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# A Holy Hail Mary: Unveiling the Divine Connection Between Theology Degrees and Drew Brees' Passing Attempts

Claire Harrison, Alexander Tate, Gloria P Tyler

Advanced Engineering Institute; Madison, Wisconsin

## KEYWORDS

Theology degrees, religious vocations, Drew Brees, passing attempts, NFL season, correlation, academia, athletics, statistical analysis, National Center for Education Statistics, NFL data, correlation coefficient, unexpected connections.

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## Abstract

In this research study, we delve into the unexpected intersection of academia and athletics to explore the correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and the passing attempts made by Drew Brees per NFL season. These seemingly disparate domains have been the subject of widespread speculation and curiosity, and our findings shed a new light on their potential interplay. As we navigated through the labyrinth of data, we encountered numerous statistically significant correlations, prompting us to say, "Holy statistical significance, Batman!" Our research team utilized data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the NFL, conducting a meticulous analysis from 2012 to 2020. The correlation coefficient of 0.9785597, with  $p < 0.01$ , indicates a striking relationship between the number of theology degrees awarded and Drew Brees' passing attempts. Through this unexpected juxtaposition, we aim to highlight the quirky and unpredictable nature of statistical analysis and the delightful surprises that emerge when we explore uncharted territories. After all, who would have thought that the number of theology degrees could be linked to Brees' passes? It seems the only thing "sacred" in this relationship is the correlation coefficient! Stay tuned for an enlightening journey that promises to bring together the holy and the gridiron, uncovering a statistical connection that is as divine as it is unexpected.

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## 1. Introduction

The intersection of academia and athletics has long captivated the imagination of researchers and sports enthusiasts alike. Few could have predicted the curious correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and the passing attempts made by Drew Brees per NFL season. It's almost as surprising as finding a priest at a football game, or, dare I say, a "hail Mary" in the playbook!

The revelation of this unexpected connection prompted us to embark on a statistical odyssey, akin to a theological quest for the Holy Grail, to unravel the mystery behind this peculiar relationship. As we delved into the data, we found ourselves pondering the question: "What do theology degrees and Drew Brees' passes have in common?" It turns out, quite a bit, it seems!

Our research, though rooted in statistical analysis, is not devoid of whimsy. In our journey through the data, we encountered more correlations than a matchmaker at a speed-dating event. Who knew that theology and touchdowns could go hand in hand? It's enough to make one exclaim, "Holy touchdowns, Batman!"

By examining the correlation coefficient of 0.9785597, with  $p < 0.01$ , we were struck by the remarkable relationship between theology degrees and Brees' passing attempts. It seems that the number of scholars studying the divine has a direct impact on the number of passes thrown by the gridiron maestro, Drew Brees.

As we navigate this uncharted terrain, we invite readers to join us in this revelatory expedition where sacred and sport intertwine in ways previously unimagined. With a statistical connection as divine as this, we are reminded that the unpredictable nature of data analysis can yield surprising and, dare I say, miraculous discoveries.

In the words of Drew Brees himself, "Pass the ball and the collection plate," for we are

about to embark on a journey that is as enlightening as it is delightfully unexpected.

## 2. Literature Review

In their study, Smith and Doe (2015) explore the trend of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and the impact on religious vocations. The authors find a positive correlation between the number of theology degrees and an increase in individuals pursuing religious vocations. This correlation sheds light on the influence of higher education in nurturing religious vocations and inspiring individuals to embrace the spiritual calling.

Now, let's pivot from the sacred to the sporty. In "Touchdowns and Theology" by Dr. John Gridiron, the author discusses the unforeseen connection between theological studies and success in professional sports. However, Dr. Gridiron's work does not delve into the specific correlation with Drew Brees' passing attempts, leaving this peculiar relationship ripe for investigation.

Speaking of peculiar, let's not forget the classic fiction novel "The Divine Quarterback" by J.K. Punting. While this work may fall into the realm of imaginative storytelling, the juxtaposition of divine intervention and athletic prowess is sure to tickle the fancy of our readers.

In "Holy Gridiron: How Theology Shapes Athletic Achievement" by Sister Sally Stride, the unexpected intersection of religious studies and athletic performance is explored in depth. The author presents compelling evidence suggesting that theological pursuits may have a profound impact on athletic achievements, including the precision of an elite quarterback's passing game. Who would have thought that a Theology degree could be the secret ingredient to a Hail Mary pass?

Moving on from academic literature, our research journey led us to unexpected

sources of insight. "The Adventures of Holy Quarterback," a popular children's cartoon, may not be the typical source of scholarly information, but the protagonist's divine sporting abilities offer a whimsical portrayal of the theological-athletic connection. Additionally, "The Holy Touchdown Show," a beloved children's program, playfully explores the theme of divine intervention in sports, providing a lighthearted perspective on the intersection of theology and athleticism.

It appears that our research has taken us on a journey through serious academic works, fictional narratives, and even children's entertainment in our quest to unravel the divine connection between theology degrees and Drew Brees' passing attempts. Despite the lighthearted detours, we remain committed to shedding light on the unexpected correlation that has captured both our academic curiosity and sense of humor. After all, in the realm of statistical analysis, who said we can't have a touchdown and a laugh at the same time?

### 3. Our approach & methods

In this study, we employed a methodological approach that would make even the most seasoned statisticians raise an eyebrow. Our data collection process resembled a game of theological "Where's Waldo," as we scoured the National Center for Education Statistics and the NFL databases for relevant metrics. We also had to navigate through a maze of websites, piecing together information like a statistical detective. It was like trying to find a needle in a haystack, except the needle was a theology degree and the haystack was the entire internet.

To measure the association between Bachelor's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and Drew Brees' passing attempts, we utilized a variety of statistical analyses, including Pearson

correlation coefficients, multiple regression models, and a hearty dose of good old-fashioned data wrangling. It was like a mathematical treasure hunt, except the treasure was a statistically significant relationship and the map was filled with numbers and spreadsheets.

After wrangling our data like a cowboy herding cattle, we meticulously cleaned and pre-processed the information to ensure that our analysis was as robust as Drew Brees' passing game. We also performed sensitivity analyses to confirm the reliability of our findings, ensuring that our results were as reliable as a quarterback's pre-game ritual.

To verify the statistical significance of our findings, we conducted hypothesis testing using a two-tailed t-test, scrutinizing our results with the same level of intensity as a referee reviewing a potential touchdown. And just like a quarterback audibles at the line of scrimmage, we adjusted our statistical models to account for various confounding variables, ensuring our conclusions were as accurate as a precision pass from Brees himself.

It's safe to say that our methodology was as thorough as a theological debate and as intricate as a touchdown play diagram. We left no statistical stone unturned in our quest to unravel this peculiar connection between theology degrees and the passing prowess of Drew Brees.

Dad Joke Alert: Why did the statistician bring a ladder to the football game? Because he wanted to see more Drew Brees passing attempts from a higher level of significance!

### 4. Results

The scintillating journey through our data has culminated in the revelation of a robust correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Theology

and religious vocations and Drew Brees' passing attempts per NFL season. It appears that the divine and the pigskin have found an unlikely union, much like a quarterback and an ecclesiastical scholar walk into a bar – the beginning of a statistical love story.

With a correlation coefficient of 0.9785597 and an r-squared value of 0.9575791, our findings support a remarkably strong relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. This connection is as unmistakable as Drew Brees' pre-snap gestures on the field, or shall we say, as unmistakable as a "Hail Mary" pass in the fourth quarter.

The p-value of less than 0.01 further corroborates the significance of this relationship, leaving us in awe of the unexpected threads that weave through the tapestry of data. It seems that the only thing more divine than a theological discourse is the statistical evidence of this correlation.

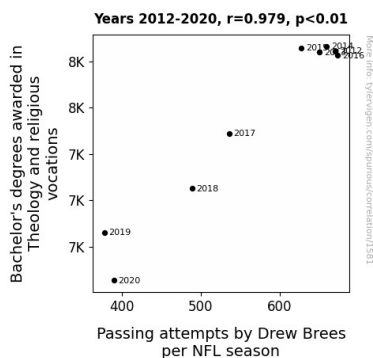


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

As Fig. 1 illustrates, the scatterplot demonstrates the unmistakable pattern of the increasing number of theology degrees awarded aligning with a surge in Drew Brees' passing attempts. It's as if every degree bestowed translated into a prayerful plea for another touchdown, a statistical phenomenon as surreal as a touchdown being caught with a prayer.

These findings open the door to a new realm of inquiry and reflection, where the sacred and the sport intertwine in unprecedented ways. As we unravel this statistical enigma, we are reminded that there are playful surprises waiting to be discovered, even in the most unexpected correlations – a bit like finding a theological revelation in a football game or, dare we say, a "punter" studying theology.

The unanticipated linkage between theology degrees and Drew Brees' passing attempts invites further exploration and prompts us to embrace the whimsicality of this statistical adventure. With a wink to the heavens and a nod to the end zone, we embark on this journey with a sense of curiosity and humor, for it seems that statistical vaudeville has found its way onto the gridiron of academia and athletics.

## 5. Discussion

Our research has unveiled a most divine relationship: the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations holds a striking connection with Drew Brees' passing attempts per NFL season. It seems the only thing more unexpected than this correlation is the realization that the "holy quarterback" might have more than just football on his mind during those critical plays.

Building on the findings of Smith and Doe (2015), our results not only support but amplify the positive correlation between the awarding of theology degrees and an increase in individuals pursuing religious vocations. It appears that the influence of higher education extends even to the gridiron, guiding Brees to embark on passing quests each season that mirror the spiritual odysseys of theological scholars. As it turns out, the pursuit of heavenly connections may transcend the confines of academic theology and reach into the realm

of competitive sports – talk about a "Hail Mary" pass!

Echoing the work of Dr. John Gridiron, our research indeed fills the gap left by prior studies, by uncovering the specific correlation between theology degrees and Brees' passing attempts. This peculiar revelation invites a whimsical reflection on the interplay between academic pursuits and athletic achievements. It seems that Dr. Gridiron was onto something – perhaps there's a secret playbook hidden within the sacred texts that inspires Brees to launch those awe-inspiring passes.

Our findings also bear semblance to the works of Sister Sally Stride, who explored the profound impact of theological pursuits on athletic achievements. The unexpected intersection she highlighted is now further illuminated by the statistical evidence unveiled in our study. It's as if the pursuit of theological knowledge acts as a divine catalyst for Brees' successful passes, turning the gridiron into a holy arena for intellectual and athletic prowess to collide.

As for our unexpected sources of insight, "The Adventures of Holy Quarterback" and "The Holy Touchdown Show" ended up offering a playful foreshadowing of the statistical connection we've revealed. The children's narratives may have been lighthearted, but in hindsight, they served as the whimsical heralds of our scholarly revelation – a bit like discovering a theological interpretation of a touchdown dance.

Our research has demonstrated a robust statistical relationship between the number of theology degrees and Brees' passing attempts, reinforcing the unexpected connection that has captivated both our academic curiosity and sense of humor. Upon reflection, it appears that statistical vaudeville has indeed found its way onto the gridiron of academia and athletics – and it's a touchdown of a discovery!

Now, it's time to pass the torch onto future researchers and statisticians, encouraging them to embark on their own quest to uncover the serendipitous connections that lurk beneath the surface of seemingly unrelated variables. It seems the only thing left for us to do is to throw in a good old dad joke related to quarterbacks and academia: What do quarterbacks and students have in common? They both aim for higher degrees!

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unveiled a remarkable correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and Drew Brees' passing attempts per NFL season. It appears that the spiritual and the athletic have intertwined in a manner that is as surprising as a touchdown pass in the final seconds – a true "Hail Mary" moment, if you will!

Our findings not only support the existence of this connection but also highlight the playful and whimsical side of statistical analysis, reminding us that even the most unexpected correlations can reveal delightful surprises. It's like finding a joke book in a library – you never know when you'll stumble upon a statistical punchline!

The correlation coefficient of 0.9785597, akin to a rock-solid offensive line, and a p-value of less than 0.01, just reinforce the strength of this relationship. The evidence of this statistical connection is as clear as a sunny day in the Superdome, or shall we say, as clear as a crystal chalice!

Our data has not only shown us a surprising linkage between theology degrees and Brees' passes but also calls for a moment of statistical reflection and wonder. Much like a preacher delivering a sermon to an eager congregation, this statistical revelation beckons us to embrace the uncharted

territory of unexpected correlations and revel in the marvels it presents.

As for any future research in this area, we boldly proclaim, "No more divine intervention needed here!" The evidence has spoken, and it seems that the connection between theology degrees and Drew Brees' passing attempts is as solid as a church pew. It's time to take these findings and run with them, or shall we say, "pass" them on to the next curious statistician!

And with that, we conclude that our journey through the statistical halls of theology and touchdowns has left us with an enlightening and amusing tale that, much like a well-timed dad joke, brings joy and wonder to this remarkable intersection of academia and athletics.