Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Education with an emphasis in Educational Psychology

Brian Sheble

Ed.S. in School Psychology, May 2006, University of Missouri-St. Louis
M.A. in Counseling Psychology, January, 2003, Lindenwood University
B.A. in Education, May, 1999, Lindenwood University

Validity of the Barkley Deficits of Executive Functioning Short Form

Date: October 29, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Place: 454 Marillac Hall

Abstract
The Barkley Deficits of Executive Functioning-Short Form (BDEFS-SF) is a brief rating scale which measures executive functioning in adults. Dr. Russell Barkley developed the scale by using questions from the Barkley Deficits of Executive Functioning-Long Form and did not formally examine the scale for psychometric quality. Furthermore, an overall score currently summarizes subjects’ executive functioning skills on the BDEFS-SF. Not formally examining the scale and using an overall score as a summary of subjects’ executive functioning skills is problematic for several reasons. First, the BDEFS-SF should not be assumed to have psychometric quality without performing a formal psychometric analysis. Next, current research does not support using one overall score to summarize EF skills. To investigate the psychometric qualities of the BDEFS-SF a sample of two hundred and sixty-four men and women aged 18-35 completed the BDEFS-SF and demographic information. Principal Component and Parallel Analysis data extracted three latent variables. This process also found the BDEFS-SF to have a robust internal validity of .87. Then, a second group of men and women aged 18-35 were recruited to take individualized assessments of cognition/executive functioning and complete the BDEFS-SF. Results indicated that cognition is a separate construct from executive functioning and supported the formal validity of the BDEFS-SF. Alexander Luria’s Three Functional Unit Theory of Executive Functioning is used to provide a context to results. Limitations of this study and recommendations were made for future studies. This study provides some initial evidence that the BDEFS-SF is a short form scale that is a valid and reliable measure of executive functioning skills.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Dr. Cody Ding, Ph.D. - Chairperson
Dr. Michael Bahr, Ph.D
Dr. Keith Miller, Ph.D
Dr. Charis Price, Ph.D.