



The Woodcock-Muñoz Foundation

RESEARCH BRIEF

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE STRUCTURAL VALIDITY OF THE CROSS-BATTERY APPROACH IN A REFERRED SAMPLE: CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS OF COMPETING CATTELL-HORN-CARROLL, WECHSLER, AND PASS MODELS

Jennifer T. Mascolo
St. John's University

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to explore the validity of Flanagan and colleagues' Cross-Battery approach (McGrew & Flanagan, 1998; Flanagan, McGrew, & Ortiz, 2000; Flanagan & Ortiz, 2001). The data analyzed in the present study were derived from a referred sample of elementary school students (N = 223) who were assessed via Cross-Battery methods. Specifically, school psychologists administered two qualitatively different narrow ability indicators to students in each of seven broad cognitive ability domains specified in modern intelligence theory (i.e., Cattell-Horn-Carroll theory). These data were analyzed through confirmatory factor analysis procedures using AMOS (Analysis of Moment Structures; Arbuckle, 1997). The findings supported the view that a 7-factor Cattell-Horn-Carroll (CHC) model fit the Cross-Battery data significantly better than an alternative hierarchical 4-factor Wechsler model, hierarchical 4-factor Planning-Attention-Simultaneous-Successive ([PA]SS) model, and nonhierarchical 5-factor PASS model, all of which were specified a priori. These findings support the extant literature on the structure of cognitive abilities and the results of previous investigators who have provided validity evidence for the Cross-Battery approach. Moreover, these findings support the structural validity of the CHC model in a referred elementary school sample and refute the validity of alternative models of intelligence for assessing and interpreting cognitive functioning.

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