

## **A Description of the Development of a New Graduate Program in Higher Education Administration and Statistical Measures Used to assess Student Learning in Each of the Ten Courses**

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### **Abstract**

National University developed and offered a Master of Science (MS) degree in Higher Education Administration beginning in 2012. In the subsequent seven years the program has been reviewed and ranked as one of the top Higher Education Administration programs by national educational publications and associations. This paper examines the unique way the program consisting of ten graduate courses was developed under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Marron and the strategic focus driving its development and implementation.

The MS Higher Education Administration program is intended to prepare students currently employed in higher education institutions to obtain the skills and knowledge to qualify for administrative positions in higher education. This paper describes the statistical assessment measures used to determine the level of student learning and their ability to use what was learned in each of the ten courses comprising the program. Statistical measures used in the assessment include ANOVA, Scheffe' and Factor Analysis. Assessment of student learning also examined which elements of the course and instructor actions most directly correlated to learning when the course was taught by the course author vs. other qualified faculty member by use of Factor Analysis. Additionally, Factor Analysis was used to examine the different factors that most directly correlated to learning in courses categorized as being theory-based, regulator focused, and best-practices based.

The paper concludes with a reflection and analysis of the impact of new enrollments consisting of students currently not employed in higher education but who desire to move from K-12 education to higher education. The problems associated with courses needing to be modified/expanded to provide some basic background in higher education issues for these new enrollments to maximize their learning are examined and discussed.