring creates new problems. Any inflexible system does not account for the differing interests and abilities of applicants. According to Feldman (1974)

Setting up quotas on the basis of sex, while increasing female representation, is a token gesture and will not eliminate the different training that many women bring to colleges and universities (p. 137).

More information, such as the proportions of each sex that wish to continue their education in different disciplines and professions, is needed before answers can be reached. "It will require the devotion of considerably greater time and attention to criteria for admission, but the effort must be made if we are to rectify the real imbalance that has occurred in the past" (Chalmers, 1972, p. 521).

Harris (1974) contended that

the most important aspect of any remedy for discrimination is the provision of firm financial exposure of persons who might otherwise discriminate. In the discrimination area, the possibility of a money penalty is more likely to prevent discrimination than any other remedy. . . The increased concern of industrial firms to end racial discrimination when they face

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financial exposure assures me that this approach is valid, and I am sure such financial exposure will make the more national educational institutions willing to correct their misdeeds, both in training and hiring women (p. 25).

Many thought responsibility for change rests with individual institutions. Rumbarger (1973) concluded that

institutional reform and the elimination of discrimination cannot be accomplished simply through the imposition of external requirements by governmental agencies, although these may be, in many cases, a precondition for change. If change does not come from within the institution itself, and if proposed reforms are not supported by the internal structures and resources of the university community, remedies imposed by external agencies will be superficial and will fail to reach the roots of discrimination against women (p. 425).

Campbell (1970) spoke of changing the current investigation of DHEW "from nuisance value to the recordkeepers to creative concern" (p. 61). The need for fundamental changes of attitude was expressed by many observers. Cross (1974) suggested that educators need to become as concerned with the pathways traversed as the ends reached. Many problems of women students - and men as well - could be solved if the educational setting would adapt more to individual life styles. Pifer (1971) concluded that "the real problem is not simply the prevention of discrimination against women but the promotion of their fuller participation in all aspects of higher education (p. 13-14).



Improving conditions for women in higher educaton should benefits students of both sexes.

After considering all this, policy-makers must be sure that burdens placed on the institutions relate to areas within their control. The graduate schools must deal with women who have already experienced many years of socialization, training, and other influences. Certainly the graduate schools must change their policies. This study will suggest areas that require attention. However, the whole burden cannot be placed on graduate schools: attention must be given to the determinants of preconditions.



#### Chapter 2

Acceptance Rates for Men and Women Graduate Students

Charges have been numerous that graduate schools discriminate against women students, in the sense that the inferior treatment of women is not justifiable by differences in merit between the sexes. One suggested area of differential treatment is the admissions process. Here persistent allegations are usually based either on data only tangentially relevant (e.g., many more men than women receive doctorates) or anecdotal (e.g., letters of reference for women frequently discuss the shapeliness of their figures).

Preliminary analysis of data only recently available on acceptance rates for individuals of both sexes who apply to graduate schools indicates that the acceptance rates for men and women are different. However, these statistics must be carefully analyzed before any firm conclusions can be drawn.

Would one expect institutions of higher education to discriminate against women in decisions about who to accept as students? It has been argued that in private, profit-seeking corporations discrimination is less than in regulated industries. When the choice is between profit maximization from hiring the most competent workers and the nonpecuniary benefits of selecting employees on bases other than merit some evidence indicates that the profit motive dominates. In regulated firms, since profit rates cannot be altered much by increased productivity, the propensity to hire by subjective preference rather than productivity becomes stronger.



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Similar arguments relate to salary levels and promotions. A discussion of the relevant economic theory will help to determine whether universities can be expected to behave like regulated corporations.

### Relevant Economic Theory

Much economic theory assumes that the goal of a business enterprise is to maximize monetary profits. However, when considering wide-ranging business decisions, it is useful to generalize the profit-maximizing assumption to a utility-maximizing assumption.

Becker (1957) has shown that, under the more general postulate, a person, deliberately and in full knowledge of the consequences for business profit or for personal wealth, will accept a lower salary or rate of return on invested capital in exchange for nonpecuniary income in the form of, say, working with pretty secretaries, nonforcigners, or whites. Becker's data indicate that blacks are discriminated against more frequently by monopolistic than by competitive enterprises. Presumably, the known sacrifice of pecuniary income due to the inefficiencies of discrimination is more than compensated for by the gain in nonpecuniary income from working with more desirable people.

Typically, monopolies are protected against the hazards of competition, not only by their ability to compete, but also by state policy that does not permit competitors to enter monopolized markets (Alchian and Kessel, 1962). Laws encourage monopolies in particular markets, such as public utilities. Monopolies so created are beholden



to the state for their existence; their cardinal sin is to be too profitable. This constraint does not exist for firms in competitive markets, indicating differences between the business policies of competitive firms and monopolies. Even a firm that has successfully withstood the test of open competition without government protection may manifest the behavior of a protected monopoly. Thus, General Motors may acquire a large share of the market just as a protected monopoly does. If, in addition, its profits are large, it will fear that public policy or state action may be directed against it, just as against a state-created monopoly. Such a firm constrains its behavior much in the style of a monopoly whose profit position is protected but also watched by the state. If monopolies are too profitable, pressures are exerted to reduce profits by lowering prices. Only if monopolies can demonstrate to regulatory authorities that they are not sufficiently profitable are they permitted to raise prices.

If regulated monopolies can earn more than permissible pecuniary rates of return, inefficiency is a free good, because the alternative is the same pecuniary income and no inefficiency. Therefore, this profit constraint leads to a divergence between private and economic costs. More properly, inefficiency is not involved at all, but rather efficient utility maximization through nonpecuniary gains. Clearly, one class of nonpecuniary income is indulging one's tastes in the kind of people one prefers. To take income in nonpecuniary form is consistent with maximizing utility. What is important is not



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difference in taste between monopolies and competitive firms, but difference in the terms of trade of pecuniary for nonpecuniary income.

If wealth cannot be taken out of an organization in salaries or other forms of personal pecuniary property, the terms of trade between pecuniary wealth and nonpecuniary business-associated satisfactions turn against pecuniary wealth. In such a case, more organizational funds can be reinvested (which need not result in increased wealth) in ways that will enhance the manager's prestige or status in the community. Or more money can be spent for goods and services that enhance the manager's and employee's utility—luxurious offices, special services, and so forth—than would be spent if costs were coming out of personal wealth.

Employment policies will also reflect the maximization of utility. If two applicants are equally qualified, but only one is white, nativeborn, Christian, and attractive, that person will get the job. And if the minority employee is willing to accept a lower wage in order to get the job, there will have to be a greater relative cut (or equilibrating difference) to enable him to get the job in a monopoly firm.

In the profit-seeking sector, if a pool of highly productive but underpaid (discriminated against) workers existed, possibly an entrepreneur could establish a competing firm, hire those discriminated against by increasing their pay, and make extraordinary profits.

Apparently, this occurred in the advertising and publishing businesses recently when new firms established by women stressed hiring women. Both Freeman (1973) and Stiglitz (1973) have speculated about why this market mechanism has not worked more effectively in



eliminating wage discrimination.

# The Case of Higher Education

Since institutions of higher learning are not run to maximize monetary returns, one might expect decision-makers in higher education to maximize their total utility in ways analogous to decision-makers in monopolistic industries. One manifestation of this behavior could be a decision to admit students most like the faculty and administration, that is, white men, so those running the institutions would feel comfortable with their student associates.

However, the analogy between institutions of higher education and private corporations whose profit potential is limited should not be carried too far. The question is whether or not institutions of higher education have a goal analagous to profits. One such goal might be maximum prestige for the institution. A measure of institutional reputation has been provided by the Cartter (1966) and Roose and Andersen (1970) ratings. An institution with a better reputation is generally more desirable in that it attracts brighter new faculty, better students, and more resources for research and other purposes. Enhanced prestige is a goal reached by expending resources of many kinds. If an institution seeks to maximize its reputation (Breneman, 1970) it must trade off between utility maximization by discriminating in admissions and utility maximization by admitting those students most likely to enhance its reputation, particularly when some of the best applicants are women.

To hypothesize, say that (1) on the average, men and women make equally competent graduate students, and (2) most men favor



men as colleagues and students or in any professional relationship.

In the most simplistic competitive model, all schools would admit the best applicants regardless of sex to maximize the quality of their student bodies. However, men-dominated faculties, who favor men over women students and seek maximum institutional reputation, might effect a trade off between less qualified but more favored men and improving institutional reputation.

Certain classes of institutions might view this trade off between "desirable" students and institutional reputation differently. Some might think that, potentially, any discrimination could cause significant reductions in institutional quality or that, by admitting the most capable students, institutional reputation could be increased. Others might think that the potential for improving quality is so small that the cost of discriminating in admissions is also small. This view might predominate at institutions with either top reputations or exceedingly low status.

If women were systematically discriminated against, an ambitious poor-quality institution could explicitly seek top-quality women students who would not be accepted by the top institutions to improve its average student quality, and hence, its reputation. The top institutions might have such a glut of superior applications that they could discriminate and still maintain high student quality. However, the middle-quality institutions with fewer high-quality men applicants might favor women.

Moreover, the poorest graduate schools might be worried less about quality than survival. These schools would need students to



fill classes and to assure continued employment to faculty. If
these poor schools had choices of men or women students, they would
probably choose men even if women had better credentials. However,
if the better schools took most of the qualified men, the poorer institutions would be more likely to have the women they accept actually enroll,
since the men would also have been accepted at better schools. Poor schools
in competition with better schools that favor men probably have difficulty
ignoring women.

To reiterate, if faculties and administrations dominated by men prefer men as colleagues and students, but seek to maximize institutional reputation, the most elite institutions would be among the most discriminatory. Their applicant pool is so large that quality and reputation could be maintained while they select primarily from among men. It is more difficult to predict the extent of discrimination at the lowest quality institutions. On the one hand, the need to survive with a limited applicant pool would probably result in a weaker tendency to favor men. On the other hand, the desire to improve the institutional reputation might be reduced by a sense of futility. If decision-makers believe that no matter which admissions policy is adopted, the chances of improving reputation are minimal, they will seek other goals, such as compatible colleagues.

Those schools in the middle of the prestige hierarchy would probably discriminate less with women applicants. These institutions aspire to better reputations and have some reasonable chance of reaching their goal. In the trade-off between the probability of improving



reputation by accepting the best applicants, regardless of sex, and the benefit from working with men, these schools would be more likely to favor reputation. They are close enough to the top that their decision-makers view as real the possibility of reaching the higher echelon. Those middle-level schools with a realistic chance of moving up will trade off their desire for men students most easily to improve their reputation. This group does not have a pool of excellent men applicants large enough to discriminate and improve reputation.

If men at poor schools are unwilling to seek women students, a few institutions exclusively for women might develop graduate schools, although this is a poor analogy to the new business firms established by women. Establishing a new (and accredited) graduate school is more difficult than establishing a new advertising agency. Universities might collude to inhibit growth of new institutions, which would satisfy faculties dominated by men and reduce later competition in the labor market. An established professor might prefer competition from less competent men than from more competent women.

In certain cases, the best schools might discriminate less.

Since these institutions are eager to maintain top-quality students, in times of reduced applications, they might look more seriously at applications from women. During periods of low demand for admissions, the best schools would have to go "deeper into the barrel" if they sought only men students.

At least part of the contributions of students to a school's reputation comes after graduation. In a production company, the

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outcomes are separate from the inputs; one does not know whether a bicycle has been produced by a black, a white, a man, or a woman. However, the product of the graduate school cannot be disassociated from the sex of the student input: When a woman graduate applies for a job, she is still a woman. Unless the employment opportunities do not depend on sex (and they probably do) a "competitive" school might not benefit as much from training women, since even the best women will get inferior jobs.

## Data on Acceptance Rates

In a survey of the deans of doctoral-granting institutions, 85 schools provided data on applications and acceptances by sex. These 85 are representative of the total 240 doctoral-granting institutions in terms of institutional quality, size, and region. Over two-thirds of the institutions returned completed questionnaires, and one-half of these provided data about admissions rates by sex. There is no reason to assume that those institutions that provided data were more or less discriminatory than those that did not. These data deal with individuals admitted for fall 1973. Cost and data availability problems precluded collecting statistics on a department-by department basis. However, in some later analyses, different field mixes of graduates of various institutions were controlled for.

# Insert Table 1 about here

Table 1 shows acceptance/application rates of schools classified by Roose-Andersen (1970). For almost all groups, women are favored in admissions (assume for the moment equal abilities). However, in the top-ranked schools, more applications from men are accepted. In the next two categories, women

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Table 1

Sex Favoritism in Doctoral-Granting Institutions of Differing Quality

Institution	Acceptance	/Application	Coefficient
(Roose-Andersen Rating)	Men	Women	of Favoritism a
4+	.314	.295	6.05
3.99 - 3.50	.298	.308	- 3.36
3.49 - 3.00	.394	.409	- 3.81
2.99 - 2.50	.504	.572	-13.49
2.49 - 2.00	.565	.645	-14.16
1.99 - 1.50	.485	.524	- 8.04
1.49 - 1.00	.717	.789	-10.04
Not rated	.626	.683	- 9.11

The difference between the acceptance/application rates for men and women, divided by the rate for men times 100. A negative coefficient indicates women are favored.



are favored slightly (statistically insignificant). Women are most favored among the schools in the middle Roose-Andersen range. Women are also selected in greater proportion than men at the poorest schools, but the favoritism here is less than at the schools rated directly above the poorest.

The best schools seem able to maintain their quality while favoring men. The next group, presumably those with aspirations of moving to the top, admit the greatest share of women applicants. In world without discrimination, these women might have been accepted by the best schools. Finally, the lowest quality schools do favor women, although not to the extent of those nearer the top in quality. This favoritism might reflect a desire to maintain enrollments, given the knowledge that the more attractive schools are more likely to accept men.

only 25 (29 percent) of the 85 doctoral-granting institutions admitted a higher proportion of men than women applicants, a percentage perhaps disarming to those who claim that graduate schools discriminate in admissions. However, some proponents of this notion counter by stating that women applicants are, on the average, superior to men, the theory being that women are so discouraged from postbaccalaureate training that only the best persevere. The evidence mos<sup>2</sup> often cited to support this view is Harmon (1965), who showed that the high school grade point averages of women doctoral recipients are higher than those of men recipients. However, these data are quite irrelevant for acceptance ratios.

Needed here are data on the relative qualities of men and women applicants, rather than graduates. The average graduate record examination (GRE) scores of men and women who apply to each doctoral-granting institution show that men score higher than women (statistically significant) on the quantitative test, while women score somewhat higher than men (not statistically significant) on the verbal test. These scores are not surprising to many, given the nature of high school and college training for men and women. The general



assumption is that men are encouraged to take more quantitative subjects.

Data by sex for scores on the GRE speciality tests are presented in Table 2.

### Insert Table 2 about here

For applicants to institutions at each quality level, men score slightly higher than women in virtually every specialty test. This discrepancy obtains in the "feminine" fields of literature, music, and education, as well as in the "masculine" fields of economics, engineering, and mathematics. Statistical tests of the differences in means reveal that these sex differences are not statistically significant. However, at the time of application, women are not demonstrably superior to men, if GRE is an index of student ability.

It has been argued that to be admitted to the best graduate schools, women must graduate from better undergraduate institutions, ceteris paribus. Although data on baccalaureate origins of applicants to graduate schools were not readily available, Table 3 provides data on the undergraduate institutions of 1972 PhD recipients. These data probably reflect patterns

#### Insert Table 3 about here

of acceptances for at least the top graduate schools, since few men or women from the poorest undergraduate institutions are accepted by the best graduate shcools; those who are accepted are probably so exceptional that they receive the doctorate and, hence, are reflected in the data on graduates.

Twenty percent of men who received a PhD in 1972 from schools with Roose-Andersen ratings above 3.5 came from undergraduate institutions rated by Cartter (1966) as among those of highest quality. Cartter's categories provide rankings of undergraduate institutions which parallel the graduate



Table 2
Scores on Graduate Record Examination Specialty Tests, by Sex

	Field								
Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	Biology		Chemi	istry	Economics				
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women			
4.0 - 3.496	690.86	679.82	695.00	647.31	673.15	629.89			
3.495 - 2.996	667.74	657.85	664.07	633.94	638.69	607.27			
2.995 - 2.496	638.30	635.48	648.86	628.92	619.96	588.76			
2.495 - 1.996	628.60	625.80	623.21	618.27	598.48	572.19			
1.995 - 1.496	620.18	614.15	615.11	625.52	586.58	563.84			
1.495 - 0.996	606.70	600.44	645.20	651.78	621.99	576.45			
0.996	571.82	576.43	580.06	584.00	505.00	0.0			
Not rated	622.89	612.89	616.45	630.90	579.52	551.07			



Table 2 (cont.)

Scores on Graduate Record Examination Specialty Tests, by Sex

	Field								
Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	Education		Engi	neering	Fre	ench			
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women			
4.0 - 3.496	499.21	480.99	649.35	601.98	598.70	574.90			
3.495 - 2.996	494.65	479.78	631.47	614.79	573.17	557.52			
2.995 - 2.496	486.42	473.71	628.65	619.28	562.68	544.20			
2.495 - 1.996	493.71	481.17	603.16	597.66	546.79	535.78			
1.995 - 1.496	485.57	472.96	607.04	586.92	532.62	536.86			
1.495 - 0.996	460.98	454.94	627.69	580.00	529.26	515.07			
0.996	490.00	473.28	595.00	0.0	0.0	555.83			
	464.64	449.17	583.58	592.74	531.37	528.11			

Table 2 (cont.)

Scores on Graduate Record Examination Specialty Tests, by Sex

	Field									
Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	Geography		Geo	ology	Ge	rman				
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women				
4.0 - 3.496	513.67	466.75	632.21	612.00	570.30	578.33				
3.495 - 2.996	504.52	465.57	602.01	591.68	556.63	541.37				
2.995 - 2.496	506.06	438.68	596.74	584.49	519.42	532.04				
2.495 - 1.996 `	485.67	436.86	584.09	576.95	509.29	523.17				
1.995 - 1.496	484.95	453.91	575.46	580.86	504.20	22.49				
1.495 - 0.996	462.02	396.11	581.58	576.44	499.55	513.21				
0.996	0.0	0.0	552.00	610.00	0.0	460.00				
Not rated	476.79	440.41	584.55	569.30	511.54	519.46				



Table 2 (cont.)

Scores on Graduate Record Examination Specialty Tests, by Sex

	Field									
Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	History		Lite	rature	Math	ematics				
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women				
4.0 - 3.496	590.68	559.64	615.55	595.48	801.74	695.60				
3.495 - 2.996	578.34	543.62	599.34	581.46	758.10	677.18				
2.995 - 2.496	564.62	536.54	582.73	566.25	721.45	651.90				
2.495 - 1.996	554.40	529.05	572.63	558.94	697.91	029.49				
1.995 - 1.496	545.40	525.58	561.69	550.47	673.56	610.28				
1.495 - 0.996	533.76	512.81	554.87	534.17	748.38	618.00				
0.996	516.71	507.61	535.36	515.10	671.80	642.00				
Not rated	536.27	515.48	558.92	541.60	668.81	607.61				





Table 2 (cont.)

Scores on Graduate Record Examination Specialty Tests, by Sex

				Field		
Institution (Roose-Anderson Rating)	Music		Philo	osophy	Ph	ysics
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
4.0 - 3.496	572.92	540.65	715.79	662.05	726.03	649.54
3.495 - 2.996	546.15	512.96	696.15	661.14	690.83	658.49
2.995 - 2.496	534.82	495.36	693.49	626.76	646.73	625.60
2.495 - 1.996	515.55	477.98	678.22	630.35	646.67	600.98
1.995 - 1.496	521.99	481.70	656.88	635.75	629.38	616.32
1.495 - 0.996	488.97	460.28	654.59	617.02	684.26	693.11
0.996	0.0	0.0	585.30	720.00	556.56	415.00
Not rated	507.07	431.11	652.63	627.69	638.97	631.20





Table 2 (cont.)

Scores on Graduate Record Examination Specialty Tests, by Sex

	Field								
Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	Politic	al Science	Science Psychology		Sociology				
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women			
4.0 - 3.496	539.76	503.57	579.79	560.70	577.69	528.70			
3.495 - 2.996	523.19	497.42	574.32	559.24	557.89	522.27			
2.995 - 2.496	511.66	479.12	559.87	548.19	543.00	508.30			
2.495 - 1.996	503.60	472.80	554.30	542.10	516.12	484.90			
1.995 - 1.496	494.19	466.55	549.95	537.54	497.54	472.09			
1.495 - 0.996	487.69	466.94	549.23	534.19	482.42	453.97			
0.996	469.61	445.00	539.79	547.13	434.29	483.59			
Not rated	488.78	448.87	546.12	533.95	498.34	444.58			



Table 2 (cont.)

Scores on Graduate Record Examination Specialty Tests, by Sex

r			Field
Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	Spa	nish	
	Men	Women	
.0 - 3.496	604.52	580.36	
495 - 2.996	596.19	557.12	
995 - 2.496	597.10	555.14	
495 - 1.996	577.99	544.17	
995 - 1.496	564.11	526.36	
495 - 0.996	529.21	510.56	
996	615.69	541.93	
ot rated	555.55	537.65	



Table 3

๙ Ratings of Undergraduate Institutions of 1972 Doctoral Recipients

Graduate			Cartter	ter Category	of.	Undergraduate		b Institution		
Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	н	7	ဖ	m	7	4	ω	ហ	σ	10
					Men	u:	-			
4.0 - 3.496	20.50	34.13	40.69	48.52	56.37	64.31	69.19	74.99	78.39	79.43
3.495 - 2.996	7.21	28.10	12.19	39.61	48.88	57.90	63.53	71.79	78.76	96.08
2.995 - 2.496	3.86	13.16	16.05	33.20	45.24	55.22	61.82	71.83	81.71	84.31
2.495 - 1.996	3.38	98.6	12.02	25.40	35.19	51.60	59.42	70.05	83.26	86.40
1.995 - 1.496	2.06	6.57	7.67	14.81	23.22	45.69	53.47	67.48	83.58	87.52
1.495 - 0.996	7.58	13.99	15.97	21.75	29.00	42.24	47.54	66.53	82.79	87.04
Under 0.996	0.0	1.68	2.52	15.13	32.78	54.63	60.51	70.59	79.83	91.59
Not rated	2.96	9.53	11.55	19.66	31.29	42.04	51.35	67.83	81.85	86.83
					Мотеп	en				
4.0 - 3.496	14.20	27.55	47.58	55.61	65.34	70.95	75.42	79.80	85.85	87.49
3.495 - 2.996	3.90	24.44	36.69	44.99	56.20	63.26	69.19	75.36	83.11	85.95
2.995 - 2.496	3.42	13.68	22.42	38.63	51.42	59.21	66.05	73.14	84.16	88.09
2.495 - 1.996	2.32	10.61	16.10	33,30	44.15	56.04	64.27	71.10	84.94	0.06
1.995 - 1.496	2.13	8.31	13.31	20.08	27.44	48.93	56.07	68.14	84.99	90.29
1.495 - 0.996	1.75	8.75	13.81	18.87	25.68	41.63	48.83	65.37	85.02	93.58
Under 0.996	0.0	2.33	13.96	20.94	32.57	53.50	69.78	76.76	93.04	95.37
Not rated	2.07	10.21	15.20	24.56	36.23	45.67	53.11	68.38	82.42	88.94

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a Cumulative percentage of PhD recipients from institutions of each quality level coming from successive levels of undergraduate institutions.

b Unpublished ratings by A. M. Cartter, 1974. Categories 1 through 5 are graduate institutions, 6 through 10 undergraduate institutions. Order reflects comparisons of graduate and undergraduate institutions; hence, category 6 follows 1 and 2.

rankings. Only 14 percent of women with doctorates from the best schools came from the top undergraduate category. It appears that more women than men could get doctorates from the best graduate schools if they attended a less than top undergraduate institution. A look at the best three categories of undergraduate institutions (1, 2, and 6) shows that more women than men in the top Roose-Andersen category came from these institutions. Since Category 6 includes the most elite women's colleges (e.g., the Seven Sisters), one can argue that women graduating from the best doctoral-granting institutions did come from undergraduate institutions of higher prestige.

# Regression Analysis of Institutional Differences

After observing acceptance rates, which generally favor women when means for groups of institutions of different quality are considered, differences among individual graduate institutions were explained by regression analysis. The general procedure was to explain differences in the acceptance rates for men applicants, then explain acceptance rates for women applicants separately. The objective was to see whether certain explanatory variables had different effects on the decisions to accept men and women. It was then possible to apply to women the weights used for men to see whether the acceptance rates for women would differ if the criteria for men were applied.

In general, three categories of variables were used to explain acceptance rates for applicants of a particular sex. The first set dealt with the characteristics of the applicants. The most important student-related variable in this category was the average GRE score of all applicants to a particular institution. These scores were available separately for applicants of each sex. Data on both the GRE quantitative and verbal tests were available, as well as mean scores on the specialty tests. Apparently,



the verbal score explains slightly more of the institution-by-institution differences in acceptance rates for both men and women than the quantitative score. Hence, verbal scores were used for most of the tests here. In addition to the mean score of applicants, the variance among applicants was a significant determinant of acceptance rates. Hence, the standard deviation of the mean scores was included for members of each sex who applied to a school.

The second important student-related variable was the number of applications by each student. Since institutions are the units of observation in this analysis, this variable was measured by the number of applicants to each institution. As expected, the larger the number of applicants of a particular sex to a particular institution, the lower the percentage of applicants of that sex accepted, ceteris paribus. Another studentrelated variable was the quality of undergraduate institutions attended by applicants. Although specific data were unavailable, available information on the quality of institutions attended by doctoral recipients sufficed. For the regressions, a variable measuring the proportion of recent doctoral recipients who had attended the most elite undergraduate institutions was developed, on the assumption that the flow patterns of doctoral recipients from undergraduate to graduate institutions reflected flow patterns of all applicants. Finally, the proportion of applicants accepted who actually matriculated at particular institutions was inserted as a variable, the argument being that schools with a lower show-up rate might accept a higher proportion of applicants. Neither of these two variables appeared to be significant in explaining institutional differences in acceptance rates, so they are not included below.

Do women tend to apply to institutions where other women have been successful in the past? If this were the case, institutions that receive



applications from women and have had good prior experiences might favor women. However, differences among graduate schools in the number of women who apply were not explained by the percentage of PhDs awarded to women or the percentage of women accepted from among those who applied. Apparently, women do not consider past history of women at an institution an important factor in their application decisions.

The second set of variables used to explain acceptance rates was the institution's experiences with earlier students. A number of variables representing average characteristics of recent doctoral recipients were inserted in the regressions to explain acceptance rates on the assumption that the decision would be made with full consideration of the traits of earlier graduates. The problem here was that the data only pertained to those who received doctorates and might be quite different if they included those who dropped out before receiving the PhD. In any case, variables such as the proportion of recipients who were married at the time they received the doctorate, the time between the bachelor's and doctoral degrees, and the proportion of PhD recipients who are women were included in the regressions.

The nature of the institutions themselves suggested a third set of variables that might explain acceptance rates, the most important being the size of first-year graduate school enrollment. Everything else being constant, institutions with larger classes would tend to accept a higher proportion of applicants. The Roose-Andersen rating (1970) of an institution, considered significant, was positively correlated with both GRE scores and number of applicants, as were Astin's estimates (1971) of institutional selectivity.

Another variable suggested in some regressions was public or private institutional control. Although public institutions are more accountable, the data did not confirm that they are less likely to discriminate.

Does the financial condition of the university influence acceptance



patterns? On the one hand, affluence (measured by revenue per student) might affect acceptance rates, since less affluent institutions would feel compelled to accept a larger share of those applying to assure a revenue inflow. On the other hand, aid per student was inserted in the regressions to see whether those schools that traditionally provided more student financial aid would have lower acceptance rates because they sought to assure that more of those who were accepted could be supported financially. Tuition was also inserted in some regressions as a variable that might affect acceptance rates, the hypothesis being that schools with higher tuition might accept more students who would then become valuable revenue producers.

Another variable, the number of PhDs awarded in the natural sciences, was used to see whether overall graduate acceptance rates were affected by the field mix of an institution. (Initially, it was hypothesized that institutions awarding a larger proportion of doctorates in the natural sciences would be less likely to accept women. However, since many institutions were awarding PhDs exclusively either in the natural sciences or in the arts and humanities, the proportional variable was dropped.)

Another variable was the proportion of faculty which was women, the question being whether institutions with more women fauclty were influenced by these women to accept more women students.

Differences in acceptance rates among institutions can be explained primarily by three variables: the number of applicants, the total number of students enrolled in first-year graduate study, and the mean and standard deviation of the GRE scores of applicants.

Insert Table 4 about here



Table 4

Regressions to Explain Acceptance Rates at Institutions
Grouped by Selectivity

				Instit	ution			
	To	tal		ndersen	•	Andersen	Unra	ınked
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
				Regres	sion		-	
GRE verbal	0027	00179	00313	00365	00149	00110	00349	00097
Number of applicants	00005	00013	00002	00003 <sup>a</sup>	00012	00019	00005	~.00030 <sup>6</sup>
Total enrollment	.00011	.00011	.00005 <sup>a</sup>	.00004 <sup>a</sup>	.00022	.00011 <sup>a</sup>	.00013	.00021
Constant	1.9624	1.6018	2.13425	2.5069	1.37572	1.30225	2.36726	1.2083
R <sup>2</sup>	.5725	.3467	.81091	.73861	.48215	.35312	.60481	.16542
Observations	80	80	19	19	29	29	32	32
			<del></del>	. Mea	ns			
GRE verbal	514	527	542	561	510	518	501	514
Number of applicants	2030	872	4269	1715	1699	872	1000	372
Total enrollment	70	9	122	:3	69	8	41	.4
Acceptances/ Applications	.5556	.6184	.4204	.4605	.5704	.6472	.6223	.6860
Coefficient of favoritism	-11.	30	-9.	53	-13	.46	-10	.24
Predicted acceptances/ap-								
plications for women <sup>b</sup>		,5739		.4053		.6552		.6095
a F < 2.0.			**************************************	errina direntajajanaja di filoroja agam		·		

b Obtained by plugging mean values of independent variables for women into estimated equation for men.



Table 4 reveals three strong relationships that remain unaltered by other explanatory variables. First, the larger the number of applicants of a particular sex, the lower the percentage of applicants of that sex accepted. The logic of this negative sign on the number of applicants is obvious: controlling for student quality as measured by GRE and for class size as measured by total enrollment, one would expect that the more who apply, the fewer accepted.

Second, the larger the class size or ultimate total enrollment in the first year, the higher the acceptance rate. This also appears logical since, controlling for the number and quality of applicants, one would expect that, where class size is larger, a greater proportion of applicants would be accepted.

The third relationship, a negative relationship between the average GRE scores of applicants and the proportion of applicants accepted, is surprising. Most explanations for this negative sign disappear since class size and number of applicants are already controlled for. Schools with the best applicant pool appear to select a relatively small proportion of their good applicants. The more elite institutions receive a larger number of applications; higher GRE scores are evident in these applications, although the variance in the mean GRE is highest at the best schools. Perhaps the show-up rate for those accepted is higher at the better schools (more applicants really want to go there; the school is not just a safety valve), and so a desired class can be obtained by accepting fewer students, given the quality and number of applicants and class size (i.e., nonelite schools must overaccept to assure class size).

Berelson (1960) pointed out that better schools have a better chance to select better students; they have more applicants and, generally, first choice among them. But at the same time, precisely because they



are the <u>national</u> graduate schools, they register fewer of those admitted:

	Percentage of Applicants Admitted	Percentage of Applicants Admitted Who Register
Top 12 universities	48	53
Remaining universities	71	72

The better students apply to several better schools, are admitted to a few, then register at one. The lesser institutions are more regionally based: they admit large proportions of their applicants to have graduate students, and large proportions of these applicants actually register, since they have applied to only the admitting institution or perhaps one other. Thus, multiple applications are a problem only at the top of the pyramid; as more students apply for graduate study, the rich will get richer in the sense that the top universities will have even more of the top talent to select from (p. 111).

In explaining the proportion of applicants accepted, a positive coefficient on average GRE scores of applicants would be expected. In the most direct sense, better quality applicants should be accepted more frequently. Moreover, schools that get better applicants are probably willing to enroll more of them. Better students may want assurance of admission to the best quality institutions and, for safety, apply to more schools to be certain of admission to at least one good school. These students have a higher no-show probability at any one school for a given probability of acceptance. Schools with better applicants probably have fewer of those accepted show up and, hence, must accept a higher proportion of applicants to reach a target enrollment. All these reasons point to a positive coefficient. The only argument for a negative coefficient is that better schools get more applicants and schools with more applicants accept fewer students. One would expect the proposition of apply to



schools where more students apply, so any one school might accept fewer of these better applicants. However, the number of applicants was controlled for in the regression.

Two other explanations help to clarify the relationship between average GRE scores and acceptance rates. First, institutions with student applicants who have, on average, a higher mean GRE might also have a higher variance in applicant quality. When the variance is considered with the mean GRE scores of applicants, the results might be reversed. Table 5 replicates Table 4 with an additional variable, the product of the mean GRE scores of applicants and the mean standard deviation of the mean GRE. The coefficient on this product variable tells whether or not the variance of the GRE score of applicants affects the relationship between the mean score and the dependent variable. Apparently, the variance has virtually no impact on the relationship for men. However, in the regressions to explain acceptance rates of women, the product term is significant and positive, reducing the negative effect of average GRE score in the acceptance rate. When the variance is added to the regression for omen, the R<sup>2</sup> increases substantially.

The second factor that might alter the relationship between average GRE scores of applicants and acceptance rates is that the GRE score as a requirement for admission to graduate school is not similar across institutions. Indeed, 48% of the schools in this sample indicated in their catalogs that the GRE or other entrance examination requirement varied by department

With the interaction term in the equation, Acc/App = a + bGRE + cGRE.SD,  $\frac{d(Acc/App)}{dGRE} = b + c.SD$ . If b<0 and c>0, then the total effect of GRE is less ... than when the interaction term is omitted.



(i.e., some departments, but not all, required the GRE, while some departments required another test instead of the GRE). This finding varied according to the Roose-Andersen rating of the schools. In the highest ranked schools, whether or not the GRE was required varied more across departments than in the lower ranked or unranked schools. In many cases the GRE was suggested, or an indication was given that good GRE scores might improve acceptance chances, or the GRE was required only for students with less than superior standing in some other admissions requirement. The implication is that the average of the GRE scores of all those students who had their scores sent to a particular school is not necessarily a consistent indicator of the quality of all applicants.

For 61 of the 85 schools used in the regressions, data were available on the departmental requirement of the GRE aptitude tests for 15 representative fields (GREB, 1973). Each department indicating "required" received a value of 4, "recommended" a value of 3, "required under certain circumstances" a value of 2, and "not required" a value of 1. An institutional mean was obtained by weighting the value assigned to a department by the number of PnDs awarded in 1972. The institutional weighted means were then correlated with the means and standard deviations of the average GRE scores of those who applied to each institution. These correlations are presented below:

GRE verbal	Mean	M	.3500
GRE verbal	SD	M	.1431
GRE verbal	Mean	F	.2319
GRE verbal	SD	F	.0512
GRE quantitative	Mean	M	. 2978
GRE quantitative	SD	М	0470
GRE quantitative	Mean	F	.1366
GRE quantitative	SD	F	1251

The correlation is positive between the average aptitude test scores of individuals applying to an institution and the degree to which these tests are required by that institution. Where scores are high, all students are



more likely to have been required to take the test. This seems reasonable, because those institutions where the test was less than required were likely to receive scores primarily from less qualified students. A negative correlation between GRE scores and acceptance rates, therefore, implies a negative correlation between the extent to which GRE scores are required and the admissions rate. That is, schools that require GRE scores are likely to admit a lower proportion of applicants. To look at this the other way, schools relying more on requirements other than the GRE are more likely to have higher acceptance rates.

Since the correlations between the mean score of applicants and the degree to which these tests are required are higher for men than women, the negative coefficient on GRE in explaining acceptance rates should be larger for men than women, assuming that the regression coefficient is really standing for the degree to which these tests are required. This was indeed the case, except among the most highly rated institutions (see Table 4). The implication is that, except at the best schools, if more subjective criteria are given greater weight in the admissions decision, men tend to be accepted more readily than women. The GRE score, by bringing more objective evidence into the decision-making process, tends to lessen the favoring of men.

In Table 4, Columns 1 and 2 indicate that over 50% of the variance in acceptance rates of men applicants in the 85 schools can be explained by the three variables of average GRE scores, number of applicants, and total first-year graduate enrollment. A third of the variance in the acceptance rates of women applicants can be explained by the same model. The other columns show results of the same regression analysis performed on three subgroups: schools with Roose-Andersen quality ratings equal to or more than 2.5, those with ratings below 2.5, and those with no Roose-Andersen rating. This three-part classification breaks the schools roughly into quality thirds, with



the unranked schools having lower quality than any schools with a rating.

(All schools awarding at least 100 doctorates in two or more disciplines in the 10 years preceding the Roose-Andersen ratings were ranked. Hence, the unranked schools are either small or new. Few new or small doctoral-granting institutions are of high quality, although there are a few exceptions.)

More than 80% of the variance of acceptance rates for men in the most elite institutions and over 73% of the variance for women can be explained by this analysis. Note that the three-way breakdown in Table 4 is more aggregated than the breakdown in Table 1; hence, some patterns differ between tables, (For a list of the schools whose data are analyzed, see Appendix B.) The R<sup>2</sup> for men falls to below .5 in the lower ranked schools but is over .6 in the unranked institutions. However, for women the R<sup>2</sup> in the lower ranked institutions falls to .35 and to .17 in the unranked institutions. That is, the explainable portion of difference in acceptance rates for women declines much more quickly in the move to the low and unranked schools. Apparently, in the highest quality institutions the decision to accept men and women involves consideration of the same variables. In lower quality institutions, these variables are less pertinent to women. Either other variables come into play or acceptance of women is more a random process.

Table 4 also provides data on the average acceptance rates for applicants of each sex for three subgroups of institutions and for all institutions combined. As expected, the proportion of applicants accepted increases as the quality of the group decreases. In each subgroup of institutions, a higher proportion of women than men applicants is accepted. These data are consistent with those in Table 1, which also reveal generally higher acceptance rates for women. Once again, it is the middle quality schools that show



the largest degree of favoritism toward women.

The regression coefficients in Table 4 indicate that the impact of the three explanatory variables is different when explaining the acceptance rates for men and women. What would the acceptance rates for women be if the effect of GRE scores of applicants, the number of applicants, and the total enrollment were the same for both sexes? To answer this question, the mean values of the three variables for women applicants were inserted in the regression equation for men, a procedure that yields a predicted acceptance rate for women if standards for men are applied (Astin and Bayer, 1972).

If the standards for men had been applied to women for all graduate schools, the estimated proportion of women accepted would still have been higher than the observed proportion of men, but would have been lower than the observed acceptance rate for women. The predicted acceptance rates for women in the elite and unranked institutions are lower than the actual rates for men, implying that, in these institutions, women are better off in terms of acceptance than they would be if judged by masculine standards. Indeed, there seems to be some explicit discrimination in favor of women:

In schools rated below 2.5, women would have higher predicted acceptance rates (compared with actual rates) if they were judged by masculine criteria. Only in this group does some favoritism toward men appear. An alternative approach was to plug the male means into the female coefficients to find the proportion of men who would have been accepted if these decisions were based on the criteria for women. When this was used, in virtually every case, the predicted acceptance rate for men was lower than the actual rate. The results remained consistent.



Although the schools rated below 2.5 favor women to the greatest degree, application of male weights would have led to even greater acceptance of women. This approach of applying mean values of one sex to weights obtained from estimation of an equation for the other sex assumes that the same factors determine success for men and women. However, unless the factors that predict success for men and women are known, one cannot a priori advocate equal standards. The question here is merely What would the results have been, given equal treatment? with no intent to advocate this policy, since individual differences do exist between and within the sexes.

### Insert Table 5 about here

Table 5 alters the regression estimates of Table 4 by inserting an additional variable, the average GRE score on the verbal test of applicants times the variance of the GRE score of applicants at a particular school. The results do not differ when the standard deviation is inserted alone, rather than as a cross product term. The addition of the product term alters the results in several ways: The power of the equation explaining differences in acceptance rates for men does not increase at all. However, the explanatory power of the model for acceptance rates for women rises significantly from .347 to .491.

Regressions to Explain Acceptance Rates with the Variance of Average GRE Scores Included

				Inscit	tution			
	To Men	otal Women		Anderson y > 2.5 Women		Andersen g < 2.5 Women	<u>Unra</u> Men	anked Women
			Regros	sion				
GRE Verbal	00269	00452	00401	00416	0 <sup>a</sup>	00201 <sup>a</sup>	00304	00539
Number of applicants	00005	00014	00003	0 <sup><b>a</b></sup>	00012	00019	00006	00043
Total enrollment	.00011	.00010	•00008	0 <sup>a</sup>	.00023	0 <sup>a</sup>	.00013	.00031
GRE verbal times standard deviation	-	.00002	.00001	0 <sup><b>a</b></sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>	.00002
Constant	1.9624	2.1088	2.0474	2.4730	1.2751	1.2767	2.4341	2.2630
R <sup>2</sup>	.5725	.4906	.8454	.7427	.4913	.3697	.6189	.5233
Observations	80	80	19	19	29	29	32	32
			Mea	ns				
GRE verbal	514	527	542	561	510	518	501	514
Number of applicants	2030	872	4269	1715	1699	872	1000	372
Total enrollment	708		1223		698		414	
Standard deviation of GRE	119	115	126	121	117	114	119	111
GRE standard deviation	61397	61029	68108	67581	59276	60041	59335	58035
Acceptances/admissions	.5556	.6184	.4204	.4605	.5704	.6472	.6223	.6860
Predicted acceptances/ admissions for								.÷.
women		.5791		.5199		1.331		.903

Among the elite institutions, those with Roose-Andersen ratings equal to or greater than 2.5, it is now possible to explain almost 85% of the difference in acceptance rates for man and almost 75% of the variance for women. However, in the regression for women, the only variable with a significant coefficient is still the average GRE score (verbal) of applicants. The R<sup>2</sup> for the equation for women in the unranked institutions increases from .165 to .523 with the addition of the product term. In this group, the variance in quality of applicants is important in admissions decisions. Given any mean level of applicant quality, a wider dispersion in individual scores implies a greater acceptance rate; that is, probably more of the higher scoring applicants are accepted. In the low-rated group of schools, the GRE scores and the product term are insignificant with only the number of applicants and the total enrollment significant for women.

Finally, the results obtained by applying the female means to the male weights from Table 4 change somewhat when the regressions in the Table 5 are used. For the total regression, the predicted value of the acceptance rate for women using coefficients from the regression for men falls to .579 from the actual rate of .618, only insignificantly higher than the predicted value from Table 4. The predicted acceptance rate for women using male coefficients and female means for the elite schools is .520 (rather than .420 from the regression not using the standard deviation), compared



with the actual acceptance rate for women of .461 and for men of .420 Women would do better at the elite schools if men's criteria were applied to them. However, in the nonelite and unranked schools, the predicted acceptance rates for women are less meaningful: an acceptance rate in the nonelite schools of over 1.0 and in the unranked schools of .9. Hence, this methodology appears to fall apart once the standard deviation is included to explain acceptance rates.

Alternative specifications were also tested substituting the GRE scores in the quantitative test for the verbal test and including both the GRE quantitative and verbal in the same regression with the two corresponding product terms, including the standard deviation.

The R<sup>2</sup>, when the quantitative scores and cross product term were substituted, fell from .5725 to .4404 for men and from .4906 to .3010 for women. When both the verbal and quantitative scores were used at the same time, the R<sup>2</sup> for men rose to .5842 and for women to .5549. The pattern of the other variable did not change significantly. Therefore, further analysis used GRE verbal alone.

# Insert Table 6 about here

Table 6 extends the analysis for the whole group of schools by including, in two separate sets of regressions, the additional variables that might affect acceptance rates. With all additional variables, the proportion of variance in acceptance rates for men explained rises from the .573 reported in Table 5 to .590. In other words, the additional variables add virtually nothing to the



Table 6
Full Model to Explain Acceptance Rates for All Schools Combined

	Regres	sion 1	Regression 2		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
GRE verbal	00288	00459	00312	00426	
Verbal standard deviation	0 <sup>a</sup>	.00002	0 <sup>a</sup>	.00002	
Number of applicants	00004	0001	00005	00011	
Total enrollment	.00011	.0001	.0001	.0001	
RA (Dummy) b	.01297 <sup>a</sup>	00015 <sup>a</sup>	01458 <sup>a</sup>	.01021 <sup>a</sup>	
Number natural science PhDs	00018 <sup>a</sup>	00064	.00002 <sup>a</sup>	00041 <sup>a</sup>	
Percent married	00063 <sup>a</sup>	00119	00065 <sup>a</sup>	00092	
Percent women PhDs	.1269 <sup>a</sup>	.03122 <sup>a</sup>	.13532 <sup>a</sup>	.1207 <sup>a</sup>	
Percent women faculty			.20 <b>7</b> 91 <sup>a</sup>	.8442	
Affluence code			.00095 <sup>a</sup>	.01375 <sup>a</sup>	
Control			.02469 <sup>a</sup>	.01518 <sup>a</sup>	
Constant	2.0975	2.0997	2.1390	1.8054	
R <sup>2</sup>	.5796	.5418	.5896	.6008	
Observations	80	80	76	76	

a F < 2.0.



 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm b}$  RA (Dummy) variable equals 1 if the school's Roose-Andersen rating is equal to or greater than 2.5 and 0 otherwise.

explanatory power of the model for men. However, the additional variables increase the R<sup>2</sup> in the equation for women from .491 to .601. Hence, the suggested additional variables do have some effect on decisions about accepting women. The four variables used in Table 5 have the same statistical significance even when additional variables are added.

Three additional variables appear significant in explaining acceptance rates: the number of PhDs awarded in a recent year in the natural sciences, the percentage of recent women graduates who are married, and the percentage of women faculty. In the equations for both men and women, the larger the number of PhDs in the natural sciences, ceteris parabus, the lower the acceptance rate. Although this negative coefficient does not differ significantly from zero in the regression for men it is statistically significant and negative in the regression for women, with a magnitude over three times as great as the coefficient in the male regression. Apparently, institutions similar in size, student quality, and so forth are less likely to admit women if a larger proportion of their graduate training is in the natural sciences. Since these fields nistorically have been dominated by men, this result is not surprising. These data do not allow a comparison of acceptance rates specifically in the natural science fields, particularly while controlling for the abilities of the men and women applying for admission to these particular programs. However, this negative relationship between acceptance rates for women and the number of doctorates awarded in the natural sciences could be due to the lower acceptance rates for women applying for admission to natural science programs.



The variable indicating the percentage of women faculty appears to be positive in the regressions for both men and women. However, the coefficient in the regression for men is not significantly different from zero (according to the t-test). The positive coefficient on this variable is statistically significant in the regression for women with a magnitude four times greater than that in the regression for men. This result is logical, since it implies that acceptance rates for women will be significantly higher when a larger proportion of women are already on the faculty. Women faculty members may tend to favor women applicants or at least counter some of the negative attitudes displayed by faculties dominated by men. A school that hires women for its faculty is less negatively predisposed to admitting women students. Since a positive experience with women helps break down stereotypes, more women faculty are needed to improve the position of women graduate students. Also, schools with more women faculty probably are those with greater emphasis in the humanities and other "feminine" fields.

A negative sign in each equation on the variable indicates the proportion of the particular sex receiving a doctorate in a recent year which is married. However, this coefficient is not statistically significant in the regression explaining acceptance rates for men. Why, then, is the negative relationship strong and significant between the propotion of recent married women doctoral recipients and the current acceptance rate for women? Perhaps those who make decisions on acceptances believe that married women doctorates are not committed to the labor force and, hence, represent "wasted" graduate school resources, since these students will not use their learning in a career.



# Insert Table 7 about here

Table 7 presents some simple correlations between job status upon receipt of the doctorate and percentage of married graduates of 222 doctoral-granting institutions. The first line shows the proportion of 1972 PhD recipients who gave their postdoctoral status as "employed" at the time they received the doctorate. For men, the correlation is .3 between the percentage who are married and employed at graduation. (The units of observation are the institutions; numbers are for each institution as a whole.) Virtually no correlation (.0036) appears between the percentage of women who are married and employed. Schools where a large portion of the men PhD recipients are married are likely to have more men who have jobs when they receive their degrees. Schools where a relatively large proportion of the women degree recipients are married are neither more nor less likely than other schools to have more women graduates employed when they receive their degrees. Those professors who help graduates find jobs may feel more compelled to assist married men. The feeling that it is more important for a married man than a married woman to work to support a family might indicate discrimination. However, it might also indicate that married women graduates feel less pressure to secure a job immediately upon graduation or that they find this a good time to "stop out" briefly and have their children.

These two explanations for the different rates of employment immediately upon receipt of the doctorate are standard: lack of help from professors, implying discrimination; and lack of motivation



Table 7

Percentage of Married Ph.D. Recipients, by Job Status, 1972

Job Status	Mean 1	/alues	Simple Co with Prop Ph.D. Recipi	
	nean	values	FILD. RECIPI	ents married
	Men	<u>Women</u>	Men	Women
Employed	75.58	75.82	.3073	.0036
Signed contract, made definite commitment, negotiating	82.66	72.53	-4314	2177
Seeking appointment, no definite prospects	12.62	21.03	- 0549	. 2049
Other plans, no plans	.18	1.54	0504	.0294
Married	80.23	<b>58.</b> 96		

of women, implying that the differences are justified. However, the situation of most married women doctoral students might make contacts wit professors difficult, for example, is more married women than single women or men attended school on a part 'ime basis. Even full-time married women students might have difficulty getting to know professors if they must get home immediately after class to meet children, or if their social lives are tied to their husbands' schedules and, hence, they are unable to attend extracurricular programs. In this situation, one should not blame professors for their inability to support married women in their job searches. Men faculty might not cultivate married women as interesting colleagues or pursue them as potential sex partners, the latter being one reason for the interest of men faculty in unmarried women. However, special efforts could be made to facilitate relationships as colleagues between married women students and their professors, perhaps by coffee hours at times convenient for women or office hours immediately before or after class.

Another barrier to married women may be that they move geographically to follow their husbands' careers. Educational continuity is interrupted, necessitating attendance at more than one graduate school before obtaining the doctorate. This, too, might reduce contacts with professors. However, the data reported in Chapter 4 indicate that men and women doctoral recipients (from 134 schools in 1972 are equally likely to have attended only one graduate institution (46 percent of each sex). Moreover, in explaining differences across institutions in the percentage of women graduates who attended only one graduate school,



٤,

the percentage of married women graduates was a highly significant positive factor. Despite common perceptions, being married seems to be a positive influence on women.

The second line of Table 7 also reveals the percentage of graduates who, upon receipt of the degree, have either signed a contract, made a job commitment, or are negotiating with one or more potential employers. This group has a high probability of working soon after graduation. The simple correlation between percentage of degree recipients who are married men and this variable (for men) is .34; whereas the correlation between percentage of PhD recipients who are married women and this variable (for women) is -.22. Once again, lack of assistance or lack of urgency in securing a job might be a factor.

The third line distinguishes between the two reasons for differences in the first two lines. The correlation between the proportion of married men degree recipients and those who are seeking an appointment but have no definite prospects is .05, whereas the correlation for the corresponding group of women is .20. Apparently, married women are more likely than men to be seeking an appointment without any definite prospects. The sum of lines 2 and 3 for men does not differ much from the sum for women. That is, it appears that over 93% of both men and women who have recently received PhD degrees would like to work, but a much larger proportion of the married women are not successful in job hunting.

The fourth line considers recent degree recipients who have plans other than full-time work. The correlation between the percentage of men recipients who are married and the percentage who do not intend



to work is negative, whereas the correlation between the percentage of women degree recipients who are married and those who have plans other than employment is slightly positive.

In summary, schools with a larger proportion of married men graduates also have a larger proportion who are or will soon be employed. However, institutions with a relatively large proportion of married women graduates have a larger proportion who are having less success in their job searches. This lack of success is probably due less to the different motivations of men and women, since both either have or are seeking employment in the same proportion, and due more to the greater futility of the women in securing jobs. The problem may encompass the oft-held view that married women (in contrast to single women or married men) do not need to work to support themselves or families.

Admissions committees may be more familiar with the fact that married women graduates are less likely to be working soon after they receive their degrees than with the reasons for this difference. The admissions committee may observe that women graduates are not working and infer a lack of desire or motivation on the part of women in general. Schools that award the same number of degrees to unmarried women probably do not have the same perception of a lower affinity for the labor market as schools with larger proportions of married women degree recipients. The admissions committee in a school where women are married, less supported in their job search, and less likely to be employed may infer that the reasons are inherent in the women, rather than in the placement officers. This being the



case, admissions committees at institutions with greater proportions of married women receiving the doctorate might tend to discriminate against women, perceiving that they are less likely to be working upon completion of graduate school.

The solution to this problem is two-fold. First, those at the university should be made aware that women doctorates' lower employment rates are due less to motivation than to lack of assistance from professors. Rather than treating the problem by simply admitting fewer women, graduate schools might encourage faculty members to know their women students and provide equal assistance to men and women upon graduation. Whether or not employment after graduation is a valid consideration for admissions committees, apparently the differences in employment rates are used by admissions committees. In a sense, these decision-makers are making the wrong decisions for the wrong reasons.

#### Conclusion

The ratio of graduate school acceptances to applications is slightly greater for women than for men. A number of factors affect the admissions decision differently for women than for men, with certain variables given different weights by institutions when they consider applicants. Those making admissions decisions need more information so similar criteria will be used for both men and women. Apparently, there are no major differences in these decision-making processes that result in significantly fewer women being accepted. Whatever the problems in the admissions procedures, they are rather easily remedied.



# Chapter 3

# Time Spent in Graduate Study by Men and Women Doctoral Recipients

One of the best sources of data on graduate students is the National Research Council's doctorate records files. Over 99% of all PhDs complete a questionnaire at the time they receive their degrees with information on time spent in graduate school. NRC data on 1972 doctoral recipients are used here: these statistics apply only to those who have received the doctorate and not to those who have spent substantial time seeking this degree without success. A look at the average values of variables 1-5 in Table 8, by quality of institution, helps to explain the differences for men and women who attended different institutions.

#### Insert Table 8 about here

A common belief is that women take longer than men to get their doctorates. The first variable, median age at PhD, lends some credence to this perception. However, at the best institutions, the median age at which men and women receive their degrees is virtually identical. The average age at PhD rises as the quality of the institution awarding the degree declines: the range for men is from 29.02 years of age at the best institutions to 34 years at those of lowest quality. For women, the range is from 29.53 years for those at top institutions to 38.25 years for those at institutions with the lowest rating. The age gap between men and women who receive the doctorate widens dramatically from high— to low-quality institutions.

Age at PhD is not a good indicator of the number of years an



Table 8

The Calculation of Years in Graduate School

Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	Median Age at Men Women (1)	Age at PhD. Women	Years Between BA and PhD Men Wome	etween PhD Women	Median Not Enr From Gr School trance Men (3)	Median Years Not Enrolled From Graduate School Entrance to PhD Men Women (3)	Years in Graduate (2 - 3) Men (4)	n e School Women	Projected Entrance Lag (5)
4.0 - 3.496 3.495 - 2.966 2.995 - 2.496 2.495 - 1.996 1.995 - 1.496 1.495 - 0.996 Under 0.996 Not rated	29.02 29.99 30.47 31.35 31.80 32.79 34.00	29.53 30.90 32.38 33.83 34.97 38.37 38.25	6.71 7.36 7.58 8.26 8.73 9.38 10.88	7.56 8.45 9.20 10.11 10.55 12.84 13.08	0.52 0.51 0.60 0.78 0.94 1.51 0.87	0.78 0.89 1.21 1.49 1.72 2.85 2.94	6.20 6.84 6.97 7.49 7.79 7.87 10.01	6.78 7.56 7.99 8.61 8.83 9.99	.58 .72 1.02 1.02 1.04 2.10 1.07

individual spends working toward his doctorate. Variables 2 and 3 clarify the age variable, providing a better idea of the time men and women invest for the PhD. Variable 2 presents statistics on the years elapsed between receipt of the bachelor's and the doctorate. Apparently, the years between the BA and the PhD are greater for women than for men at every level of institutional quality. As in Variable 1, the time lapse rises for both men and women as the quality of the institution awarding the degree declines. The lengthening of time is greater for women so that, at the best institutions, the time lapse for women exceeds that for men by less than one year, whereas at the lowest rated institutions the difference is more than three years.

Centra (1974) has recently reached conclusions similar to those here. His data point out that time between receipt of bachelor's and doctoral degrees varies for members of both sexes according to field.

Insert Table 9 about here

Table 9 presents summary statistics from his survey. As Centra pointed out:

The average ages, however, really don't tell the whole story. A higher percentage of women than men in all fields were under 25 when they received their doctorates, with the gap being especially notable in the humanities. Men were more likely to receive their degrees between the ages of 26 to 36, while more women received their doctorate after age 36. In fact, 43 percent of the women completed their degrees after age 37, compared to 28 percent of the men. Many of the older graduates, both men and women, were in education. The pattern for women in comparison to men, therefore, was to either go directly to graduate school after receiving their bachelor's degree, or more typically to obtain their doctorates later in life.

The average number of years between receiving the bachelor's degree and the doctoral degree was about 13 for women and just under 11 for men. For every field, the



Table 9

Average Number of Years Between Receipt of Bachelor's and Doctoral Degrees

	Humanities W X	ities X	Soc.	Soc. Sci. W M	Bio. W	Bio. Sci. W M	Phys. Sci. W M	Sci. M	Education W M	tion	A11 W (N=1740)	All W M (N=1740) (N=1829)
Years	12.9 11.3	11.3	13.0 9.	6.6	6.6	9.9 8.1	8.2 7.0	7.0	16.6 13.8	13.8	13.1	10.8

Note. From Women, Men and the Doctorate by J. A. Centra (Princeton: Educational Testing Service, 1974), Table 3.2. p. 24.

average for women was greater than for men, varying from the physical sciences for which the average was about 8 for women and 7 for men, to education where the length of time between degrees was close to double this amount. For the biological sciences the averages were slightly greater than in the physical sciences: about 10 years between degrees for women and 8 for men. Women in both the humanities and social sciences averaged 13 years between degrees, men about 11 and 9 years respectively. Finally, . . . there had not been a notable decrease in length of time between degrees: graduates in 1968 averaged about the same amount of time as those in 1950.

In addition to the time spent working on a doctorate, the years between degrees could have been spent in several ways. For many women, it was a time for marriage and bearing and raising children; for men there were three wars -- World War II, Korea and Vietnam -- that interrupted the progress of many. But undoubtedly most men and women spent the majority of their non-study time between degrees in professional employment. This is not to say, however, that these categories were mutally exclusive; many women, of course, combined family with employment or doctoral study, just as many men and women combined employment and work toward a doctorate. In fact, about half of the enrollments in graduate schools are part-time (pp. 22, 25).

Since the interest is in actual time spent in pursuing the doctorate, information is included on time not in attendance after beginning graduate school. Variable 3 of Table 8 presents information on the median number of years students graduating from each institution were not enrolled between the time they entered graduate school and receipt of the PhD. For a third time, the difference appears small at the best institutions and increases as institutional quality declines, with the increase in years not enrolled greater for women than for men. Hence, the difference is virtually insignificant in the time not enrolled by men and women at the best schools but more than a year at the lowest rated institutions.

Variable 4 of Table 8 (Variable 3 subtracted from Variable 2) approximates the actual time spent in graduate study. However, data



on the time between receipt of the BA and entrance into graduate school were not available. Variable 4 would equal years of graduate study if all those obtaining the PhD entered graduate school immediately upon receipt of the bachelor's degree. Clearly this is not the case, and Variable 4 is biased upward because the time between receipt of the bachelor's degree and graduate school entrance is not subtracted. Even with this problem, the adjustment reduces the difference between estimated time spent in graduate school by men and women. Looking at graduates of successively lower quality institutions, the time spent still increases more slowly for men than for women, but the difference between the estimated years of graduate school for men and women is smaller than either the age difference or the years elapsed between receipt of the BA and the doctorate. (It is more appropriate to deduct Variable 3, "years not enrolled," from Variable 2, "years between BA and PhD," than to deduct "years of predoctoral employment," discussed below. Predoctoral work might have been combined with school and many women might have been out of school but not working for pay, (i.e., staying home to raise children.)

Variable 5 is the difference between the values for men and women in Variable 4. Assuming that men and women spend the same number of years in actual graduate study, Variable 5 would reflect the difference in delay by men and women in entering graduate school after receipt of the bachelor's. These differences do not appear unrealistic. Although no hard data are available to confirm the belief that women more often than men tend to delay entrance into graduate school, the perception exists. For example, Astin (1969) stated:



A number of persons temporarily terminate their education at college graduation, work for a while (often because of financial need or because of a desire to take a break from the academic routine), and resume advanced training at a later date. . . . These patterns are particularly characteristic of women, who may interrupt their educations (as they do their careers) to marry and bear and raise children, and then reenter school at a later time, but frequently only on a part-time basis. Both these factors, then, help to account for the average twelve-year lapse between college graduation and doctorate completion that was found in the sample. . . Only very few of the women in the sample (about 7 percent) started their graduate training immediately after baccalaureate completion and were able to complete the doctorate degree in four years (p. 20).

Cross (1973) found that of the "130,000 women who received the bachelor's degree in the spring of 1961, 72 percent expected to enter graduate school and three years later 42 percent had actually done some graduate work" (p. 31). It appears that many remaining women will enter graduate school at a still later date.

Of course, many men also do not enter graduate school immediately upon receipt of the bachelor's degree. However, it is commonly held that a larger proportion of men do enter directly into graduate school. Hence, the average extra lag between BA completion and graduate school entrance of between one-half and two years seems realistic, and leads to the conclusion that in all likelihood women do not spend more time in actual graduate study than men despite the greater average age of women at the time they obtain the doctorate.

Apparently, there is no direct way of estimating the time lag between graduation from college and entrance into graduate school.

Most surveys enable calculation of the time lag between receipt of the BA and the PhD but not of the lag in entering graduate school.

However, it is possible to make several related calculations and draw



some inferences by combining data from the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) with data on 1968 college freshmen from a survey conducted in August 1972 by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP). The CIRP survey questionnaire asked respondents in late summer 1972 to indicate whether they were going to graduate school (presumably on either a part- or full-time basis) in fall 1972.

Some 86,215 men and 44,288 women indicated that they intended to enter graduate school in fall 1972.

According to NCES statistics on first-time enrollments in graduate school for fall 1972, 66,743 were first-time, full-time men students, while 44,437 were first-time, part-time men students, for a total enrollment of 111,180 men. Some 35,042 were first-time, full-time women students, while 36,758 were first-time, part-time women students, for a total enrollment of 71,800 women.

Combining CIRP and NCES figures, it appears that 86,215 of the 111,180 first-time men students were students who had begun college in 1968 and presumably completed it by June 1972. That is, 77.5% of first-time men students appear to have entered graduate school directly upon completion of bachelor's training. Similarly, 44,288 of the 71,800 first-time women students in graduate school appear to have been freshmen in 1968 who completed their bachelor's training by spring 1972. Some 61.7% of first-time women students apparently come directly from undergraduate training. Hence, 15.8% more first-time men students in graduate school come directly from undergraduate institutions. Over three-fourths of first-time men students come directly from undergraduate training, compared with only slightly



more than 60% of women. This result is consistent with evidence that more women than men delay entrance to graduate school.

Insert Table 10 about here

Table 10 explains differences by institution in these time-related variables by institutional characteristics. The regressions were run on data from 132 institutions for which all variables were available. Although all variables were included in the regressions, only significant coefficients are reported (F value greater than 2.0). Only those explanatory variables that exhibit a differential impact on men and women are discussed.

The first two regressions explain institutional differences in median age of doctoral recipients. As expected from Table 8, the institutional (Roose-Andersen) rating is a much greater factor in the age of women than of men. The increase in age at completion is much greater for women as quality of institution declines. Financial variables appear to affect women more than men. Even controlling for institutional quality, the coefficient on institutional affluence is almost four times as large (negative direction) for women as for men; that is, although both men and women receive their degrees at younger ages if they attend wealthier institutions, this effect is much stronger for women. Probably, at wealthy institutions women are provided with more support vis-à-vis men than at less wealthy institutions, which leads to a more rapid completion of the degree. Even controlling for the general affluence of the institution, the average aid per student has an



. . . .

Table 10

Regressions to Explain Differences in Time Variables

Setween sd, BA to ars not Women	4377 .0078 0139 3924 1.356 0115 + .00009
Difference Between Years Elapsed, BA to PhD, and Years not Enrolled Women	.0052 0089 1.1398 00007 3348 10.211
ears 11ed, duate ntrance Women	386 .0017 131 .987 5.183
Median Years Not Enrolled, From Graduate School Entrance to PhD Men Women	322 .00168 0026 143 .0327 23106
een BA Women	824 .0095 017 523 2.344 17.004
Years Between BA and PhD Men Wome	496 .0069 0115 197 1.112 .00016
e at PhD Women	- 1.481 0111 021 023 0431 901 901
Median Age at Men Wor	679 0147 24187 2.32547 00008 03371 31.459
Institutional Characteristics	Roose-Andersen rating Total PhDs Number of PhDs natural sciences Affluence code Public/private GRE-verbal GRE-verbal GRE-standard deviation Percentage married Tuition Aid per student Constant

Regressions included the percentage of faculty which was women and the percentage of PhDs awarded Both were statistically insignificant. Note. to women.

additional negative effect but only for women. That is, the larger the aid per student, the younger the women doctoral recipients, the implication being that women are more likely to persist in graduate school uninterrupted if they are provided with financial aid by the institution. One reason might be their greater difficulty in getting external (noninstitutional) support.

Several other institutional variables affect the median age at PhD to roughly the same extent for men and women. Larger institutions, as reflected by the number of doctorates awarded, tend to have older PhD recipients. These institutions are probably less likely to tailor programs to individual needs or to be concerned about practices that reduce the time lag. Those institutions focusing on the natural sciences tend to have younger graduates. Neither the percentage of women on the faculty nor the percentage of women doctoral recipients seems to effect the median age of women.

Private graduate schools tend to award more doctorates to older men and women than do public institutions. This finding is, of course, derived from the regressions controlling for many other institutional traits.

Logically, the pattern could have been reversed, since high tuition at private universities should provide an incentive to complete studies as soon as possible. The simple correlation between the dummy variable indicating whether an institution is public (variable = 1) or private (variable = 2) is positive for men and negative for women. Hence, although private institutions award degrees to younger women, it is due to other variables in the regression, such as smaller size, more money and more aid. However, public institutions actually award more degrees



to younger men than do private institutions. Perhaps men who graduate from private institutions delay entrance to graduate school to acquire the greater resources necessary.

The simple correlation between the public/private variable and the time variables is:

		Control
Time lapse from BA to PhD	М	.045
	F	006
Time between graduate school		
entrance and PhD	M	099
	F	066

Both men and women are more likely to interrupt graduate training if they attend a private school, but men at private institutions have a longer overall lag between BA and PhD, which indicates a greater delay in starting graduate school.

If the average Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores of applicants can be used as a measure of student quality, the better the student, the younger the age of graduation for women. After controlling for all other factors, this variable does not appear significant for men.

Those institutions where a larger percentage of the men graduates were married have men whose median age is higher. However, those institutions where a larger proportion of the women graduates were married are those where the median age is lower. This appears surprising, given the general belief that married women are less able to concentrate on their graduate work due to household and child responsibilities. However, those institutions where a larger proportion of women



were married also have women with fewer years of predoctoral work experience; that is, they were not working while in school. Married women doctoral recipients may work less during their graduate training, perhaps because they are supported by a spouse. Married men who receive the doctorate appear older, perhaps because they have had to work intermittently to support a family. Getting household help while a woman is in graduate school may be easier than finding alternate sources of family support in lieu of a married man student's job.

The second set of regressions in Table 10 explains years elapsed between receipt of the BA and the PhD for men and for women. The results are similar to those from the first regression, with institutional quality having a greater effect in reducing the time lapse for women than for men, and affluence working in a similar way.

In the third set of regressions explaining median years not enrolled between graduate school entrance and receipt of the doctorate, the same variables appear to have roughly equal effects on men and women with one exception: the larger the proportion of men degree recipients who were married, the larger the time period not enrolled for men. This finding tends to confirm that married men at some time are forced to leave graduate school, probably to support a wife and child.

The fourth set of regressions has as its dependent variable the difference between years elapsed between receipt of the bachelor's and the doctorate and years not enrolled from graduate school entrance to receipt of the doctorate. The R<sup>2</sup> is lower in this set of regressions than in the first three sets, probably because the time lag between receipt of the doctorate and entrance into graduate school has been



omitted. However, those graduating from better quality institutions spend fewer years in graduate school, those attending larger institutions spend more time in graduate school, those at institutions with a higher proportion of doctorates in natural sciences spend less time in graduate school, and institutions awarding more aid per student have students who spend fewer years in graduate study.

Most significant, women do not appear to spend more time than men in graduate school to obtain the doctorate. The differences between time spent by men and women vary by institutional quality and other institutional characteristics. Apparently, women complete the doctorate much more rapidly at wealth er than at poorer institutions. They also complete the degree more rapidly if they are given more financial support. One way women are supported in graduate school is by their spouses' earnings. Despite earlier beliefs, married men appear more supportive of their wives in graduate school than married women are of their husbands. The different number of men and women who receive the doctorate is probably a major reason for the earlier misconception. Although many married men are supported by wives while in graduate school, this support is not systematically related to age at completion of the degree. The few married women who receive spousal support seem to complete their doctorates early.

Insert Tables 11 and 12 about here

Table 11 provides data on median years of predoctoral experience for



Table 11
Median Years of Predoctoral Experience

(Roose-Andersen Rating)	Men	Women
4.0 - 3.496	2.88	3.08
3.495 - 2.966	4.02	4.30
2.995 - 2.496	4.47	5.00
2.495 - 1.996	5.13	5.92
1.995 - 1.496	5.69	6.37
1.495 - 0.996	6.32	9.15
Under 0.996	7.64	7.54
Not rated	6.18	8.29



Table 12

Regressions to Explain Median Years of Predoctoral Experience

Institutional Characteristics	Men	Women
Roose-Andersen rating Total PhDs Number or PhDs in natural sciences Affluence code Public/private GRE - verbal GRE - standard deviation Percentage married Percentage of women faculty Percentage of women PhDs Tuition Aid per student Constant R <sup>2</sup>	596 .00602 00834 22135 00007	898 .007 0123 6167 031 .00015 0374 525 21.3414 .63777



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men and for women, while Table 12 explains differences for each sex among institutions by variables identical to those in Table 10. Women graduates at virtually every level of institutional quality have more years of predoctoral experience than men. This information came from a question about experience related to career and did not include time at home raising children. Women seem to interrupt their graduate training to work as well as to perform household activities. significant, women attending wealthier institutions and those that award more aid per student have fewer years of predoctoral experience. Although these variables have the same signs in the regression for men, the coefficients are much smaller. Women tend to work before receiving their doctorates to a greater extent than men, which may be explained partially by differences in financial aid awards. These findings are consistent with the discussion of the time variables above. Needed is more detail about why women appear to interrupt their graduate studies more frequently than men to work.

Arguments are sometimes made that women are treated as second-class citizens in graduate school, which causes them to take more time than men to complete their degrees. This treatment is exemplified by differential access to faculty time, fellowship aid, and study-related work. Difficulties imposed by rules on part-time status, credit transfers, and residency requirements are also alleged to impact with particular severity on women. Financial aid will be discussed in more detail below. However, the conclusion here is that, despite real or imaginary barriers, women do not spend significantly more time in school to obtain their doctorates. Of course, the suggested barriers may be hindering another



group of women, namely, those who drop out before receipt of the doctorate.



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## Chapter 4

# Geographic and Interinstitutional Mobility of Men and Women Graduate Students

Two types of mobility--geographic and interinstitutional--figure in discussions of discrimination against women graduate students. The issue of geographic mobility is addressed here through data on NIH fellow-ship winners from the National Institutes of Health and on all graduate students from the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES).

Data on interinstitutional mobility from The National Research Council's doctorate records file are restricted to 1972 doctoral recipients.

Table 13 presents an analysis of students awarded predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships by NIH in 1969. These students, after a rather

#### Insert Table 13 about here

rigorous screening by review committees, were deemed of the highest quality. Institutions are ranked in order of total number of NIH fellows attending. Data on the number of women at each institution are also presented. Although Columbia ranked tenth in attracting NIH fellows overall, it had the largest number of women NIH fellows. Harvard attracted the second largest number of women and the largest number of men. In general, highly qualified scholars seem to have access to the same types of institutions, regardless of sex. Those who survive the rigorous screening procedure of the fellowship competition will be accepted as scholars, rather than viewed as members of a particular sex.

The distribution of women appears more concentrated in universities in large urban centers. Ten percent of somen recipients selected institutions



Table 13

123 --ling 50 U.S. Institutions Chosen by National Institutes of Health Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Awardees, 1969 Wemen Total 29 28 27 27 27 26 26 24 24 24 23 23 University of California, Santa Barbara State University of New York, Buffalo California Institute of Technology Case Western Reserve University Iniversity of California, Davis Pennsylvania State University University of North Carolina University of Pittsburgh Second 25 Institutions Rockefeller University University of Missouri Washington University Iowa State University Princeton University University of Oregon University of Kansas University of Texas New York University Brandeis University Iniversity of Utah reshiva University Boston University **Baylor University** Oregon State Nomen 20 18 Total 120 103 142 131 103 University of California, San Francisco Massachusetts Institute of Technology University of California, Los Angeles niversity of California, San Diego University of California, Berkeley niversity of Chicago Diversity of Pennsylvania University of Washington Michigan State University Johns Hopkins University University of Wisconsin Northwestern University University of Minnesota University of Illinois University of Michigan First 25 Institutions Stanford University Columbia University Cornell University Harvard University Indiana University Purdue University Vale University wke University

Lewis C. Solmon. From "Women in Doctoral Education: Clues and Puzzles Regarding Institutional Discrimination" Research In Higher Education, 1973, Vol. 1, p. 319.

113(16.7%)

Second 25 Institutions

323 (15.9%)

2,023

57.2

Percent of total U.S. fellows

Ohio State University First 25 Institutions

Jniversity of Colorado

Iniversity of Alabama

Iniversity of Iowa

20.0

18.8

in New York City, whereas under 4% of men recipients chose institutions there. This distribution might indicate less sex descrimination in New York; however, women attend good graduate schools elsewhere. That women are forced to select institutions for graduate and postgraduate training in locations where their husbands can also attend college or obtain employment may explain this regional distribution. These women would provided the select large metropolitan centers and urban institutions over less populated locations, as they generally adjust to their husbands' careers.

Some analysts have minimized this argument by pointing out that most women PhDs are unmarried. However, of all women who received a PhD between 1958 and 1972, 48.5% were married. During the same period, 78.4% of the men doctoral recipients were married (NRC). The proportion of married women is large enough to influence statistics on type of institution chosen by each sex if these choices were influenced by spouse's location.

The proportion of graduate students from each state who attend school outside their home state also provides evidence of mobility by sex. However, whether the greater movement by men to out-of-state schools is due to greater willingness to move or to constraints on women imposed from outside still cannot be determined. Since graduate students of both sexes have a propensity to attend a school outside their home state, the decision may be primarily in the hands of students rather than institutions. However care must be taken in interpretation.

Table 14 reveals that more men than women from every single state leave their home states to attend graduate school. This finding cannot be attributed

Insert Table 14 about here





Table 14

Graduate Students by Sex and by Home State, All Institutions, 1968

		Men	E			Women	ua		٠
	Total	Total Number	Number Ont of	Percent-	Total N::mber	Total Number	Number Out of	Percent-	
State	in State			T/N1	in State	ate	State	of State	
		`	,				_	•	
Alaoama	3,952	2,632	1,320	ν, γ,	2,258	1,/15	543 50	∹`	
Alaska	5/6	91	185	):				Σ. Σ	
Arizona	5,276	4,458	818	3.	•	3,051		ω	
Arkansas	1,818	778	1,040	7:	_	738		` :	
California	58,204	51,049	7,155	2	Ė			`:	
Colcrado	5,993	4,480	1,513		` <b>.</b>			3	
Connecticut	10,704	7,248	3,456	2:	. ` 🖍	•		5.8	
Delaware	1,448	734	714	0	_			3.2	_
District of Columbia	2,991	•	911	7.	•	_ •		٠.	12
Florida	10,794	8,068	2,726					5.9	5a
Georgia	5,075	3,564	1,511	<u>`</u> .	~	•	9	=	_
Hawaii	2,254	1,675	579	ě.	~	~		4.1	
Idano	1,391	760	931	5	٠,			2.3	
Illincis	27,628	20,542	7,086	ě.	7	~		5.9	
Indiana	11,874	9,416	2,458		.,	``		٠ <u>.</u>	
Iowa	5,821	3,606	2,215	٠ د	,	~~		3.1	
Kansas	5,300	3,317	1,983	7.4	٠,			7.3	
Kentucky	4,312	7,680	1,632	8.	$\circ$	٠,		8.4	
Louisiana	2,696	4.227	1,469	25.79			565	$\sim$	
Maine	1,256	643	613	<del>د</del> د	610	362		9.0	
Mary1and	11,420	5,382	6,038	∞.	(L)	4,351	و <b>ر</b>	<del>ر</del>	
Massachusetts	18,156	13,860	4,296		ໝູ	.,		8	
Michigan	20,567	17,601	2,966	7:	12,284	.4		œ. ن	
Minnesota	7,452	4,916	2,536	9	7	ω		1.8	
Mississippi	2,473	1,612	861	φ.	9	1,289		2.1	
Missouri	9,220	6,620	2,600	3.1	2	_		1.6	
Montana	1,481	826	655	.2	417	237		3.1	
Nebraska	3,302	2,204	1,098	3.2	1,796	1,446		4	
Nevada	852	530	322	.,	206	422	ထာ	9.9	
New Hampshire;	1,251	327	924	ω.	468	159	309	•	
: .			٠			o <b>o</b> )	(continued)	•	



Table 14 (cont.)

Graduate Students by Sex and by Home State, All Insitutions, 1968

		Men	U			Women	ue		
		Total				Total			
	Total	Number	Number	Percent-	Total	Number	Number	Percent-	
	Number	from State	Out or	age Out	Number	from State	Out of	age Out	
State	in State	in State	State	of State	in State	in State	State	of State	
Net Jorday	23 615	12 699	310 01	ر د	10 786	7,089	3,697	34.27	-
New Mexico	•	000 1	766	7 . 7	35	12	23		
New York	75,239	61,410	13.829	18,38	S O	42,909	4,985	10.40	
North Carolina	5,266	3,589	1,677	1.8	ຸຕຸ		9	19.53	
North Dakota	1,112	562	550	9.4	443	243	200		
Ohio	20,610	15,282	5,328	8	9,446	7,525	1,921		
Oklahoma	5,345	4,115	1,230	ë	•	3,041	421	•	_
Oregon	7,006	5,574	1,432	ö	•	•	491	ö	. 1
Pennsylvania	30,889	22,878	8,011	'n	•	13,094	2,874	•	25
Rhode Island	2,862	1,938	924	32.28	1,986	•	373	œ	ib.
South Carolina	2,303	1,272	1,031	4	•	880	430	ς.	-
South Dakota	1,289	652	637	<u>.</u>	532	303	229	'n	
Tennessee	5,923	4,419	1,504	'n	•	2,692	576	۲.	
Texas	20,233	16,771	3,462		11,347	•	1,144	•	
Utah	3,872	2,998	874	~i	$\overline{}$	1,066	153	$\ddot{\circ}$	
Vermont	777	303	747	2:	337	145	192	•	
Virginia	9,752	4,374	5,378	5.1	99,	•	1,908	ö	
Washington	6,188	4,181	2,007	~i	,94	2,289	654	•	
West Virginia	1,938	1,135	803	1.4	1,305	296	338	Š	
Wisconsin	9,544	6,892	2,647	27.73	•	3,858	824	17.59	
Wyoming	919	263	353	7	252	139	113	78.77	

Note. From Residence and Migration of College Students, by G.H. Wade. (Washington: National Center for Educational Statistics, 1968.)

solely to discriminatory practices of high-quality institutions in other states against out-of-state women, since interstate moves to all institutions of all types are included.

Does this imply that men students are more efficient, better able to find the "best" institution for themselves without regard to geography? Possibly. Women might be more reluctant than men to leave home. Perhaps because the investment incurred locally in the search for a husband would be lost if they left the state for graduate school. If such is the case, they constrain the range of institutions from which they can choose and are probably most likely to make suboptimum choices.

To attend college away from home (out-of-state) is more expensive.

Perhaps women (or their families) are less willing than men to incur the extra costs. If returns from education are higher for men regardless of where they attend college, then lower costs should be incurred for women's education to equalize rates of return. However, institutions may generally favor out-of-state men over out-of-state women in admissions. Moreover, since out-of-state attendance is more costly, students going out-of-state might have to borrow to finance the move. It is probably easier for men to borrow and hence to move. Moreover, fewer women may get financial aid.

It is frequently argued that one problem women face as graduate students is overmobility: they must switch colleges to follow their husbands, who move throughout their careers. Table 15 gives the proportion of 1972 men and women doctoral recipients who have attended only one graduate school.

# Insert Table 15 about here

These are the people who are ultimately successful in graduate school, that is, those who receive the doctorate. From among this select group, however, it appears that women are more likely than men who graduate from comparable



Table 15

Percentage of Doctoral Recipients Attending One Graduate School, 1972

Institution (Roose-Andersen Rating)	Men	Women
4.0 - 3.496	64.22	
3.495 - 2.996	64.32	64.06
•	53.81	50.81
2.995 - 2.496	48.31	50.30
2.495 - 1.996	46.63	46.17
1.995 - 1.496	44.66	48.43
1.495 - 0.996	40.64	41.05
Under 0.996	38.50	44.45
Not rated	45.12	49.91



institutions to attend only one graduate school. In most cases differences are not statistically significant. Possibly the belief about overmobility originates because women who do not successfully complete their graduate training with a doctorate fail primarily because they have moved, that is, switched colleges to follow their husbands. Unfortunately, here, as in several other cases, no data on noncompleters are available. The proportion attending only one graduate school declines with the quality of institution attended. A student probably switches more frequently to a lower quality than to a higher quality institution.

### Insert Table 16 about here

Table 16 assesses institutional differences in number of graduates attending only one institution by the variables used in regressions in Chapter 3. The much stronger relationship between quality of degree-granting institution and proportion of women who attended only one graduate school, compared with the relationship for men, implies substantially less movement by women than by men among institutions with different characteristics.

Larger institutions which award more PhDs have relatively smaller proportions of one-institution doctoral recipients. Similarly, those that grant a large proportion of their PhDs in the natural sciences have a larger proportion of graduates who attend only one institution. Institutions awarding more aid per student also have more graduates who attend a single graduate school.

Two independent variables demonstrate sign reversals between the regressions for men and women. Apparently, the higher the proportion of men doctoral recipients who are married, the lower the proportion of graduates who attend only one institution: that is, for men interinstitutional movement seems significantly related to being married. However, the reverse appears true for women: those institutions with a larger proportion of married



Table 16

Regressions Explaining Percentage Attending Only One Graduate School

	Percentage One Gradua	e Attending ate School
Institutional Characteristics	Men	Women
Roose-Andersen rating	2.1554	4.507
Total PhDs	017	022
Number of PhDs in natural sciences	.044	.0474
Affluence code		
Public/private		-10.464
GRE - verbal		
GRE - standard deviation		0004
Percentage married	176	.145
Percentage women faculty		
Percentage women PhDs	-16.895	20.696
Tuition		.0065
Aid per student	2.271	3.354
Constant	66.402	80.869
R <sup>2</sup>	.4986	. 3729





women graduates have a larger proportion of graduates who attend only that one institution. Once again, in opposition to the "camp follower" theory of married women students, marriage is more a stabilizer for women than for men. Those institutions awarding a larger proportion of doctorates to women have a larger proportion of recipients who attend a single graduate institution. Apparently, women who attend institutions that give numerous degrees to women tend to remain there. However, men who attend those institutions are more likely to have attended more than one institution, a finding reflected by the negative coefficient on the variable for percentage of doctorates awarded to women in the regression for men.

Three additional variables are significant in the regression for women but not in that for men. The negative sign on the coefficient of the dummy variable indicating public or private institution implies that graduates of public institutions are less likely to have attended only one graduate school; that is, women are more likely to transfer from a private to a public institution than to move the other way. In the regression dealing with women doctoral recipients, the coefficient on the tuition variable is positive, indicating that the institutions with high tuition are more likely to have a large number of graduates who attended a single institution. On the premise that a good deal of moving is due to financial problems, one would not expect moves from low- to high-tuition institutions, but rather the opposite, which the regression indicates.

Conclusions about the relative mobility of men and women graduate students are mixed. Looking at groups of graduate students who have not it received the doctorate, it appears that (1) the best women students are lect institutions in fewer geographic locations than men do, and (2) more



men than women attend graudate school out of state.

If the reasons postulated for these differences pertain to predoctoral students, they appear irrelevant in explaining interinstitutional mobility of successful doctoral students. On the one hand, being married appears to stabilize women, rather than having the reverse effect. On the other hand, financial problems appear to restrict geographic mobility but to increase interinstitutional mobility of women students.



## Chapter 5

Awarding Financial Aid to Men and Women Graduate Students

Thus far, this study has found no significant differences by sex in admissions policies of graduate schools. Neither do women spend more time than men in graduate school, nor are they substantially hindered by problems of mobility. A major perception remaining is that women are discriminated against in financial aid. This view, like others, has generally been supported by anecdotal evidence, while definitions of the issue have varied.

To explicate the issues relevant to determining if discrimination by sex is involved in awarding financial aid, several questions must be answered:

- 1. How many men and women graduate students receive aid, measured in terms of numbers of awards; the projection to those of each sex enrolled who get awards; and the proportion to those of each sex who apply who get awards?
  - 2. What is the amount of aid per award to members of each sex?
- 3. Does the type of aid -- nonservice awards versus awards with work requirements, research versus teaching assistantships, grants versus loans -- differ by sex?
- 4. Are aggregate differences the result of sex or of different amounts of funds available by field?

Financial aid, an important determinant of an individual's success during his graduate years, has obvious value in providing support and sustenance. A student with aid is generally not required (or at times even allowed) to find other means to support himself or his family which would detract from his studies. Clearly, large nonservice awards enable the



graduate student to devote more time to his studies. Even awards that require work are probably relevant to a student's study plan or ultimate career objectives. These would tend to complement, rather than detract from, his pursuit of the doctorate. Also, a student with greater resources may be able to purchase nonrequired reference books or better housing with comfortable study facilities, both helpful in pursuing a doctorate.

In addition to the sheer value of financial aid dollars, awards generally serve a second purpose: they give recipients a clear indication that groups within the university, e.g., professors and administrators, deem them a worthy investment; that is, think they are of superior merit and will be successful in their pursuit of the doctorate. Most people with graduate school experience can probably recall that a status division occurs between those on fellowships and those financing their own education. If indeed one of the barriers to equal success in graduate school for women is a lack of confidence and encouragement, one measurement of lower level encouragement is the pattern of financial aid awards. A most effective way to indicate to a woman graduate student that the faculty views her as a competent student equal to the men in the class is to award her financial aid. The first value of financial aid -- what the money can buy -- will have an impact directly proportional to the size of the award. The second value -- encouragement and confidence -- might be fostered merely by making the award, regardless of its dollar value. Those making awards probably place a disproportionate emphasis on need to the exclusion of the psychological contribution. Once this second value is recognized, some modification in awards could lead to more efficient use of a given dollar amount.

A third way that financial aid may impact is by bringing students into contact with faculty. Those students awarded either teaching or research assistantships are brought face to face with particular faculty members to



perform their jobs. The value of getting to know faculty is great:

contacts might lead to faculty becoming role models, providing encouragement during the trials and tribulations of graduate study, suggesting courses and areas of research, and finally, providing assistance to students seeking postdoctoral employment. None of these services is available to a student who does not know any faculty members. Although many of these functions can be performed by a faculty member supervising either a teaching or a research assistant, some evidence (Astin, in press) indicates that research assistantships are more effective for students than teaching assistantships. Teaching assistants generally teach low-level undergraduate courses that do not complement their graduate studies. However, research assistants are generally involved in research projects with the professor, who can teach the student about research methods in a practical way, suggest additional topics for the student to pursue, perhaps for his doctoral thesis, and include topics that supplement work done for courses.

Table 17 presents some experiences of men and women graduate students concerning financial aid. Experiences are from a 1971 follow-up survey of

## Insert Table 17 About Here

1961 college freshmen who subsequently attended graduate school (El-Khawas and Bisconti, 1974). In response to questions about their financial situation in graduate or professional school, 31% of the men but only 25% of the women had a major concern for meeting expenses. Similarly, 12% of the men and 9% of the women received much less financial assistance than they needed. There was virtually no difference in the proportion of men and women for whom a fellowship was not renewed when expected (2% of men and



Table 17

Financial Experiences of Graduate Students, by Sex, 1971\* (percentages)

Experience	Total	Men	Мотел
Financial Situation Had a major concern for meeting expenses Received much less financial assistance than I needed A fellowship was not renewed when expected Worked (or expect to work) on thesis off campus while employed full-time Worked (or expect to work) on thesis as part of my employment on a research project	29 11 16 8	31 12 2 16 9	25 9 1 17
Obstacles to Completing Study Loss of fellowship, scholarship, traineeship Other financial problems Family obligations Duties involved in a teaching assistantship Duties involved in a research assistantship Administration of stipend	1 1 3 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	151 153 * 1 3	1 14 2 2 1
Reasons for Interrupting Study.  Took a job Home/child care responsibilities No fellowship (scholarship, grant) offered Fellowship, etc., terminated Other financial problems	42 28 5 16	44 17 4 2 16	38 44 6 1

<sup>\*</sup>Responses from 1961 Freshmen.



<sup>\*\*</sup>Less than .5.

Note. From Five and Ten Years After College Entry by Elaine H. El-Khawas and Ann S. Bisconti. Washington: American Council on Education, 1974, pp. 123-126.

l% of women) or who worked or expected to work on the thesis off campus while employed full-time (16% of the men and 17% of the women). However, 9% of the men but only 5% of the women worked or expected to work on a thesis as part of their employment on a research project. Statistically significant differences between men and women in their overall concern with financial aid are virtually nonexistent. However, financial aid comes to men somewhat more often than to women through employment in research.

Differences were also virtually nonexistent in the number of men and women who reported as obstacles loss of fellowship, scholarship, or traineeship, other financial problems, duties involved in a teaching or research assistantship, or administration of stipend. However, 15% of the men but 24% of the women thought family obligations a serious obstacle to completing graduate study. Although family obligations are an important obstacle for both men and women, more women are burdened with family responsibilities. This finding is consistent with earlier speculation that men might be more concerned with raising money to maintain a family, whereas women are more concerned with running the family itself. financial problems and family obligations were equally important obstacles, whereas women found family obligations an obstacle 10 percentage points more often. It is difficult to blame the universities for this situation, although creating day care centers and the like would solve part of the women's problem. However, this begs the question of why women rather than men are left with the family responsibilities, a condition probably due more to social mores than to anything the university does or does not do.

Some 44% of the men interrupted graduate study to take a job, whereas
44% of the women interrupted their studies for home and child care



responsibilities. Some 38% of the women ceased their studies to take a job, while only 17% of the men stopped because of home and child care responsibilities. These findings give further weight to the discussion above. Slightly more women than men interrupted their studies because they were not offered a fellowship. However, the proportion of both men and women who gave this reason was small. Even fewer men and women stopped their studies because their fellowships terminated. Finally, an equal number of men and women interrupted their studies because of other financial problems.

Insert Table 18 About Here

Table 18 presents information from 1966 college freshmen who enrolled for advanced study about why they did not enroll in their first-choice graduate or professional school. Some 61% of the men but only 30% of the women did not enroll at their first-choice institution because they were not accepted, a finding that confirms the conclusions about admissions practices. However, 25% of the women but only 11% of the men did not enroll because they received no offers of financial assistance. Perhaps one reason why women did not seem worse off than men in terms of financial aid is that women attend lower quality institutions which are more likely to offer them aid. Men will in all likelihood be offered aid at better institutions. Table 18 supports this view: institutions other than their first-choice offered aid to women on better terms. Only 15% of the women but 21% of the men did not enroll at their first-choice institutions.

Again this confirms that women probably aim lower than men for reasons involving financial aid distribution.



Table 18

Reasons of 1966 Freshmen for Not Enrolling at First-Choice Graduate or Professional School, by Sex and Field (percentages)

	Total	Men	Women		Grad	Graduate Field	d	
					Physical			
Reasons				Biological	Sciences &	Health	Social	Other
				Sciences	Mathematics	Fields	Sciences	Fields
Was not accepted	50	61	30	55	43	74	57	51
No financial assistance offered	16	11	25	23	30	4	18	17
Unacceptable amount of financial	S	4	5	4	13	4	н	4
assistance offered								
Better terms of financial assist-	თ	7	12	Н	17	7	12	10
ance at second-choice school								
Other reasons (not financial)	31	24	44	25	23	23	26	34
Total Number Not Enrolled at	53,337	35,320	18,017	2,243	3,590	5,324	6,873 3	31,126
First-Choice Institution								
Percentage of total	19	21	15	24	23	21	35	16
-								

Note. From Five and Ten Years After College Entry by Elaine H. El-Khawas and Ann S. Bisconti. Washington: Amarican Council on Education, 1974, p. 134.

5 i

Although Table 17 supports the conclusion that women graduate students are not much more burdened by financial aid problems than men, one cannot conclude that no differential treatment exists. Women apparently aim for less prestigious or at least different institutions, presumably those less preferred, to guarantee that financial aid problems will not hinder them. Eliminating discrimination might produce the same responses found in Table 17, but it would enable women to apply and enroll at institutions of higher quality.

The proportion of women students which applies for fellowship aid differs from the proportion that actually receives it. Table 19 compares

Insert Table 19 About Here

fellowship applications and awards of women with those of all applicants. These data summarize a report by Attwood (1972) on all fellowship programs for which statistics existed during the academic years 1968-69 to 1972-73. In virtually all except the professional fields, women comprise a larger share of recipients than of applicants. In some cases, awards are made to women in about the same proportion as they apply. Although, at first glance, this finding might refute arguments over discrimination in awarding fellowships, perhaps only a few top-quality women apply. Almost all men students apply for awards.

Insert Table 20 About Here



Table 19

Number of Women Fellowship Applicants and Recipients, by Field, 1963-68

		Appl	icants		Recipien	ts
Field	Total	Number of Women	Percentage of Women	Total	Number of Women	Percentage of Women
Physical sciences	7,717	359	4.65	2,140	163	7.61
Social sciences a	9,801	955	9.74	2,187	388	17.74
Arts & humanities	8,403	1,180	14.04	1,927	294	15.25
Professional <sup>b</sup> .	548	49	8.94	4,618	337	7.29
Education <sup>C</sup>	23,659	8,160	34.49	6,299	2,637	41.86
Unclassified	66,778	12,722	19.05	105, 356	22,857	21.69

a<sub>3,835</sub> applications/485 recipients not categorized by sex.

Note. From Women in Fellowship and Training Programs by C. L. Atwood. Washington: Association of American Colleges, 1972.



b<sub>2,854</sub> applications not categorized by sex.

c<sub>950</sub> applicants not categorized by sex.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm d}$ 49,542 applicants not categorized by sex.



Table 20

Proportion of Financial Aid Awards to Women, by Field and Type\*

All Sources	. 012 . 029 . 029 . 025 . 025 . 031 . 044 . 019 . 052 . 052 . 052 . 052 . 053 . 053 . 054 . 013 . 052 . 053 . 053 . 054 . 019 . 018 . 019 . 018 . 019 . 019
Foreign Sources	0 0 .043 .036 .015 0 .023 .023 .029 0 .029 .037 .037 .037 .037
Other U.S. Sources	.017 .071 .016 .024 .015 .031 .005 .005 .006 .038 .071 .111 .151 .092 .092 .127 .044
Self, Loans, and Family	.012 .030 .030 .020 .019 .028 .011 .026 .014 .077 .056 .112 .109 .079
Institu- tional Support	.013 .028 .028 .023 .023 .030 .031 .031 .031 .044 .027 .065 .161 .113 .134 .072
Other U.S. Government	. 012 0 . 026 . 027 . 014 . 012 . 035 . 035 . 036 . 036 . 048 . 048 . 087 . 086 . 086 . 116 . 116
нем	0 0 0.042 .043 .037 .029 .058 .010 .052 .052 .052 .052 .052 .055 .161 .055 .154 .095 .188 .246
Percentage of Women in Field	1.3 3.0 2.2 2.2 3.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
Field	Engineering Aeronautical Agricultural Chemical Civil Electrical Engineering science Industrial Metallurgical Mining Nuclear Petroleum Other Physical Sciences Astronomy Atmospheric Chemistry Geosciences Oceanography Physics Mathematics Applied Mathematics Applied Mathematics

(continued)



Table 20 (cont.)

Proportion of Financial Aid Awards to Women, by Field and Type\*

Field	Percentage of Women in Field	нем	Other U.S. Government	Institu- tional Support	Self, Loans, and Family	Other U.S. Sources	Foreign Sources	All Sources
Tife Criences								
Agricultural	8.6	300	.106	.117	.159	.128	.055	.134
Biochemistry	24.7	.186	.171	.225	300	.259	.235	.208
Biology	32.3	.315	.247	.289	.322	.289	.270	. 299
Botany	24.6	.231	.185	.230	.257	.149	.113	.220
Microbiology	32.4	. 299	.268	.261	.385	.275	.174	.293
Pharmacology	19.4	.156	.113	.134	.321	.019	.261	.164
Physiology	20.7	.219	.256	.249	.225	.182	.154	.230
Zoology	22.7	.306	.153	.231	.207	.128	.267	.219
Other	29.6	.301	.167	.212	.266	.146	060.	,238
Psychology	36.3	.372	.275	.341	.400	.318	.353	1, 735.
Social Sciences								111
Agricultural economics	7.1	0	.040	990.	.097	.012	.102	<u>,</u> 090.
Anthropology	44.2	.422	.333	.383	.445	.393	.409	.413
Economics	12.4	.164	.087	.115	.136	.103	.084	.119
Geography	21.6	.133	.127	.174	.165	.127	.167	.163
History and philosophy	25.0	.256	.167	.231	.282	.137	.125	.243
of science								
Linguistics	48.0	.502	.386	.449	. 509	.477	.410	.468
Political science	18.0	.246	.189	.184	.168	.209	.105	.181
Sociology	18.2	.367	.278	.363	.370	.341	.218	.355
Sociology and anthropology	36.5	.449	.289	.415	.464	.250	.167	.425

<sup>\*</sup>Data are from a survey on graduate science student support, conducted by the National Science Foundation, 1972

Table 20 presents the proportion of full-time graduate women students in doctoral science departments, including social sciences, and the proportion of women, compared with men, financing studies by various means. For example, 1.3% of the aeronautical engineering enrollment is women and precisely 1.3% of the institutional support goes to women. Similarly, 1.2% of those in aeronautical engineering who rely on themselves, loans, and families for support are women. The "institutional support" and "self, loans, and family" columns, of primary importance here, give the proportion of institutional funds awarded to women and the proportion of women who sustain themselves by borrowing or by personal resources.

In most engineering specializations, the proportion of institutional support awarded to women is greater than the proportion of women in the specialization. In several fields where this is not the case, women receive a disproportionately large share of U.S. government awards.

Moreover, in the engineering fields, a smaller proportion of women support themselves by loans or family resources than the proportion of women in the field. This is also true of the physical sciences and mathematics. However, in life sciences, where they represent a much larger proportion of students, women receive a smaller share of institutional and government support than one would predict, assuming that share is equal to the proportion of women students. Similarly, a larger proportion of women rely on loans and family support, a pattern that persists in the social sciences, where women receive smaller shares of institutional and government awards relative to their share of the student body and rely more than men on loans and family support.



In terms of numbers of awards to men and women, Table 20 shows that women do well in fields where they are relatively underrepresented in the student body, such as engineering, physical sciences, and mathematics. However, in fields where they have a higher representation, such as life sciences and social sciences, women receive a smaller share of government and institutional funds than their share of the student body.

In the so-called "masculine" fields, perhaps only exceptionally able women enroll in doctoral programs. These capable women are visible and, hence, get the awards they deserve. The criteria for predicting success in these fields are also more objective (e.g., mathematical aptitude tests). Again, women in these fields may apply to institutions that are not of the highest quality and, hence, compete with less able men. However, in life and social sciences the quality and aptitude of the women vary and a larger proportion of the less-than-top-notch are bypassed for awards. Also, women may apply to more competitive graduate schools and be rejected for awards when they are compared with equally qualified or more capable men. In any case, it is in precisely those fields where women are underrepresented that they receive the most in financial aid awards.

Outside the physical sciences, where the proportion of awards is the same for men and women (Table 19) but the awards per student are smaller for women (Table 20), the fellowship application rate for women is lower.

Awards applicants awards applicants awards awards applicants enrollees enrollees applicants.

Since, in the second equation, the numerator is lower and the denominator



is higher for women in the social and life sciences, the application rate for aid by women is lower. In the physical sciences and engineering, where both the awards/applicants rate and the awards/enrollees rate are higher for women, one cannot say that fewer enrolled women apply for aid. Probably, the few women enrolled in these fields all apply or apply in the same proportion as men. Some women in these fields may think they are not qualified for or would not get aid, even though this view may be a misconception.

Insert Table 21 About Here

Table 21 aggregates for all fields some of the data presented in Table 20. Keep in mind that 18.9% of the total graduate students in this study were women. Some 16.2% of the total U.S. government awards, excluding loans, are made to women, a percentage less than their representation in the student body. Similarly, 17.9% of the institutional support, 15.1% of other U.S. sources, 8.9% of foreign sources, and 17.1% of the total nongovernment sources, excluding personal resources, are awarded to women. In all cases, a smaller proportion of awards are made to women than one would predict from their 18.9% share of the student body, assuming that men and women receive awards in proportion to enrollment. (Remember, most women are in life or social sciences.) Similarly,



Table 21
Support Sources for Graduate Science Students, by Sex, Fall 1972\*

Source of Support	Men	Women	Percentage of Women
Total U.S. government (excluding loans)	37,733	7,296	16.20
Institutional	47,510	10,374	17.92
Other U.S. sources	7,940	1,409	15.07
Foreign sources	2,805	273	8.87
Total Nongovernment (excluding personal sou	58,255 arces)	12,056	17.10
Self, loans, and family	27,357	7,240	20.93
Total	123, 345	26,592	17.74

<sup>\*</sup>Data are from a survey on graduate science student support, conducted by the National Science Foundation, 1972



almost 21% of those supporting themselves by loans or personal sources are women, a percentage slightly higher than their representation in the student body. Only 17.74% of the total support goes to women, implying that roughly 1% of the women did not report the type of aid they received. Although women do somewhat less well than one would predict by enrollment, the overall figures are not much different for men and women. These results differ significantly by field.

So far, the focus has been on numbers of awards rather than on dollar value or type. Until this time, virtually no data sources have been available for average dollar values or types of awards by sex.

In the survey of graduate deans (see Chapter 2), a section on financial aid was included. Far fewer deans were able to provide information on financial aid than on acceptance rates. Table 22 summarizes data for the institutions reporting on financial aid -- about 50 in all.

Although the number of responses is small and perhaps nonrepresentative, these are the only available data on the subject; the patterns are consistent, tending to confirm some of the hypotheses.

Insert Table 22 About Here



Table 22

Distribution of Financial Aid by Type and Amount, 1973\*

	Proportion of Enrollment	of :	Ave	Average Dollar Value of Award Tuition	alue of Award Tuition and	and
	Receiving Awards	Awards	Direct Stipend	Stipend	Fee Waiver	ver
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total nonservice awards	.115	.138	2389	2270	1579	1446
Fellowships or scholarships	.081	.087	2309	2280	1353	1392
Traineeships	.028	.043.	2608	2472	2114	1761
Other	.048	.042	2955	2799	1244	1179
Awarded by external (other) sources	.043	.040	2587	2442	1545	1519
Total service awards (Other nonrepayable aid)	.306	.245	2648	2536	1311	1302
Research assistantships	.120	.079	2647	2638	1274	1337
Teaching assistantships	.219	.224	2501	2476	1260	1255
Other graduate assistantships	.072	.079	2561	2472	1128	1132
Instructorships	690.	.092	5037	3388	705	1000
Other	.101	.043	2362	2276	1206	1214
Institutional loans	.119	.136				
GI bill	.193	.027				

\*Data are from a survey of graduate deans in which 50 schools provided useable statistics.

Table 22 gives the proportion of those enrolled who receive various awards. Enrollments are for those institutions that provided financial aid statistics in the deans' survey. Some 13.8% of the women and 11.5% of the men received nonservice awards. A few more women received fellowships or scholarships and traineeships. A significantly larger share of men received other nonservice awards and awards from noninstitutional (external) sources.

Some 30.6% of the men and 24.5% of the women received awards for service. A significantly larger share of the men received research assistantships, a condition that might be a barrier for women, since work on a research project is a most valuable graduate experience. A slightly larger proportion of women received service awards, which included teaching (teaching assistantships, other graduate assistantships, and instructorships). The catchall residual category "other service awards" had 10% of the men but only slightly more than 4% of the women.

Slightly more women than men receive loans and, as expected, a far larger share of men attend graduate school with GI benefits.

A look at the proportion receiving awards does not indicate that women are at a disadvantage, except when they are excluded from research assistantships. The differential availability of research assistantships by field and their absence in fields in which women usually enroll may be a factor here.

In terms of the average dollar value of the stipend, the difference between awards to men and women is surprisingly small. In virtually every case, men receive slightly more of a stipend than women, but the difference is rarely more than several hundred dollars. The exception is instructorships, where payment to men is generally several thousand



dollars more. One might question the difference in definition between "instructorship" and "teaching assistantship." A teaching assistantship probably involves teaching class sections of courses led by senior professors, whereas an instructorship probably involves teaching independently at an intermediate undergraduate level. If this is the case, men are probably given fuller responsibilities in teaching intermediate—level courses or allowed to teach more often; thus, instructorships for men result in larger payments.

The average value of tuition and fee waivers is also similar for men and women. In most cases, the value of these waivers is almost identical for both -- all fees waived or no fees waived. The observation that men receive higher tuition and fee waivers probably arises because men attend more expensive institutions. This argument also supports speculation that men apply to the highest quality (perhaps private) institutions.

It is generally argued that the same proportion of women receive awards, but that many times women are deemed less needy than men who have a responsibility to support a family. Therefore, women are given smaller awards. This argument receives no support from the sample here. Although it could be that only those institutions that do not discriminate are willing to provide data, from these data there is no way to determine the reasons for the similar stipends. The American Psychological Association (1972) also found stipends approximately equal for men and women students in psychology. Of course, differences of several hundred dollars could give evidence of discrimination rather than of equal treatment. Chapter 4 indicated that women are more likely than men to attend graduate schools in urban areas where living costs are higher. However, that women tend to receive lower tuition and fee waivers as well implies that overall they attend less costly institutions where stipends and tuition are lower. The



argument of differential value of fellowships has generally been based on allegations of differences in value of awards, such that men receive two or three times as much as women, rather than several hundred dollars difference on a base of several thousand dollars.

A slightly larger proportion of women obtained institutional loans. It has been argued that women might be less inclined to take out large loans: First, since women experience lower earnings in the labor force, it is more difficult for them to repay a loan. Second, a loan, in a sense, represents a negative dowry; some think a woman might have more difficulty getting married if her trousseau included significant debt obligations. Remember, more men than women are already married during graduate training. Table 23 shows that, for both 1961 and 1966 freshmen,

Insert Table 23 About Here

a larger proportion of men are willing to incur over \$2,000 in debts for education. Indeed, 36% of the 1961 freshmen men and 22% of the 1961 freshmen women were willing to incur such debts, whereas 47% of the 1966 freshmen men and only 29% of the 1966 freshmen women were willing to incur debts that size. These figures, for those enrolled for advanced study, are confirmed in Table 24, where 12% of the men and 9% of the women

Insert Table 24 About Here

incurred \$2,000 in debts while undergraduates, and 13% of the men and 6%



Table 23

Maximum Debt 1961 and 1966 Freshmen Were Willing to Incur for Graduate Education, by Sex, 1971\* (percentages)

		1961 Freshmen			1966 Freshmen	
Maximum Dobt	Total (N=269,608)	Men (N=174,227)	Women (N=95,381)	Total (N=298,328)	Men (N=183,082)	Women (N=115,246)
None	45	42	52	35	33	39
Less than \$500	ហ	4	7	S	4	7
\$500 - 999	ဖ	ဖ	9	7	ស	6
\$1,000 - 1,999	1.2	12	13	13	11	14
\$2,000 - 3,999	12	13	11	16	16	17
\$4,000 - 5,999	თ	10	9	12	14	8
666'6 - 000'9\$	ហ	9	m	ဖ	8	ო
\$10,000 - 13,999	m	4	-	m	ഹ	7
\$14,000 or more	7	က	н	m	4	н
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note. From Five and Ten Years After College Entry by Elaine H. El-Khawas and Ann S. Bisconti. Washington: American Council on Education, 1974, p. 138

\* Responses from 1961 Freshmen.

Table 24

Debt Incurred for Undergraduate and Graduate Study, by Sex, 1971 Responses of 1961 Freshmen (percentages)

Debt	rotal	Men	Women
Loan for undergraduate study None Less than \$500 \$500 - 999 \$1,000 - 1,999 \$2,000 - 3,999 \$4,000 or more	64 7 7 7 3	62 7 8 12 8 4	68 6 6 11 7
Total N	310,332	100 194,461	115,871
Loan for graduate study None Less than \$500 \$500 - 999 \$1,000 - 1,999 \$2,000 - 3,999 \$4,000 or more	7 1 സ സ ജ ശ സ	66 5 7 6 7	8 4 rv n w w
Total N	100 290,882	185,942	104,941

Note. From Five and Ten Years After College Entry by Elaine H. El-Khawas and Ann S. Bisconti. Washington: American Council on Education, 1974, p. 134.



of the women incurred over \$2,000 while graduate students. Although more women than men have loans, they are probably borrowing smaller amounts at a time.

Tables 25 and 26 reveal that a much larger proportion of women rely on personal or family resources to finance education; 29% of the men and 46% of the women used these resources in their first year of graduate study.

Insert Tables 25 and 26 About Here

This balances the willingness of men to rely on loans. A large proportion of men attend graduate school with GI benefits. If one could expect men and women to finance graduate school with similar ease, women would have to receive more funds from sources other than GI benefits, since they receive far less from this source. That men do have access to this source supports the conclusion that it is more difficult for women to finance graduate education.

Apparently, graduate schools provide similar financial opportunities for men and women with resources they control, a first step in financial equity. Since men appear more willing to borrow and clearly have greater access to GI benefits, equal financial opportunity would require that a disproportionate amount of financial aid (other than loans and the GI bill) go to women. But at least institutions have taken the first step toward equalizing their fund distribution.

Data from the survey of graduate deans are in some disagreement with data obtained in 1971 from 1961 freshmen on major sources of financial



Sources of Financial Support for First Year of Advanced Study, by Sex, 1971\*

Sources Feilowships, scholarships, trainceships, et	Minmion					
scholarships, trainceships,	Namper	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentago
	etc.					
	5,367	7	4,231	က	_	-
NIH, NIMH, PHS	~	2	.18	. ~	, 1 R	, ,
NDEA	6,253	m	75	1 4	) R	
Other HEW	_	Н	86	• -	<b>.</b>	v (
Other U.S. Government	$\sim$	ო	32	4 m	, _	v c
State or local government	4	П	.57	) <b>-</b>	יַ ס	۷ -
School or university	5,935	m	9	ım	2 305	<b>-1</b> (*)
Private foundations, organizations	ന	2	333	5	5 0	o -
	ത	-	35	2	7 Y	<b>-</b> 1
Other fellowships, scholarships	ເດ	1	94	П	708	<b>-</b> 11
Employment						
Faculty appointment	$\sim$	1	435	*	σ	
Teaching assistantship	10	z,	~	v	٦ (۱	
	m	٣	. 59	m	, ה	54 r c
Other part-time during academic year	8,566	4	6,599	· rv	96	
Other	$\triangle$ 1	14	, 57	12	9	18
Other						
Withdrawals from savings, assets	34,775	16	19,326	14	4	0[
Spouse's earnings or funds	25,829	12	$\sim$	• •	,	7 4 -
Support from parents or relatives	29,745	14	21,014	15		3 -
GI benefits	8,820	4				
U.S. government loans	1,640	-	1,311	· -	۰ ۳	-1 +× -+×
State or local government loans	774	*	•	*	196	*
Commercial loans (bnaks, etc.)	2,698		1,315	•	1 C	
Other loans		-		1 *	, ,	7 -
Partial aid from employer (tuition			•		)	4
	$\sim$	4	6,134	ıΩ	79	~
Other	6,343	m	3,167	• •	17	) <
Total	7	100	. S	100	81,934	100

<sup>\*</sup>Responses of 1961 Freshmen.

\*\*Less than .5. Note: From Five and Ten Years After College Entry by Elaine H. El-Khawas and Ann S. Bisconti. Washington: Ameridan Council on Education, 1974, p. 127.

All Current Sources of Financial Support for Advanced Study, by Sex, 1971\*

	Total	1.7	Men		Мотеп	en
SOCIETIOS	Number (N=207, 208)	Percentage	Number (N=20.098)	Percentage	Number (N=7.110)	Percentage
	122 122		/22/22	***************************************		
Followships, scholarships, traineeships, etc.	ú					
	ស	2	200	2	89	<b></b> 1
NIH, NIMH, PHS	1,626	o	1,000	rv	2	Ø
Kack	$^{\circ}$	4	996	ហ	ヾ	ო
Other HES	ന	5	237	н	9	(4
Other U.S. government	2,700	10	2,306	12	395	S
State or local government	Н	4	971	ហ	$C_1$	м
School or university	ഗ	17	3,770	19	0	11
Private foundations, organizations	1,108	4	α	4	Ŋ	\$
	യ	2	563	m	93	rH
. Other fellowships, scholarships	551	7	411	2	140	2
Employment						-
Faculty appointment	452	2	⊣	2	135	2
Toaching assistantship	4,373	16	75	19	618	5
Research assistantship	4,173	15	3,733	19	440	
Other part-time during academic year	0	18	59	18	1,418	20
Other	2,732	10	38	12	350	S
Other						
Withdrawals from savings, assets	9,012	33	6,668	33	, 34	33
Spouse's carnings or funds	α	36	Ó	35		40
Support from parents or relatives	3,741	14	2,757	14	α	<b>4</b> -1
GI benefits	7,008	26	•	32	099	σι
U.S. government loans	2,140	ω	1,741	თ	0	9
State or local government loans	919	٣	492	4	ıΩ	2
Commercial loans (banks, etc.)	1,833	7	1,329	7	Ó	7
Other loans	1,204	7	1,069	ĸ	S	7
Partial aid from employer (tuition						
reimbursement or waiver, grants, etc.)	1,423	S	940	Ŋ	483	7
Other	1,080	4	722	4	357	S
The second secon						

Note. From Five and Ten Years After College Entry by Elaine H. El-Khawas and Ann S. Bisconti. Washington: American Council on Education, 1974, p. 132.
\*Responses from 1961 Freshmen.

support (see Tables 25 and 26). Table 25 reports major support during the first year of advanced study, probably awarded sometime in the late 1960s before sensitivity to differential treatment became widespread. At that time, 22% of the men and only 16% of the women received fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships. However, only 3% of the men received research assistantships in their first year, compared with 2% of the women, a difference smaller than that revealed in the more recent survey. Almost the same number of men and women had other types of employment during their first year of graduate study. Moreover, a larger proportion of women relied on their own savings, spouses' earnings, or support from parents or relatives. Few students were dependent on loans of any kind.

Table 26 discusses current sources of financial support for advanced study; that is, support during the 1971 academic year, much nearer in time to the survey of graduate deans. In this case, 58% of the men and only 42% of the women were receiving fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships. The differences by sex in awarding research assistantships confirms data from the dean's survey: 19% of the men but only 6% of the women held research positions. Moreover, at this later time (compared with first-year financial information), both men and women relied equally on other sources to finance their studies, such as personal savings, spouses' rarnings, or support from parents and relatives. The 1961 freshmen still in graduate school in 1971 had probably used up most institutional or government support. Awards are not made to students in their fifth year of graduate work.

To determine relationships between financial aid awards and institutional and student characteristics, a series of regressions was run to explain differences among institutions in proportions of men and women



receiving various awards, the differences between the proportions of men and women receiving certain types of awards, and differences in dollar values. Interinstitutional differences were assessed by such factors as institutional affluence, Roose-Andersen ratings, the proportion of doctoral work in the natural sciences enrollments, and the proportion of women faculty. In addition, several student control variables were inserted: average graduate record examination (GRE) scores of applicants, the proportion of graduates married, and the proportion of women graduates. These data are available for less than 50 institutions, so the validity of the regressions must not be overemphasized. No regression tables are presented but the more pertinent results are summarized.

Institutional affluence had surprisingly little effect on any dependent variable, except that wealthier institutions tended to provide larger stipends for teaching assistantships. With nonservice awards, a negative relationship existed between total enrollment and the proportion of each sex receiving an award. A negative relationship also existed between the proportion of women with teaching assistantships and total enrollment.

Confirming an earlier hypothesis about more available aid in the natural sciences, a significantly positive relationship existed between the proportion of women receiving nonservice awards and the proportion of PhDs with degrees in the natural sciences. Also, the relationship between the proportion of doctorates in the natural sciences and the value of awards for research and teaching assistantships to women was positive. Hence, in institutions emphasizing the natural sciences, women received more nonservice awards or were paid more when award, required work. Those institutions with a larger proportion of women on the faculty had the smallest proportion of women with nonservice awards. Institutions with



the most women faculty had the smallest proportion of men and women with research assistantships. The relationship between the proportion of women faculty and the value of research assistantships was also negative. These relationships are probably due to women faculty clustering in such fields as humanities, where the fewest funds are available.

Institutions with the best students, as measured by average GRE scores, have the largest proportion of both men and women with nonservice awards. The relationship between the proportion of women receiving both research and teaching assistantships and average GRE scores was negative. Institutions with less able students were more likely to award women research or teaching assistantships, while institutions with higher quality students were more likely to award women nonservice grants. The relationship between the average GRE score and the dollar value of research and teaching assistantships is positive, implying that better students received better paying work arrangements.

In the regression analysis the proportion of men or women who are married had few systematic relationships. Generally, a smaller proportion of students of one sex received awards, and those awards were smaller when more students of that sex were married. For example, schools with more married men awarded men lower stipends for their research and teaching assistantships. However, institutions in which a larger proportion of graduate students were married women provided women nonservice stipends with greater value. The proportion of PhDs awarded to women was never significant in any financial aid variable regression.

These variables explain approximately 50% of the interinstitutional differences in the percentage of men and women students with nonservice awards. In assessing the proportion receiving research and teaching



assistantships and the value of all types of awards, these variables did not explain anywhere near 50% of the variance among institutions. Besides the conclusion that institutions with better students give a larger proportion of them nonservice awards, the major finding concerns the relationship between emphasis on natural sciences, as evidenced by the proportion of PhDs in the natural sciences and by the proportion of women faculty, and aid available to women. In most cases, significant variables did not have differential effects in explaining financial aid awards for men and women.

Regressions to explain the <u>differences</u> in the proportion of men and women awarded various aid show the same results. Institutions emphasizing natural sciences gave less advantage to men in financial aid awards.

Larger institutions favored men less in research and more in teaching assistantships. Where a larger proportion of the women were married, a larger proportion of the research assistantships were made to men. Institutions in which GRE scores for men were better favored men in several kinds of awards. In assessing differences in propensity to award men or women, this study could explain little of the interinstitutional difference.

What can one conclude from the evidence presented here? First, any conclusions must be tempered by the finding that reports from graduate deans reveal less discrimination in financial aid than reports from students. However, the observations here are based on data from the deans which are more recent than those from students and, clearly, discrimination by sex has declined each year. Be that as it may, the share of awards to each sex, as a proportion of applicants, is at least equal, with the successful application rate of women slightly higher than that of men. Despite this, differences by field do appear, with women receiving a disproportionately large number of financial aid awards compared with their



enrollment in the physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering, and fewer awards, given enrollment, in the life and social sciences. Overall, women receive proportionately less financial aid than men (according to the follow-up of 1961 freshmen), a not inconsistent finding, since a much larger proportion of women are enrolled in life and social sciences, and arts and humanities (the latter group is not included in the statistics in Table 20). It is in precisely those fields where women's enrollments are smallest that financial aid is most available. Institutions in general should be commended for their equal treatment of the sexes in distributing money under institutional control.

However, women consistently receive fewer research assistantships and a larger share of teaching assistantships and other service awards. The sparse data do not confirm the generally held hypothesis that the dollar value of awards to men is greater.

Although a few more women take loans, these loans are smaller. And, of course, men benefit much more than women from the GI bill.

Since women are less likely to take large loans and men have greater access to the GI bill, equal distribution of other student aid will not result in equal ability to finance education. To make financing graduate work as easy for women as for men would necessitate allocating service and nonservice awards disproportionately in favor of women. This would be asking a great deal of an institution.



## Chapter 6

## Summary and Conclusions

Those who charge blatant, malevolent discrimination by the graduate institutions in the United States apparently are basing their accusations on weak evidence. Although some differential treatment of men and women students seeking the PhD degree exists, differences are not as great as certain experiences of individual students imply.

In particular, a greater proportion of women than men who apply to graduate school are accepted. Data in Chapter 2 reveal that, despite popular misconceptions, women applicants to graduate school are not significantly superior to men applicants, if one evaluates student quality by graduate record examination (GRE) scores. However, college grades of women applicants are higher than those of men. Evidently, greater proportions of women are admitted where the GRE is a small consideration in the admissions process. If discrimination in admissions exists, it is concentrated in the most elite institutions. Some evidence also obtains that women are more conservative in the selection of institutions to which they apply (or their self-esteem is lower and they apply to lower quality institutions). This conservatism might be due, in part, to recognition that the probability of acceptance or of a financial aid award is lower at some institutions. Decision making by admissions committees appears somewhat different for men and women, but the process apparently does not hurt women's chances for acceptance.

Some argue that to encourage women to attend graduate school for



a doctorate is wasteful, because other responsibilities, primarily toward family, will force them to spend more years and use more resources than men to obtain the degree. That women are older at the time they receive the doctorate is due to their delay in entering graduate school, rather than to more time spent in school. In terms of years of study for the doctorate, women do not take longer than men. All students regardless of sex tend to complete the doctorate faster in the hard sciences, where there are fewer women.

On the one hand, this finding implies that outside responsibilities are not costing society more per degree for women doctorates. On the other hand, it implies that some barriers allegedly imposed by the institutions, faculty, administrators, and so forth are not as great as has been thought. If women are being hindered in their pursuit of the doctorate, they would spend more years getting it. Of course, since the data refer only to completers, not much is known about the barriers that faced the women who dropped out.

Apparently, women do not move from institution to institution for their graduate work any more frequently than men. Some argue that women must follow their husbands around the country, so they will attend more graduate schools before receiving their PhDs. It does appear, however, that in selecting institutions, women are not as mobile, do not move out of their home state, and concentrate in urban areas more often than men. Marriage appears to stabilize women, rather than cause them to move excessively.

In terms of financial aid, some differences exist between the sexes. Although approximately equal proportions of men and women



students receive financial aid, more men receive research assistantships and more women teaching assistantships. This distribution tends
to confirm an oftheld belief that men professors are more inclined to
work with men than with women students. If a research assistantship
is an important factor in professional development, men benefit more
than women. However, women do tend to concentrate in fields where
research assistantships are rare. In the hard sciences, women who
apply for assistance do better in overall aid than men, but they
still receive a relatively small share of research assistantships.
Few women are enrolled in or graduate from hard science fields compared with the number of women in life sciences, social sciences, and
arts and humanities. The data do not show the share of research assistantships going to women in such fields as psychology, where there
are both many women and a significant number of research awards.

Women appear to receive their fair share of financial aid, whether this fair share is defined in terms of numbers that enroll or numbers that apply. Much of the observed disadvantage of women comes through different distribution of men and women among fields.

No evidence was uncovered of any significant difference in size of the stipends for mer, and women; the evidence in this study showing slight advantages for men is quite weak since the data cover only 50 institutions.

Apparently, more men than women are willing to incur debts by taking out loans. Men also have an additional source of aid through the GI bill. If these two means of financing education are added to the otherwise relatively equal arrangements for men and women in terms of institutional, government, and other types of support, they tip the



balance in favor of men.

A larger proportion of women say they did not enroll in their first-choice institution because they received better financial aid offers from less preferred institutions. However, fewer women than men enroll in non-first choice institutions. No analysis was made of award offers to members of each sex by institutional quality, but one can infer that men might be favored for financial aid at the best institutions— those that would normally be the first choice of all students.

One wonders to what extent the universities are responsible for the different experiences of men and women. Perhaps more effort could be made to recruit women into fields where they have not traditionally enrolled. If such an effort were made, the quality of women students would change in the hard sciences, where now only very top-quality women enter. This change might lead to equality between men and women in financial aid, where now the few women there are favored. That men are doing better in terms of aid in the so-called "feminine" fields is probably due to the greater variance in the quality of women there. Also, these fields may be attempting to attract more men to increase their status. However, if men are favored in these fields, institutions might take some steps to redress this imbalance. Moreover, explicit attempts to award women more research rather than teaching assistantships might be useful.

Encouragement for women to enter the hard sciences must be supplemented by greater efforts at the high school and undergraduate level to attract women to the prerequisite courses. To start solving the



problem at a level as advanced as graduate school is difficult. However, most differences in financial aid patterns and in time required to obtain the degree are related to differences in the distribution of men and women by field.

A relatively small (but growing) proportion of doctorates are awarded to women (under 20% in 1973), implying that graduate schools should make a greater effort to recruit, financially support, and encourage women students. However, unless they do meet the graduate prerequisites, particularly the requirements of the best schools, it is impossible for the graduate schools to attract qualified women: graduate schools cannot attract what is not there. Hence, one must advocate greater consciousness in high school and college of the desirability of women obtaining advanced degrees. The graduate schools cannot be blamed for a socialization and conditioning process that begins in America virtually at birth.

However, facilitating mechanisms certainly could be installed in the universities: day care centers, proper medical care, special class schedules to assist women with families, wider credit transferability, reduced residence requirements, and acceptance of part-time students, perhaps even awarding financial aid for part-time work.

But, these lists are provided too often without additional thought. If day care centers are desirable and in demand, why cannot some private individual establish one or more near major university centers? Presumably, if the benefits were worth the cost, many potential graduate women would make use of them. The cost of day care facilities should be included in needs criteria for financial aid for women. But



could it be that families decide that the benefits of graduate education for women are less than the benefits to children of having their mother at home?

Similarly, why does the family situation place almost all the burden on women? Although this societal norm is long-standing, apparently a tendency is developing toward sharing family responsibilities between husband and wife. That women in this society tend to carry the burden may not be blamed on graduate institutions themselves.

Similar cases might be made for the small number of women who receive the doctorate. Certainly, society conditions women to seek other paths. However, some women, who have not been braa washed by society, of their own free will might choose other paths more frequently than their masculine peers. One must not lay too much blame on the graduate schools, although one can produce lists of steps they might take to make graduate education easier for women.

One reason this study was undertaken was to question the necessity and value of affirmative action programs in the graduate schools. Unfortunately, time-series data are not available to observe changes in sex differences in graduate schools over, perhaps, the last ten years. However, the snapshot of the years 1972 to 1974 promotes confidence that women are not doing too badly. Whether this finding can be attributed to affirmative action legislation or whether it merely reflects changing attitudes in society is undetermined. Discrimination by graduate schools in faculty hiring, promotion, pay, and the like has not been discussed here. Possibly legislation is necessary to stimulate equality at the postgraduate level. A more positive attitude



toward women faculty in hiring, promotion, and pay could provide women students with more appropriate role models and might attract more women students to an institution. However, for whatever reasons, it appears that women graduate students, at this time in history, are not an underprivileged minority.



## Appendix A: A Survey of Graduate School Catalogs

At least two reasons emerge for looking at the degree of sexism in 'graduate school catalogs. First, these documents are really the only significant, generally available "consumer information" produced by institutions. Although general impressions of institutional quality, available aid, and advice from undergraduate teachers probably determine the initial interest of students, the catalogs may give more concrete impressions to potential applicants, playing a subtle role in the decision of whether or not to apply to a particular graduate school.

Second, the catalogs reveal the degree of explicit institutional sensitivity toward sex differences. An institution that is not careful to take sexism out of its catalogs probably lacks awareness of other factors relative to discrimination against women graduate students.



Some 213 graduate school catalogs were examined for their indirect appeal to women through use of masculine and feminine pronouns, their direct appeal through civil rights statements, and for the sex of people in photographs.

Some educators have suggested that more women students could be recruited for technical and professional programs by such techniques as eliminating masculine pronouns and using pictures of women in publicity.

#### Method

A mimeographed letter requesting a current (1973-74) graduate catalog was sent to each institution on the Council of Graduate Schools or the National Academy of Science lists of graduate degree-granting institutions. Requests were sent to institutions with master's programs only and to graduate subdivisions, e.g., Yale University, Graduate School of Forestry. The master's-only institutions were later excluded from the survey and the responses of subdivisions combined with the main graduate schools' statistics. Eventually, the catalog analysis was limited to the 239 doctoral-granting institutions, of which 213 sent a graduate catalog. If a catalog contained information on both the graduate and undergraduate programs, only the graduate section was studied (with the exception of a direct appeal statement in the introduction).

#### Results

#### Direct Appeal

Those catalogs classified as making a direct appeal to women did one



or more of the following:

- 1. Made a civil rights compliance statement that included the word sex.
- 2. Used words men and women in describing the student body.
- 3. Used term coeducational to describe the institution.

Some 37% of the catalogs included at least one of the above; 63% included none of the above.

The institutions that made an appeal to women usually did so in the first few pages of the catalog. The appeal was frequently a standard sentence on civil rights compliance which included the word <a href="mailto:sex">sex</a>, or a statement such as "...we encourage applications from qualified men and women." In at least a dozen catalogs, civil rights statements appeared that <a href="excluded">excluded</a> the word <a href="mailto:sex">sex</a>.

No catalog made a specific statement like "We want women students." (Texas Women's University said it accepted men only to comply with civil rights laws and only in majors with federal dealings.)

#### Pronoun Reference

Schools were classified as follows:

M - Masculine pronouns only.

M and F - Masculine and feminine pronouns together (i.e., he/she or his and her).

N (neutral or neither sex used) - Pronouns that could be applied to either sex (i.e., their, your)

If the words <u>he</u>, <u>his</u>, or <u>him</u> were used five times, the institution was listed as a user of masculine pronouns. This designation was rather arbitrary, and in some instances it could be conferred after one paragraph.

Approximately 82.63% (176) used M only; 4.23% (9) used M and F; 11.27% (24) used N; and 1.88% (4) used combinations.



#### Photographs

Categories included:

None - No pictures or only pictures of buildings, landscapes, etc.

Both - Pictures of both men and women.

Men - Pictures of men only.

Of the catalogs, 52.58% (112) had no pictures or only pictures of buildings, etc.; 43.19% (92) had both men and women in pictures; and 4.23% (9) had only men in pictures.

Institutions that pictures only men included:

California Institute of Technology

City University of New York

Duke University

Institute of Paper Technology

U. S. Naval Postgraduate School

Texas A and M University

University of Missoula, Rolla

University of South Dakota

University of Texas, Arlington

Seven of these nine institutions also used only masculine pronouns and did not make an appeal to women.

#### Women's Studies

Only 1.4% (3) of the schools had a graduate program in women's studies listed in the catalog:

University of South Florida

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

George Washington University



The balance--98.6% (210)--listed no women's studies.

Of the 213 catalogs, 4.7% (10) demonstrated <u>no</u> favoritism, used F pronouns, made an appeal to women, and did not use only men in photographs:

Georgia State University

Indiana State University

Middlebury College

Smith College

Texas Women's University (direct appeal to men)

University of Michigan

University of North Dakota

University of Oregon

South Dakota School of Technology

# Significance

Findings of the catalog analysis appear to indicate unconscious rather than conscious attempts to exclude women. However, the present picture is discouraging.

A review of institutional reports on the status of women faculty and graduate students revealed that several reports include recommendations to change the references in institutional documents to include both masculine and feminine nouns and photographs of men and women faculty and students.

One such institution was City University of New York, which in this analysis had only photographs of men. A report to the chancellor recommended that the university amend its bylaws to include a clear statement prohibiting sex discrimination in employment, admissions, and publications.

There seems to be a growing awareness of the subtle aversive effect of



precluding the mention and appearance of women in college catalogs. A survey of 1974-75 catalogs might find women better represented.



#### Appendix B

Doctoral-Granting Institutions That Provided
Useable Data on Acceptable Rates

Alfred University

Auburn University

Ball State University

Baylor University

Boston University

Brigham Young University

Brown University

Case Western Reserve University

Catholic University of America

City University of New York

Claremont Graduate School

Clarkson College of Technology

College of William and Mary

Colorado School of Mines

Colorado State University

Drexel University

Duke University

Emory University

'lorida State University

Georgetown University

George Washington University

Harvard University

Indiana State University



## Appendix B (Continued)

Institute of Paper Chemistry Iowa State University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Miami University Michigan State University Montana State University Naval Postgraduate School Neward College of Engineering New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology New School for Social Research Northeastern University North Texas State University Northewestern University Occidental University Ohio State University Oklahoma State Universicy

Rutgers, the State University

Pennsylvania State University

Polytechnic Institute of New York

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

Southdakota State University

Southern Methodist University

Stanford University

Princeton University

SUNY, Binghamton



## Appendix B (Continued)

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

SUNY, Stony Brook

Syracuse University

Texas Christian University

Tufts University

Union College and University

United States International University

University of Albama

University of California, Irvine

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Connecticut

University of Dayton

University of Denver

University of Florida

University of Hawaii

University of Houston

University of Maine

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina, Greensboro

University of North Dakota

University of Northern Colorado

University of Notre Dame

University of Oregon

University of Texas-Arlington



# Appendix B (Continued)

University of Texas at Austin

University of Tulsa

University of Vermont

Villanova University

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Wake Forest University

Wayne State University

Wesleyan University

Yale University



#### APPENDIX C

#### A Survey of Institutional Studies

Concern about the possibility of discrimination on college campuses has prompted numerous reports by individual institutions. A survey of 33 reports was conducted to determine how different institutions perceive discrimination and what recommendations they make to eliminate injustice. All reports are from doctoral-granting institutions; investigations ranged from faculty salaries to undergraduate admissions. Because the documents were written by individuals or committees for different purposes, their focus and tone vary. (See Table A for a breakdown of individual reports.)

The majority of the reports were written by ad hoc committees appointed to investigate discrimination. About half these committees were composed entirely of women; the balance contained men. Faculty members almost always participated in the investigations, and at least half the groups included students. Only one surveyed report originated in a student group.

The high proportion of faculty members on investigative committees reflects the major target of study: the representation and treatment of women in faculty and administrative ranks. Twenty studies dealt with issues relevant to graduate students, suggesting interrelated treatment of women graduate students and faculty. Fewer studies addressed the conditions of staff members (11) and undergraduate students (14). In an ambitious report of the City University of New York's 20 campuses, the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women "began its work with two hypotheses: first, that discrimination against women would likely be found within the CUNY system and second, that the operating policies and practices of CUNY affected all women in the system" (p. 4). Although many investigators acknowledged the need to study women in all positions, lack of time, staff or financing



caused them to focus on the status of faculty women.

The motivation to set up investigative committees most frequently came from administrators, such as presidents, chancellors, or deans.

Seven committees were established on the recommendation of faculty bodies.

Chapters of the American Association of University Professors requested four of the studies. At eight of the institutions, concerned individuals organized themselves to study discrimination. One such group, representing the associated students at the University of Washington, instigated its study because of "the troubling recognition that the status of women in American academic institutions has actually deteriorated in the last four decades" (p.2). The group at the University of Washington, as at many institutions, was familiar with reports written by other campus groups and felt a need "to do the same in hopes of identifying problems and facilitating change" (p. 2).

The researchers at different institutions encountered various receptions in their attempts to acquire institutional data. Some reports gratefully credited the helpfulness of university offices, while others pointed out the inadequacy of the institution's record-keeping systems. One committee of women at the University of Pittsburgh thought their efforts were blocked by the administration. In their words, "The University. . . displayed an exemplary ability to stall, issue high-sounding policy statements which signify nothing, and cloud true issues with charges that we do not represent the women of the university" (p. 2). Most researchers gathered data from many sources: institutional data banks, personnel files, budget and payroll reports, and college catalogs. More than one-third of the investigations included surveys of faculty and/or students which utilized questionnaires.

Nine reports incorporated information acquired through personal interviews.



Public hearings were held by five institutions; CUNY published its testimony in a condensed version, Public Hearings Testimony: An Edited Summary and Evaluation, in October 1972.

The general outlook for women on college carpuses as presented in the majority of reports appears poer. With the exception of Indiana State University, which reported favorable employment opportunities for women faculty, the institutions outlined conditions that need attention. Yale reported that "a genuine problem does, in fact, exist. As the situation now stands, an unacceptably high fraction of advanced students at Yale do not reach the professional fulfillment to which their training ought to entitle them" (p. 2). Likewise, through their study, the commissioners at Carnegie-Mellon University perceived the institution as "a place where women do not enjoy full equity with men" (p. 10). CUNY concluded that "women as a group are not treated equitably throughout the CUNY system. Moreover, CUNY is fraught with sex typing of educational and occupational categories and is therefore unable to provide a full range of opportunities to individuals regardless of sex" (p. 6).

The most frequently voiced finding was that women are inadequately represented in prestige positions. "The Higher, the Fewer" is the title of the University of Michigan report, which succinctly states the problem. The percentage of women employed as professors and assistant or associate professors ranges from 28.5% at the University of Kansas to 3% at Yale. The University of Chicago, which reported that women constituted 7.3% of the regular teaching faculty in spring 1969 (excluding 7% of the Department of Physical Education), made a distinction between "elite" universities and other universities. "The overall figure is considerably below the average for all universities, but it compares favorably, so far as we have



been able to ascertain, with those universities which, like the University of Chicago, view themselves as 'elite.' These 'elite' universities generally have smaller numbers of women on their faculties than do other universities" (p. 1). Certain institutions in small towns or rural areas pointed out the difficulty of attracting women to their faculties.

The small number of women in faculty positions results in what Princeton referred to as "a total lack of adequate role models" for graduate and undergraduate sutdents. Harvard University mentioned a related problem: "The absence of women in the upper ranks of the regular faculty has created among female members a general feeling of isolation. Women faculty members voice exactly the same sense of being intruders in a male institution that Radcliffe students express about their participation in Harvard College" (p. 7).

However, women who do achieve a position of status in the "elite" institutions receive a salary comparable to that of men. At Harvard, the committee "discovered no case of a women in a regular faculty appointment who is paid less than her male counterpart" (p. 5). Eighteen reports found unexplainable discrepencies between men's and women's salaries. Women have difficulty receiving promotions, according to 21 reports, and obtaining tenure, according to 10 reports. Fourteen reports discussed university policies that disadvantage women faculty. Although most institutions have relaxed nepotism rules, policy statements in faculty handbooks can be ambiguous and their interpretation may be left to individual departments. Some institutions do not have maternity leaves for women or equal medical and insurance benefits for faculty men and women. Some reports mentioned the desirability of parttime assignments for interested full—time faculty, an option rarely permitted.



their findings inconclusive. In some instances, conflicting records were received from different offices. Some reports commented that the numbers of men and women accepted do not indicate discriminatory trends unless the numbers of applicants and their qualifications are also considered. The University of North Dakota reported that "while some departments may be collecting data to compare the characteristics of applicants with admitted students, the Graduate School does not have such data" (p. 3). An obvious need for this information exists at most institutions. Only three reports claimed that their institution's admissions appeared unequal, and this was due in part to quota systems. Six investigations concluded that discrimination in admissions does not occur. Their judgments were based on evidence that an equal or greater proportion of women who apply are accepted, a system of analysis that does not consider qualifications.

In assessing whether fellowship and scholarship money is fairly distributed, investigators again ran into difficulties obtaining meaningful data. Five reports explained that a definitive statement about the allotment of financial aid was not possible. Six reports stated that money did not appear to be granted equally to men and women, but thought factors other than discrimination could be accountable. Only one institution, the University of North Dakota, contended that financial aid figures demonstrate equal treatment of men and women. Some institutions that surveyed students found that sources of support vary by sex, but this finding does not necessarily illustrate unfair treatment by the institution. In some cases, women receive an equal proportion of awards but smaller amounts of money. Some institutions explained that women usually apply for scholarships in such fields as humanities, where less financial aid is available. Certain institutions, such as Harvard, recently abandoned policies disallowing two married students to receive financial support.



Related to financial aid is the question of whether men and women have equal access to on-campus employment as teaching or research assistants. Only four reports discussed this issue; three concluded that women are disadvantaged. Women also seem to receive fewer postgraduation jobs through departmental ties or career placement centers. Ohio University found that "a higher percentage of men than of women students are being placed successfully in University and off-campus jobs by the Office of Student Financial Aids. Men tend to find traditional 'male' jobs, while women tend to find traditional 'female' jobs" (p. vi). Among problems related to women's job searches are lack of publicity for job openings, requests by employers for men interviewees, and complaints by women about discriminatory hiring. The Carnegie-Mellon report noted that "more women than men use the Bureau of Placement, but a smaller proportion of women are successfully placed in jobs. Although it is undoubtedly true that it is more difficult to place women students in good jobs, given the sex bias of many employers, the Commission felt that the existence of such external prejudice should motivate the Bureau of Placements to take extraordinary measures to assist women students and alumnae who are seeking jobs or need job counseling" (p. 3).

The consensus of virtually every institution that investigated the circumstances of women graduate students was that campus environments do not adequately provide for women's needs. The lack of child care facilities and the difficulty of arranging part-time studies were mentioned frequently. At some institutions, the monetary allowance for men's athletics far exceeds that for women. Housing is often more expensive for single women, and married student housing has only become available in the last few years to women on some campuses, such as the University of Washington. Women at Ohio University. At have been prevented from joining the school's marching band, "which is most



clearly identified with school pride" (p. vii).

Closely linked with inadequate provisions for women is a general campus atmosphere that often discourages women students. A survey by the University of Chicago revealed "an underlying set of attitudes in both faculty and students that women are not receiving their full share of rewards and encouragement on this campus" (p. 60). Similarly, the University of South Florida stated that "a continuing question among those who study the status of University women is whether or not women are discouraged by counselors and professors as they seek advanced degrees; and the consensus is that they are" (p. 9). The Yale committee believed that the university's reputation of inhospitality to women is firmly entrenched, even off campus. "Yale obviously has a 'male chauvanist' image. It is considered to be a school dominated by men of Cld Blue tradition where women are tolerated only. Obviously this is an image which we will find very difficult to shake off. Whether or not Yale is 'male chauvanist' or has been in the recent past, positive steps are needed in order to change this view that others have of us."

Yale's primary recommendation for improvement, and that of many other institutions, is to hire more faculty women. At one open hearing at Harvard, President Bunting of Radcliffe urged that more women be hired. In her opinion, "a great many people on the faculty haven't had the experience of working with able women on a professionally equal level for a great many years . . . and this has had some very unfortunate effects" (p. 18). Harvard proposes to establish as a rough guideline that "the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences strive to achieve a percentage of women in its tenured ranks equal to the percentage of women receiving PhD's from Harvard ten years ago (9.6% in 1959-60) and a percentage of women in the non-tenured ranks equal to the percentage of women receiving PhD's today (19% in 1968-69)" (pp. 32-33).



It is understandable that Ivy League schools, where coeducation has only recently been established, face difficulties in accommodating women. Affirmative action guidelines are requesting that all institutions with government contracts make reasonable efforts to eliminate the inequities that have resulted in the past.

In their recommendations, most institutions requested that a continuing post or committee be founded to perpetuate research in women's treatment and to process grievances. The person or group would be charged with implementing policies that counteract existing inequalities. These institutions hope that women will hold positions of authority and make decisions beneficial to women faculty and students. These decisions should concern salary equalization, recruitment and advancement of faculty women, more accurate and publicized records of faculty and student data, and the special needs of women of all ages. Improving conditions for women will inadvertantly improve the circumstances of men, too.

The various reports generally agreed that discrimination may be unintentional. The University of Chicago concluded that "by-and-large the problems that can be alleviated by changes in University procedures stem more from faults of omission than of commission, more from lack of awareness than from deliberate acts of discrimination" (p. 57). And Ohio University suggested that "it is true that men are only now becoming concerned about the University's unequal treatment of women, but women must share the blame because they have quietly accepted the back seat for years" (p. 47).

The reports indicate hope for the advancement of women in higher education.

As summarized by the University of Michigan, "accurate information regularly disseminated is a powerful instrument of change. Discriminatory structures and behavior thrive in the absence of information but suffer the light of public knowledge" (p. 32).



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