

STUDENT GRADE MISPERCEPTION: IGNORANCE OR GRADE INFLATION?

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ABSTRACT

Students consistently overestimate their performance on academic exams, with the error being inversely related to their grades. The effect has been explained as a matter of incompetence. It is postulated that students don't know what they don't know and therefore perceive their own performance incorrectly. Another explanation suggests that students are generally aware of their performance but consistently regress their performance towards a grading norm. This exploratory study suggests that the overestimation effect is probably due to grading norms, not incompetence.