

Predictors of Retention in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Admissions Process

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Background

In 2015 the OTA program at Jefferson College created and implemented a Selective Admissions Process (SAP) to screen and admit the most qualified candidates for the program in order to increase student success and retention.

Retention rate prior to 2015 = 73% (previous 5 year average)

Objective

Identify SAP criteria with the highest correlation to student success and retention in order to develop the most effective admissions process.

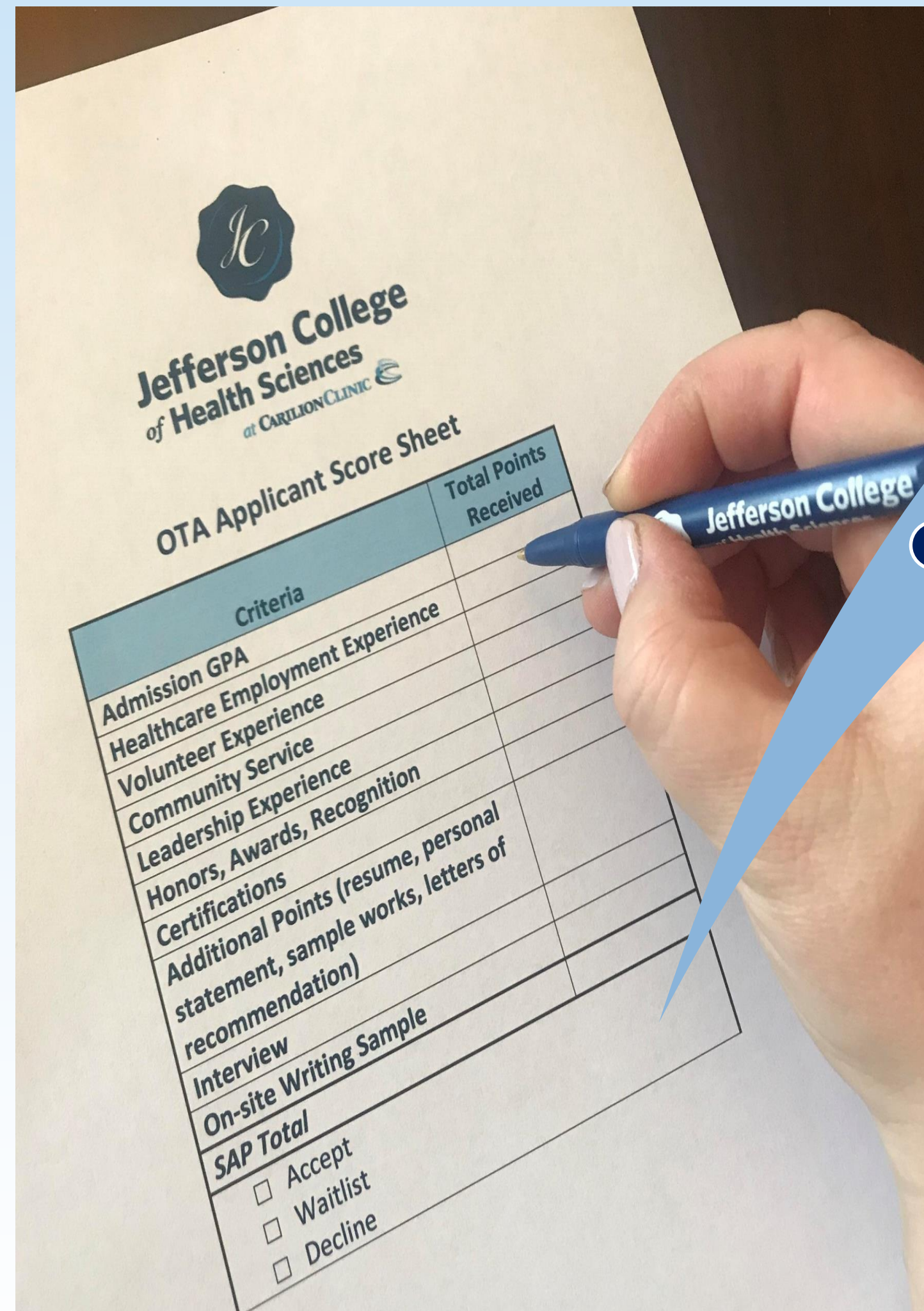
Results

The SAP Total Score was determined to be a significant predictor ($p = .016$) of program completion for the 45 students who went through the SAP, accounting for approximately 26% of the variability in degree completion for those students.

Retention rate using SAP = 92% (2-year average of accepted applicants)

SAP Total Score = Interview + Onsite Writing Sample + Portfolio scores

Process



Conclusion

The results validate the current SAP process used by the OTA program at Jefferson College to select applicants and establish that criteria identified in the selective admissions process are significant predictors of completion of the OTA program.

The retention rate increased by 19% after implementation of the SAP.