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Exploring Honor Code Perceptions, Moral Reasoning, and Attitudes toward Learning: Establishing Concurrent Validity for the Honor Code Perceptions Scale

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This research project was conducted in order to examine student response to our recently devised instrument, the Honor Code Perceptions Scale. A past study investigated students' perception of the Valparaiso University Honor Code along multiple dimensions, such as Honor Code effectiveness, tendency to engage in cheating behaviors, and toleration of others' cheating behavior. The current study used additional instruments to measure students' level of moral reasoning, academic motivation, and socially desirable responding. We assessed each of these variables using, respectively, the Defining Issues Test (DIT), the Patterns of Adaptive Learning Survey (PALS), and the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale. Researchers examined relationships among responses to these instruments in order to establish concurrent validity for the Honor Code Perceptions Scale.

Information about the Authors:

Ariel Johnson is a senior psychology and humanities major at Valparaiso University. She currently works as a student library assistant at the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources. In addition, she is a research assistant in the psychology department. She plans to pursue a service position with AmeriCorps upon graduation. Stephanie Kuipers is a sophomore psychology and biology major with a philosophy minor at Valparaiso University. She is a research assistant as well as a teaching assistant for general psychology classes in the psychology department. Moreover, she is currently co-president for Psychology Club. She plans to attend graduate school in clinical psychology.

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