# Evaluation on Success of Graduating with Distinction in Higher Education using Fuzzy DEMATEL Method Mustefa JIBRIL

School of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Dire Dawa Institute of Technology, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia

mustefa.jibril@ddu.edu.et

**Abstract:** The aim of this paper is the evaluation of the success of graduating with distinction in higher education (SGDHE) using the fuzzy DEMATEL method. The observation has been done using cause and effect criteria. 11 cause and 14 effect clusters have been used in this study. The study result of this work shows that all the effects are connected to the given causes and a cause-effect graph has been generated for each connection. This proposed approach is demonstrated with the empirical case of Dire Dawa University students in Dire Dawa Ethiopia.

Keywords: Evaluation, Distinction, Fuzzy DEMATEL, Higher education, Cluster

#### Introduction

Graduation with honors is a practice of recognition and awards for students. with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher [1]. A graduate with honors. To a degree, end up with a high cumulative GPA; and the words "this", or "distinction" are printed on the item in the title. A Graduate with Honors. Completion means that all of the school's requirements for participation in education, and in the heart of the district, concentration, and earning a bachelor's degree. With the completion of the (cum laude), it means that the student has acquired the Latin distinction, with honors [2].

Your parents will be shining brightly in the graduation ceremony if they are to see you walk to the front of your hard-earned regalia, and prom dress. Degree awards, please refer to the performance in the sciences, in addition to meeting the basic requirements for a degree course of study [3]. Before you begin any of the schools, school administrators, and teachers to evaluate the students, who deserve special recognition for their outstanding achievements, leadership, and other exemplary qualities. To the running of the cum laude distinction, it is a big deal, because it reflects your work ethic and intelligence. An honor student can make an impression on potential employers and graduate school admissions committees to be more than your average GPA [4].

Latin honors are Latin phrases used in some colleges and universities to indicate the degree of diversity experienced by a degree. This program is widely used in the United States. It is also used in other Southeast Asian countries with a history of European colonies, such as Indonesia and the Philippines, although it is sometimes used to translate these clauses instead of Latin. Distribution of honors should not be confused with honors degrees awarded abroad, or with honors degrees [5]. The system usually has three levels of recognition: cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. Usually, college or university regulations set out the specific steps a student should take to earn a degree. For example, a student may be required to earn a certain point, submit an honors degree examination, be part of an honors program, or graduate early. Each university sets its standards [6]-[8]. As these levels vary, the same level of Latin honors given to different institutions can represent different levels of success. Similarly, some institutions offer equivalent (or

additional) non-Latin qualifications to undergraduates. University of Wisconsin - Madison, for example, has a clear English series of filters based on classroom standing.

These honors, when used, are almost always awarded to undergraduate graduates, and, except for law school students, it is very rare to obtain a master's or doctoral degree. Honor is often expressed in diplomas. Latin honors are often awarded to law school graduates such as Juris Doctor or JD, in which case they are usually based on grade or grade level.

The honors degree has different meanings in the context of different degrees and educational programs. It is most often referred to as a bachelor's degree variation that contains a large volume of material or a high level of study, or both, rather than "standard" bachelor, "standard" or "pass". Many universities and colleges offer bachelor's honors and non-honors. In many countries where honors degrees are awarded, they mean that the pass rate is higher than for non-honors degrees. In some countries (e.g. Australia), honors degrees may involve a longer study period than non-honors degrees. [9] Students who complete all the requirements for a bachelor's non-honors degree but do not qualify for an honors degree are usually awarded a non-honors degree (sometimes known as "pass", "general" or "general" degree), although students who do not meet the requirements for an integrated master honors degree may receive a bachelor's honors degree. [7] In England, Northern Ireland, and Wales, almost all bachelor's degrees are awarded as honors degrees; in contrast, honors degrees are rarely issued in the United States.

# **Materials and Methods**

# **Cause and Effects of SGDHE Criteria**

In this paper, Twenty-five Effective cause and effect factors had been used for evaluation on SGDHE. The factors used are listed in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

# **Table 1** Effects of SGDHE

No	Code	Effect cluster
1	$\mathbf{C}_1$	High self-confidence
2	$C_2$	Awarded by family and relatives
3	$\mathbf{C}_3$	Finding suitable job
4	$\mathbb{C}_4$	Upgrading Education
5	$C_5$	Enrolment in higher education
6	$C_6$	Conducting researches
7	$\mathbf{C}_7$	Upgrading practical knowledge
8	$C_8$	Getting Good income
9	$C_9$	Helping parents economically
10	$C_{10}$	Good relation with employers
11	$C_{11}$	Getting job promotion
12	$C_{12}$	Good communication among employers
13	$C_{13}$	Good Ethics and culture
14	$C_{14}$	Confidence among employers

#### **Table 2** Causes of SGDHE

No	Code	Cause cluster
15	C <sub>15</sub>	Study hard
16	C <sub>16</sub>	Attending all classes
17	C <sub>17</sub>	Communication and collaboration with teachers
18	C <sub>18</sub>	Giving tutor for students
19	C <sub>19</sub>	Avoiding using substances

20	C <sub>20</sub>	Time Management
21	$C_{21}$	Knowledge sharing
22	$C_{22}$	Participating in different programs (unions)
23	$C_{23}$	Integration of knowledge and information flow
24	C <sub>24</sub>	Health care

# **Fuzzy DEMATEL**

The use of a different method of decision-making, based on a pair of comparisons, is an advantage to the opinion of experts in the extraction, and the structure of the system, due to the systematic use of the basic principles of graph theory and the hierarchical structure of the agents in the system, along with the action, and the influence of the relationships among the elements, it is shown that the intensity of these relationships and their significance, will be given a numerical score [9]-[13].

The comparison of the five criteria with the words and phrases using Fuzzy values are shown in Table 3 below

**Table 3** - verbal expressions of the Fuzzy number

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
The fuzzy	Verbal Phrase
(1.0000, 1.0000, 1.0000)	No effect
(4.0000 ,3.0000 ,2.0000)	Very low effect
(6.0000,5.0000,4.0000)	Low effect
(8.0000, 7.0000, 6.0000)	High effect
(9.0000, 9.0000, 8.0000)	Huge effect

The matrix form is  $\tilde{x}_{ij} = (l_{ij}, m_{ij}, u_{ij})$  with a triangular fuzzy number  $\tilde{x}_{ii} = (i = 1, 2, 3, ..., n)$  and fuzzy numbers (0,0,0) are considered [13].

In this paper, all the experts use the arithmetic mean that is described in Equation (1)

$$\frac{\tilde{x}^1 \oplus \tilde{x}^2 \oplus \tilde{x}^3 \oplus ... \oplus x^p}{p} \tag{1}$$

In this Equation, p is the number of experts and  $\tilde{x}^1 \cdot \tilde{x}^2 \cdot \tilde{x}^p$  are the paired comparison matrix Expert 1, Expert 2 is a triangular fuzzy number that Certified by p.  $\tilde{z}$  Is a triangular fuzzy number  $\tilde{z}_{ij} = (l'_{ij}, m'_{ij}, u'_{ij})$ .

The normalized matrix obtained from Equation (1) can be used in Equation (2&3) as:

$$\widetilde{H}_{ij} = \frac{\widetilde{z}_{ij}}{r} = \left(\frac{l'_{ij}}{r}, \frac{m'_{ij}}{r}, \frac{u'_{ij}}{r}\right) = \left(l''_{ij}, m''_{ij}, u''_{ij}\right)$$
(2)

R is obtained from Equation (3) as:

$$r = \max_{1 \le i \le n} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{n} u_{ij} \right) \tag{3}$$

After obtaining the matrix, the matrix of fuzzy relations is obtained according to Equation (4 to 7)  $T = \lim_{k \to +\infty} (\widetilde{H}^1 \oplus \widetilde{H}^2 \oplus ... \oplus \widetilde{H}^k) \tag{4}$ 

Each element in the fuzzy number is  $\tilde{t}_{ij} = (l_{ij}^t, m_{ij}^t, u_{ij}^t)$  can be calculated as:

$$\left[l_{ij}^{t}\right] = H_l \times (I - H_l)^{-1}$$
 (5)

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_{ij}^{t} \end{bmatrix} = H_m \times (I - H_m)^{-1}$$

$$[u_{ij}^{t}] = H_u \times (I - H_u)^{-1}$$
(6)

$$[u_{ii}^{t}] = H_u \times (I - H_u)^{-1} \tag{7}$$

In this Equations, **I** is a unit matrix,  $H_l : H_m \cup H_u$  and each  $n \times n$  matrix are Elements of the lower number, the middle and high number of matrix H is created by triangular fuzzy numbers [14]. The Rows and columns matrix can be obtained by using Equation (8 & 9) to get

$$\widetilde{D} = (\widetilde{D}_i)_{n \times 1} = \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \widetilde{T}_{ij}\right]_{n \times 1} \tag{8}$$

$$\tilde{R} = (\tilde{R}_i)_{1 \times n} = \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{T}_{ij}\right]_{1 \times n} \tag{9}$$

The indicator's  $(\widetilde{D}_i + \widetilde{R}_i)$  importance and the relationship between the measure  $(\widetilde{D}_i - \widetilde{R}_i)$  is specified.  $\widetilde{D}_i - \widetilde{R}_i > 0$  if the measure is effective and if  $\widetilde{D}_i - \widetilde{R}_i < 0$  the criterion is effective [15].

**Table 4**  $\widetilde{D}_i + \widetilde{R}_i$  and  $\widetilde{D}_i - \widetilde{R}_i$  values of the influential factors criteria

<b>Table 4</b> $D_i + K_i$ and $D_i - K_i$ values of the influential factors efficient					
Influential factors	$\widetilde{D}_i + \widetilde{R}_i$	$\widetilde{D}_i - \widetilde{R}_i$			
Influential factor 1	(4.1451,7.5423,12.2998)	(-4.5754, -0.4997, 3.5793)			
Influential factor 2	(4.1137,7.4937,12.2517)	(-5.0202, -0.9800,3.1178)			
Influential factor 3	(4.1663,7.5749,12.3733)	(-4.9469, -0.8676,3.2602)			
Influential factor 4	(4.2119,7.6455,12.4873)	(-4.8736, -0.7459,3.4018)			
Influential factor 5	(4.1289,7.5173,12.2094)	(-4.9614, -0.9308,3.1191)			
Influential factor 6	(4.0516,7.3979,12.1642)	(-4.9383, -0.9205,3.1742)			
Influential factor 7	(4.1091,7.4868,12.2355)	(-4.6658, -0.6236,3.4606)			
Influential factor 8	(4.0158,7.3424,12.1212)	(-4.9868, -0.9739,3.1186)			
Influential factor 9	(4.1036,7.4783,12.2572)	(-4.5560, -0.5022,3.5976)			
Influential factor 10	(4.1097,7.4877,12.2621)	(-4.3083, -0.2472,3.8441)			
Influential factor 11	(4.0801,7.4420,12.1984)	(-4.4893, -0.4431,3.6290)			
Influential factor 12	(4.1279,7.5159,12.2877)	(-4.2544, -0.1941,3.9054)			
Influential factor 13	(4.0754,7.4348,12.1678)	(-4.2837, -0.2454,3.8087)			
Influential factor 14	(4.0535,7.4008,12.0986)	(-4.1688, -0.1656, 3.8763)			
Influential factor 15	(4.0993,7.4716,12.2079)	(-3.7130,0.3512,4.3957)			
Influential factor 16	(4.0556,7.4043,12.1148)	(-3.8047,0.2114,4.2545)			
Influential factor 17	(4.1547,7.5572,12.2922)	(-3.6632,0.4112,4.4743)			
Influential factor 18	(4.1172,7.4993,12.2079)	(-3.4295,0.6515,4.6612)			
Influential factor 19	(4.1080,7.4851,12.1911)	(-3.5939,0.4436,4.4892)			
Influential factor 20	(4.1356,7.5276,12.2922)	(-3.5218,0.5594,4.6349)			
Influential factor 21	(4.1317,7.5216,12.2637)	(-3.4169,0.6791,4.7151)			
Influential factor 22	(4.0879,7.4540,12.1278)	(-2.8043,1.2802,5.2356)			
Influential factor 23	(4.1971,7.6227,12.3492)	(-3.1712,0.9327,4.9808)			
Influential factor 24	(4.1930,7.6162,12.2704)	(-2.6212,1.4850,5.4562)			
Influential factor 25	(4.2305,7.6741,12.3666)	(-2.7787,1.3340,5.3573)			

#### **Result and Discussion**

The degree of centrality (Dx + Rx) in the DEMATEL, the impact strength are both dispatched and received. On the other hand, if the (Dx - Rx) is positive, then the evaluation criterion for x to be used to the impact of different assessment criteria for more than it receives. If (Dx - Rx) is negative, the criterion for x to get more of the other criteria, then it may receive. The values of (Dx - Rx) are shown in Table 5. We can observe a common cause-and-effect in a group of clusters. As a rule, the criteria to be included in the group of effect cluster, in particular,: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 14; and the cause of a cluster include 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25. The causal relations among the criteria can be proposed as a causal diagram (Figure 1). This Figure shows that the Willingness to take on the position of the most effective and the strongest relationship with the other criteria. Figure 1 also shows that the significance of the impact, and the impact of each of these criteria. On the horizontal axis and the vertical axis is the measurement of the impact of the graph, it shows that the impact of each of these criteria.

**Table 5** shows the numbers in the fuzzy Table 4.

Table 3 shows the numbers in the fuzzy Table 4.					
Influential factors	$(\widetilde{D}_i + \widetilde{R}_i)^{def}$	$(\widetilde{D}_i - \widetilde{R}_i)^{def}$			
Influential factor 1	7.8824	-0.4989			
Influential factor 2	7.8382	-0.9656			
Influential factor 3	7.9224	-0.8555			
Influential factor 4	7.9975	-0.7409			
Influential factor 5	7.8432	-0.9260			
Influential factor 6	7.7529	-0.9013			
Influential factor 7	7.8295	-0.6131			
Influential factor 8	7.7055	-0.9540			
Influential factor 9	7.8293	-0.4907			
Influential factor 10	7.8368	-0.2397			
Influential factor 11	7.7906	-0.4366			
Influential factor 12	7.8619	-0.1843			
Influential factor 13	7.7782	-0.2415			
Influential factor 14	7.7384	-0.1559			
Influential factor 15	7.8126	0.3463			
Influential factor 16	7.7447	0.2182			
Influential factor 17	7.8903	0.4084			
Influential factor 18	7.8309	0.6337			
Influential factor 19	7.8173	0.4456			
Influential factor 20	7.8707	0.5580			
Influential factor 21	7.8597	0.6641			
Influential factor 22	7.7810	1.2479			
Influential factor 23	7.9479	0.9187			
Influential factor 24	7.9240	1.4513			
Influential factor 25	7.9863	1.3117			

Table 5 shows that all the effects are highly connected to the given cause criteria. This result proved that the cause-and-effect clusters for graduation with distinction for higher education students

fulfill the criteria of this study. Figure 1 shows the interconnection between each cause to effect relation.

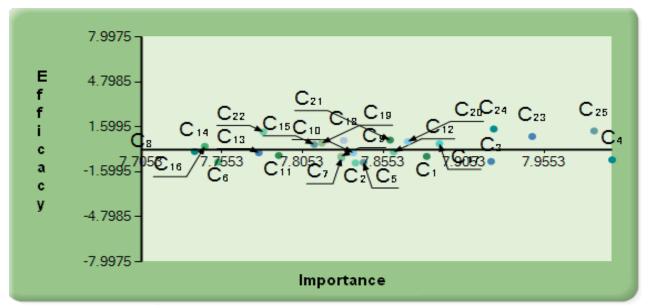


Figure 1. The impact and influence among the criteria

### **Conclusion**

In this paper, the evaluation on the success of graduating with distinction in higher education (SGDHE) using the fuzzy DEMATEL method has been done successfully. The observation has been done using cause and effect criteria. 11 cause and 14 effect clusters have been used in this study. The study result of this work shows that all the effects are connected to the given causes and a cause-effect graph has been generated for each connection. This work aims to initiate higher education students to graduate with distinction in their study program.

#### Reference

- [1].Zaidi, S. M. I. H., Arshad, M., & Yaqoob, N. (2015). Gender distinction in alexithymia among graduate students of Pakistan. European Journal of Research in Social Sciences Vol, 3(2).
- [2]. Eberhardt, D. (2018). Graduating with Honor: Best Practices to Promote Ethics Development in College Students: By Thomas G. Plante and Lori G. Plante, 2016. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 221 pages. ISBN 9781440841996. Hardback, \$20.98.
- [3]. Fernandes, A. K. (2020). "Be the Person You Ought to Be": A Convocation Speech to the Graduating Medical Student Class of 2020. The Linacre Quarterly, 0024363920947265.
- [4]. Purpel, D. E. (1999). Eyewitness to higher education: Confession and indictment. Counterpoints, 102, 39-56.
- [5]. Khoo, P., & Ost, B. (2018). The effect of graduating with honors on earnings. Labour Economics, 55, 149-162.
- [6]. Freier, R., Schumann, M., & Siedler, T. (2015). The earnings return to graduating with honors—Evidence from law graduates. Labour Economics, 34, 39-50.
- [7]. Popovich, M. J. (2002). If most intensive care units are graduating with honors, is it genuine quality or grade inflation?. Critical care medicine, 30(9), 2145-2146.

- [8].Mikhaiel, J. P., Pollack, J., Buck, E., Williams, M., Lott, A., Penner, J. C., & Ann Cary, M. (2020). Graduating With Honors in Resilience: Creating a Whole New Doctor. Global advances in health and medicine, 9, 2164956120976356.
- [9]. Freier, R., Schumann, M., & Siedler, T. (2014, January). The Economic Returns to Graduating with Honors-Evidence from Law Graduates. In fifth international workshop on Applied Economics of Education, Catanzaro, Italy, June (pp. 22-24).
- [10]. Ayçin, E., & Kayapinar Kaya, S. (2021). Towards the circular economy: Analysis of barriers to implementation of Turkey's zero waste management using the fuzzy DEMATEL method. Waste Management & Research, 0734242X20988781.
- [11]. You, X., & Hou, F. (2021). An improved DEMATEL method for multi granular hesitant fuzzy linguistic environment. International Journal of Intelligent Systems.
- [12]. Leblebicioğlu, B., & Keskin, A. (2021). Evaluation of Supplier Selection Criteria with Fuzzy DEMATEL Method: An Application on the Pharmacy Industry. Avrupa Bilim ve Teknoloji Dergisi, (23), 236-242.
- [13]. Maduekwe, V. C., & Oke, S. A. (2021). Novel Taguchi scheme-based DEMATEL methods and DEMATEL method for the principal performance indicators of maintenance in a food processing industry. International Journal of Intelligent Computing and Cybernetics.
- [14]. Zhang, Y., Rong, X., Shu, M., & Chen, Q. (2021). Identification of Key Influencing Factors of User Experience of Mobile Reading APP in China Based on the Fuzzy-DEMATEL Model. Mathematical Problems in Engineering, 2021.
- [15]. Hasheminezhad, A., Hadadi, F., & Shirmohammadi, H. (2021). Investigation and prioritization of risk factors in the collision of two passenger trains based on fuzzy COPRAS and fuzzy DEMATEL methods. Soft Computing, 25(6), 4677-4697.