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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As New College first-year students get ready to take the comprehensive examinations beginning Saturday, they were notified by the College Examiner that standardized tests taken several weeks ago indicated a consistent increase in learning for them.

The first-year students first took Comprehensive College Examinations during their first week on campus and then took comparative ones at the end of June.

College Examiner John French said that the tests cover the areas of English, natural sciences, mathematics, humanities, and social sciences-history. Results, he said, are used to indicate the progress a student has made between the two tests.

The results also show how students rate on a national average since the tests are given to second-year students on a nationwide basis.

Dr. French said that on the tests as a whole, New College students scored on an average better than 90 per cent of those students on a national norm group.

He also said that the students scored a 35-point average increase from the tests taken at entrance, which indicates a decided improvement in learning during the year.

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This increase compared well with the increase scored by last year's first-year class. Lowest rate came in the area of mathematics, noted Dr. French, and he explained that this is because the New College first-year mathematics program deals with calculus and probability, while the test is concerned more with algebra and problem solving.

Biggest improvement in the scoring of students came, as they did last year, in the humanities, which is a major part of the basic course of the college. Students scored an average of 69 points higher than in September, contrasting to 46 points improvement in natural sciences, the next highest.

In humanities, the New College students ranked highest nationally, averaging better than 95 per cent of the second-year students taking the same test at campuses across the nation.

The tests aid in evaluating effect of independent study, in checking on the value of the curricular program, as well as in assessing student growth.