**Changes to Universities during the Chinese Cultural Revolution:**

*The following is an excerpt* from "[*After the Cultural Revolution*](https://worldview.carnegiecouncil.org/archive/worldview/1973/01/2138.html/_res/id=File1/)*" written by [Paul E. Sigmund](https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/people/paul-e-sigmund" \t "_blank) in January 1973 for* WORLDVIEW *Magazine. The title of this article is somewhat deceiving, as historians place the Cultural Revolution from 1966 until Mao's death in 1976. However, Mao declared that it was officially finished in 1969, and the author was operating under this notion.  
  
Sigmund was a professor of politics at Princeton. He accompanied a delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives to China. At the time, foreign visitors were carefully controlled and were not allowed to wander around freely. They saw what the government wanted them to see. Nevertheless, this account gives a fascinating picture of universities in China in 1973.*

[WORLDVIEW](https://worldview.carnegiecouncil.org/archive/worldview/archive.html" \t "_blank) *[Magazine](https://worldview.carnegiecouncil.org/archive/worldview/archive.html" \t "_blank) ran from 1958-85 and featured articles by political philosophers, scholars, churchmen, statesmen, and writers from across the political spectrum. The attached excerpt has been modified for the classroom.*

As centers of the intellectual elitism, which was a target of the Cultural Revolution, the universities were more adversely affected during the Cultural Revolution and more thoroughly reorganized thereafter. Most were closed from 1966 until 1970 and are now accepting only very small entering classes. At Sun Yat-sen University in Canton, only one class of 550 students has been admitted since the Cultural Revolution, and that was in December, 1970. Of that group 90 per cent are the children of peasants and workers and most of the rest come from the army...

The university is still organized into departments, but its overall direction is carried out, as elsewhere in post-Cultural Revolution China, by a Revolutionary Committee composed of representatives of workers, peasants and the army, and of "cadres"- i.e., administrators and professors. Each department also has a worker assigned to it whose function is to advise the professors on the practical application of their teaching. To give them further contact with the problems of workers and peasants, university professors were sent during the Cultural Revolution to work for periods of six months to two years in factories and fields.

University courses have now been reduced in length from five or six years to two or three years. Even in medicine the curriculum is only three years in length and includes 15 courses instead of 36....Included in the curriculum are periods of physical labor in factories or communes as well as university-run paramilitary courses. All students must be single and may not marry during their studies. Dormitories are segregated by sex, and although there are social events involving members of the opposite sex, it is understood that only after graduation are they to begin to look for a mate...

...Universities will now contain only the most ideologically dedicated, and they will mix their studies with "productive labor." Intellectuals will devote their attention to serving the workers, peasants and soldiers in their literary, artistic and cultural activities....