

## Correlation Between Academic Performance and Licensure Examination Results among Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College

RUDY T. PAPSA-AO

JR., PhD Mountain Province State University

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**ABSTRACT**

This study determines the level of academic performance, the licensure examination results, and the correlation between the two among Criminology graduates from Mountain Province State Polytechnic College (MPSPC). By evaluating the graduates' scholastic records and licensure examination performance, the study aims to generate insights that may help to improve the licensure examination outcomes. Additionally, the study contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (quality education) by promoting data-driven insights to improve educational quality, graduate preparedness, and professional outcomes in higher education. A total of 157 graduates who took the examination from December 2022 to February 2024 were included in the analysis. The study employed the mean, weighted mean, and Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ). Findings revealed that graduates' academic performance averaged 83.46 (interpreted as good), with the Crime Detection and Investigation area scoring the highest mean (84.64) and Correctional Administration scoring the lowest (82.68). Licensure examination results had a weighted mean of 76.82 (interpreted as passed). Graduates performed best in Correctional Administration but faced challenges in Forensic Science and Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure areas. Pearson correlation analysis showed a moderate positive correlation in the Law Enforcement Administration area, while a low positive correlation was observed across the other five areas of Licensure Examinations for Criminologists: Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure; Crime Detection and Investigation; Forensic Science; Correctional Administration; and Criminology. These results indicate that academic performance can predict licensure exam success for criminologists.

**Keywords:** Licensure Examination for Criminologists, Academic Performance, Correlation, Licensure Examination Results, Pearson Correlation ( $r$ ).



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### INTRODUCTION

Academic performance reflects the graduate's skill, knowledge, and competence level, while the licensure examination assesses the essential qualifications required in every profession. Examining the correlation between academic performance and licensure examination is necessary to acquire insights or identify gaps.

Passing the licensure examination is very important in the Philippines because owning a license would entail enjoying numerous benefits compared to a non-license holder. For example, Republic Act Number 11131, which is known as "The Philippine Criminology Profession Act of 2018", stipulated numerous positions including but not limited to joining Law Enforcement, Teaching Criminology, Technician or Expert in different Fields of Forensic Science, Correctional Administrator, Consultant or Adviser of Research Related to

Criminology Area, and to be a private investigator or administrator of Private Security Agencies. Additionally, Registered criminologists shall be exempt from taking any other entrance or qualifying government or civil service examinations and be considered civil service eligible for government positions. However, the gateway to these sumptuous privileges is passing the licensure examination. Passing the licensure examination in the country is not that easy, but it is not impossible to pass the examination.

Underscoring the way to pass the licensure examination attracted researchers to determine factors that affect it. Factors may arise from the moment the student enrolls in their chosen profession to when they take their board examination. Albina et al. (2022) found in their study that home and family influence success, while school, review center, and personal factors have an average influence on passing the Criminologists' Licensure

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Examination. On the other hand, they also found out that the availability of qualified and dedicated faculty is a factor that influences success in the said examination. In the study of Igcasama et al. (2021), they found that in- and off-campus pre-service education is the strongest factor affecting performance in the Licensure Examination for Teachers, while facilities and resources were pointed to be the weakest factor. Furthermore, in the study of Dayaday (2018), faculty and instructional materials favorably affect the performance of ECE-USM Examinees. Curriculum, Admission/retention policy, and study behavior also contribute to passing the Board Examination. On the other hand, the lack of laboratory facilities/equipment was attributed to poor performance.

One of the intriguing factors related to the Licensure Examination is the academic performance or record of the person, specifically at the college level. According to Tai (2020), good grades can affect many factors, like admission to graduate school, future jobs, scholarships, and success. Moreover, it states that grades can be a better predictor of success. In the study of Amanonce & Maramag (2020), they found out in their work that there is a significant and strong correlation between the graduates' grade weighted average in college and licensure examination for teachers' performance. The same result was found in the work of Bongalosa et al. (2021) that academic performance is a predictor for passing the licensure examination for teachers, and they also concluded that "the poorer the academic performance, the lower the possibility to pass the Licensure Examination for teachers. Meanwhile, Mappadang et al. (2022) also pointed out that academic performance is one of the key factors in determining students' success in their future careers.

In the researcher's personal communication with the different individuals associated with the offering of the Bachelor of Science in Criminology in the Cordillera and personnel of top-performing schools for the Licensure Examination for Criminologists, most of them pinpointed that a good academic background or preparation is one of the biggest assets in conquering or passing the Licensure Examination for Criminologists. A good academic background or preparation covers how they were trained and taught during their stay in college. Most studies correlating academic performance vis-à-vis licensure examinations are conducted for the Licensure Examination for Teachers, but few are conducted for the Criminology. Researchers in this field focus on the general factors that affect the performance of Criminology graduates during examinations. Thus, this study was conducted to determine if there is a correlation between Academic performance and Licensure Examination Results among Criminology Graduates. Understanding academic performance can validate students' learning levels and the institution's performance in educating students. It also helps to

identify possible strengths and lapses or weaknesses. Identifying lapses or weaknesses would be useful in creating interventions to achieve good outcomes.

Mountain Province State Polytechnic College's performance in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists (LEC) is not bad; in previous years, it has produced top-notchers and even received awards for high passing percentages. In the last five Licensure Examinations for Criminologists from December 2021 to August 2023, the Mountain Province State Polytechnic College (MPSPC) has steadily outperformed the national passing rate by an average margin of 7.01 percentage points. This movement emphasizes the institution's commitment to academic excellence and effectiveness in preparing criminology students for the LEC. However, in the April 2023 Licensure Examination for Criminologists (LEC), MPSPC's overall performance fluctuates, falling short of the national passing rate by 10 percent.

With the facts presented above and due to the lack of a study about the correlation between academic performance and licensure examination results, the researcher is motivated to conduct a study to determine whether academic performance and Licensure examination results correlate. The college can utilize the study's results to formulate an intervention program to increase the passing percentage in the Examination. In the field of research, results can serve as additional references. Likely, this study directly supports SDG 4 and promotes academic excellence in the field of criminology.

Furthermore, this study is anchored to the Attribution theory. Attribution theory was proposed by Fritz Heider in 1958. The theory of Heider did not remain stagnant, but several academicians, philosophers, social scientists, and the like expounded on its theory. Attribution is utilized in different disciplines.

The article "What is attribution theory? Definition and examples" (2023) defines it as how we attribute feelings and intentions to people to understand their behavior. From the given definition, the theory provokes the idea that behavior is attributed to something. In this study, academic performance was explored to determine whether it is attributed to the success or failure of the student in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists.

The word Academic Performance, as used in this study, pertains to the grades of the Criminology Graduates in their undergraduate study at Mountain Province State Polytechnic College. Licensure Examination Results pertain to the ratings obtained on the six (6) areas of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists reflected in the report of the Professional Regulation Commission. Under Republic Act no. 11131, the six areas of LEC

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covered the following courses: Introduction to Philippine Criminal Justice System, Human Rights, Criminal Law Book 1 & 2, Criminal Evidence, and Criminal Procedure and Practice Court for Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure area; Law Enforcement Organization and Administration (inter-agency approach), Comparative models in Policing, Introduction to Industrial Security Concepts, Law Enforcement Operations and Planning with Crime Mapping, Leadership, Decision Making, Management and Administration, and Character Formation, Nationalism and Patriotism for Law Enforcement Administration Area; Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation and Intelligence, Specialized Crime Investigation 1 with Legal Medicine, Specialized Crime Investigation 2 with Interrogation and Interview, Traffic Management and Accident Investigation with Driving, Fire Protection and Arson Investigation, Vice and Drug Education and Control, Technical English 1 (Legal Forms), Technical English 2 Investigative Report Writing, and Introduction to Cybercrime and Environmental Laws for Criminal Detection and Investigation area; for Forensic Science area, it is comprise of Forensic Photography, Personal Identification Techniques, Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology, Forensic Questioned Document Examination, Forensic Polygraphy, and Forensic Ballistics; For Correctional Administration area, Institutional Correction, Non-institutional Correction, and Therapeutic Modalities; and courses covered in the Criminology Area includes Introduction to Criminology , Theories of Crime Causation, Human Behavior and Victimology, Professional Conduct and Ethical Standards, Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Justice, Dispute Resolution and Crisis/Incident Management, and Criminological Research 1 And 2.

### Objectives

The study's primary purpose is to determine the correlation between Academic Performance and Licensure Examination Results of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College Criminology Graduates. Specifically, it sought to answer the following:

#### A. What is the level of academic performance of the Criminology graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College along the components of the Criminologist Licensure Examination (CLE):

- Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure;
- Law Enforcement Administration;
- Crime Detection and Investigation;
- Forensic Science;
- Correctional Administration; and
- Criminology.

#### B. What are the Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College along the components of the Criminologist Licensure Examination (CLE):

- Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure;
- Law Enforcement Administration;
- Crime Detection and Investigation;

- Forensic Science;
- Correctional Administration; and
- Criminology.

#### C. Is there a significant correlation between the academic performance and licensure examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College?

Hypothesis: There is no significant correlation between the academic performance and licensure examination results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College.

### METHODOLOGY

The study used a correlational research design. According to Bhandari (2023), a Correlational research design determines the relationships between variables without manipulating or controlling the research. Furthermore, the stipulated design reflects the strengths or direction of the relationship between two or more variables.

The results would be positive or negative. This study explores the correlation between academic performance and licensure examination results. Records of 157 Criminology graduates from Mountain Province State Polytechnic college who took the licensure examination from December 2022 to February 2024 were analyzed in the study using mean, weighted mean, and Pearson Correlation (r). Turney (2024) states that the Pearson correlation (r) is the most common way to measure a linear correlation between two variables.

Additionally, the study adopted the classification of academic performance from the work of Dagdagui & Mangusan (2022) which is, if  $GWA \geq 94.5$  described as Excellent (E) performance;  $88.5 \leq GWA \leq 94.49$  is Very Good (VG) performance;  $82.5 \leq GWA \leq 88.49$  is Good (G) performance;  $76.5 \leq GWA \leq 82.49$  is Fair (F) performance, and if  $GWA \leq 76.49$  is Poor (P) performance. Lastly, all ethical principles of research were observed by the researcher.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results and discussion based on the analysis of data.

Level of the Academic Performance of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College across the components of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists

Table 1 below presents the academic performance of the Criminology graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College across the components of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists. Academic performance pertains to undergraduate grades achieved by Criminology Graduates across the various subjects that are covered by the six (6) Areas of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists: Criminal Law,

**Table 1. Level of the Academic Performance of Criminology Graduates of MPSPC across the components of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists**

Areas of Licensure Examination for Criminologists	Mean	Standard Deviation	Descriptive Equivalent
Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure	83.95	2.18	Good
Law Enforcement Administration	83.61	2.72	Good
Crime Detection and Investigation	84.64	2.13	Good
Forensic Science	83.02	2.67	Good
Correctional Administration	82.68	3.28	Good
Criminology	82.88	2.76	Good
Over-all Mean	83.46	1.94	Good

**Legend:**

$GWA \geq 94.5$	Excellent (E)
$88.50 \leq GWA \leq 94.49$	Very Good (VG)
$82.50 \leq GWA \leq 88.49$	Good (G)
$76.50 \leq GWA \leq 82.49$	Fair (F)
$GWA \leq 76.49$	Poor (P)

The academic performance is classified according to the scale adopted from the work of Dagdagui & Mangusan (2022) which is if  $GWA \geq 94.5$  described as Excellent (E) performance;  $88.5 \leq GWA \leq 94.49$  is Very Good (VG) performance;  $82.5 \leq GWA \leq 88.49$  is Good (G) performance;  $76.5 \leq GWA \leq 82.49$  is Fair (F) performance, and if  $GWA \leq 76.49$  is Poor (P) performance.

As seen in Table 1, the overall mean for the academic performance of the Criminology Graduates is 83.46, which is interpreted as good, with a standard deviation of 1.94. The computed overall mean shows that the criminology graduates' academic performance is good. The standard deviation also indicates that the performance or accumulated grades of the criminology graduates are closely related to one another.

Among the six areas of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists, the Crime Detection and Investigation area has the highest mean, 84.64, interpreted as good, with a standard deviation of 2.13. This implies that the graduates are particularly proficient in this area compared to other areas. Moreover, the grades acquired by the graduates in this area are consistent or close to one another, which may indicate that they all have a good grasp of the topics and the likes of this area.

On the other hand, the Correctional Administration area has the lowest mean, 82.68, which is interpreted as good, with a standard deviation of 3.28. Despite the mean being interpreted as good, it also implies that they perform less well in this area than others. The standard deviation result implies that grades acquired by graduates in this particular area vary from one another. Some may excel and have a good grasp of the topics under Correctional Administration, but some may not, which affects the accumulated mean of the area. Additionally, the mean and standard deviation results of the Correctional Administration imply that the area needs to be given attention to improve the performance of the graduates.

For the remaining areas, Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure, it has a mean of 83.95 with a standard deviation of 2.18, Law Enforcement Administration with a mean of 83.61, having a standard deviation of 2.72, Forensic Science with a mean of 83.02 and standard deviation of 2.67, and Criminology with a mean of 82.88 with a standard deviation of 2.76. All of the means of these four Areas were interpreted as good, implying that the graduates have a good background in the coverage of the mentioned areas of LEC. The computed standard deviation across the four areas implies a low or moderate variability. The succeeding paragraph presents the Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College across the six areas of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists.

The Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College across the Components of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists

Table 2 presents the Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College across the components of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists. The data "Criminology graduates' Licensure examination results" were taken from the report of the Professional Regulation Commission. Under



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Republic Act 11131, to pass the Licensure Examination for Criminologists, a candidate must obtain a weighted average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) with no grade less than sixty percent (60%) in any given subject. In case the examinee obtains a weighted average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) but has a grade below sixty percent (60%) in any of the subjects, the result of the examinee shall be deferred and be required to retake that particular subject/s. Only the ratings of the graduates (those who took the board exam twice or more) during the first time they took the LEC were included in the computation to arrive at a mean and weighted mean in all six (6) areas of the LEC. Furthermore, the weighted mean was derived by adopting the Professional Regulation Commission formula to attain an average of a certain weight for every area. The weight of every area is as follows: Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure is 20 percent; Law Enforcement is 15 percent; Crime Detection and Investigation is 20 Percent; Forensic Science is 15 Percent; Correctional Administration is 10 percent; and Criminology is 20 percent.

**Table 2. The Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of MPSPC across the Components of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists**

AREAS OF LEC	Frequency		Mean	Standard Deviation	Descriptive Equivalent
	Passed	Failed			
Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure	104	53	74.99	8.14	Failed
Law Enforcement Administration	137	20	79.66	5.90	Passed
Crime Detection and Investigation	124	33	76.39	6.92	Passed
Forensic Science	103	54	73.92	8.46	Failed
Correctional Administration	143	14	81.80	6.16	Passed
Criminology	118	39	76.61	7.51	Passed
Weighted Mean			76.82	6.31	Passed

Legend: 75.00 and Above Passed (P) 74.99 and Below Failed (F)

As seen in Table 2, the overall weighted mean for the Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists is 76.82, interpreted as passed. This indicates that the average of the criminology graduates surpasses the passing percentage. Additionally, it indicates that most criminology graduates possess the necessary knowledge to hurdle the examination given by the Professional Regulation Board for Criminologists. However, it needs to be improved. Improving the performance of the graduates can lead to the attainment of different achievements like being topnotchers, having a spot in the top-performing schools, being labeled as a leading school in Criminology, and being an impressive reputation school in the world of criminologists.

Among the six (6) areas of LEC, all areas except Forensic Science (mean: 73.92) and Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure (mean: 74.99) attained a passing rating. The Correctional Administration has the highest, at 81.80. This indicates that the Correctional Administration Area is the strength of Criminology graduates. The finding of this study differs from the findings of Barreda (2022). Barreda found out that the strength of the faculty in the Criminology Department of Solis Institute of Technology is in Law Enforcement Administration, while the weakness is Correctional Administration.

The high weighted mean for Correctional Administration can be attributed to having only three (3) courses. The limited course coverage allows the graduates to master it and attain a good rating. In contrast to other areas, Law Enforcement administrations (mean: 79.66), Criminology (mean: 76.61), Crime Detection and Investigation (mean: 76.39), Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure (mean: 74.99), and Forensic Science (mean: 73.92) covers six (6) to nine (9) courses which present a broad scope that needs to be mastered. Despite the high mean for the Correctional Administration Area and passing performance in other Licensure Examination for Criminologists areas, except for the Forensic Science and Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure, the ratings in all areas must be elevated or improved to achieve better performance.

A failing remark is noted for Forensic Science, with a mean of 73.92, and Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure, with a mean of 74.99. The frequency data also stipulates that the areas have the highest number of failed takers. The computed mean and frequency show that the graduates struggle to apply and master the concepts and principles of forensic science as stipulated in the Table of Specification given by the PRC, in which, in the forensic Area, the LEC takers need to apply the principles and concepts of Forensic Science. A similar result was found in the study of Teredano et al. (2019).

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Their study's result pointed out that the lowest mean among the six areas of LEC is Criminalistic (named today as Forensic Science). They pointed out that critical thinking in the classification of fingerprints for the areas of criminalistics contributes to the obtained performance of their respondents. For Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure, Criminology Graduates face challenges in applying the principles of Criminal Law, Evidence, and Procedure while internalizing the concept of human rights and victims' welfare. The Table of Specifications issued by the Professional Regulation Commission stipulates that Criminology Graduates should apply principles of Criminal Law, Evidence, and Procedure while internalizing the concept of human rights and victims' welfare.

Additionally, on the standard deviation, forensic science has the highest among all six areas of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists at 8.46, followed by Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure at 8.18. The computed deviations indicate that the graduates do not achieve the same results- some excel, some fail. Those who failed in this area affected the computed mean. There is a need to close the gap to improve the performance of the graduates in the examination. The “needing to close the gaps” analysis applies to all areas of LEC. However, it should be noted that the standard deviation for the Law Enforcement Administration Area (5.91) implies that the graduates' ratings are somewhat related to one another.

With the given results (Table 2), a deeper study is needed to determine other causes or factors that affect the Licensure Examination Results of Criminology Graduates. Researching the different factors and formulating solutions can improve the Licensure examination results. It is also recommended that a study be conducted on what contributes to the standard deviation result and other factors that affect the Licensure Examination Results of criminology graduates.

The overall Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology graduates may be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic brought education disruptions. Comparing the educational environment during the pandemic and before the pandemic, the students before the pandemic had the benefit of having face-to-face instruction, demonstration, simulation, and immediate clarification in case they didn't understand anything. During the pandemic, the students relied only on the limited content of the module distributed. Due to internet connectivity problems in the province, online instruction or classes are not feasible. Thus, the benefit of interactive learning and clarification on matters on time, demonstration related to Bachelor of Science in Criminology courses, and the like is not achieved. The courses covered by the Bachelor of Science in Criminology are not always theoretical; hands-on skills, simulation, or practical exercises must be experienced by the students to grasp the needed knowledge. Knowledge acquired in these manners is valued during licensure examinations.

Also, according to the survey conducted by the researcher among the students returning to school after the pandemic, most focused on answering the assessment activity written on the module rather than reading and understanding the module's contents. This implies that they could have missed the knowledge or foundation they needed to possess for that particular course under Bachelor of Science in Criminology, or to be used during the licensure examination.

As applied in the computation of the weighted average Licensure Examination for Criminologists, the three areas, which include Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure, Crime Detection and Investigation, and Criminology, weigh twenty (20) percent each. Fifteen percent each is allocated for Law Enforcement Administration and Forensic Science, and 10 percent for Correctional Administration. With this way of determining the average, an LEC taker should score high in areas with high percentages to pass or top. On the other hand, poor performance in areas with high percentages can lead to a low average or failure in the LEC. In connection with the performance of the Criminology Graduates, it is seen in Table 2 that their performance in the three (3) highest weighted areas is not that high, and a possible factor for just good performance.

Observing the academic performance and licensure examination results, academic performance is higher than licensure examination results. This could be attributed to different factors like having a 50% passing score in college, while failing remarks are given to those examinees obtaining less than 60 percent in the LEC; laxity of given grades during the COVID-19 pandemic; the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic; different instructors/professors handling subjects; and other factors.

#### 4.3. Correlation between the Academic Performance and Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College

**Table 3. Correlation between the Academic Performance and Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College**

Performance Components	Correlation Coefficient (r)	P Value	Interpretation
Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure	.388**	.000	Low Positive Correlation

Law Enforcement Administration	.517**	.000	Moderate Positive Correlation
Crime Detection and Investigation	.388**	.000	Low Positive Correlation
Forensic Science	.326**	.000	Low Positive Correlation
Correctional Administration	.259**	.000	Low Positive Correlation
Criminology	.398**	.000	Low Positive Correlation
General Weighted Average	.506**	.000	Moderate Positive Correlation

Legend: NS Not Significant \*\* Highly Significant

As perceived in Table 3, the academic performance and Licensure Examination Results of the Criminology graduates, with the correlation coefficient (r) and p-values, show various levels of relationships. Among the six (6) areas of the Licensure Examination for Criminologists, five areas were found to show a low positive correlation. This includes Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure, bearing a .388 correlation coefficient; Crime Detection and Investigation with a .388 correlation coefficient; Forensic Science with a .326 correlation coefficient; Correctional Administration with a .259 correlation coefficient; and Criminology with .398 correlation coefficient, and all of these correlation coefficients have a p-value of .000. The p-value of the said components indicates a low positive correlation and highly significant. This means that as the academic performance in these areas increases, there is also a chance to improve the results of the Licensure Examination. It also implies that further study should be conducted on increasing it. Despite the low positive correlation, it suggests a correlation between academic performance and licensure examination results.

Meanwhile, a moderate positive correlation was found in the Law Enforcement Administration (LEA) area with a correlation coefficient of .517 and a p-value of .000. This statistic indicates a stronger relationship between academic performance and licensure examination results. More so, the grades obtained by the students during their undergraduate studies, specifically in the course covered by the Law Enforcement Administration area, coincide with their licensure examination results. The p-value of .000 emphasizes that the correlation is not just random variation but shows the reliability of passing the Licensure Examination for Criminology.

A moderate positive correlation was also found in the general weighted average with a correlation coefficient of .506 and a p-value of .000. This implies that the mean grades gained by graduates during their stay in college and their obtained rating in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists have a significant relationship.

The observed various levels of correlation (low and moderate positive) can also be attributed to varying factors. These may include having a 50% passing score in the College while ratings below 60% in the LEC give a failing remark, teachers' factor of giving grades, multiple instructors handling the same subjects, the COVID-19 pandemic, Modular way of learning, and the like.

The study's findings support the findings of Amanonce & Maramag (2020). They found a significant and strong correlation between the graduates' grade weighted average in college and licensure examination for teachers' performance. The same is true that it does support the work of Bongalosa et al. (2021), in which they stipulated that academic performance is a predictor for passing the licensure examination for teachers, and also concluded that "the poorer the academic performance, the lower the possibility to pass the Licensure Examination for teachers. Also, using the attribution theory, the academic performance of the Criminology Graduates of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College can be attributed to their success in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists.

## CONCLUSION

Statistically, there is a correlation between the academic performance and licensure examination results of the Criminology Graduates of MPSPC, especially in the Law Enforcement Administration area. Thus, academic performance can determine success in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists.

## Recommendation

*Based on the findings of the study, the following are recommended:*

As observed, low licensure examination performance is found in Forensic Science and Criminal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedure. As such, it is necessary to revisit and improve the syllabus of the courses covered in this area, aligning its content with the Table of Specifications given by the Professional Regulation Commission and the teaching strategies. This is also advisable for all other areas;

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The Criminology Department of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College may consider raising the passing percentage for grades from fifty percent to sixty percent to align with the practice or standard of the Professional Regulation Commission for Criminologists. Aligning the passing rate in academics with the PRC standard would result in students being challenged to meet higher expectations during their college education, and the need to develop a deeper understanding of the topics under the courses stipulated in the Bachelor of Science Criminology Curriculum. This can enhance the readiness of the graduates in the Licensure Examinations;

The Criminology Department of Mountain Province State Polytechnic College may consider adopting the best practices of Top-Performing Schools in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists. Doing so can help prepare students for and improve their performance in the Licensure Examination;

To have a holistic approach to craft recommendations for improving the performance of Criminology Graduates in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists, there is a need to study other factors that may affect the performance of the criminology graduates in the licensure examinations; and

A similar study can be conducted to compare students' performance in the Licensure Examination for Criminologists affected by and unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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