

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Jakub Linhart
Advisor:	PhDr. Radek Janhuba, M.A.
Title of the thesis:	US Collegiate Football Analysis: Team's Success as an Indicator of Academic Performance

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

The author examines the role of team's success on the academic progress rate in the top division of the US college football teams. I have consulted the study extensively during its writing and all my comments were addressed before the thesis was finalized. Hence, I only provide the evaluation and minor comments. The student spent substantial time on the thesis.

Contribution

To the best of my knowledge, this thesis is the first one to examine the relationship between the team's success and the academic progress rate, which was developed due to previous dependent variables having substantial design issues. This makes the study novel and its findings potentially publishable.

Methods

The author demonstrates the ability to use panel data methods and use formal testing procedures to select the appropriate econometric specification. Throughout all methods, he utilizes clustered standard errors, which is something that is not easily done in R. During the writing of the study, he also successfully utilized a fractional response model, which is a method beyond the bachelor econometrics curriculum.

Literature

The literature review is carefully executed and reviews previous academic literature which is relevant in the context of the research question.

Manuscript form

The English of the thesis is of a very high level, both grammatically as well as stylistically. The writing style resembles the styles found in scientific articles published in some academic journals. The thesis also utilizes a LaTeX template, which ensures a professional appearance.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

This is a very well written thesis that, in my opinion, would also be acceptable as a master thesis. I would also recommend the author to try to publish the thesis in an appropriate scientific journal. I recommend the thesis for a defense with a perfect score of 100. I also recommend the thesis to be awarded the for an extraordinarily good thesis.

Suggested questions for discussion:

- The robustness checks of the eligibility and retention rate show that the effects of team's success are stronger for the academic eligibility and weaker for players staying at the university for another year. How would you explain this finding?

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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	100
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Radek Janhuba

DATE OF EVALUATION: June 1, 2018



Referee Signature