

**PRELIMINARY STUDY
LINKING PSYCHOLOGY COURSE GRADES
TO PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM COMPREHENSIVE EXAM
3/9/10**

A preliminary study 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) (**scmprpc**)*

Scores for each of these variables were obtained from students (16 Psychology majors) in the Spring Day 2009 Senior Seminar in Psychology (PSY 490). 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 a significant relationship in the following areas:

- A significant relationship of .605 (N = 11, p = .048) 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 .618 (N=14, p = .018) 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 .593 (N=14, p = .025) 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.

The results of this preliminary study clearly indicate a significant relationship between the Psychology course student learning outcomes with the Psychology Program Student Learning Outcomes.

PSY 490 CORRELATIONS LEGEND*

sclprpc	=	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
ploavg	=	average GPA of students for courses taken that make up the first 5 program learning outcomes
totcomp	=	total score students received on the PSY 490 Comprehensive Exam
psygpa101	=	GPA of all Psychology courses taken by students in PSY 490 Spring Day 2009, including PSY 101 if taken at CUH
overalgpa	=	overall cumulative GPA of courses taken at CUH