

# Importance, Permanence Of Transcript

By D. H. NICHOLSON

When an applicant is unconditionally admitted to Chowan College, the Director of Admissions and the Admissions Committee are relatively confident that the prospective student will be able to meet future requirements for continued enrollment. And the reader will remember from the last issue of this column that these requirements are, in brief, as follows: a regular student (one who is carrying 12 or more credit hours in a regular semester) must earn a minimum of 9 hours and 18 quality points (on the 4.0 grading system) in order to register the ensuing term in good academic standing, this latter classification referring to the status of a student who is not on any form of academic probation and who is, therefore, eligible for honorable dismissal.

Although the classification 'good academic standing' has a definite meaning here at Chowan and although the classification has a generally accepted meaning and trust among collegiate administrators at the various institutions in this country, the actual mechanics of arriving at such a standard will vary with the institutions. In essence, each institution will determine its own standards for continued enrollment in good academic standing.

Therefore, it is quite possible for a student to be in good academic standing and, hence, eligible for continued enrollment at one institution and yet not be eligible, gradewise, for admission to another institution, although both institutions are of comparable quality and are accredited.

Again, as has been brought out in earlier issues of this column, the general rule which most institutions follow concerning admission of a transfer student is that he must have at least a "C" average on all work attempted in order to be in good academic standing.

The point of the discussion so far is that because a student may be in good academic standing at one college or university and entitled to honorable withdrawal does not mean that he will necessarily fully or unconditionally admitted to another comparable institution. The best advice for a student in doubt about his chances for admission to a particular school is for him to write directly to the director of admissions of that school for specific information about "transfer admissions."

One of the most important indices which an admissions director or officer at the senior institution will use to determine the transfer's prospects for admissions is the transcript. Traditionally, a transcript is a certified copy of the student's official educational record at the institution which originally granted the credit. The transcript, therefore, along with the confidential character references, will help to form the best profile for admissions personnel use to determine the prospective transfer student's potential for success at the new institution.

When looking at the transcript, admissions personnel will be looking specifically at the description of courses and grades. Generally, courses with a "C" average or better will transfer from one accredited institution to another accredited one providing the latter has a

course "reciprocal" in nature. "Reciprocal" means here that a course taught on the Chowan Campus and as listed in our catalog would have an equivalent on the receiving campus. For instance, this means that the Chowan College freshman course English 111, at North Carolina State University in Raleigh in English 111 Composition and Rhetoric, or at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in English Composition and Rhetoric 1. Although the use of transfer agreements between senior institutions and junior and community colleges are

generally directed at a partial waiving of this rule of "reciprocity," the preceding discussion describes the situation still prevalent in transfer admissions.

Since the basic non-terminal curriculum is much the same for freshman and sophomore years at most accredited institutions of higher education, an admissions officer at the four-year institution will be comparing, in essence, the junior college non-terminal student's transcript with what his own institution requires of its freshman and sophomores. Although course numbers and

basic course titles could vary a bit with the institution, most institutions would accept what appear to be the equivalent courses providing the grades were acceptable, i.e. "C" average or better.

Obviously, the preceding paragraphs are limited because the areas mentioned or touched on are, indeed, broad ones. However, the reader should understand that the transcript is an important and permanent record and one that not only is useful to the admissions personnel of college and universities

but one which is also useful to prospective employers.

In the next issue of Smoke Signals, we will look the confidential nature of your records here at Chowan College. We will want to discuss just what information investigative agencies will want and what they can have with or without your permission. Records in the Registrar's Office are both confidential and for restricted use and readers will want to know something about the availability of these records to individuals and agencies outside of this college community.

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