The Anticipatory Program

Changes Made at Exeter to Meet the Special Circumstances Caused by the Draft

Developments of the Selective Service Act made it necessary for the Academy to consider plans for those boys in school who would reach their eighteenth birthdays before their normal date of graduation. Investigation by a committee of the faculty, known as the Committee on the War Program, showed that there were in school last fall 78 boys who had reached or would reach their eighteenth birthdays by December 31, 1942. Of these, 68 were Seniors. Under the existing interpretation of the Service Act, it seemed likely that most, if not all, of these boys would be permitted to complete their school year. In addition, however, there were 180 boys whose eighteenth birthdays would fall in 1943; 207 who would be 18 in 1944. Eliminating Seniors and lower classmen who could graduate before they were 18 (either through promotions within the year or by attending the Summer Session), the committee reported that some 167 students now in school might profit by a new and specially arranged program. It then proposed what was called "The Anticipatory Program," to go into effect in June 1943. This was accepted by the faculty on December 1, 1942.

The committee saw no reason to suggest any changes in dates of graduation or much in the usual functions of the regular or of the Summer Session. The Summer Session would go on very much as it had done for the past twenty-four years (July 13 to September 3, seven and one half weeks, fee $300). Already the faculty had granted permission for students to complete requirements for the diploma in the Summer Session; and, for the duration, the Summer Session is now offering new or advanced work in a wider range of subjects than formerly. In addition, the faculty accepted the recommendation of the committee that during the emergency, the requirements for the diploma should be reduced from 17 to 16 major courses. Within this freer framework of the curriculum, it seemed that the great majority of students should be able to get their full secondary education, their diplomas, and their admission to college before they became eighteen.

The Anticipatory Program was devised to meet the special needs of the 167 lower classmen mentioned above, not sufficiently advanced to finish school before reaching the draft age. Doubtless, too, some boys in other schools similarly situated might be interested in a scheme like this. For students availing themselves of this plan, the Senior year is to begin on June 28 and to end February 5. It will be divided into two semesters (June 28 to September 4, and September 15 to February 5). During the summer term a boy will normally take the first half of four studies which will meet six times a week, in periods of 55 minutes each. In the fall term his classes will meet the usual four or five times a week, in periods of 50 minutes each, completing the second half year of studies begun in the summer. In the summer term a student may take a minimum of three subjects, if his needs will be met by this number. On February 5, 1944, students in the Anticipatory Program will receive their diplomas and enter college. Inasmuch as the actual work of the school year will not be materially shortened, the Senior year being merely moved ahead half a year, "anticipatory" seemed a better descriptive term than "accelerated," the one used by the colleges. It is merely a question of whether one thinks in units of space or of time.

Students eligible for the Anticipatory Program are those who meet the usual Academy requirements of maturity and scholastic ability, who are far enough advanced in their schooling to graduate in a single school year; and who, in all probability, would be drafted before they could graduate in their regular course. In short, it is a program for the Senior year only. Students from other schools who wish to attend the summer term only will be accepted for that term on the recommendation of their schools, if a satisfactory cooperative plan of study can be worked out with these schools. Again, only with the approval of their schools, students from other schools may take their full Senior year at the Academy in the Anticipatory Program and receive the Academy diploma in February.

The subjects offered under the Anticipatory Program are primarily mathematics, physics, English, and history courses recommended by the armed services. The following subjects will be definitely in the
program: third year mathematics (algebra and geometry); fourth year mathematics (plane trigonometry and solid geometry; some spherical trigonometry and college algebra); fourth year English; third and fourth year French; third year German; American history; physics; and chemistry. Other courses necessary to enable the students to meet requirements for graduation may be added.

The fee for the Anticipatory Program is the same as for the regular school year, $1050. The established system of grants and scholarships will apply to Exeter students who enroll for the full program. For boys from other schools who attend the summer term only, the fee will be $400. Grants or scholarships will not be available for these students. The charge covers everything except books, laundry, athletic equipment, and unusual medical expenses.

Application for admission to the Anticipatory Program should be made as early as possible, in any event before May 15, 1943. Application forms and detailed arrangement of programs for individual students can be secured by addressing Philip E. Hulburd, Director of the Anticipatory Program, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N. H. Information concerning the Summer Session can be obtained from H. Darcy Curwen, Director of the Summer Session.

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