Ford Foundation Gives $236,000 To Improve Graduate Program

By HARVEY POLLARD
Rice University has recently received $236,000 from the Ford Foundation for improvement of the graduate program. Dr. William H. Masterson, Dean of Humanities, announced that the program would allow students in most humanities departments, as well as some sciences, to get the Master of Arts degree in five years.

Dr. Masterson commented that the program might get started next year with about 50 freshmen. He mentioned also that there might be a chance that some of this year’s freshmen as well as a few sophomores might be able to take advantage of the program.

SCiences given the top chances for entering the program in its first year are biology and physics, while geology might enter in the second year.

In discussing the program as a whole, Dr. Masterson said the purpose of the program was to "contribute to a sensible graduate program—not a life-long ritual." Curriculum changes, while hoped to be slight, will probably consist of greater concentration in languages, so that doctoral exams in these fields would be complete, as well as several summers of course work during the five year period.

Dr. Masterson added that the summer course work would stop the beneficiaries of the program from becoming "learned idiots."

THE MONEY, to be met with a lesser amount on the part of the university, will be spread over a five year period, ostensibly renewable. Most of the funds will go for "released time" and promotion. Funds for "released time" go to pay for new teachers to replace those whose time is taken up with the program.

APPLICATION for the grant was made last February by a committee composed of Doctors Dowden, Vandiver, and Edwards. Dr. Masterson, who will head the faculty committee administering the program, said that these persons and several others from the staff would become members of the permanent committee.