Hidden Gems Among Clinical Psychology Training Programs

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As a result of CoA-mandated program disclosure being initiated in 2006, there are now sufficient data available to allow for analyses that compare clinical psychology programs on a range of variables, including student outcomes. This standardized data, in concert with other sources of publically available data (i.e., APPIC and ASPPB), allow for programs to be compared empirically in new ways. Using SEM, in this Study 80.6% of the variance in clinical psychology training programs' outcomes (i.e., internship match and licensure exam performances) was accounted for by predoctoral characteristics (measured by GPA and GRE scores). Analyses then identified programs that produced exceptionally better outcomes than expected, given their predoctoral characteristics. The identified top programs were next compared on a range of department level training-relevant variables to similar programs, but whose outcomes were equal to or worse than expected. Findings are discussed and future directions for research and policy are suggested.

Keywords: training, graduate education, clinical psychology, internship match, EPPP, accreditation, program evaluation

Table 1

Ranking of Top 10 Programs According to Adjusted[a] Program Outcomes (i.e., Emerging Professional Benchmarks Combined, EPPP Passing, and Internship Match Rates)

Emerging professional benchmarks combined[b]		EPPP passing rate		Internship matching rate	
Program	Ranking (standardized residuals)	Program	Ranking (standardized residuals)	Program	Ranking (standardized residuals)
Texas Tech U.	1 (3.02)	Western Michigan U.	1 (2.08)	Eastern Michigan U.	1 (2.20)
Georgia State U.	2 (2.82)	Texas A&M	2 (1.93)	Georgia State U.	2 (2.16)
Western Michigan U.	3 (2.11)	Texas Tech U.	3 (1.83)	Wichita State U.	3 (1.97)
Case Western Reserve U.	4 (2.01)	American U.	4 (1.58)	Bryn Mawr College	4 (1.76)
Bryn Mawr College	5 (1.82)	U. of North Texas[c]	5 (1.54)	Michigan State U.	5 (1.72)
Binghamton U./SUNY	6 (1.73)	U. of Wisconsin-Madison	6 (1.53)	U. of Nevada-Las Vegas	6 (1.70)
Eastern Michigan U.	7 (1.64)	U. of Tulsa	7 (1.46)	Washington U.	7 (1.66)
Sam Houston State U.	8 (1.59)	U. of South Carolina	8 (1.45)	Texas Tech U.	8 (1.62)
U. of Maine	9 (1.57)	Indiana U. of Pennsylvania	9 (1.40)	U. of Texas-Austin	9 (1.57)
U. of Montana	10 (1.52)	Idaho State U.	10 (1.38)	U. of Delaware	10 (1.52)

Note. Standardized residuals are reported in parentheses next to rankings.
[a] Outcomes were adjusted for differences in program students' typical pre-doctoral GRE and undergraduate GPA scores. [b] Based on the latent outcome from the SEM model in Figure 1. [c] There are two accredited programs in Clinical Psychology at this university; one broad program and one specific to Clinical Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine. This is the broad program in Clinical Psychology.

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