Hearing Loss and the Relationship to Academic Achievement in College Music Majors

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ABSTRACT

This study will investigate the degree of hearing loss demonstrated by freshmen music majors and the relationship to academic achievement in aural skills courses and overall GPA. As part of the hearing health unit in Overture to Music Education (MUU100), students learned how to read audiograms and how to use an online hearing assessment, which provided a printout of their hearing ability. Students gave me copies of their hearing tests, and additionally I keep track of how they were doing academically, primarily in aural skills courses. Reliability data for the online hearing assessment does not exist, nor is it considered reliable by hearing professionals. However, the raw data accumulated over the last three years strongly suggested that a more rigorous research study needs to take place concerning our students’ hearing health and academic achievement. There is a possibility of a larger, longitudinal student emerging from this smaller one.