PREDICTING COMPLETION RATES AT A POSTSECONDARY CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, by the year 2016 an estimated 51 million jobs will require some postsecondary education but not a bachelor’s degree (Liming & Wolf, 2008). This represents an increase in these types of jobs of almost 11% over that of 2006. As the demand for these types of workers continues to rise, community colleges and career and technical colleges will be responsible for the development of programs and for the delivery of instruction and training to provide America’s workforce with the skills business and industry require. The purpose of this study was to determine how well the predictor variables high school GPA, proximity to the institution, family legacy at the institution, prior postsecondary education experience, and Noel-Levitz College Student Inventory Academic Difficulty survey scores predict program completion at a career and technical education program in the southeastern part of the United States. The population studied was comprised of both males (n = 1,456) and females (n = 258) with varied ethnical backgrounds representative of the surrounding area. The students’ ages ranged from 17-49 years old (M = 22.25, SD = 5.58), all were high school graduates with a mean GPA of 2.67 (SD = .55), and all were commuters with varied one-way travel distances as far as 108 miles (M = 15.02, SD = 14.99). The results of a multiple linear regression indicated the overall model was statistically significant; however, the only variable that significantly predicted program completion was the independent variable CSI scores (p < .001). The multiple regression model produced a $R^2$ value of .022, which suggests the variable has very little predictive power.