

COURSE VALIDATION STUDY

Target Course: PSY 244
Prerequisite: ENGL 101

**The following is statistical data on the validation of the following course prerequisite:
 Successful completion of ENGL 101 as a prerequisite for PSY 244.**

PSY 244 SUCCESS * Completed ENGL 101 Crosstabulation

Count		Completed ENGL 101		Total
		0	1	
PSY 244 SUCCESS	0	52	18	70
	1	152	120	272
Total		204	138	342

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.834(b)	1	.005	.006	.003
Continuity Correction(a)	7.088	1	.008		
Likelihood Ratio	8.190	1	.004		
Fisher's Exact Test					
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.811	1	.005		
N of Valid Cases	342				

a Computed only for a 2x2 table

b 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 28.25.

Chi-Square Measurement:

The *Chi-Square* measurement tests the hypothesis (*null hypothesis*) that there is “*no difference*” between the two groups. In order to reject this hypothesis and conclude that there is a statistically significant difference between the two groups Chi-Square must be greater than **3.84**. To ensure the validity of the Chi-Square test there is a minimum frequency threshold for a 2x2 table that should be obeyed. If any of the observed frequencies in the cross-tabulation table are **5 or below** than the validity of the Chi-Square measurement is questionable.

CHI-SQUARE = 7.834

REJECT NULL HYPOTHESIS

Fisher's Exact Measurement:

The *Fisher's Exact* measurement can be used as an alternative to the Chi-Square measurement where a large sample is difficult to obtain. In order to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a statistically significant difference between the two groups Fisher's Exact must have a P-value **less than** the standard **.05**.

FISHER'S EXACT = .006

REJECT NULL HYPOTHESIS

Ratio:

The ratio to be measured is the ratio of *right response:wrong response*.

A *right response* would be nonsuccess in the prerequisite course combined with nonsuccess in the target course or success in the prerequisite course combined with success in the target course. A *wrong response* would be nonsuccess in the prerequisite course combined with success in the target course or success in the prerequisite course combined with nonsuccess in the target course. For the *study ratio* to meet the *ratio criteria* it must be greater than or equal to **2:1**.

RATIO: $52+120:152+18 = 172:170$

FAILED CRITERIA

Percent increase:

Percent increase is measured by subtracting the percent success before adjusting for the prerequisite from the percent success after adjusting for the prerequisite. For the *study percent increase* to meet the *percent increase criteria* there must be a difference greater than or equal to **10%** in the positive direction.

PERCENT INCREASE:

FAILED CRITERIA

$272/342 = 79.5\%$ Before Prerequisite

$120/138 = 87.0\%$ After Prerequisite

Summary

A total sample of 100, with at least 20 students in the non-successful group for the target course is recommended. In this case the total sample is sufficient (342), with the number in the non-successful group above the recommended level (70). Both the chi-square test and the Fishers Exact test reject the null hypothesis that success in ENGL 101 is independent of success in PSY 244, showing that there is statistical evidence that the outcomes for those two courses are dependent upon one another. ENGL 101 failed both the Ratio criteria and the Percent Increase criteria. At this time there is not enough statistical evidence to suggest that ENGL 101 is suitable as a prerequisite for PSY 244. The benefit of requiring ENGL 101 as a prerequisite for PSY 244 is not great enough.