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TERMINAL PROGRAMS IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOLS

By Dr. Carl E. Seashore

The State University of Iowa

A terminal program leading to the master's degree is a program of study designed specifically on a one- or two-year basis as distinguished from the master's degree program leading toward the doctorate, which is designed for the first year on a three-year basis.

The terminal program is tailor-made, designed to fit the individual needs of the student in relation to personal and professional objectives. It is sponsored by a professor who gives particular attention to the organization of terminal programs. It, therefore, becomes student-centered as opposed to subject-centered. It represents a vocational or semi-professional bent but should be distinguished from purely technological courses and be dominantly of a liberal character but with a vocational aim. The member of the staff who directs the work takes responsibility for the maintaining of standards and a happy balance between concentration in an area and reasonable spread of work within a chosen field, the securing of the privileges involved and personal direction of the thesis. The work on the thesis and the organized reading are designed to introduce the student to bona-fide graduate methods of study. The terminal program ensures adequate consultation between student and staff at the time of registration and personal guidance throughout toward a well-conceived objective.

The primary purpose of this type of organization is the standardization of two types of master's de-
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