

# Physically Handicapped College Graduates

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**E**IGHTY-TWO handicapped students have received degrees from the Kansas State Teachers College since 1954 when this institution began altering its physical facilities and making provisions in new construction to accommodate students with physical disabilities. Since the first of these students graduated there has been a steady increase in enrollment of severely disabled at the college.

In the fall semester of the 1962-1963 academic year KSTC had a total enrollment of 4,920 and of this number 89 (57 males and 32 females) were classified as physically disabled by the Vocational Rehabilitation Service. The range of disabilities in general categories are: four blind; three deaf; three cardiac; 20 wheel chair (mostly post-polio); and the 59 remaining primarily orthopedic handicaps not requiring wheel chairs.

The classification of these students is as follows: 35 freshman; 21 sophomores; 17 juniors; 14 seniors; and two graduate students.

Because of the comparatively large numbers of handicapped students matriculating at, and graduating from KSTC, this pilot study was instituted for the purpose of determining both training satisfaction and job satisfaction on the part of the graduates. Specifically, answers to the following questions were sought: 1. level of education attained and major field of study, 2. professional, administrative, clerical, or other position of employment, 3. adequacy of training to meet occupational demands, 4. job satisfaction,

and 5. marital and family status.

## Procedure

Correct mailing addresses were available for 72 of the 82 handicapped students who have earned degrees from the college. Questionnaires were sent to this group and complete information was received from 40 males and 22 females for a total of 62, or 86 per cent, returns. Two persons are teaching in foreign countries and were not contacted.

## Results

Twenty-seven men were found to hold the B.S. degree, five the B.A. degree, seven the M.S. degree, and one the M.A. degree. Nine of this group are currently engaged in either full or part-time graduate school work and 23 report plans for additional education. Seventeen women report they hold the B.S. degree, two the B.A. degree, two the M.S. degree, and one the Education Specialist degree. Six are now candidates for graduate degrees and 12 state they have plans for additional education.

The undergraduate majors were reported as follows: art—1 man, 1 woman; accounting—6 men; biological science—3 men; business administration—6 men, 1 woman; business education—6 men, 5 women; elementary education—4 men, 6 women; English—2 men, 5 women; home economics—1 woman; Industrial Arts—1 man; Library Science—2 women; music education—1 woman; physical science or mathematics—3 men; psychology—2 men; and social science—6 men. Undergraduate and graduate degrees and majors are shown in TABLE I.

As expected the majority of these graduates, 35 men (87 per cent) and

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18 women (82 per cent) received degrees in education. The general handicapping condition and occupational field for both sexes is reported in TABLE 2. The men reporting occupations other than in education are as follows: 7 accounting, 2 railroad management, 2 business management, 1 schedule planner, 1 social worker, 2 college graduate assistants, and 1 unemployed. One each of the following occupations was listed by the four women not employed in education: secretary, dietician, medical librarian, and bookkeeper.\*

The total of 38 men and 14 women reported they are steadily employed at the present time. All of them indicated personal satisfaction with their jobs and working conditions although the large number planning additional

education suggests many aspire to increase both their position and salary.

Thirty-two (82 per cent) of the men and 19 (86 per cent) of the women indicated the training received at KSTC was adequate to secure satisfactory employment. Additional specialized training or on-the-job training was required by the remainder in both groups. Included in this training was preparation for teaching the deaf,

\* Marital status and size of family was also determined. In this case six women (27 per cent) are now unemployed because of marriage and family status. They report from one to three children with the average of two per family. One woman reported divorced status. It was found that 21 (54 per cent) of the men were married and 10 of them reported from one to five children with the average of two per family.

TABLE 1  
DEGREES HELD IN MAJOR FIELDS  
BY PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED GRADUATES

Major		Degrees Held				
		B.A.	B.S.	M.A.	M.S.	Ed. S.
Art	M				1	
	F					1
Accounting	M	1	7			
	F					
Biology	M		3			
	F					
Business Admin.	M	2	4		1	
	F		1			
Business Educ.	M		4		1	
	F		5		1	
Elementary Educ.	M		3		1	
	F		6		1	
English	M		2		1	
	F		4			
Home Economics	M					
	F		1			
Industrial Arts	M		1			
	F					
Library Science	M					
	F	2				
Phys. Sc. & Math.	M	1			1	
	F					
Psychology	M					
	F		1			
Social Science	M					
	F		3	1	1	
Totals	M	4	28	1	7	0
	F	2	17	0	2	1

**TABLE 2**  
**HANDICAP AND OCCUPATIONAL FIELD OF**  
**PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED GRADUATES**

<i>Handicap</i>	<i>Men</i>			<i>Women</i>		
	<i>Teaching</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Teaching</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Orthopedic						
nonwheel chair	10	4	14	7	2	9
wheel chair*	6	4	9	4	1	5
Amputees	3	1	4	0	0	0
Cardiac	2	0	2	0	0	0
Speech	0	2	2	0	0	0
Sight	0	2	2	1	0	1
Hearing	1	0	1	1	0	1
Neurological**	1	0	1	3	1	4
Unknown	2	3	5	2	0	2
Totals	26	14	40	18	4	22

\* Includes two unemployed males, one unemployed female who refused teaching jobs for personal reasons.

\*\* Mostly Cerebral Palsey and Spastic.

teaching the blind, social work, rehabilitation counseling, and several accountants who needed training for specific requirements of industry. All subjects except two women (secretary and bookkeeper) are employed on a professional level. In addition it was found four of the men are employed in an administrative capacity.

### Summary

Increased enrollment of physically handicapped students suggests that colleges and universities across the country will be asked to provide increasing service for disabled students.

Data from this study seems to indicate physically handicapped graduates of KSTC are successfully competing for, and satisfactorily performing in a variety of professional level occupations. The field of education, in particular, seems to be well suited for a great number of them. Also, these graduates seem to be satisfied with their training facilities and their present positions.

Continued investigation, especially in regard to counseling and placement services are expected to further emphasize the value of college training for many of the physically disabled.

### *Mechanical Technology Curriculum Described*

The *Mechanical Technology Curriculum Guide* presents a suggested 2-year curriculum in mechanical design technology and mechanical production technology. It offers course outlines, laboratory layouts, texts and references, and sample instructional materials. It may be used, too, in evaluating existing programs.

The cost of this guide is 70 cents and may be obtained by writing Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.