

# Appendix F:

## Statistical relationship between course grades and proportion of grades based on criterion-deficient assignments

The tables below provide data on the strength and statistical significance of the relationship between course grades and the proportion of grades in a course based on criterion-deficient assignments. These tables align with Figure 6 in the *Easy A's and What's Behind Them* report.

### Institution A

Assignments taken from coursework in this area	Strength of correlation	Statistically significant
Teacher prep courses (N=27 courses)	<b>Strong (r=0.619)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Yes (p=0.001)</b>
Biology, economics, history, nursing, psychology (N=96 courses)	<b>Moderate (r=0.364)</b>	<b>Yes (p&lt;0.001)</b>

*Unavailable syllabi: 6 teacher prep courses, 0 courses in other disciplines*

### Institution B

Assignments taken from coursework in this area	Strength of correlation	Statistically significant
Teacher prep courses (N=15 courses)	<b>Weak (r=0.132)</b>	<b>No (p=0.640)</b>
Business, history, nursing, psychology (N=47 courses)	<b>Moderate (r=0.474)</b>	<b>Yes (p&lt;0.001)</b>

*Unavailable syllabi: 8 teacher prep courses, 31 courses in other disciplines*

2 This statistical output, known as Pearson’s r, measures “the strength of the linear relationship between two variables,” in this case, percent of criterion-free coursework and course GPA. A value of 0.00 implies that there is no linear relationship, and a value of 1.0 “indicates a perfect linear relationship.” Roughly speaking, values from 0.0 to 0.30 are considered weak, values between 0.30 to 0.60 are considered moderate, and values greater than 0.60 are considered strong. However, even a strong correlation does not prove that one variable causes the other. Healey, J. F. (2009). *Statistics: A tool for social research, eighth edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Institution C

Assignments taken from coursework in this area	Strength of correlation	Statistically significant
Teacher prep courses (N=48 courses)	<b>Strong (r=0.639)</b>	<b>Yes (p&lt;0.001)</b>
Biology, economics, management, history, nursing, psychology (N=91 courses)	<b>Moderate (r=0.423)</b>	<b>Yes (p&lt;0.001)</b>

Unavailable syllabi: 3 teacher prep courses, 4 courses in other disciplines

Institution D

Assignments taken from coursework in this area	Strength of correlation	Statistically significant
Teacher prep courses (N=39 courses)	<b>Moderate (r=0.440)</b>	<b>Yes (p=0.005)</b>
Biology, history, nursing, psychology (N=38 courses)	<b>Weak (r=0.253)</b>	<b>No (p=0.126)</b>

Unavailable syllabi: 8 teacher prep courses, 19 courses in other disciplines

Institution E

Assignments taken from coursework in this area	Strength of correlation	Statistically significant
Teacher prep courses (N=21 courses)	<b>Moderate (r=0.475)</b>	<b>Yes (p=0.029)</b>
Psychology, management (N=18 courses)	<b>Weak (r=0.187)</b>	<b>No (p=0.459)</b>

Unavailable syllabi: 7 teacher prep courses, 16 courses in other disciplines

Institution F

Assignments taken from coursework in this area	Strength of correlation	Statistically significant
Teacher prep courses (N=27 courses)	<b>Strong (r=0.607)</b>	<b>Yes (p&lt;0.001)</b>

Unavailable syllabi: 0 teacher prep courses

Institution G

Assignments taken from coursework in this area	Strength of correlation	Statistically significant
Teacher prep courses (N=23 courses)	<b>Weak (r=0.084)</b>	<b>No (p=0.703)</b>

Unavailable syllabi: 8 teacher prep courses