Correlation Between EGPA and First Attempt NCE Scores

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Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

Problem

Entry Grade Point Average (EGPA) has been an admission criterion, yet limited data exists that evaluates if EGPA correlates to first-time NCE scores.

Literature Review

- Twelve studies selected using GRADE criteria.
- Each one-point increase in EGPA increases successful program completion by 7.12x.
- Students were also 4.2x less likely to experience academic probation.
- An EGPA of 3.36, science GPA of 3.30, and undergraduate nursing GPA of 3.36 correlates with programmatic success.
- An EGPA of 3.25 and undergraduate nursing GPA of 3.00 reflect up to a 99% program success rate.

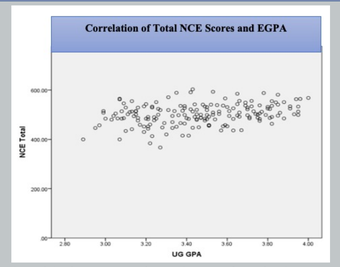
Methods

- Theoretical framework: Vincent Tinto's Longitudinal Model of Student Retention.
- Data was collected about 175 AHU nurse anesthesia graduates.
- Pearson R correlational linear regression analysis was utilized.

Results

- EGPAs $\geq$ 3.75 revealed significant correlation (p=.002) with increased NCE total scores.
- The individual NCE subcategory, Basic Principles of Nurse Anesthesia, significantly correlated to EGPAs.

Illustration

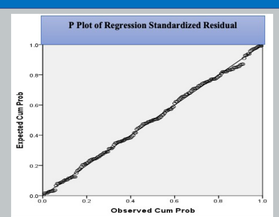


Linear relationship between the NCE Total and EGPA

More Results

- NCE total scores < 450 had an average EGPA of 3.29 with a standard deviation of 0.214.
- NCE total scores $\geq$ 450 had an average EGPA of 3.48 with a standard deviation of 0.269.

Illustration



Normal distribution of a normal probability plot

Discussion & Implications

Increasing the minimum EGPA from 3.00 to 3.21 will increase the prospect of a first-attempt total NCE score of 450 or greater.

Limitations included a lack of EGPA breakdown, different undergraduate schools, and utilization of different methods for NCE preparation.

Conclusions

EGPA has a significant correlation to academic success and should continue to be considered in the admission process for AHU's graduate nurse anesthesia program.

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