

NEW COLLEGE
NEWS RELEASE

NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA
FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1966

Monday looms as the beginning of a three-day period crucial in the lives of upperclass New College students.

For the next three days qualifying examinations will be given to determine advanced students' progress in their major fields.

At stake for most of them is continuation in the field of study they have chosen.

For a few it means a total review of their academic records and a change in their direction of study. For fewer yet, it may mean dismissal.

Being tested in examinations on Monday and Wednesday is each student's competence in a major subject studied during the first two-thirds of the second year, which ended Friday.

Sandwiched in between the two days of examinations is a qualifying test in languages, required of all students.

All second year students take at least one major field examination, and some will be allowed to be tested in two fields.

The examinations, which last from four to six hours, are given to determine each student's readiness to continue on in a particular field. New College upperclassmen are being examined in mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, philosophy literature, art history, music, economics, political science, history, sociology, anthropology and psychology. Languages covered are French, German, Spanish, Russian, Latin and Greek.

Qualifying examinations are new at New College, voted this year by the faculty to both test and to guide students. In addition, recommendation for graduation from New College depends on passing several other mileposts, all of which are important in the academic process.

First is the comprehensive examination given at the end of the first year to all students. In this "comp" students are tested on their entire first year, which includes studies in the areas of the humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences. If students fail to pass any segment of the comprehensives, they must make it up during the following year.

At the end of the senior year, all students will be given a baccalaureate examination, which will emphasize the work of the major field of study but will include a wide choice of general materials from other areas.

Graduation also is based on completion of the six independent research projects, two of which are chosen and completed by the student in any year during three and four week periods set aside for this academic task.

Qualifying examinations are more than a test of the student's knowledge. They also serve to guide them by discovering relative abilities in studies.

Some fourteen of the students have chosen to take the qualifying examinations in two different fields, and the results may help them to determine which to choose to continue as a major field.

In two areas -- literature and philosophy -- second year students will take as part of the qualifying examination the Advanced Achievement test which is part of the Graduate Record Examination, usually given in the final months of a college career.

Examinations in some areas will be partly written and partly oral. Discretion for the type and length of examination rests with the individual professors.

Failure in the qualifying examination leaves several courses open to students. Those who have taken examinations in two different fields, may continue in the one passed. Those who took only one and failed automatically will have their total academic records reviewed by the faculty to determine if they should continue. Any allowed to continue must retake another qualifying examination in July at the end of the third class term.

Language tests for all students demonstrate their readiness to continue at advanced levels. Regardless of the outcome of these language tests, each student must take a final language examination during the final year, to indicate competency with a language just prior to graduation.

Most second year students are wearing grim visages as they make their final preparations for the three examination days. It is a time of late-burning lights, intensive reviewing of notes, and much, much reading.