



**Vernon Peele's recollections
about the first master's degree programs**

Sweeney: In 1963 you served on a six-man graduate council which prepared curriculum proposals for the state council's consideration. How did you choose the areas of English, History, Elementary Education and Business Administration as the areas in which to begin the master's program?

Peele: *They were chosen on the basis of several factors. The strength of a given department, student interest in securing advanced graduate degree--or at least graduate degrees, the number of faculty within the department and the number of PhD's in the department. A balance of the faculty so that if some faculty members were teaching in the graduate field, they would not be injuring the quality of education for the undergraduates. And also the ability to secure and supply more teachers in the given areas.*

Full interview at:

<http://dc.lib.odu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/oralhistory/id/302/rec/26>