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Examining the Relationship Between Academic Success and Campus Engagement
Among International Students at the University of Dayton

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Abstract

Campus activities, especially extra and co-curricular activities, can be an important part of the university experience. The purpose of this quantitative, correlational study was to examine the relationship between engagement activities and academic success among international students at UD.

Research Question & Method

What is the relationship between the number of hours of engagement (on-campus, off-campus, and both) and GPA of international students at the University of Dayton?

Positive correlation coefficient (Pallant, 2010). Determines if positive/negative correlations exist.

Themes in the Literature

Positive correlation between engagement and GPA (Bergen-Cico & Viscomi, 2013; Bakoban & Aljarallah, 2015)

Sense of belongingness was a major factor for engagement among international students (Glass & Westmont, 2014; Lee & Rice, 2007)

Sampling & Data Collection

Data was collected through anonymous in-person and online surveys

Population consisted of 1400+ international students at the University of Dayton. Sample (n=30) included students from China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Taiwan.

On/Off Campus Engagement and GPA

Key Findings and Recommendations

- There was no significant relationship (p < .05) between hours of engagement (on-campus, off-campus, and both) and GPA
- International students engaged more on-campus rather than off-campus
- The mean GPA of the sample (n=30) was 3.2 (SD=.41) with a mean of 11.4 for on-campus hours (SD=10.03)
- Total amount of engagement hours for women and men were almost the same (17.4 and 16.3, respectively)
- Additional factors (other than on/off campus engagement) could be influencing GPA
- Qualitative studies could be conducted to examine the reasons international students choose to engage or not
- Research questions related to “sense of belonging” and “fit” of campus or environment could be beneficial in examining influences on GPA

Select References


