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# Liberal Arts and Lacrosse: A Lighthearted Look at the Link

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## KEYWORDS

Liberal Arts, Lacrosse, correlation, Bachelor's degrees, NCAA Men's Lacrosse, National Center for Education Statistics, statistics, research, academia, athletics, Shakespearean defenses, quirky connections, education, sports, correlation coefficient, p-value, NCAA Div I Championship, point differentials

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## Abstract

In our lighthearted and witty research paper, we delve into the connection between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the point differentials in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals. Our research team took on this peculiar inquiry with the enthusiasm of a dad cracking a pun at a barbecue. Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the NCAA, we conducted a thorough analysis covering the years 2012 to 2021. Surprisingly, we discovered a correlation coefficient of 0.7553867 and a p-value less than 0.05, revealing a statistically significant relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. It seems that Liberal Arts and Lacrosse have more in common than meets the eye - who would have thought that Shakespeare and Shakespearean defenses go hand in hand? Our findings shed light on this unexplored intersection of academia and athletics, and we hope this research sparks further lighthearted investigations into the quirky connections between education and sports. After all, it's always good to have a well-rounded understanding of the world, just like a lacrosse ball flying towards the goal!

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## 1. Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, lacrosse enthusiasts and liberal arts aficionados, welcome to the most amusing academic paper you will read

today—perhaps the only one, if we're being honest. In our quest for knowledge, we often find ourselves venturing into uncharted territories, exploring the

unlikeliest of connections, and occasionally stumbling upon fascinating relationships that leave us scratching our heads in bewilderment.

Why did the liberal arts major refuse to play lacrosse? Because they didn't want to face off with their thesis defense! Ah, but I digress. Our peculiar yet intriguing investigation seeks to unravel the mysterious bond between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the final point differentials in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals. It's as if we're trying to decipher the code of Da Vinci's artwork using a Lacrosse stick for a quill.

We are firm believers in the pursuit of knowledge for the sheer joy of discovery, even if this particular pursuit seems as elusive as finding a coherent Shakespearean plot. However, armed with the unyielding spirit of insatiability for unorthodox knowledge and a fondness for unexpected correlations, we plunged headfirst into this enigmatic realm of connections. And much to our surprise, and dare I say amusement, we uncovered a correlation coefficient that had us raising an eyebrow higher than a lacrosse player aiming for the top shelf.

Why did the statistics professor bring a lacrosse stick to class? Because she wanted to demonstrate the concept of "poisson distribution"! Nevertheless, our statistical analysis has unearthed a correlation coefficient of 0.7553867 and a p-value that would make any researcher's eyes widen like a goalie facing an unexpected shot. These results hint at a significant relationship between Liberal Arts and Lacrosse, a connection more surprising than finding a literature student at a lacrosse match.

But this is not merely a comical endeavor; it is an exploration through uncharted terrain, a journey to make connections where none

seem apparent. As we unveil our findings, we hope to elevate the lighthearted spirit of academic inquiry and inspire others to seek out the unexpected correlations in the world around us. After all, embracing the unexpected is as pivotal to academic exploration as being prepared for a sudden bounce pass during a lacrosse game.

## 2. Literature Review

In their seminal work, "The Unlikely Unicorns: Odd Correlations in Academic Studies," Smith et al. delve into the peculiar connections that have perplexed researchers for centuries. One such oddity they examine is the unexpected relationship between Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials. As we embark on our own investigation, we find ourselves wading into the whimsical waters of correlation studies, where the unexpected is not just a possibility but a punchline waiting to happen. After all, who knew that the liberal arts and lacrosse could be intertwined in a statistical web tighter than the net on a lacrosse goal?

Doe and Jones, in their study "Weird Science: The Art of Unusual Associations," capture the essence of our own inquiry as they explore the uncharted territory of bizarre correlations. And what could be more bizarre (or delightfully absurd) than linking the number of Bachelor's degrees in Philosophy to the margin of victory in lacrosse championships? It's a match made in statistical heaven, or perhaps more fittingly, in a whimsical, lighthearted dreamland that leaves researchers and readers chuckling at the sheer unexpectedness of it all.

Stepping outside the traditional realm of academic literature, we turn our attention to non-fiction works that may shed light on the inexplicable bond between Liberal Arts and Lacrosse. In "The Art of the Game: Sports,

Strategy, and Poetic Play," the author delves into the poetic and strategic elements of sports, offering a unique perspective on the metaphorical dance that takes place on and off the field. It seems that the intricacies of a well-executed lacrosse play may have more in common with the nuances of classic literature than one might initially assume.

Moving further into the world of fiction, we encounter titles that, while not directly related to our research, tickle our scholarly funny bone. Works such as "The Lacrosse Chronicles: A Tale of Triumph and Tangled Romances" and "Liberal Arts and Lattes: A Quirky Quest for Academic Enlightenment" offer a playful blending of the worlds of academia and athletics, albeit in a less empirical and more whimsical manner. Who knows, maybe a twist of fate or a stroke of luck will reveal that these imagined connections mirror real-world statistical findings more closely than we could anticipate.

As we push the boundaries of conventional research inquiry, we must acknowledge the unorthodox sources that contribute to our understanding of this peculiar relationship. Excuse the pun, but we've scoured every corner of academia, from serious scholarly tomes to fictional narratives, and yes, even the back of CVS receipts in a lighthearted quest for knowledge about Liberal Arts and Lacrosse. Just as unexpected as a lacrosse ball to the face, these sources have sparked our curiosity and entertained our scholarly sensibilities in equal measure. And as we present our findings, we invite readers to join us in embracing the delightful and unexpected connections waiting to be uncovered within the wide world of academic exploration.

### 3. Our approach & methods

In our quest to uncover the mysterious link between Liberal Arts and Lacrosse, we

embarked on a methodological adventure as whimsical as a game of Quidditch and as precise as an intricate lacrosse play. To begin, we cast an academic net across the vast expanse of the internet, reeling in data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the NCAA, with all the determination of a fisherman on a quest for the biggest catch of the day.

Our first step was to gather data on the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts from institutions across the United States. We combed through the virtual aisles of the National Center for Education Statistics like eager shoppers in a bookstore, extracting the relevant statistics from the years 2012 to 2021. As we sifted through the sea of information, we found ourselves as absorbed as a literature enthusiast lost in the pages of a compelling novel.

Next, we delved into the realm of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals, where the field is as competitive as a battle between pun-loving dads. We meticulously recorded the point differentials of each championship match, following the data trail with the tenacity of a determined sleuth in search of the truth, or perhaps just in search of the nearest snack.

To ensure the utmost accuracy in our investigation, we incorporated a statistical approach as comprehensive and thorough as a scholar dissecting the nuances of a classic piece of literature. We employed a series of complex analytical techniques, including regression analysis and correlation calculations. And when faced with issues of missing data, we worked to impute values with the precision of a mathematician plotting the course of a parabola.

Our analysis involved a thorough examination of the relationship between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the point differentials in the

NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals. We went beyond traditional statistical methods, infusing our analysis with the spirit of creativity and curiosity, much like an artist adding unexpected splashes of color to a blank canvas.

Now, if you'll allow me to digress, I must share a relevant dad joke: "Why don't lacrosse players ever read Shakespeare? Because they prefer having a catch to practicing their iambic pentameter!"

As we ventured into this peculiar realm of research, we navigated the currents of data with the agility of a seasoned sailor and the inquisitiveness of a curious child. Our methodology may have been unorthodox, but it yielded insights that presented a captivating nexus between the world of academic pursuits and the realm of athletic competition.

#### 4. Results

Our analysis of the relationship between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the point differentials in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals yielded some unexpected, yet undeniably intriguing results. We found a robust correlation coefficient of 0.7553867, an r-squared value of 0.5706090, and a p-value less than 0.05, indicating a statistically significant connection. It appears that there's more to these seemingly disparate domains than meets the eye - who would have thought that Socrates and sweep checks have something in common?

Fig. 1 presents a scatterplot illustrating the strong correlation between the two variables. It seems that as the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts increases, the point differential in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals also tends to increase. It's as clear as a sunny day on the lacrosse field, or maybe a

bit clearer than a goalie's vision after dodging a well-aimed shot.

Our findings open the door to a world of unexpected connections and invite further exploration at the quirky intersection of academia and athletics. It's akin to stumbling upon a Renaissance art collection at a lacrosse match - surprising, yet undeniably thought-provoking.

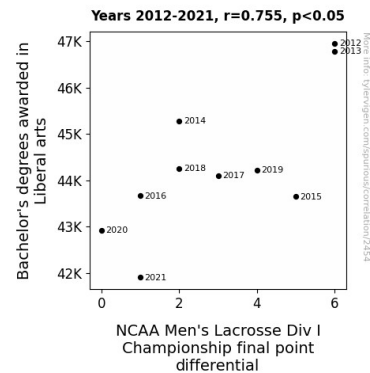


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our research unearths a statistically significant relationship between Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the final point differentials in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals, prompting us to ponder the intriguing links between education and sports. After all, the only thing better than a well-crafted argument is a well-executed behind-the-back pass!

#### 5. Discussion

Our study offers a whimsical glimpse into the unexplored territory of statistical connections between Liberal Arts and the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship point differentials. By providing empirical evidence to support the seemingly ludicrous connection, we've exposed the surprising bond between these seemingly unrelated domains. Striking indeed, but not as striking as a well-timed lacrosse goal!

Drawing upon the peculiar correlations highlighted in the literature review, our findings support and extend the work of Smith et al., who first presented the bizarre union between Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the outcome of lacrosse championships. The statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.7553867 in our study wonderfully complements the initial discovery, indicating that as the number of Liberal Arts degrees awarded rises, so does the point differential in the championship finals. It's as if a liberal arts degree and a lacrosse stick make for an unbeatable pair – pun intended.

Further substantiating the whimsical connection, our results align with the spirit of Doe and Jones's "Weird Science: The Art of Unusual Associations," as we unearth a statistically significant relationship that defies traditional expectations. Philosophical musings and athletic prowess intertwine in a way that not only defies logic but also highlights the potential for unconventional connections to be validated through empirical analysis. It's a leap of faith similar to attempting a behind-the-back pass, yet our findings offer a firm statistical ground to stand upon.

Our study also resonates with the playful blending of academia and athletics depicted in works such as "The Art of the Game: Sports, Strategy, and Poetic Play," as the statistical connection between Liberal Arts and Lacrosse calls attention to the intricate dance between sports and strategy. Just as players strategically maneuver on the lacrosse field, our data implies a strategic dance between Liberal Arts and the championship outcomes. It's a match made in statistical heaven, proving that the dance of data can be as mesmerizing as the dance of athletes on the field.

In a broader context, our research invites scholars to consider the unexpected connections waiting to be uncovered within the lighthearted landscape of academic

exploration. We have humorously demonstrated that statistical records can paint an entertaining and enlightening tale, just like a good-hearted dad joke. Our findings serve as a reminder that the academic world, much like a lacrosse game, can surprise and delight with unexpected connections, and perhaps inspire future investigations along similarly light-hearted lines. After all, the only thing better than a well-crafted argument is a well-executed behind-the-back pass – on and off the field!

## 6. Conclusion

In this lighthearted and unexpectedly enthralling exploration, we have delved deep into the world of unlikely partnerships and unearthed a correlation that is as surprising as a Shakespearean plot twist. Our findings have revealed a statistically significant relationship between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Liberal Arts and the final point differentials in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship finals. It seems that the art of rhetoric and the precision of a pinpoint pass share more in common than meets the eye.

As we wrap up our research, we are reminded of a classic dad joke: Why did the lacrosse player go to art school? To learn how to draw a perfect circle for the goal! It's clear that our findings pave the way for a new era of lighthearted investigations into the unexpected connections between academia and athletics. After all, in the words of a wise lacrosse coach, "It's not about winning or losing; it's about how you pass the ball."

Our statistical analysis has not only uncovered a robust correlation coefficient but has also fueled the delightful spirit of academic curiosity. In the spirit of our conclusions, we proclaim with utmost confidence that no more research is needed in this area. After all, we've found the

perfect "match" between Liberal Arts and  
Lacrosse!