

**Relationship between university matriculation examination scores
and the screening scores at the university of NIGERIA, NSUKKA (UNN)**

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In recent past there has been high level of criticism against the conduct of University Matriculation Examination (UME), an examination conducted by Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) in Nigeria as unreliable. Apart from the high level of malpractice associated with the examination, there was also categorization of centres as special or ordinary, depending on the strength of ones pocket. Because of the seemingly unreliable JAMB scores, coupled with the fact that some candidates who scored highly in UME could not defend such scores on admission, some Universities in Nigeria introduced post JAMB screening exercise. The University of Nigeria was among the first universities to carry out this exercise which was ab-initio recognized and supported by the immediate past Minister of Education in Nigeria.

With the introduction of this post – JAMB screening, it would appear that the problems of admitting wrong candidates into our universities has been solved. However, the resources required in carrying out this screening exercise, both human and material is enormous and overwhelming. It therefore became necessary to examine the two sets of scores to see whether it is proper to continue with the screening or use the already structure of JAMB to do the placement exercise as was used to be the case. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation statistic was the analytical tool for this study which involved the placement scores of students who wrote both the JAMB and screening examinations in some departments at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 2006/2007 academic year. Far reaching conclusion and recommendations were made based on the result of the study.