***Predictive Validity of Admission Criteria to Departments of English in Saudi Arabia***

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Majoring in English is a preferred choice to many secondary school graduates in Saudi Arabia. However, a high percentage of students who join the departments of English either fail to cope with the demands of the extensive language learning programs offered during the first year or two, so they end up withdrawing or transferring to other departments. Those who struggle their way through language courses usually finish the bachelor program very late and with very low GPAs. To investigate the reasons behind this, the admission criteria to the English Department at Umm Al-Qura University were examined to assess its validity predicting the success of students. The criteria investigated were the Secondary School Average (SSA), the Aptitude Test (AT), the Standardized Test of English Proficiency (STEP), and the First Term Average Score (FTAS). The statistical analysis was executed first using the FTAS as the dependent variable and the other factors as predictors, and then with the students Grade Point Average (GPA) as the dependent variable and the other factors as predictors. Some factors were found to collectively have a significant predictive value, but it appears that more criteria is still needed to ensure more accurate predictions of students success probability.