



# Investigating School-Work Balance

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# Introduction

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# Research Question & Hypothesis

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## **Research Question:**

Do students who take more credit hours a semester work fewer hours a week?

## **Hypothesis:**

$H_0$ : Students who take more credit hours do not work fewer hours.

$H_a$ : Students who take more credit hours work fewer hours.

# Purpose

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- School- Work balance is important
- To examine the relationship between students' credit hours and work hours
- Do students typically prioritize school over work?

# Data Production & Collection

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- Our sample was 30 participants.
- All were students in higher education.
- 87% of the sample was from UTD.
- All interviews were done orally.

# Variables

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Independent Variable- credit hours taken per semester

Dependent Variable- number of hours typically worked per week

# Operationalizing Variables through Survey Questions

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How many credit hours are you currently taking?

- \_\_\_\_ credit hours

Do you currently have a job?

- Yes (Go to Q3)
- No (End survey)

Did you have this job when this semester started?

- Yes
- No

How many hours do you typically work a week?

- \_\_\_\_ hours

Did you change the number of hours worked to accommodate the credit hours you are currently taking?

- Yes
- No

# Challenges, Problems & Solutions

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# Challenges, Problems, & Solutions

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**Challenge/ Problem:** Scheduling challenge due to requirement of oral interviews being conducted remotely

**Solution:** We set specific appointment times to speak with participants

# Challenges, Problems, & Solutions

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**Challenge/Problem:** Interviews were required to be very short

**Solution:** We picked the questions we felt best applied to our research question and hypotheses.

# Challenges, Problems, & Solutions

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**Challenge/Problem:** Some participants provided a range of work hours rather than a single number of work hours per week.

**Solution:** We used the mean of the range we were given.

# Data Analysis

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# Descriptive Statistics

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Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
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workhrs	30	22.16667	19.45833	0	70

Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
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credithrs	30	11.43333	4.199206	3	20

Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
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job	30	.7666667	.4301831	0	1

change	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
<hr/>			
0	17	56.67	56.67
1	8	26.67	83.33
NA	5	16.67	100.00
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Total	30	100.00	

# Descriptive Statistics

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-> job = 0

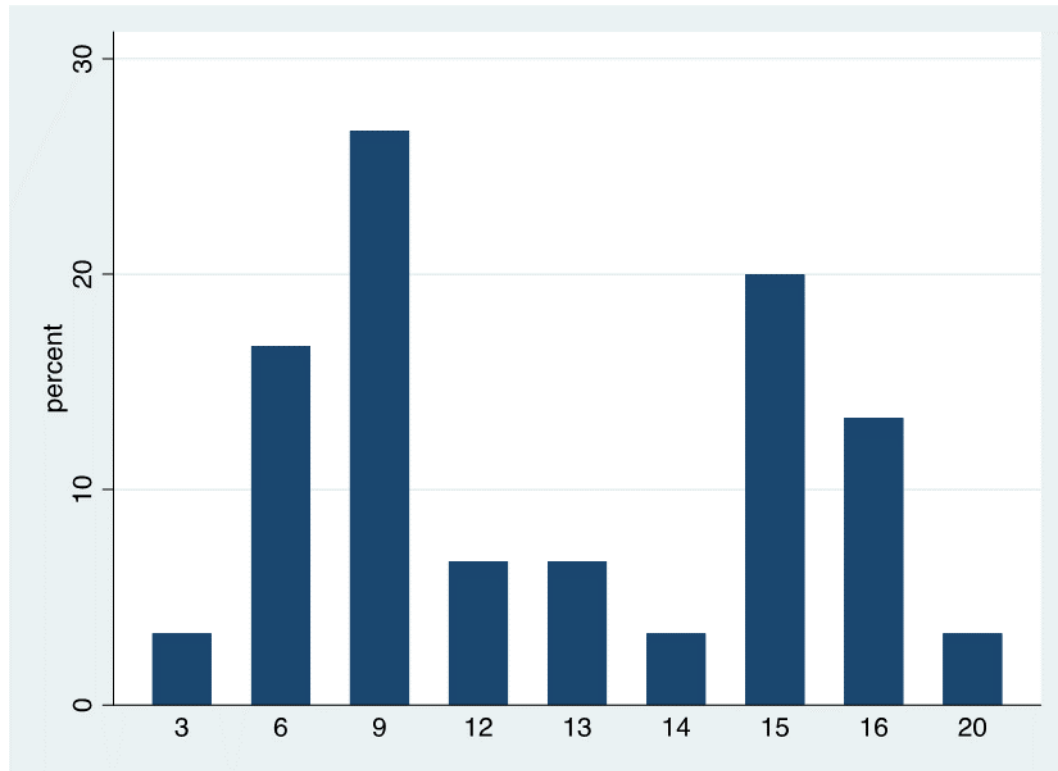
Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
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credithrs	7	12.14286	3.236694	9	16

-> job = 1

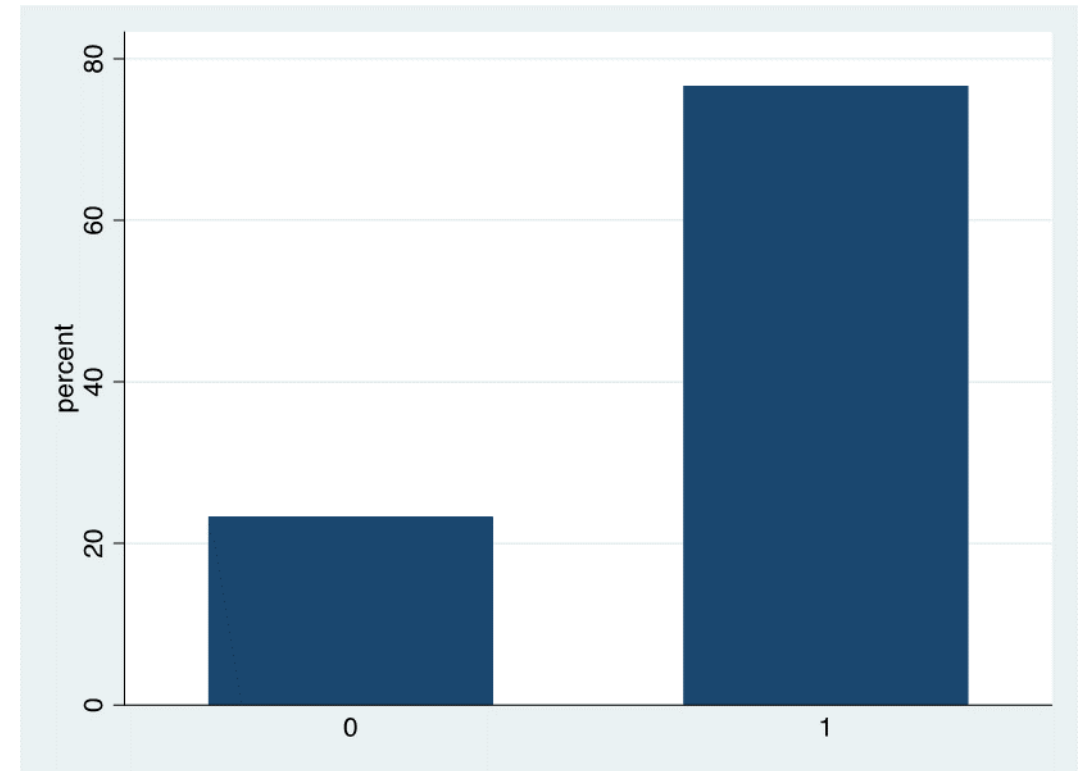
Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
<hr/>					
credithrs	23	11.21739	4.491978	3	20

# Descriptive Statistics

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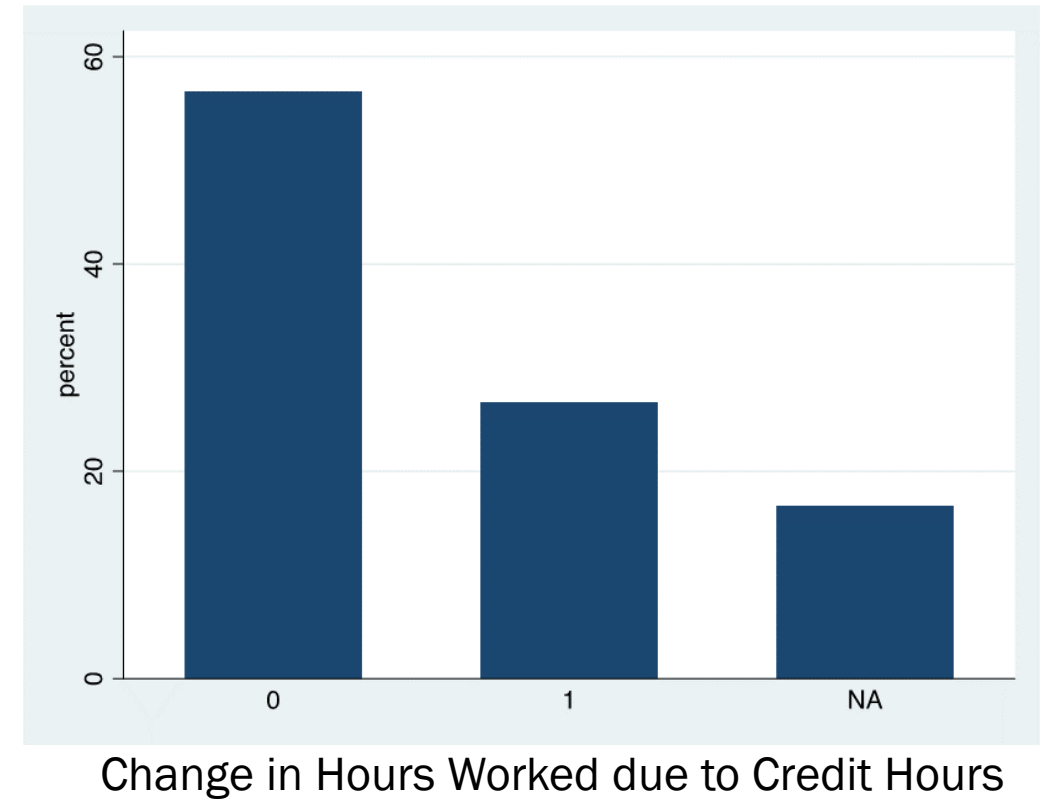
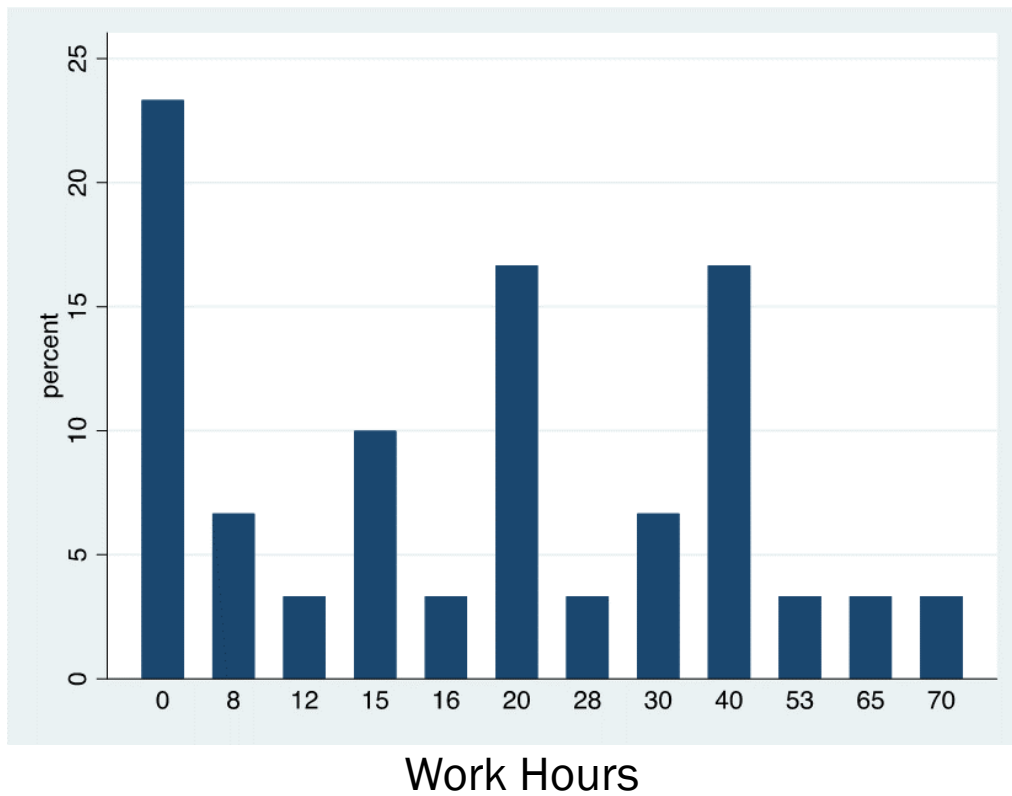
Credit Hours



Job Status

# Descriptive Statistics

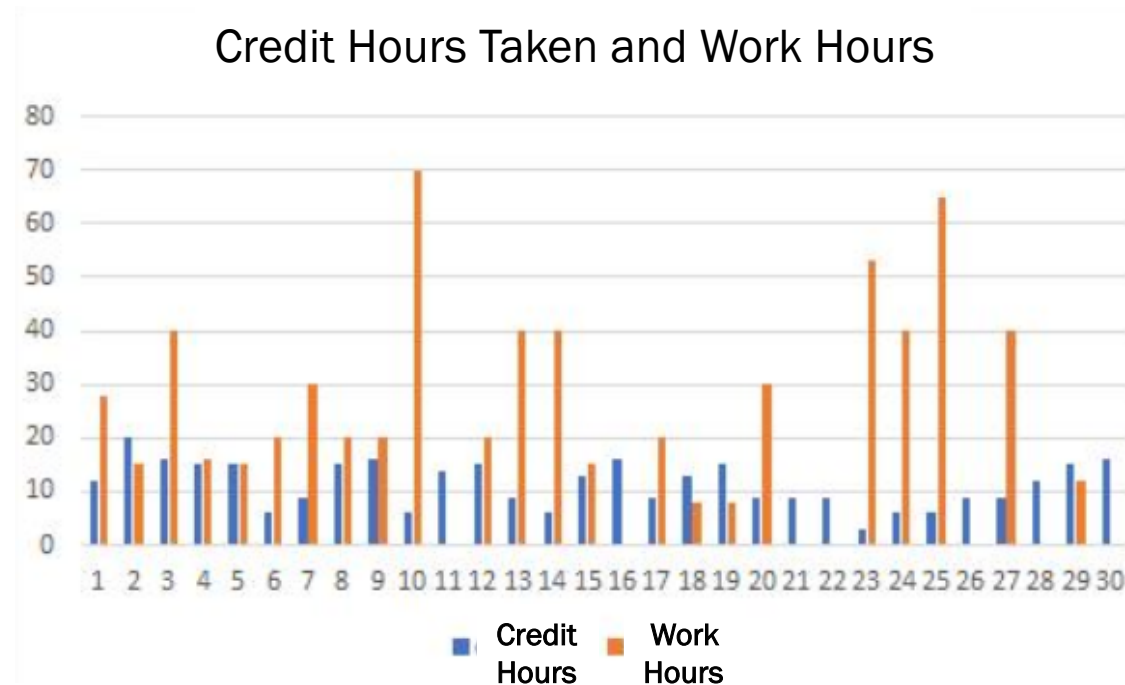
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# Descriptive Statistics

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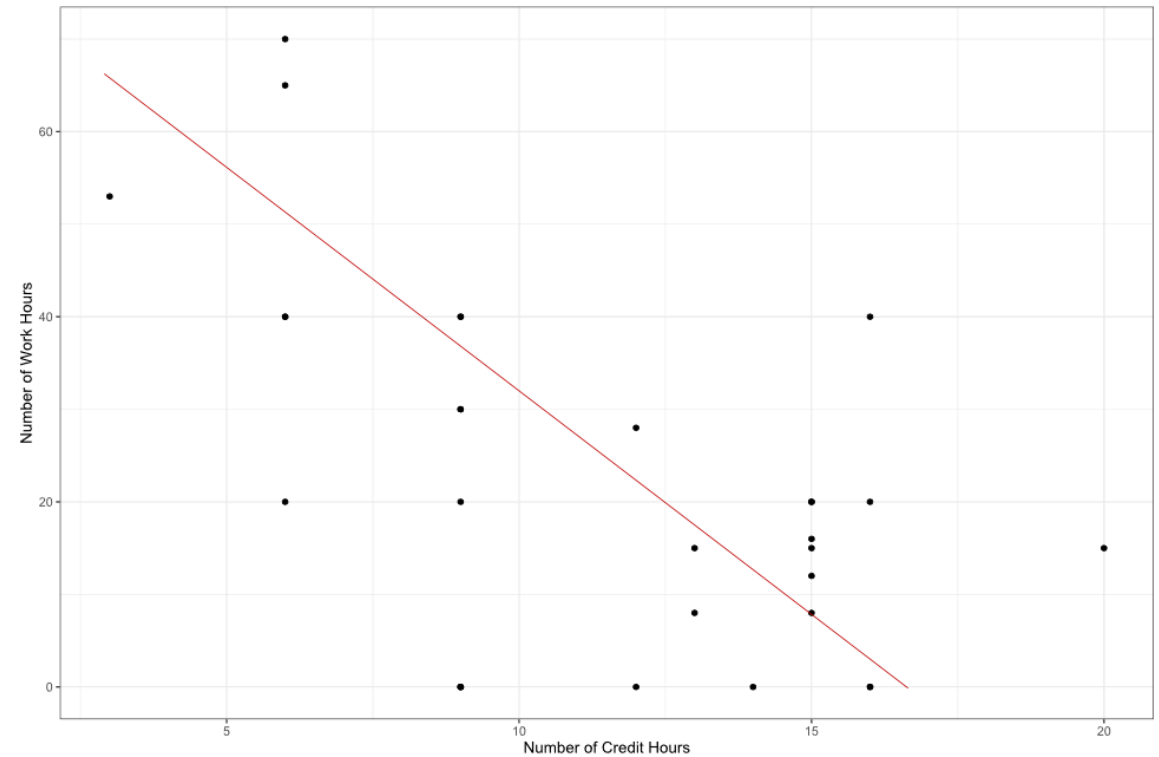


# Inferential Statistics

Regression Table

	Dependent Variable:
	Work Hours
Credit Hours	-2.5*** (0.7)
Job	11.3 (16.3)
Job at Start of Semester	3.5 (9.8)
Change of Hours Worked	-3.0 (6.9)
Constant	43.7** (16.6)
Observations	24
R <sup>2</sup>	0.6
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.5
Residual Std. Error	13.1 (df = 19)
F Statistic	6.0*** (df = 4; 19)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Relationship between Credit Hours and Work Hours



# Inferential Statistics

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Correlation Table

	credits	work
credits	1.0000	
work	-0.5630	1.0000

# Inferential Statistics

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Variance ratio test

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Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]		
-----+							
0	7	0	0	0	0	0	
1	23	28.91304	3.582408	17.18063	21.48358	36.3425	
-----+							
combined	30	22.16667	3.552588	19.45833	14.90081	29.43252	
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ratio = sd(0) / sd(1)                      f = 0.0000  
Ho: ratio = 1                                  degrees of freedom = 6, 22

Ha: ratio < 1	Ha: ratio != 1	Ha: ratio > 1
Pr(F < f) = 0.0000	2*Pr(F < f) = 0.0000	Pr(F > f) = 1.0000

# Inferential Statistics

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Two-sample t test with unequal variances

Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]
0	7	0	0	0	0
1	23	28.91304	3.582408	17.18063	21.48358 36.3425
combined	30	22.16667	3.552588	19.45833	14.90081 29.43252
diff		-28.91304	3.582408		-36.3425 -21.48358

diff = mean(0) - mean(1)                      t = -8.0708  
Ho: diff = 0                      Satterthwaite's degrees of freedom = 22

Ha: diff < 0  
Pr(T < t) = 0.0000

Ha: diff != 0  
Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.0000

Ha: diff > 0  
Pr(T > t) = 1.0000

# Results

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We have support for our hypothesis that students who take more credit hours will work less hours. Therefore, we **reject** the null hypothesis.

$H_o$ : Students who take more credit hours do not work fewer hours.

$H_a$ : Students who take more credit hours work fewer hours.

Due to the statistically significant correlation coefficient (-0.56; 99% confidence interval) we can say that credit hours taken has a relatively **strong negative** relationship with hours worked.

# Conclusion

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**Generalizability-** Our sample is not generalizable to the population of students in higher education because we used a convenience/snowball sample collection method. COVID also limits the generalizability because we are not always in a pandemic.

**Missing Factors-** We have an R-squared of 0.6, meaning 60% of our model is explained by the variables chosen, but however 40% is still missing.

# Recommendations for Future Research

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-Simple Random Sample

-Ask questions capturing information such as

- classification status
- full-time/part-time
- If they switched jobs
- If they lost job due to COVID
- Follow-up questions resulting from more information from added commentary by participants
- Remote or in-person job.