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Departmental Leaders Recommend Variety in Electives and Activities

by Maryann Jones

"THE more you extend the foundation of your education the further you can go in the future," advises Dean P. Mabel Nelson of the Division of Home Economics in the selection of elective courses and extracurricular activities. "The choice of electives should be governed by what you want to do with them, but you should choose some things to do for the joy of your own soul. Electives need not all be chosen to support the major field." Dean Nelson suggests that girls take advantage of the numerous courses offered them to broaden their understanding.

In regard to activities, she advises that students proceed with caution. "Use judgment with what you select, and don't let your scholarship suffer. Each student should select the activities which she feels will be of most benefit to her in overcoming her difficulties."

An upper class student of each home economics department was asked what types of elective courses and activities she felt were most beneficial to students in her department.

Beverly George, Institution Management. "It is usually wise to stay within your own field in selecting elective courses since our specific knowledge upon leaving college will be meager at best. I am taking the courses required for membership in the American Dietetic Association which requires most of my elective hours. Some electives valuable to institution management majors include the ice cream and ices course, business correspondence and foods seminar.

"Any activities which furnish the student an opportunity to take some responsibility are particularly beneficial. Active participation in the Institution Management Club is essential."

Jeanne Moore, Child Development. "Students should select some elective courses for their personal development and also some that will benefit them materially. Among the elective courses which I feel are good for child development majors are family sociology, free-hand drawing, music appreciation, recreational leadership and journalism courses.

"Departmental home economics clubs provide valuable contact with instructors and other students as well as information concerning the future in your field. Activities which you enjoy that are also beneficial to you are wise choices, and any activities that furnish social contact with groups are good. Child development majors will profit from activities such as W.A.A. clubs which give them a background in a variety of sports. Any journalism work through electives or activities is valuable."

Mae Pooley, Household Equipment. "Certain electives are recommended for all household equipment majors such as additional foods work in institution management and catering. English and speech courses are valuable because they give one a broader viewpoint. Since household equipment is so specialized, many of the girls select electives and activities which lie outside the field such as art or science courses which are not required.

"It is a good idea to choose an activity for which you have talent and then work consistently toward the top in it. For household equipment majors, activities in which you learn to sell yourself to others such as work on publications and advertising is beneficial. Radio work is helpful to students in all fields. Home economics clubs are particularly important for making contacts."

Naomi Fenske, Dietetics. "So many foods courses are required for dietetics majors I usually prefer to select their electives in some other field. I am selecting most of mine on the basis of interest or enjoyment. Such courses as music, physical education, religion and advanced textiles and clothing are consuming my elective hours."

Marilynn Monfore, Textiles and Clothing. "Since I plan to go into dress designing, I have chosen French as one of my electives and am also taking some extra art courses. It is a good idea to select some activities outside your major field in order to gain a well rounded idea of everything. The family sociology course is an excellent elective for any home economics student. Textile design and other applied art courses supplement textiles and clothing work for those in the department who are interested in that aspect of textile work."

Cecile Habben, Applied Art. "I feel that women should select electives outside their major field to get a wide range of interests and abilities. Photography is excellent for the applied art major. Other courses in which she might be interested are institution management and human physiology. I elected botany for my science option because of its relation to art by teaching the appreciation of nature.

"Select activities for your own enjoyment and in nearly all of them you will find opportunities for art work as well. There are posters to be made for nearly every group. Membership on decoration committees for dances and other functions provides practical experience. Art Club is an essential activity for applied art majors. Others such as Players, Debaters and Radio Workshop give the art major a wider background in the fine arts."

Rosalie Riglin, Technical Journalism. "Photography is one of the most important electives for a journalism major. She will often be expected to at least arrange a display to be photographed. English and history classes give a wider background of knowledge. We will be in contact with people from other schools who have had more English and history and will be
expected to display a comparable understanding of the subjects. College experience in radio is valuable.

"It is essential for journalism majors to work on publications to gain experience. The Bomb, Homemaker and the Student help provide this practical training. My work on the Homemaker was especially helpful to me because it gave me a better feeling for magazine writing. Attending and taking advantage of the Carnegie Music Room in the Union broadens your classical background. A student should choose activities which she likes. From those she will gain the most and do the best work. The scope of your activities should not be limited and should extend into fields other than your own so that you will meet more people and broaden your interests."

Barbara Bailey, Home Management. "Since we have 40 elective hours, we can do practically anything with them. Some of the girls select minors in education, English, technical journalism and other fields. For my electives I plan to take a variety of courses that I enjoy.

"The selection of activities depends on the individual. Working on the Bomb appeals to me. Work on other publications is also helpful. For students who wish to develop leadership ability, all clubs offer opportunity. If you like to plan and organize, working on committees for dances and other functions gives you experience and responsibility.

Martha Henry, Education. "An education major should have some elective art courses such as crafts. Courses in religion and philosophy are good electives. Any elective psychology and family sociology course is helpful to the education major as are music appreciation and institution management. Courses in English are good electives for further cultural background. Education majors need to go into other fields and become well-rounded.

"Girls should choose the activities which best meet their own need. Any work with YWCA groups is good. The crafts group might be the choice of the education major. One of my greatest aids was my work as an advisor in a freshman dormitory. Work through activities or courses in guiding recreation is needed by girls planning to teach. The Camp Counselor W.A.A. Club is a wise selection for education majors."

Dean Nelson advises that in selecting electives and activities to round out the prescribed courses, "You must assume that you don’t know what will happen to you in the future. You must therefore leave everything in order in your school work as you go along so that you can pick it up again readily, should the need arise." Some of the elective courses which she suggests are in city planning, religion, psychology, geology, botany, genetics and sculpturing.

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