

**FACTORS AFFECTING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF
STUDENTS IN A PRIVATE COLLEGE**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the relationships between socio-demographic and behavioral factors and academic performance of students at pre-university level in a private college. The subjects for this study are students pursuing Cambridge 'A' Level and South Australian Matriculation (SAM) courses at the college.

The findings of this study show that past academic achievement (SPM aggregate) is the most important factor determining the performance at pre-university level. Those who obtained good SPM results tend to excel at pre-university level. Examination results also vary widely according to the socio-demographic characteristics of the students. Children of highly educated parents tend to perform better in examinations as compared to those whose parents have lower level of education. Students from English medium type of school achieve better grades in 'A' Level and SAM examinations as compared to those from Malay and Chinese medium type of secondary schools. Students who come from Central region (Klang Valley and other parts of Selangor) obtain better results as compared to those who are from the less developed regions. SAM students who are from smaller families perform better than those from big families. Younger students are found to obtain better grades compared to older students. Study behavior and social behavior factors were found to have low association with the academic performance at pre-university level.

The implications of the importance of previous academic achievement and roles of parents are discussed. The report concludes with some observations and recommendations to improve the academic performance of college students.

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