Ford Program Goal: More College Profs

By S. C. DARDEN

Rice University is now participating in the Ford Foundation Five-Year Master's Program.

In sponsoring this work the Foundation hopes to encourage more people to become college teachers with a broader educational base than the B. A. In particular, the Foundation hopes to produce enough professional college teachers to keep abreast of the increasing demand for college-educated people.

William H. Masterson, Dean of Humanities and Director of the Program at Rice, emphasized the distinctive facets of the program.

"The Special Students are recommended by their department to a faculty committee which approves their acceptance into the program.

"In general, normal course requirements are fulfilled with the addition of special seminars and courses related to the student's special interest. This early specialization prepares the student for more advanced graduate study," said the Dean.

"Language preparation is emphasized throughout the program, and the Special Student must pass at least one, preferably two, language reading examinations by the Senior year," continued Masterson.

"In the past, seven years have usually been required to obtain the M.A., but with this program this time is cut to five years. With the earlier specialization and previous fulfillment of the language requirements, the student further reduces the time required to obtain the Doctorate.

"In addition, pressure is placed upon both student and faculty to get on with the work and for the student to get the degree.

"Special Students begin their research and preparations to write the Master's Thesis during the summer between the Senior year and the first year of graduate study. A faculty supervisor for summer research is provided by the University and the work during the summer is partially subsidized by the University and the Ford Foundation.

"Hopefully, this program will attract more people to the profession, since much less time will be necessary to complete advanced studies.

"Of course, a student completing the program is not required to go into teaching, but it is understood that this is the intention of those who are admitted as Special Students. The final result should be a larger number of better qualified teachers graduating each year," concluded Dr. Masterson.