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AUTHOR Greive, Donald F.
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ABSTRACT

This report is the initial part of a 2-year study investigating first-year student attrition at Cuyahoga Community College (CCC). Of 388 students entering CCC in the fall of 1968, but not enrolling in the subsequent spring quarter, 146 (38%) supplied data on which the following results are based. A check of respondents' characteristics showed them to be representative of the whole group of non-returning students. After calculating an attrition rate of 20% from administrative records, a comparison of major reasons for leaving against grade point average (GPA) attained indicated the following: of the 23% leaving to enter military service and 14% accepting full-time employment, 83% had less than a 2.00 GPA; and, of the 19% transferring to another college, 91% had better than a 2.00 GPA. Only 5% "discovered college [was] not for me." (J0)

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A STUDY OF STUDENT ATTRITION: PART I

Donald E. Greive

Office of Institutional Research and Studies

Office of Executive Vice-President

Cuyahoga Community College

Cleveland, Ohio

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The following additional studies have been published during the 1969-70 academic year and are available upon request from the Office of Institutional Research.

The Students - 1968

Part-Time Students - 1968

The Graduates - 1969

Survey of Student Attitudes - 1969

Transfer Students - 1968

Biology Students: A Study of Transfers

Transfer Study: Private Colleges - 1970

Comments concerning these studies or suggestions for additional studies are welcome at any time.

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INTRODUCTION

What is the rate of student attrition at Cuyahoga Community College? What are the students' reasons for not re-enrolling? Moreover, can an examination of the characteristics of non-returning students aid professional staff in improving the services of the college? This study represents Part I of a two-year longitudinal project, conducted by the Office of Institutional Research, to investigate student attrition at Cuyahoga Community College.

Specifically, Part I examines attrition—the rate of and the students' reasons for it—for the 1968-69 academic year. Our data relate to students who entered Cuyahoga Community College in the fall of 1968 as full-time day students (new freshmen and new transfers only), but who did not re-enroll by the spring quarter of the 1968-69 academic year. Subsequently, Part II will examine the same aspects of attrition for students from the original fall 1968 group who did not return to Cuyahoga Community College for the 1969-70 academic year.

What exactly is meant by student attrition? When we discuss students who left Cuyahoga Community College after completing only one or two quarters, are we talking about academic dismissals? Indeed, students leave Cuyahoga Community College for reasons other than poor grades. Some students graduate or transfer to other schools, while other students enter military service, accept full-time employment, or have personal or financial reasons for leaving. In this study then, we shall be talking about all of these students. We shall broadly interpret "student attrition" to mean all

new students who—~~for whatever reasons—~~left Cuyahoga Community College during the 1968-69 academic year.

The study has been divided into four major sections. The first section summarizes the general findings of the research, the second details research procedure and results, the third section elaborates upon the findings, and the fourth presents a series of tables reflecting the characteristics of non-returning students.

I - PURPOSE

Students leave a school, either permanently or temporarily, for a variety of reasons. Some students simply transfer to another institution; others decide to interrupt or discontinue their education ostensibly for such reasons as acceptance of full-time employment or entry into military service. The purpose of this study, then, was to discover how many and why students leave Cuyahoga Community College. Specifically:

- (1) to determine the first year attrition rate for new Cuyahoga Community College students;
- (2) to determine the students' reasons for not returning to Cuyahoga Community College;
- (3) subsequently, to determine the most prevalent reasons; and
- (4) to establish the relationship, if any, between the students' academic performance at Cuyahoga Community College and his reason for not returning.

II - SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings of this study indicate a number of conclusions germane to an understanding of student attrition at Cuyahoga Community College. The data show the following:

- (1) One-fifth or 20 percent of the original group of 1,950 students who entered Cuyahoga Community College in the fall of 1968 did not re-enroll by the spring 1968-69 quarter.
- (2) Fifty-six percent of the students who responded to the survey did not re-enroll at Cuyahoga Community College for the following reasons: entered military service, accepted full-time employment, or transferred to another college.
- (3) Most (83 percent) of the students who interrupted or discontinued their education at Cuyahoga Community College for "military" or "full-time employment" reasons earned below a 2.00 grade point average while enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College.
- (4) Most (91 percent) of the students who left Cuyahoga Community College to continue their education at another institution earned above 2.00 while enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College.

III - DATA COLLECTION

Procedure¹

In the spring of 1969 a mail questionnaire was sent to 388 former students in order to determine their reasons for leaving Cuyahoga Community College. A second mailing was conducted three weeks after the first. Responses were received from 146 students or 38 percent of the total group of 388 non-returning students. The questionnaire requested the student to identify himself and his campus and to indicate from a list of 16 reasons why he did not return to Cuyahoga Community College. The choices available to the students were the following:

1. Entered military service.
2. Accomplished immediate educational goal.
3. Transferred to another college.
4. Took full-time employment.
5. Employment hours conflict with classes.
6. Transportation to campus not available.
7. Discovered that college was not for me.
8. Cuyahoga Community College did not meet my needs.
9. Got married.
10. Moved from area.

¹ Additional data were provided by the Cuyahoga Community College Computer Center.

11. Financial reasons.
12. Health reasons.
13. Personal reasons.
14. Academic reasons.
15. Course or courses not offered.
16. Other_____.

Table I indicates, by campus and quarter of attrition, the numbers and percentages of students who responded to the survey. The rates of return for winter (37 percent) and spring (38 percent) do not differ appreciably. A total return of 146 students, or 38 percent of all 388 non-returning students, was realized.

Validity of Sample

Since the findings of this study are based on the responses of 146 non-returning students, the question of "how valid is the sample?" should be considered. An analysis of data on student characteristics indicated notable similarities between the group of respondents and the entire group of non-returning students. The series of tables included in the Appendix reflect, in detail, the information summarized by Table II.

Table II indicates that in terms of sex distribution the group of all non-returning students consisted of 80 percent males and 20 percent females, while the group of respondents consisted of 78 percent males and 22 percent females. Students who had transferred to Cuyahoga Community College in the fall of 1968 represented 21 percent of both groups of non-returning students. In terms of grade point average the group of all non-returning students consisted of 69 percent below 2.00 and 31 percent above 2.00, while the group

TABLE I
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF NON-RETURNING STUDENTS BY CAMPUS WHO RESPONDED TO SURVEY

Quarter of Attrition	Non-Returning Students								
	Metropolitan			Western			District		
	Total Number	Number of Respondents	% of Total	Total Number	Number of Respondents	% of Total	Total Number	Number of Respondents	% of Total
Winter 1968-69	123	50	41%	76	24	32%	199	74	37%
Spring 1968-69	110	39	35%	79	33	42%	189	72	38%
Total	233	89	38%	155	57	37%	388	146	38%

of respondents consisted of 60 percent below 2.00 and 40 percent above.²

In summary, Table II shows that the general characteristics of the respondents—sex distribution, percentage of students who had transferred to Cuyahoga Community College, and distribution in grade point average earned at Cuyahoga Community College—are very similar to those for all non-returning students; the group of respondents can be considered representative of the whole group of non-returning students.

TABLE II
CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS AND ALL NON-RETURNING STUDENTS

Characteristics	All Non-Returning Students (388)	Respondents (146)
Sex:		
Male	80%	78%
Female	20%	22%
³ Transfers to Cuyahoga Community College	21%	21%
⁴ Grade Point Average:		
Below 2.00	69%	60%
Above 2.00	31%	40%

²The greater percentage of students above 2.00 for the group of respondents suggests that the response from students above 2.00 was better than that from students below 2.00.

³Thirteen percent of the original group of new students had transferred to Cuyahoga Community College from other institutions in the fall of 1968. Enrollment Statistics-Fall 1968. IRI*01.

⁴Mean grade point average for all non-returning students was 1.33, while the mean grade point average for respondents was 1.56.

IV - FINDINGS

First Year Attrition Rate at Cuyahoga Community College

Of the original group of 1,950 new students who entered Cuyahoga Community College in the fall of 1968, 388 students or 20 percent did not re-enroll by the spring 1968-69 academic quarter. How this rate of first year attrition compares to that for other community-junior colleges will require additional research. In terms of four-year institutions, however, the 20 percent rate at Cuyahoga Community College compares favorably to the 28 percent average first year attrition rate for freshmen at four-year schools.⁵

Respondents' Reasons for Not Returning to Cuyahoga Community College

Three reasons for attrition accounted for 56 percent of all responses submitted by 146 former Cuyahoga Community College students: (1) entry into military service, 23 percent; (2) transfer to another college, 19 percent; and (3) acceptance of full-time employment, 14 percent. The other 13 reasons received a rather even distribution of the remaining 44 percent of the total responses.

Table III shows that the greatest percentage of responses for each of the major reasons occurred for the winter quarter. Although "financial reasons" cannot be included as a major reason for attrition since it accounted for only seven percent of the total responses, it should be nonetheless noted that 12 percent of the responses from students not re-

⁵The Journal of College Student Personnel: Hannah, William, "Withdrawal from College," November, 1969.

TABLE III

RESPONDENTS' REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING TO CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reasons	Responses					
	Winter		Spring		Total	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Entered Military	23	24%	20	22%	43	23%
Transferred to Another College	20	21%	16	17%	36	19%
Took Full-Time Employment	16	17%	10	11%	26	14%
Financial Reasons	3	3%	11	12%	14	7%
Discovered College Not For Me	4	4%	6	7%	10	5%
CCC Did Not Meet My Needs	5	5%	4	5%	9	5%
Got Married	4	4%	5	5%	9	5%
Other	5	5%	5	5%	10	5%
Personal Reasons	3	3%	4	5%	7	4%
Health Reasons	6	6%	-	-	6	3%

TABLE III (Continued)

RESPONDENTS' REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING TO CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reasons	Responses					
	Winter		Spring		Total	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Accomplished Immediate Educational Goal	2	2%	1	1%	3	2%
Course Or Courses Not Offered	1	2%	2	2%	3	2%
Moved From Area	1	2%	3	3%	4	2%
Transportation To Campus Not Available	-	-	3	3%	3	2%
Academic Reasons	-	-	2	2%	2	1%
Employment Hours Conflict With Classes	1	2%	-	-	1	1%
Graduated ⁶	-	-	2	-	2	-
*Total	94	100%	92	100%	186	100%

*Total number of responses exceeds total number of respondents. Some students indicated more than one reason.

⁶The two students who graduated did not respond to the survey; therefore, they have not been included in the tabulation of data for respondents.

turning for the spring quarter cited "financial reasons," compared to three percent of the responses for winter indicating the same reason.

Grade Point Average and the Three Major Reasons for Attrition: Metropolitan Campus Respondents

Table IV indicates the numbers and percentages of respondents, below and above 2.00, from the Metropolitan Campus who cited as a reason for non-return either entry into military service, transfer to another college, or acceptance of full-time employment. For winter the most notable percentages indicate that: (1) 28 percent of the total number of respondents from the Metropolitan Campus were below 2.00 and cited "entry into military service" as the reason for non-return; (2) 20 percent of the respondents were below 2.00 and cited "acceptance of full-time employment" as the reason; and (3) 28 percent of the respondents were above 2.00 and cited "transfer to another college."

For spring the most notable percentages of the total number of respondents from the Metropolitan Campus indicate that: (1) 21 percent were below 2.00 and cited "entry into military service" as the reason for non-return; (2) 10 percent of the respondents were below 2.00 and cited "acceptance of full-time employment;" and (3) 17 percent were above 2.00 and indicated "transfer to another college" as the reason for non-return.

Table IV shows then, for both quarters of attrition, that of all 89 respondents from the Metropolitan Campus: (1) 25 percent were below 2.00 and cited "entry into military service;" (2) 16 percent were below 2.00 and cited "acceptance of full-time employment;" and (3) 24 percent were above 2.00 and cited "transfer to another college."

TABLE IV

METROPOLITAN CAMPUS RESPONDENTS' GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND THEIR REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING

TO CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE *

Reason	Metropolitan Campus Respondents											
	Winter				Spring				Total			
	Below 2.00		Above 2.00		Below 2.00		Above 2.00		Below 2.00		Above 2.00	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Entered Military Service	14	28%	1	2%	8	21%	3	8%	22	25%	4	4%
Transferred To Another College	1	2%	14	28%	2	5%	7	17%	3	3%	21	24%
Took Full-Time Employment	10	20%	2	4%	4	10%	1	3%	14	16%	3	3%
Other	5	10%	3	6%	10	26%	4	10%	15	17%	7	8%
Total	30	60%	20	40%	24	62%	15	38%	54	61%	35	39%

* Numbers of Metropolitan Campus respondents below and above 2.00. Percentages indicate percent of total number of only Metropolitan Campus respondents (89).

Grade Point Average and the Three Major Reasons for Attrition: Western Campus Respondents

Table V shows the numbers and percentages of respondents, below and above 2.00, from the Western Campus who indicated as the reason for non-return either entry into military service, transfer to another college, or acceptance of full-time employment. For winter the most notable percentages indicate that: (1) 29 percent of the respondents from the Western Campus were below 2.00 and cited "entry into military service;" (2) eighth percent of the respondents were below 2.00 and cited "acceptance of full-time employment;" and (3) 21 percent were above 2.00 and indicated "transfer to another college."

For the spring quarter the most notable percentages show that: (1) 21 percent of all respondents from Western were below 2.00 and cited "entry into military service;" (2) 15 percent were below 2.00 and cited "acceptance of full-time employment;" and (3) 21 percent were above 2.00 and indicated "transfer to another college" as the reason for not returning to Cuyahoga Community College.

In summary Table V shows, for both quarters of attrition, that of all 57 respondents from the Western Campus: (1) 25 percent were below 2.00 and cited "entry into military service;" (2) 12 percent were below 2.00 and cited "acceptance of full-time employment;" and (3) 21 percent were above 2.00 and cited "transfer to another college."

Grade Point Average and the Three Major Reasons for Attrition: Total

Table VI indicates for both campuses the numbers and percentages of respondents, below and above 2.00, who cited as the reason for non-return either entry into military service, transfer to another college, or accept-

TABLE V

WESTERN CAMPUS RESPONDENTS' GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND THEIR REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING
TO CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE *

Reason	Western Campus Respondents											
	Winter				Spring				Total			
	Below 2.00		Above 2.00		Below 2.00		Above 2.00		Below 2.00		Above 2.00	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Entered Military Service	7	29%	1	4%	7	21%	2	7%	14	25%	3	5%
Transferred To Another College	-	-	5	21%	-	-	7	21%	-	-	12	21%
Took Full-Time Employment	2	8%	-	-	5	15%	-	-	7	12%	-	-
Other	8	34%	1	4%	5	15%	7	21%	13	23%	8	14%
Total	17	71%	7	29%	17	51%	16	49%	34	60%	23	40%

* Numbers of Western Campus respondents below and above 2.00. Percentages indicate percent of total number of only Western respondents (57).

TABLE VI

TOTAL RESPONDENTS' GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND THEIR REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING
TO CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE *

Reason	Total Respondents											
	Winter				Spring				Total			
	Below 2.00		Above 2.00		Below 2.00		Above 2.00		Below 2.00		Above 2.00	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Enter Military Service	21	28%	2	3%	15	21%	5	7%	36	25%	7	5%
Transferred To Another College	1	1%	19	26%	2	3%	14	20%	3	2%	33	23%
Took Full-Time Employment	12	16%	2	3%	9	12%	1	1%	21	14%	3	2%
Other	13	18%	4	5%	15	21%	11	15%	28	19%	15	10%
Total	47	63%	27	37%	41	57%	31	43%	88	60%	58	40%

* Indicates numbers of District respondents below and above 2.00. Percentages indicate percent of total number of District respondents (146).

ance of full-time employment. For the winter quarter of attrition the most notable percentages show that: (1) 28 percent of all respondents were below 2.00 and cited "entry into military service" as the reason for non-return; (2) 16 percent were below 2.00 and cited "acceptance of full-time employment;" and (3) 26 percent were above 2.00 and cited "transfer to another college."

For the spring quarter the most notable percentages indicate that: (1) 21 percent were below 2.00 and cited "the military;" (2) 12 percent were below 2.00 and cited "full-time employment;" and (3) 23 percent were above 2.00 and cited "transfer to another college."

In summary Table VI indicates for both quarters of attrition that: (1) 25 percent of all respondents were below 2.00 and cited "the military;" (2) 14 percent were below 2.00 and cited "full-time employment;" and (3) 23 percent were above 2.00 and cited "transfer to another college."

Implications of Table VI

From the data on Table VI, it appears that if grade point average is used as the criterion, the first year represents a difficult time academically for new students. Note that 63 percent of all respondents who did not return for the winter quarter and 57 percent of all respondents for spring had earned below a 2.00 grade point average while enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College.

It is worth noting too that over two-thirds of all respondents below 2.00 gravitated toward one of two reasons for leaving Cuyahoga Community College: entry into military service or acceptance of full-time employment.

The data on Table VI also suggest a number of questions about non-returning respondents who had earned above a 2.00 grade point average while enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College. Note that 37 percent of all winter respondents had earned above 2.00; of the 27 students above 2.00, 19 students (70 percent) cited transfer to another college. Note also that 43 percent of all spring respondents had earned above 2.00; of the 31 students above 2.00, only 14 students (45 percent) left Cuyahoga Community College to attend another institution. Overall, for both quarters of attrition 40 percent of all respondents had earned above 2.00; of the 58 students in this group, 33 students (56 percent) cited transfer to another college as the reason for not returning to Cuyahoga Community College. Questions arise, then, about the non-returning students above 2.00 who did not indicate transfer—who either chose or were compelled to discontinue their education at Cuyahoga Community College for reasons other than transfer to another college: How many of these students made use of the counseling services available at Cuyahoga Community College? Moreover, how many students left Cuyahoga Community College because of problems that could have been resolved?

V - CONCLUSION

The preceding chapters have examined first year student attrition at Cuyahoga Community College. We discovered that the rate of first year attrition for new students is 20 percent, a rate that compares favorably to the 28 percent average first year attrition rate for freshmen in four-year institutions. Moreover, we found that while students left Cuyahoga Community College for any one or combination of many reasons, three student responses emerged as the most prevalent explanations for attrition: entered military service (23 percent), transferred to another college (19 percent), and accepted full-time employment (14 percent). These three reasons accounted for 56 percent of the total student responses, while the other reasons offered on the questionnaire received an almost even distribution of the remaining 44 percent of the total responses.

By correlating the respondents' grade point averages to the three major reasons for attrition, we discovered the following: (1) Most (83 percent) of the students who left Cuyahoga Community College for "military" or "full-time employment" reasons had earned below a 2.00 grade point average while enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College. (2) Most (91 percent) of the students who left Cuyahoga Community College to attend another institution had earned above a 2.00 grade point average while enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College.

Point of Concern

It is both interesting and important to examine the full range of the respondents' reasons for leaving Cuyahoga Community College. It is not a curious fact that so many students below 2.00 opted for "military service" or "full-time employment" as alternatives to continuing their education. Nor is it curious that most students who cited transfer to another institution had earned above 2.00. On the other hand, what does arouse a number of questions is the fact that only 56 percent of the total respondents above 2.00 continued their education after leaving Cuyahoga Community College. What then, of the 44 percent of the students above 2.00 who did not continue?

In his research article "Withdrawal From College," William Hannah suggests that there is a definite and "major need to create conditions that foster more frequent contact between potential leavers and college personnel."⁷ Mr. Hannah feels that quite often a student's decision to leave an institution has not been based on enough sound information about and understanding of his own reasons for withdrawing and the consequences of his withdrawal.

To be sure, college is not for everyone. But note that only five percent of our Cuyahoga Community College respondents "discovered college (was) not for me."⁸

⁷The Journal of College Student Personnel: "Withdrawal From College,"
Hannah, William, November, 1969.

⁸See Table III, p.10.

APPENDIX

TABLE VII
SEX DISTRIBUTION FOR ALL NON-RETURNING STUDENTS

Sex	Winter		Spring		Total*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	165	83%	144	76%	309	80%
Female	34	17%	45	24%	79	20%
Total	199	100%	189	100%	388	100%

TABLE VIII
SEX DISTRIBUTION FOR RESPONDENTS

Sex	Winter		Spring		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	60	81%	54	75%	114	78%
Female	14	19%	18	25%	32	22%
Total	74	100%	72	100%	146	100%

*Of the original 1,950 new, full-time day students for fall 1968, 71 percent were males and 29 percent were females. Enrollment Statistics-Fall 1968. IR1*01.

TABLE X

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF RESPONDENTS, BY CAMPUS, WHO HAD TRANSFERRED
FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Campus	Winter			Spring			Total		
	Total Number	Number of Transfers	Percent	Total Number	Number of Transfers	Percent	Total Number	Number of Transfers	Percent
Metropolitan	50	13	26%	39	6	15%	74	19	26%
Western	24	5	21%	33	6	18%	72	11	15%
Total	74	18	24%	72	12	17%	146	30	21%

TABLE XI
GRADE POINT AVERAGES, BY CATEGORY, OF ALL NON-RETURNING STUDENTS

Categories of Grade Point Averages	All Non-Returning Students					
	Winter		Spring		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0.00 - 0.99	108	54%	42	22%	150	39%
1.00 - 1.99	36	18%	82	43%	118	30%
2.00 - 2.99	39	20%	47	25%	86	22%
3.00 - 4.00	16	8%	18	10%	34	9%
Total	199	100%	189	100%	388	100%

TABLE XII

GRADE POINT AVERAGES, BY CATEGORY, OF METROPOLITAN CAMPUS RESPONDENTS

Categories of Grade Point Averages	Metropolitan Campus Respondents							
	Winter		Spring		Total			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0.00 - 0.99	20	40%	7	18%	27	30%	27	30%
1.00 - 1.99	10	20%	17	44%	27	30%	27	30%
2.00 - 2.99	11	22%	13	33%	24	27%	24	27%
3.00 - 4.00	9	18%	2	5%	11	13%	11	13%
Total	50	100%	39	100%	89	100%	89	100%

TABLE XIII
GRADE POINT AVERAGES, BY CATEGORY, OF WESTERN CAMPUS RESPONDENTS

Categories of Grade Point Averages	Western Campus Respondents					
	Winter		Spring		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0.00 - 0.99	15	63%	5	15%	20	35%
1.00 - 1.99	2	8%	12	37%	14	25%
2.00 - 2.99	5	21%	10	30%	15	26%
3.00 - 4.00	2	8%	6	18%	8	14%
Total	24	100%	33	100%	57	100%

TABLE XIV

GRADE POINT AVERAGES, BY CATEGORY, OF ALL RESPONDENTS

Categories of Grade Point Averages	Winter		All Respondents Spring		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	0.00 - 0.99	35	47%	12	17%	47
1.00 - 1.99	12	16%	29	40%	41	28%
2.00 - 2.99	16	22%	23	32%	39	27%
3.00 - 4.00	11	15%	8	11%	19	13%
Total	74	100%	72	100%	146	100%

TABLE XV
 MEAN GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF RESPONDENTS (BY SEX)

Sex	Respondents					
	Winter		Spring		Total	
	Number	Mean GPA	Number	Mean GPA	Number	Mean GPA *
Female	14	1.60	18	2.18	32	1.93
Male	60	1.27	54	1.66	114	1.46
Total	74	1.34	72	1.79	146	1.56

*Women tend to earn higher grades than men; fewer women than men leave college for academic reasons. Alexander W. Astin and Robert J. Panos, The Educational and Vocational Development of College Students (Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education, 1969), p. 31).