University of Dallas UDigital Commons

Writings

The Donald and Louise Cowan Archive

1964

On the Need for Graduate Education

Donald A. Cowan *University of Dallas*

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.udallas.edu/cowan_writings

Recommended Citation

Cowan, Donald A., "On the Need for Graduate Education" (1964). Writings. Paper 4. $http://digital commons.udallas.edu/cowan_writings/4$

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Donald and Louise Cowan Archive at UDigital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Writings by an authorized administrator of UDigital Commons.

In the last few years this region has become acutely aware of the need for graduate education. Dr. Jones suggested that I discuss that need, analyze how real it is, and describe what measures are being taken to meet it. Let me begin by showing you some figures with which, I suspect, you are familiar, but which serve to orient our problem. A discussion of doctoral degrees will illustrate the Let's take a look at how the number of doctor's degrees, outside of medicine, have increased over recent years. This chart, Figure 1, illustrates the increasing rate at which doctors are being fairly It is, of course, irregular but matches pretty well to a 7% annual increase. It can be seen here that while there were some 45 PhD.'s in 1890 turned out, in 1962 there were 11,800 some odd and this past year just about 14,000. For prediction purposes we might plot this information on semilog so that the 7% shows up as a straight line. And on Figure 2, we see the increase. The two big drops occurred during the wars. Notice that the rate leveled off about 1950 and then began to drop for a few years. These years correspond to the time, seven to eight years before, /young men were being inducted into to the army. The rate now is rising at about 10% and is likely to continue this more rapid growth.

These 14,000 doctorates we are talking about are spread across several fields. We can group them into the physical sciences, which cover chemistry and physics, mathematics and engineering, biological sciences; the social sciences, including history and economics, the arts and professions, including literature, languages, law, business

administration, philosophy, fine arts and others; and education. can imagine, I suppose, that the relative number in these various fields changed over the years. This next chart shows, however,/rather surprising stability. The physical sciences continue to dominate at about 30%. Education increased from about 10% to about 15%, this gain coming at the relative expense of the arts and professions. But for the most part the distribution has been steady. AWe could look in somewhat more detail at the physical sciences. We note that chemistry is staying about steady in total production and is therefore relatively It has long been the leader but has recently been less important. surpassed by the rapidly increasing field of engineering. Engineering, we might note, is not increasing at the baccalaureate level, but, as I am in This field sure most of you have heard, graduate work is becoming a necessity. Physics and mathematics are both increasing sharply. The geo-sciences have recently leveled off, and, I suppose, will remain steady. You might be interested to know that/Texas, over the past 40 years, the most doctoral degrees have gone to education, next to biology, then to chemistry, xken followed by psychology, physics, history, English, math, and economics. There have been four times as many degrees given in education than in English. While we are playing these numbers games, way the you might be surprised to see the/percentage of women doctorates have varied in the fields since 1920. I, at least, was surprised to see that the percentage had dropped in the physical sciences, the biological sciences, the social sciences, and the arts and professions. Only teacher education has shown a slight increase in relative value. One other

and the PhD. has slightly increased in the physical sciences, more decidedly so in the arts and in education. Notice that in physics the is about 8 years now, in education about 15. Education runs high because of many (teachers) who take graduate work only in the summer.

Most of the degrees reflect a two or three year period after the work is completed before the dissertation is accepted. Mahy schools are concerned now with this long time lag, and a greater effort is being made in pushing students through. But certainly students are neglected during their graduate years and allowed to muddle unnecessarily through their research and dissertation. We should certainly like to avoid this situation in the programs we pursue here.

More than half the doctorates are given in the top 20 institutions. This concentration, however, is less marked now than it has been in the This graph showing the percentage given by the top 5, 10, 15, or the top 20 all show a declining percentage reflecting the increasing importance of the many state schools and a few new private schools. 87% of the doctorales they are respondite for, only) Whereas the top 20 once gave &x in 1920, now about 53% in the top These top 20 schools have not remained the same. notice that Columbia has remained at the top substantially from 1929 1925 on, but notice khak Chicago, starting at the top in 1920, holding at second for 25 years, then suddenly dropping to 5th, to 10th, to 14th, and, I think, still dropping. Not only the percentage has declined at Chicago, but in recent years the actual number of degrees. We might see the decline of Fordham, falling out of the top 20 in 1930 and the nse by producing Catholic U. in 1920 stood about 18th, koning about 15 a year, rose ning to of the picture in 1950. In 1961 it had 83, which put it about 35th in the country. Notre Dame had about half that many, 43. You will notice that in the South the only representative is Texas who cracked into 20th position briefly in the 1950's and now is in 23rd position with 156 doctorates.

We might take a look at the relative production of Ph.D.'s. this chart we can identify different areas by the shading on the map; squaring it up somewhat, we can see the land areas represented and then the relative population. The baccalaureate degrees produced show a relation to the population, but you will notice that the Texas region, 7, has only about half the relative importance in baccalaureate degrees and a/smaller ratio in doctorates. We notice that more than half of our students go away from this region for their doctoral studies and figures indicate they do not come back. The relative values between the population/ xxxx size and the doctoral production size is alarming. We have come to think of the science-oriented industries in our region as bringing in a great number of advanced degrees and, indeed, they do, but they do not nearly compensate for the number of doctorates who leave this region. That is, for every 8 Ph.D.'s that originate from this region, only 6 Ph.D.'s settle down here. If Ph.D.'s have any great value for our economic and social situation, then we must take steps to enlarge area to be at least the dx size of the pupulation area if we are to prosper. Now, as it happens, most students pursue graduate work within 150 miles of their home. If we look at a map of this region, we see that 150 miles just gets to A & M, is somewhat short of Austin, and about the same distance short of Norman. There have been mighty few doctorates produced in this region. A & M produced 33 in 1262 1961, Baylor 13, North Texas 16, TWU 6. Last year we note SMU turned out an economics doctorate, TCU a physicist. Southwest Medical School, over the past decade, has turned out 6 Ph.D.'s, and these eight just about represent the Fort Worth-Dallas production thus far, although there are some 800 doctorates in the two counties.

The Chamber of Commerce made a survey of the various institutions in the region, academic, financial, and industrial. The estimates needed of doctoral, or post-doctoral employees Afor the fixe next five years was 1,976 and 2,164 Master's degrees. The Master's degrees do not reflect the actual condition very accurately. Last year SMU turned out 251 Master's degrees, North Texas 308, East Texas something over 300, TCU 87, etc. Most of these degrees are in education and are earned by people who are holding positions and are not on the market for change. SMU produces about 130 Masters and Engineers each year and, again, these people, for the most part, are holding positions, although I can't say they are not in the market for change. But, before we get into the Master's problem, let's take a little more realistic look at the 400 doctorates per year indicated in this survey. In the 150 mile radius we have some 3 million people, about 1/15th of them are of college age, and we are rapidly approaching the time when half of the high school graduates will enter college. If we have 100,000 college students, and, let's say, a 20 to 1 ratio, we would have 5,000 professors. If

we allow a 25 year life per professor, we have some 200 professors per year needed. If we allow half with Boctor's, half with Master's, we have our 100 per year in each category. This is about the number the survey indicated. Investment firms indicated the need of about 25 doctors a year and manufacturers 125 a year. Research Institutes indicated a need of about 150 a year, which brings us to the 400 per year estimated, but I suspect the research institutes is a temporary need, not one we can count on continuously. None the less I think a figure of 300 poctorates per year would be conservative for what we are likely to realize. According to the nature of things, 300 Doctorates would indicate about 3,000 Master's degrees, and I suspect this is about the need in our region for Master's degrees in the near future.

Let's divide these degrees up among five state schools and five pravate schools. Let the state schools produce 3/4's of these degrees and divide up the remaining degrees among the five private schools. That would give a place such as the University of Dallas 15 Doctor's degrees, 150 Master's degrees per year, a total graduate population of about 300, and, I suspect, that is quite in line with our intentions.

Now let's look briefly at the present graduate programs in the area. Outside of theological schools, there are now five institutions giving graduate degrees in our immediate area. They are North Texas, Texas Women's University, in Denton, and Southwestern Mecial School ik Dallas, as state schools, and there are SMU and TCU as private schools. (In addition, there are education only Master's degrees at TWC and Austin College just outside our region. At nearby Commerce, East Texas gives a range of degrees. Doctoral programs are, as yet,

sparse. Southwest Med School has long granted degrees in various biological sciences. SMU has an economics program through the one program in Doctor's, which has produced one graduate, and has/mm Engineering and expects to start one in electrical engineering shortly. TCU has a program in psychology, in English, in Physics, and in mathematics. North Texas has just been given approval to go ahead in physics, mathematics, chemistry, and has already offered a doctorate in education. TWU has been approved in biochemistry and offers some programs in education, including physical education. These are the extent of the non-theological, non-medical programs now in operation. Arlington State and the University of Dallas have both indicated intentions of instituting new programs.

My discussion thus far has been purely quantitative. appearance has been that it is the degree that is important, not the wisdom which is associated with the degree. It might weel be chimpanzies that are educated to the doctorate, as far as all these statistics are concerned. The question remains, why do we need doctor's degrees? And why do we need Master's? Let me begin the answer to that question by proposing a philosophy of education which tends to give meaning to the level of degree sought. American educational system is designed to produce a literate, communicating citizenry. Literacy is a minimum economic requirement. We fail frequently to realize the problems imposed by an illiterate Patrick working class. Mr. Haggerty was describing to me some of the problems they runs into in their Italian plant near Naples. Here education with stops at about the fifth grade, and there has been some time, between cessation the stopping of education and the beginning of work. In their plant all the signs must be made with symbols, not words. Directions cannot be written. We have then the paradoxical situation of one of our most modern industries being manned by workers who are essentially undducated. Well, perhaps that is the direction that visual aids tend anyway. Of course we expect more than a minimum in our educational In point of fact we devised a system which would prepare people to operate a fairly complex technological society, economically and politically, and to a degree at least, culturally. Or perhaps I should put it -- we replaced the natural folkways of culture by a

more formal appreciation of artifacts. This development showed up in our sports, as well as in our music, painting, literature, and Education through the high school was designed to satisfy this requirement. College work was professional training for the most part, although there was always the liberal arts schools for the elite. That situation has changed. Both the demands and the possibilities of our economic system have placed an increasing importance upon college-level studies. About 1/4 of the high school graduetes now go on to college and that figure is likely to rise to about 1/2. That change has been accompanied by a shifting of the professional interests to graduate work, as it was all along in law and in medicine, and I think we can now begin to define the degrees more precisely than in the past. The Bachelor's degree is the general liberal arts award, which we expect now from a large segment of our citizenry. We have all seen, I think, the changes in our society which have engendered this shift. I recall a quarter of a century ago, when I was married, that the knick-knacks which came as wedding presents were for the most part monstrocities which we hid in the back of closets. They were the product of a commercial society whose aesthetic tastes were poorly developed. Today the most casual gift is likely to be well designed. There is, I think, no reason to go into all the ramifications of these changes, but I think we have no difficulty in recognizing that the society for which we are preparing citizens today is quite different from a quarter of a century ago. There is a certain level of cultivated tastes that is expected of the educated person. I have spoken from time to time of the new synthesis

arriving in our society. This wide-spread, widely shared appreciation for works of the human imagination is one marked evidence of this new . The first greaturate program because reference at the lead or to a synthesis. The professional work, then, goes to the graduate years. And I think we can specify the Master's degree as kkm mark of payment for professional competence. In a way, the Master's degree replaces much of the apprenticeship formerly expected of the Bachelor when he entered the professional world. In any case I think we can accept as a guiding criterian for Master's level work the attainment of the skills appropriate to a profession. These skills are based on a fair underattained in the baccalaureate years, and of course, the understanding of deepens during this time of additional study, fundamentals aim for Master's level work is proficiency, and I suspect that generally this period will come to occupy more than a year which is the formal requirement for the degree. In actuality Master's degrees do take longer and many professional programs, such as the Business Programs at Harvard and other places, are designed deliberately to cover 18 to-20 months.

The Doctoral degree is a philosophic degree. Too often, perhaps, the doctoral degree is thought of as a super Master's degree, as involving simply greater and greater proficiency. I propose that that is a band on misapprehension of what the degree intends. We expect the Doctor's degree to be an evidence of wisdom, of responsibility for the shaping of that discipline and the enhancement of a profession. It we accept then these three levels of graduatexwork of higher education is there

a need for doctor's degrees in business? I recall that when a student of mine asked me, "where do I go to get a Ph.D. for business?" I replied somewhat stiffly that Ph.D.'s were not intended for business. Now I think that I was wrong in that sentiment. We do need men of a philosophic, reflective turn of mind, which the Ph.D. represents; in critical positions in industry for it is these men who will alter the structures of society and build it into a world which you and I will find satisfying. These men will have doctoral degrees in engineering, as well as in science, in business management, as well as in economics, in journalism, as well as in English, but the years of study beyond the statement of the force to the statement of the profession represents.

of the 300 doctorates, which I said this region needs to produce then, something like 100 a year should be in engineering and business fields, the other 200 are spread across the Kirkwin disciplines with some concentration for the scientific, as it always has been.

0 SMIN 51 62 Entir 2 (1) / 69 4 French Serve · Sport Scorney Swenz 4 Kriting 2 / 2. : 2., 1 much. 32 6 4, 5 8 11 11 Philady Royaly 6 6 47 713 -5 2_ S Religion 138 124 9 4 105 duciely Spen ! Beal 11 Chem 11 Se, 6 -Physic. -- . / 6 3 muni 13 6 1 2. Dearl Ed. 21 30 18 13 Engerieny And Spen 13 18 . Ciril 3 5 18 Electery 39 57 80 and end 1 5 3 2 2. medical 18 32 18 Ly hule 11 16 9 13 Due Adm Accord 7 (\mathscr{E} 6 Acreir. 2 7 _[mortely 6 9 15 14 11. 4 6

Sucial Sucial 1,-3. 5-

Texas Commission on Higher Education

HEAD-COUNT ENROLLMENT Nineteen Fully State-Supported Academic Institutions in Texas Fall Semesters, 1952-1962 \perp

Total	University of Texas Texas Western College A. and M. College of Texas Arlington State College Tarleton State College Prairie View A. and M. College Prairie View A. and M. College Texas Technological College North Texas State University Lamar State College of Technology Texas College of Arts and Industries Texas Southern University Midwestern University East Texas State College Sam Houston State Teachers College Southwest Texas State College Stephen F. Austin State College Stephen F. Austin State College	Institution
53,634	12,772 2,334 6,277 1,258 663 2,491 5,160 4,422 2,504 1,928 1,767 2,065 1,816 1,603 1,562 2,019 1,217 541	1952
57,581	14,003 2,898 6,198 1,596 709 2,538 5,418 4,563 3,080 2,102 1,610 2,452 1,287 1,772 1,772 1,775 1,785 1,785 1,153	1953
64,782	16,000 3,478 6,258 2,205 753 2,576 6,257 4,090 2,280 1,781 2,780 1,887 2,008 1,816 2,240 1,356 772	1954
72,653	17,521 3,891 6,834 3,121 778 2,743 7,156 5,509 4,554 2,440 2,002 2,002 2,085 1,350 2,118 2,118 2,118 2,588 1,696	1955
78,484	18, 156 3, 839 7, 200 4, 083 959 2, 579 8, 055 6, 177 5, 302 2, 669 2, 224 2, 927 1, 530 2, 822 2, 822 2, 258 2, 968 1, 757 779	1956
79,315	16,985 3,578 7,469 4,774 1,072 2,491 8,564 6,212 5,556 2,784 2,313 2,701 1,402 2,404 3,100 2,265 2,925 1,846	1957
82,319	17,792 3,614 7,077 4,990 1,078 2,492 8,768 6,779 5,748 2,872 2,835 1,384 2,601 3,466 2,278 3,198 3,198 2,017	1958
86,146	18,442 3,711 7,091 6,439 1,013 2,461 8,866 7,023 5,848 2,962 2,481 3,014 1,502 2,418 3,181 1,968	1959

^{2/} As of October 15 through 1958, as of Twelfth Class Day since 1959 Not a fully State-supported institution prior to 1961