

# FAST FACTS

Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research

May 31, 2019

*Welcome to the world of Fast Facts!*

This is an occasional newsletter that we will be publishing from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research. We'll be presenting various types of data in a simple, readable format that hopefully will be of some interest to the campus community.

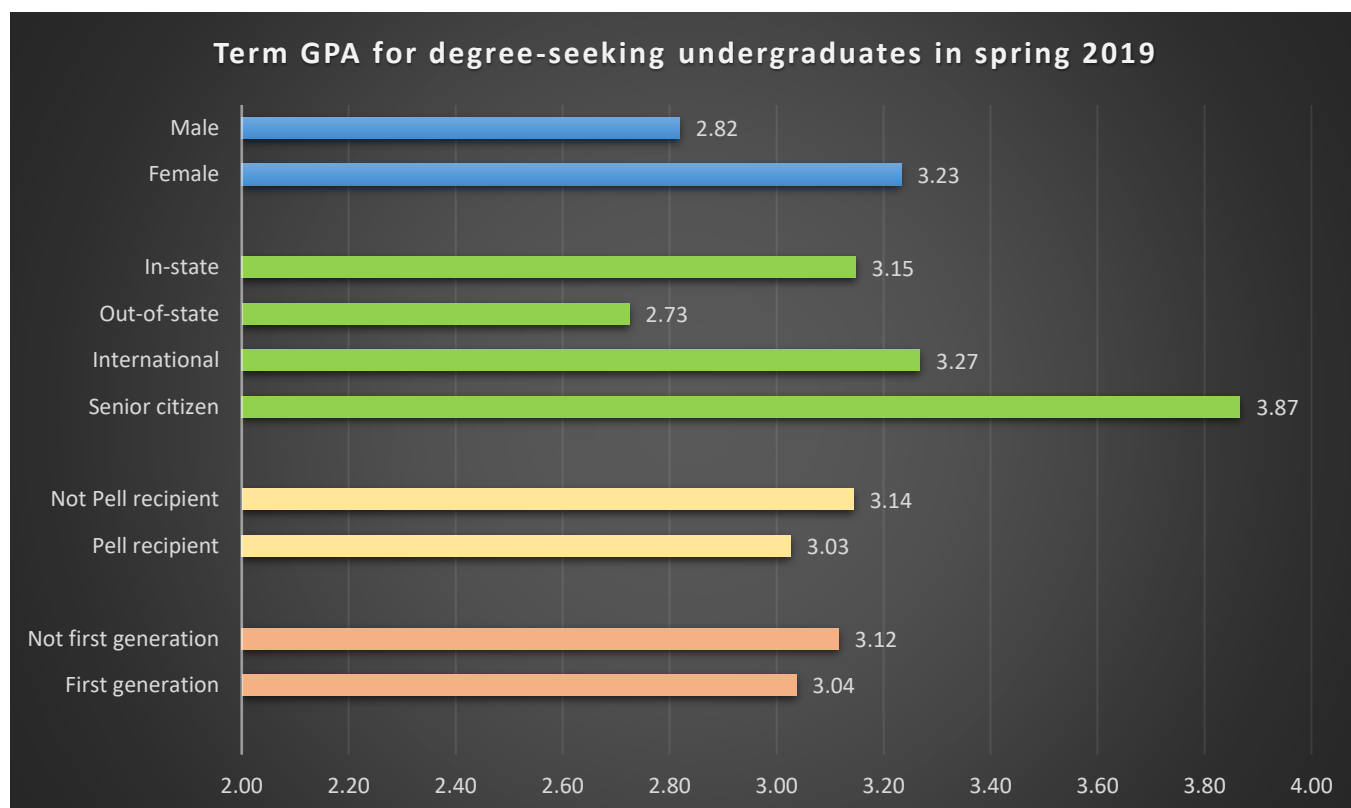
For our second installment we'll continue looking at some grade data, a topic we began last week.

Please let us know if you have any comments or any suggestions for future *Fast Facts* topics. You can send an email to Lee Allard at [lallard@nmhu.edu](mailto:lallard@nmhu.edu).

## Who makes the grade?

Last week we looked at some grade trends across time (the last 10 years, to be specific). In this week's issue of *Fast Facts* we'll focus on spring 2019 term GPA and look at some differences across various groups of students.

The chart below shows term GPA for degree-seeking undergraduate students in spring 2019, broken down by some basic demographic variables.

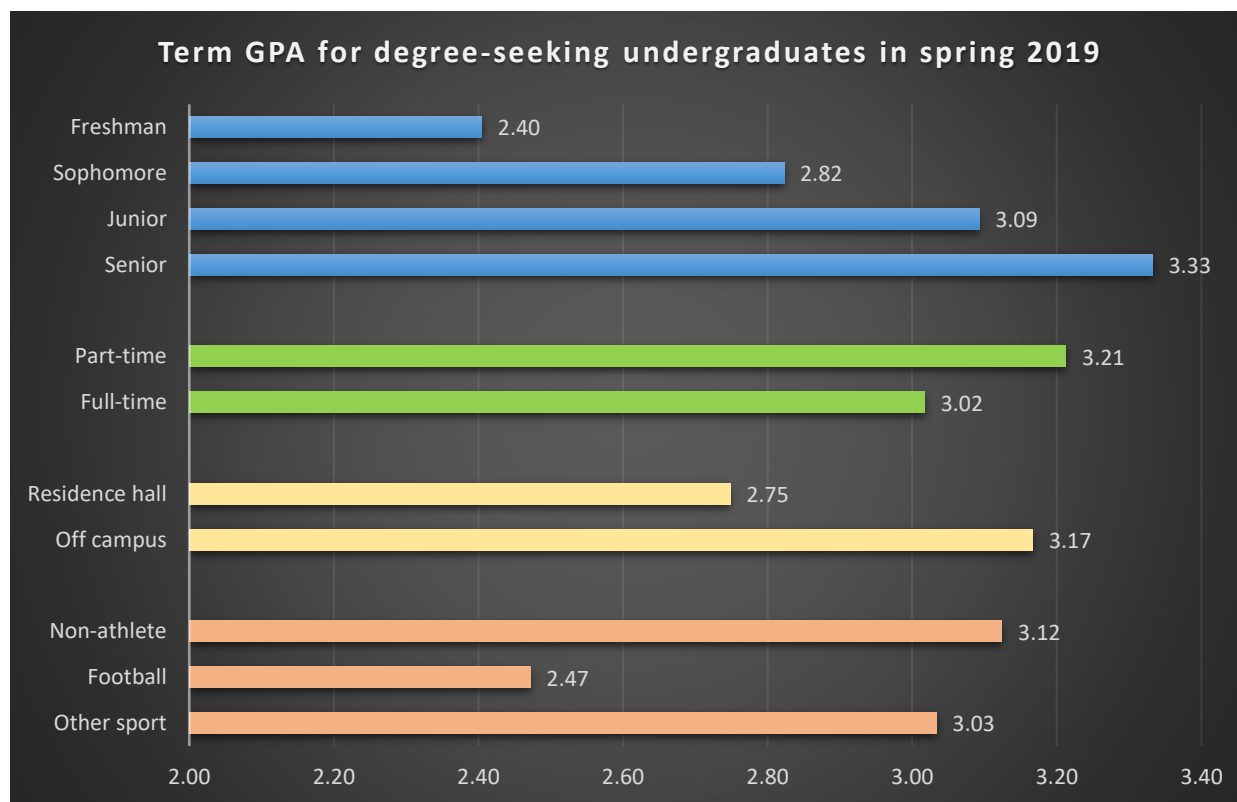


The blue bars at the top of the chart show a rather striking difference between male and female students. Ouch! We all know girls are smarter than boys, but the magnitude of this difference is somewhat alarming.

Looking at residency status (green bars), we also see some marked differences. In-state students have a much higher term GPA than out-of-state students. This might be of some concern, given that we are trying to recruit (and retain) more out-of-state students. Not surprisingly, international students do quite well. And as for our senior citizens, wow! Older seems to be better, although it should be noted that we have very few degree-seeking senior citizens (only 6 in spring 2019).

There is little difference in term GPA between Pell grant recipients and non-Pell students (yellow bars), or between first-generation and non-first-generation students (orange bars). This is reassuring, as Pell recipients and first-generation students sometimes experience greater challenges in achieving academic success.

The chart below shows term GPA for degree-seeking undergraduate students in spring 2019, broken down by some basic academic and student behaviors.



Not surprisingly, term GPA increases with class standing (blue bars), although the low GPA for freshmen is a bit alarming. Part-time students have a somewhat higher term GPA than full-time students (green bars); perhaps reflecting the possibility that part-time students are more likely to be non-traditional and older, or maybe they just have more time to devote to the fewer courses they are taking.

Students who live on campus have a lower term GPA than students living off campus, which could reflect a lot of factors (students in the residence halls or more likely to be freshmen, for example). Football players (our largest sport numerically) have a relatively low term GPA, but other athletes are comparable to non-athletes.