

A STUDY OF PERSISTENCE TO GRADUATE AS RELATED TO
KOREAN WAR VETERANS AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS
WHO ATTENDED KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

by *SDZ*

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

Financial assistance to veterans for continuing their education has become an accepted fact. Millions of veterans have been educated with the assistance of the educational benefits inherent in the GI bills. Therefore, a comparative study of two of the veteran educational assistance programs seemed appropriate.

THE PROBLEM

Statement of the Problem

The purpose of the study was to determine whether veterans attending the Kansas State University with assistance of Public Law 358, the Vietnam service period, were more persistent toward attaining their goal of graduation than those who attended Kansas State University with assistance of Public Law 550, the Korean Conflict service period.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the persistence to graduate between veterans attending Kansas State University assisted under Public Law 358 and those assisted under Public Law 550.

The null hypothesis will be accepted at the 5 percent confidence level.

Importance of the Study

"Amidst all the clamor, pro and con, about the Vietnam War, there is a tendency to forget that thousands of men and women are separating from the military service each year."¹ Approximately 25 percent of these veterans are returning to the colleges and universities of the nation. Are the terms of the present Public Law 358 favorable to the Veteran? Are the veterans reaching their goals of a college education?

The Aids, Awards, and Veterans' Service Office at Kansas State University is vitally concerned about the persistence to graduate exhibited by these veterans. The opinion that the Korean Conflict veteran was more mature, stable and persistent in gaining his educational goals seems to be wide-spread. In order to determine the more persistent group this study was undertaken.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Legal Definitions

Veteran. Any person who has served in the armed forces of the United States and has been discharged or released from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable.

Eligible veteran. Any person eligible for educational benefits under the terms of Public Law 358--89th Congress or Public Law 550--82nd Congress.

¹Edmund J. Gleazer, Jr., "Programs for Servicemen and Veterans," Junior College Journal, XL, 5 (February, 1970), 7.

Public Law 358. The Veterans' Readjustment Benefit Act of 1966, enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

Public Law 550. The Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952 as enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

Vietnam service period. The period encompassed by Public Law 358 to include the time periods of summer school 1966, fall 1966, spring 1967, summer 1967, fall 1967, spring 1968, summer 1968, fall 1968, spring 1969, and summer 1969.

Korean service period. The period encompassed by Public Law 550 to include the time periods of summer school 1955, fall 1955, spring 1956, summer 1956, fall 1956, spring 1957, summer 1957, fall 1957, spring 1958, and summer 1958.

Academic Definitions

Dismissed. Being discharged from the Kansas State University after being regularly enrolled. Dismissal was evidenced by a notation on a grade slip and/or on the dismissal list as produced by the Office of Admissions and Records.

Withdrew. Leaving the Kansas State University after notification to the veterans' counselor and/or listing on the official withdrawal list as produced by the Office of Admissions and Records.

Transferred. Giving notice to leave the Kansas State University after initiating the proper forms to transfer to another institution of higher learning or vocational school.

Graduated. Leaving the Kansas State University after receiving a bachelor's, master's or doctor's degree.

Dropped out. Failure to return to the Kansas State University after being regularly enrolled. These veterans did not return for reasons other than dismissal, withdrawal, transfer or graduation.