

New Light on Student Expenses

THIS is the time of year that high school graduates are asking O.U. alumni the old, old question: "What does it cost to go to school at the University of Oklahoma?"

How much is board and room? What are the enrolment fees? How much does the average student spend on entertainment? Does it cost a lot extra to belong to a fraternity or sorority?

High school graduates trying to decide whether to attend their state university are vitally interested in the answers to those questions. They want specific answers, too—not just vague recollections by an alumnus as to what student expenses were ten years ago.

Fortunately, the questions can be answered accurately now. During the last school year the University has made the most extensive survey into student costs that has ever been attempted at O.U. A questionnaire was submitted to the 6,000 student attending classes at Norman, 3,519 answers were received, and the results were carefully tabulated by A. E. Chandler, associate professor of economics.

The average Sooner student, the survey reveals, has a monthly expense of \$43 while attending the University, exclusive of enrolment fees. The basic enrolment fee for each semester is the \$10 incidental and service fee. There is no tuition except for non-residents of Oklahoma, although after 1939 there will be a \$50 tuition fee for students entering the Medical School. Students taking laboratory courses are required to pay for the materials used.

The average monthly expense of \$43 varies greatly with individual students, of course. The student with a much more liberal allowance from home than that amount has no trouble finding ways to spend it. On the other hand, plenty of students are going to school for much less, and not complaining about it either.

The average figure of \$43 includes both fraternity and non-fraternity students. If the prospective student expects to go through college without belonging to a fraternity he can figure on an average monthly expense of \$41.36. This is the average for a student who is temporarily in residence at Norman—that is, not a commuter or a permanent resident of Norman.

If the prospective student wants to belong to a fraternity, he can figure on an average expense of \$66.57 a month. Generally speaking, the fraternity members

pay more for room and board and also for entertainment, which accounts for most of the higher expense.

Disregarding the extremes and selecting the typical non-fraternity student (which the statistician does by working out what he calls the "modal average"), we find the distribution of monthly expenses for a typical student not belonging to a fraternity is about as follows:

Board	\$22.50
Room	7.50
Entertainment	2.50
School	2.50
Miscellaneous	2.50
Total	\$37.50

In other words, except for eating and sleeping, students really don't have to spend very much to attend the University of Oklahoma. A majority of students at O.U. work part of their way through school. The average non-fraternity student who is employed works 69.20 hours per month, earning \$24.45 toward his expenses.

But expenses go up when Joe College takes on fraternity membership. The survey shows that the typical fraternity member's college expenses are distributed like this:

Board	\$32.50
Room	12.50
Entertainment	7.50
School	7.50
Miscellaneous	7.50

The survey fails to show whether fraternity members prefer more expensive miscellanys than non-fraternity members, or simply use more of them. Anyway, the figures are those reported by the stu-

dents themselves and are presumably accurate.

The fraternity members have no aversion to work. Greek chapter members who are employed work an average of 65.44 hours per month, and the average amount earned is \$29.32.

Working for board is the major field for the student wanting to earn part of his college expenses—washing dishes or waiting tables. Clerical work ranks second in importance.

Data from the survey shows that not only are the expenses of the fraternity member higher than the average, but the mathematical prospects for making good grades are not quite so good for the fraternity member. Professor Chandler concludes from his analysis that fraternity members make more low grades (below one grade point), and they also furnish a smaller per cent of high grades (two grade points or better) than do the non-fraternity students.

The survey disclosed various interesting items of miscellaneous information:

That 48 of the students answering the questionnaire had scholarships.

That the amounts of the scholarships varied from \$10 per semester to more than \$200.

That of the 3,519 students reporting, nearly two thousand were employed.

That 685 were "wholly employed" and 1,275 partially employed.

That of all those answering the questionnaire, 452 indicated that they have Indian blood.

That the group included 349 commuters who are taking full University work.

