Frosh boards lower; but more Merit Scholars

BY STEPHEN FOX

Following the plan to double enrollment at Rice within 10 years, 590 freshmen have been admitted this year, making the class of 1970 the largest to date in the history of the University.

This year's freshman class was chosen from 1800 applicants. Last year only 490 were chosen from the same number of applicants. In past years far greater numbers of students have applied to Rice and fewer have been accepted.

The percentage of valedictorians and salutatorians showed a marked decrease with the onset of tuition a year ago. However, this year presented a very modest increase, not as large as the previous drop.

The number of National Merit Scholars at Rice, which has been widely touted, increased. This year the University has 63 freshmen in this category, nearly 11% of the class, which is a record in both percentage and number.

The College Board scores have declined somewhat. Moreover, with the coming of the class of 1970 there appeared a strong shift of aptitudes from verbal to scientific.

The boy-girl ratio, however, is improving. While 4-to-1 in 1961, it is now down to 3-to-1.