

# Contrast and Consistency — the Women's Physical Education Programs at the Universities of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Greensboro

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The University of North Carolina consolidated three state institutions in 1932. At that time a limited number of females attended the university at Chapel Hill while a majority were enrolled at the Women's College in Greensboro (formerly North Carolina College for Women). A remarkable similarity, however, existed in the philosophy of the female physical educators and their programs. Until the 1970's play days, sports clubs, and intramurals provided opportunities for participation and social interaction beyond required physical education programs. Faculty members from both institutions were active in and supportive of the national policies and philosophies about women in sports. Secondly, these women shared an inferior status to their male counterparts. In spite of a strong undergraduate major (begun in 1922) and graduate degree programs (Master's - 1949, 1950, and 1959; and Doctor's - 1966), physical education at Women's College continually had to fight for administrative recognition, adequate budgets, and sufficient facilities. At various times they were resisted by their own university administration, men (both physical educators and administrative) from the university of Chapel Hill and state legislators. The men's department (undergraduate major - 1937; Master's degree - 1939) in Chapel Hill did not seem to suffer want to such a degree, while the women there did as they were variously ignored, resisted, and allowed to exist in obscurity. Organizational changes at both institutions in the 1960s and 1970s resulted in greater equity, but not full equality between institutions and between sexes. In recent years with both universities serving the needs of male and female students educational programs are similar, yet include some major differences.