

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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E. LeRoy Mercer, M. D., *Dean*  
Frederick W. Luehring, *Assistant to the Dean*  
*Professor of Physical Education*

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education and Recreation  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear "Phog":

Your letter of February 23rd has been before me for some time. I am glad to give you the information requested and had hoped to get it to you sooner.

The University of Pennsylvania has had a four-year requirement in Physical Education for all undergraduates since 1904. Students are required to engage in Physical Education in at least two classes per week or fulfill the program of practically daily participation for candidates for intercollegiate teams.

For a good many years military work was accepted as a substitute for this requirement. That practice was instituted years ago although many of us were convinced that military education, no matter how good, is not Physical Education. This practice had been permitted to continue in spite of periodic opposition by members of our staff. However, following the declaration of war on December 7th, a new conference was held with the heads of our Military and Naval R.O.T.C. Units at which a joint agreement was entered into by which all members of the R.O.T.C. Units are also required to fulfill the Physical Education requirement in addition to their R.O.T.C. work. At the same time our Department offered additional intensified courses in swimming, boxing, wrestling, body building, road work and special intramural athletics for men who are shortly to enter the service of their country.

More recently, the University faculty has requested that requirement in Physical Education be extended to three periods per week instead of two for all undergraduates. This is to begin with the opening of the accelerated course on June 22, 1942.