

# Making the Grade...Off Campus!

## *Place Properties' White Paper Explores Academic Performance of Off Campus Residents vs. Their On Campus Peers*

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Think off campus living means all-night partying and poor grades? Think again. Conventional wisdom has long held that students do better academically on campus. But in a recent survey by New York-based Marsal and Alvarez, students living off campus in Place Properties communities in Huntsville, Texas, had grade point averages higher than their on campus peers, were more studious and were more active in campus activities.

Marsal and Alvarez surveyed hundreds of students who live both on campus and off campus. The results may surprise you; grade point averages were higher of students living off campus compared to those on campus. For example, 15.4 percent of students in Place Properties communities reported a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49, compared to 10.4 percent of students living on campus.

Brent Little, Executive Vice President with Place Properties said, "With the changes in the college-aged consumer and the market response of our amenity-laden housing, a new paradigm exists that the brightest and most involved students are choosing to live off campus."

Students living in Place Properties communities reported being more studious than their dorm-dwelling counterparts. Nearly 85 percent of Place Properties residents reported studying five or more hours per week, compared to 71.5 percent of on campus residents.

Sara Haraughty, student of Indiana University said, "It's really nice to be off campus and get away from the whole busy scene. I like being able to relax and enjoy my free time. If I want to make plans with those who live on campus, sure, I can do that, but I don't have the peer pressure of going out when I should be studying because I'm no longer right there with everything. So living off campus makes making a responsible decision easier."

Students living in Place Properties communities reported they were more involved in university-related extracurricular activities.

Nearly 54 percent of Place Properties community residents reported spending less than 5 hours on university-related extracurricular activities compared to 61 percent of on campus students. However, 23.1 percent of Place Properties residents

reported spending between 5 to 9 hours on extracurricular activities, compared to 20.8 percent of on campus students.

A higher percentage of students living off campus at Place Properties communities had an academic goal of a master's degree or graduate degree. For those seeking a master's degree or a graduate degree, 49.6 percent were living in a Place Properties community, compared with 49.4 percent living on campus.

Students living off campus reported being more satisfied with their college experience, as well. Nearly 85 percent of students in Place Properties communities reported above average satisfaction with their college experience compared to 79 percent of their on-campus peers.

Place Properties, LP, Atlanta, GA, [www.placeproperties.com](http://www.placeproperties.com) , has developed more than \$525 million of student housing properties since 1996 and currently manages more than 19,000 beds.