Andrew Soncrant Research Summer 15’

**Project Summary**This research takes an in-depth look at grade-inflation in colleges/universities across the United States. Grade inflation is the increase in grade point averages of college students over time. Questions looking to be answered are:

* Does grade inflation exist?
* Are any schools exempt from grade inflation, or more vulnerable to it?
  + i.e. UC System, Ivy Leagues, etc.
* Do different types of schools show differing degrees of inflation?
  + i.e. public vs private, large vs small, state school vs non-state, etc.
* Is inflation different across different majors?
  + i.e. STEM vs Humanities, etc.

**Approach**  
Data is available for college graduating GPA’s for many universities going back at least 25 years. This data would be collated, and analyzed according to a number of factors related to the above questions. From there a number of hypotheses will be tested to find out to what degree grade inflation exists, and if so, where it is most/least common.

**Why Research Grade Inflation?**GPA has long been considered a universal indicator of performance in college. If this research project reveals inflated GPA’s in some institutions more than others, than this may no longer be the case. GPA’s may be more reflective of an individual’s institution or field of study more than the individual themselves. If such a conclusion is reached, further research could be done to find an adjustment factor for GPA, making it a less biased indicator of performance.