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Graduate Study in Reading

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Editorial Comment

GRADUATE STUDY IN READING

Reading as with any form of human behavior involves the whole individual. Physical, psychological, sociological as well as educational factors are to be considered in any study of reading performance. Consequently, the mature student will select a graduate school where a multiple disciplinary approach to the study of the individual will be utilized. This means that the graduate student will be encouraged to do work in several departments and not be restricted only to the school of education. Experiential background in one discipline is not sufficient for the specialist in reading.

A graduate school should be selected because of its faculty and not necessarily because of the lucrative fellowships and scholarships which may be available. Your major professor should be a nationally recognized leader who has made a unique contribution in the field of reading. He should do more than dispense second-hand information provided by more vigorous and productive scholars. Select your professors because of their well-designed and well-controlled research. Become a disciple of a creative leader who is well known for his professional books, stimulating articles and thought-provoking lectures. Avoid instructors who are satisfied with what they have done for they will never be known for what they could do.

The graduate degree is more than a union card. It should never be granted merely upon the accumulation of credits. Instead, graduate study involves mastery of a field of specialization and the ability to create new knowledge and a new pattern of thought by an integration of the old from several fields of learning. The continued validity of a graduate degree should depend not upon past performance alone but upon one's present ability to produce and to create.

Homer L. J. Carter
Editor