

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CUMULATIVE
GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND CLINICAL
PERFORMANCE AND THE FACTORS
AFFECTING CLINICAL PERFORMANCE
AMONG UITM OPTOMETRY STUDENTS**

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DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

I declare that the work done in this thesis and the research it to which it refers is the product of my own work except those quotations which have been fully been acknowledged in accordance with the standard referring practices of the discipline.



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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Clinical performance serves as one of the criteria to ensure a minimum level of competency at the end of their school year. Studies in predicting clinical competence based on Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) had been inconclusive, saying to the fact that CGPA says little about a student to be successful in the real world. Thus, this study aims to determine the relationship between Optometry students CGPA and their clinical performance and the factors affecting clinical performance. **Methods:** Under a cross-sectional study design, a questionnaire was distributed to thirty-two (32) fourth-year optometry students and analyzed using descriptive analysis and spearman correlation. **Results:** It was found that the association between CGPA and clinical performance was insignificant ($p>0.05$). Furthermore, the factors affecting clinical performance were time management and anxiety. **Conclusions:** As no association was found between CGPA and clinical performance, it can be said that to excel within the clinic, it does not depend on the grade a student had accumulated during their studies. In addition to not be anxious and have good time management skills, a student should be proactive and empathetic when dealing with patients in order to provide the best care possible.

Key Words: Clinical competency, clinical performance, CGPA, UGPA

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Clinical performance serves as one of the major criteria in order to validate a medical and other health sciences student's level of competency at the end of their school years or during their residency. Studies in predicting the outcome of a student's competency based on Grade Point Average (GPA) have been inconclusive, meaning that GPA says little about a student's ability to succeed in the outside world (Lievens et al., 2002). Besides GPA, a standardized test had also been used as a major component in the admission process for professional or medical schools. It was found out that standardized test had a correlation with performance in didactic courses and performance in examinations, however, it was also found that they were poor predictors of clinical performance (Manuel et al., 2005).

Admission into health-related professional schools including Optometry schools are usually handled by the admission committees which predicts a student's academic and clinical success based on a few methods such as cognitive measures, including cumulative grade point average (CGPA), competitiveness of undergraduate school, standardized tests, essays, and non-cognitive measures including letters of recommendation and faculty interview ratings. These measures arguably measure some spectrum of cognitive and interpersonal capacity or skill. It was assumed that those students that do well in these measures before entering the health-related professional school would also be great students and great at clinical work, which in return will become successful in the future. However, this assumption is often only a half-truth. Thus, this study aims to determine the relationship between optometry students CGPA and their clinical performance and the factors affecting clinical performance.