



Correlation between the Nelson-Denny Reading Test and the GRE

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Purpose Investigate the correlation between the Nelson-Denny Reading Test and GRE general test scores for students admitted to an entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program.

Methods 109 students completed Form H of the Nelson-Denny Reading Test (NDRT). Pearson correlations were computed between GRE general test scores and the scores on the Nelson Denny Reading test.

Results

Test/Subtest Score	Mean	(SD)
Total GRE*	125.17	(27.68)
Verbal GRE	70.19	(17.59)
Total NDRT [◊]	142.0	(7.55)
NDRT Vocabulary	73.2	(4.07)
NDRT Reading Rate ^Δ	285.3	(84.27)

*GRE = Graduate Record Exam

◊NDRT = Nelson-Denny Reading Test

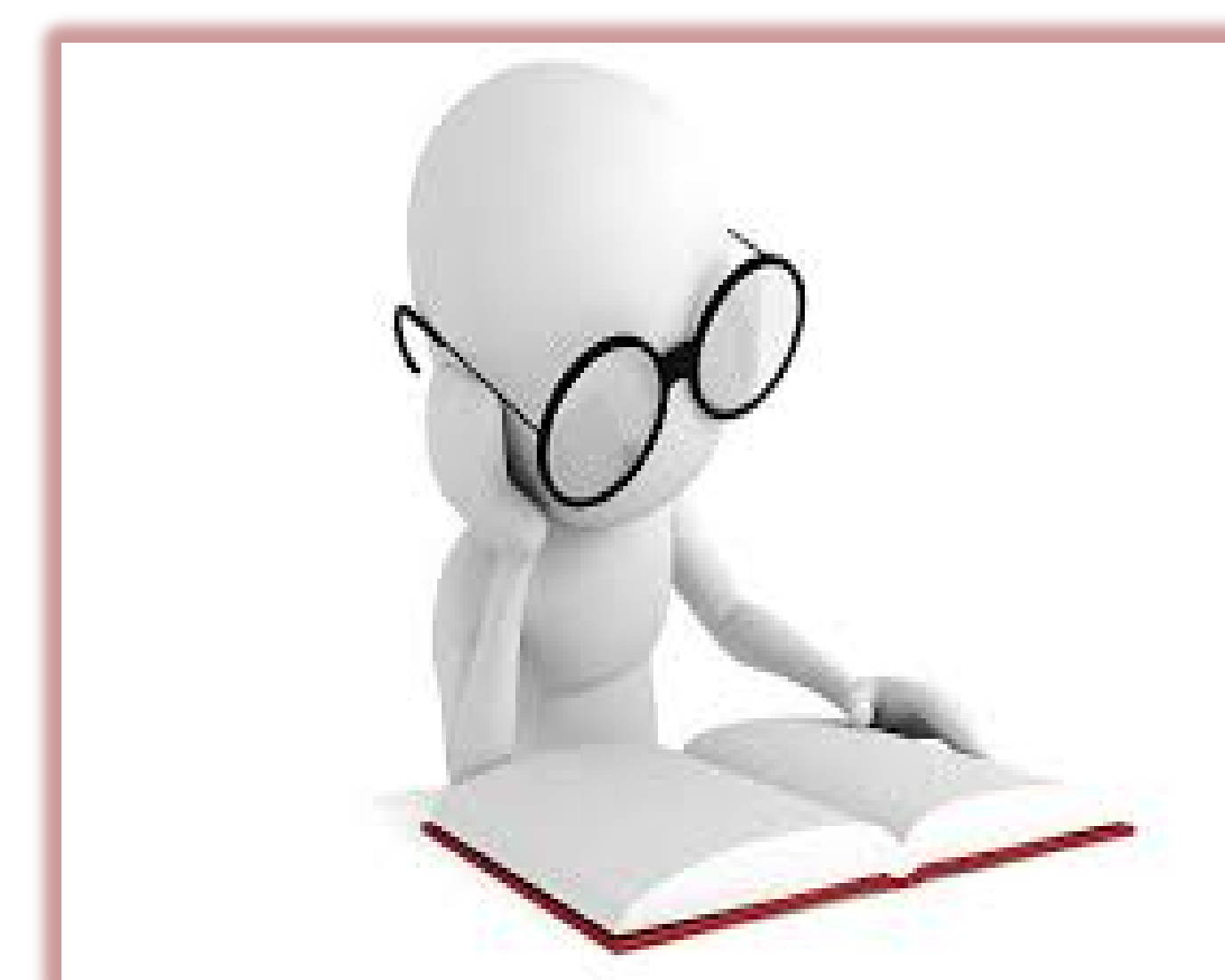
ΔWords per minute



	GRE Total	Verbal GRE	NDRT Vocab	NDRT Total
GRE Total Pearson	1	.852**	.662**	.624**
N	109	109	109	109
Verbal GRE Pearson	.852**	1	.719**	.617**
N	109	109	109	109
NDRT Vocab Pearson	.662**	.719**	1	.760**
N	109	109	109	109
NDRT Total Pearson	.624**	.617**	.760**	1
N	109	109	109	109

Pearson Correlation, two tailed significance at $p < .01$

Mean grade level equivalent for reading on the NDRT was 17.86 (grade 17, month 8) with a range of 14.8 – 18.9.



Discussion/Conclusion The NDRT strongly correlates with the verbal portion of the GRE, suggesting that both measure the same metric. If reading comprehension is predictive of success in a DPT program as measured by performance on the National Physical Therapist Exam (NPTE), the GRE is likely predictive of success on the NPTE.

The range of grade level reading equivalents suggests that many students are reading below graduate school level. Further research is needed to determine whether GRE scores are predictive of success in a PT program and whether there is a level of reading comprehension ability that should be required for DPT education.

References

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2. Haight PA, Walls PT. Adult learners: New norms on the Nelson-Denny Reading Test for health care professionals *Reading Psych*; 2002; 23, 217-238. DOI: 10.1.108010270271290061337.
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