UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK

BACKGROUND, ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS OF CADETS (TRENDS)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
JANUARY 1975
This report shows trends in characteristics and attitudes obtained from two sources. The first fifteen charts show trends of characteristics of new cadets for the Classes of 1970 through 1978 as found on American Council on Education surveys given to the entering classes for the last nine years. Comparisons are shown with national norms of college freshmen where appropriate. Charts sixteen through thirty-three show trends of attitudes and opinions of cadet First Classmen as indicated on First Class Questionnaires given to cadets shortly before graduation.

NOTE: Any conclusions in this report are not to be construed as official U.S. Military Academy or Department of the Army positions unless so designated by other authorized documents.
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INTRODUCTION

The United States Military Academy has participated every year since 1966 in the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), an ongoing longitudinal study of the American higher education system. The American Council on Education (ACE), which initiated this program, has furnished a report each year on characteristics of students entering the Military Academy as well as national normative data on characteristics of students entering college as first-time, full-time freshmen. The survey instrument, the Student Information Form (SIP), is revised annually to reflect the changing concerns of the academic community and of others who use the information.

The first fifteen charts of this report show trends of characteristics of USMA entering cadets as indicated by answers to questions which were asked at least four of the nine years. Where appropriate, the national norms are shown for comparison.

Charts sixteen through thirty-three show trends of attitudes and opinions of cadet First Classmen as indicated on First Class Questionnaires given to cadets shortly before graduation. These questionnaires, which were given to the Classes of 1957 through 1963 and to the Classes of 1967 through 1974, were prepared and revised each year by the Office of the Director of Institutional Research and by its predecessor activities at USNA. The answers to certain questions which were asked for several years are shown to indicate trends.

Additional information on the results of the American Council on Education Surveys and the First Class Questionnaires can be obtained by reviewing the appropriate reports as shown in the list of references following the charts.
Agree strongly or somewhat that the chief benefit of a college education is monetary.

USMA Cadets

National Norm

Agree strongly or somewhat that colleges have the right to regulate students off campus.

USMA Cadets

National Norm

CLASS 71 72 73 74 75 76 77
Agree strongly or somewhat that students should help evaluate the faculty.

USMA Cadets

National Norm

Agree strongly or somewhat that student publications should be cleared by college officials.

USMA Cadets

National Norm

CLASS 71 72 73 74 75 76 77
Agree strongly or somewhat that college officials have been too lax on student protests on campus.

Agree strongly or somewhat that college has the right to ban speakers.

Agree strongly or somewhat that disadvantaged students should be given preferential treatment in admissions.
College has a very good academic reputation.

Special educational programs offered.

Low Tuition.

Relatives wanted me to go.
Probable Career Occupation (USMA Cadets).

Military Career
Engineer
Doctor, Lawyer, or Clergyman
## Probable Major Field of Study (USNA Cadets)

- **Engineering**
- **Other Fields (non-technical) includes "Military Science"**
- **Social Science (History & Political Science)**
- **Physical Science**
- **Biological Science**

Class of '74 not shown because during administration of questionnaire cadets were advised to mark their response to this question as "Military Science."
Highest Degree Planned.
- Master's (M.A. or M.S.)
- Ph.D. or Ed.D.
- M.D., D.D.S. or D.V.M.
- Bachelor's (B.A. or B.S.)
- LL.B. or J.D. (Law)
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

Religious Preference:
- Protestant
- Roman Catholic
- Jewish
- Other
- None

CLASS 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78
Estimated Family Income (converted to 1958 constant dollars).

- Median of USMA Cadets
- Median of National Norm of Male Freshmen
FATHER'S EDUCATION

College Degree or Post-graduate Degree.
- - - - - - - USMA Cadets
- - - - - - - National Norm

High School Graduate or Less.
--- --- --- USMA Cadets
--- --- --- National Norm

Some College.
- - - - - - - USMA Cadets
- - - - - - - National Norm

CLASS 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78
MOTHER'S EDUCATION

High school graduate or less.

- - - - - USMA Cadets
- - - - - National Norm

Some college.

- - - - - USMA Cadets
- - - - - National Norm

College degree or post-graduate degree.

- - - - - USMA Cadets
- - - - - National Norm

CLASS 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>57</th>
<th>58</th>
<th>59</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>61</th>
<th>62</th>
<th>63</th>
<th>73</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assigned to branch of first preference.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Will not attempt to transfer to a branch other than the one in which commissioned.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 100%
- 90%
- 80%
- 70%
- 60%
- 50%
- 40%
- 30%
- 20%
- 10%
- 0%
"Very interested" in pursuing graduate study at a civilian university.
Visited five or more officers' homes at West Point during four years here.
Answered "Definitely Yes" or "Probably Yes" to question: If you could reconsider your decision, would you now come to the U. S. Military Academy?
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: Most cadets of the First Class have a strong sense of duty.
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: The moral standards of the cadets are generally higher than those of students in civilian colleges.
Elimination standards of the Leadership Evaluation System (Aptitude System) are being kept high enough.
Answered "None," to the question: How many men of your Class in your company lack the leadership qualities which you consider essential in a West Point graduate?
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: A cadet should be left more on his own to "sink or swim."
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: The company tactical officer performs many functions which should belong to the cadet chain of command.
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: The Plebe System tends to discourage academic excellence and intellectual curiosity.
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: Most academic courses attempt to cover too much ground in the time available.
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: In general, academic courses are well constructed and stimulating.
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: Interest in academics would be higher if less time were required in class attendance and more time made available for study, reading and research.
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: Standards of achievement required by academic departments should be higher.
"Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement: The traditional "grade every day in every subject" should be replaced by periodic quizzes and final examinations in each subject.
Expect to obtain the rank of General Officer.
Chapel attendance at West Point should continue to be compulsory (agree or strongly agree).
REFERENCES


This report shows trends in characteristics and attitudes obtained from two sources. The first fifteen charts show trends of characteristics of new cadets for the Classes of 1970 through 1978 as found on the American Council on Education surveys given to the entering classes for the last nine years. Comparisons are shown with national norms of college freshmen where appropriate. Charts sixteen through thirty-three show trends of attitudes and opinions of cadet First Classmen as indicated on First Class Questionnaires given to cadets shortly before graduation.