

LIFE OF AN ENGINEERING STUDENT

Life for the two-year Engineering Technology student starts with his acceptance at Penn State University. He is required to take placement tests and a physical examination. If the student passes his physical, he is admitted as a student. All of these things take place in the summer months before Penn State begins classes.

The first week of college is called Orientation Week, during which all students become acquainted with the operation of Penn State, his fellow students, advisors, and instructors. The purpose of the advisor is to help the student with any questions and problems he may have. Books and supplies are also bought during Orientation Week.

The following week marks the beginning of classes. Students sometimes miss their first class because they cannot find ~~the~~ the room they are supposed to be in. Generally, this confusion only lasts a short time, because the stray students receive directions from fellow classmates. Classes last for fifteen weeks, terminated with final examinations. A short vacation separates the first and second semesters which, I might add, is appreciated by **both** the students and faculty alike.

After the short vacation, classes resume with new books, supplies, **subjects**, and instructors. Possibly the only difficulty encountered is that of getting used to a new and different schedule of classes. As with the first semester, the second semester lasts for fifteen weeks. Exams are given during the last week, and all two-year Electrical Technology students who pass the pre-requisite subject, go to the main campus for a three-week course in D.C. Motors and Machines.

Life at the main campus during these three weeks is hectic. The student is required to prepare a lab report **every** night for the three weeks. Tests are given at the end of each week, with a final exam at the end of the third week. Although these three weeks are set at a demanding pace, any student who attended these three weeks would do it over

again voluntarily if he were asked. This attitude is something which can simply be **attributed** to the fact that, although the pace was hectic, the students found it a valuable experience.

Students who pass the three-week course at University Park are then ready to re-enter Penn State in the fall for the third and fourth semesters. Although the work and courses become more difficult, the students somehow manage to survive, however, and go on to graduate.

During the fourth semester, students plan for the time when they will graduate and get a job. They are aided by the job placement program service here. This service is now under the direction of Mr. McKinstry and Mr. Kidd who are doing an excellent job.

Although the two-year Electrical Technology program is a lot of work, there are times when the student can enjoy himself also. The Union Building is equipped with ping-pong tables, chess and card tables, shuffle board, and a lounge. Many extra-curricular clubs have been organized for the students. Some of these are Belles-Lettres Society, the Business and Economic Club, and the Photography Club. Also, there is the Parnassus Honor Society.

The life of the Penn State student in the two-year Electrical Technology program can be fruitful if the student wants it to be. All the student has to do is apply himself and make the best use of the time he will spend during the two years he is at Penn State.

Walter Andreas

There will be a Reading and Study Improvement Course held at Highacres this summer from June 26 through August 7, 1961.
