

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI BULLETIN.
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 4. EDUCATION
SERIES 12. CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION
TO ACCREDITED JUNIOR COLLEGES.
ISSUED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
ACCREDITED SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

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J. H. COURSAULT

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TO
**ACCREDITED JUNIOR
COLLEGES**

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THE COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITED SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

EDITED BY J. H. COURSAULT

Professor of the History and Philosophy of Education



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INTRODUCTORY

Reasons for Accrediting

Through a closer organization of educational institutions, the efficiency of education in Missouri has increased rapidly in recent years. When the affairs of each institution were directed independently, the country elementary school did not prepare for the town high school, and the high school did not prepare for college or university. In going from one institution to another, whether of the same or of higher rank, students were seriously interrupted in their work, during a process of readjustment to different educational conditions. But this was not all. The very multiplicity of plans for education under similar social conditions was evidence of the inferiority of many of these plans. They could not all be best. The reason for this is apparent, since differences in plans were based upon differences in mere individual opinions. Organization has, in a large measure, corrected these evils. It has saved students the discouraging loss of time and energy due to interruption in educational work; it has based educational practice not upon individual opinion, but upon the conclusions of many educational experts, conclusions which, in the great laboratory of social practice, have been wisely made, thoroughly tested, and firmly established.

Until the last few years, no provision was made, however, to include in this organization private colleges that give only part of the four years' standard course of academic work. These institutions as a class did not articulate definitely with the common schools on the one hand nor with institutions offering higher collegiate and professional work on the other. It was evident that they too should become a part of the educational system, if their service to society was to be made most efficient.

The recent movement to require a two years' college course as a preparation for the work of professional schools, which in turn has made a division in the four years' course of the college of arts and science, naturally marked a definite function for colleges which did not offer four years of college work. They could give the academic preparation necessary for entrance to the professional schools or to the last two years of the college of arts and science.

Under wise leadership, a number of these private colleges were so developed as to appropriate, in a large measure, those educational standards which have been the result of a wide social experience. With slight modification, they were ready to take their place in the educational system, to fulfill the function which so naturally fell to them.

In view of this, the authorities of a number of these colleges expressed a desire, several years ago, that the place of such institutions in the system be recognized through affiliation with the University of Missouri, which represents the standards of the Association of American Universities. The University, after careful consideration, willingly cooperated with the colleges in this matter. Affiliation with the University has opened an easy pathway to further educational work on the part of the graduates of accredited colleges; it has also marked clearly for patrons of education a number of institutions which comply with the best standards. By definite service in a wider educational order which marks clearly their field of work and sets before them definite ideals, junior colleges are made free to work out their own highest salvation.

Basis for Plan of Accrediting

In formulating a plan for affiliation, the University has taken the initiative. The necessity of this is evident. As a member of the Association of American Universities, the University represents educational standards which are not of its own invention, but are the product of nation-wide experience. Furthermore, it has become closely articulated with many secondary schools of the state upon the basis of definite standards. If any particular college does not conform to accepted standards, it is logical therefore that the college should make a change rather than that the University should attempt to do so. It would be impossible for universities to have a definite educational policy, if they attempted to adapt their work to variations in a number of other institutions doing college work. Only upon the basis of uniform standards can affiliation be made, and these standards are now established.

In affiliating junior colleges, the University does not impose arbitrary conditions for affiliation; the conditions imposed are considered the logical consequences of the educational situation of which the University is only one of many factors. If the authorities of any college believe, however, that the plan presented for affiliation falls in any particular to express the logic of the situation, their criticisms will be welcomed and carefully considered.

Purpose of this Circular

The Missouri Junior College Union, an organization of junior colleges accredited by the University of Missouri, has requested the University Committee on Accredited Schools and Colleges to prepare a statement of courses with a view to standardizing the junior college curriculum. This circular is issued in response to that request. It contains a statement of the conditions for accrediting, outlines of approved courses,

and suggestions for the equipment of laboratories and libraries. Any one college is not expected to offer all of the courses outlined. It is very desirable, however, that the curriculum of each college be made up of courses selected from those described in this bulletin.

Admission to the University from Accredited Junior Colleges

Although there is a distinction between conditions for the accrediting of junior colleges and conditions for admission to the University from such institutions, some brief information with regard to the conditions for admission may appropriately be given in this introductory statement. Graduates of accredited junior colleges will be admitted without examination to junior standing in the College of Arts and Science of the University, provided they furnish certificates showing that they have satisfied the entrance requirements and the work of the first two years of this college. Such certificates will be accepted also for admission to any other division of the University except the Graduate School, if the student has completed the specific subjects required for admission to such division. For these requirements, see the University catalog. In accrediting a junior college, the approved courses are specified. Credit is not given by the University for junior college courses which are not approved.

The diploma will not be accepted as a credential. The student must present the proper form of certificate, signed by the president or dean of the college. Blank certificates will be furnished by the Registrar of the University. The certificates should be filled and sent to the Registrar of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. He will then notify the student in due time that his certificate has been approved for entrance, or that certain conditions or corrections are necessary. As the necessity for correction appears in many cases, the student will avoid delay and inconvenience by sending the certificate as soon as possible after his graduation. *If a student's certificate is presented later than one week before the opening of the semester, he may be required to take entrance examinations.* Certificates filed by candidates become the property of the University.

Copies of this *Circular of Information to Accredited Junior Colleges* may be secured through the office of the Secretary of the Committee on Accredited Schools and Colleges, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.