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TRENDS IN  
ADMISSION VARIABLES  
THROUGH THE  
CLASS OF 1986

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OCTOBER 1982

**DUTY-HONOR-COUNTRY**

TRENDS IN ADMISSION VARIABLES THROUGH THE CLASS OF 1986

Report No.: USMA-OIR-82-014  
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ABSTRACT

The United States Military Academy uses the Whole Candidate concept in the selection of candidates for admission. This concept encompasses three broad areas: academic, leadership potential, and physical condition and aptitude. This report compares the pre-college performance of members of the Class of 1986 with previous classes in these three areas.

NOTE: Any conclusions in this report are not to be construed as official U.S. Military Academy or Department of the Army positions unless so designated by other authorized documents.



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## Executive Summary

I. PURPOSE. This report contains information, for rapid reference, comparing the pre-college performance of members of the Class of 1986 with previous classes in the areas of academics, leadership potential, and physical performance.

II. METHODOLOGY. Data displayed in this report were obtained from the following sources:

- A. Academic Performance: High School Transcripts, American College Tests and College Entrance Examination Board Tests.
- B. Physical Performance: Physical Aptitude Exam.
- C. Leadership Potential: An index developed from combining extra-curricular and athletic activities with high school faculty evaluation.

III. RESULTS.

A. The mean SAT-Verbal score (560) for cadets in the Class of 1986 is seven points higher than the average mean score of the last nine years and the mean SAT-Math score (631) is three points higher.

B. The Class of 1986 Physical Aptitude Exam score for men (565) is eleven points higher than the average mean for the last nine years and the mean PAE score for women (523) is five points higher than the mean for the last five years.

C. The Leadership Potential Score mean (595) is seven points lower than the nine year average mean. This may be due to the new faculty evaluation form used this year.

D. The mean Whole Candidate Score for cadets in the Class of 1986 (5929) is 26 points higher than the mean score of the last nine years.

IV. CONCLUSIONS.

A. Academic Qualifications: The academic qualifications of cadets have remained approximately the same while the mean College Board scores of all college bound high school seniors throughout the United States has shown a steady decline over the past ten years.

B. Physical Qualifications: The Physical Aptitude Exam scores of male cadets have shown a slight rise over the last ten years while the scores of female cadets has been stable over the last six years.

C. Leadership Qualifications: The qualities of leadership as measured by the Leadership Potential Score have remained stable over the ten year period.

D. Overall Qualifications: The Military Academy is continuing to attract outstanding candidates.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Background

1. This report, along with the reports, Characteristics of the Class of 1986 (August 1982) and New Cadets and Other College Freshmen, Class of 1986 (due spring, 1983), comprise the three general reports prepared by the Office of Institutional Research to describe the Class of 1986 at the time the class entered the Military Academy.

2. The same reports were prepared for the Classes of 1971 through 1985 and similar reports are planned for each future class when it enters the Military Academy.

### B. Purpose

This report compares the pre-college performance of members of the Class of 1986 with previous classes in the areas of academics, leadership, physical performance and athletic participation.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### A. Data Collection

Data displayed in this report were obtained from the following sources:

1. Academic performance: High School Transcripts, American College Tests, and College Entrance Examination Board Tests.
2. Physical performance: Physical Aptitude Exam.
3. School Activities and Awards: Self-reported by cadets on questionnaires administered during Cadet Basic Training.
4. Leadership Potential: An index developed from combining extracurricular and athletic activities with high school faculty evaluations.

### B. Definitions

1. CEEP College Entrance Examination Board scores and High School Rank scores combined statistically.
2. HSR High School Rank Score.
3. LPS Leadership Potential Score.
4. PAE Physical Aptitude Examination.
5. SAT-V Scholastic Aptitude Test - Verbal.
6. SAT-M Scholastic Aptitude Test - Mathematics.
7. ACT-EN American College Test - English.
8. ACT-MA American College Test - Mathematics.
9. ACT-NA American College Test - Natural Science.
10. ACEER A composite score of 3 ACT tests and HSR (the ACT Social Science test is not used in calculating the ACEER).
11. WCS Whole Candidate Score. A combination of CEER (or ACEER), LPS and PAE.

### III. RESULTS

#### A. Academic Characteristics

1. The mean College Entrance Examination Board and American College Test scores for the Classes of 1980 through 1986 for admitted cadets are:

	'86	'85	'84	'83	'82	'81	'80
SAT-V	560	549	552	560	560	548	550
SAT-M	631	620	623	626	637	629	638
ACT-EN	23.4	23.3	23.2	23.2	23.2	22.4	22.6
ACT-MA	28.9	28.6	28.9	28.9	29.0	28.4	28.7
ACT-NS	28.7	28.7	28.7	29.1	29.0	29.0	29.2
HSR	580	570	556	565	569	563	572

2. The mean cadet score for the Class of '86 on SAT-V is higher than that of 88% of secondary school seniors who comprise the national norm for college bound youths; and the mean SAT-M of cadets is higher than 90% of the national norm. The means of cadets on the American College Test scores were well above the national sample for students at 309 four year colleges. The mean cadet score for the Class of '86 on ACT-English is higher than 85% of the students in the national norm; the mean cadet ACT-Math is higher than 95% of those students; and the mean cadet ACT-Natural Science score is higher than 85%.

3. The mean scores of the Scholastic Aptitude Tests of all college-bound high school seniors, nationwide, have shown a steady decline over the past sixteen years; for USMA the decline has been much less:

	SAT-V			SAT-M		
	1965	1982	% Decline	1965	1982	% Decline
USMA	569	560	2%	637	631	1%
Nationwide	473	426	10%	496	467	6%

4. Each candidate is evaluated either on College Board scores (CEER) or American College Test Program scores (ACEER). If both are available, the higher of the two is used. Figure 1 provides a graphic comparison of the number of cadets within each CEER range with the number of completely examined candidates within the same ranges. Figure 2 shows a similar comparison of candidates and cadets evaluated using ACEER scores. Table 1 shows the distribution, at 50 point intervals, of whole candidate score components for cadets in the Class of 1986.

B. Physical Aptitude. The average Physical Aptitude Examination score of 565 for men in the USMA Class of 1986 is five points higher than the score for the Classes of '82, '83, '84 and '85. The women in the Class of 1986 had a mean PAE score of 523 compared to 517 for women in the Class of '85 and 534 for the Class of '84. It should be noted that the PAE tests for men and women are not identical. The mean PAE for all candidates is shown in Table 2.

C. Leadership Potential. The Leadership Potential Scores are derived from the ratings of the candidate by his secondary school teachers and evaluations by admissions officials of his quality of participation in athletic and other school and community activities. The mean LPS for this class (595) is within seven points of the mean of classes for the past four years. A graphic comparison of the distribution scores in this class with that in the candidate populations is provided in Figure 3.

**D. Overall Characteristics.**

1. The Whole Candidate Score is a weighted score consisting of 60 percent CEER (or ACEER), 10 percent PAE, and 30 percent LPS. The distribution of the WCS for the Class of 1986 is shown below:

<u>Score Range</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
7500-8000	0	0
7000-7499	3	0.2
6500-6999	88	6.2
6000-6499	520	36.6
5500-5999	631	44.4
5000-5499	167	11.8
4500-4999	<u>11</u>	<u>0.8</u>
	1420	

Mean = 5929      Standard Deviation = 375

2. A graphic comparison of the number of cadets whose scores fall in each WCS range with the number of candidates whose scores fall within the same ranges is shown in Figure 4.

**E. Trends in Admissions Variables.**

Figures 5-11 show trend data for the classes of 1977 through 1986. Figure 5 shows that academic scores had a sharp rise for the Class of 1978 and since then remained fairly constant. Other trends for admitted cadets reflect the following:

1. SAT-V and SAT-M scores show a similar pattern, with little deviation over the past five years (Figures 6&7).
2. The LPS has remained fairly constant with a deviation of no more than ten points from the mean of the ten year period (Figure 8).
3. The PAE scores for men have shown a slight rise over the last ten years (Figure 9).
4. The HSR has risen slightly over the last ten years, with the mean for the Class of '86 being the highest for that period (Figure 10).
5. The WCS increased for the Class of 1978 through the Class of 1982 and declined slightly through the Class of 1985 and rose for the Class of 1986 (Figure 11).

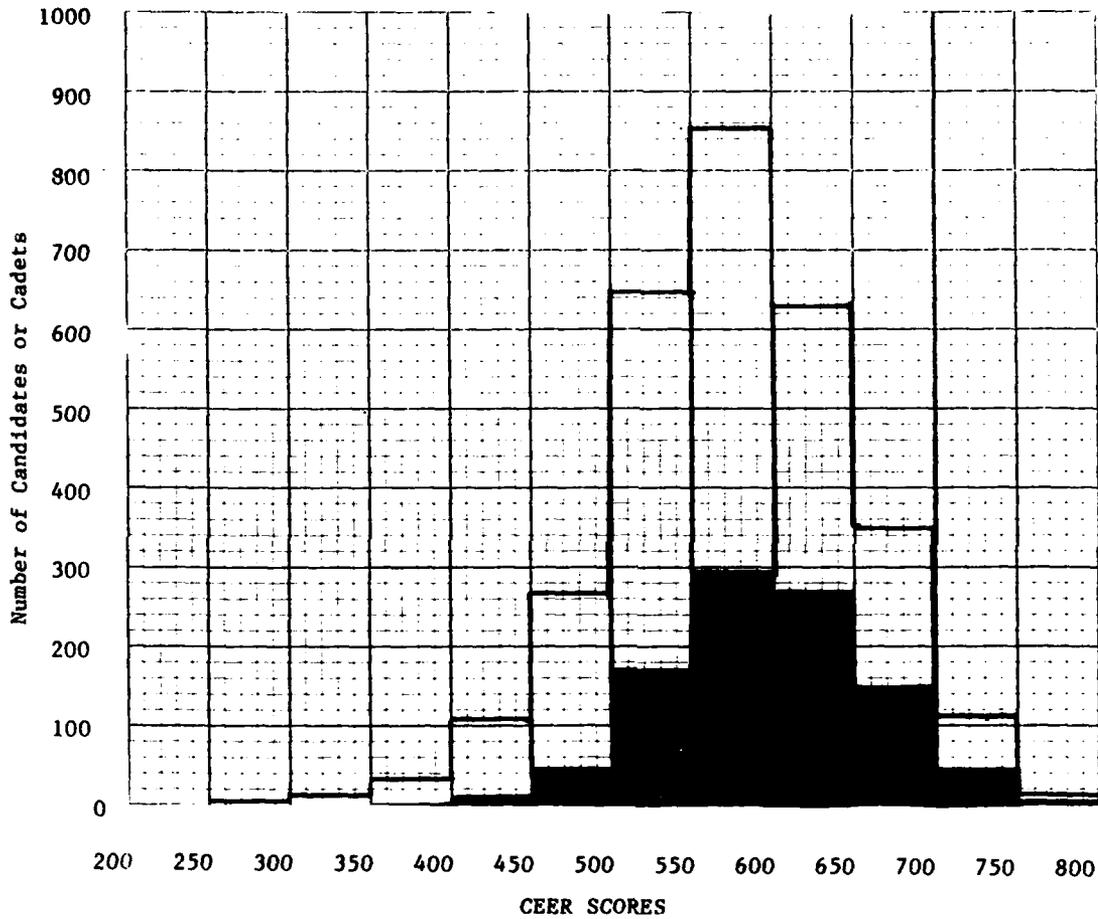
**F. Selected Activities and Awards.**

1. Tables 3 and 3a give information on the background, activities and awards of entering cadets of the Classes of 1978 through 1986.
2. The Class of 1986 displays a diversity of involvement in extracurricular and athletic activities similar to previous classes. Over 26 percent of the Class of 1986 held an elective high school class office; over 85 percent earned varsity letters and 49 percent were team captains. Over 45 percent were scouts, 10 percent making the rank of Eagle Scout. Twenty-two percent were Boys/Girls State Representatives.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. **Academic Qualifications:** The academic qualifications of cadets have remained approximately the same while the mean College Board scores of all college bound high school seniors have shown a steady decline over the past ten years.
2. **Physical Qualifications:** The Physical Aptitude Exam scores of male cadets have shown a slight rise over the past ten years and the PAE scores of female cadets has been stable over the last six years.
3. **Leadership Qualifications:** The qualities of leadership as measured by the Leadership Potential Score have remained stable over the ten year period but declined slightly for the Class of 1986. This can probably be explained by the fact that a new form was used for High School Officials evaluations.
4. **Overall Qualifications:** The Class of 1986 has a mean Whole Candidate Score twenty-six points above the average mean score of the last ten years, indicating that the Military Academy is continuing to attract outstanding candidates.

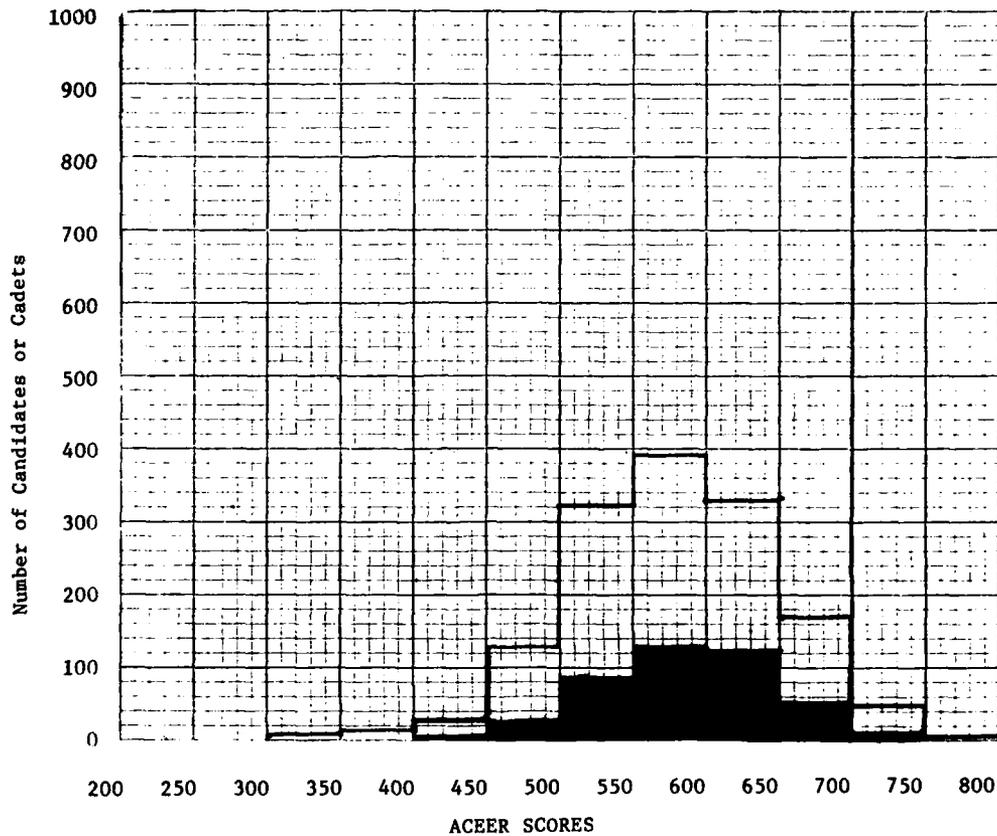
			<u>Number</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>
Candidates		Candidates	3057	574	75
Cadets		Cadets	980	597	62



No. Candidates	0	3	6	38	115	271	652	859	635	354	109	15
% Entered	0	0	0	3	3	15	27	35	42	41	39	33
No. Cadets	0	0	0	1	3	42	177	299	265	145	43	5

FIGURE 1 COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF CADETS (EVALUATED USING CEER) WITH THE NUMBER OF FULLY EXAMINED CANDIDATES (EVALUATED USING CEER) AT EACH CEER SCORE LEVEL FOR THE CLASS OF 1986.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>
Candidates	1430	575	71
Cadets	440	591	60



No. Candidates	0	0	8	11	30	130	321	399	322	165	42	2
% Entered	0	0	0	0	3	18	26	33	39	36	33	0
No. Cadets	0	0	0	0	1	24	85	131	126	59	14	0

FIGURE 2 COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF CADETS (EVALUATED USING ACEER) WITH THE NUMBER OF FULLY EXAMINED CANDIDATES (EVALUATED USING ACEER) AT EACH ACEER SCORE LEVEL FOR THE CLASS OF 1986.

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF SCORES ON WHOLE CANDIDATE SCORE COMPONENTS  
FOR THE CLASS OF 1986

Score Ranges	Academic		Male Physical Aptitude (PAE)		Female Physical Aptitude (PAE)		Leadership Potential (LPS)	
	CEER	ACEER	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
750-800	5	0	26	2	1	0	1	0
700-749	43	14	44	3	3	2	53	4
650-699	145	59	129	11	7	4	250	17
600-649	265	126	216	17	17	12	422	30
550-599	299	131	284	22	27	18	364	26
500-549	177	85	281	22	31	21	215	15
450-499	42	24	212	17	27	18	78	5
400-499	3	1	70	5	30	21	33	3
350-399	1	0	6	1	9	3	4	0
300-349	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
250-299	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
200-249	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>1272</b>		<b>148</b>		<b>1420</b>	
<b>Mean</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>523</b>		<b>595</b>	
<b>S.D.</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>83</b>		<b>85</b>		<b>67</b>	

TABLE 2  
 MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR CEER, LPS, PAE  
 AND WCS, CLASS OF 1986

	CEER			LPS			PAE			WCS		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
A	6826	545	87	10961	543	86	6104	518	105	9565	5405	631
T	3057	574	75	4515	565	80	4542	528	98	4478	5677	524
M	2826	574	75	4159	567	79	4183	531	96	4132	5687	520
C	980	597	62	1420	595	67	1275*	565	83	1420	5929	375

\*PAE for Male Cadets: Means and Standard Deviations of PAE for candidates is for male and female combined.

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR ACEER, ACT-EN,  
 ACT-MA, AND ACT-NA, CLASS OF 1986

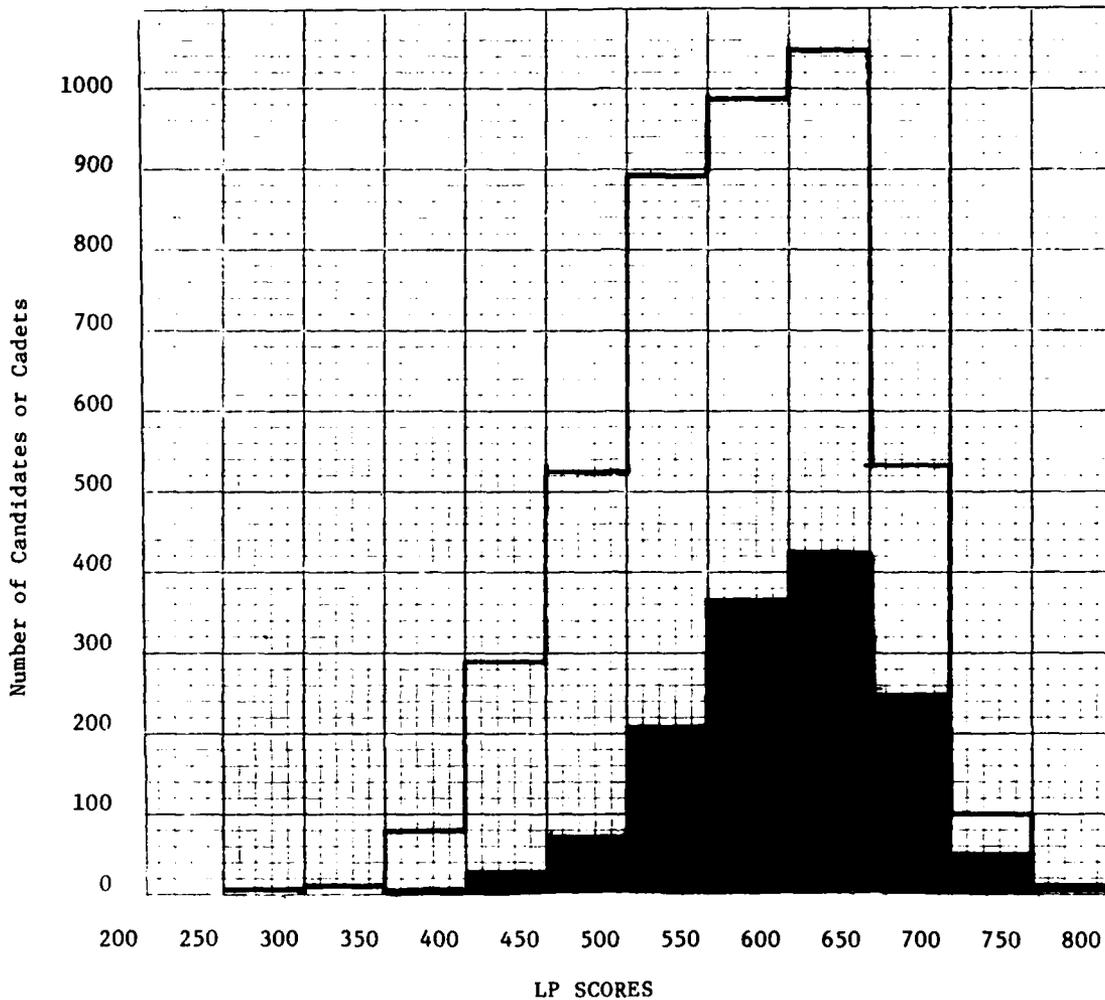
	ACEER			ACT-EN			ACT-MA			ACT-NA		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
A	2903	550	99	2903	22.0	4.1	2903	26.5	5.1	2903	27.5	4.7
T	1430	575	71	1430	22.9	3.5	1430	27.9	4.0	1430	28.6	3.8
M	1313	575	71	1313	22.9	3.5	1313	28.0	3.9	1313	28.5	3.7
C	440	591	60	440	23.4	3.3	440	28.9	3.3	440	28.7	3.4

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR SAT-V, SAT-M, AND  
 HSR, CLASS OF 1986

	SAT-V			SAT-M			HSR		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
A	6334	526	93	6341	607	93	10223	533	114
T	3057	546	83	3057	623	75	4486	556	110
M	2826	545	83	2826	625	75	4138	556	110
C	980	560	75	980	631	66	1420	580	100

NOTE: A = All Candidates Tested on Variables  
 T = All Candidates Fully Tested on CEER (ACEER), LPS, PAE and WCS  
 M = All Candidates Fully Tested and Medically Qualified  
 C = Admitted Candidates Who Became Cadets

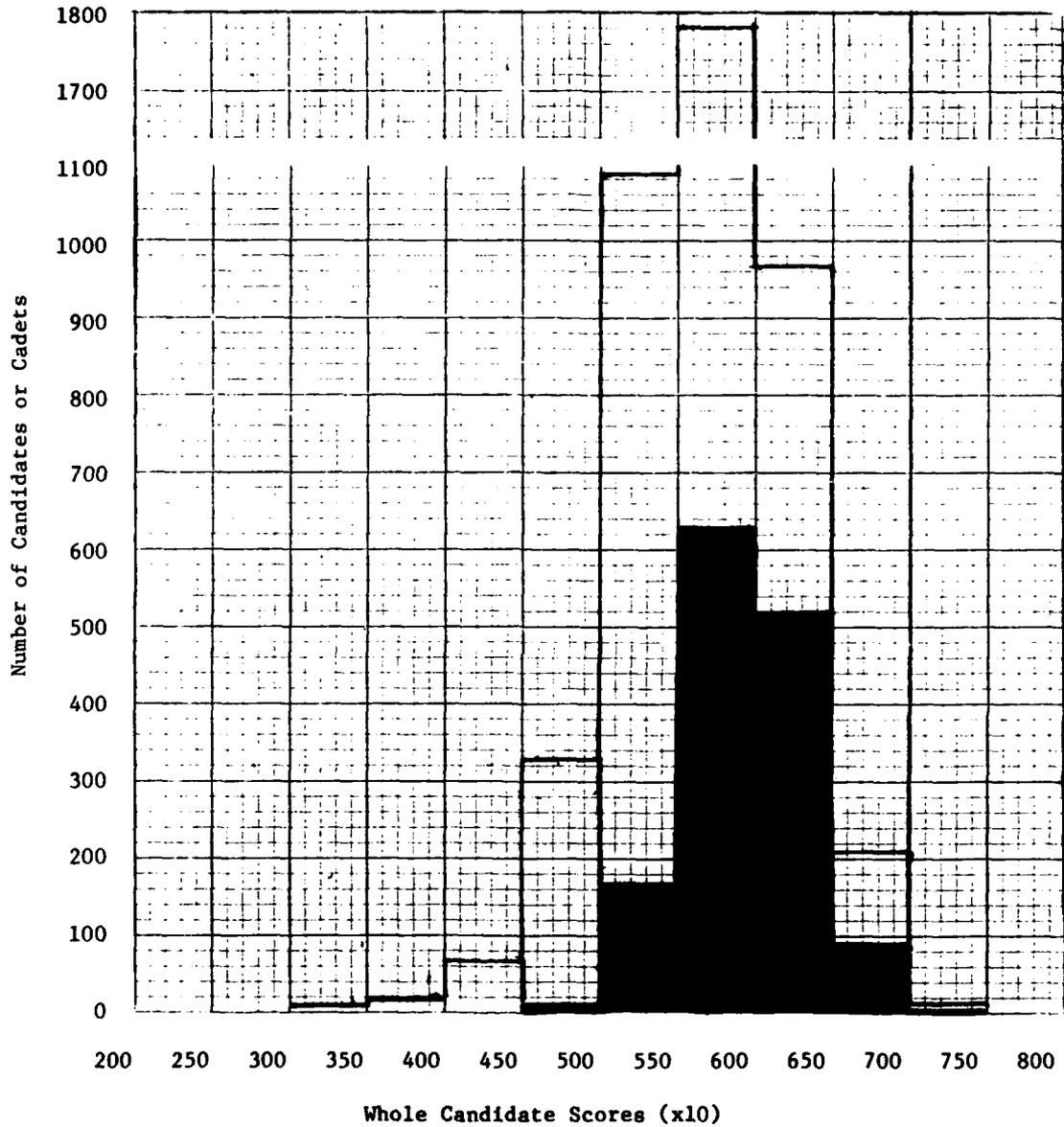
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>
Candidates	4515	565	80
Cadets	1426	595	67



No. Candidates	0	2	19	80	296	532	898	993	1054	539	100	2
% Entered	0	0	0	5	11	15	24	37	40	46	53	50
No. Cadets	0	0	0	4	33	78	215	364	422	250	53	1

FIGURE 3 COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF CADETS WITH THE NUMBER OF FULLY EXAMINED CANDIDATES AT EACH LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL LEVEL FOR THE CLASS OF 1986.

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>
Candidates		Candidates 4478	568	52
Cadets		Cadets 1420	593	38



	Whole Candidate Scores (x10)											
No. Candidates	0	0	2	19	72	335	1083	1781	973	202	11	0
% Entered	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	35	53	44	27	0
No. Cadets	0	0	0	0	0	11	167	631	520	88	3	0

FIGURE 4 COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF CADETS WITH THE NUMBER OF FULLY EXAMINED CANDIDATES AT EACH WHOLE CANDIDATE SCORE LEVEL FOR THE CLASS OF 1986.

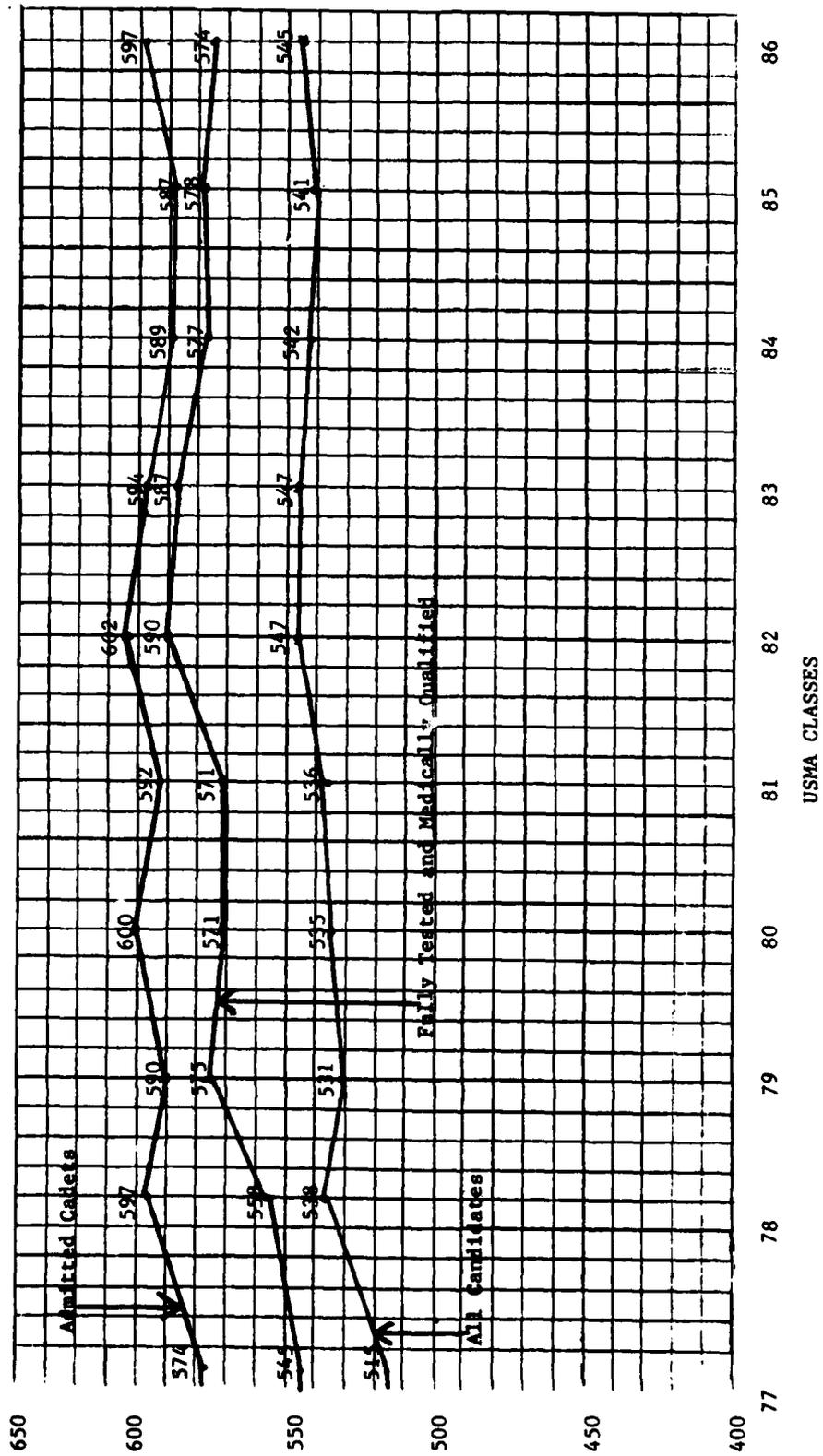
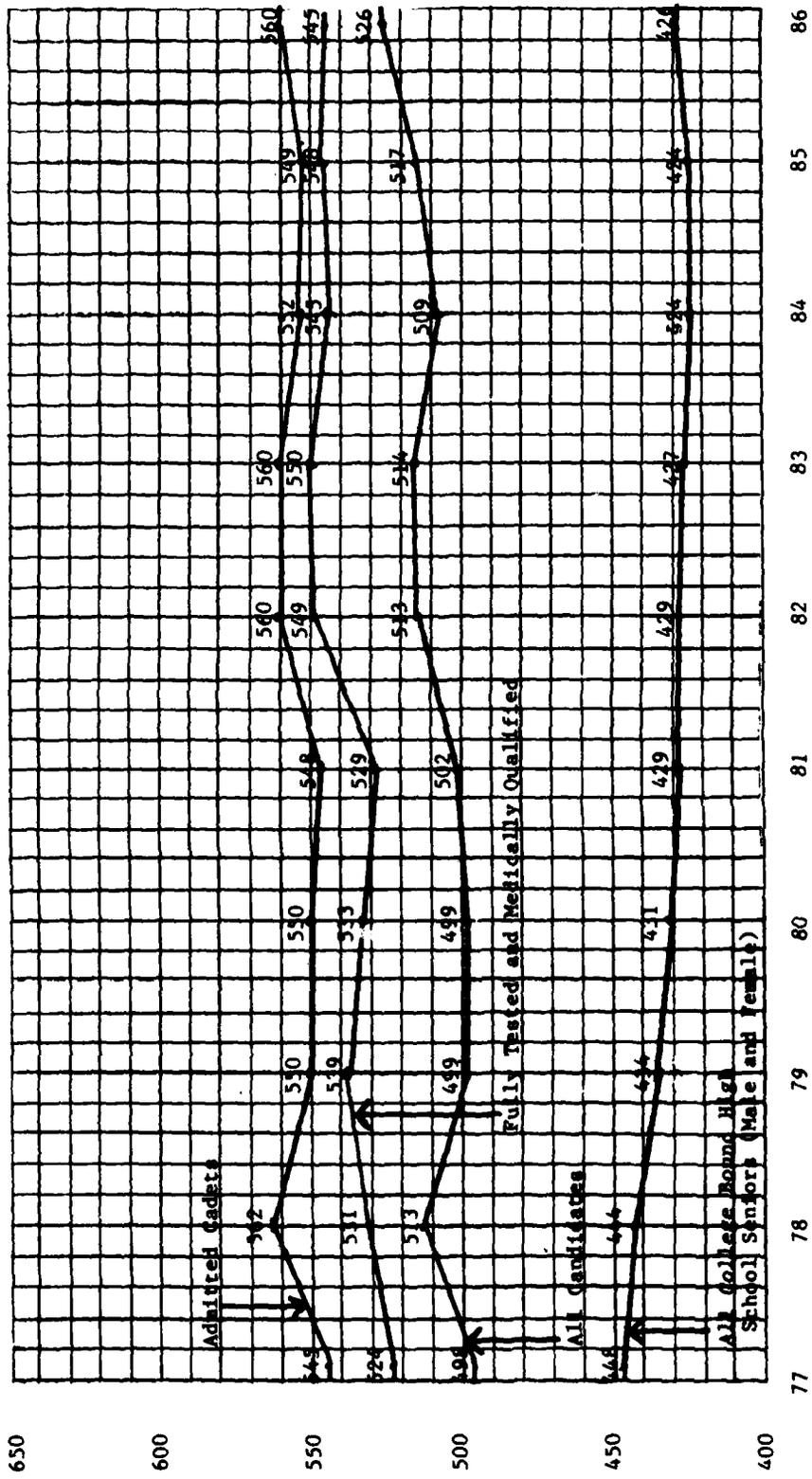


FIGURE 5. TRENDS OF MEAN CEER SCORES FOR THE CANDIDATES AND ENTERING CADETS OF THE CLASSES OF 1977 THROUGH 1986.



USMA CLASSES

FIGURE 6. TRENDS IN MEAN SAT-VERBAL SCORES FOR THE CANDIDATES AND ENTERING CADETS OF THE CLASSES OF 1977 THROUGH 1986 AND ALL COLLEGE BOUND HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NATIONWIDE.

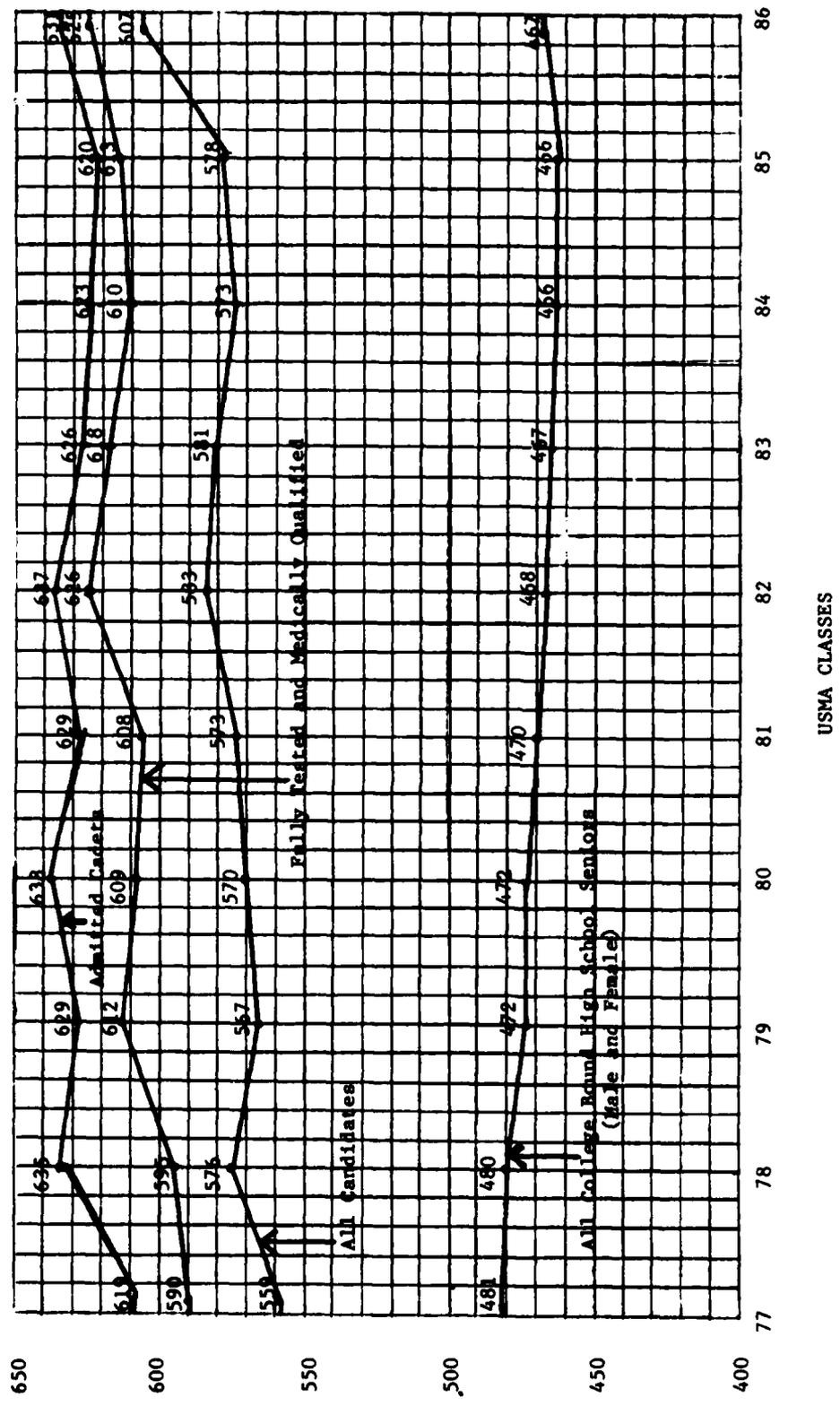


FIGURE 7. TRENDS OF MEAN SAT-MATHEMATICS SCORES FOR CANDIDATES AND ENTERING CADETS OF THE CLASSES OF 1977 THROUGH 1986 AND ALL COLLEGE BOUND HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, NATIONWIDE.

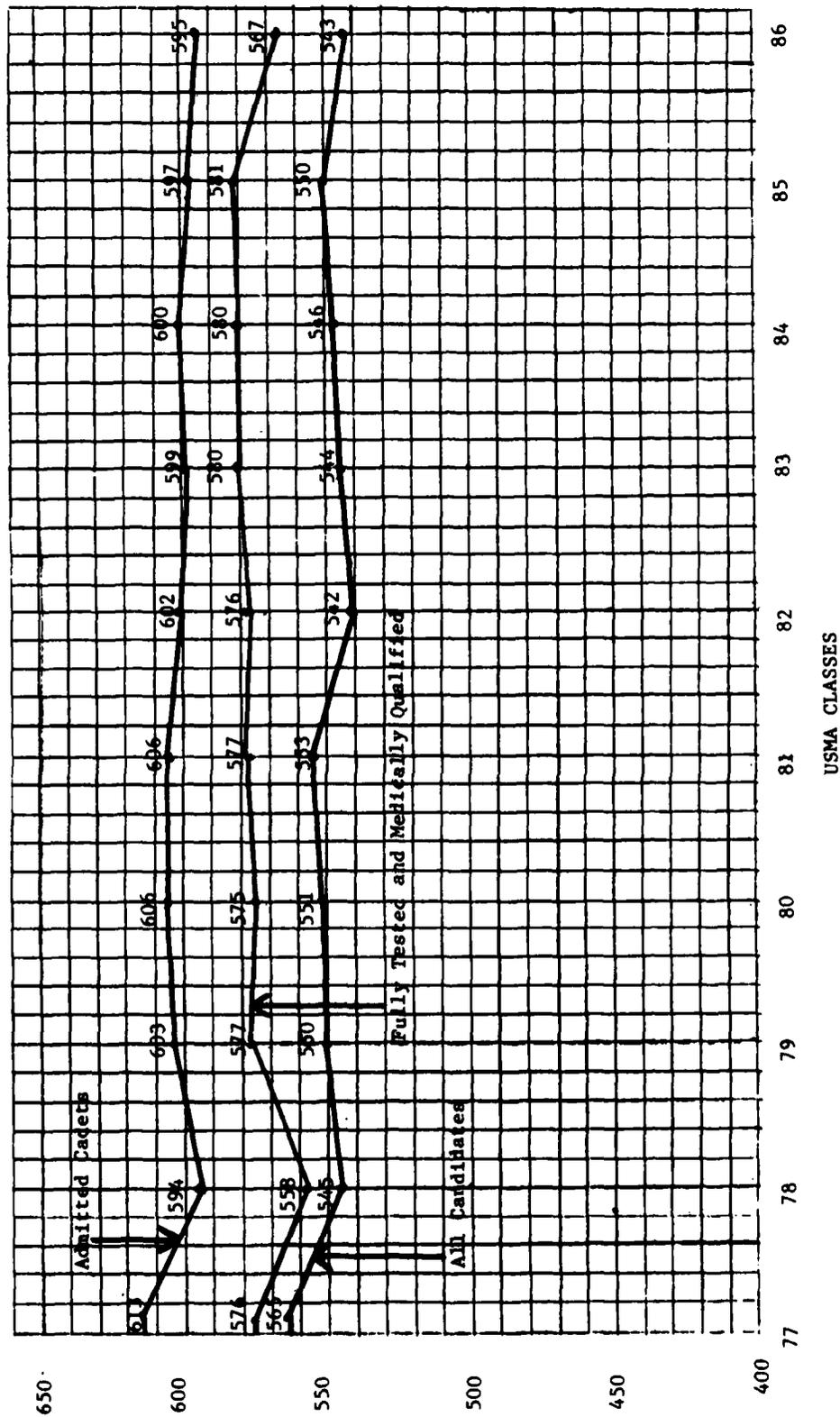


FIGURE 8. TRENDS OF MEAN LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL SCORES FOR THE CANDIDATES AND ENTERING CADETS OF THE CLASSES OF 1977 THROUGH 1986.

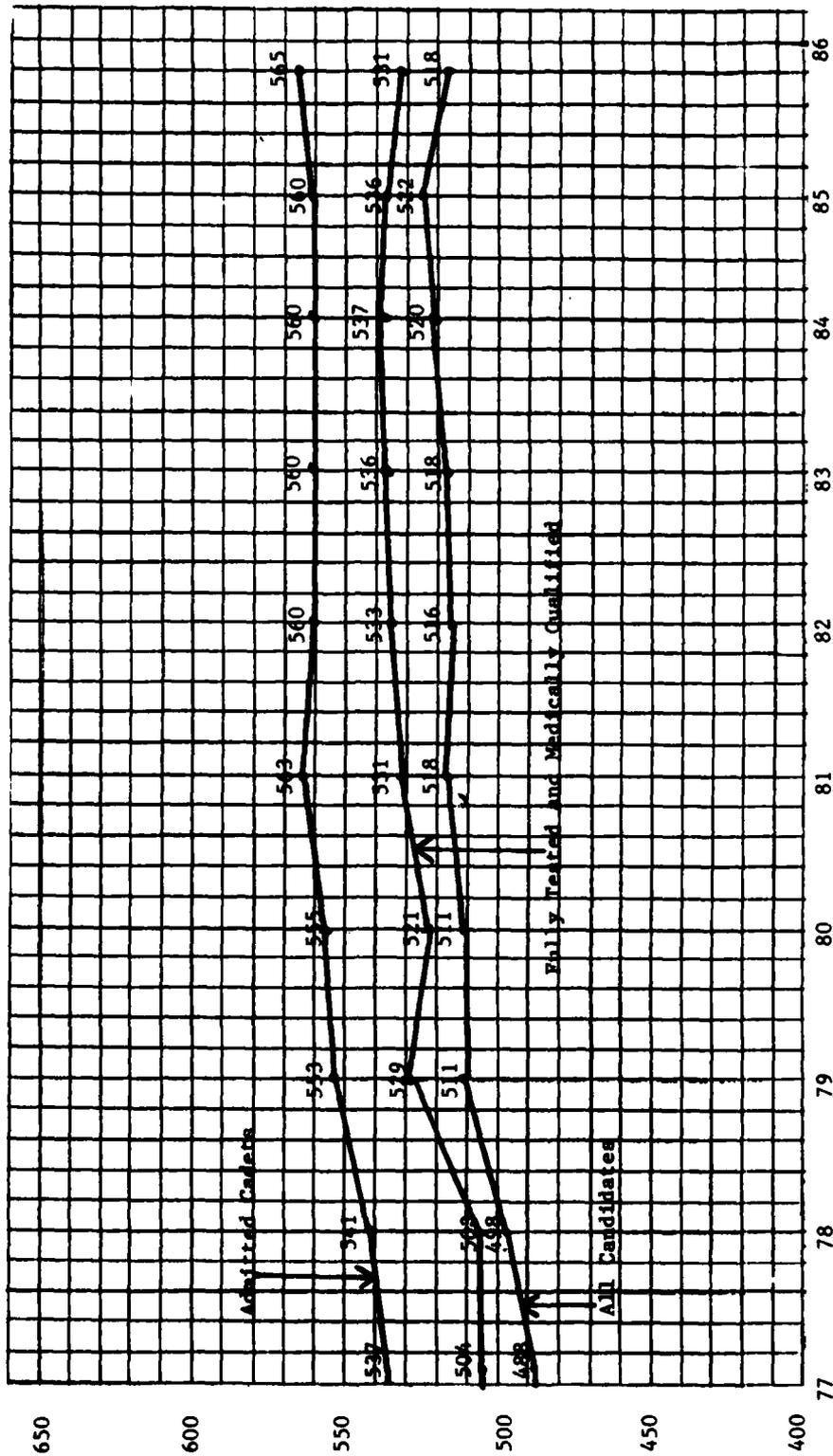


FIGURE 9. TRENDS OF MEAN PAE SCORES FOR THE CANDIDATES AND ENTERING CADETS OF THE CLASSES OF 1977 THROUGH 1986. (PAE for admitted cadets is for male cadets only).

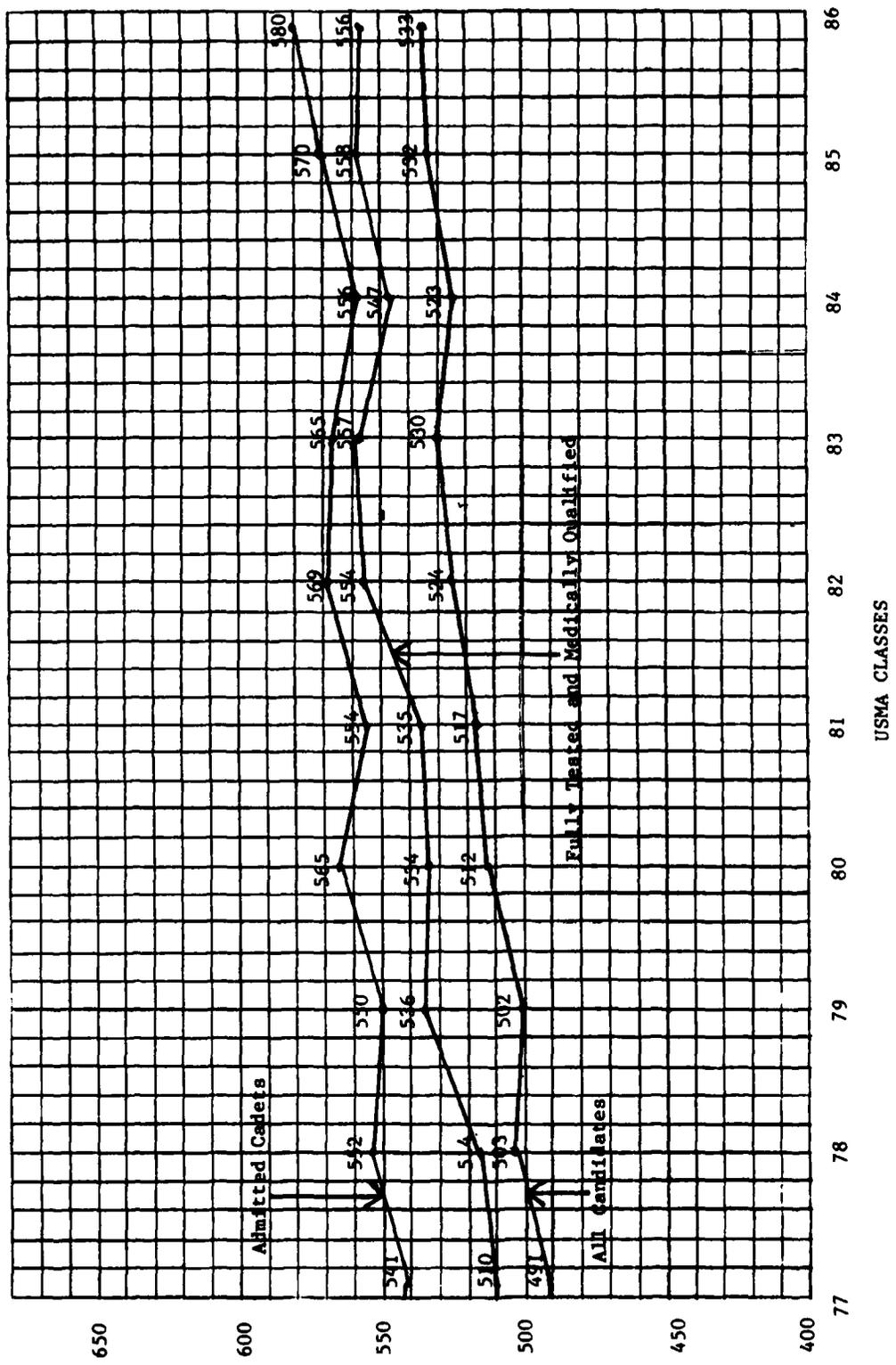


FIGURE 10. TRENDS OF MEAN HIGH SCHOOL RANK SCORES FOR THE CANDIDATES AND CADETS OF THE CLASSES OF 1977 THROUGH 1986.

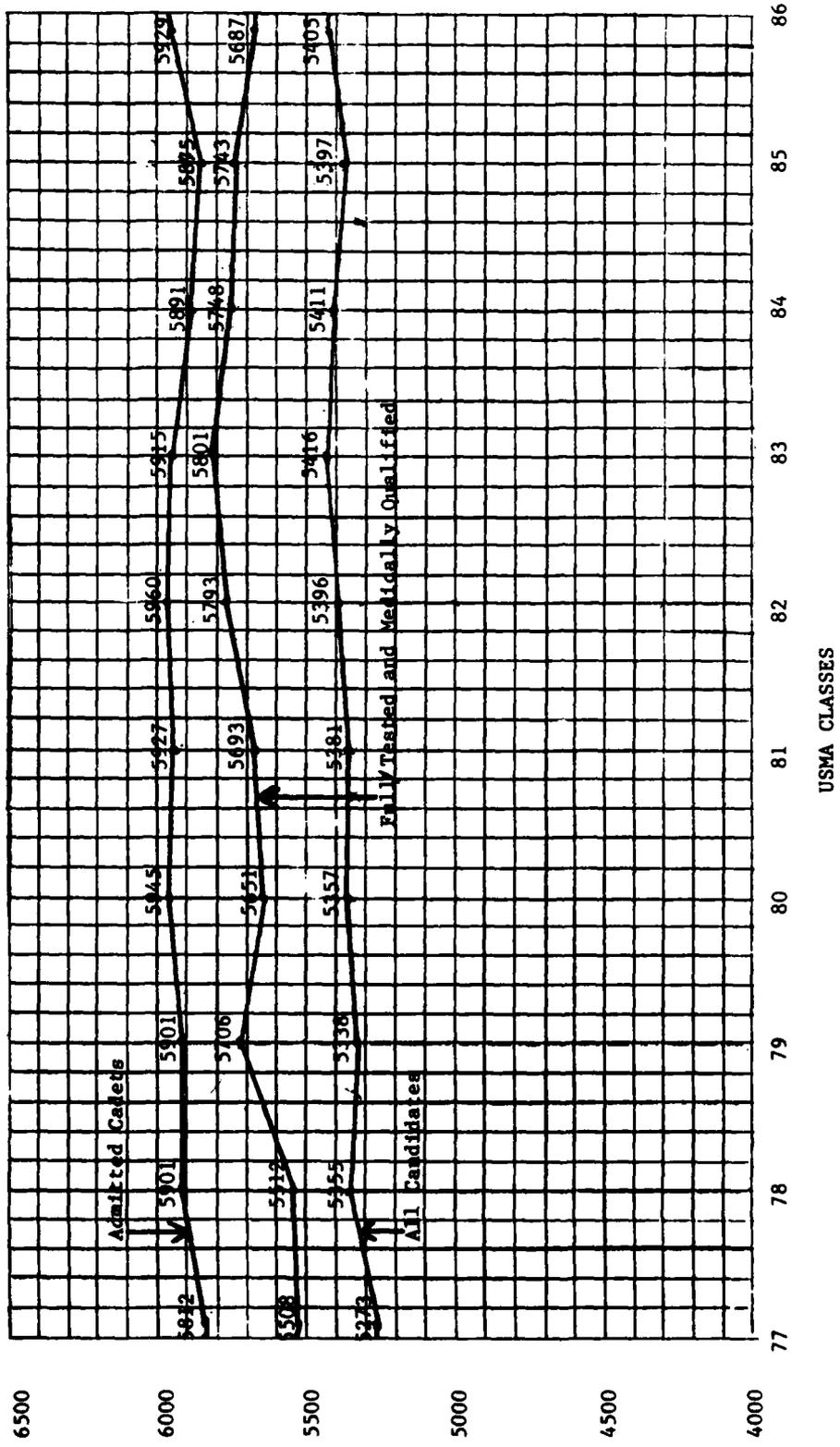


FIGURE 11. TRENDS OF MEAN WHOLE CANDIDATE SCORES FOR THE CANDIDATES AND ENTERING CADETS OF THE CLASSES OF 1977 THROUGH 1986.

TABLE 3

SELECTED HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS OF ENTERING CADETS IN THE CLASSES OF 1978 THROUGH 1986

	CLASS								
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Senior Class President	68 (4.7%)	95 (6.6%)	86 (5.8%)	91 (6.2%)	65 (4.7%)	77 (5.5%)	68 (4.7%)	77 (5.1%)	67 ( 5%)
Senior Class Officer	167(11.6%)	163(11.4%)	184(12.4%)	192(13.1%)	177(12.8%)	187(13.4%)	235(16.1%)	242(15.9%)	214 (15%)
Student Body President	62 (4.3%)	66 (4.6%)	73 (4.9%)	97 (6.6%)	73 (5.3%)	81 (5.8%)	63 (4.3%)	76 (5.0%)	85 ( 6%)
Debate Team	135 (9.4%)	127 (8.9%)	147 (9.9%)	163(11.1%)	160(11.5%)	159(11.4%)	158(10.8%)	170(11.2%)	170 (12%)
Varsity									
Lettermen	1137(79.2%)	1138(79.3%)	1199(80.7%)	1219(82.9%)	1161(83.2%)	1151(82.3%)	1228(84.3%)	1268(83.5%)	1210 (85%)
Team Captains	499(34.8%)	529(36.9%)	562(37.8%)	654(44.5%)	599(42.9%)	629(45.0%)	688(47.2%)	692(45.6%)	690 (49%)
Scouts, All	723(50.4%)	756(52.7%)	790(53.2%)	804(54.7%)	748(53.6%)	761(54.4%)	733(50.3%)	735(48.4%)	639 (45%)
Scouts, Eagle	184(12.8%)	206(14.4%)	185(12.5%)	209(14.2%)	142(11.2%)	182(13.0%)	174(11.9%)	138(10.4%)	122 (10%)
Boys/Girls									
State Representative	302(21.0%)	346(24.1%)	311(20.9%)	315(21.4%)	275(19.8%)	310(22.2%)	333(22.9%)	297(19.6%)	312 (22%)
High School Dramatic Club	153(11.0%)	165(11.5%)	173(11.6%)	209(14.2%)	215(15.5%)	209(14.9%)	229(15.7%)	219(14.4%)	219 (15%)
Bausch & Lomb Science Award	31 (2.2%)	39 (2.7%)	38 (2.6%)	38 (2.6%)	30 (2.2%)	28 (2.0%)	30 (2.1%)	26 (1.7%)	39 ( 3%)
American Legion Award	112 (7.8%)	131 (9.1%)	120 (8.1%)	145 (9.9%)	128 (9.2%)	138 (9.9%)	136 (9.3%)	154(10.1%)	138 (10%)

TABLE 3a

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF CADETS IN THE CLASSES OF 1978 THROUGH 1986

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
CLASS									
Cadets With 1 or More Months of College	195(13.6%)	217(15.5%)	225(15.2%)	263(17.9%)	213(15.3%)	260(18.6%)	215(14.1%)	174(11.4%)	204(14%)
Sons or Daughters of Alumni of USMA	50 (3.5%)	64 (4.5%)	59 (4.0%)	62 (4.2%)	57 (4.1%)	59 (4.2%)	54 (3.7%)	59 (3.8%)	51 (4%)
Attended USMA Preparatory School	187(13.0%)	211(14.7%)	179(12.1%)	162(11.0%)	211(15.2%)	207(14.8%)	191(13.1%)	203(13.3%)	186(13%)
Attended Public High School	1216(84.8%)	1231(85.9%)	1283(86.4%)	1259(85.7%)	1194(85.4%)	1201(85.9%)	1246(85.2%)	1281(84.4%)	1209(85%)
Attended Private High School	219(15.2%)	202(14.1%)	198(13.4%)	208(14.2%)	201(14.5%)	197(14.1%)	220(14.8%)	235(15.6%)	209(15%)
Rank in High School Class									
Top Fifth	1019(71.0%)	1011(70.6%)	1116(75.2%)	1070(72.9%)	1055(75.5%)	1021(73.0%)	1003(68.6%)	1062(69.6%)	1031(73%)
Second Fifth	290(20.2%)	310(21.6%)	260(17.5%)	287(19.5%)	241(17.2%)	253(18.1%)	335(22.9%)	340(22.4%)	283(20%)
Third Fifth	99 (6.9%)	90 (6.3%)	90 (6.3%)	95 (6.5%)	89 (6.4%)	102 (7.3%)	102 (7.0%)	92 (6.2%)	88 (6%)
Fourth Fifth	20 (1.4%)	15 (1.1%)	12 (0.8%)	13 (0.9%)	8 (0.6%)	18 (1.3%)	16 (1.1%)	17 (1.1%)	13 (1%)
Bottom Fifth	5 (0.4%)	2 (0.1%)	3 (0.2%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	3 (0.2%)	4 (0.3%)	5 (0.3%)	3(0.2%)
Valedictorians	81 (5.6%)	86 (6.0%)	83 (5.6%)	90 (6.1%)	86 (6.2%)	77 (5.5%)	58 (4.0%)	67 (4.4%)	89( 6%)
Salutatorians	56 (3.9%)	58 (4.0%)	58 (3.9%)	66 (4.5%)	62 (4.5%)	58 (4.1%)	60 (4.1%)	65 (4.3%)	89( 6%)
N =	1435	1433	1485	1469	1396	1398	1466	1538	1420

