



Correlation of Academic Dishonesty with Criminal and Professional Behavior

Group 1

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Hypothesis

- o Individuals that demonstrate academically dishonest behavior in college will subsequently demonstrate unethical behavior later on in life.
 - o A lack of ethical morals relates to the community as a whole
- o Examples:
 - o Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of data, etc.
 - o Tax evasion, fraud, forgery, lying to employer, etc.

Literature Review

Academic Dishonesty Today, Unethical Practices Tomorrow?

- o “Cheating in school and practicing unethically as a professional have a distinct correlation.”

Plagiarism, Integrity, and Workplace Deviance: A Criterion Study

- o “Actual results” of plagiarism from Turnitin.com were collected and compared to a questionnaire given to participants

Literature Review

An Examination of the Relationship Between Academic Dishonesty and Workplace Dishonesty:

A Multi-campus Investigation

- o Students who believe that dishonest acts are acceptable are more likely to engage in them
- o Students who engaged in dishonest behavior in college are more likely to engage in the same behavior in the workplace

When Cheating Leads to Moral Disengagement
and Motivated Forgetting

- o “The excuses people make for their dishonest behavior parallel the justifications criminals make for their crimes.”

Research Design

- o Quasi-experimental
 - o Participants were not selected at complete random
 - o Based on those who had an email address and were from specific graduating years
- o Ex post facto control group design
 - o Only after data was collected were participants placed into separate comparison groups

Data Collection

- o Emailed survey
 - o 46 questions
 - o 1,500 emails were sent to UVU Alumni from graduating years 2000, 2005, and 2010
 - o Initial email: 70 completed
 - o After first reminder: 23 completed
 - o After final reminder: 17 completed
- o Total surveys opened: 144
- o Total surveys started: 130
- o Total surveys completed: 110

Survey Questions

- o Relevant to research topic
 - o During college did you ever participate in a form of academic dishonesty?
 - o Have you ever called in sick to work when you were not sick?
 - o Do you believe that you behave honestly more often than most people?



Survey Results

Academic Dishonesty

- o 15 people answered that they had committed some form of academic dishonesty - 11.9%
- o 8 admitted to cheating
- o 3 admitted to plagiarism
- o 1 admitted to fabrication of data
- o 1 admitted to assisting others in their dishonest acts
- o 2 admitted to other forms of academic dishonesty
 - o Responses included giving out info regarding topics on a test and not abiding by a time limit on a take-home test

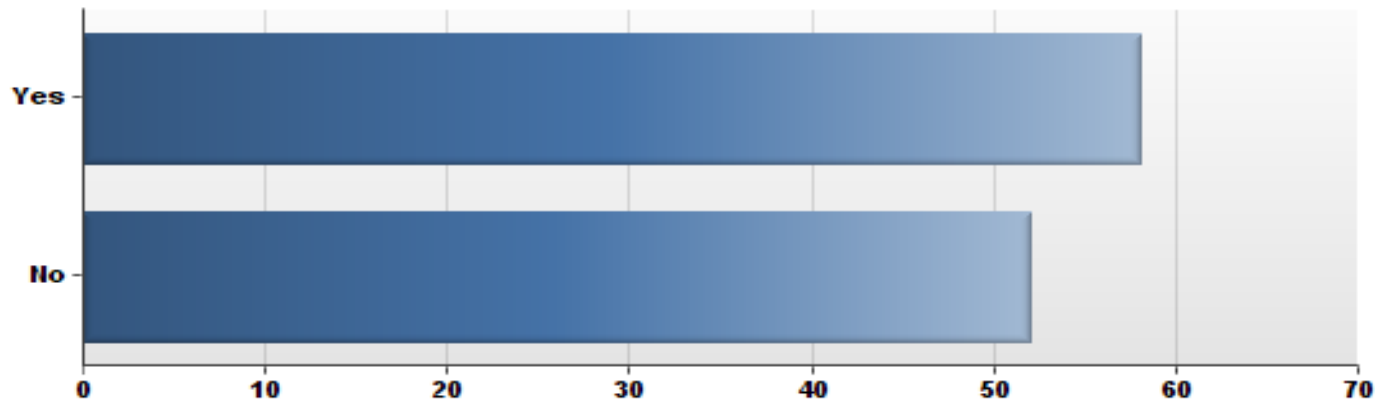
Professional Dishonesty

- o Only 6 of 107 responses said they had committed serious professional dishonesty - 5.6%
- o 1 admitted to tax evasion
- o 1 admitted to compensation fraud
- o 2 admitted to bank fraud
- o 4 admitted to committing forgery

Professional Dishonesty

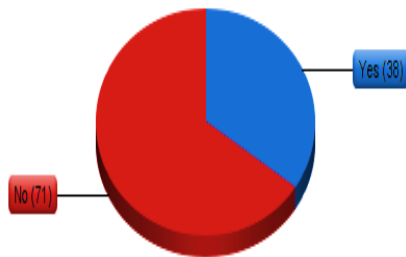
Have you ever taken office supplies for your own personal use?

o 53% Yes



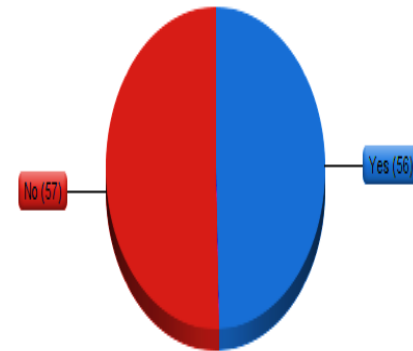
Professional Dishonesty

Have you ever given a false reason to your place of employment in order to be excused from work?



VS

Have you ever called in sick when you were not sick?



Perception of Self

- o Do you believe that you behave honestly more often than most people?
 - o 108 respondents
 - o A strong majority of 76 respondents believed they were honest more often than other people - 70%
- o Among males - 89%
- o Among females - 75%

Correlation

| Professional Dishonesty | Academic Dishonesty | Correlation | Believe self more honest than most? |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Tax Evasion | Admitted | Positive | No |
| 1 Compensation Fraud | Claimed no A.D. | Negative | Yes |
| 2 Bank Fraud | ½ admitted | N/A | Both Yes |
| 4 Forgery | 25% admitted | Negative | 3 yes / 1 no |
| 3 Intoxicated at Work | 66% admitted | Positive | 3 Yes |

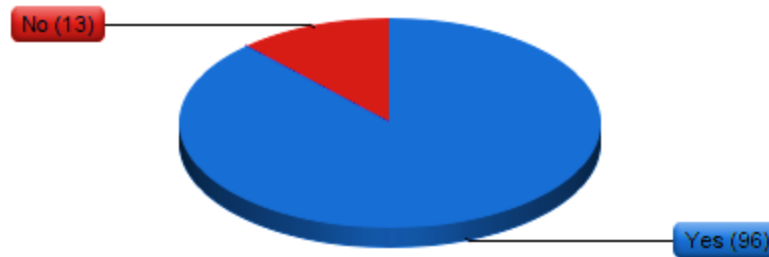
Correlation

- o Many more people admitted to these minor professional dishonesties than the original 15 admissions to academic dishonesty

| Professional Dishonesty | Academic Dishonesty (13 of 15 answered) | Correlation | Believe self more honest than most? |
|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 58 Taking Office Supplies (53%) | 13 answered this question. 7 yes / 6 no | No apparent correlation | All 58 said yes |
| 56 Called in sick (50%) | 13 answered. 5 Yes / 8 No | Slightly Negative Correlation | 37/56 yes (66%) |
| 38 gave false reason to miss work (35%) | 13 answered. 7 yes/ 6 no | No apparent correlation | 29/38 yes (76%) |

Is Change Possible?

- o Do you believe that a dishonest person can truly change and become inherently honest?



Conclusions

- o There is some correlation between academic dishonesty in college and professional dishonesty (including criminal behavior)
- o Relatively low number of responses could account for the weaker correlation rather than a stronger one

Issues

- o IRB approval
 - o More responses if we had more time
 - o At least one more reminder email could have yielded more responses
- o Low response rate
 - o 130 out of 1,500 responded
 - o <9%
- o Self-reporting
 - o How truthful were the participants?

Plan Of Action

- o Nipping academic dishonesty in the bud can help reduce a significant number of crimes in the future
- o UVU could benefit from this research
 - o Implementation of an honor code
 - o People are consciously more aware of the actions they are taking when it comes to school work
 - o Gives people that opportunity to change – it shows them where to start and what is expected of them