COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION

and

ACHIEVEMENT

A THESIS

PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY

OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE
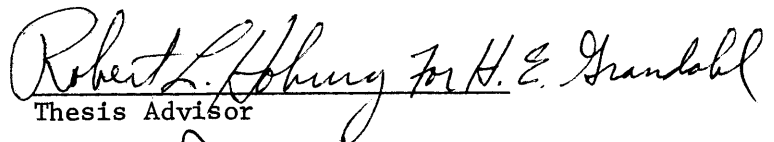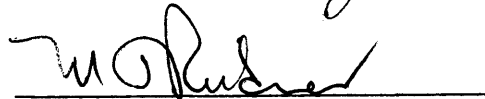
by

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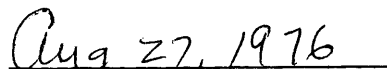
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT

OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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Thesis Advisor

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For the Graduate Division

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Date

CHAPTER I

Introduction

What are the effects of computer-assisted instruction on pupil performance? This question is often asked by various school systems, when approached by a salesman of these very expensive, electronic machines. If the salesman is successful, and the machine is purchased, the question is usually posed again by the teachers in the school system. For they are the ones who must expose students to the machine.

Computer-assisted instruction is a relatively new idea in education. In this day and age of great technical advances, the electronic computer is becoming more and more a part of our every day lives. The incorporation of this machine into the educational system should prove beneficial, not only in academic areas, but also in developing an understanding of the machine which influences so much of our daily lives.

The question of how beneficial these expensive pieces of equipment are, however, is one which faces many school systems today. Budgets are being cut and schools are having to take a closer look at every item they purchase.

Will the computer help student achievement? Can it better prepare students for our highly technological society? Questions like these must be looked at and answered by today's educators.