

Acknowledgments

This book examines the phenomenon of grade inflation and its impact on postsecondary education. Much of this investigation is based on research conducted by others, but a substantial portion originates from data collected at Duke University during the 1998–99 academic year. As a consequence, one might be tempted to conclude that grade inflation is a more serious problem at Duke than it is elsewhere. This is, of course, not true.

Grade inflation is a national, if not international, problem. Recent scandals over grading practices at Ivy League colleges and other top universities illustrate this point all too well. That this book was written using data collected at Duke University should therefore not be regarded as an indictment of Duke, but should instead be viewed as an indication that many professors and administrators at Duke were concerned with this problem and were willing to confront it. This book would not have been possible without their support, and probably would not have been written at many other universities.

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