Many students choose five-year plan at OSU

By R. Scott Krupkin

Almost half of the freshmen who enroll at Ohio State earn a baccalaureate degree here within five years.

Figures from the Office of Registration Services show that 27 percent of the 8,135 freshmen enrolled in autumn quarter 1973 received a bachelor's degree within four years.

Another 16 percent earned an undergraduate degree after five years of college, said Charles M. McClintock, administrative associate for registration services.

However, more than one-fourth of the freshmen enrolled at Ohio State leave the university after one year.

Of the 8,020 freshmen enrolled during autumn quarter 1978, 74 percent returned this year.

Forty-seven percent of the freshmen enrolled during the 1973-74 school year transferred, dropped out or temporarily stopped taking classes within a four-year period.

It is difficult to determine the number of transfer students and those who are not currently enrolled, but eventually complete college, said James F. Loucks, assistant vice president for registration services.

Loucks said Ohio State "does not track transfer students."

Elaine Hairston, a consultant for the Ohio Board of Regents, said about 65 percent of a freshman class usually complete college in about four years.

Of the remaining 35 percent, 25 percent drop out of college and 10 percent take time off from classwork, she said.

With income from the state based on the size of enrollment, Ohio State faces the problem of income lost because of a shrinking enrollment.

The pool of students from which the university can draw for enrollment will decline during the next 15 years because of "the effects of population outmigration, a lowered birthrate 18 years ago" and a lower college attendance rate among high school graduates, Hairston said.

She said students should be encouraged to stay in college and Ohio State should try to increase the number of transfer students coming to the university.

A recent study by the Ohio Board of Regents pointed out that in addition to changing the funding system for state colleges, universities like Ohio State may have to consider reducing the size or the number of programs.