Course Synthesis
EDU 5655 Data Analysis
Professor Hughes
Fall 2011

Throughout this course, the cohort was introduced to the computer software

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). SPSS is the software package that

provides researchers with the capability of assiduous data analysis. SPSS allows

researchers to input data and run various reports. These reports can determine if your

data is skewed or if your survey is flawed. The reports can also identify areas of concern

based on the various outcomes of measurement.

For the duration of the course the cohort was asked to complete two assignments.

The first assignment required us to create a presentation on the negotiations between the

Teacher's Union and the Board of Education for the Urbana School District. The

assignment required that we examine the data to determine the top ten negotiation items

for the teachers of Urbana. The data analyzed provided the trends of the sentiments of

the teachers of Urbana. After our group analyzed the data, with just a simple click of a

button we were able to look at the mean of the data and determine the areas of concern

based on the mean of the responses. We compared the responses at the elementary level,

the middle school level, and the high school level and identified the top priorities for

negotiations. This assignment was valuable because it provided the platform to

experiment with the potential of SPSS.

The second assignment required our group to research and analyze the results of a

survey completed by the students, teachers, parents, and community members of the

Urbana School District. We prepared a research brief for the Board of Education which identified the areas of concern to the individual stakeholder groups of Urbana.

This assignment was practical because it provided the capacity to analyze the data as it applies to the teachers, students, parents, and community of a school district. This is important because the data can be interpreted as it relates to improving a school district.

In conclusion, this course highlighted how to effectively analyze data by using SPSS. The experience in this course was both valuable and practical because, as a school administrator, one of my priorities is data analysis and using data to drive instruction. Additionally, the skills that were honed throughout this course will assist with interpreting research data as it relates to our dissertation topics.