

MARRIAGE EXPECTANCIES OF PRE-WORLD WAR II AND POST- WORLD WAR II  
STUDENTS OF THE VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

by

Elizabeth Wilson

Thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
in candidacy for the degree of  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
in  
Family Life  
Department of Home Economics

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Graduate Studies

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Dean of Agriculture

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head of Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Major Professor

June, 1952

Blacksburg, Virginia

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the persons who have helped in making this study: To Doctor Mildred Thurow Tate for her guidance and suggestions, to the students in Family Relationship classes who submitted schedules and furnished the information, and to others who have assisted in various ways.

E. W.

## Table of Contents

Chapter		Page
I.	Introduction . . . . .	1
	Objective . . . . .	6
	Method of Study . . . . .	7
	College Classification . . . . .	8
II.	Expectancies and Wishes in the Marriage Relationship . . . . .	15
	Comparison of the Wishes of Men and Women . . . . .	17
	Expectancies From Marriage . . . . .	23
	Comparison of Expectancies and Wishes . . . . .	30
III.	Change in Expectancy . . . . .	36
IV.	Summary and Conclusions . . . . .	44
	Recommendations . . . . .	49
V.	Bibliography . . . . .	51
VI.	Appendix . . . . .	53
	Expectancy Schedule . . . . .	i
	Explanation of $\chi^2$ . . . . .	ix

List of Tables

Table		Page
1.	College Classification of the 199 Students Studied . . . . .	10
2.	Accumulative Grade Averages of the 199 Students Studied . . . . .	11
3.	Ages of the 199 College Students Studied . . . . .	13
4.	The Percent of College Men and Women in 1939-1940 and 1947-1948 Who Always Wished for Selected Factors in Marriage . . . . .	18
5.	Items Always Expected in Marriage by the 199 College Men and Women in 1939-1940 and 1947-1948 . . . . .	26
6.	The Percentage Comparison of the Extent to Which Selected Items in the Marriage Relationship Were Always Wished For and Always Expected by the 199 College Men and Women . . . . .	31
7.	Change in Extent to Which Items Are Always Expected in 1939-1940 as Compared to 1947-1948 for 199 College Men and Women . . . . .	38

MARRIAGE EXPECTANCIES OF PRE-WORLD WAR II AND POST-WORLD WAR II  
STUDENTS OF THE VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Introduction

Insight into the factors associated with successful marital relationships is becoming of increasing concern. The emphasis in research in marriage is shifting from an understanding of the existing conditions in marriage to that of factors associated with marital success or failure. Several pioneer studies have been made which throw some light upon the importance of certain factors upon marital success.

One of the earliest studies attempting to gain information on association between personality and background factors of individuals and marital success was made by Terman.<sup>1</sup> In this study, the fact that the data were collected after the individuals had been married may color the objectivity of the data.

Terman found "The ten background factors most predictive of marital happiness are: (1) superior happiness of parents, (2) childhood happiness, (3) lack of conflict with mother, (4) home discipline firm, not harsh, (5) strong attachment to mother, (6) strong attachment to father, (7) lack of conflict with father, (8) parental frankness about matters of sex, (9) infrequency and mildness of childhood

---

1. Terman, Lewis M. Psychological Factors in Marital Happiness, New York; McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1938.

punishment, (10) premarital attitudes toward sex that were free from disgust and aversion." Terman believes that "the subject who 'passes' on all ten of these items is a distinctly better than average marital risk." Terman concluded that, "Research on the causes of marital unhappiness has barely begun. The importance of the problem and the success thus far attained call for the continuance and intensification of such research."

Burgess and Wallin<sup>2</sup> state in 1938 concerning Terman's study, The Psychological Factors in Marital Happiness, that "if all of the factors that make for marital happiness and unhappiness were known together with their relative contribution thereto, it would be possible to forecast, at least in the statistical sense, the results of various types of mating. Of course not all of these factors have been indentified, and fewer still have been accurately evaluated. Predictions of the outcome of a given marriage on the basis of knowledge that is at present obtainable will at best be very hazardous. Even so we have dared to attempt an experiment in that direction."

Predicting Success or Failure in Marriage by Burgess and Cottrell<sup>3</sup> is also a pioneer and exploratory inquiry. It seeks first, "to define the problem of marriage adjustment; second, to find what factors pre-

---

2. Burgess, N. and Wallin, P. "Predicting Adjustment in Marriage from Adjustment in Engagement", American Journal of Sociology; Vol. 49, 1943-1944, p. 324.

3. Burgess, Ernest W. and Cottrell, Leonard S. Predicting Success or Failure in Marriage. New York, Prentice Hall, Inc. 1939.

sent at the time of marriage are associated with marital success or failure; and third, to determine whether or not it is possible to devise a method of predicting before marriage its marital happiness or unhappiness." Burgess and Cottrell conclude that within limits a table of expectancies can be devised to investigate the probabilities of success and failure in marriage and that prediction of marriage adjustment is possible.

The study by Burgess and Cottrell pointed out the need for further research in factors associated with marital success. A follow-up study was made by Burgess and Wallin<sup>4</sup>, Predicting Adjustment in Marriage from Adjustment in Engagement. It differed from the preceding studies in that it took as its point of departure the assumption that, for most couples in our society, marriage is a continuation of a pre-marital relationship which, on the average, is not radically altered by marriage. From this it followed that an appraisal of the adjustment reached by couples before marriage might provide indications of the adjustment they would achieve after marriage.

Winch<sup>5</sup> related the scores of engaged couples on personality inventories to the scores on the adjustment in engagement index in the Burgess-Wallin study. He hoped to introduce one of the missing links in

- 
4. Burgess, N. and Wallin, P. "Predicting Adjustment in Marriage from Adjustment in Engagement," American Journal of Sociology; Vol. 49, 1943-1944, p. 324.
  5. Winch, R. F., "Personality Characteristics of Engaged and Married Couples," American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 46, 1940-1941, p. 686.

the chain of evidence needed to ascertain whether or not one may impute casual significance to personality factors in relation to marital adjustment or "happiness!" Winch concluded that the previously demonstrated relationship was not a result of the marital "halo" effect. These data were interpreted as providing partial evidence to support the view held by Terman that personality factors determine "aptitude for marriage."

Nimkoff<sup>6</sup> in an analysis of the marital status of one hundred matched cases in Who's Who, 1942-1943, found a significant association between marital failure as registered by divorce and occupation.

Hill<sup>7</sup> in his study of campus values in mate selection found that the attitudes toward sex and marriage on the part of the students were not as conservative as reported by research workers at other institutions.

Strauss<sup>8</sup> reported that a marked resemblance was found between the personality traits of ideal mates and actual mates in his study, Ideal Courtship and the Chosen Mate. Physical traits were not closely associated.

Ort<sup>9</sup> states that "the way to marital happiness is through one's own ideal of his role and the degree to which he follows his own ideals

- 
6. Nimkoff, M. F., "Occupational Factors in Marriage," American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 49, 1943-1944, p. 248.
  7. Hill, Reuben, "Campus Values in Mate Selection," Journal of Home Economics, Nov. 1945, p. 554.
  8. Strauss, A., "Ideal Courtship and the Chosen Mate, Biblio." American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 52, Nov. 1946, pp. 204-208.
  9. Ort, Robert, Dr., "Cue to Marital Happiness," Science News Letter, Vol. 58, No. 20, Nov. 11, 1950, p. 312.



of the role." In his study, "Cue to Marital Happiness," Ort found "your happiness in marriage depends on the extent to which you live up to your ideas of your role as husband or wife. It also depends on the way your mate lives up to what you think is his or her part."

"The Marital Expectancies of 250 College Students," by Hankla,<sup>10</sup> was an attempt "to determine the marital expectancies and wishes of a selected group of college students and to study their willingness to change their marital expectancies." Hankla found that, "Relative to many of the marital expectancies the students showed considerable rigidity. They expressed an unwillingness to change these under any condition." She concludes that "This does not tell us what these students will do if faced by a situation demanding change. However, it seems reasonable to assume that the change will produce considerable stress and strain."

Wolfe<sup>11</sup> explored "the extent to which personality patterns or factors persist in college-trained people, and the association between

- 
10. Hankla, Margaret Louise, "The Marital Expectancies of 250 College Students," A Thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Science in Family Life, Department of Home Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. 1940.
  11. Wolfe, Virginia A. M. "The Problems of Individuals While in College and Five Years Later, and Their Relationship to Marital and Personal Happiness," A Thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Science in Family Life, Department of Home Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1947.

specific personality traits and individual happiness." In her analysis "No significant association was found to exist between personality factors and happiness in marriage or personal life. Likewise no significant association was found to exist between the felt needs of college students relative to marriage and later happiness in marriage or personal life."

Of the research on the literature only one, that of Hankla, deals with expectancies before marriage and this study does not attempt to measure changes in expectancies from one period to another. All of the investigators cited express the need for research on the predictive value of factors existing in the lives of individuals before marriage as they may or may not influence marital success.

### Objectives

The aims of this study were:

1. To ascertain the wishes and expectancies in the marital relationship of a selected group of college students attending the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1939-1940 and a similar group attending in 1947-1948.
2. To study the change in wishes and expectancies in marriage between the students attending college in 1939-1940 and those attending in 1947-1948.
3. To study the differences in wishes and expectancies in marriage for men and women of the two periods studied.

### Method of Study

In the course, Family Relationships and Marriage I, offered in the Department of Home Economics at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the students in 1947-1948 were asked as a part of their class work to complete an expectancy in marriage schedule which was designed by the instructor of the course. The schedules were given to the students after they had obtained some background in factors associated with success in marriage, but before the subject of expectancies had been discussed in class.

Each student was instructed to fill out the schedule as conscientiously as possible. The student was assured that his answers would bear no relationship to his standing in the class. Students were not required to sign their schedules; however, many of them did and several members of the class discussed their schedule with the instructor. The student was permitted to take the schedule to his room and fill it out at his leisure. (See appendix for sample schedule and directions for procedure.)

### Students Included in Study

The students contributing data to this study were 199 young men and young women enrolled in the Family Relationship and Marriage class at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Data were obtained during two different years. In 1939-1940 there was a total of ninety-seven

students of whom forty-six were men ranging in ages of eighteen through thirty-one and fifty-one were women whose ages ranged from nineteen through thirty-eight. In 1947-1948 data were obtained on 102 students of whom fifty-two were men and fifty were women. The ages of the men ranged from twenty through thirty-three years and the women eighteen through thirty-seven.

In the two periods studied, the number of men and women were rather evenly distributed. Of the total 199 students, ninety-eight were men and 101 were women.

#### College Classification

At the Virginia Polytechnic Institute the following grading system is used. The work of the students is rated as A, B, C, or D and this figure has meaning according to the following table: (1) A is excellent or 100 to 91, (2) B is good or 90 to 81, (3) C is fair or 80 to 71, (4) D is barely passing or 70 to 61, (5) E is conditioned, (6) F is failure or 60 and below.

"To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have received credit for at least 42 hours of required work in his curriculum; as a junior, at least 96 such hours; and as a senior, at least 150 such hours. A student to be classified as a graduate must hold a bachelor's degree or 150 hours from a college or university whose standards are

equivalent to those of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute."<sup>12</sup>

The students who are admitted to the Family Relationships and Marriage class are supposed to be upper-classmen; however, some freshmen and sophomores are permitted to enter if they are older and more mature students than the normal under-classmen.

The classification of the students in the study is given in Table 1. In Table 1 it will be noted that eighty-four percent of the subjects in the study were in the third and fourth year of college at the time the data were collected. Seven percent were graduate students and all but one of these were women.

The scholastic rating of these students ranged from A to D. In 1939-1940 the accumulative average grade of A or B had been obtained by thirty-seven percent of the students while fifty-four percent had an average of C and three percent had a D average. No grade rating was obtained for six percent of the students. The women students of this period were only slightly higher in grade average than the men. Of the women students forty-one percent had averages of A or B while thirty-three percent of the men came into this division.

In 1947-1948 the women had a much higher grade average than the men. Of the women fifty-two percent had an accumulative grade average of A or B while twenty-four percent of the men had this grade average. Of the men sixty-five percent averaged C or D while thirty-

---

12. Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Catalog, Vol. XLIV, No. 3, March 1951, pp. 57-58.

**Table 1**  
**College Classification of the 199 Students Studied**

Periods Studied	Percent in Each College Classification						Total Group	Total Number
	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Graduate	Special		
1939-1940 Men	0	0	15	28	1	2	46	46
Women	0	2	32	15	2	1	52	51
1947-1948 Men	2	4	19	25	0	2	52	52
Women	0	5	20	14	11	0	50	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>199</b>

eight percent of the women obtained this rating. For these two periods the distribution of the grade averages for the men and women is shown in Table 2.

The students in this study ranged in age from eighteen to thirty-eight years, with seventy-three percent being twenty-three years of age or younger, the mean age for the total group was twenty-one years. The 1947-1948 group were older than the 1939-1940 group. In 1939-1940, for the men, the age range was eighteen to thirty-one, with the modal age falling between twenty-one and twenty-three years; and nineteen to thirty-eight for the women, with a modal age between eighteen and twenty years. In 1947-1948 the men as a group were older than the women ranging in age from twenty to thirty-three with the modal age of twenty-three - twenty-four years, as compared to a range of eighteen to thirty-seven for the women with the modal age being twenty years. In both periods, a larger proportion of the women were twenty-three years of age and younger than the men.

Table 2

Accumulative Grade Averages of the 199 Students Studied

Periods Studied	Percent With Each Accumulative Grade Average					Total Group	Total Number
	A	B	C	D	No Report		
1939-1940 Men	1	14	30	1	1	47	46
Women	1	21	24	1	5	52	51
1947-1948 Men	1	11	33	0	6	51	52
Women	1	25	17	2	5	50	50
Total	2	36	52	2	8	100	199



Table 3  
Ages of the 199 College Students Studied

Periods Studied	Percent in Each Age Group			Total Group	Total Number
	18-20 years	21-23 years	24 years and over		
1939-1940 Men	17	23	6	46	46
Women	35	9	8	52	51
1947-1948 Men	2	25	25	52	52
Women	24	11	15	50	50
Total	39	34	27	100	199

In summary, the students contributing data to this study were nearly evenly divided between men and women. Of the 199 students, 101 were women and ninety-eight were men. The students attended college during two periods. Ninety-seven made up the first period or pre-war group in 1939-1940 while the second period was the post-war group in 1947-1948 and consisted of 102 students. The ages of the total group ranged from eighteen to thirty-eight with a mean age of twenty-one. For both periods, the women were younger than the men with seventy-nine percent being twenty-three years of age and younger. The majority of students studied were upper-classmen, fifty-one percent being seniors or graduate students. The scholastic ratings of these students ranged from A to D. The majority of students were rated as average in grades obtained (fifty-four percent) while thirty-seven percent had obtained an accumulative average grade of A or B. For both periods the women were slightly higher in grade average than the men.

## Chapter II

## Expectancies and Wishes in the Marriage Relationship

The secret of successful marriage has not been found; however, study is being carried on to ascertain factors associated with success as well as those associated with failure. Occasionally the statement is found in family literature that the degree of success one feels in his own marriage is largely based upon the extent to which he receives from this relationship what he expects to receive. This thought is ably expressed by Ninkoff in the following statement:

"What is marital satisfaction? Clearly it is an individual matter. The degree of one's satisfaction with one's marriage depends on the relation between two things: what one expects and what one receives. Some years ago William James pointed out that self-esteem may be enhanced either by having less ambition or more success. With marriage contentment, it is much the same. Satisfaction with marriage may be increased by expecting less or by achieving more. The situation may be represented by the formula:

$$\text{happiness} = \frac{\text{achievement}}{\text{expectations}}$$

"The product may be magnified either by diminishing the denominator or by increasing the numerator. The denominator desire knows no bounds but instead is indefinitely expansible. If expectations are given free reign and allowed to run wild achievement cannot hope to keep pace. Happiness in marriage therefore requires the imposition of a self-discipline

which keeps desires and their possible realization in proper balance."<sup>14</sup>

This same thought was expressed some years ago by Wile and Winn in their book Marriage in the Modern Manner.

"The success of any marriage depends to a large extent upon the reasons for entering into it. First, because we are likely to get out of marriage what we put into it, and what we put into it depends largely upon what we expect to get out of it; and secondly, because we are likely to regard marriages as satisfactory or not according to whether or not they fulfill our expectations."<sup>15</sup>

Although the importance of expectancies is recognized by authorities in the field, there appears to be no published research evidence as to what individuals expect from marriage nor the extent to which expectancies from marriage may change over a period of years. One of the purposes of this thesis was to ascertain the expectancies from marriage on the part of a selected group of college students and to measure the similarity and the difference in expectancies of a group of students attending college before World War II and a group attending college after the war.

---

14. Ninkoff, M.F. The Family, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, 1934, pp. 381-382.

15. Wile, I.S. and Winn, Mary. Marriage in the Modern Manner. New York. D. Appleton Century Company, 1929, p. 5.

When attempting to study expectancies, one immediately questions whether wishes and expectancies are the same. In this study, expectancy has been defined as "that which is looked forward to as certain or probable; or, that which is anticipated in thought."<sup>16</sup> Wish is defined as "a craving, a desire, usually for some definite thing, - a strong and persistent desire or longing."<sup>17</sup> It is an assumption of this thesis that a factor may be wished for and not expected. Likewise it may be expected and not wished for.

#### Comparison of the Wishes of Men and Women

These young men and women registered the extent of their wishes for a list of twenty-nine items in the marital relationship as "always wishing it," "wishing it sometimes but not always," or "never wishing it." The extent to which these factors were desired or wished for in the marital relationship by students in 1939-1940 as compared to those of 1946-1947 is shown in Table 4.

- 
16. Funk, Isaac K. (Editor) Funk and Wagnalls, New Standard Dictionary of the English Language. New York, Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1934, p. 876.
17. Funk, Isaac K. (Editor) Funk and Wagnalls, New Standard Dictionary of the English Language. New York, Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1947, p. 2723.

Table 4

Items "Always" Wished for in Marriage by 199 College Men and Women  
in 1939-1940 and 1947-1948

Rank Order by Total Group	Statement of Item	Percent Who "Always" Wished For Item										
		Men					Women					
		1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948
1	Have good health	91	98	95	100	92	96	96	96	95	95	95
2	Have adequate sex knowledge	85	92	89	100	96	98	93	93	94	93	93
3	Desire to remain married and not consider divorce	87	88	88	96	90	93	92	92	89	90	90
4	Be well dressed and poised	80	94	88	94	88	91	88	88	91	89	89
5	Be tidy about the home	78	98	89	96	80	88	88	88	89	88	88
5	Discuss factors in marriage with me before marriage	78	87	83	90	98	94	85	85	92	88	88
5	Be kind and considerate to my parents	74	90	83	94	94	94	85	85	92	88	88
6	Be interested in his or her home and family	78	88	84	96	88	92	88	88	88	88	88
7	Be a successful host or hostess	74	94	85	90	88	89	82	82	91	87	87
8	Be able to control his or her temper	74	85	80	96	88	92	86	86	86	86	86

Table 4

Items "Always" Wished for in Marriage by 199 College Men and Women  
in 1939-1940 and 1947-1948

Rank Order by Total Group	Statement of Item	Percent Who "Always" Wished For Item										
		Men					Women					
		1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948
9	Have complete con- fidence in me	78	87	83	98	76	87	89	81	85		
9	Use birth control methods in spacing children	85	79	82	88	88	88	87	83	85		
9	Have self confidence	83	87	85	100	70	85	92	78	85		
10	Desire children in the home	67	92	81	94	80	87	81	86	84		
11	Be able to take criticism constructive- ly	76	83	80	80	94	87	78	88	83		
11	Come to me for com- fort and consolation	72	88	81	94	78	86	84	83	83		
12	Be sympathetic and considerate toward me	70	73	72	98	90	94	85	81	83		
13	Be proud of me	67	77	72	90	88	89	79	82	81		
14	Be about the same age as I (i.e.,) not more than 2 or 3 years older or younger than I	78	98	89	80	60	70	79	79	79		

Table 4 continued

Items "Always" Wished for in Marriage by 199 College Men and Women  
in 1939-1940 and 1947-1948

Rank Order by Total Group	Statement of Item	Percent Who "Always" Wished For Item											
		Men					Women					Total Men and Women	
		1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1939- 1940	1947- 1948	Total	1947- 1948	Both Periods	
15	Wife to be a good house- keeper and cook	80	92	87	73	66	69	76	79	78			
16	Have religious views similar to mine	65	79	72	84	78	81	75	78	77			
17	Come from a family which has social status as high as mine	67	65	66	97	76	86	82	71	76			
18	Never discuss marital problems outside the family	65	71	68	82	78	80	74	75	74			
19	Have as much or more education as I	65	54	59	82	90	86	74	72	73			
20	Have friends similar to mine	63	67	65	69	80	74	66	74	70			
20	Make our marriage a 50- 50 proposition	54	69	62	84	70	77	70	70	70			
21	Be affectionate toward me in all relationships	70	67	68	63	58	60	66	63	64			
22	To have joint control of the purse	50	50	50	71	74	72	61	62	61			
23	Share his (or her) int- erests and hobbies with me	61	58	59	61	64	62	61	61	61			



It will be noted that to have good health was the greatest desire of students for both 1939-1940 and 1946-1947. It was slightly more important to the men in 1946 than in 1939, but more important to women in 1939 than in 1946. To have adequate sex knowledge was the wish of second importance for both men and women. This was an outstanding wish for ninety-six percent and a hundred percent of the women in 1939-1940 and 1946-1947 respectively, and for eighty-five percent and ninety-two percent of the men for corresponding years.

If these data are representative, young college students do not want divorce, since ninety-seven percent of the 1939-1940 students and eighty-nine percent of the 1946-1947 students always wished to remain married and not seek a divorce. For the marital partner to be well dressed and poised was wished for always by eighty-eight percent and 91.3 percent of the students of 1939-1940 and 1946-1947 years. This desire was somewhat more important to men in 1946-1947 than it was in 1939-1940.

Of the twenty-nine factors considered, twenty-four were "always wished for" by seventy percent or more of the students in the two periods being studied (see Table 4). The five factors least often wished for were for the mate to: (1) have friends similar to mine, (2) make our marriage a fifty-fifty proposition (3) be affectionate toward me in all relationships, (4) to have joint control of the purse, (5) share his (or her) interests and hobbies with me. However, these five factors were wished for by at least sixty percent of the students.

On the whole the degree to which these items were "wished for" in the marital relationship was similar for the students of 1939-1940 and

1947-1948. In only eight items was there more than a five percent difference in the proportion of students greatly desiring the items in 1939 as compared to 1947. These items were:

Statement of Item	Percent "always wishing it"	
	1939	1947
Have self confidence	92	78
Be tidy about the home	88	89
Discuss factors on marriage before marriage	85	92
Be kind and considerate to my parents	85	92
Be a successful host or hostess	82	91
Come from a family which has a social status as high as mine	82	71
Be able to take criticism constructively	78	88
Have friends similar to mine	66	74

These figures indicate that the desire or wishes of college students may remain relatively fixed, certainly for a short term period, even though a crises such as World War II may occur during the period.

### Expectancies From Marriage

Expectancy, in this study, has been defined as "that which is looked forward to as certain or probably or that which is anticipated in thought." Expectancies in marriage were checked by the 199 students on schedules especially designed for the purpose. If the student expected a particular item in all relationships with the marital partner the item was checked "always"; if he expected it part of the time but not always, the item was checked "part of the time"; and if he never expected that item it was checked "never".

The rating of the various expectancy items as to importance is shown in Table 5. It will be noted that two items - for the mate to "desire children in the home", and to "discuss factors in marriage with me before marriage" - tie for first place. For the mate to "desire children in the home" was expected always by eighty-one percent of the total group. Eighty-five percent of the young men and women in the 1947-1948 period always expected this and seventy-seven percent of those in the 1939-1940 period. For the mate to "desire children in the home" seemed more important to men in 1947-1948 than in 1939-1940 since ninety-two percent of the men in 1947-1948 as compared to sixty-five percent for 1939-1940 always expected children in the home. The women in 1939-1940 placed this expectancy higher than in 1947-1948, eighty-eight percent as compared to seventy-eight percent respectively.

On the other hand, a discussion of factors in marriage with one's marital partner before marriage appeared slightly more important to both

men and women in 1939-1940 than in 1947-1948, although the difference is not significant. In both periods, this item was of slightly more significance to the women than to the men.

Stability in the home and family relationships was expected on the part of these students in both periods as shown by the rating of the following items:

Rank of Item	Statement of Item For the mate to:	Percent of Students	
		1939-1940	1947-1948
2	Desire to remain married and not consider divorce	81	80
4	Be interested in his (or her) home and family	85	72
5	Be kind and considerate to my parents	75	79

If expecting the mate to remain married and not consider divorce indicates stability, men expected more stable marriages in 1947-1948 and women less stable ones. Of the men, eighty-three percent in 1947-1948 compared with seventy-six percent in 1939-1940 expected the mate to desire to remain married. The corresponding figures for women were seventy-eight percent and ninety-two percent in 1939-1940. It will be noted that the total group of both young men and women were slightly less expectant of a stable marriage in 1947-1948 than they were in 1939-1940.

The two items dealing with sex ranked relatively high in expectancy.

To use birth control methods in spacing children always would be expected by eighty percent of the total group in 1939-1940 and seventy-eight percent in 1946-1947. This item was equally important to the men and women in both periods. To have adequate sex knowledge was of similar importance to the total group in the two periods but of significantly greater importance to the women in both periods than to the men.

It may be surprising to find that the item, the marital partner to be interested in the mate's home and family, was considered less important by men and women in 1947-1948 than 1939-1940. This item ranked seventh and sixth respectively in 1946-1947, while in the first period it ranked first and second with eighty percent of both the men and women expecting it always. The ranking of all expectancy items for men and women of both periods may be seen in Table 5.

The five items ranked the lowest of the twenty-nine by the group for both periods were for the mate to "have religious views similar to my own," "be able to take criticism constructively," "have friends similar to mine," "be affectionate toward me in all relationships," and "share his or her interests or hobbies with me."

Women expected to share in marital partners' interests or hobbies to a greater degree than the men, twenty-seven percent as compared to twenty-three percent; however, both men and women for both periods ranked this sharing of interests last in items expected in marriage. "For the marital partner to be affectionate toward me in all relationships" ranked next to last in both periods. Those expecting this item always were thirty-six

Table 5  
 Items "Always" Expected in Marriage by 199 College Men and Women  
 in 1939-1940 and 1947-1948

Rank of Item by Total Group	Statement of Item	Percent Who "Always" Expected Item										
		Men					Women					
		1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948
1	Desire children in the home	65	92	80	88	78	83	77	86	81		
1	Discuss factors in marriage with me before marriage	80	73	77	88	84	86	85	79	81		
1	Desires to remain married and not consider divorce	76	83	80	92	78	82	81	81	81		
2	Use birth control methods in spacing children	80	81	81	80	76	78	80	79	79		
3	Be interested in his or her home and family	80	71	76	88	72	80	85	72	78		
4	Be kind and considerate to my parents	65	77	71	84	82	83	75	80	77		
5	Have adequate sex knowledge	54	65	59	86	84	85	71	75	73		
6	Come to me for comfort and consolation	63	75	69	69	60	64	66	68	67		
7	Have self-confidence	57	50	53	67	92	79	62	71	66		
7	Have complete confidence in me	65	52	58	86	62	74	76	57	66		
8	Be well-dressed and poised	65	54	59	73	60	66	69	57	63		

Table 5 continued  
 Items "Always" Expected in Marriage by 199 College Men and Women  
 in 1939-1940 and 1947-1948

Rank of Item by Total Group	Statement of Item	Percent Who "Always" Expected Item									
		Men				Women				Total Men and Women	
		1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948	Both Periods	
9	Make our marriage a 50-50 proposition (neither be the boss)	54	62	58	73	56	64	59	61		
10	Be tidy about the home	76	75	76	43	40	59	58	58		
10	Be sympathetic and considerate toward me	43	54	49	78	54	62	54	58		
11	Wife to be a good housekeeper and cook	63	60	61	61	38	62	50	55		
12	Be a successful host or hostess	50	63	57	51	52	51	58	54		
13	Never discuss marital problems outside the family	39	48	44	59	66	50	57	53		
13	Be about same age as I (i.e.,) not more than 2 or 3 years older or younger than I	61	54	57	55	42	58	49	53		
14	Come from a family which has a social status as high as mine	39	40	40	75	52	57	47	52		
15	Have good health	43	54	49	57	48	50	52	51		

Table 5 continued  
 Items "Always" Expected in Marriage by 199 College Men and Women

Rank of Item by Total Group	Statement of Item	Percent Who "Always" Expected Item											
		Men					Women						
		1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948	Total	1939-1940	1947-1948	Total
16	Be proud of me Have as much or more education than I	43	37	40	66	50	58	56	44	49			
17	To have joint control of the purse	35	30	31	61	66	63	48	47	47			
17	Be able to control his (or her) temper	46	38	42	53	52	52	49	46	47			
18	Have religious views similar to my own	39	42	41	43	44	44	41	44	42			
19	Be able to take criticism constructively	35	37	36	39	54	47	37	46	41			
20	Have friends similar to mine	41	37	39	35	46	41	38	42	40			
21	Be affectionate toward me in all relationships	39	35	37	31	38	35	35	37	36			
22	Share his or her interests or hobbies with me	48	29	38	25	26	26	36	28	32			
23		28	19	23	26	30	28	27	25	26			



percent for 1939-1940 and twenty-seven percent for 1946-1947.

In summary, "for the mate to desire children in the home", "discuss factors in marriage before marriage", and "to remain married and not seek divorce" were the three items of greatest expectancy for the young men and women in this study. In addition to the expectancy for these three items mentioned above, seventy-five percent of these young men and women always would expect the mate to "use birth-control methods in spacing children", "be interested in his (or her) home and family", and "to be kind and considerate to his (or her parents".

#### Comparison of Expectancies and Wishes

Are wishes in and expectancies of the marital relationship similar for all college students, or do students differentiate between the two? The data in Table 6 indicate that students wish for factors which may or may not be expected. On the whole a much larger proportion of the students in this study wished for certain of the items in the marital relationship than expected them. This difference was true of both periods studied.

The greatest difference between wishes and expectancies for the items studied was "for the mate to have good health". Although ninety-eight percent wished for this, only fifty-one percent expected it. Other

items in which there was a measurable difference between the extent to which an item was wished for and expected were as follows:

Statement of Item For mate to:	Percent in Always Wished For	Both Periods Always Expected
Be tidy about the house	88	58
Be a successful host or hostess	87	54
Be able to control temper	86	42
Be able to take criticism constructively	83	40
Be sympathetic and considerate of me	83	58
Be proud of me	81	49
Be about the same age as I	79	53
Have religious views similar to mine	77	41

Table 6

The Percentage Comparison of the Extent to Which Selected Items in the Marriage Relationship Were Always Wished For and Always Expected by the 199 College men and Women

Rank Order by Total Group	Statement of Item	1939-1940		1947-1948		Both Periods	
		Wished For	Expected	Wished For	Expected	Wished For	Expected
1	Have good health	96	50	95	52	95	51
2	Have adequate sex knowledge	93	71	94	75	93	73
3	Desire to remain married and not consider divorce	97	81	89	80	90	81
4	Be well dressed and poised	88	69	91	57	89	63
5	Be tidy about the home	88	59	89	58	88	58
5	Discuss factors in marriage with me before marriage	85	85	92	78	88	81
5	Be kind and considerate to my parents	85	75	92	79	88	77
6	Be interested in his or her home and family	88	85	88	72	88	78
7	Be a successful host or hostess	82	51	91	58	87	54
8	Be able to control his or her temper	86	41	86	43	86	42
9	Have complete confidence in me	89	76	81	57	85	66
9	Use birth control methods in spacing children	87	80	83	78	85	79

Table 6 continued

The Percentage Comparison of the Extent to Which Selected Items in the Marriage Relationship Were Always Wished For and Always Expected by the 199 College Men and Women

Rank Order by Total Group	Statement of Item	1939-1940		1947-1948		Both Periods	
		Wished For	Expected	Wished For	Expected	Wished For	Expected
9	Have self confidence	92	62	78	71	85	66
10	Desire children in the home	81	77	86	85	84	81
11	Be able to take criticism constructively	78	38	88	41	83	40
11	Come to me for comfort and consolation	84	66	83	68	83	67
12	Be sympathetic and considerate toward me	85	62	81	54	83	58
13	Be proud of me	79	56	82	44	81	49
14	Be about the same age as I (i.e., not more than 2 or 3 years older or younger than I)	79	58	79	49	79	53
15	Wife be a good housekeeper and cook	76	62	79	50	78	55
16	Have religious views similar to mine	75	37	78	45	77	41
17	Come from a family which has social status as high as mine	82	57	71	46	77	52
18	Never discuss marital problems outside the family	74	50	75	57	75	53

Table 6 continued

The Percentage Comparison of the Extent to Which Selected Items in the Marriage Relationship Were Always Wished For and Always Expected by the 199 College Men and Women

Rank Order by Total Group	Statement of Item	1939-1940		1947-1948		Both Periods	
		Wished For	Expected	Wished For	Expected	Wished For	Expected
19	Have as much or more education than I	74	48	72	46	73	47
20	Have friends similar to mine	66	35	74	36	70	36
20	Make our marriage a 50-50 proposition	70	64	70	59	70	61
21	Be affectionate toward me in all relationships	66	36	63	27	64	32
22	To have joint control of the purse	61	49	62	45	61	47
23	Share his (or her) interests and hobbies with me	61	27	61	25	61	26

If these data are representative, college students clearly differentiate between their desires and their expectancies relative to their mates. When one attempts to study the effect of each factor upon satisfaction in marriage, little help can be obtained from the published literature. Furthermore, the writers in the field of marriage do not clearly differentiate between the two. Desires and expectancies are treated as expectancies with the assumption that one is satisfied with his marriage to the extent that he receives from it that which he expects.

May it not be that one's wishes are more closely associated with his degree of happiness in marriage than his expectancies, while the expectancies may be more predictive of his own behavior? Certainly research is needed to show the relationship between wishes and expectancies and marital happiness and marital stability.

In summary, "for the mate to have good health" and "to have adequate sex knowledge" were the greatest desires of students for both 1939-1940 and 1946-1947. For the mate "to desire to remain married and not seek a divorce" and to be "well dressed and poised" were wishes of high frequency for these students. Of the twenty-nine items studied, twenty-seven were always wished for by at least seventy percent of the students. The wishes of the students were similar for 1939-1940 and 1947-1948.

"For the mate to desire children in the home", "discuss factors in marriage before marriage", and "wish to remain married and not seek divorce" were the three items of greatest expectancy for the young men and women. In addition to the three items mentioned above, seventy-

five percent of these young men and women would expect the "mate to use birth control methods in spacing children", "be interested in his (or her) home and family", and "to be kind and considerate to his (or her ) parents".

These students clearly differentiated between a factor for which they wished and a factor which they expected in the marital relationship. The extent to which specific factors in relation to the mate were wished for was on the whole measurably higher than the extent to which they were expected.

## Chapter III

## Change In Expectancy

Of the twenty-nine items concerning expectancy in marriage, the change from 1939-1940 and 1947-1949 in the extent to which the student always expected the item was significant in one case. The expectancy item in which the greatest change occurred in the eight year period was "for the mate to be sympathetic and considerate toward me". Eleven percent more of the men in 1947-1948 than in 1939-1940 always would expect this item while twenty-four percent less of the women always would expect it. In Table 5 it will be seen that in 1939-1940 this item was more often expected on the part of the women than men, but in 1947-1948 the proportion of men and women who would always expect this item was the same, fifty-four percent.

Why would twenty-four percent less women in 1947-1948 than in 1939-1940 expect a high degree of affection and consideration from their mates, while eleven percent more men would expect it? Perhaps this difference results from the influence of the war period, which may have caused men to feel the need for sympathy and consideration from their mates. On the other hand women may have been brought face to face with the fact that sympathy and consideration from members of the opposite sex is not always forthcoming, or perhaps the position of women shifted to the point that women felt less need for this relationship with their mates.

The expectancy item which was second in degree of change was for the mate to "desire children in the home". The degree of change for



this item between the two periods approaches significance. In relation to this item it is interesting to note that in 1937-1938, seventy-five percent of the men compared to eighty-eight percent of the women would expect their mate to desire children, but in 1947-1948 percentages were ninety-two and seventy-eight respectively. In other words, in 1947-1948, twenty-seven percent more of the men and ten percent less of the women than in 1939-1940 always expected the mate to desire children. No doubt, the apparent increased need for children in the home on the part of men and the decreased need on the part of women after the war resulted from the same factors as the apparent increased need for sympathy and affection for the mate on the part of the men and the decreased need on the part of the women.

Of the remaining twenty-seven items, the change in expectancy from 1939-1940 and 1947-1948 was too small to be significant.

In Table 7 it should be noted that the changes in expectancies for men and women are not in the same direction on many of the items. In eight items, the expectancy of the men increased while that of the women decreased. These items were for the mate to: (1) desire children in the home, (2) come to me for comfort and consolation, (3) be kind and considerate to my parents, (4) be sympathetic and considerate toward me, (5) have good health, (6) have adequate sex knowledge, (7) desire to remain married and not consider divorce, and (8) use birth control methods in spacing of children.

In five items the expectancy of the women increased and that of the men decreased. These items were for the mate to: (1) be affectionate toward me in all relationships, (2) share his interests or her interests and hobbies with me, (3) have self-confidence, (4) have as much education as I or more than I have, and (5) be able to take criticism constructively.

Table 7

Change in Extent to Which Items Are Always Expected in 1939-1940 as Compared to 1947-1948 for 199 College Men and Women

Rank of Item by Total Group	Statement of Item For the Mate to:	Change in Expectancy 1939-1940 and 1947-1948		
		$\chi^2$	P Value	Algebraic Percent Difference
1	Be sympathetic and considerate toward me	3.96	< .05	+ 11 -24
2	Desire children in the home	3.72	> .05	+ 27 -10
3	Make our marriage a 50-50 proposition. (neither to be boss)	2.07	< .20	+ 8 -17
4	Wife to be a good housekeeper and cook	2.05	< .20	- 3 -24
5	Have good health	1.71	< .20	+ 11 - 9
6	Come from a family which has a social status as high as mine	1.55	> .20	- 21 -23
7	Be able to take criticism constructively	1.44	> .20	- 4 + 11
8	Come to me for comfort and consolation	1.27	> .20	+ 12 - 9
9	Have adequate sex knowledge	1.08	< .30	+ 9 - 2
10	Be kind and considerate to my parents	1.07	> .30	+ 12 - 2
11	Desire to remain married and not consider divorce	1.07	> .30	+ 7 -14
12	Be a successful host or hostess	0.84	< .50	+ 13 + 1

Table 7 continued

Change in Extent to Which Items Are Always Expected in 1939-1940 as Compared to 1947-1948 for 199 College Men and Women

Rank of Item by Total Group	Statement of Item For the Mate to:	Change in Expectancy 1939-1940 and 1947-1948		
		$\chi^2$	P Value	Algebraic Percent Difference Men      Women
13	Have self confidence	0.75	< .50	-7      +25
14	Be affectionate toward me in all relationships	0.55	< .50	-19      +1
15	Be about same age as I, (i.e., not more than 2 or 3 years older or younger)	0.54	< .50	-7      -13
16	Share his interest (or her) interests and hobbies with me	0.49	< .50	-9      +4
17	Be interested in his (or her) home and family	0.48	< .50	-9      -8
18	Have complete confidence in me	0.47	< .50	-7      -24
19	Use birth control methods in spacing of children	0.41	> .50	+1      -4
20	Be proud of me	0.38	> .50	-6      -16
21	Be tidy about the home	0.28	< .10	-1      -3
22	Never discuss marital problems outside the family	0.24	< .20	+9      +7
23	Have as much or more education as I	0.20	< .20	-5      +5
24	Be able to control his (or her) temper	0.17	< .95	+3      +1

Table 7 continued

Change in Extent to Which Items Are Always Expected in 1939-1940 as Compared to 1947-1948 for 199 College Men and Women

Rank of Item by Total Group	Statement of Item For the Mate to:	Change in Expectancy 1939-1940 and 1947-1948		
		$\chi^2$	P Value	Algebraic Percent Difference Men      Women
25	Be well dressed and poised	0.15	> .50	-11      -13
26	Have friends similar to mine	0.13	> .50	+1      +7
27	Have religious views similar to my own	0.12	> .50	+2      +15
28	To have joint control of the purse	0.10	< .95	-8      -1
29	Discuss factors in marriage with me before marriage	0.09	< .95	-7      -3

In the remaining items the expectancies either increased or decreased for both the men and women. However, the rates of change were not the same. For example, for the wife to be a good cook or housekeeper was expected by three percent less men in 1947-1948 than in 1939-1940, but by twenty-four percent less women. The expectancies which either decreased or increased for both men and women between the two periods studied were as follows:

For the Mate to:	Percent Men	Items Increased Women
Never discuss marital problems outside the home	+ 9	+ 7
Have friends similar to mine	+ 1	+ 7
Have religious views similar to mine	+ 2	+ 15
Be able to control temper	+ 3	+ 1
Be a successful host or hostess	+ 13	+ 1
	Percent	Items Decreased
Be proud of me	-6	-16
Come from family of similar social status	-21	-23
Be well dressed and poised	-11	-13
Wife to be a good housekeeper and cook	- 3	-24
Make our marriage a 50-50 proposition	-18	-17
Be tidy about the home	- 1	- 3
To have joint control of purse	- 8	- 1
Be interested in mate's family	- 9	- 8
Have complete confidence in me	- 7	-24

	Percent Items Decreased	
	Men	Women
Be about same age as I	- 7	-13
Discuss factors in marriage before marriage	- 7	- 3

The shift in expectancies for men and women from 1939-1940 to 1947-1948 shows a rather interesting pattern. In comparing 1939-1940 with 1947-1948, the expectancies which increased for men and decreased for women are those which traditionally women are supposed to expect of their mates. On the other hand, the expectancies which decreased for men and increased for women are, on the whole, those which traditionally women are not supposed to expect of their mates. Does this mean that as a result of the war experience, women expect to play less the traditional woman's role in marriage, and men expect her to play it to a greater extent than before? This does not necessarily mean difficulty in marriage, unless the trend continues, for in all of these items the expectancy on the part of the women before the war was higher than that of men. Thus the expectancies in 1947-1948 for individual items were becoming more similar for men and women.

The trend is similar for the items in which the expectancy decreased for men and increased for women. For three of these five items, the expectancy on the part of the men was slightly higher than that of the women before the war.

The items in which the expectancy decreased for both men and women are of interest, especially since they are played up so frequently in the current literature as contributing much to the happiness of marital

partners in marriage. Perhaps this indicates that these factors may be of less concern to the present day youth than was true of those of a few years ago, and the current writings on the subject represent a cultural log.

## Chapter IV

### Summary and Conclusions

The literature on marriage reveals only one study which deals specifically with expectancies in marriage of college students. This study does not attempt to measure change in expectancies from one period to another nor to differentiate between wishes and expectancies. Several investigators in the area of marital relationships express the need for further research on the predictive value of factors existing in the lives of individuals before marriage as they may or may not influence marital success. One factor which these investigators feel may be highly predictive of success or failure in marriage is the individual's expectancies from the marital relationship.

The aims of this study were to ascertain the wishes and expectancies in relationships with the mate in marriage of a selected group of college students attending the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1939-1940 and a similar group attending in 1947-1948, and the change in expectancies for these students between the two periods.

The data were secured from 199 students enrolled in the course in Family Relationships and Marriage I offered in the Department of Home Economics. The 1939-1940 classes included ninety-seven students, forty-six men and fifty-one women, and the 1947-1948 classes included one hundred and two students, fifty-two men and fifty women. The ages of the students ranged from eighteen through thirty-eight with seventy-three percent being



twenty-three years of age or younger. In both periods the women were, on the whole, slightly younger than the men.

Eighty-four percent of the students were in either the third or fourth year of college at the time the data were collected and seven percent were graduate students. The grade averages of the students ranged from A to D. Thirty-eight percent of the students had an accumulative grade average of A and B, while fifty-two percent had an accumulative grade average of C and two percent of D. Grade averages were not obtained for eight percent of the students.

The findings of this study were as follows:

An analysis of the students' wishes for the twenty-nine marital relationship items revealed that -

The four most frequently wished for were: for the mate to have good health, for the mate to have adequate sex knowledge, for the mate to desire to remain married and not seek a divorce, and for the mate to be well dressed and poised.

At least seventy percent of the students always wished for twenty-four of the twenty-nine items in their relationships with their mate. On the whole the wishes of these students were similar for both men and women for 1939-1940 and 1947-1948.

An analysis of the expectancies of the students for the twenty-nine marital relationship items revealed that -

The two items of highest expectancy on the part of these

students were: for the mate to desire children in the home, and for the mate to discuss factors in marriage before marriage. For the mate to desire children in the home was expected by ninety-two percent of the men in 1947-1948 as compared with sixty-five percent in 1939-1940. For the women, the percentages were seventy-eight and eighty-eight percent respectively for the corresponding years.

These students, eighty percent in 1947-1948 and eighty-one percent in 1939-1940, expected the mate to remain married and not consider divorce. This expectancy decreased on the part of women from 1939-1940 to 1947-1948 while it increased for men during the same period.

Approximately 79 percent of the students in both periods would expect the mate to use birth control methods in spacing of children. This item appeared equally important to the men and women in both periods.

For the mate to have adequate sex knowledge was of similar importance to the total group in both periods but of significantly greater importance to the women in both periods than to the men.

Of the twenty-nine items studied, six were always expected by at least seventy-five percent of the total group. An additional fourteen items were always expected by at least fifty percent of the group. Only two items were always expected by less than one-third of the total group. These items were "for the mate to

be affectionate toward me in all relationships" and "for the mate to share his (or her) interest and hobbies with me".

These students clearly differentiated between wishes and expectancies in the marital relationship. In all cases a larger proportion of students wished for items in the marital relationship than expected them. This was true for both periods studied.

The students' expectancies in marriage did not change significantly between 1939-1940 and 1947-1948. In only one item, for the mate to be sympathetic and considerate toward me, was there a significant change in expectancy. The degree of change approached statistical significance for the item, for the mate to desire children in the home. With reference to both of these items the degree of expectancy increased for men and decreased for women between the periods studied.

The change in expectancies from 1939-1940 to 1947-1948 for men and women was not in the same direction on many of the items. In eight of the items the expectancy of the men increased while that of the women decreased. These were items which traditionally women are supposed to expect of their mates. In five items the expectancy of the women increased and that of the men decreased. These items were on the whole those which traditionally women are not supposed to expect of their mates. The remaining items increased and decreased for men and women in the same direction, but not at the same rate. The majority of the items in which the expectancy decreased for both men and women were those which usually are played up in the current literature as contributing to the happiness

of the marital partner in marriage.

If these data are representative of college students, the following conclusions seem evident:

1. The wishes of college students relative to selected marital relationships may be expected to change little over a period of eight or ten years.
2. The expectancies of college students relative to selected marital relationships may be expected to change more than their wishes but significant changes may be expected on only a few items.
3. The expectancies in the marital relationship by men and women may not be expected to change in the same direction for selected items. The degree of expectancy for factors associated with the traditional role of women as mates may be expected to increase for men and decrease for women. Those which indicate increasing freedom for women may be expected to increase for women and decrease for men.
4. The wishes for selected items in the marital relationship on the part of college students are relatively higher than their expectancy for the same items.
5. College students on the whole not only wish for but expect: Stable marriages

Kindness and consideration from their mates

Adequate sex knowledge on the part of their mates

Planned families

Acceptance of their parental homes by their mates

#### Recommendations

In view of the belief that expectancies in marriage are closely associated with one's satisfaction with his marriage, it is recommended that additional research be made on an adequate sample of college students:

1. To ascertain (a) if the patterning of wishes and expectancies of marriage found in this study would be similar for college students in general, and (b) if the wishes and expectancies persisted from one period to another, as found in this study.
2. To study the relationship between wishes in and expectancies from marriage of individuals before marriage and the actual presence or absence of these factors in subsequent marriage.
3. To study the relationship between wishes in and expectancies from marriage of individuals before marriage, and the stability of their subsequent marriage and the satisfaction of the mates with the marriage.
4. To study the relationship between wishes and

expectancies in the marital relationship and socio-economic factors, educational factors, etc.

## Bibliography

Burgess, Ernest W. and Cottrell, Leonard S. Predicting Success or Failure in Marriage, New York, Prentice Hall, Inc. 1939.

Burgess, N. and Wallin, P. "Predicting Adjustment in Marriage from Adjustment in Engagement", American Journal of Sociology; Vol. 49, 1943-1944, p. 234.

Funk, Isaac, K. (Editor) Funk and Wagnalls, New Standard Dictionary of the English Language. New York, Funk and Wagnall Company, 1934, p. 876; 1947, p. 2723.

Hankla, Margaret L, "The Marital Expectancies of 250 College Students, "A Thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Science in Family Life, Department of Home Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. 1940.

Hill, Reuben, "Campus Values in Mate Selection", Journal of Home Economics, Nov. 1945, p. 554.

Nimkoff, M. F. "Occupational Factors and Marriage", American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 49, 1943-1944, p. 248.

Nimkoff, M. F. The Family, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, 1934, pp. 381-382.

Ort, Robert, Dr. "Cue to Marital Happiness", Science News Letter, Vol. 58, No. 20, Nov. 11, 1950, p. 312.

Strauss, A., "Ideal Courtship and the Chosen Mate, Biblio." American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 52, Nov. 1946, pp. 204-208.

Terman, Lewis M., Psychological Factors in Marital Happiness, New York; McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1938.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Catalog, Vol. XLIV, No. 3, March 1951, pp. 57-58.

Wile, S. and Winn, Mary. Marriage in the Modern Manner. New York. D Appleton Century Company, 1929, p. 5.

Winch, R. F., "Personality Characteristics of Engaged and Married Couples", American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 46, 1940-1941, p. 686.

## Bibliography continued

Wolfe, Virginia, A.M. "The Problems of Individuals While in College and Five Years Later, and Their Relationship to Marital and Personal Happiness", A Thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Science in Family Life, Department of Home Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1947.

Yule, G. N., An Introduction to the Theory of Statistics. Charles Griffin Company, London, 1924, p. 66.



**Appendix**

## EXPECTANCIES FROM MARRIAGE

Sex (man or woman) \_\_\_\_\_

Your year in college \_\_\_\_\_

Your age \_\_\_\_\_

Your grade average \_\_\_\_\_

Directions:

Each person is to express the extent to which he wishes for, expects, and would be willing to change his expectancy toward the items listed on the left hand side of the following page. In some cases your wish and expectancy will be the same; at other times you may wish something which you do not expect to receive. At the head of the columns on the right hand side of the page you will note the statement extent to which you: "wish it," "expect it," and "are willing to change it." In the columns below each of these headings place a check mark in the one which more nearly represents your attitude toward the items listed on the left hand side. For example, if you wish your future mate to be affectionate in all relationships (item 1) you would check "always" under "wish it"; if you wish your mate to be affectionate only part of the time place a check mark in column headed "part of time"; if you never wish your mate to be affectionate at all times you would check "always" under "expect it"; if you expect it occasionally but not all of the time, you would check "part of time" under "expect it"; if you never expect your mate to show affection check "never" under "expect it." If you expect your mate to "always" be affectionate but would be willing for him (or her) to be un-affectionate check "much" under "are willing to change"; if you expect affection always but would be satisfied with this only part of the time, check "some" under "willing to change"; if you are unwilling to change your expectancy at all, check "none" under "are willing to change."















	Wish it			Expect it			Are willing to change		
	Always	Part of time	Never	Always	Part of time	Never	Much	Some	None
97. Tell me about events in his(or her) past life that I should know.									
98. To be considered a success in his (or her) chosen work.									
99. Desire to remain married and not consider a divorce.									
100. To point out to me the things he (or she) does not like that I do.									

Please answer the following questions:

1. What income would you consider adequate for marriage? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the minimum monthly income on which you would marry? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you feel that marriage is essential to your present or future happiness? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How long do you think the engagement period should be? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many children would you like, if any? \_\_\_\_\_
7. To what extent have you been happy in your own home? Very happy \_\_\_\_\_, Moderately happy \_\_\_\_\_, Unhappy \_\_\_\_\_.
8. For women:  
 Do you wish to work outside the home after marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If not, under what conditions would you be willing to do so? \_\_\_\_\_  
 For men:  
 Do you wish your wife to work outside the home after marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If not, under what conditions would you be willing for her to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of  $\chi^2$ 

The extent to which the expectancies relative to marriage shifted over the nine year period was measured by  $\chi^2$ .  $\chi^2$  is found as illustrated in the following table:

Year		Men	Women	Total
1939-1940	Obs.	30.00	43.00	73
	Ex.N.	33.18	39.82	
	d	3.18	3.18	
	d <sup>2</sup>	10.11	10.11	
	rd	.31	.26	
1947-1948	Obs.	40.00	41.00	81
	Ex.N.	36.82	44.18	
	d	3.18	3.18	
	d <sup>2</sup>	10.11	10.11	
	rd	.21	.24	
Total		70.00	84.00	154

(Obs) observed value, (Ex.N.) frequency expected, (d) deviation = the difference between observed and expected values, (d<sup>2</sup>) deviation squared, and (rd) is d divided by Ex.N.

## Formula

$$\text{Ex.N.} = \frac{\text{Column Total} \times \text{Line Total}}{\text{Total Number}}$$

$$d = \text{Obs} - \text{Ex.N.}$$

$$d^2 = d \times d$$

$$rd = \frac{d^2}{\text{Ex.N.}}$$

$$X^2 = \sum R.D.$$

The probability factor (P) indicates whether or not  $X^2$  is significant. In other words, it indicates whether or not the association between the variable may be due to chance. For example, a "P" value equal to .10 means that in ten out of one hundred cases the association could be due to chance alone. If "P" is equal to or smaller than (<) 0.05  $X^2$  is considered significant. This means that there would be less than five chances in one hundred that the indicated association could be due to chance. (See Yule, G.N., An Introduction to the Theory of Statistics. Charles Griffen and Company, London, 1924, p. 66. )