

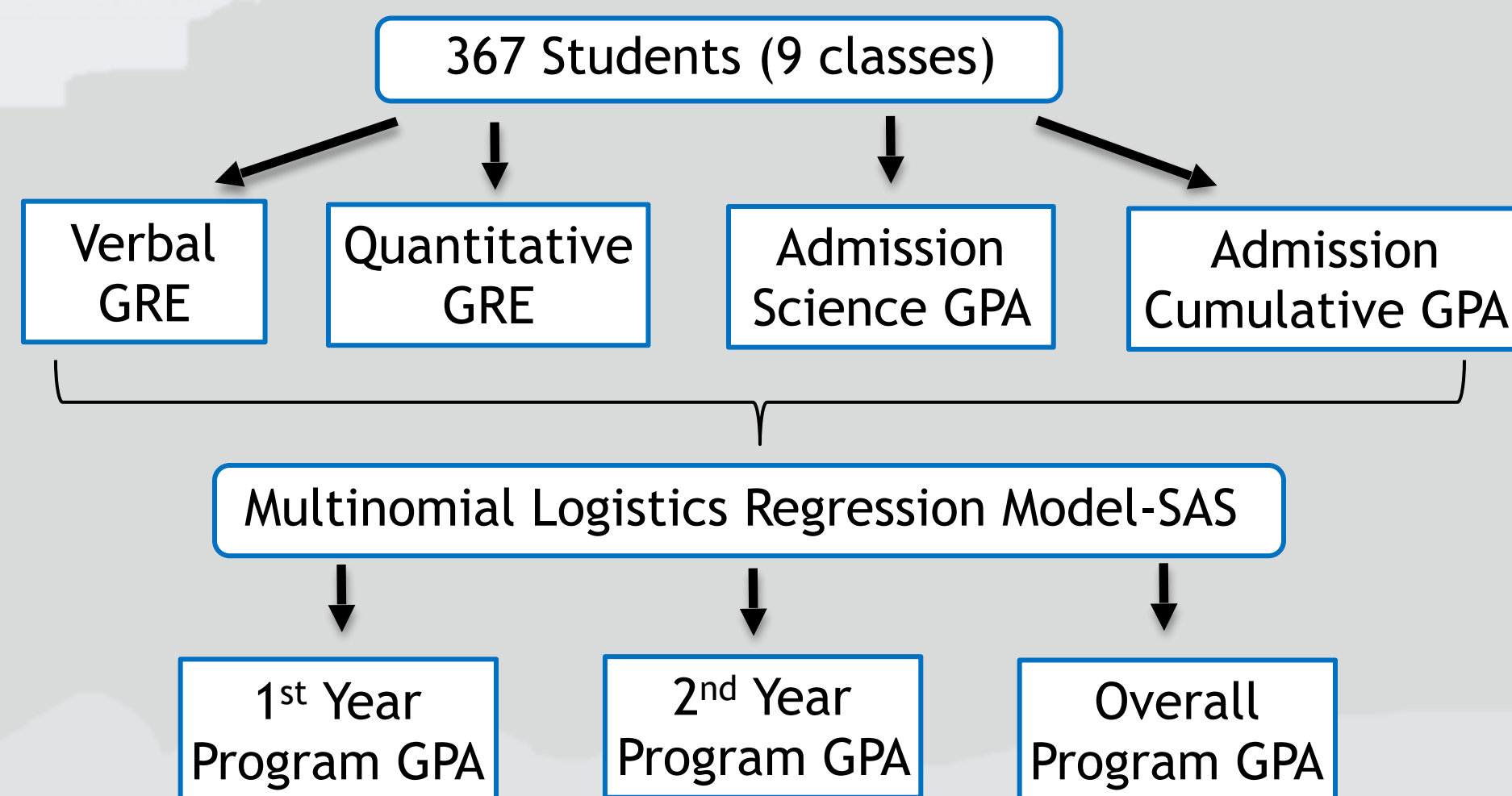
The Holy Grail of Admissions: What Role Do Admission Variables Play in Predicting Student Performance?

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PURPOSE

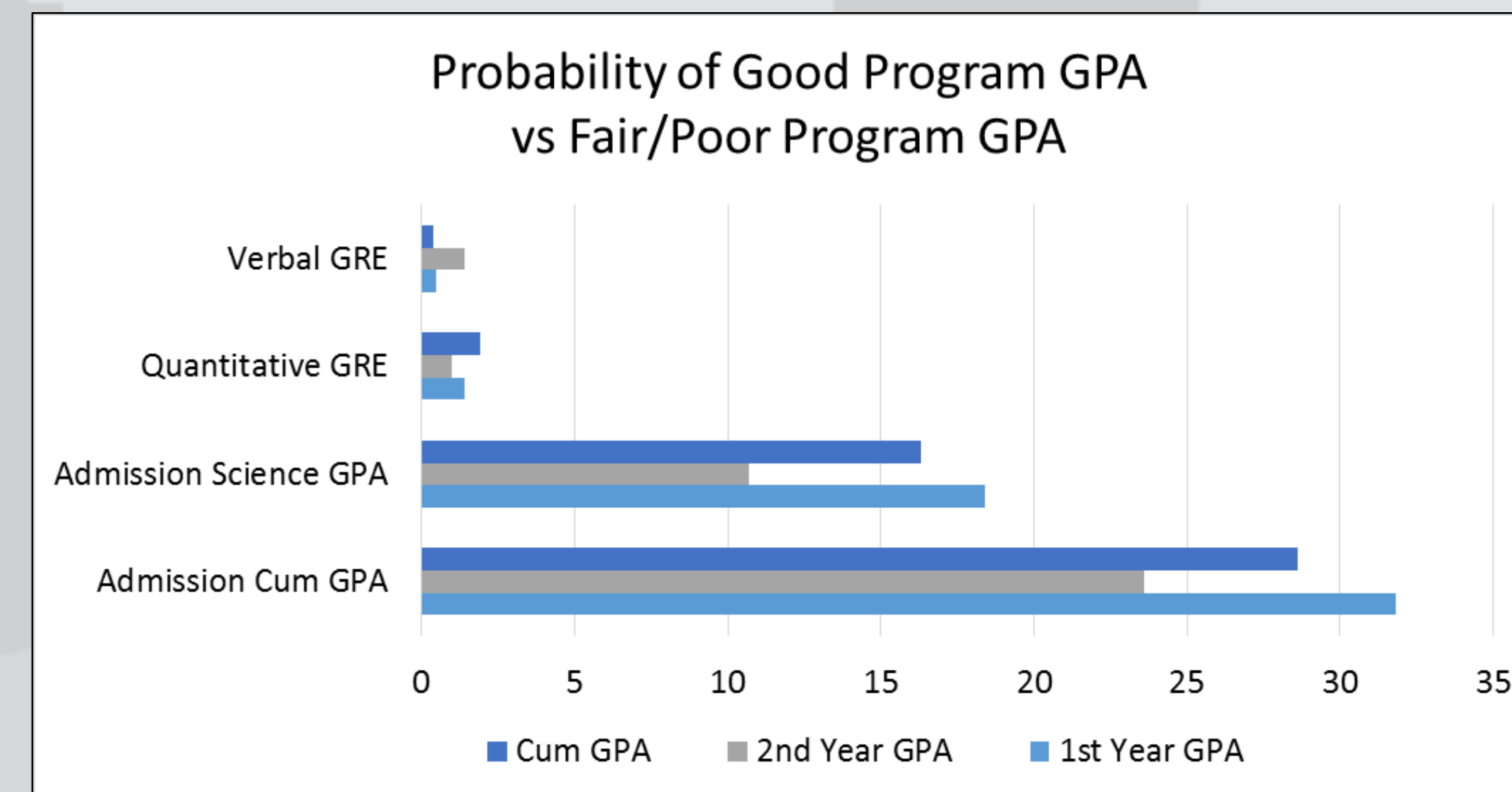
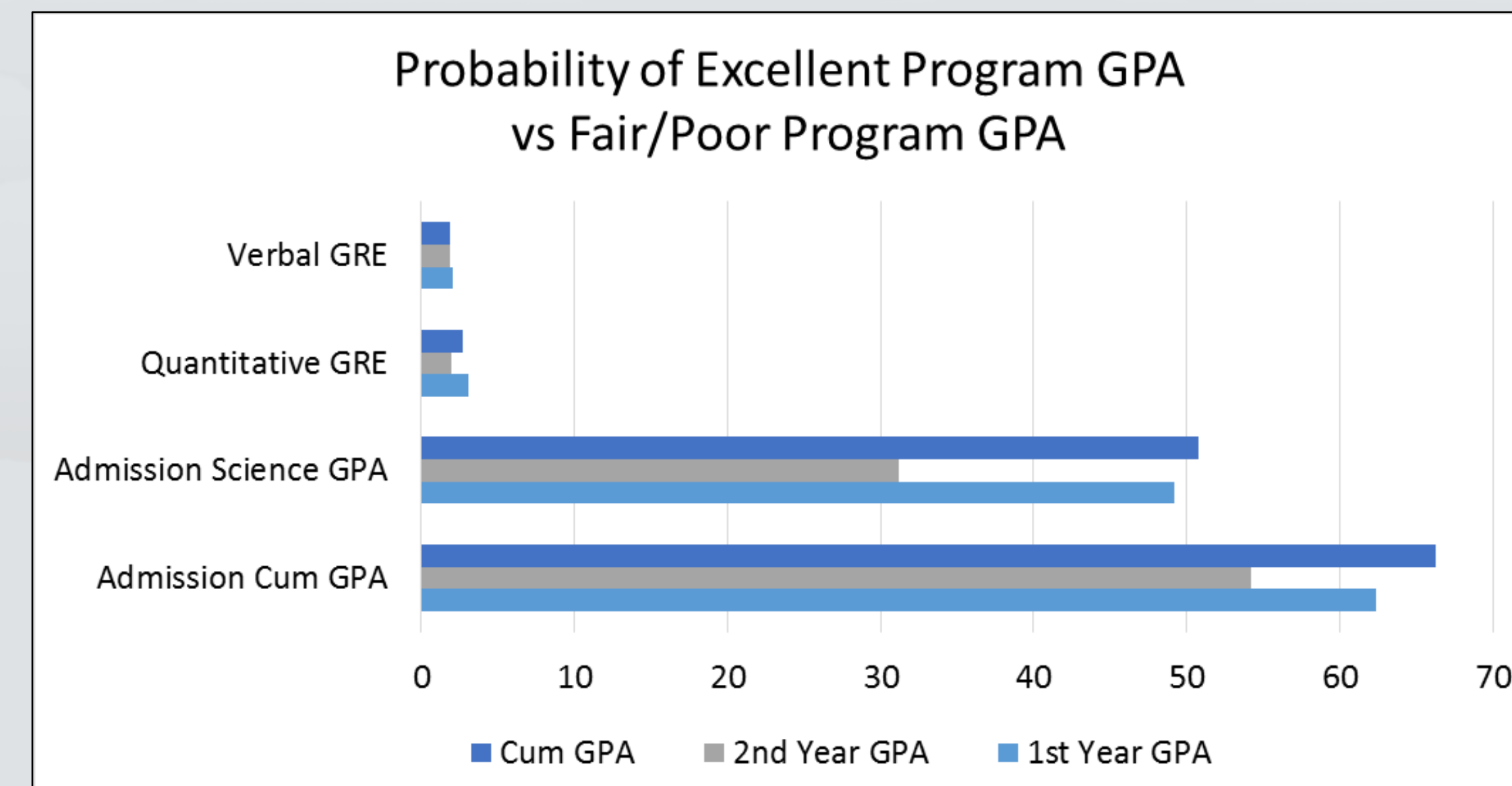
- Physician Assistant (PA) programs are challenged with limited program slots for an ever-growing applicant pool.
- Conflicting data exists over which admission variables identify strong students^{1,2}.
- Commonly, Verbal GRE, Quantitative GRE, science GPA, and cumulative GPA are utilized in conjunction with non-cognitive components in an attempt to predict the strongest PA students.
- The purpose of this study is to evaluate which admission variables predict strong academic performance in the University of Colorado PA Program.

METHODS



GPA groupings:
 Excellent: ≥ 3.70 , Good: 3.30-3.69, Fair/Poor: < 3.30

RESULTS



RESULTS

- Admission cumulative GPA is the best predictor of excellent and good program GPAs.
- Admission science GPA is also closely associated with excellent and good program GPAs.
- Verbal GRE scores are significantly less predictive of excellent or good program GPAs.
- Quantitative GRE scores are also significantly less predictive of excellent or good program GPAs.

DISCUSSION

- Research indicates the importance of self-assessment of admission data and associated student performance (1,2).
- Rather than relying on contrasting published studies or continuing to perpetuate established admission procedures, PA programs should ascertain for themselves which admission variables may predict students' ability to excel within each program's own curriculum.
- Several previous studies have found that standardized tests are the strongest indicators of academic performance for students in healthcare graduate programs (3,4).
- In contrast, this analysis finds that admission GPAs better predict students' success versus GRE scores within the University of Colorado PA Program.

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