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I'd Like to Know-

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More than a dream — more than just finding the right mate, marriage is a reality which engulfs and encompasses every small phase of everyday living. In maturity comes a deeper understanding that marriage is a combination of romantic elements and questions and problems. Finding the answers to many of the universal queries is the job of Dr. David Fulcomer, marriage counselor at Iowa State. Confronted with several questions from engaged women, Dr. Fulcomer emphasized that his answers and comments are somewhat generalized since each couple presents a different situation.

"If I plan to marry while still in school and my husband graduates before I do, should I finish school?"

In the first place this depends a lot on how much the degree means to the girl and her husband. Also parental feelings could be a determining factor. In trying to decide whether a girl should finish her education the couple should consider where the husband will be and how often they could be together. Another important factor is how well the couple can express themselves in writing and during short telephone conversations. Couples should realize that even under the best circumstances this type of arrangement presents adjustment difficulties and they should be prepared to meet these difficulties.

"While we are in school could we live cheaper in our own residence halls or as a married couple?"

If money is well managed, it is usually cheaper for a couple to be married than for the two to live separately.

"How much would I have to allow for food per month?"

This is largely a matter of taste and successful budgeting. Some couples get along on as little as $40 per month while others spend over $100 per month. Some factors which might determine how much you would spend are as follows: 1) ability of bride to handle and prepare food, 2) individual food desires, and 3) outside resources such as food sent from home.
“Is it difficult to find apartments near the campus? Where should you look?”

It is very difficult to find apartments, and couples wanting apartments for fall quarter should start looking early in the summer. A good place to start hunting is with a list obtained from Residence Director, J. C. Schilletter. Married friends can also be very helpful.

“Who should have more say in the planning of a wedding, the bride’s mother or the groom?”

This depends to a great degree upon the personality of the mother, how much the wedding means to her and the emotional ties between the mother and her daughter. It is important that the groom feel as though he has a real part in the wedding plans. The best solution to this problem seems to be having the bride and groom work out together what decisions they think they should make and what ones should be left to others.

“If my husband-to-be is not from my home town, how long before the wedding should he arrive?”

First, it is always best if the bride and groom visit each other’s home some time before the wedding. The groom, if at all possible, should be in the bride’s community a week or two before the wedding. This gives him a chance to help with the wedding plans and lend the bride the moral and psychological help she needs before the wedding.

“How would you respond to the question: ‘Does the state of Iowa require a couple to have a physical examination before they are married?’”

The only thing the state of Iowa requires is that the couple have a blood test within a 20-day period before they are to be married. This must be done before a license can be obtained, and it is simply a check for venereal diseases. In most communities 2 or 3 days are required to get the test results. Although not required, it is very wise for the couple, especially the bride, to have physical examinations. If the couple hasn’t had some kind of marriage course, pre-marital counseling is very important.

“When engaged, is it normal to have a ‘period of doubt’?”

Yes, this is normal for any intelligent thinking girl. However, if these periods of doubt are very frequent and concern specific things, the girl should seek help from a competent counselor. Doubts are especially frequent and normal immediately before the wedding.

“What is a good duration for a honeymoon?”

A honeymoon should last at least a week. The preferable duration is 2 weeks to 1 month. It is possible to have a very successful honeymoon in just a few days though. The most important thing is not necessarily the length of time but the opportunity to begin working out all the adjustments of marriage. A honeymoon should be fun, it shouldn’t be tightly scheduled and it should be spent away from family and friends. It is a time when two individuals get used to being looked upon as a married couple.