

Predictors of Educational Outcomes among Undergraduate Students with Disabilities

Master's Thesis Study

Danielle Ruderman, MSW

Dr. Alvin Mares (Advisor) and Dr. Terrell Strayhorn

Results

Descriptive:

- 74.2% graduated within 6-8 years
- 91.3% graduated within 6 years
- Final GPA = 2.78

	Bivariate Associations			Multivariate Associations		
	Grad w/in 6-8 yrs	Grad w/in 6 yrs	Final cum GPA	Grad w/in 6-8 yrs	Grad w/in 6 yrs	Final cum GPA
Demographic						
Female	ns	ns	ns			
Minority	+	ns	ns	+		
Age	-	-	-	-	-	ns
Disability						
ADHD	ns	ns	-			ns
Learning	ns	ns	ns			
Psych	-	ns	ns	ns		
Secondary	ns	ns	ns			
OSU experience						
Admission	ns	ns	ns			
Yr in school	ns	-	ns		-	
A&S major	ns	ns	-			-
Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	ns
ODS experience						
GPA intake	+	ns	+	+		+
No. accommodations	ns	ns	ns			

Questions

1. What are the characteristics of the sample?
2. What client characteristics predict graduation?
3. What client characteristics predict graduating within six years?
4. What client characteristics predict final grade point average?

Sample

- Undergraduate students registered with ODS between 7/1/03 to 6/30/05
- Randomly selected split half sample
- Sample size of 233 students

Design

- Retrospective cohort study
- Eight year follow-up period (7/1/05- 6/30/11)

Analysis

- Bivariate: chi-square, t-test, correlations
- Logistic regression utilized to compare characteristics and outcomes for graduation within 6-8 yrs (n=225) and for graduating within 6 years (n=173)
- Linear regression revealed correlations between characteristics and final GPA (n=173)

Limitations

- Possible selection bias
- Potential confounding factors not measured
- History bias
- Unknown generalizability

Implications

- Increased attention to non-traditional students
- Increased attention towards students with low GPA at intake
- Focus on those majoring in Arts and Sciences
- Importance of early identification