

**The Study of Public Administration**  
**A Case Study of Public Administration Students in Thailand**

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From 1955 to 1962 494 students attended the Institute of Public Administration at Thammasat University. This thesis analyzes the student body and their educational experience. Data on three topics is presented: (1) characteristics of students in term of number and percentage of students by academic year, under graduate majors and institutions, age, and sex; (2) educational activity in the Institute in terms of courses taken, passed, and failed; (3) factors which encourage or hinder study. Data were obtained largely from the records of the Institute of Public Administration and from interviews with students. The highlights of the study are as follows.

Of the 494 students 126 neither failed nor passed a single course; 118 passed comprehensive examinations but had not completed all of the requirements for graduation and 64 graduated. Thirty one per cent of the total number of students dropped courses.

On the average, civil servants fared better than did noncivil servants. About half (49%) of non-civil servants did not pass a single course. Thirty six per cent of the civil servants admitted by competitive examination and thirteen percent of those admitted by ministry nomination did not pass a single course. Paradoxically the percentage of non-civil service students who finally graduated was higher than the percentage of civil servants who graduated.

In considering the students' educational background, the students of social science should do better than the others in the study of public administration. But the data showed that the students with military science fared best of all.

The thesis concludes by suggesting possible ways to solve problems confronting the students.

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