

**SECOND STUDY**  
**LINKING PSYCHOLOGY COURSE GRADES**  
**TO PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM COMPREHENSIVE EXAM**  
**DAY AND AEOP PROGRAMS**

3/15/10

A second, updated study including both the day (with increased N size) and the AEOP (evening program) was performed linking undergraduate psychology student course grades in psychology courses to scores on the cumulative Psychology Comprehensive Exam. The grades in these courses are based on and represent the students demonstrating an understanding of the various course student learning outcomes (CSLO). The following variables were created

- An overall grade point average (GPA) for all courses taken at Chaminade (**overallgpa**)\*
- An overall grade point average (GPA) for all psychology courses taken at Chaminade including Psy 101 (**psygpa101**)\*
- Average grade point average (GPA) from the courses that make up the first five Undergraduate Psychology Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO) (**ploavg**)\*
- Total Score on the Psychology Comprehensive Exam (**totcomp**)\*
- The total of five scales from the Psychology Comprehensive Exam. This variable does not include the Marianist Educational Values and the Integrative scale. This variable matches the principle component analysis of five scales on the Comprehensive Exam performed to determine construct validity (see WASC re-accreditation undergraduate Psychology evidence site) (**sclprpc**)\*

Scores for each of these variables were obtained from students in the Spring Day 2009 and Spring Day 2008 Senior Seminar in Psychology (PSY 490) course and in the AEOP Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Winter 2009, Spring 2009 and Fall 2009 Senior Seminar in Psychology (PSY 490) course. Given the differences between the Day and the AEOP students, there was no attempt to combine the results. To establish a relationship between the course work grades (CSLO) and the results on the Comprehensive Exam (PSLO) a correlation analysis was performed using SPSS. The results indicate significant relationship in the following areas:

**Day Students**

- A significant relationship of .543 (N = 23, p = .007) was obtained between **psygpa101** and **totcomp**. These results establish a clear link between all the Psychology courses that make up a student's Psychology program and overall performance on the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .611 (N=26, p = .001) was obtained between **ploavg** and **totcomp**. These results establish a clear link between the Psychology courses that make up the first five Program Student Learning Outcomes and overall performance on the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .625 (N=26, p = .001) was obtained between **ploavg** and **sclprpc**. These results establish a clear link between the Psychology courses that make up the first five Program Student Learning Outcomes and performance on the corresponding five scales of the

Psychology Comprehensive Exam that were utilized to determine the construct validity of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.

- A significant relationship of .527 (N=23, p = .010) was obtained between **psygpa101** and **scmprpc**. These results establish a clear link between all the Psychology courses that make up a student's Psychology program and performance on the corresponding five scales of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam that were utilized to determine the construct validity of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .583 (N = 33, p = .000) was obtained between **overallgpa** and **totcomp**. These results establish a clear link between all course work, including Gen-Ed, that make up a student's program at CUH and overall performance on the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .540 (N = 33, p = .001) was obtained between **overallgpa** and **scmprpc**. These results establish a clear link between all course work, including Gen-Ed, that make up a student's program at CUH and performance on the corresponding five scales of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam that were utilized to determine the construct validity of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.

The results of this second study of the Day program clearly indicate a significant relationship between the Psychology course student learning outcomes with the Psychology Program Student Learning Outcomes, and a significant relationship between all course work, including Gen-Ed, that make up the student's program at CUH with the Psychology Program Student Learning Outcomes .

#### **AEOP Students**

- A significant relationship of .431 (N = 23, p = .040) was obtained between **psygpa101** and **totcomp**. These results establish a clear link between all the Psychology courses that make up a student's Psychology program and overall performance on the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .573 (N=39, p = .000) was obtained between **ploavg** and **totcomp**. These results establish a clear link between the Psychology courses that make up the first five Program Student Learning Outcomes and overall performance on the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .575 (N=39, p = .000) was obtained between **ploavg** and **scmprpc**. These results establish a clear link between the Psychology courses that make up the first five Program Student Learning Outcomes and performance on the corresponding five scales of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam that were utilized to determine the construct validity of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .383 (N = 67, p = .001) was obtained between **overallgpa** and **totcomp**. These results establish a clear link between all course work, including Gen-Ed, which makes up a student's program at CUH and overall performance on the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.
- A significant relationship of .391 (N = 67, p = .001) was obtained between **overallgpa** and **scmprpc**. These results establish a clear link between all course work, including Gen-Ed, that make up a student's program at CUH and performance on the corresponding five scales of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.

Comprehensive Exam that were utilized to determine the construct validity of the Psychology Comprehensive Exam.

The results of this study of the AEOP program clearly indicate a significant relationship between the Psychology course student learning outcomes with the Psychology Program Student Learning Outcomes, and a significant relationship between all course work, including Gen-Ed, that make up an AEOP Student's program at CUH with the Psychology Program Student Learning Outcomes .

#### **PSY 490 CORRELATIONS LEGEND\***

<b>sclprpc</b>	=	scales principle component analysis; comprises total of 5 scales scores that make up the comprehensive exam; does not include integrative and Marianist Educational Values scales scores
<b>ploavg</b>	=	average GPA of students for courses taken that make up the first 5 program learning outcomes
<b>totcomp</b>	=	total score students received on the PSY 490 Comprehensive Exam
<b>psygpa101</b>	=	GPA of all Psychology courses taken by students in PSY 490 Spring Day 2009, including PSY 101 if taken at CUH
<b>overalgpa</b>	=	overall cumulative GPA of courses taken at CUH