Medical School Admissions: Does Selectivity Matter?

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Disclosures

Scott Helf is Co-Founder of PROGRESS IQ
Learning Objectives

• Understand how undergraduate institutions are rated on a “competitiveness” continuum according to Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges

• Summarize the relationship between Barron’s ratings and WesternU/COMP student medical school performance, as measured by GPA and COMLEX scores
Research Question

Is there a difference in medical student performance based on the “competitiveness” of the undergraduate school one received their Bachelors degree?
Current study

• N = ~3,000 COMP graduates (DO 2008 to DO 2016)
• Where student received first bachelor’s degree
  (N = ~400 institutions)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barron’s Categories</th>
<th>Assigned value</th>
<th># of WesternU students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most Competitive</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly Competitive +</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly Competitive</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Competitive +</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Competitive</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive +</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive</td>
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<td>498</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Competitive</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-competitive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-ranked</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SHOW ME THE DATA
Pre-Matriculation Metrics vs. Barron’s GPA

- GPA
- Science GPA
- MCAT Bio
- MCAT Phys
- MCAT Total
- MCAT Verbal

0 → 9
Pre-Clinical GPAs vs. Barron’s
COMLEX vs. Barron's
Discussion

• No relationship between Barron’s rating and medical school success
  • Initial study (2007), performed at WesternU, grouped students according to U.S. News and World Report found no difference in undergraduate school attended and medical school success
• Our study looked at students from 2008-2016 (n=2918) and grouped them by Barron’s classifications
• Predictor variables measured illustrates students on average scored/placed close across Barron’s classifications
• From both a preclinical and COMLEX USA series perspective, our hypothesis was illustrated to be correct
Thank You!

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