

degree requirement. The various graduate courses reported by the women covered many subjects—with “education,” sociology and social work, and the health fields mentioned most frequently. Since college, some of the alumnae had also taken one or more undergraduate courses, and some had studied business and commercial subjects. Comparatively few of the survey respondents reported taking preparatory courses for professional nursing, or any other vocational courses.

## Employment Status in 1960

A majority of the class of 1945 alumnae from each of the four colleges were housewives who were not working outside the home. Of the reporting alumnae, higher proportions of graduates than nongraduates were employed (table 6). This tendency for the employment of women to increase with their level of education resembles the situation in the population as a whole. In 1959, the labor-force participation rate was 53 percent among all college graduates and 40 percent among those with some college but no degree.

Of the few alumnae (class of 1945) who had remained single, virtually all were employed at full-time jobs. Many of the single graduates had worked continuously since college and almost all reported at least 10 years of employment.

Among those who were widowed, separated, or divorced, at least three out of four from each of the colleges were employed in 1960–61, some in part-time jobs. The work experience of this group varied greatly, ranging from no years of paid work to as many as 15 years.

Lower proportions of the married than unmarried alumnae were working outside the home. Even fewer of the married nongraduates were employed than were the married graduates. For married alumnae—both graduates and nongraduates—part-time jobs tended to be more prevalent than full-time jobs. Among the four survey colleges, the proportions of married graduates who were employed ranged from 10 to 36 percent; the proportions of those employed part time ranged from 8 to 19 percent (table 7).

Although a majority of the 1945 alumnae of each of the survey colleges were not employed at the time of the survey, large percentages had held at least one paid job between college and the winter of 1960–61 (table 8). This was true for more of the women graduates than of the women nongraduates. Some of the married *alumnae* (both graduates and nongraduates) had worked over half of the time since leaving college, but most reported 5 years or less of paid employment.

Among the married *graduates*, about half from each of the colleges had 5 years or less of employment and relatively few had 10 years or more.

The work experience was more recent for the surveyed graduates than for the nongraduates. Many of the women graduates had held a paid job since 1955, but most of the nongraduates had not worked since 1950 (table 9).

## Volunteer Activities

Many of the alumnae were active in volunteer services. In fact, much higher proportions (83 to 91 percent) participated in volunteer work in the winter of 1960-61 than worked for pay (16 to 39 percent).

Membership in educational, cultural, or recreational organizations was reported by substantial groups of alumnae from all four survey colleges. Many were also associated with civic, political, or welfare service organizations and religious organizations. Relatively small proportions of the alumnae said they were members of professional associations. This may result from the fact that most of the alumnae were not employed at the time of the survey.

Some of the alumnae who were busy with volunteer activities had been disillusioned with brief job experiences. For example, a psychology major who was married and the mother of two children had worked about 1 year after leaving college and reported:

"I never found a job that utilized my training, intelligence, or aptitudes. Salaries in any interesting fields were not remunerative enough. Some were below minimum wage standards."

However, other alumnae who engaged in both volunteer activities and paid employment believed that unpaid volunteer work in some organizations was becoming less attractive. A pertinent comment follows:

"Employees receive more recognition than volunteers. There is need for both, but the paid individual has the edge on the volunteer. The paid person, I believe, receives the more responsible assignments and therefore has more incentive, interest, and satisfaction."