

Performance Outcomes of Two Year College Diploma Graduates in Four Year Baccalaureate Programs

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Overview

1. The question:
 - How do the GPA outcomes of two-year diploma graduates compare with students in four year degree programs?
2. Some literature reference points
3. Our study –
 - Context
 - Sample
 - Results
 - Some implications
4. Next steps

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Common Assumptions

1. The college and university pedagogies are irreconcilable – they are different kinds of education.
2. Two-year college graduates are ill-prepared for university studies



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Transfer agreements of a limited nature between two-year college and four-year baccalaureate degree programs are relatively common.

Examples:

- An Agricultural Business Diploma from Olds College , Alberta Canada is awarded 24-33 units of course weight toward a BSc in Agriculture at the University of Alberta
- The University of Calgary will award 5 full course equivalents to those who have completed a 2 year diploma

Source:<http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/ep/aas/ta/admissions.html>

Full Credit Transfer or Block Transfer Arrangements are less common

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Reference Points for our Discussion

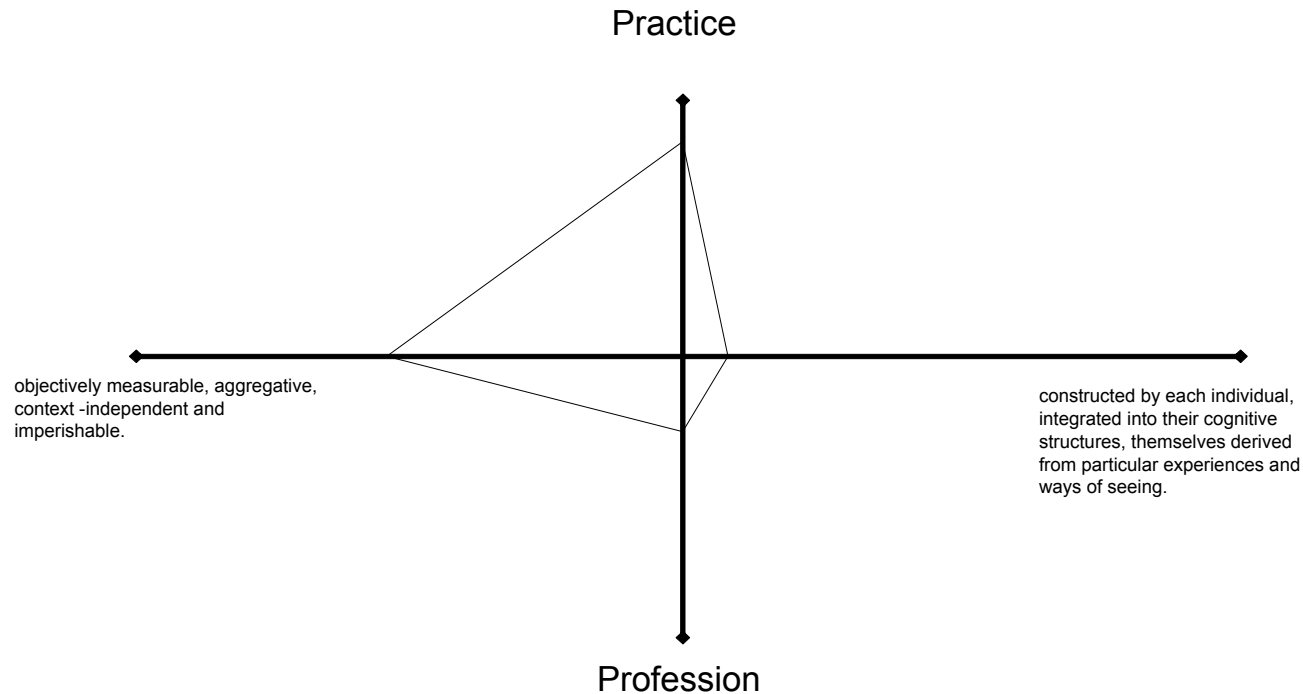
‘Many scholars have recognized the value of increased seamless transferability and more integration relationship between colleges and universities’

Skolnik, Michael (2004). The Relationship of the Community College to the University and Other Providers of Postsecondary and Adult Education.

hep.oise.utoronto.ca Vol. 1(1)



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Rezania, Davar & Henry, Mike (2010)- Management Education: Classifying Business Curricula and Conceptualizing Transfers and Bridges *International Journal of Business & Management* Vol 5 (5).

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Grant MacEwan University

Edmonton Alberta Canada

Grant MacEwan University is

- comprehensive institution that offers both two and four year programs.

B. Commerce program two-year diploma graduates with a GPA of 3.0/4.0 are granted a block transfer

– two full years of credit are awarded in the four year degree program

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Holyoke Community College

Holyoke, MA, USA

Pathways Program –

-academic counseling, financial-aid workshops, and mentors to high-achieving students...who hope to continue their education at a liberal-arts college

-40% transfer annually



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Our Study

A comparison of the academic outcomes of diploma transfer students and four-year degree students

Graduates of the B. Commerce program

- diploma graduates admitted and given full block transfer (60 credits of 120)
- traditional four year degree students admitted after secondary school



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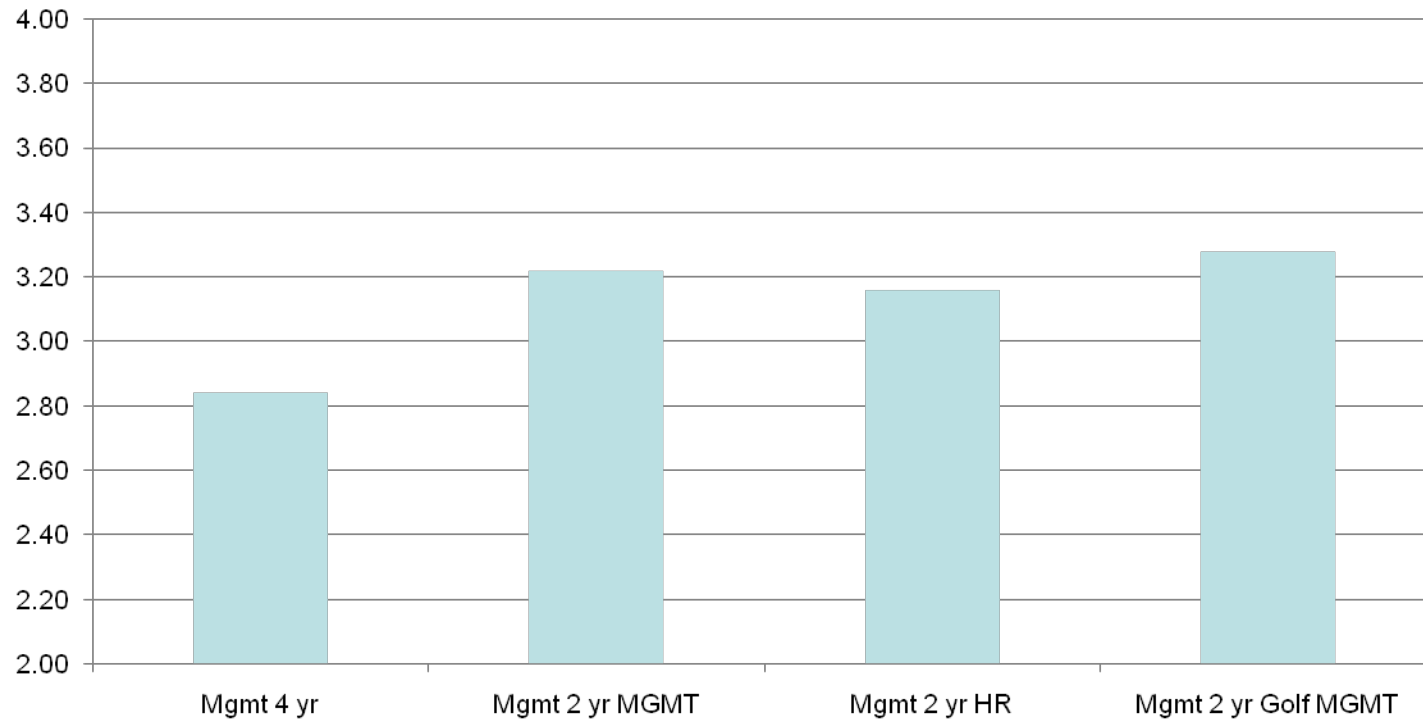
Our Findings

Preliminary data shows positive performance of the
two-year diploma graduates

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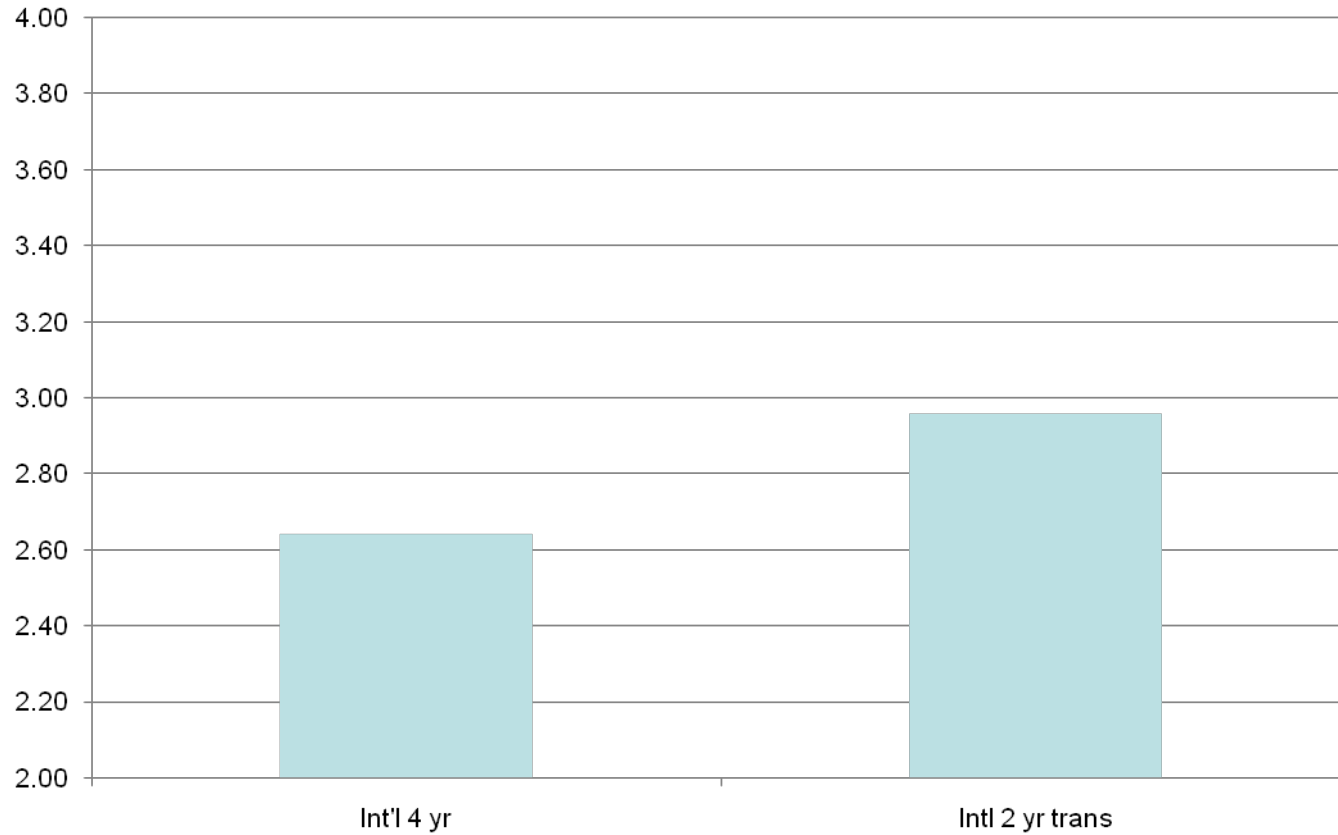


Graduating GPAs B Commerce Management Major



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B Commerce International Business Major



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Statistical Analysis

- There is no strong evidence that there are significant differences between the GPAs between the groups
 - *ANOVA p value = 0.358*
- Descriptive statistics (mean, variance, skewness and kurtosis)
 - *suggests populations do not deviate from the bell-curve shape*
- F-test to compare two variances
 - *suggests that variances are not significantly different*

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Some Considerations

While distribution is generally similar

- *Similar top end GPAs, with some 10% of four year degree having GPAs below the bottom end of the diploma grads.*

What explains this?

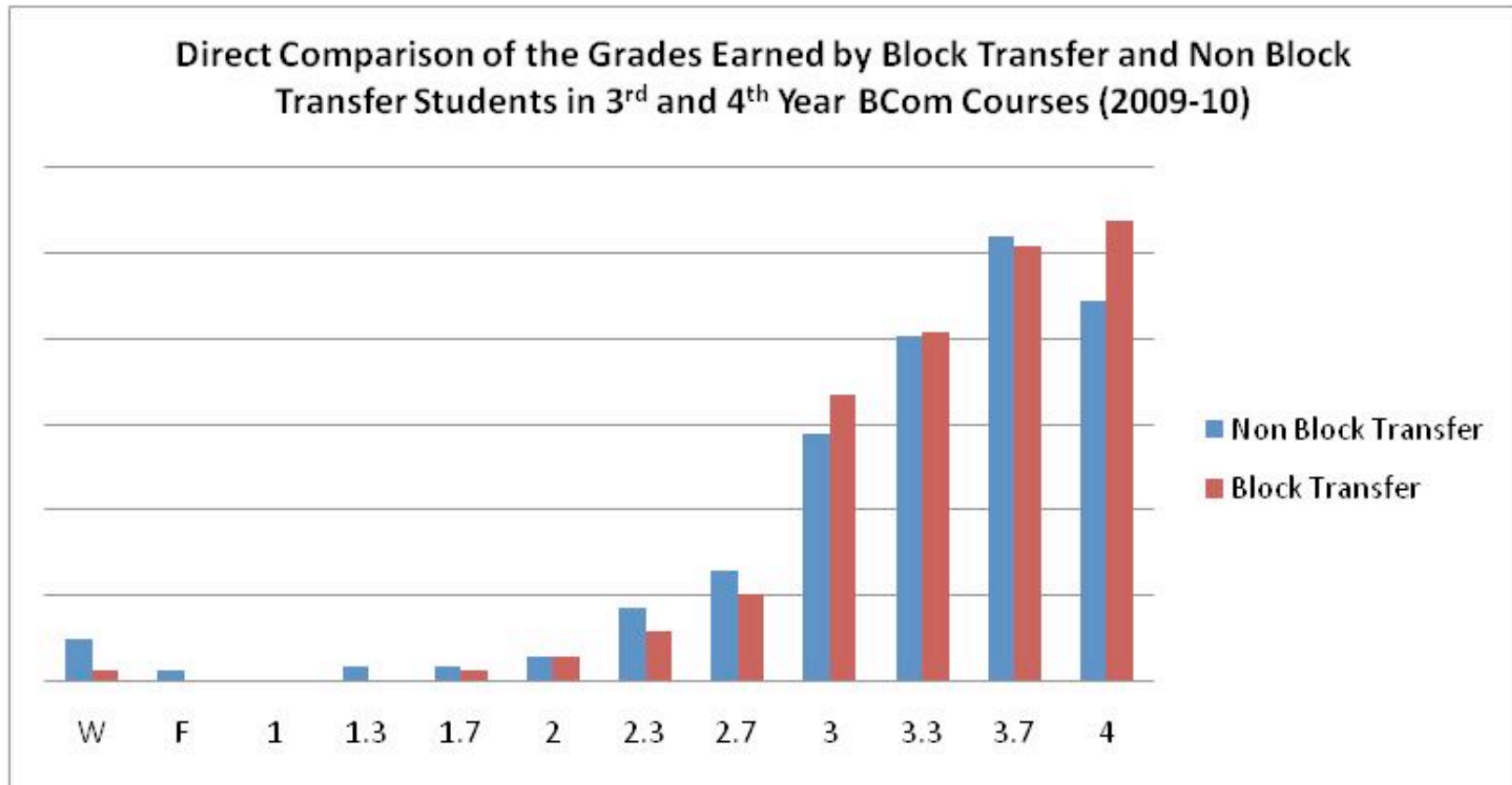
- *Entrance requirements of the two populations?*
- *Motivation? Character?*

N still relatively small 20/168 diploma grads



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B. Commerce Grads Grade Distribution



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Next Steps

- More MacEwan data –
 - *there has been an increase in diploma block transfer admissions- there will be a substantial increase in grads beginning 2011*
- Collaborating with other institutions with similar admission practices to compare data and outcomes

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Conclusion

Thanks!

Questions, Comments, Advice Welcome!

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