

# Article: Effort and Reward in College

Topics: Practical Significance; *Statistical Significance*

## EXCERPT FROM THE RESEARCH ARTICLE

[In an earlier study,] Schuman et al. (1985) found virtually no correlation between study time during the weekdays and GPA, a moderate but consistent correlation between study time during weekends and GPA, and a strong correlation between class attendance (or absences) and GPA. Although the association between attendance and GPA is not unexpected, the size of the correlation relative to that between study time and GPA is a surprise, as is the fact that study time on the weekend seems to be more important than study time during weekdays.

[In the present study,] students in three sections of Introduction to Sociology taught by this researcher were administered a questionnaire containing several items about study time, in addition to various kinds of other items. Of the total of seventy-three students enrolled in the three sections (excluding those who had dropped or had stopped attending) sixty students were present and took part in the survey. Participation was voluntary and no one refused to participate. The most important correlations resulting from this investigation are presented in Table 1. Table 1 reveals that the three major patterns found in the study by Schuman et al. were replicated in this investigation.

Table 1 Intercorrelations (*r*) among GPA and Predictor Variables for Three Sections of Introduction to Sociology<sup>a</sup>

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
GPA (1)	-	.45***	.65***	.72***	.70***	.00	.30**	-.39**
HSGPA (2)		-	.52***	.32***	.37***	.06	.16	-.01
SYNGRADE (3)			-	.86***	.81***	.02	.29*	-.50***
FINAL (4)				-	.83***	-.11	.31*	-.51***
EXAM1 (5)					-	-.13	.26*	-.37**
STUDYDAY (6)						-	.17	-.01
STUDYEND (7)							-	.00
ABSENCES (8)								-

<sup>a</sup>Abbreviations: GPA = reported overall college Grade Point Average  
HSGPA = reported High School Grade Point Average  
SYNGRADE = semester grade in Sociology course  
FINAL = score on comprehensive Final in Sociology  
EXAM1 = score on first exam in Sociology  
STUDYDAY = estimated average number of hours studied during weekdays  
STUDYEND = estimated average number of hours studied on weekends  
ABSENCES = actual number of absences in the Sociology course

Correlations involving SYNGRADE are based on *N* = 58; correlations involving FINAL on *N* = 55; All other correlations based on *N* = 60.  
\*.05 level of significance; \*\*.01 level of significance; \*\*\*.001 level of significance.

SOURCE: Hill, L. (1990). Effort and reward in college: A replication of some puzzling findings. *Handbook of Replication Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences*, A Special Issue of the *Journal of Social and Behavior Personality*, 5, 151-161. Copyright 1990 by Select Press. Reprinted with permission.