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Readability of PTA Textbooks and Reading Comprehension Rates of PTA Students

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine if correlations exist between independent reading comprehension levels of students measured by the Nelson Denny Reading Test (NDRT), readability of textbooks used for instruction and the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) in a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program.

Applications of NDRT, readability formulas, and textbooks were identified.

NDRT, course, and NPTE scores of 161 graduates of the PTA program were used. Multiple readability formulas were applied to five textbooks. Correlations were calculated.

Mean NDRT- total score was 14.67. Three of five textbooks had higher readability levels than the mean NDRT reading comprehension levels of students. A moderate positive correlation existed between NDRT and NPTE scores.

Key words: Readability, Reading comprehension, textbooks, Nelson Denny reading test, Physical therapist assistant.