

Case Study 7: Grade Inflation

for March 23, 2012

GRADE PERCENTAGES BY COLLEGE, 1999-2000

COLLEGE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
College of Design	23.97%	20.66%	15.50%	15.97%	9.21%	4.32%	3.53%	2.30%	0.26%	1.32%	2.95%
College of Biological Sciences	22.82%	7.80%	6.63%	19.59%	4.87%	4.69%	19.25%	3.26%	1.21%	4.76%	5.21%
College of Education & Human Development	54.09%	13.63%	8.18%	10.79%	3.62%	2.09%	3.21%	0.92%	0.44%	0.68%	2.35%
College of Liberal Arts	30.78%	14.43%	11.71%	15.36%	7.19%	4.62%	5.98%	2.44%	0.86%	1.65%	4.96%
CFANS	26.73%	15.05%	13.10%	17.07%	8.08%	5.22%	6.36%	2.57%	0.93%	1.59%	3.30%
Carlson School of Management	33.27%	20.24%	14.84%	16.53%	5.03%	2.69%	3.82%	1.07%	0.24%	0.90%	1.38%
School of Dentistry	54.11%	1.17%	1.17%	32.73%	1.04%	0.92%	8.12%	0.31%	0.02%	0.33%	0.09%
Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs	39.86%	24.27%	15.12%	13.96%	4.11%	0.88%	0.83%	0.21%	0.00%	0.16%	0.57%
Institute of Technology	20.77%	11.00%	10.42%	14.79%	8.82%	7.93%	10.59%	5.60%	1.55%	2.98%	5.55%
Medical School	48.10%	6.31%	4.69%	11.81%	2.39%	1.72%	8.48%	0.90%	0.43%	1.22%	1.10%
School of Nursing	44.89%	23.05%	13.96%	11.43%	3.05%	0.89%	0.89%	0.25%	0.04%	0.04%	1.53%
College of Pharmacy	40.23%	15.02%	12.49%	15.34%	5.96%	4.01%	3.45%	1.55%	0.77%	0.79%	0.39%
Public Health	43.52%	16.11%	10.46%	15.94%	4.33%	2.22%	3.96%	0.71%	0.27%	0.98%	1.49%
College of Continuing Education	47.95%	13.50%	8.15%	16.89%	2.94%	1.89%	3.91%	0.78%	0.13%	0.72%	3.13%
College of Veterinary Medicine	52.62%	2.45%	1.83%	30.66%	1.08%	0.74%	8.55%	0.43%	0.03%	1.42%	0.19%

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DATA

GRADE PERCENTAGES BY COLLEGE, 2008-2009

COLLEGE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
College of Design	27.58%	20.42%	18.83%	16.80%	7.17%	3.42%	2.79%	1.12%	0.24%	0.55%	1.08%
College of Biological Sciences	30.72%	8.81%	8.18%	20.63%	5.85%	4.76%	13.33%	2.30%	0.52%	2.37%	2.54%
College of Education & Human Development	56.76%	14.28%	7.77%	9.06%	3.56%	1.95%	2.66%	1.07%	0.29%	0.75%	1.86%
College of Liberal Arts	36.05%	16.43%	12.28%	14.26%	6.61%	3.83%	4.19%	1.92%	0.53%	1.20%	2.70%
CFANS	32.97%	17.30%	12.66%	15.25%	7.05%	4.26%	4.90%	2.22%	0.60%	1.18%	1.61%
Carlson School of Management	27.96%	22.92%	17.30%	18.36%	6.00%	2.52%	2.77%	0.93%	0.12%	0.38%	0.72%
School of Dentistry	61.79%	1.57%	1.25%	29.11%	0.57%	0.28%	5.23%	0.04%	0.00%	0.14%	0.04%
Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs	46.72%	24.00%	13.06%	8.63%	4.01%	1.34%	1.00%	0.36%	0.18%	0.21%	0.49%
Institute of Technology	22.73%	12.97%	11.80%	15.33%	8.86%	7.47%	9.21%	4.82%	0.61%	2.21%	3.99%
Medical School	36.33%	10.33%	7.48%	12.25%	4.06%	2.94%	4.13%	1.78%	0.47%	1.37%	1.60%
School of Nursing	57.54%	24.59%	8.06%	5.84%	2.16%	0.74%	0.52%	0.07%	0.00%	0.00%	0.48%
College of Pharmacy	54.39%	13.75%	10.31%	10.41%	4.34%	2.70%	2.05%	0.55%	0.20%	0.42%	0.89%
Public Health	58.47%	16.79%	8.05%	8.88%	2.29%	1.14%	2.32%	0.40%	0.23%	0.41%	1.01%
College of Continuing Education	37.88%	18.41%	12.66%	15.24%	4.51%	3.14%	3.35%	0.92%	0.21%	0.39%	3.28%
College of Veterinary Medicine	46.37%	2.53%	2.60%	35.28%	1.43%	0.89%	8.66%	0.65%	0.29%	0.95%	0.35%

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DATA

This week's case is a little different. The tables on the previous page appeared in the *Daily* in March of 2010; your job will be to critique them and create an alternate version.

To read the article that accompanied these tables, visit <http://www.mndaily.com/2010/03/22/look-grade-inflation>. To access the data, visit <http://www.stat.umn.edu/~arendahl/Teaching/STAT8801-2012Spring/cases/gradeinflation.csv>. Links are also available from the course homepage.

Questions for consideration: First, critique the existing tables. What problems do you see? What do you like about them? What suggestions would you make? Second, create a new version of this table that incorporates your suggestions. All groups should send me their new table in PDF format (so I don't mess up the printing). It should fit on one side of one page. The talk and the written report are as usual; they should discuss both your critique of the existing table and the modifications you made for your new version.

Groups: Here are the groups that will work together on this case. The first student on each list will present the group's findings and should also organize group meetings. The groups should get together in the coming week and consider the case.

Group 1, Presentation:		Group 2, Presentation:		Group 3, Report:		Group 4, Report:	
Name	Email	Name	Email	Name	Email	Name	Email
Yu-Feng	chang648	Sarah	jaco0654	Chris D	desja004	Greg	schae029
Xin	zhan0648	Matt	stear067	Alain	vando026	Wen	fanxx102
Emily	pech0081	Garrett	lepa0050	Jie	renxx034	Zhou	fang0157
Rachel	vonb0035	Chris H	hulme005	Lindsey	diet0146	Bryan	mcca0828
Felipe	acosta	Jenny	dokke040	Xiaoyi	zhuxx212	Joel	bear0201
						Qi	yanxx195

Presentation groups: The presenter will have 12 minutes of class time to say what the team thought about the problem. To ease switching between groups, we will use my computer for all presenters, so if you choose to make a digital presentation, please email the slides to me by 2pm, or bring them on a thumb drive and arrive five minutes early. PDF format is preferred.

Report groups: Please email your report to me (PDF format preferred) by 2pm so I can make copies for the class. Your report should be at least one page long, but no more than two pages.