

Activity 3: Internal Consistency Answers

SPSS data for this activity can be found here:

<http://www.bwgriffin.com/gsu/courses/edur9131/activities/alphadata.sav>

1. Dissertation Self-efficacy

Step 1

- Odd numbered items measure self-efficacy
- $\alpha = .783$
- Correlations among items are all positive which is a good sign that items are demonstrating similar response patterns
- Item-total correlations all .60+ except for item 7
- Weakest item-total correlation is item 7 with .328
- If item 7 dropped, alpha increases to $\alpha = .825$
- Item 7 slightly different in wording from others (focus on literature and theories) so could be removed, but no compelling reason to drop it since alpha is not overly affected by inclusion or removal of item 7 (if logical rationale suggests retaining item 7, then it should be retained)
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Step 2

- If item 7 removed, the following results:
- $\alpha = .825$
- Item-total correlations all .6+
- Stop at step 2; alpha level achieved is the highest possible with these data and self-efficacy items.

2. Dissertation Anxiety

Step 1

- Even numbered items measure anxiety
- $\alpha = .871$
- Can stop here, item-total correlations all .69+ except item 8 (.502), and the alpha obtained demonstrate very good internal consistency
- If item 8 removed, $\alpha = .89$, but little compelling reason to remove item 8 (unless it is redundant or one wishes to reduce number of items on questionnaire)