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AUTHOR Taylor, Alton L.  
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to analyze the academic achievement of single undergraduates in relation to selected student characteristics and their opinions toward desirable housing features. A ten percent random sample of single undergraduates at the University of Virginia enrolled during the fall semester of 1968-69 was surveyed. The information collected pertained to selected opinions toward desirable student housing features. The report contained an analysis of differences in cum GPA for several sub-groups in relation to selected opinions and characteristics of the student sample. (Author)

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF  
SINGLE UNDERGRADUATES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
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Academic Achievement and Selected Characteristics of  
Single Undergraduates at the University of Virginia  
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During the first semester of 1968-69 the Director of Housing at the University of Virginia asked the Office of Institutional Analysis to assist in developing a study to determine student reactions toward selected features of housing. This analysis was completed and a report published by the University's Housing Office in May 1969 under the title, "Housing Needs As Perceived By Single Students At The University of Virginia." The analysis was restricted to distributions of per cents and averages of student responses to a questionnaire used in the study. Even though it was not the intention of the Director of Housing to analyze academic achievement in relation to selected items of the questionnaire, the Office of Institutional Analysis considered that an extended analysis of the housing study to include data on academic achievement would be important information to have available.

Procedures

The sample included in this report consisted of a ten per cent random selection of single undergraduates enrolled during the first semester of 1968-69. There were 481 undergraduates selected, 454 males and 27 females.

A questionnaire was constructed to obtain certain information concerning the sample and obtain selected opinions toward desirable residential housing facilities. The questionnaire was field tested on a group of students and modified. The questionnaire was then distributed to the members of the sample enrolled for their second year and above during the first semester, and to the first yearmen in the sample during the second semester. There were 443 male respondents (97.5% of the total males), 27 female respondents (100% of the total females), or 470 total respondents (97.7% of the total).

This report consists of an analysis of differences in mean cumulative GPA for several sub-groups of the sample in regard to selected characteristics. A subsequent report will consist of a factor analysis of the attitudes of students in the sample toward selected features of desirable housing.

### Objectives

The primary question raised in this report was, "Are there any statistically significant differences in mean cumulative GPA when students in the sample are grouped according to: a) school enrolled, b) class or year enrolled at the University of Virginia, c) age, d) sex, e) membership in fraternities, f) source of income, g) present residence, h) ownership of car, i) sense of freedom from responsibility associated with living off-grounds or on-grounds, j) adequacy of study facilities, and k) attitudes toward residential colleges.

### Findings

1. The members of the sample were divided into six sub-groups by schools. The mean cumulative GPA's for these school sub-groups were as follows:

<u>School Enrolled</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
a. Architecture	2.36
b. College	2.48
c. Commerce	2.37
d. Education	3.13
e. Engineering	2.62
f. Nursing	2.57

Significant differences in mean cumulative GPA (.05 level) were found to exist for the following pairs of schools:

1. Education - Architecture

2. Education - Commerce

2. The members of the sample were divided into four sub-groups by year enrolled at the University of Virginia.

<u>Year Enrolled</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
a. First Year	2.37
b. Second Year	2.49
c. Third Year	2.55
d. Fourth Year or more	2.63

A significant difference (.05 level) was found to exist between the mean cumulative GPA of first-year and fourth-year students.

3. There was no significant difference (.05 level) in mean cumulative GPA by age of respondents.

4. There was a significant difference (.05 level) in mean cumulative GPA by sex, in favor of females.

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
a. Male	2.49
b. Female	2.76

5. There was no significant difference (.05 level) in mean cumulative GPA between membership or non-membership in fraternities.

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
a. Fraternity members	2.48
b. Non-Fraternity members	2.52

6. The members of the sample were divided into four sub-groups by source of income.

<u>Source of Income</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
a. Family income	-2.46
b. Self-income	1.91
c. Grants, scholarships	2.49
d. Combination of a, b, and/or c	2.62

Significant differences in mean cumulative GPA (.05 level) were found to exist for the following pairs of income sources:

1. Family income and self-income
2. Grants, scholarships and self-income
3. Combinations of income sources and self-income

7. There was no significant difference (.05 level) in mean cumulative GPA when the sample was divided into sub-groups according to present residence.

<u>Present Residence</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
<u>University of Virginia Owned:</u>	
McCormick	2.40
Alderman	2.51
Monroe Hill	2.51
Lawns and Ranges	2.94
Mary Munford, McKim	2.76
Other U. Va. Owned	2.51
<u>Non-University of Virginia Owned:</u>	
Fraternity	2.54
Apartment	2.52
House	2.51
Room in Private Home	2.21
Other Non-U.Va. Owned	2.67

8. The members of the sample were divided into sub-groups containing students who owned a car and those who did not.

<u>Ownership of Car</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
Yes	2.62
No	2.44

Those students in the sub-group who owned cars had a significantly higher mean cumulative GPA (.05 level) than those in the group who did not own cars.

9. The members of the sample were divided into two sub-groups - one believing that living off-grounds allows greater freedom from responsibility - the other who hold the opposite view. There was a significant difference (.05 level) in the mean cumulative GPA of these two sub-groups.

<u>Attitude</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
a. Living off-grounds freer of responsibility	2.56
b. Living off-grounds not freer of responsibility	2.67

10. There was no significant difference (.05 level) in mean cumulative GPA when the sample was divided into two sub-groups - those students who held the opinion that their present study facilities were adequate and those who had the opinion that their present study facilities were not adequate.

<u>Present Study Facilities</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
Adequate	2.51
Not Adequate	2.48

11. There was no significant difference (.05 level) in mean cumulative GPA between the sub-groups of students in the sample who reported favorable,



unfavorable or undecided attitudes toward residential colleges.

<u>Residential College</u>	<u>Mean Cumulative GPA</u>
Favorable attitudes toward residential colleges	2.55
Unfavorable attitudes toward residential colleges	2.53
Undecided attitudes toward residential colleges	2.42

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