# IDENTIFICATION AND MODEL FORMULATION <br> OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE <br> ATTRIBUTES 

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ATTRIBUTES

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## PREFACE

This study focused on the identification and model formulation of professional service attributes using professional development programs as the primary service category. The concepts of professional service attribute classes and hierarchy was introduced and tested empirically. Attribute structure was reduced and formulated into a more manageable framework for future study. The data of this study was gathered using expert judgment and a mail survey. The responses were evaluated using a number of statistical methods.

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## CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

## Nature of the Problem

The modeling of consumer preferences among multiattribute alternatives has been of great interest and concern to marketers. This stream of marketing research is based on the premises that consumers value goods and services for the attributes (characteristics) which they possess and that different products are essentially different packages of attributes. This view of products has been employed in applications of multi-attribute models and in recent economic theory (Baumol 1967; Green, Wind, and Jain 1972; Heeler, Okechuku, and Reid 1979; Jain et al. 1979; Lancaster 1966, 1971, 1976; Wilkie and Pessemier 1973).

Historically, the concept of product attributes has been approached intuitively without precise definition as to what a product attribute is or what it is not. Several contrasting streams of product attribute thought have emerged among marketing researchers and economists (Geistfeld, Sproles, and Badenhop 1977). Marketing researchers have implicitly defined product attributes in terms of consumer subjective judgments directed toward specific features possessed by a product as used in multi-attribute attitude models (Wilkie
and Pessemier 1973). This research involves identification of the choice alternatives and associated attributes, the estimation of part-worth contributions of each attribute, and the specification of a representational model to obtain overall utility of choice alternatives. Attributes have ranged from such specific purchasing criteria as price and brand name to more abstract and subjective perceptions of features such as convenience and safety. From this perspective, anything that a consumer perceives about a product may qualify as a product attribute.

A differing stream of thought has emerged among economists. Lancaster $(1966,1971,1976)$ explicitly defines product characteristics as those properties of a product which are relevant to consumer choice, quantitative, objectively measurable, and universal. Cowling and Cubbin (1971) argue that there is a functional relationship between those services of a product which a consumer demands and the characteristics of a product. Product characteristics produce what the consumer wants, which implies differing types of product characteristics: (1) basic objectively measurable product characteristics and (2) abstractions of those basic characteristics to higher level performance or service characteristics. Using Cowling and Cubbin's concept of product characteristics, Maynes (1976) defines product characteristics as only those service characteristics which give rise to utility. Product features which give rise to utility are not considered product characteristics. Geistfeld, Sproles,
and Badenhop (1977) define a product characteristic as any feature of a product which is intrinsic to the product and which, directly or indirectly, influences a consumer's evaluation of a specific product variety. Product variety is a product-brand-model combination. Their definition excludes attributes extrinsic to the product variety such as price and brand name. These elements are not included in the characteristic domain of the purchase decision and are identified as a separate set of extrinsic purchasing criteria. The true product characteristic is based on an identifiable physical feature or an abstraction of features to the service performed for the consumer.

The economic perspective of conceptualizing levels and classes of product characteristics (attributes) provides a preliminary unifying theory for viewing consumer goods attributes. An important question addressed in this study concerns the relevance of these advances where the products are more appropriately classified as services or intangibles.

The development of marketing concepts and models for service attributes has been sporadic and is weakly linked. The marketing literature suggests that services marketing in general has suffered from the influence of marketing ideas and concepts developed for consumer goods marketing, e.g., that the theories of consumer goods marketing can be generalized to other areas, such as services. Shostack (1977) believes that marketing itself is myopic in having failed to
treat relevant paradigms for the service sector. Gummesson (1978) finds that existing marketing of goods theories have become straight-jackets in developing a marketing theory to provide for the unique features of services. These unique features or special characteristics, according to Tinsley and Lewis (1977) and Zeithami (1981), include the idea that services are intangible, nonstandardized, and inseparable.

The lack of conceptual development is even more pronounced when considering professional services marketing and professional service attributes. Professional services marketing literature is conceptually vague and generally involves recommendations for buying or selling management consulting services. The marketing of medical, legal, dental, educational, or accounting services is scarcely discussed. Research on professional services attributes is very fragmental and generally subsidiary to the primary purposes of most studies. Sarkar and Selah (1974) explored the characteristics of consulting professional engineers with respect to the influence these attributes have upon the clients' hiring process. The study showed that considerable differences exist between buyers' and sellers' perceptions of the relative importance of attributes for hiring. Ratchford and Andreasen (1972) concluded that the physician selection process is an important, complex, subjective decision about which little information is available. Feldman and Spencer (1975) and Kuehl and Ford (1977) concluded that personal information sources seem to dominate the selection
personal information sources seem to dominate the selection process for professional services. Smith and Meyer (1980) studied the information needs of consumers during their attorney selection process and found a considerable difference between the attributes actually used in the selection process and the attributes consumers think should be used.

Given the confusion surrounding services attributes and the paucity of conceptual and empirical work on professional services in particular, an exploratory study of professional services attributes was undertaken. Borrowing from the research on goods characteristics, this study focuses on the identification of determinant professional services attributes and the analysis of different levels and classes of attributes which have the greatest potential significance to buyer decision making. An opportunity to examine professional services attributes was available through the Division of University Extension at Oklahoma State University. The University Extension division is responsible for delivering professional development (continuing education) programs to consumer and industrial buyers. These services are promoted through both the distribution of direct mail brochures and personal contacts. As such, the service contains a complex array of attributes representative of many professional services and provides an appropriate environment for the exploratory analysis.

## Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this dissertation was to present conceptually and measure empirically determinant professional service attributes. This investigation addressed the usefulness of a hierarchy of attributes, and two attribute levels were specified. Following the economics viewpoint of goods characteristics, basic identifiable physical features are classified as low level intrinsic attributes. Abstractions of those basic characteristics to higher levels of performance or service characteristics are classified as high level intrinsic attributes. An evaluation was also conducted to examine the relationship between the intrinsic attributes and attributes extrinsic to the professional service. Extrinsic attributes are those elements or purchasing criteria such as supplier characteristics. Appropriate program experience, employment, and demographic variables were also evaluated. The results of this research provided preference model formulation implications for professional services attributes and marketing strategy implications for the seller of professional development programs.

Accomplishment of the major purpose implies the accomplishment of important objectives. These objectives are to

1. Generate a comprehensive listing of attributes for a professional service that includes high level intrinsic attributes, low level
intrinsic attributes, and extrinsic purchasing attributes.
2. Determine what attributes buyers consider important in selecting a professional service and what attributes buyers feel affect the quality of the service.
3. Evaluate the perceived difference in importance between high level intrinsic, low level intrinsic, and extrinsic purchasing attributes.
4. Evaluate the relationship between high level and low level intrinsic attributes and between intrinsic and extrinsic attributes.
5. Determine whether the complete attribute listing can be reduced to a smaller number of determinant factors for model formulation.
6. Examine respondents' program experience, employment, and demographic variables for similarities with respondents' attribute evaluations.

General Overview of the Study

This study was concerned with developing a listing of attributes for professional development programs and measuring and analyzing the significance of these attributes to buyer decision making. The attributes were generated from individuals involved in supplying professional development programs at Oklahoma State University and previous buyers of
professional development programs. The listing of service attributes derived from these sources was classified according to high and low level intrinsic and extrinsic purchasing attributes. From this analysis, a survey instrument was developed to collect the data for answering the remaining research questions. This survey instrument was mailed to a sample of past buyers of professional development programs offered by the College of Business Administration's Office of Business Extension at Oklahoma State University. The size of the sample was based on available resources, anticipated response, and analytical requirements. Various correlations and multivariate analysis methods were employed to explore the data.

## Limits of the Study

An exploratory study of professional services attributes was conducted to investigate buyer preferences for professional development programs. The data collected by the survey instrument included perceptual and attitudinal information regarding the salience of factors related to purchase behavior. An inherent assumption is that respondents can accurately identify the influence of product attributes that impacted their decision process and that the survey instrument can adequately measure that response. With limited time and financial resources, this study used buyers of professional development programs from Oklahoma State University as the population frame, thus
limiting generalizations of the results to a broader population. Caution should also be used in generalizing the results to other professional service categories.

Plan of Action

Chapter II presents a review of the conceptual and empirical work in service marketing and the marketing of professional services. In addition, this review includes a literature review of theory development and measurement of product attributes. Chapter III presents the research methodology. Chapter IV discusses the data and the analysis of the study results, and Chapter $V$ contains the summary, conclusions, and implications for further research.

## CHAPTER II

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this chapter is to present a review of pertinent literature to establish a foundation for the current research. Three areas will be covered: (1) the marketing of services, (2) the marketing of professional services, and (3) the theory and measurement of product and service attributes.

The Marketing of Services

When consumer or organizational buying behavior is discussed, the marketing of goods is generally considered. Little attention has been given to the problems involved in marketing services even though a significant number of services are marketed in the consumer and organizational sectors (Advertising Age 1979; Bateson 1979). From a search of the literature, service marketing has suffered from the influence of marketing theories developed for consumer and industrial goods marketing. Marketing literature adheres to the idea that the theories of goods marketing can be generalized to other areas, such as services. Merely adopting product (goods) marketing's labels does not resolve the question of whether product marketing can be overlaid
on service business (Shostack 1977). Concepts and models for marketing mix planning today do not seem applicable to companies in service industries (Gronroos 1979). The "product" of service firms is extremely complicated, and the product development process involves elements normally not considered. The resources influencing the accessibility of the service and the personal market communication are integrated parts of the service, as well as possible auxiliary services. Wyckham, Fitzroy, and Mandry (1975) question the applicability of the separation of the simple product and service taxonomy since the service product classification scheme differentiates both on product and service attributes and attributes of the market. Tinsley and Lewis (1977) point out that services have special attributes which require a reformation of the elements of the marketing mix.

In summary, confusion surrounding services marketing is attributed to three general areas: (1) the questionable services concept, (2) the opinion that everybody is in services, and (3) the view that marketing research helping companies in goods industries would help service firms equally well. The service concept is confusing because no distinction is made between services as objects of marketing and services as marketing variables (Johnson 1970). Marketing of services concerns services in the first sense of the concept. The service is the object of marketing when the service is the core of the marketing offering. When services are treated as a means of competition, the core of the
selling proposition is a physical good. Therefore, there are either goods--with or without service support--or services which make it possible to use goods or which are accompanied by goods.

Additional confusion exists because it has been popular to consider all marketing to be services marketing (Levitt 1972). Consumers are not buying goods or services, but the value satisfaction of offerings. There are no goods industries or service industries, but industries with varying degrees of service components; thus, everybody is in service.

Finally, it is frequently assumed that the concepts and models used in goods marketing are equally well applied to services marketing. However, the planning instrument developed to assist in solving the problems of goods industries may well not be applicable when planning services marketing (Shostack 1977).

## Services Attributes

A traditional definition of "marketed services" provided by Judd (1964) is
. . . a market transaction by an enterprise or an entrepreneur where the object of the market transaction is other than the transfer of ownership [and title, if any] of a tangible commodity (p. 69).

Judd suggests his definition has the defect of any definition by exclusion in that, from the definition itself, nothing can be learned about what are the essential attributes of a service. Other variations of the formal
definition of services are provided by Baranoff and Donnelly (1970), Johnson (1970), Levitt (1967), Rathmell (1974), Regan (1963), and Shostack (1977).

One of the first efforts to distinguish services attributes was provided by Regan (1963). In this classic article, "The Service Revolution," he identifies four unique service attributes: intangibility, perishability, heterogeneity, and ubiquity. These four unique features make the comprehension of services difficult. In addition to these four features, Baranoff and Donnelly (1970) identified other distinguishing features of services that lead to difficult problems in determining marketing mix ingredients. These included fluctuating demand, highly differentiated marketing systems, lack of need for logistics functions, and client relationships. Although Johnson (1970) agrees with these differences between goods and services, he believes the key feature all services have in common is intangibility. He suggests that several problems result from the intangibility of services: (1) services are difficult to demonstrate, display, or illustrate in advertisements; (2) buyers are usually unable to judge quality and value prior to purchase [also discussed in Fisk (1981) and Zeithami (1981)]; and (3) production and consumption of services frequently occur simultaneously and the separability of a service and its producer is difficult.

Rathmell (1974) suggests that a service can be distinguished from a good by the nature of the product's utility.

In pure goods, the utility lies in the physical attributes of the product. For a service the utility comes from the nature of the action or performance of the product. Applying this test, there are a few pure goods and pure services. Most products lie on a continuum between pure goods and pure services. Most goods are a complex of goods and facilitating services, and most services are a complex of services and facilitating goods.

Judd (1968) discussed the similarities and differences in product and service retailing. In product and service development he found differences in the lack of legal protection for service ideas, the limited value of the brand or trademark in conferring market control, and the lack of promotional possibilities through packaging and labeling. In sales effort there are differences in the degree to which some media are used, the obvious lack of use of displays, and the lack of service product differentiation. In the area of price management, service marketing differs from product retailing in the absence of trade discounts, quantity discounts, and geographical pricing methods. Gronroos (1978) discusses marketing planning and concludes that services attributes differ from goods and cannot be treated like goods in a marketing planning context. Services are intangible and cannot be evaluated as such. They must be transformed to concrete offerings which can be evaluated and compared to those of the competitors. If the firm does not manage this process, the customer will in an
unguided manner pick out tangible attributes which are the service in the customer's mind. The product of service firms is extremely complicated; therefore, the product development process involves elements normally not considered. The resources influencing the accessibility of the service and their personal market communication are integrated parts of the service, as well as possible auxiliary services.

Shostack (1977) suggests it is wrong to imply that services are just like products "except for intangibility." She believes that intangibility is not a modifier; it is a state. Marketing offers no way to treat intangibility as the core element it is, nor does marketing offer usable tools for managing, altering, or controlling this amorphous core. To expand marketing's conceptual boundaries requires a framework which accommodates intangibility instead of denying it. This broader concept postulates that market entities are, in reality, combinations of discrete elements which are linked together in a molecule-like whole. Elements can be either tangible or intangible; the entity may have either a tangible or intanglible nucleus. But, the whole can only be described as having a certain dominance. The molecular concept makes it possible to describe and array market entities along a continuum, according to the weight of the mix of elements that comprise them. Teaching services might be at one end of such a scale, intangible or I-dominant, while salt might represent the other extreme,
tangible or T-dominant. The greater the weight of intangible elements in a market entity, the greater will be the divergence from product marketing in priorities and approach. For example, since a service (air travel) exists only during the time in which it is rendered, the entity's true reality must be defined experientially. The crux of serviceknowledge is the description of the major consensus realities that define the service entity to various market segments. Shostack (1977) concludes that service marketing concentrate on the strategy of enhancing and differentiating realities through manipulation of tangible clues. Product marketing tends to give first emphasis to creating abstract associations. The management of evidence comes first for service marketers, because service reality is arrived at by the consumer mostly through a process of deduction, based on the total impression that the evidence creates. Management of the physical environment should be one of a service marketer's highest priorities. Levitt (1981) concurs with this contention. The degree to which the marketer will focus on either tangible evidence or intangible abstractions for market positioning will be found to be inversely related to the entity's dominance. Not only is the environment important, but service marketers must manage the business evidence. Effective media representations of intangibles are a function of establishing non-abstract manifestations of this evidence. George and Berry (1981) propose that a key guideline in advertising services is to provide tangible clues.

There are also those who disagree with the need for separate treatment for services. Cooke (1970) suggests that all efforts to distinguish between products and services should be discarded in analyzing markets for services. The definitional difference between service markets and product markets has little or no utility in the process of market analysis. The problem of analyzing markets for services is not conceptually or logically different from the problem of analyzing markets for products. Insofar as market analysis is concerned, the consequential difference between service and product markets rests in the fact that effective differentiation of the marketing offer is significantly more difficult to obtain in service markets. This phenomenon is related centrally to the fact that services are not purchased by customers but by clients. The use of services has an experiential character in contrast to the possessional attribute of products. A service is ultimately an interaction between people. Marketing success or failure in a. service industry will ordinarily be determined by the quality of that interaction.

In conjunction with Cooke (1970), Wyckham, Fitzroy, and Mandry (1975) contend the simple taxonomy (product versus service) is difficult to sustain and is likely to be dysfunctional. They believe that services marketing need not be different from goods marketing. Four features, heterogeneity, intangibility, inseparability and perishability, which purport to distinguish services in terms of marketing,
appear to be based on a production orientation. To conclude that heterogeneity of services distinguishes services from products ignores consumer perceptions. Even though a manufacturer may produce uniform products, this uniformity does not necessarily result in common perceptions. It can be argued that a product is different for every consumer. Consumers will evaluate a product whether or not it has physical properties. The evaluation can be just as difficult for products as services. In addition, they contend that inseparability (the simultaneous nature of the production and consumption of services) is contradicted by the broad and indirect distribution of many services and that perishability is a characteristic of both services and products.

As presented, an important question addressed in much of the literature centers on the differences and similarities between the marketing of goods and services. While the consensus seems to favor the concept that services are different from goods because of such features as intangibility, perishability, heterogeneity, and inseparability, Brown and Fern (1981) recently offered an appealing perspective to this discussion. They contend that researchers have examined the differences between goods and services from the viewpoint of the core marketing offering and that a more appropriate perspective might be from the the total market offering. The total market offering is the aggregate of all of the benefits the customer receives as a result of the core offering plus all of the values added by members of the marketing channel.

## Classification of Services

Another area that has attracted considerable attention in the literature is classification schemes for categorizing services. Several of these schemes are reviewed to help put the field of professional services in perspective.

Marketers are still searching for classification schemes that can be applied across the entire array of services. Various classification attempts have been prepared. Judd (1964) suggests three categories: (1) rented goods services, (2) owned goods services, and (3) non-goods services. Rathmell (1974) classifies services by (1) type of seller, (2) type of buyer, (3) buying motives, (4) buying practice, and (5) degree of regulation. Shostack (1977) proposes that products be arrayed along a continuum from pure goods to pure services, according to the proportion of physical goods and intangible services each product package contains. Hill (1977) proposes the following dichotomous properties as useful descriptors:

1. Services affecting persons versus those affecting goods.
2. Permanent versus temporary effects of the service.
3. Reversibility versus non-reversibility of these effects.
4. Physical effects versus mental effects.
5. Individual versus collective services (p. 16).

Lovelock (1979) draws a distinction between products (goods) and services, according to whether they are marketed by private firms, non-profit organizations, or public agencies, and whether they are marketed to organizational
buyers' households. This approach results in six categories of service reflecting the characteristics of the marketer and the buyer. Lovelock later proposed 12 approaches to classifying services. These 12 approaches are divided into three basic groups--basic demand characteristics, service content and benefits, and service delivery procedures. These are outlined below:

## Basic Demand Characteristics

1. Who or what is the object of the service?
2. Extent of demand/supply imbalances.
3. Discrete versus continuous customerprovider relationships.

Service Content and Benefits
4. Role of physical goods and facilities in service delivery.
5. Role and extent of personal service.
6. Breadth of service package.
7. Timing and duration of benefits.

Service Delivery Procedures
8. Multi-site versus single-site delivery.
9. Allocation of capacity to customers.
10. Independent versus collective consumption.
11. Time-defined versus "task-defined transactions.
12. Nature of customer-provider interactions. (Lovelock, 1979, pp. 72-76).

Kotler (1980) argues for classifications that reflect (1) whether the service is people-based versus equipmentbased, (2) the degree to which the client's presence is necessary to the service, (3) whether the service meets personal or business needs, and (4) whether the service is public or private and for profit or non-profit.

Gronroos (1978) provides a classification scheme that is useful for positioning the focus of this study. He
classifies services by kind of market where they are sold (producer or consumer services) and by the service provided (professional or other services). Producer services are offered to industry and other institutions, whereas consumer services are marketed to households and to individual customers. Professional or consultancy services are normally discussed separately and not in the same context as other services. Figure 1 combines the two ways of classifying services. The same professional or the same consulting firm can operate either in the industrial sector, providing producer services, or both in the industrial and consumer sectors, thus rendering either producer or consumer services. Cell 1 of the matrix includes services such as those offered by management consultants, computer firms, and advertising agencies. A lawyer could render his professional services to either industrial buyers or individual customers. In the latter case these services could be placed in Cell 2. Gronroos makes a distinction between services traditionally labeled professional (consultancy) services and other services. Most of these other services, such as those provided by banks, travel agencies, hotels, restaurants, and transportation companies, are rendered both as producer and consumer services and are placed in Cell 3 or Cell 4. There are some services that solely belong to Cell 4 , such as hair cutting and personal care.

This study is concerned with that type of service referred to as professional or consultancy services, e.g.,
non-good services that affect persons and organizations.

| Producer Services | Consumer Services |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Professional <br> Services | 1 | 2 |
| Other <br> Services | 3 | 4 |

Source: Gronroos (1979, p. 46).
Figure 1. Classification of Services

The Marketing of Professional Services

As mentioned in the introduction, most of the professional services marketing lacks conceptual development. Most involve recommendations to clients or firms interested in buying or selling management consulting services. This section provides a definition of professional services and reviews the conceptual ideas and empirical evidence related to buying and selling professional services. Finally, the area of professional development programs will be addressed.

## Professional Services Marketing Concepts

Early attempts at defining professional services are provided by Wilson (1972) and Wittreich (1966) and expanded upon recently by Gummesson (1978). In developing his generic definition, Gummesson interviewed over 50 professionals from 15 different professional service areas and made four case studies in which selling and buying behavior was investigated. From these efforts, a number of fundamental components of the professional service gradually developed. It was found that eight components covered the service and were valid regardless of the type of professional service. The components are shown in Figure 2. Four of the components are necessary in any professional service: (A) specialist knowhow, (B) individual professionals, (E) way of operating an assignment, and (F) solution to the problem. The others may or may not be present. The components reflect the breadth of the service. Quality (the value of the service from the client's point of view) is dependent upon the depth of the service, e.g., the skill with which the service is rendered and the attention that is devoted to it.

Kotler and Conner (1977) offer the following definition of professional service marketing:

Professional services marketing consists of organized activities and programs by professional services firms that are designed to retain present clients and attract new clients by sensing, serving, and satisfying their needs through delivery of appropriate services on a paid basis in a manner consistent with creditable professional goals and norms (p. 72).

According to Kotler, the professional firm cannot base its future on minimal or casual marketing nor, on the other hand, is it free to adopt a hard-sell effort that violates the profession's ethical norms. Six marketing strategies are available to the professional firm seeking disciplined growth: (1) expanding service to existing clients through cross-selling of services, (2) identifying and cultivating high potential prospective clients, (3) widening and deepening personal referral sources, (4) creating a favorable awareness program by increasing overall market visibility and reputation, (5) focusing on service and market specialization, and (6) developing an objective system to identify candidates for pruning.


Source: Gummeson (1978), p. 91.
Figure 2. Components of a Professional Service
de Monthoux (1978) attributes the success of professional service firms to the individual. A person rather than a separate service is bought. For business success, the individual consultant, the one working by himself as well as the member of a large consultancy firm, depends on his social network which is built through birth and marriage, education, and leisure activities. The better a social network builder the consultant is, the more customers he gets.

Gronroos (1979) believes that a service company cannot expect to become marketing oriented by merely developing its mass marketing activities and personal selling efforts by professional salesmen, as suggested by the marketing literature. The firm should design its operations according to the needs of its targeted client. The objectives of marketing differ among three stages of client progress and different kinds of marketing activities should occur at the three stages. Generally, the objectives at the various stages can be stated as follows: (1) develop interest in the firm and its services, (2) turn the general interest into sales, and (3) secure resales and thus develop enduring client contracts.

Gronroos distinguishes two different marketing functions. The first function is called the traditional marketing function, which mainly consists of mass marketing activities, advertising, public relations, sales promotion, personal selling by top executives and professional
salesmen, and pricing. The second function, labeled the interactive marketing function of the consumption process, will be of utmost importance to the success or failure of the service provider. Every component--human and non-human--in the service-production context, every production resource used, and every stage in the service production process should be the concern of marketing and not considered merely as operations or personnel problems.

Schwersenz (1979) concludes that advertising and other forms of promotion now available to CPA's present an extraordinary opportunity to market the many services performed and compete more equally with the non-professionals. Regardless of how a firm goes about marketing, the important thing is to let people know about the firm, its members, and its services. Schwersenz includes the following elements in a sound marketing strategy: (1) evaluation of services that may be provided; (2) development of a promotional philosophy; (3) selection of advertising media; (4) determination of a specific sum to be expended in the promotional effort; (5) development of a defined advertising budget; (6) establishment of a schedule placing responsibility for each effort and setting deadlines when materials, arrangements, and other aspects of the effort must be completed; (7) evaluation; and (8) alteration of the marketing plan.

Turner (1969) holds that professional services can be effectively and ethically marketed in the conventional sense
through proper use of tested methods. Many problems associated with the marketing of professional services grow out of the do-it-yourself syndrome. This syndrome is defined as the tendency of the technically oriented professional to consider himself an expert in all the disciplines in which he is involved when, in fact, he may possess only superficial knowledge in all except the technical aspects. Turner believes that managers within the typical professional service firm generally hold the following opinions: (1) a marketing premise would place unnecessary and undesirable limitations on the scope of operations; (2) it is impossible to describe the firm's services, capabilities, and techniques effectively in any general manner; (3) it is difficult to find effective marketing support services; (4) the services are not marketable in the conventional sense, e.g., business comes from referral; and (5) the ethical environment precludes advertising and overt promotional efforts. Turner says that when professional services are viewed from the client's position, five major activities can be identified as necessary to the marketing of such services. These are (1) group communications such as seminars, promotional literature, and articles in trade publications; (2) individual communications; (3) identification of specific opportunities for the services of the organization; (4) identification of the specific professional to engage the client; and (5) follow-through feedback regarding project program. Wittreich (1966) points out three key concepts that
should be kept in mind when selling professional services. A professional service must (1) make a direct contribution to the reduction of uncertainties involved in managing a business, (2) come directly to grips with a fundamental problem of the business purchasing that service, and (3) be purchased meaningfully from someone who is capable of rendering the service.

Schaffer (1976) believes that fundamental improvements in the way consulting is practiced can contribute much more significantly to the expanded use of consulting services than any educational or promotional effort. These improvements include (1) helping managers develop their own skills, effectiveness, and confidence in management of improvement efforts that involve new concepts and methods; (2) reinforcing client-success experience shortly after the inauguration of the project and a regular interval thereafter; and (3) helping management visualize how the immediate project can lead to subsequent related improvement steps that fit together into an overall development strategy. Each client system has certain limits to the scope, pace, and range of innovation it can at any one time absorb and effectively exploit from a consultant, referred to as the client's absorption capacity. If a client's proposal goes beyond the client's perception of these limits, the proposal may be rejected.

Several articles deal with selecting vendors such as professional service firms. Buyers' decisions in general,
and their vendor selection decisions in particular, are functions of a number of determinants. Wind, Green, and Robinson's (1968) conceptual scheme classifies the determinants of industrial buyers decisions into five sets of variables:

1. The buyer's own characteristics, especially his psychological mechanisms and behavioral characteristics, which serve as the major mediating processors between the inputs to which he is subject and his outputs [responses].
2. Interpersonal influences of other organizational members.
3. Organizational variables, whose effect on the behavior of the organization members has been widely recognized by behavioral scientists but almost entirely neglected by marketing experts.
4. Inputs from the various sources of supply. Their inputs are generally of two types: (a) those supporting source $X$ and (b) those contradicting inputs which attempt to neglect the influence of the supporting inputs for source X.
5. Environmental variables, which are of three types: (a) general variables affecting the value system of the people of a given society, (b) general business conditions, and (c) regular business constraints (p. 30).

Of these variables the fourth set is of greatest value to the marketing manager, since its variables are controllable by the vendor.

Lederer (1973) suggests that before selecting a professional service organization, a firm must first have a good understanding of its own reasons for wishing to engage the outside firm. Once decided, he recommends that the quest for the professional service firm should be in the hands of a person with authority in the company. He also emphasizes that the important selection criteria are the qualifications
of the individual in contrast to the standing of the firm. Lebell (1975) concludes that a firm must define and match its needs to the skills of the professional firm. In order to do this the client firm must be aware of the heterogeneity of professional services, the psychological and cultural factors, and the need for developing an optimal contractual situation with the professional. Moskal (1977) agrees that the most difficult and yet the most necessary part of selecting a specific consultant is defining the problem. The important selection considerations include the quality of the proposal, references, cost, and the impressions left by the individual consultants during preengagement meetings.

## Empirical Evidence

In several articles related to the marketing of professional services, results of empirical investigations are reported. Ratchford and Andreasen's (1972) study of consumer perceptions regarding the selection of physicians concluded that the selection process is an important, complex, fairly subjective decision about which little information is available. Kuehl and Ford's (1977) replication of the earlier findings of Feldman and Spencer (1975) finds that personal information sources dominate physician and lawyer consumer decision-making processes--a characteristic found in other service-oriented products categories. Personal information sources dominate the selection process for
professional services even though respondents' importance ratings for the same criteria rate integrity and quality first and second in importance.

In a study by Sarkar and Saleh (1974), attributes of consulting professional engineers are examined with respect to the influence these attributes have upon the client's hiring process. They surveyed officials from 11 cities, 131 towns, and 150 villages with populations over 200 persons in the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada. The results of the study demonstrated that buyers of professional services develop a set of attributes for selecting vendors of professional services, based on their own evaluation of the importance of each attribute. Competence factors such as concept of problems, fees, experience, knowledge of local conditions, and technical reputations were all considered highly important. Adequate staff received a relatively low rating. Personality factors, while assuming an overall lower ranking than the competence factors, still shed important light on the selection process. The engineer's personality, integrity, cooperation, and objectiveness were perceived as more important in the selection process than professional standing and civic reputation. Sarkar and Saleh conclude by drawing up a list of attributes which match the offerings of a professional service firm to the needs of potential clients. Personality factors are presumed to act as intervening variables in the interpretation of factors by specific clients. The list of attributes
includes

1. A good working knowledge of the conditions affecting the work peculiar to the buying organization.
2. Extensive experience in the specific type of project being considered.
3. A high degree of quality and client satisfaction in previous projects of a similar nature, supported by references and recommendations from previous clients.
4. A sympathetic and knowledgeable understanding of the problem which may be faced by the organization in undertaking the project and a willingness to cooperate with the members of the organization to overcome the problems.
5. A demonstrated willingness to optimize through examination of alternatives. Off-the-shelf solutions are not always appropriate.
6. A staff capable of satisfying the previous five attributes, in addition to being large enough to do the work required within the budgeted time.
7. Sales personnel capable of representing the firm in both a technical and personal sense and in a manner in which in no way casts doubt upon the integrity of the firm.
8. A competitive fee structure (Sarkar and Saleh, 1974, pp. 31-32).

Smith and Meyer (1980) document the consumer's perspective of professional advertising by considering their right to and need for additional information before selecting attorneys. The national study examined the information needs of consumers during their attorney selection process. This question was investigated by examining the types and amount of information actually used in the selection process compared to those that consumers think should be used. A set of 17 attributes was produced from a preliminary select sample and sent to a random sample of 1,000 U. S. citizens. The 17 attributes included the following:

1. Integrity of lawyer.
2. Quality of service.
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3. Promptness of service.
4. Area of lawyer specialty.
5. Past experience of lawyer.
6. Cost of legal service.
7. Past representation by lawyer.
8. Recommendation by other lawyer.
9. Recommendation by friend.
10. Convenience of office hours.
11. Years in practice.
12. Personal acquaintance.
13. Referral by state/county bar.
14. Law school attended.
15. Referral by legal aid.
16. Location of office.
17. Listing in yellow pages (Smith and Meyer,
    1980, p. 60).
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Smith and Meyer (1980) found that personal information sources dominate the selection process for professional services-a finding consistent with those of Kuehl and Ford (1977) and Feldman and Spencer (1975). In this study personal acquaintance and recommendation by a friend are clearly the most frequently used attributes; however, integrity and quality are rated first and second in importance.

In another study dealing with the marketing of legal services, Darden, Darden, and Kiser (1981) found that users and nonusers agree that reasonable and logical information was the most important attribute they consider in attorney selection. Users are more apt to judge a lawyer on the basis of their own past use. Nonusers consider fees and advertised information more important than users.

In a study by Wood and Ball (1978), CPA clients rated several criteria as being important in the selection of an accounting firm: technical expertise in the client's field; general technical competence as evidenced by being a CPA; sufficient size to provide backup when necessary and
specialists, if needed; reputation based on recommendations of business associates, attorneys, and bankers; ability to get along with the client; price; availability; length of time in practice; and location of office.

Jain et al. (1979) studied bank selection criteria in their efforts to test the validity of the various decompositional multi-attribute preference models. Five attributes were used in the study:

1. cost of checking account,
2. type of bank,
3. accessibility to banking service,
4. quality of service,
5. hours (p. 317).

Two hundred and twelve consumers were randomly selected to represent the adult consumers currently maintaining checking accounts. Although the authors were primarily concerned with the validity of the estimation procedures, two attributes emerged as most important to the consumer--cost of checking accounts and quality of service.

The review of literature found no empirical works dealing with buyer decision making as related to professional development programs. Several references related to the marketing of continuing education were found and reviewed (de Monthoux 1978; DeWald 1974; Lenz 1980; Ray 1981). Most provide very general descriptions of how the marketing concept might assist vendors in selling their services. For example, DeWald (1974) encourages readers to be concerned with the psychological attributes that users attach to education courses. In addition, vendors must recognize the
implications of the price at which courses are offered and the prestige of the vendor. Lenz (1980) adds that the "profile" of the consumer to whom the marketing strategy is addressed reveals a unique learner. The consumer (learner) is a mature adult and a capable student with a degree from at least one institution of higher education. Time is a critical factor because of professional demands. Ideas and values are well-formed and not susceptible to change. The adult learner may be described as affluent, critical, and knowledgeable.

The literature related to the marketing of professional services as reviewed provides some indications of buyers' preferences. The marketing perspective of professional services attributes selection is evident in each of the studies that dealt with buyer decision making, e.g., anything that a buyer perceives about a professional service may qualify as a service attribute. Some authors did distinguish between tangible and nontangible and subjective and objective attributes yet no efforts were made to specify or conceptualize levels and/or classes of attributes. The next section will review the developments in product attribute identification and classification that provide the framework for this study.

The Concept of Product Attributes

As alluded to in the introduction, the concept of product attributes has been approached intuitively, and several
contrasting streams of thought have emerged among marketing researchers and economists.

## The Economic Viewpoint

Lancaster (1971), in what has been termed a new economic theory of consumer behavior by Ratchford (1975), defines product characteristics as those properties of a product which are relevant to consumer choice, quantitative, objectively measurable, and universal. To illustrate, the product characteristics possessed by an orange would include diameter, weight, skin thickness, ratio of juice weight to weight of solid matter, sugar content, etc. Each of these example attributes is objectively measurable, universal to oranges, and relevant to consumer choices and qualifies as a product characteristic. The taste of the resulting juice would not be a product characteristic by Lancaster's definition, since it would not be objective and measurable.

Cowling and Cubbin (1971) argue that there is a functional relationship between those services of a product which a consumer demands and the characteristics of a product as defined by Lancaster. This implies at least two levels of product characteristics: (1) a set of basic objectively measurable product characteristics and (2) an abstraction of these basic characteristics to a higher level of performance or service characteristics. In difference, Maynes (1976) defines what he calls a service characteristic to be that basic factor which gives rise to utility.

Therefore, features such as durability, beauty, and safety are considered product characteristics, while the product features which give rise to these elements are not considered product characteristics.

Although Maynes (1976) alludes to the problem of conceptualizing levels of characteristics, Geistfeld, Sproles, and Badenhop (1977) explicitly define levels of characteristics which are functionally related to one another. This results in the hierarchy of product characteristics. The concept of a hierarchy of product characteristics depends upon three fundamental ideas: definition of a product characteristic, dimensionality, and measurability. Geistfeld, Sproles, and Badenhop define a product characteristic as any feature of a product which indirectly influences a consumer's evaluation of a specific product variety. A product variety is a product-brand-model combination. A true product characteristic is one based on an identifiable physical feature or an abstraction of features to the service performed for the consumer.

A second concept is that of dimensionality. A characteristic is multi-dimensional if it is functionally related to other product characteristics, which themselves may be either multi-dimensional or uni-dimensional. Measurability, the third concept, is the extent to which a standard exists or can be developed for quantitatively measuring how much of a specific characteristic is processed by a specific product variety.

With these considerations in mind, Geistfeld, Sproles, and Badenhop formulated product characteristics into three fundamental levels. "A" level characteristics are abstract, multi-dimensional characteristics which are difficult to empirically measure. They are dependent upon lower level characteristics and are difficult to measure since they are abstract. "B" and "C" level product characteristics are similar to Lancaster's concept of a product characteristic. "B" level characteristics are the specific properties and services which are determined by "C" level characteristics and affect the overall desirability of a product variety. "C" level characteristics are often unidimensional and measurable; these characteristics are functionally related to "B" level characteristics and generally include features related to the composition and construction of the product.

Geistfeld, Sproles, and Badenhop argue that the hierarchy provides a unifying theory of product characteristics and offers a wide range of possibilities for future investigations. For example, consumer sophistication or prior knowledge of a product will influence the level of characteristics consumers use in the purchase decision. If as Maynes suggests, it is "A" level characteristics which consumers really desire, it is imperative that the relationship between the "A" level characteristics and lower level characteristics be studied to ensure that appropriately defined informational contents are delivered to consumers.

The previous discussion treats only intrinsic characteristics as relevant product characteristics. The intrinsic aspect of the definition precludes purchasing criteria, e.g., brand, price, guarantee and warranties, quality marks, etc., from being considered product characteristics since they are extrinsic to the product variety. The relevance of these criteria to buyer desire cannot be dismissed and is discussed in the next section.

## The Marketing Viewpoint

As mentioned earlier, the modeling of consumer preferences among multi-attribute alternatives has been of great interest and concern to marketers. Preference modeling involves identification of the choice alternatives and the attributes associated with the alternatives, estimation of the relative contribution of these attributes, and the specification of a conceptual model underlying the choice process.

Marketing researchers implicitly define product attributes in terms of consumers' subjective judgments directed toward specific features possessed by a product (Wilkie and Pessemier 1973). From this perspective, nearly anything that a consumer perceives about a product may qualify as a product attribute. The attribute does not emanate physically from the product itself, but rather is associated by the consumer with the product through a derived, or inferential, process (Hirschman 1981). Attributes range from
specific purchasing criteria, such as price and brand name, to more abstract and subjective perceptions of features, such as convenience and durability.

Several studies alluded to different types of services attributes in their model formulations. Bamossy and Semenik (1981) studied group arts patronage and included in their analysis tangible and intangible motivators of patronage. They found that the motivational constructs of attendance provided additional insights to understanding art patronage behavior. Intangible attributes were found to be ranked more important than tangible attributes in patronage behavior. Murdock (1981) divided attributes into objective and subjective categories in his study of attributes used by first time users in selecting lawyers. Although none of the attributes proved to be determinant, he concluded that consumers of legal services are likely to make a lawyer selection decision based on subjective attributes such as competency, truthfulness, reputation, and interest in their problem. Hirschman (1981) examined the complexity of intangible product attribute cognitions. Her investigation found support for the proposition that the complexity of consumer cognitions concerning intangible attributes is enhanced by experience with the product. That is, the more experienced consumer ascribes more attributes to products in the domain, makes finer distinctions in the amount of attributes assigned to those products, and utilizes more independent decisions in conceptualizing a product.

Attribute importance is a construct of interest in several research areas and over the years four attribute measurement approaches have emerged: (1) self-report as used by determinant attribute and multi-attribute researchers, (2) graded paired comparisons, (3) consumer selection of product bundles in conjoint measurement, and (4) the information display board technique of consumer information processing research (Heeler, Okechuku, and Reid 1979; Jain et al. 1979; Sheluga, Jaccord, and Jacoby 1979).

Multi-attribute attitude models are used to gain understanding of attitudinal structure. The conceptual basis is psychological. Attitudinal approaches such as the expectancy-value or weighted-importance models (Bass 1972; Rosenberg 1956; Sheth and Talarzyk 1972) obtain the utilities of attributes through verbal reports on affectively based rating scales. The individual's evaluative reponse to a given attribute is taken as the best estimate of its utility. Belief strength, a second component of this model, is assumed not to affect choice if constant across all attributes and all subjects. This leads to a simpler linear additive model of consumer product evaluations in which the attribute utilities are estimated via rating scale responses.

The appropriate measurement instrument for soliciting self-stated importance depends on the definition of importance. Myers and Alpert (1977) distinguish among "salience," "importance," and "determinance" in relating
product attributes to preference. Salience is associated with the order of elicitation of attributes. For example, a consumer may have "top of mind" awareness of an attribute due to advertising, but this attribute may be unimportant in the buying decision. An attribute may be regarded as important, but if all brands or models have a satisfactory level of this attribute, it has no effect on purchase. Determinant attributes are defined as those attitudes toward product or service features which are most closely related to preference as to actual purchase decisions. A determinant attribute in the Myers and Alpert model is both important and different from other attributes. Determinance is represented by the product of importance and difference. Alpert (1971) suggested three categories of methods for identifying such attributes: (1) direct questioning, including direct dual questioning; (2) indirect questioning, including motivation research and covariate analysis; and (3) observation and experimentation. He tested the direct and indirect questioning methods and concluded that the direct questioning method was most efficient.

The second attribute measurement technique is the method of graded paired comparisons (Sheluga, Jaccard, and Jacoby 1979). This approach extends the methodology of simple paired comparisons and updates the corresponding analytical procedures through multiple regression. Simple comparative judgments are modified to include measures of direction and intensity of preference. Magnitude of
preference is assessed on graded rating scales. Regression decomposition of these graded pairwise judgments is used to estimate the relative utilities of the attributes that comprise the products.

Conjoint measurement (Green 1974a, 1974b, 1978, 1979; Moore 1980), the third attribute measure, has its origins in mathematical psychology and is analogous to the economic theories of consumer demand formulated by Lancaster (1971) in which products are viewed as bundles of attributes. This method is used to evaluate alternative products and provides information about the tradeoffs among product attribute importances. The data of conjoint analysis are obtained by an indirect process in which respondents react to either products described in complete bundles or attributes or sets of partial products described in terms of varied levels on two attributes at a time. It is assumed that a respondent has a personal utility value associated with each level of each attribute and that the degree of liking for a particular product is composed in some way from the utilities of its individual attribute levels. Overall utility for the product is decomposed into the part-worth contributions of the product attributes, providing estimates of their relative preference utilities.

The fourth attribute measurement method, the process-descriptive method, was developed by consumer behavior researchers to examine the depth, content, and sequence of information acquired by consumers in making a marketplace
choice (Jacoby et al. 1976; Jacoby, Izybillo, and BusatoSchach 1977). Using an information display board, respondents choose information piece by piece from an attribute-by-brand matrix board until they have acquired enough information to make a product selection. The complete information acquisition behavior of the subject can be followed. The instrument has the advantage of allowing subjects to choose for themselves the attributes warranting attention. The results of the information display board can be used to determine the relative importance of the product (Holbrook and Maier 1978).

Sheluga, Jaccard, and Jacoby (1979) compare all four methods and find only moderate association among derived attribute utilities. In general, rating scales obtain a set of attribute weights different from conjoint measurement and graded paired comparisons, while all three methods predict the preference order of the criterion set of stimuli. Choice predictions based on searched information were judged to be significantly more accurate than predictions based on all available information. Those attributes searched first were searched most heavily and were reported to have the highest value in reaching the product-choice decision for the consumer. Only the attribute utilities estimated through graded paired comparisons correlated significantly with the behavioral search and subjective importance measures.

Heeler, Okechuku, and Reid (1979) compared three of
these methods of obtaining attribute importance and found contrasting results. They explain the differences in terms of Myers and Alpert's (1977) results of semantic confusion in attribute importance research. They speculate that selfreports seemed to be a measure of salience and conjoint measurement a measure of importance. The information display board, by being the closest facsimile of actual shopping behavior, obtained the determinant attributes.

Attributes provide the basic dimensionality of these models and are crucial theoretically. An important issue is the determination and selection of a relevant set of attributes. The attribute selection problem is especially critical in research applying graded paired comparisons, conjoint analysis, and the process-descriptive method because the number of profiles to which respondents must react can become quite large if the number and level of attributes are not kept to a minimum. Literature reviewed earlier in this chapter provides little assistance in identifying a small number of key professional continuing education service attributes; therefore, this study is viewed as an exploratory investigation and deals with the identification and specification of relevant attributes of a professional service through self-reports. The results of the project can be used in future preference model formulation that would derive attribute importances statistically.

## Summary

This chapter has provided a review of literature important to the study of professional services attribute identification and model formulation. The first section addressed literature related to the marketing of services in general and emphasized the ambiguities surrounding the services marketing concept. Services attributes were discussed and differentiated from product characteristics, and services classification schemes were presented to focus the proposed research on professional services.

The second section of this chapter reviewed both conceptual and empirical literature on the buying and selling of professional services. The lack of empirical evidence was noted concerning what constitutes professional services attributes and what buyers value as important when selecting these services.

The final area of this chapter reviewed the concept of product attributes from both the economic and marketing viewpoints. Approaches for measuring attribute importance were presented.

Based upon this background, the proposed study is undertaken to provide data relevant to the development of a conceptual framework regarding professional services buyer behavior. The study design presented in the following chapter assisted in (1) identifying professional services attributes, (2) analyzing potential hierarchical attribute
structure, and (3) studying the relationship between extrinsic attributes, intrinsic attributes, and various background variables.

## CHAPTER III

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design described in this chapter provided the basis for accomplishing the research objectives related to an exploratory study of professional services attributes. The research objectives tie strongly to the conceptual work covered in Chapter II on goods characteristics (attributes). This stream of research has provided clarity to the concept of product attributes in product preference modeling. The framework suggested regarding levels of intrinsic attributes and extrinsic purchasing attributes and the concept of a hierarchical arrangement of attributes provide important advances beyond the previous viewpoint that product attributes are everything a consumer perceives about a product.

In their new formulation, attributes may be intrinsic or extrinsic to the product. Intrinsic attributes are the features of a product that influence a consumer's evaluation of a specific product variety. Intrinsic attributes are seen either as identifiable physical features (low level attributes) or as abstractions of features to the service performed for the buyer (high level attributes). Purchasing criteria such as price and brand name are identified as a separate set of extrinsic attributes since they are not
intrinsic to the product variety. Extrinsic purchasing criteria are viewed as super attributes and may be surrogate indicators of intrinsic attributes.

The literature on professional services approaches professional services attributes in the historic intuitive perspective without precise definitions. Anything that a buyer perceives about the professional services has qualified as a professional service attribute. In addition, professional service's unique characteristics such as intangibility, nonstandardization, and inseparability add to the attribute specification problem. Using the conceptual developments in goods attributes specification, this study was undertaken to provide data relevant to the development of a conceptual framework regarding professional services attributes.

The research design assisted in the generation of determinant attributes of a professional service and an evaluation of the buyer's consideration of these attributes in buyer decision making. The quality contribution of each attribute was also examined. The design provides for an evaluation of the relative merits of an attribute classification scheme and a hierarchical arrangement of attributes. An evaluation of the relationship between levels of intrinsic attributes and between attributes intrinsic to the service and attributes extrinsic to the service was performed. In addition, the design included an examination of respondents' program experience, employment, and background variables in relation to their attribute evaluations.

## Research Objectives

The research objectives that guided the study design and analysis follow:

Research Objective One: Generate a comprehensive listing of attributes for a professional service that includes high level intrinsic attributes, low level intrinsic attributes, and extrinsic purchasing attributes.

Research Objective Two: Determine what attributes buyers consider important in selecting a professional service and what attributes buyers feel affect the quality of the professional service. Research Objective Three: Evaluate the perceived difference in importance between high level intrinsic, low level intrinsic, and extrinsic purchasing attributes.

Research Objective Four: Evaluate the relationship between high level and low level intrinsic attributes and between intrinsic and extrinsic attributes.

Research Objective Five: Determine whether the complete attribute listing can be reduced to a smaller number of determinant factors for model formulation.

Research Objective Six: Examine respondents' program experience, employment, and demographic
variables for similarities with respondents'
attribute evaluations.
These objectives provided an opportunity to delineate attributes for a professional service and test empirically the importance of these attributes to prospective buyers. Additionally, an opportunity was provided to investigate the relationship between levels of intrinsic attributes and the relationship between intrinsic and extrinsic attributes. An analysis of the background variables included the impact of prior purchase behavior on attribute evaluations.

## Data Source

An opportunity to evaluate the research objectives concerning professional service attributes was available through the Office of Business Extension in the College of Business Administration at Oklahoma State University. The office offers a wide variety of professional development programs to business, industrial, and governmental clients. These participants (buyers) generally purchase this service by responding to a direct mail solicitation. A direct mail survey to a subset of this buyer group provided the data to answer the research questions posed in this study.

Expert judgments and a pretest survey were used to develop the mail questionnaire. Expert judgments were used to enumerate and classify a preliminary listing of attributes related to professional development programs. This group of eight experts consisted of staff members of the Office of

Business Extension and members of the University Extension Marketing Committee. The University Extension Marketing Committee members represent five different colleges' professional development program units which actively engage in marketing professional development programs to a variety of professional groups of individuals.

The attributes derived from this procedure formed the basis of the survey questionnaire which was pretested on 18 past participants. Participants were asked to identify and/or supply attributes that were actually used, or that should be used in the professional development program choice process.

After refinements based on the pretesting, the final list of selection attributes and related questions were mailed to a sample of past professional development program buyers who have attended one of the Office of Business Extension's publicly offered programs within the past five years. In each case these buyers have purchased the noncredit programs through completion of a registration form attached to a direct mail brochure. The buyers included in the sample have attended a one- to three-day program on topics such as accounting, management, marketing, small computer selection, and communications.

After examination of the Office of Business Extension files, 2,196 past participants were identified and included in the survey. Five hundred twenty-three questionnaires were returned, a 24 per cent return rate. Thirty-three
questionnaires were incomplete and not included in the analysis. The 490 questionnaire returns, representing 22 per cent of the mailing, were felt adequate for analyzing the proposed research questions.

To check for the possibility of nonresponse bias, a time trend test comparing early respondent answers to late respondents' answers was performed. According to this test, "persons responding later are assumed to be more similar to non-respondents" (Armstrong and Overton 1977). To implement the test, the sample was divided into two groups based upon temporal order of questionnaire return. The two groups" responses were then compared via test. The calculated t was compared to the critical $t$ for each of 106 variables contained in the questionnaire (Appendix A). Ninety-four of the variables showed no significant (at the . 01 level) mean differences between the two groups (Appendix B). This demonstrates consistent response patterns and adds support for the external validity of the findings.

The Measurement and Analytic Methods

The first research objective was to generate a representative list of attributes that buyers consider in selecting professional development programs. A preliminary listing of attributes was generated in a brainstorming session involving the expert panel previously identified. At a later date, members of this panel were asked to complete a short questionnaire (Appendix C) classifying the edited
listing of attributes into high level intrinsic, low level intrinsic, or extrinsic categories, according to the following definitions:

Intrinsic Attributes: An intrinsic attribute is any characteristic of a professional development program which directly or indirectly influences a buyer's evaluation of the program.

Low Level Intrinsic: Low level intrinsic attributes are often uni-dimensional and measurable features that may include features related to the physical composition or representation of the professional development program.

High Level Intrinsic: High level attributes are often abstract and multi-dimensional characteristics that give rise to utility. These attributes are difficult to measure and are dependent upon lower level characteristics. They also reflect the overall character of a professional development program. Extrinsic Attributes: An extrinsic attribute is any purchasing criterion or supplier characteristic that influences a buyer's evaluation of a specific professional development program, but is not a characteristic of the program itself. The panel was also asked to expand the listing for attributes not included in the original listing. The three
categories of attributes identified by this process were tested for rater reliability and those qualifying randomly organized into a self-administered mail questionnaire (Appendix D). The questionnaire was pretested with a sample of program buyers who had recently attended one of the qualifying programs. After pretest analysis and revision, the responses to the final questionnaire served to answer the remaining five research questions.

The second research objective concerned the attributes considered by participants in selecting professional development programs and the perceived importance of these attributes. Sections I and II of the research questionnaire were used to answer this question. Both sections asked respondents to provide self-stated ratings to the randomized listings of attributes previously generated. Other attribute measurement approaches such as graded pair comparisons, conjoint measurement, and process-descriptive models were abandoned in favor of the self-stated technique. This decision was based on the exploratory nature of this study and the need to consider a potentially large number of attributes. The attribute selection problem is especially critical in methods requiring that few attributes be used so that respondents may deal with realistic numbers of profiles and avoid information overload. Since this study was concerned with the identification and specification of relevant attributes for future preference model formulation, the expected loss of predictive validity in using self-stated importance
ratings should not alter the research outcomes. Furthermore, the results of this study will provide input for more precise attribute estimation and method comparisons.

In the first section on the questionnaire, respondents were asked to indicate which of the randomly ordered attributes they typically consider in selecting the professional development programs they have attended. Respondents were given five descriptions to indicate frequency of consideration from "always consider" to "never consider." Haley and Case (1979) compared 13 attitude scales and found that an "awareness" scale represented attribute determinance and discriminated better than all others. This "consideration" scale is closely aligned with their "awareness" scale. Each point on the scale contains word descriptions which were found preferable by Haley and Case.

To provide a validity estimation of the consideration scale, the second section of the questionnaire asked respondents to provide self-stated ratings to the randomized listing of attributes based upon how important each attribute was in determining the quality of professional development programs. Following Neslin (1981), the self-stated measurement instrument asked clearly how including each attribute would affect perceived overall professional development program quality. Responses were provided along a five point scale with end points labeled from "greatly increases quality" to "slightly decreases quality."

The self-rated responses.were averaged across
respondents and the attributes ranked accordingly from those attributes that were considered the most to those considered the least. The attributes were also averaged and ranked according to those that increase quality the most to those that affect quality the least. The attribute averages of "quality contribution" were compared to the averages of attributes "considered" in selecting professional development programs and the differences and relationship noted. The third research objective asked that a comparison be made to evaluate the difference between high level intrinsic, low level intrinsic, and extrinsic attributes. The rating of attributes derived in the first section of the questionnaire were used to answer this research question. Each group of attribute ratings were averaged for each respondent and tested for significant differences using analysis of variance (ANOVA).

To evaluate the relationship between low level and high level intrinsic and all intrinsic attributes and extrinsic attributes, the fourth research objective, the data from section one of the questionnaire was submitted to two canonical analyses. In one analysis, high level intrinsic attributes served as the predictor variables and low level intrinsic attributes served as the criterion variables. This analysis served to indicate the degree of association between the physical characteristics and the service created by these characteristics. In the second analysis, the predictor variables were identified as the intrinsic
attributes and the extrinsic attributes identified as the criterion variables. The results of this analysis indicate whether extrinsic factors are surrogates for the intrinsic factors.

The fifth research objective consisted of reducing the number of attributes to meaningful factors through factor analysis. The meaningful factors that emerged from this data reduction provide the items to be included in further model formulation and research efforts.

The last research objective was concerned with comparing respondents' background variables with attribute evaluations. Of particular interest in this analysis was the potential significance of past purchase behavior on attribute evaluations. A specific analysis was made to determine if more experienced buyers evaluate intrinsic and extrinsic attribute importance differently. Discriminant analysis was used to evaluate this particular question. Further partitioning of the respondents was performed using demographic variables and various variables related to respondents' employers.

This chapter has set forth the research methodology used to answer the proposed research questions. The next chapter presents the data that resulted from this methodology and an analysis of the data, utilizing the statistical techniques.

## CHAPTER IV

## RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENT

The data and analyses presented in this chapter are organized around the six research objectives posed in Chapter III.

Research Objective One

The first research objective was concerned with generating a comprehensive listing of attributes for professional development programs that included high level intrinsic attributes, low level intrinsic attributes, and extrinsic purchasing attributes. A preliminary listing of attributes could not be generated from the literature survey; therefore, a series of information gathering steps were conducted using expert judgments. The experts consisted of professional staff members of Oklahoma State University's Extension division who are responsible for the development and delivery of professional development programs. The first task the group undertook was the generation of every attribute or characteristic that might be considered by an individual in deciding to attend a professional development program. This brainstorming session concluded with the identification of over 100 attributes. After eliminating
duplication, 81 attributes were identified.
During the second phase, approximately two weeks later, each of these experts was presented with definitions for high level intrinsic ( $H$ ), low level intrinsic (L), and extrinsic purchasing ( P ) attributes and asked to classify each of the 81 attributes into one of the three categories (Appendix B). The second portion of this information generating phase also consisted of sending the pretest instrument (Appendix C) to 30 recent professional development program purchasers. This pretest instrument included all 81 attributes and each respondent was asked to complete the "Consideration" and "Quality" scales and the background variables. Eighteen instruments were returned and analyzed.

From an analysis of these two procedures, the 48 attributes presented in Table I were retained for the final survey questionnaire. In addition, several editing changes were made to the attribute descriptions and background questions to provide additional clarification. The primary decision rule used in selecting the 48 attributes came from the expert group. To qualify, six of the eight judges had to agree on the classification of each attribute as an $H$, L or P. This resulted in 47 attributes with 19 H 's, 13 L 's and 15 P's. Through analysis of the pretest instrument completed by the previous program buyers, several attributes were combined, rewritten, deleted, and added so that 48 attributes were retained with 16 in each classification. The attribute alterations are described in Appendix B. The inclusion of

TABLE I

## ATTRIBUTE IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION

Classification $\quad$ Attribute

HIGH LEVEL INTRINSIC

| H1 | promotes participant interaction |
| :--- | :--- |
| H2 | is an established program |
| H3 | increases personal status |
| H4 | helps build business contacts |
| H5 | is an informational update |
| H6 | increases job knowledge |
| H7 | enhances skill development |
| H8 | improves jobefficiency |
| H9 | provides idea exchange |
| H10 | increases general ability |
| H11 | assists in gettinga salary increase |
| H12 | type of audience attending |
| H13 | increases general knowledge |
| H14 | increases promotional potential |
| H15 | assists in career change |
| H16 | offers potential behavioral change |

LOW LEVEL INTRINSIC

| L1 | is presented in a lecture format |
| :--- | :--- |
| L2 | has social hours |
| L3 | is heldat resort location |
| L4 | length-one day, two day, etc. |
| L5 | is offered on weekends or evenings |
| L6 | has meals provided |
| L7 | time of year, month, week |
| L8 | has exhibitors present |
| L9 | is held in a hotel |
| L10 | uses case method |
| L11 | is held on university campus |
| L12 | provides a workbook or textbook |
| L13 | uses role playing exercises |
| L14 | has comfortable classrooms |
| L15 | is held on a work day |
| L16 | uses audio-visual presentations |

EXTRINSIC PURCHASING

```
P1 is taught by industrial specialists
P2 is advertised in a newspaper
P3 is advertised in personal letter
P4 provides refund policy
P5 is sponsored by a university
P6 is taught by a university professor(s)
P7 is advertised in catalogue or brochure
P8 administrative efficiency
P9 awards college credit, certificates, CEU's
P10 sponsor's reputation
P11 offers discounts for multiple enrollments
P12 is taught by consultants
P13 has attractive brochure design
P14 registration fee
P15 is recommended by an associate
P16 instructor's credentials
```

the 48 attributes in the final questionnaire identified as the Professional Development Program Planning Survey (Appendix A) completed the requirements of the first research question.

## Basic Results

## Research Question Two

The second research objective was to determine what attributes buyers consider in selecting professional development programs and what attributes affect perceived professional development program quality. Sections I and II of the research instrument were used to answer this research question. Section I asked respondents to indicate the degree of consideration they give each attribute when deciding whether or not to attend a professional development program. Respondents selected one of five scale values ranging from "Always Consider" to "Never Consider" which were coded from 1 to 5 for analytic purposes.

Section II of the instrument asked respondents to indicate how they felt each attribute affected the overall quality of the professional development program. Each respondent was again provided five scale choices ranging from "Greatly Increases Quality" to "Slightly Decreases Quality." These were also coded from 1 to 5 for analytic purposes.

Table II provides the mean values for each of the 48 attributes and the rank order of the mean values for each of

TABLE II
MEANS AND RANKINGS OF ATTRIBUTES

| Attribute |  | Consideration |  | Quality |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Rank | Mean | Kank | Mean |
| H6 | increases job knowledge | 1 | 1.288 | 1 | 1.384 |
| H8 | improves job efficiency | 2 | 1.347 | 4 | 1.580 |
| H7 | enhances skill development | 3 | 1.386 |  | 1.473 |
| H10 | increases general ability | 4 | 1.543 | 5 | 1.602 |
| H13 | increases general knowledge | 5 | 1.582 | 3 | 1.516 |
| L7 | time of year, month, etc. | 6 | 1.627 | 17 | 2.367 |
| P8 | administrative efficiency | 7 | 1.735 | 13 | 2.078 |
| 14 | length-one day, two day, etc. | 8 | 1.822 | 20 | 2.420 |
| H5 | is an informational update | 9 | 1.886 | 8 | 1.843 |
| P16 | instructor's credentials | 10 | 1.886 | 6 | 1.741 |
| P10 | sponsor's reputation | 11 | 1.898 | 10 | 1.922 |
| H2 | is an established program | 12 | 1.971 | 11 | 1.973 |
| P14 | registration fee | 13 | 2.020 | 32 | 2.931 |
| H9 | provides idea exchange | 14 | 2.055 | 9 | 1.884 |
| L1 2 | provides a workbook or textbook | 15 | 2.143 | 7 | 1.776 |
| P1 | is taught by industrial specialists | 16 | 2.204 | 12 | 2.037 |
| L15 | is held on a work day | 17 | 2.365 | 37 | 3.112 |
| P15 | is recommended by an associate | 18 | 2.394 | 28 | 2.712 |
| P12 | is taught by consultants | 19 | 2.406 | 16 | 2.327 |
| L1 | is presented in a lecture format | 20 | 2.490 | 27 | 2.708 |
| H1 | promotes participant <br> interaction | 21 | 2.508 | 15 | 2.304 |
| L14 | has comfortable classrooms | 22 | 2.510 | 14 | 2.218 |
| P5 | is sponsored by a university | 23 | 2.529 | 23 | 2.598 |
| H12 | type of audience attending | 24 | 2.553 | 21 | 2.445 |
| P3 | is advertised in personal letter | 25 | 2.608 | 35 | 3.080 |
| H3 | increases personal status | 26 | 2.665 | 26 | 2.694 |
| P4 | provides refund policy | 27 | 2.722 | 33 | 3.051 |
| 110 | uses case method | 28 | 2.749 | 30 | 2.827 |
| L5 | is offered on weekends or evenings | 29 | 2.761 | 45 | 3.545 |
| P9 | awards college credit, certificates, CEU's | 30 | 2.820 | 19 | 2.406 |
| P6 | is taught by a university professor(s) | 31 | 2.900 | 29 | 2.757 |
| L16 | uses audio-visual |  |  |  |  |
|  | presentations | 32 | 2.989 | 18 | 2.398 |
| H4 | helps build business contacts | 33 | 3.016 | 25 | 2.663 |
| H14 | increases promotion potential | 34 | 3.020 | 22 | 2.580 |
| P7 | is advertised in catalogue or brochure | 35 | 3.220 | 41 | 3.422 |
| H11 | assists in getting a salary increase | 36 | 3.278 | 24 | 2.645 |
| H16 | offers potential behavioral change | 37 | 3.316 | 31 | 2.898 |
| L6 | has meals offered | 38 | 3.384 | 36 | 3.102 |
| L8 | has exhibitors present | 39 | 3.465 | 38 | 3.276 |
| P11 | offers discounts for multiple enrollments | 40 | 3.510 | 40 | 3.392 |
| L11 | is held on university campus | 41 | 3.522 | 42 | 3.455 |
| 1.9 | is held in a hotel | 42 | 3.557 | 44 | 3.527 |
| H15 | assists in career change | 43 | 3.565 | 34 | 3.055 |
| 213 | uses role playing exercises | 44 | 3.702 | 39 | 3.345 |
| L3 | is held at resort location | 45 | 3.865 | 43 | 3.498 |
| P13 | has attractive brochure design | 46 | 3.982 | 46 | 3.665 |
| L2 | has social hours | 47 | 4.124 | 47 | 3.741 |
| P2 | is advertised in a newspaper | 48 | 4.182 | 48 | 3.841 |

the scales. The means for the Consideration Scale ranged from 1.288 to 4.182 with attribute "increases job knowledge" (H6) receiving the most consideration in selecting a professional development program and "is advertised in a newspaper" (P2) receiving the least consideration. Eight high level intrinsic attributes ranked in the upper third of the rankings listing (Table III). Three H's were present in the middle third and five were present in the lower third of the rankings. Lower level intrinsic attributes were in reverse order of H's and had three in the upper third, six in the middle, and seven in the lower third. Extrinsic purchasing attributes placed seven in the middle rankings, five in the upper third, and four in the lower third. These ranking groupings indicated that buyers tend to give more consideration to the high level attributes in selecting professional development programs followed by purchasing attributes and low level attributes, respectively.

The means for the Quality Scale ranged from 1.384 to 3.841 with the same attribute represented at both ends of the scale; "increases job knowledge" (H6) was highest and "is advertised in a newspaper" (P2) was lowest. Table IV presents a similar analysis for the Quality Scale as was presented for the Consideration Scale. The trend of ranking groupings is in the same direction as with the Consideration Scale. Nine H's are in the upper third of the rankings, six are in the middle and one in the lower third of the rankings. Two L's are placed in the upper third, five in the middle

TABLE III
CLASSIFICATION OF ATTRIBUTE RANKINGS FOR CONSIDERATION SCALE

| Attribute <br> Level | Upper <br> Third | Middle <br> Third | Lower <br> Third | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | 8 | 3 | 5 | 16 |
| L | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| P | $\frac{5}{16}$ | $\frac{7}{16}$ | $\frac{4}{16}$ | 16 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 16 |  |

TABLE IV
CLASSIFICATION OF ATTRIBUTE RANKINGS FOR QUALITY SCALE

| Attribute <br> Level | Upper <br> Third | Middle <br> Third | Lower <br> Third | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | 9 | 6 | 1 | 16 |
| L | 2 | 5 | 9 | 16 |
| P | $\frac{5}{16}$ | $\frac{5}{16}$ | $\frac{6}{16}$ | 16 |
|  | TOTAL | 16 | 16 | 48 |

third, and the remaining nine in the lower third of the rankings. Six P's are present in the lower third of the rankings and five in each the upper and middle third. This general grouping of attribute classes suggests that buyers feel that high level attributes increase the quality of a professional development program more than either low level or purchasing attributes. Purchasing attributes are seen as having more effect on program quality than low level attributes.

In comparing the responses received on the two scales, both indicate a general tendency of past buyers to feel a similar preference ordering of the attribute classes. Buyers logically seem to give more consideration in their decision process to attributes that they feel contribute the most quality to the program. More consideration and quality is afforded to high level attributes, e.g., "increases job knowledge," "improves job efficiency," "enhances skill development," "increases general ability," and "increases general knowledge." Less consideration and quality is contributed to extrinsic purchasing attributes such as "is advertised in personal letter," "provides refund policy," "awards college credit, certificates, CEU's," and "is taught by consultants." Low level attributes such as "has meals provided," "has exhibitors present," "is held at a resort," "uses role playing exercises," and "has social hours" are considered less in the purchase decision and also felt to contribute less to program quality than the other attribute classes.

There are some noticeable differences in the rankings of some attributes on the two scales. More consideration is given to some low level attributes whose quality contribution is low, e.g., "time of year, month, week" (L7), "length-one day, two days, etc." (L4), "is held on a work day" (L15), and "is offered on weekends or evenings" (L5). Some attributes are felt to enhance quality but are not necessarily important in the purchase decision, e.g., "has comfortable classrooms" (L14), "uses audio-visual presentations" (L16), "assists in career change" (H15), "assists in getting a salary increase" (H11), and "increases promotion potential" (H14). Many of these differences seem logical. For example, the "time of year, month, week" that a program is offered would receive consideration in the purchase decision yet contribute little to the quality of the program; whereas, "uses audio-visual presentations" may be felt to contribute to program quality but is difficult to consider where selecting a program to attend. Although these differences did exist, a comparison of the association between the two scales using Spearman's rank correlation provided a significant correlation coefficient (at the . 01 level) of $r_{s}=.85$.

## Background Variables

In addition to the Consideration and Quality scales, the survey included two other sections. Section III asked three questions that related to respondents' attendance of professional development programs. Table $V$ provides

TABLE V
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

| Question | Value | Per Cent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Approximately how many |  |  |
| professional development | 1 | $16 \%$ |
| programs do you attend | 2 | $33 \%$ |
| per year? | 4 | $25 \%$ |
|  | 5 | $16 \%$ |
|  | $6 /$ more | $5 \%$ |
|  |  | $5 \%$ |
| Approximately how many | $1-2$ | $14 \%$ |
| days are spent attending | $3-4$ | $31 \%$ |
| professional development | $5-6$ | $27 \%$ |
| programs per year? | $7-8$ | $11 \%$ |
|  | $9-10$ | $9 \%$ |
|  | $11-12$ | $2 \%$ |
|  | $13-14$ | $4 \%$ |
|  | $15 /$ more | $2 \%$ |
|  |  | 0 |
| Approximately what | $1-25 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| percentage of the | $36-50 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| professional development | $26 \%$ |  |
| program registration fee | $51-75 \%$ | $2 \%$ |
| is paid by your firm? | $75-100 \%$ | $79 \%$ |
|  |  |  |

percentage and mean values for these questions. The first question asked how many programs, other than in-company programs, a respondent typically attends each year. Seventyfour per cent indicated they attend one to three programs per year with a median of 3 programs per year. Question two asked how many days each respondent spends attending these programs. Seventy-two per cent indicated that they spend between one and six days at these programs with the median being 5-6 days. Question three asked respondents if their employer contributed to the program registration fee. Seventy-nine per cent indicated that the employer pays between 75 and 100 per cent of the program fee while 14 per cent received no tuition assistance. These three questions imply that this sample of respondents attend one to three professional development programs per year, each program one to two days in length, at no expense to themselves.

The responses to Section IV of the survey are summarized in Table VI. Six questions were included in this section of the questionnaire and related to employment and demographic variables. Question one asked about the size, in number of employees, of the respondents' firm. Sixtyseven per cent indicated they are employed in firms that employ 100 or fewer employees. Nineteen per cent work for firms employing 500 or more. Fifty-seven per cent of the respondents are employed in the service sector, question two, while the remainder are fairly evenly split between manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, extractive industries,

TABLE VI
EMPLOYMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

| Question | Value | Per Cent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| What is the approximate number of employees your firm employs? | 0-10 | 37\% |
|  | 11-50 | 22\% |
|  | 51-100 | 8\% |
|  | 101-200 | 9\% |
|  | 201-500 | 5\% |
|  | 501 /more | 19\% |
| What type of industry is your firm representing? | service | 57\% |
|  | manufacturing | 9\% |
|  | wholesaling | 2\% |
|  | retailing | 4\% |
|  | extractive ind. | 5\% |
|  | other | 23\% |
| What is your position level in your firm? | nonsupervisory | 15\% |
|  | supervisory | 19\% |
|  | mid-management | 23\% |
|  | top level mgmt. | $42 \%$ |
|  | other |  |
| What is your age group? | under 21 | 1\% |
|  | 22-30 | 15\% |
|  | 31-40 | 27\% |
|  | 41-50 | 30\% |
|  | 51-60 | 18\% |
|  | 60/more | 9\% |
| What is the number of years of education which you have completed? | 12 | 15\% |
|  | 13 | 7\% |
|  | 14 | 11\% |
|  | 15 | 7\% |
|  | 16 | 28\% |
|  | 17 | 11\% |
|  | 18 | 8\% |
|  | 19 | 4\% |
|  | 20/more | 9\% |
| Sex | Male | 58\% |
|  | Female | 42\% |

and others. Forty-two per cent of the sample reported their position level in the firm as top level management, while the remaining were evenly distributed between nonsupervisory, supervisory, and mid-management levels. Fifty-seven per cent reported their age in the 31 to 50 age groups with the median age group 41-50. Respondents' median education level was reported to be 16 years with a fairly even distribution from 12 years to 20 , except for the 39 per cent that indicated 16 and 17 years of education. Fifty-eight per cent of those surveyed were male and 42 per cent were female.

These variables provide a general profile of the survey sample group. This profile, in its most general case, features a respondent, between the ages of 31 and 50 who is employed at the top level management in a small service firm.

## Research Question Three

The third research objective was included to test if buyers of professional development programs value attributes differently in their purchase decision. Section II of the questionnaire, the Quality Scale, was originally identified to test this hypothesis and others related to research questions four, five, and six. After evaluation of the basic data output and a detail review of the individual questionnaires, the Consideration Scale responses were selected as the primary data input.

In reviewing the results of the attribute rankings of
the two scales, the respondents seemed to be evaluating the attributes that were determinant in their purchase decision in the Consideration Scale. The Quality Scale seemed to address the attributes that were important or unimportant to the respondents but not necessarily relevant to the purchase decision. This problem was addressed in Chapter III and relates to the problem of distinguishing between determinance and importance (Myers and Alpert 1977) when using self-stated ratings. For example, respondents indicated they considered (Consideration Scale) program timing (L7), length (L4), and registration fee (P14) important in deciding to attend a professional development program. These same factors were felt to impact program quality (Quality Scale) very little.

An additional reason for using the Consideration Scale came from a close examination of individual survey responses. The respondents appeared to have lost some motivation in completing the second scale presented (Quality Scale). This was evidenced in premature termination as observed in the 33 incomplete questionnaires excluded from the study. The loss of motivation was also evident by the tendency of many respondents to use identical response categories (straight-lining) while rating the 48 attributes on the Quality Scale. Herzog and Bachman (1981) suggest that loss of motivation in completing survey instruments, as evidenced in straight-line responses, can result from excessive survey length. This can also happen when
respondents are required to complete a long set of items using identical response scales. Both of these characteristics may have affected the response data on the Quality Scale resulting in data of lower quality.

The Consideration Scale appeared to be providing more evidence toward identifying determinant responses and was used as the primary data source for answering the remaining research questions. Parallel analysis was also conducted using the Quality Scale and differences are noted.

Research objective three tests for differences in the importance between the three attribute classes: high level intrinsic (H), low level intrinsic (L), and extrinsic purchasing ( P ). An important premise in understanding professional service buyer decision making is that professional services attributes may be conceptualized as different meaningful classes and that these attributes may take on a hierarchical ordering. The null hypothesis that no differences exist between the three levels was examined using an analysis of variance. First, $H, L$, and $P$ values were computed by summing each respondent's scale values for each of the sixteen attributes rated in each class on the Consideration Scale. The potential range of values for each respondent for each class was 16 to 80. Mean values for $H, L$, and $P$ were then tested for significant differences. Table VII presents the results of this analysis.

The null hypothesis of equality of means was rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. There are significant
differences in at least one of the classes, and using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Appendix E) all three classes were found to be significantly different from each other. The direction of mean computed values indicates that respondents give more consideration to the high level intirinsic attributes followed by extrinsic purchasing attributes. Low level intrinsic attributes as a group receive the least consideration in deciding to attend professional development programs. The results of this analysis using the Quality Scale were identical.

TABLE VII
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE - ATTRIBUTE LEVELS

|  | Mean |  | F <br> Ratio |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | L | P |  |
| 36.98 | 47.07 | 43.02 | $165.15 *$ |
| *Significant at .0001 level. |  |  |  |

In addition to this analysis, each of the program experience, employment, and demographic variables was added as a separate treatment variable using General Linear Models (GLM) for an unbalanced ANOVA (Appendix F). No interactions
were identified; however, five variables displayed significant differences at the .01 level in average computed value responses.

Respondents who attend one or two programs per year give more consideration to the three attribute classes than those who attend four or five programs per year. Respondents who work for firms employing 10 or fewer employees indicated they give less consideration to all three classes of attributes than respondents who work for firms employing 11-50 or 101-200 employees. Position level differences were also significant. Top level management respondents indicated they considered all attribute classes less than either nonsupervisory or supervisory respondents. Education was also significant. Those respondents completing 13 years of education give more consideration to all classes than any of the other educational categories. The last variable found to be significant was sex. Females give more consideration to each of the attribute classes than male respondents. The hierarchical direction of the three classes of attributes remained consistent with the overall sample for each subdivision.

In summary, there is a difference in the degree of consideration respondents give high level intrinsic, low level intrinsic, and extrinsic purchasing attributes when deciding to buy professional development programs. There also appears to be a hierarchical arrangement of these attribute levels with high level intrinsic attributes being most
considered, followed by extrinsic purchasing and low level intrinsic, respectively. Several within levels of experience, employment, and demographic variables were significant. Respondents who experience one or two programs per year, work for firms that employ 11-50 or 101-200 employees, are in nonsupervisory or supervisory positions, have completed 13 years of education, and are females give more consideration to all attribute classes in the $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{L}$ order than do respondents who attend four or five programs per year, work for firms employing 10 or fewer employees, are in top level positions, have more or fewer than 13 years of education, and are male. No significant differences were found for the variables: number of program days attended each year, per cent of registration fee paid by the company, type of industry, or age group.

In computing the results using the Quality Scale, the alternative hypothesis was also accepted, e.g., the respondents indicated that there is a difference in the contribution of the three attribute classes toward program quality. The concept of a hierarchical arrangement of attribute classes was also found and in the same direction as the Consideration Scale. High level intrinsic attributes were felt to increase quality the most, followed by extrinsic purchasing attributes and low level intrinsic attributes, respectively. Some differences were found when the experience, employment, and demographic variables were included in the analysis. The number of programs attended and the size of
the employer were not significant as was when the Consideration Scale was used. Attribute evaluations were significantly different when the respondent's position level, education level, and sex were considered and the results were similar to the Consideration Scale analysis.

Research Objective Four

Research objective four is concerned with the interrelationship of attributes contained in the three attribute classes. To complete research objective four, two analyses were required. The first analysis concentrated on examining the relationship between high level intrinsic and low level intrinsic attributes. This analysis served to sort out the degree of association between low level attributes and the service or high level attributes created by these lower level attributes. The second analysis was concerned with identifying interrelationships that might exist between all intrinsic attributes and the extrinsic attributes. These extrinsic attributes are not intrinsic to the professional development program but have been shown to be relevant to buyer choice.

The approach used to examine these relationships is canonical analysis. Canonical analysis is appropriate for correlating sets of criterion variables and predictor variables, e.g., high level intrinsic and low level intrinsic attributes and intrinsic and extrinsic attributes. Canonical analysis is used to find the linear combination of high level
intrinsic [intrinsic] attributes that are most highly correlated with linear combinations of lower level intrinsic [extrinsic] attributes.

In the first analysis involving high level and low level attributes, 16 canonical roots were generated by the analysis. For each root a canonical coefficient index was computed giving the overall correlation between the linear combination of criterion (low level intrinsic) attributes and the linear combination of predictor (high level intrinsic) attributes. All of the indices were not determined to be statistically significant by the $F$ statistic. Five of the 16 roots were significant at the .0001 level and are presented in Table VIII. The first canonical $R$ of .71 indicated that 50.2 per cent of the variation in the low level attributes could be explained by the high level attributes in the predictor set. Each of the succeeding canonical R's are similarly explained. To rectify the inherent overstatement in measures of canonical association, Stewart and Love's (1972) redundancy index ( $\bar{R}^{2} p / c$ ) was computed to access the average relationship between two sets of varibles. This resulted in only 9.9 percent of the variance of the criterion set being explained by the variance in the predictor set.

To explore the specific relationship between high level and low level attributes, Table IX presents the weights of the attributes generating the first linear combination ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}$ ). Only those weights with an absolute value of .25 or above were identified. The linear combination of high level

TABLE VIII
CANONICAL CORRELATION ROOTS -- HIGH AND LOW ATTRIBUTES

|  | Canonical <br> Canonical <br> Root | Correlation <br> Index (R) | Canonical <br> R-squared | Ftatistic | DF | Prob. <br> F |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | .71 | .502 | 3.85 | 256 | .0001 |  |
| 2 | .56 | .313 | 2.76 | 225 | .0001 |  |
| 3 | .47 | .219 | 2.19 | 196 | .0001 |  |
| 4 | .41 | .167 | 1.82 | 169 | .0001 |  |
| 5 | .36 | .127 | 1.52 | 144 | .0001 |  |

TABLE IX
CANONICAL VARIATES -- HIGH AND LOW LEVEL ATTRIBUTES

| Class | Attribute | R1 |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| H4 | helps build business contacts | .26 |
| H7 | enhances skill development |  |
| H16 | offers potential behavioral change | -.25 |
| L2 | has social hours | .43 |
| L8 | has exhibitors present | .28 |
| L13 | uses role playing exercises | .27 |
| L16 | uses audio-visual presentations | .28 |
|  |  | .30 |

attributes $\mathrm{H} 4, \mathrm{H} 7$, and H 16 explain the variation in the linear combination of $\mathrm{L} 2, \mathrm{~L} 8, \mathrm{~L} 13$, and L 16 . Business contacts and potential behavioral change seem to be positively associated with lower level attributes as reflected in social hours, exhibitor, and role playing exercises. Skill development is negatively associated with these lower level social activities and non-traditional teaching presentations. This association, although weak and vague, lends some support to the idea that certain lower level attributes form to represent the higher level service attributes. The other four linear combinations provide little explanation of variability between high level and low level attributes and are not examined (Appendix G).

The second analysis was concerned with identifying interrelationships that exist between all 32 high and low level intrinsic attributes and the 16 extrinsic purchasing attributes. Sixteen canonical roots were generated by this analysis and nine were significant (Table X). The average relationship between the two attribute sets was low $\left(\bar{R}^{2} p / c=\right.$ 19.3\%). The first canonical $R$ of .81 indicated that 64.7 per cent of the variation in the extrinsic purchasing attributes could be explained by the high level and low level attributes in the predictor set. This canonical root ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}$ ) is further explained in Table XI which presents the attributes whose weights are .15 or above. The weights in this second analysis were lower and the criterion for consideration reduced to the . 15 level. The linear

TABLE X

## CANONICAL CORRELATION ROOTS -- INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC ATTRIBUTES

|  | Canonical <br> Canonical <br> Root | Correlation <br> Index (R) | Canonical <br> R-squared | F <br> Statistic | DF |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | | Prob. |
| :---: |
| F |

TABLE XI
CANONICAL VARIATES -- HIGH AND LOW LEVEL AND EXTRINSIC ATTRIBUTES

| Class | Attribute | $\mathrm{R}_{1}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| L9 | is held in a hotel | .17 |
| L11 | is held on university campus | .22 |
| L13 | uses role playing exercises | .16 |
| L14 | has comfortable classrooms |  |
| L16 | uses audio-visual presentations | .17 |
| P6 | is taught by a university professor (s) | .15 |
| P8 | administrative efficiency | .15 |
| P9 | awards college credit, certificates, CEU's | .21 |
| P10 | sponsor's reputation | .18 |
| P11 | offers discounts for multiple enrollments | .16 |
| P13 | has attractive brochure design | .28 |
| P15 | is recommended by an associate | .26 |
|  |  | .15 |

combination of low level attributes L9, L11, L13, L14, and L16 explains the variation in the linear combination of P6, P8, P9, P10, P11, P13, and P15. Little meaning can be found in the interpretation of this relationship other than university location relating to the awarding of college credit and university instruction. The other canonical correlations explain even less of the variation between high and low level attributes and extrinsic supplier attributes (Appendix G). They also provide little value in understanding the interrelationships of the attributes.

In summary, the relationship of high level intrinsic attributes to low level attributes provides some evidence to believe that buyers may relate lower level attributes to the services they perform as expressed in higher level attributes. Although related, a meaningful explanation between high and low intrinsic attributes and extrinsic purchasing attributes is doubtful, given these professional development program attributes used in this study. The idea that extrinsic purchasing attributes, such as registration fee and sponsor, serve as surrogate indicators of high or low level intrinsic program attributes was not apparent in this analysis.

The above analysis was performed using the Consideration Scale. The identical analysis using the Quality Scale was also examined. In the first analysis, high level intrinsic and low level intrinsic, five canonical correlation roots were also significant at the . 01 level. The
first canonical correlation explained less ( 40.7 per cent) variability in the relationship and different attributes contributed to the relationship. "Participant interaction" (H1), "established program" (H2), and "informational update" (H5) were associated with "using role playing exercises" (L13) and "uses audio-visual presentations" (L16). The non-traditional teaching activities seem to relate to interactive and established program attributes.

In the second analysis, relating high and low intrinsic attributes to extrinsic purchasing attributes, nine canonical correlation roots were also significant at the . 01 level. The first linear combination explained 64.7 per cent of the variation between the variables. "Is an established program" (H2) and "is held on a university campus" (L11) weighed heavily in explaining the variation in three extrinsic purchasing attributes: "is sponsored by a university" (P5), "administrative efficiency" (P8), and "is taught by consultants" (P12). This association is also difficult to interpret but does seem to provide weak evidence that purchasing attributes might serve as surrogate indicators of high level attributes.

## Research Question Five

The fifth research objective was to determine whether the complete attribute listing could be reduced to a smaller number of determinant factors. The first effort to assemble a listing of professional development programs resulted in
over 100 being identified. As previously discussed, this list was reduced to the 48 attributes used in the final survey instrument. The appropriate number of attributes to be included in multi-attribute models has received attention in the literature and is reviewed by Wilkie and Pessemier (1973). Their conclusion from reviewing numerous studies was that on the average little predictability is gained after seven attributes are added to a multi-attribute model. This research objective was concerned with reducing the large number of attributes generated for the exploratory analysis to a small, more meaningful listing for future model formulations. In addition, the results of the analysis provide further information relevant to the conceptualization of classes of professional service attributes.

Factor analysis was used to examine the interrelationships of the 48 attributes. Table XII gives the rotated factor matrix of the 48 attributes using a varimax rotation. The rotation was terminated at the last factor with an eigenvalue in excess of 1.0 . The cumulative percentage of the eigenvalues accounts for 60.4 per cent of the total variance of the 48 attributes. Final communality estimates ranged from 50.1 per cent for "has an attractive brochure design" (S13) to 72.1 per cent for "assists in getting a salary increase" (H11).

Table XIII is provided to summarize the attributes that load on each factor in excess of .5. Eleven attributes did

TABLE XII

## ROTATED FACTOR MATRIX-ATTRIBUTES

| Attribute/ Factor | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H1 | . 209 | -. 111 | . 137 | . 185 | . 635 * | . 023 | . 000 | . 049 | . 022 | .119 | .131 | -. 024 | . 239 |
| $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ | . 010 | . 229 | .136 | . 102 | . 084 | . 164 | . 031 | . 151 | . 020 | . 261 | . 596 * | -. 065 | . 156 |
| H3 | . 354 | . 093 | . 005 | . 064 | . 234 | . 151 | -. 036 | . 034 | . 276 | . 463 | . 312 | . 049 | . 016 |
| $\mathrm{H}_{4}$ | . 362 | . 036 | . 096 | . 039 | . 079 | . 273 | -. 050 | -. 011 | . 070 | . 624 * | -. 001 | . 077 | . 012 |
| H5 | . 140 | .442 | -. 192 | . 281 | . 035 | . 000 | . 200 | . 315 | . 039 | . 052 | . 128 | .171 | -. 028 |
| H6 | . 082 | . 700 | . 037 | . 179 | -. 115 | . 104 | .031 | -. 198 | -. 120 | -. 124 | .155 | . 061 | .138 |
| H7 | . 024 | . $766^{*}$ | -. 074 | . 041 | -. 036 | .115 | . 088 | -. 165 | -. 140 | -. 078 | . 074 | . 031 | . 160 |
| 118 | . 097 | . 800 * | . 071 | -. 000 | -. 002 | .046 | . 022 | -. 055 | . 011 | . 147 | -. 012 | -. 061 | . 158 |
| H9 | . 114 | . 081 | . 023 | . 105 | .690* | . 168 | . 062 | . 015 | . 112 | .177 | . 140 | -. 061 | . 033 |
| H10 | . 034 | . 744 * | . 081 | . 039 | . 136 | -. 013 | . 045 | . 143 | . 154 | -. 063 | . 024 | -. 105 | -. 132 |
| H11 | . $735^{*}$ | . 037 | . 160 | . 038 | . 098 | . 110 | . 080 | . 035 | .207 | . 183 | . 202 | -. 055 | -. 019 |
| H12 | . 098 | . 040 | . 055 | . 123 | . 299 | . 542 * | .127 | . 064 | -. 093 | . 112 | . 220 | . 144 | -. 174 |
| H 13 | . 007 | . 694 * | -. 086 | . 043 | . 142 | . 020 | . 055 | . 221 | . 126 | . 026 | . 033 | -. 015 | -. 165 |
| $\mathrm{H14}$ | . 793 * | . 087 | . .018 | -. 0225 | . 058 | . 085 | . 088 | . 037 | . 064 | . 201 | . 026 | -. 005 | . 066 |
| H15 | . 719 * | . 038 | $-.013$ | . 037 | . 047 | . 058 | -.002 | . 089 | -. 045 | . 043 | . 092 | .221 | -. 161 |
| H16 | .678* | . 104 | .189 | -. 021 | . 258 | -. 043 | -. 021 | . 141 | . 007 | . 093 | -. 158 | . 095 | -. 010 |
| L1 | . 052 | .119 | .004 | . 979 | . 203 | -. 097 | . 300 | . 185 | -. 0.50 | -. 023 | . 247 | . 091 | . $515 *$ |
| 12 | . 207 | -. 159 | .458 | . 129 | . 059 | . 112 | . 001 | . 015 | . 024 | . 499 | -. 039 | . 003 | . 090 |
| L3 | . 074 | . 094 | . $60.0{ }^{\text {x }}$ | . 066 | . 089 | . 017 | -. .133 | -. 084 | . 041 | . 233 | -. 016 | . 304 | -. 022 |
| L4 - | -. 061 | . 107 | . 039 | . $663^{*}$ | -. 047 | .061 | -. 063 | . 204 | . 046 | -. 006 | -. 004 | -. 091 | . 003 |
| L5 | . 092 | -. 007 | . 033 | . 394 | . 108 | -. 070 | . 478 | .101 | . 375 | . 020 | -. 137 | -. 051 | .106 |
| L6 | . 054 | . 035 | . 718 * | .161 | .109 | -. 060 | .105 | . 066 | . 170 | . 122 | . 121 | -. 025 | -. 052 |
| 17 | . 110 | . 135 | . 056 | .663* | . 102 | . 008 | -. 010 | -. 078 | . 077 | . 066 | .117 | -. 023 | . 115 |
| L8 | . 216 | . 008 | . 246 | . 011 | .193 | -. 051 | .106 | . 083 | .106 | . 568 * | -. 011 | .135 | -. 008 |
| 19 | . 056 | -. 008 | . 691 * | . 010 | . 085 | . 235 | . 075 | . 132 | . 074 | . 042 | . 050 | . 302 | .013 |
| 110 | . 079 | . 146 | . 219 | -. 070 | . 661 * | .105 | .128 | . 072 | . 107 | . 060 | -. 126 | . 144 | . 128 |
| L11 | . 238 | . 004 | . $584^{*}$ | -. 006 | . 148 | . 080 | -. 048 | . 446 | . 014 | -. 060 | .169 | . 143 | -. 063 |
| L12 | . 027 | . 185 | -. .051 | . 108 | .177 | -. 014 | . $6.622^{*}$ | . 027 | . 104 | -. 001 | . 101 | . 092 | .195 |
| L13 | . 333 | . 000 | .198 | . 048 | . 454 | . 050 | -..034 | . 137 | . 075 | -. 055 | -. 070 | . 413 | . 084 |
| 214 | . 235 | . 113 | . 248 | .041 | . 022 | . 102 | . 534 * | . 164 | . 402 | . 145 | -. 082 | -. 100 | . 060 |
| L15 | . 162 | . 000 | . 159 | . 604 * | . 121 | . 082 | . 300 | -. 090 | . 030 | . 005 | -. 136 | . 234 | -. 075 |
| L16 | . 328 | . 089 | . 208 | -. 040 | . 146 | . 186 | . 340 | . 266 | . 182 | . 108 | -. 238 | . 222 | . 061 |
| P1 | -. 046 | . 031 | -. 033 | . 019 | .146 | . 081 | . 036 | . 076 | . 029 | . 093 | -. 037 | -. 046 | . $700 \times$ |
| P2 | . 178 | -. 129 | . 101 | . 030 | . 006 | -. 203 | -. 115 | . 154 | . 062 | .171 | . 019 | . 660 * | -. 075 |
| P3 - | . 132 | . 078 | . 093 | . 047 | . 028 | -. 076 | . 206 | . 286 | . 049 | .403 | . 209 | . 397 | . 192 |
| P4 | . 023 | . 025 | . 076 | . 063 | . 127 | . 003 | . 042 | -. 035 | . 682 * | .125 | .101 | . 255 | . 081 |
| P5 | . 105 | . 023 | . 081 | .111 | . 020 | . 075 | . 199 | . 597 * | . 008 | . 195 | . 106 | . 075 | . 141 |
| P6 | . 149 | . 016 | . 145 | . 008 | . 073 | .106 | -. 117 | . 747 * | . 008 | -. 093 | -. 000 | . 223 | . 105 |
| P7 | . 065 | . 033 | . 193 | -. 055 | . 022 | . 139 | . 164 | .141 | . 084 | -. 000 | . 071 | . 669 * | . 051 |
| P8 | . 193 | . 504 * | .060 | . 015 | . 191 | . 182 | -. 022 | . 270 | . 142 | . 167 | -. 141 | . 024 | . 122 |
| P9 | . 170 | . 037 | . 187 | -. 071 | . 036 | . 087 | . 113 | . 036 | . 327 | -. 188 | . 556 * | . 193 | -. 086 |
| P10 | . 002 | . 147 | . 071 | . 055 | .165 | .683* | -. 008 | .106 | . 125 | . 056 | . 054 | -. 073 | . 151 |
| P11 | . 240 | . 011 | . 383 | -. 052 | . 247 | -. 019 | . 078 | -. 005 | . 506 * | . 164 | . 051 | -. 007 | . 093 |
| P12 - | . .093 | . 269 | -. 045 | -. 073 | . 228 | . 235 | .142 | . .353 | . 122 | . 268 | . 023 | . 227 | . 247 |
| P13 | . 356 | -. 062 | . 218 | . 025 | . 065 | . 190 | . 216 | . 107 | . 081 | . 156 | -. 100 | . 420 | -. 073 |
| P14 | . 084 | . 071 | . 078 | . 330 | -. 029 | . 266 | . 085 | . 079 | . 554 * | . 016 | . 078 | -. 000 | -. 101 |
| P15 | . 464 | . 039 | . 143 | . 192 | -. 015 | . 230 | -. 160 | -. 184 | . 132 | -. 090 | -. 070 | . 336 | . 199 |
| P16 | . 134 | . 201 | -. 042 | . 023 | -. 180 | . 466 | . 006 | . 207 | . 192 | -. 097 | -. 019 | . 132 | .469 |
| Eigenvalues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3.594 | 3.669 | 2.739 | 1.866 | 2.305 | 1.698 | 1.675 | 2.245 | 1.918 | 2.032 | 1.347 | 2.275 | 1.607 |

Percentage Explained


[^0]TABLE XIII
FACTOR DIMENSIONS -- ATTRIBUTES

| Factor | Attribute | Per Cent Explained | Dimension |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | ```H11-assists in getting salary increase H14-increases promotion potential``` | 7.5 | Career |
|  | H15-assists in career change H16-offers potential behavioral change |  |  |
| $2$ | H 6-increases job knowledge <br> H 7 -enhances skill development <br> H 8-improves job efficiency <br> H10-increases general ability <br> H13-increases general knowledge <br> P 8-administrative efficiency | 7.6 | Knowledge |
| 仡 | L 3-is held at resort location <br> L 6-has meals provided <br> L 9-is held in a hotel <br> L11-is held on university campus | 5.7 | Location |
| 4 | L 4-length-one day, two days, etc. <br> L 7-time of year, month, week L15-is held on a week day | 3.9 | Timing |
| 5 | H 9-provides idea exchange L10-uses case method | 4.8 | Instruction Method |
| 6 | H12-type of audience attending P10-sponsor's reputation | 3.5 | Audience |
| 7 | L12-provides a workbook or textbook <br> L14-has comfortable classrooms | 3.5 | Materials |
| 8 | ```P 5-is sponsored by a university P 6-is taught by a university professor(s)``` | 4.7 | Sponsor |
| 9 | P 4-provides refund policy <br> P11-offers discounts for multiple enrollments P14-registration fee | 4.0 | Cost |
| 10 | H 4-helps build business contacts <br> L 8-has exhibitors present | 4.2 | Social |
| 11 | H 2-is an established program P 9-awards college credit, certificates, CEU's | 2.9 | Certification |
| 12 | P 2-is advertised in a newspaper <br> $P 7$-is advertised in catalogue or brochure | 4.8 | Promation |
| 13 | ```L 1-is presented in a lecture format P 1-is taught by industrial specialists``` | 3.3 | Instruction |

not load high enough on a factor to be included, e.g., "increases personal status (H3), "is an informational update" (H5), "is held at resort location" (L3), "is offered on weekends or evenings" (L5), "uses role playing exercises" (L13), "uses audio-visual presentations" (L16), " is advertised in personal letter" (P3), "is taught by consultants" (P12), "has attractive brochure design" (P13), "is recommended by an associate" (P15) and "instructor's credentials" (P16). All other attributes loaded on only one of the factors.

The highest loaded attributes are the best indicators of whatever holds the group together, e.g., factor definers or dimensions. Factor one and two accounted for a total of 15 per cent of the 60 per cent variation explained in the analysis. Both factors are made up of high level intrinsic attributes where factor one groups attributes that relate to career enhancement and factor two groups attributes that relate to increasing knowledge, abilities and skills.

Factors three and four are combinations of low level attributes and represent program location and timing dimensions, respectively. Factor five included an $H$ and $L$ attribute and seems to represent a instructional method dimension. Factors six and seven are not easily interpreted. Factor six included $H$ and $P$ attributes and might be referred to as an expected program audience dimension while seven relates to program materials. Factor eight is represented by two purchasing attributes and represents a sponsor dimension.

Factor nine, also made up of purchasing attributes, relates to program costs. Factor ten combines $H$ and $L$ attributes into a social dimension and eleven combines $H$ and $P$ attributes into a program certification dimension. Factor twelve ranked fourth in explanation of the variance and is an advertising or program promotion dimension. The last factor, thirteen, combines $L$ and $P$ attributes into what seems to be a program instruction dimension.

The factor analysis produced 13 factors that provide appealing prospects for future model formulation. Although some factors were difficult to synthesize, most lead to rational groupings. The dimensions generated also add further evidence that attributes may be conceptualized in different classes. Factors one and two were combined primarily of high level intrinsic attributes. Factors three and four were combined from low level intrinsic attributes. Extrinsic purchasing attributes combined to form factors eight, nine, and twelve and weighed heavily in factors eleven and thirteen. The variance explained by these factors is: (1) high level (factors three and four) 15.1 per cent, (2) low level (factors three and four) 9.6 per cent, and (3) extrinsic (factors eight, nine, and twelve) 13.5 per cent. These data also lend support to the hierarchical importance of the attribute classes.

The previous analysis was performed using the Consideration Scale responses. The analysis was also performed using the Quality Scale values. In this analysis, 13 factors were also identified, explaining 62.3 per cent of the
variation in the data set. Factor one contained many of the same high level attributes as factor two, the knowledge dimension identified in the previous analysis. Factor two contained low level attributes similar to the location dimension but included resort and social hours and would represent more of a social dimension. Factor three was similar to the career factor. Factor four was similar to the sponsor factor and contained many attributes related to university attributes. Factor five contained extrinsic attributes not grouped in a meaningful dimension. Factor six matched the instruction method dimension identified earlier as factor five. Factor seven related to the cost dimension, factor eight related to the timing dimension, factor nine contained similar advertising or promotion attributes, and factor ten also represented a timing dimension. Factor eleven represented an instruction materials dimension and factor twelve represented a cost dimension. Factor thirteen identified an interaction dimension not included in the previous analysis. The results of the factor analysis using the Quality Scale identified very similar dimensions to those identified using the Consideration Scale, although the attributes seemed to be more discernable in the first analysis.

Research Objective Six

The last research objective was concerned with comparing respondents' experience, employment, and demographic
variables with attribute evaluations. Of special interest in this analysis was the potential significance of past purchase behavior. Buyers of more programs may use different attributes in selecting professional development programs than do those who attend less frequently.

In addition to this specific analysis, the results derived from research objective two provided a clue to other analyses that were included. From the previous GLM analysis of attribute levels, five experience, employment, and demographic variables were found to contain significant differences in overall mean attribute ratings. These five variables--
III. 1 number of programs attended per year
IV. 1 number of employees your firm employs
IV. 3 position level in firm
IV. 5 number of years of education
IV. 6 sex
--were logical candidates for further analysis.
Discriminant analysis was used to provide further information regarding respondents' evaluation of the three classes of attributes hypothesized to exist in this study. Discriminant analysis is an appropriate technique to determine if groups within these variables differ from one another on attribute level consideration and to understand the nature of these differences. The groups were dichotomized for each of the five variables based upon the groupings found significant in the GLM analysis when all attribute classes were considered together.

Table XIV shows that there is a weak relationship between the number of programs attended during a year and the attribute classes at the .05 level. The proportion of cases correctly classified and the estimate of variance explained by the function are 58.6 per cent and 1.1 percent, respectively. Using Morrison's (1969) $C_{\text {max. }}, 73.9$ percent of the cases could have been correctly classified by chance. $H$ and $P$ attributes are considered more important in the purchase decision to respondents who buy fewer programs, and $H$ attributes are nearly three times as important as $P$ attributes. The consideration of $L$ attributes is not seen as significantly different among the groups. It was thought that buyers of more programs, assumed to be more experienced in the purchases of professional development programs, would give more consideration to all three levels of attributes. These results, while weak, are contrary to the expected and support the contention that those who buy fewer programs give more careful consideration to $H$ and $P$ attributes from lack of experience in the purchasing of this type service.

Table XV provides the discriminant analysis results when the respondents were divided between those who are employed in firms employing 10 or fewer employees as opposed to those who employ more than 10 , a firm size dimension. The results show that there is a weak relationship between the firm size and the attribute ratings. Those who work for smaller firms give less consideration to $H$ and $L$ attributes and more consideration to $P$ attributes when selecting professional development programs. Both groups, however, consider $H$ and

TABLE XIV
DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS - NUMBER OF PROGRAMS ATTENDED PER YEAR

|  | Number of <br> Programs |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1-3^{*} \quad 4-6^{*} *$ |  | F-Ratio $\quad$| P $\leq F$ |
| :--- | | Standardized |
| :--- |
| Discriminant |
| Coefficients |

I. Overall
significance
of function
7.62 .022
II. High Level

Intrinsic (H) 36.4*** 38.7 6.58 . 011 1.20
Low leve1
Intrinsic
(L) 46.7
48.1
.67
-


Extrinsic
Purchasing (P) $42.9 \quad 43.5 \quad 3.84 \quad .020$. 47
III. Proportion of cases correctly classified by the discriminant function: $58.6 \%\left[\mathrm{C}_{\text {max }} .=73.9 \%\right.$ (Morrison 1969)]
IV. Estimate of the amount of variance explained by the discriminant function: $\hat{\mathrm{w}}^{2}$ multi $=.011$. (Winn and Lutz 1973)

* $N=362$
** $N=128$
*** Mean computed values aggregated by attribute classes

TABLE XV
DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES EMPLOYED

| Item | Number of <br> Employees |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\leq 10^{*}>10^{\star *}$ |  | F-Ratio $\quad \mathrm{P} \leq \mathrm{F} \quad$| Standardized |
| :--- |
| Discriminant |
| Coefficients |

I. Overall
significance
of function
43.96 .001
II. High Level

Intrinsic
Low Level
Intrinsic
(L) 48.146 .5
24.19. 001
1.15
15.32 .001
.33
Extrinsic
Purchasing (P) 42.843 .2
21.80 .001
$-1.00$
III. Proportion of cases correctly classified by the discriminant function: $65.10 \% ~\left(C_{m a x} .=77.6 \%\right)$
IV. Estimate of the amount of variance explained by the discriminant function: $\hat{\mathbf{w}}^{2}$ multi $=.084$

* $N=182$
** $\mathrm{N}=308$
*** Mean computed values aggregated by attribute classes
$P$ attributes about three times as important as $L$ attributes.
Table XVI provides the results of different position levels within the firm. $H$ and $P$ attributes are considered more important by those in lower positions within the firm. No significant difference was found in the way the groups view the $L$ attributes. $H$ attributes were about three times more important than the P attributes.

The next analysis divided the respondents by education levels (Table XVII). Those with 15 or fewer years of education were grouped together and those with 16 or more years of education were grouped together. The only significant difference between the groups was that $H$ attributes were considered as more important by those at lower education levels.

The last background variable analyzed by discriminant analysis was male and female responses. Table XVIII shows that females give more consideration to all attribute classes than do males. $H$ and $P$ attributes are considered about twice as important as $L$ attributes.

From the above analysis, several program experience, employment, and demographic variables do have an impact upon the amount of consideration given to attribute classes. Although many significant differences were noted, the amount of variance explained and the per cent of cases properly classified by the discriminant functions were low. In an effort to profile these differences, respondents who are female, who have less education, who are at lower firm position levels, who work for larger firms, and who

TABLE XVI
DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS - POSITION LEVEL IN FIRM


TABLE XVII
DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS - EDUCATION LEVEL


TABLE XVIII

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DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS - SEX
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attend fewer programs per year give more consideration to all the attribute classes than do their opposites. The same hierarchical arrangement of attribute types was demonstrated in each analysis although some were not significant. H attributes were considered the most important and in several analyses seen as two or three times as important as $P$ and $L$ attributes.

When this same analysis was performed using the Quality Scale, very similar results were obtained. Some of the exceptions were that $H$ and $L$ attributes helped discriminate between program attendance groups rather than $H$ and $P$ attributes. $H$ and $P$ attributes helped discriminate between the firm size groups rather than $H, L$, and $P$ attributes using the Consideration Scale. H attributes discriminated between position levels using the Quality Scale, where $H$ and $P$ attributes were significant using the Consideration Scale. $H$ and $P$ attributes were significant discriminators of education level, where only $H$ attributes were significant using the Consideration Scale. $H, P$, and $L$ attributes were significant using the Quality Scale on the sex variable. This was consistent with the Consideration Scale analysis. The direction of $H, P$, and $L$ attribute mean values was similar for both scales. $H$ attributes contributed more quality to the programs than $P$ attributes, and $P$ attributes contributed more quality than $L$ attributes.

## CHAPTER V

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to generate a conceptual framework for/and measure empirically determinant professional service attributes. The research was exploratory and served to provide preference model formulation implications for professional service attribute research. The study outlined a procedure for identifying attributes and attribute classes of a professional service and determine the importance of each. Through testing, the study revealed that a hierarchy of attribute classes is perceived to exist. High level intrinsic attributes are considered more important in the selection of professional development programs, followed by extrinsic purchasing attributes and low level intrinsic attributes, respectively. It was also discovered that there is little meaningful interpretation of the relationship between these attribute classes. The ideas that extrinsic attributes serve as surrogates of intrinsic attributes and that low level attributes form to explain the service received in the form of high level attributes was weakly supported by this analysis.

Other outcomes of this study provide useful input for future model construction efforts involving professional
services attributes. The number of attributes can be reduced to several meaningful dimensions while retaining the hierarchical attribute structure. Prior purchase experience, employment, and demographic variables do make a difference in the manner that respondents consider attributes when selecting professional development programs. The results of this study provide understanding to attribute identification and structure for a professional service. The results also suggest marketing strategy implications for the seller of professional development programs.

## Overview of the Study

The development of marketing concepts and models for services and particularly professional services is vague and fragmented. In many studies, the finding related to understanding professional services marketing resulted as secondary outcomes in the analyses of other concepts. The lack of empirical evidence concerning professional services marketing provided the motivation for this study. Since buyers value goods and services for the attributes they possess, professional services attributes were considered as the focal point of the study.

The framework for conceptualizing professional services attributes relates to a recent stream of economic thought regarding product characteristics. The attributes which directly or indirectly influence a buger's evaluation of a specific professional service were identified at two levels.

Basic identifiable (physical) features were classified as low level intrinsic attributes, and abstractions of the basic attributes to higher levels of performance or service performed for the buyer were classified as high level intrinsic attributes. Another group of attributes that are important to buyer decision making are those supplier attributes not intrinsic to the professional service itself. These attributes were identified as extrinsic purchasing (supplier) attributes.

Six research objectives were identified and guided in the accomplishment of the stated purpose of the study.

1. A comprehensive listing of attributes for professional development programs was generated that included high level intrinsic attributes, low level intrinsic attributes, and extrinsic supplier attributes.
2. The attributes buyers consider when selecting a professional development program were identified, and the quality contribution of each attribute to the program was measured.
3. Individually and collectively, high level intrinsic attributes were found to be more important to the purchase decision, followed by extrinsic purchasing attributes and low level intrinsic attributes, respectively. A hierarchical arrangement of the attribute classes was apparent in this study.
4. High level attributes correlate with low level attributes but it was difficult to find a meaningful explanation for this relationship from those attributes forming the complex. Similarly, intrinsic attributes correlated with extrinsic attributes but the complex provided little interpretive meaning.
5. The complete listing of attributes was reduced to meaningful dimensions and the three classifications and levels of attributes retained their groupings and order.
6. Professional program purchase experience, size of employer, position level, educational level, and sex variables were important in the evaluation of attribute determinance.

The methodology of the study consisted of gathering data from three groups of respondents. Initially, a group of eight judges generated the comprehensive listing of attributes and later provided the classification for each attribute. In the second phase, a group of eighteen past program purchasers completed the pretest instrument. The third phase of the study resulted in 490 completed selfadministered mail questionnaires. The respondents consisted of past purchasers of Oklahoma State University's professional development programs offered through the Office of

Business Extension. From analysis of the background and demographic variables, the respondents were found to attend 3 professional development programs per year and spend an average of one to two days in each of these programs. Seventy-five to 100 per cent of the program registration fee is paid by the employer. A majority of the respondents work for firms in the service industry that employ fewer than 50 employees. Most of the respondents are in middle to higher levels of management, are between 31 and 50 years of age, and average 16 years of education. The sample contained 58 per cent males and 42 per cent females.

The questionnaire obtained two measures of the professional development program attribute listing. One measure asked respondents to indicate the degree of consideration they give each attribute when evaluating whether to attend a professional development program, the Consideration Scale. The second measure, the Quality Scale, requested respondents to indicate the degree of quality they felt each attribute contributed to the overall program. Two other portions of the questionnaire obtained measures of program buying experiences, employment, and demographic information. Tests of the data were conducted using means, frequency, $t$ tests, correlations, analysis of variance, canonical correlation analysis, factor analysis, and discriminant analysis.

## The Research Results

The first research objective was accomplished through the use of eight experts. They assisted in the generation of over 100 attributes that might be used by potential purchasers in the selection of professional development programs. After refinement and editing, this same group classified 81 attributes as high level intrinsic (H), low level intrinsic (L), and extrinsic purchasing (P) attributes, according to definitions provided by the author. These 81 attributes were also used in the pretest instrument. From these two activities, 48 attributes were identified for inclusion in the survey instrument. Two criteria were instrumental in deciding the attributes that remained:

1. six or more judges had to agree upon the classification level; and,
2. no attributes considered of major importance in the pretest were eliminated.

The Consideration Scale and Quality Scale were found to provide very similar results in determining the attributes that buyers use and value in selecting professional development programs $\left(r_{s}=.85\right.$ at the .01 level of significance). Because of straight line responsing, the Consideration Scale was used as the basis for answering the remainder of the research questions. The Quality Scale was also analyzed and referenced with each analysis. In the rankings of mean response values on both scales, $H$ attributes tended to dominate the higher rankings. ' P attributes, although spread
through the rankings, tended toward the middle rankings and L attributes dominated the lower rankings.

This hierarchical arrangement of the attribute classes was tested further in research objective three by an analysis of variance. The means for $H, L$, and $P$ attribute computed values were found to be significantly different at the . 0001 level for each group. $H$ attributes were given more consideration by respondents, followed by $P$ attributes and $L$ attributes, confirming a hierarchical classification scheme for viewing professional development program attributes. When adding the buyer experience, employment, and demographic variables to the analysis, no interactive effects were found to exist.

A canonical analysis of $H$ and $L$ attributes produced five significant (at the . 0001 level) canonical correlation roots. The first linear combination explained 50.2 per cent of the variation in complex of $H$ and $L$ attributes. This weak relationship was difficult to explain, given the three $H$ attributes and four $L$ attributes principally involved. The $L$ attributes involved social and interactive aspects, and these correlated positively to $H$ attributes of building business contacts and behavioral change and negatively to skill development. Although weak and vague, there is some evidence that $L$ attributes do form to represent the $H$ attributes that are valued by buyers. Other canonical roots were not explained because of little explanatory power and meaningful explanation.
$H$ and $L$ intrinsic attributes were then combined and correlated with extrinsic purchasing attributes using canonical analysis. Nine canonical roots were found significant at the . 001 level. The first root explained 64.7 per cent of the variation in two sets of attributes, slightly stronger than with $H$ and L attributes. Extrinsic purchasing attributes do form to explain some of the intrinsic attributes. The strongest combination relates $L$ attributes and $P$ attributes, although weights of these attributes were very low. The only explanation for the relationship between $L$ and $P$ attributes involved university program attributes. The idea that $P$ attributes are surrogate for $H$ and $L$ attributes cannot be interpreted from this analysis. If $P$ attributes such as registration fee, sponsor's reputation, and the marketing variables had related to H and L attributes, there would be more reason to believe that supplier characteristics represent attributes intrinsic to professional development programs. The other canonical roots were not formally examined, but cursory examination found these to be as confusing as the analysis of the most related linear combination. Very little can be concluded from this phase of the study other than that $\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{L}$, and P attributes are related. The factor analysis of the 48 attributes resulted in thirteen factors that explained 60.4 per cent of the variation. The first two factors explained 15.1 per cent of the variation and were $H$ attributes. These factors seemed to explain a career dimension and a knowledge dimension. $P$
attributes dominated three factors and accounted for 13.5 per cent of the variation. These dimensions were identifed as sponsor, cost, and promotion. L attributes clearly dominated three factors and seemed to relate to program location, timing, and material. These three factors accounted for 13.1 per cent of the variation. The remaining five factors represented combinations of $\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{L}$, and P attributes and accounted for 18.7 per cent of the explained variance. These factors were identified as instruction method, program audience, social, certification, and instruction. The eight factors that grouped around $H, L$, and $P$ attributes provide further evidence of the existence of levels of program attributes and that they are considered differently in the purchasing decision.

The final analysis examined respondents' attribute evaluations, given program buying experience, employment, and demographic variables using discriminant analysis. Five of the nine variables were used in this analysis because of significant differences found in overall attribute evaluations when these variables were added to the analysis of variance tested previously. Significant differences were found to exist in the degree of consideration given by respondents to $\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{L}$, and P when the respondents were grouped by varying number of programs attended, employment size of firm, position level, education, and sex. Basically, those who attend fewer programs, work for larger firms, are in lower level positions, have less education, and are female
give more consideration to all three attribute classes in making their program selection decision. The hierarchical direction of the three attributes is the same over all groups, e.g., H is given the most consideration followed by $P$ and $L$, respectively.

## Implications of the Study

The research effort offers several implications related to services attributes, multi-attribute professional services models, and the marketing strategy for professional development programs.

The concept of goods and services attributes has traditionally been defined in terms of consumer subjective judgments directed toward features possessed by a product or service. Attributes have ranged from abstract and subjective perceptions of features to specific purchasing criteria. The results of this study lend support to the conceptualization of different classifications implied by Lancaster (1966, 1971, 1976), Cowling and Cubbins (1971), Maynes (1976), and Geistfeld, Sproles, and Badenhop (1977). Lower level intrinsic attributes were differentiated from higher level intrinsic attributes, and intrinsic attributes were differentiated from extrinsic attributes. A hierarchical arrangement of these attribute classes was found to exist for a professional service. Buyers gave more consideration in their purchase decision to higher level intrinsic attributes, followed by consideration to extrinsic attributes
and lower level intrinsic attributes. These results are consistent with Geistfeld, Sproles, and Badenhop's (1977) goods classification study, although their analysis included only intrinsic attributes. The addition of a second place position in the hierarchy for the extrinsic attributes is a unique contribution of this research effort.

The conceptualization of a hierarchy of professional services attributes has buyer information program implications. Attention should be given to stress higher level intrinsic attributes, e.g., those higher level abstract performance or service characteristics which give rise to utility. This contention is in opposition to Shostack (1977) who suggests that service marketers' highest priorities should be the management and manipulation of tangible evidence. Since there does appear to be some relationship between lower level and higher level intrinsic attributes and intrinsic and extrinsic attributes, information programs should not overlook the less important attributes, but see that the lower level and extrinsic attributes support the higher level information content.

The evidence of this study also suggests that the more unsophisticated buyer gives more consideration to all attributes than does the more sophisticated buyer. More attribute information may be called for in reaching these markets. The hierarchical arrangement of attribute consideration was similar for both groups.

In terms of multi-attribute service models, this study
outlined a procedure for attribute identification and classification when little is known about the number of attributes or attribute structures of a service. The procedure demonstrated that the intangibility of a service can be handled in multi-attribute model formation, although not as neatly as in the physical goods models.

A number of implications are available for the marketer of professional development programs. The examination of the consideration given various attributes by buyers of professional development programs gives specific clues as to what attributes these buyers value in making their purchase decision.

## Future Research Directions

This study has provided an exploratory examination into multi-attribute model formulation of a professional service. Many fruitful areas of research are available for further study. This was only the second attempt to test empirically the concept of different levels or classifications of attributes. The other study viewed a physical product and considered only intrinsic levels of attributes. This study focused on a professional service and included the extrinsic attributes. Direct comparisons are difficult to make other than that the concept of classes of attributes seems useful in multi-attribute models of buyer behavior. Other studies with different products or services seem needed to clarify the hierarchical framework. In addition, the
interrelationships of the classes of attributes need to be clarified. Research would also be valuable where buyer demographics and psychographics could be studied in conjunction with attribute classes and class structure, since different buyers seem to process attribute class information differently.

Lastly, a logical extension of this study would be to formulate the reduced attribute list and class set into an information processing model. This methodology would be of great value in tracing the sequential search of attributes and implications associated with class and hierarchical attribute structure.

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APPENDIXES

## APPENDIX A

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PLANNING SURVEY


## Oklahoma State University <br> STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74078 (405) 624.5064 <br> COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

November 16, 1981

As a former participant in our professional development programs...

Please help us provide you better programs by completing this...

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PLANNING SURVEY

The Office of Business Extension seeks your assistance in completing the following brief questionnaire related to your attending continuing education or professional development programs, seminars, workshops and conferences. Your name was selected from among the many individuals who have attended one of our professional development programs during the past several years.

We are interested in your opinions regarding the items you feel are important when making your decision to attend these short duration noncredit programs. Your responses will be treated confidentially and the aggregated results used to assist our office in planning future professional development programs that better meet your needs. In addition, the results will be used as part of a graduate research project.

If you'll take five minutes to complete the next three pages, we will appreciate it very much. A postage paid, return envelope is enclosed for your convenience in returning the completed questionnaire.

Thank you


James Hromas
Director

## I.

Listed below are a number of items that you might consider in deciding whether or not to attend a professional development program. Please indicate the "degree of consideration" you give each item when deciding whether to attend a program by checking the appropriate description provided. If you "always consider" the item, mark the far left space. If you "never consider" the item mark the far right space. If your consideration differs from either of the extremes, mark the appropriate space. For example, if you "usually consider" this item in deciding to attend a program, mark:


## II.

Listed below are the same items you encountered in question one. Please indicate how you feel each item affects the overall quality of the program. If you feel the item "greatly increases" the quality of the program, mark the far left space If you feel the item "slightly decreases" the quality of the program, mark the far right space. If you feel the effect on quality differs from either of the extremes, mark the appropriate space. For example, if you feel the item "slightly increases" the quality of the program mark:


## III.

Please answer these questions about your attendance at professional development programs excluding in-house programs sponsored by your firm. Please check the appropriate space.

1. Approximately how many professional development programs do you attend per year?
$\qquad$ : $\quad 2$; $3 ;$ 6 or more
2. Approximately how many days are spent attending professional development programs per year?
$\qquad$
3. Approximately what percentage of the professional development program registration fee is paid by your firm?

IV.

Please answer these questions related to your firm and your background.

1. What is the approximate number of employees your firm enuploys?

$$
\text { —_0.10; } \quad 11 \cdot 50 ; \quad \text { _ } 51 \cdot 100 ; \quad \text { _ } 101 \cdot 200 ; \quad \text { 201-500; } 501 \text { or more }
$$

2. What type of industry is your firm representing?
__service __manufacturing ___wholesaling ___retailing ___extractive industries ___ other
3. What is your position level in your firm?
__nonsupervisory; __supervisory; __mid-management; ___top level management
4. What is your age group?

$$
\text { under 21. } 22-30 ; \quad 31-40: \quad 41-50 ; \quad 51-60 ; \quad \text { 60_ar-mare }
$$

5. Circle the number of years of education which you have completed.

| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 or more |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

6. Sex: ___Male ___Female

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer these questions. Please return in the postage paid, return envelope or send to: Business Extension, 215 College of Business Administration, Stillwater, OK 74078.

APPENDIX B

TEMPORAL ORDER T TEST OF 106 QUESTIONNAIRE VARIABLES


|  |  |  |  |  | T Proccelur |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Vaplailie：He |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 114F | N | MELV | STJ DEV | STD ERFOR | MINIMLM | Maximum | variances | 1 | OF | Phag＞｜t｜ |
| 1 2 | $\begin{aligned} & 245 \\ & 245 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.20103205 \\ & 1.2 y 3077=0 \end{aligned}$ | 0.56382527 <br> 0.56343478 | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0360<148 \\ & 0.03631=97 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1.03000000 } \\ & 1: 00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.00000000 \\ & 5.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | uneunal EQUAL | $\begin{aligned} & -0.2394 \\ & -0.2394 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \triangle 8 B .0 \\ & \triangle 88.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.8109 \\ & 0.8105 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VAR1ALLE：H7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ti me | N | $m E A N$ | Stid dev | Std efrur | MINIMUM | MA XIMUM | Variances | T | UF | PROE＞｜T｜ |
|  | 245 205 | 1.39183573 1.37959134 | $\begin{aligned} & 0.59500542 \\ & 0.51303451 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.03801350 \\ & 0.03916534 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.00000000 \\ & 1.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.00000000 \\ & 4.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | UNEOUAL equal | $\begin{aligned} & 0.2243 \\ & 0.2243 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 487.5 \\ & 488.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.8226 \\ & 0.8220 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| variable：he |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIAE | $\checkmark$ | Mミ」の | Stu dev | Sto ehate | Minimum | maximum | Variances | $T$ | OF | Pros $>\|T\|$ |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | 245 245 | 1.40408133 $1.2689795 ? ~$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.59711025 \\ & 0.58121017 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.03614757 \\ & 0.03713216 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.050 c c 000 \\ & 1.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.00000000 \\ & 5.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | une qual EQUAL | $\begin{aligned} & 2.1468 \\ & 2.1468 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 487.6 \\ & 488.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0323 \\ & 0.0523 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| vaziajle：ts |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TINE | N | MEAN | Stio UEV | STU EFROR | MINIMUM | maximum | variances | T | DF | PRGG＞｜TI |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 245 \\ & 245 \end{aligned}$ | 2.10012245 2.00455153 | 0.956 .51523 <br> 0.97298745 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { C. } 06110552 \\ & 0.06216189 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.00000000 \\ & 1.00300000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.00000000 \\ & 5.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | unequal equial | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 170 t \\ & 1.1705 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 487.9 \\ & 488.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.2423 \\ & 0.2423 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Variable：hi， |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIME | N | MEAN | Sto dev | STO ERFOK | minimum | maximum | variances | $\top$ | DF | PRUE $>\|T\|$ |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 245 \\ & 245 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.59183673 \\ & 1.46367755 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.78192615 \\ & 0.68723972 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.04995543 \\ & 0.04390 \in 13 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.00000000 \\ & 1.000000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5: 00000000 \\ & 4.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | uneuval EQUAL | $\begin{aligned} & 1.4729 \\ & 1.4729 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 480.1 \\ & 4888.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1414 \\ & 0.1414 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
















| TIME | $v$ | MEAN | Sto dev | STO ERROK | MiNIMUM | max imum | VARIANCES | 1 | DF | Prue $>111$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 245 \\ & 245 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.10285714 \\ & 1.93061224 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 02028604 \\ & 1.00779830 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.06518368 \\ & 0.0643 E 587 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.00000000 \\ & 1.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.000000000 \\ & 5.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | UNEOUAL EGUAL | $\begin{aligned} & 2.3165 \\ & 2.3165 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 487.9 \\ & 488.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0209 \\ & 0.0209 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Variable: uz |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| tive | N | MEAN | Sto dev | STD EFROR | MINIMUM | maximum | VARIANCES | T | OF | PROB > $\mid$ T 1 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 245 \\ -245 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3.84489796 \\ 3.836 .7359 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.79472163 \\ & 0.77213083 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} c_{0} 05077290 \\ 0.04932563 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.00000000 \\ & 1.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5: 00000000 \\ & 5: 00000000 \end{aligned}$ | UMEQUAL | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1153 \\ & 0.1153 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \bullet 87: 6 \\ -88: 0 \end{array}$ | 0.9082 0.9082 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Variable: 33 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIEE | $v$ | MEA: | STO DEV | STU EFACR | MINIMUM | Maximum | VAFIANCES | $T$ | DF | PROE 2 \|T1 |
| ${ }_{2}^{2}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 245 \\ & 245 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.24489775 \\ & 2.91428571 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 03830867 \\ & 1.14317543 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.00636705 \\ & 0.07284314 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.000000000 \\ & 1.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5: 000000000 \\ & 5: 00000000 \end{aligned}$ | uneoual <br> E QUAL | $\begin{aligned} & 3.3550 \\ & 3: 3550 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0: 0009 \\ & 0: 0007 \end{aligned}$ |
| FOR HO: VARTANES AFE EQUAL, FVE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VARIABLE: U4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| IIME | N | MEAN | STO DE.V | STD ERFOR | minimum | max imum | vafiances | T | DF | PROB > 111 |
| 1 $\cdots$ | $\begin{array}{r} 245 \\ -245 \end{array}$ | 3. 13877551 | $\begin{array}{r} 1.18206445 \\ 1: 13922138 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.07555766 \\ & 0.07278=18 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.00000000 \\ & 1.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.00000000 \\ & 5.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | unequal EQUAL | $\begin{aligned} & 1.6730 \\ & 1.6730 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 487: 3 \\ & 488: 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0950 \\ & 0.0950 \end{aligned}$ |
| FIR HO: VAZIAVCES ARE EJJAL, $={ }^{\circ}=1.0 B$ WITH 244 ANC 244 DF PKDG $>$ Fi= 0.5592 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VARIABLE: us |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TIME | N | MEAN | ST) DEV | STO EAROR | MINIMUM | maximum | VARIANCES | T | DF | PRDOA $>\|T\|$ |
| 1 2 | $\begin{aligned} & 245 \\ & 245 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.67345939 \\ & 2.62244898 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.15565593 \\ & 1.08855170 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.07383279 \\ & 0.06954502 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.00000000 \\ & 1.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.00000000 \\ & 5.00000000 \end{aligned}$ | UNEQUAL Equal | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 4889 \\ & 1: 4889 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 486: 3 \\ & 488: 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1372 \\ & 0.1372 \end{aligned}$ |
| Fow | VARI | ARE EGual. | , 1.13 W | 84* XNO 2*4 | PaOE SF | 0.3506 |  |  |  |  |




STATISTICALANALYSIS SYSTEM 14:44FR1OAY. JANUARY 15, 1902 45 tTEST PRECEDURE


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STATISTICAL ANALYSIS SYSTEMM 14:44FRIDAY, JANMARY15, 1982
``` tTEST pricedure


\section*{APPENDIX C}

ATTRIBUTE CLASSIFICATION

\section*{ATTRIBUTE CLASSIFICATION}

Attached is a listing of attributes that might be considered by a buyer when considering attending a professional development program such as we continually offer. I need your assistance in classifying these attributes into three categories: (1) low level program attributes, (2) high level program attributes, and (3) supplier attributes. Definitions for these items are as follows:
(1) LOW LEVEL PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES: Lower level program attributes are often uni-dimensional and measurable features of the program that may include features related to the physical composition or representation of the professional development program.
(2) HIGH LEVEL PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES: High level program attributes are often abstract and multi-dimensional characteristics that give rise to personal or professional utility. These attributes are difficult to measure, dependent upon lower level attributes and reflect the overall character of a professional development program.
(3) SUPPLIER ATTRIBUTES: Supplier attributes are any purchasing criterion or seller characteristic that influences a buyer's evaluation of a specific program, but is not a characteristic of the program itself.

Please place a check mark in the column you feel best classifies the attribute. Also, feel free to add any attribute that you feel has been omitted.
\begin{tabular}{cccc}
\hline & (1) & (2) & (3) \\
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT \\
PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES
\end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{l} 
Low Level \\
Program \\
Attributes
\end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{c} 
High Level \\
Program
\end{tabular}\(\quad\) Supplier
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline 1. Provides job knowledge & 0 & 8 & 0 & 2* & \\
\hline 2. Is held in a hotel & 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \\
\hline 3. Is sponsored by a university & 0 & 1 & 7 & 3 & \\
\hline 4. Is an informational update & 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 5. Provides financial security & 1 & 5 & 2 & - & \(2^{* *}\) \\
\hline 6. Costs fifty dollars per day & 2 & 0 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 7. Is taught by a university professor & 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 8. Draws attendees from one industry & 2 & 2 & 4 & - & \\
\hline 9. Is presented in a lecture format & 6 & 2 & 0 & 1 & \\
\hline 10. Is one day long & 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \\
\hline 11. Is held on a work day & 6 & 0 & 2 & 1 & \\
\hline 12. Provides a workbook of materials & 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \\
\hline 13. Has luncheons provided & 4 & 0 & 4 & - & \\
\hline 14. Is advertised on a brochure & 2 & 2 & 4 & - & \\
\hline 15. Is an established program & 1 & 5 & 2 & - & 2 \\
\hline 16. Sponsor's reputation & 0 & 3 & 5 & - & 3 \\
\hline 17. Provides refund policy & 2 & 0 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 18. Provides skill development & 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 19. Provides personal status & 0 & 7 & 1 & 2 & \\
\hline 20. Has dinners provided & 5 & 0 & 3 & - & 1 \\
\hline 21. Is taught by consultants & 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 22. Attendees from various industries & 2 & 4 & 2 & - & 2 \\
\hline 23. Attendees will be local & 2 & 4 & 2 & - & \\
\hline 24. Uses case method & 7 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \\
\hline 25. Is offered on non-work days & 6 & 0 & 2 & 1 & \\
\hline 26. Costs one hundred dollars per day & 2 & 1 & 5 & - & \\
\hline 27. Awards continuing education units & 1 & 2 & 5 & - & \\
\hline 28. Is advertised in catalogue & 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 29. Is recommended by friend & 0 & 3 & 5 & - & \\
\hline 30. Is three days long & 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & X \\
\hline 31. Has social hours & 6 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \\
\hline 32. Awards college credit & 0 & 3 & 5 & - & 3 \\
\hline 33. Offers behavioral change & 1 & 7 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 34. Is taught by industrial specialists & 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 35. Attracts regional audience & 3 & 3 & 2 & - & \\
\hline 36. Uses role plays & 7 & 0 & O & 1 & \\
\hline 37. Improves job efficiency & 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 38. Is held on university campus & 3 & 0 & 5 & - & 1 \\
\hline 39. Provides textbooks & 5 & 0 & 3 & - & \\
\hline 40. Is advertised on radio & 2 & 1 & 5 & - & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{cccc}
\hline & \begin{tabular}{c} 
(1) \\
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT \\
PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
Low Level \\
Program \\
Attributes
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
High Level \\
Program
\end{tabular} \\
Attributes
\end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{c} 
Supplier \\
Attributes
\end{tabular}
41. Offers discounts for multiple enrollments dollars per day
43. Increases general ability
44. Promotes participant interaction
45. Attracts national audience
46. Awards certificates
47. Is two days long
48. Is advertised in newspaper
49. Is recommended by business associate
50. Is one week long
51. Attendance is required by company
52. Assists in career change
53. Increases promotion potential
54. Brochure design is attractive
55. Increases general knowledge
56. Advertised in personal letter
57. Is held in the evenings
58. Is held at resort location
59. Is a new program
60. Provides social environment
61. Is combined with vacation
62. Helps build business contacts
63. Provides idea exchange
64. Uses audio-visual presentations
65. Presented close to work location
66. Includes recreational activities
67. Brochure graphics
68. Reputation of the program
69. Reputation of instructor
70. Taught by men
71. Taught by women
72. Service provided at program facility
73. Time of year
74. Time of month
75. Tuition credit plan
76. Tuition tax deductible
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline 1 & 0 & 7 & 3 & \\
\hline 2 & 0 & 6 & 3 & X** \\
\hline 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 1 & 2 & 5 & - & \\
\hline 5 & 1 & 2 & - & \\
\hline 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & X \\
\hline 2 & 1 & 5 & - & 3 \\
\hline 0 & 2 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \\
\hline 1 & 2 & 5 & - & \\
\hline 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 0 & 7 & 1 & 2 & \\
\hline 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & \\
\hline 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & X \\
\hline 5 & 0 & 3 & - & 1 \\
\hline 4 & 1 & 3 & - & \\
\hline 5 & 2 & 1 & - & \\
\hline 3 & 1 & 4 & - & \\
\hline 0 & 6 & 2 & 2 & \\
\hline 0 & 8 & 0 & 2 & \\
\hline 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \\
\hline 5 & 0 & 3 & - & \\
\hline 4 & 1 & 3 & - & \\
\hline 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & X \\
\hline 1 & 2 & 5 & - & \\
\hline 2 & 2 & 4 & - & 3 \\
\hline 6 & 0 & 2 & 1 & X \\
\hline 6 & 0 & 2 & 1 & X \\
\hline 3 & 1 & 4 & - & \\
\hline 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \\
\hline 7 & 0 & 1 & 1 & X \\
\hline 2 & 1 & 5 & - & \\
\hline 2 & 0 & 6 & 3 & X \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{cccc}
\hline & \begin{tabular}{c} 
(1) \\
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT \\
PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
Low Level \\
Program \\
Attributes
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{c} 
High Level \\
Program \\
Attributes
\end{tabular}
\end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{c} 
Supplier \\
Attributes
\end{tabular}

\({ }_{\star *}^{*}\) First Classification. **Adjusted Classification.

ANALYSIS OF ATTRIBUTE CLASSIFICATION CHANGES


\section*{APPENDIX D}

PRETEST SURVEY

PLEASE ASSIST US IN PROVIDING FUTURE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT MEET YOUR NEEDS BY COMPLETING THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS.
I. Listed below are a number of items that you might consider in deciding whether or not to attend a professional development program. Please indicate the "degree of consideration" you give each attribute when deciding whether to attend a program by checking the appropriate description provided. If you "always consider" the item, mark the far left space. If you "never consider" the item, mark the far right space. If your consideration differs from either of the extremes, mark the appropriate space. For example, if you "usually consider": this item in deciding to attend a program, mark:
\begin{tabular}{llll} 
& \multicolumn{1}{c}{\(;\)} \\
\begin{tabular}{l} 
Always \\
Consider
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Usualiy \\
Consider
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Sometimes \\
Consider
\end{tabular} & \begin{tabular}{l} 
Seldom \\
Consider
\end{tabular}
\end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{l}
\(\overline{\text { Never }}\)\begin{tabular}{l} 
Consider
\end{tabular}
\end{tabular}

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & Alway Consi & & ++ & \(\rightarrow\) & Neve Cons & ider \\
\hline 1 - increases job knowledge & 16 & 2 & & & & 1.1* \\
\hline 2 - is held in a hotel & & & 4 & 5 & & 4.3 \\
\hline 3 - is sponsored by a university & 1 & & 5 & 4 & & 2.8 \\
\hline 4 - is an informational update & 5 & & 3 & & [; & 1.9 \\
\hline 5 - provides opportunity for salary increase & 3 & & 4 & 3 & & 2.7 \\
\hline 6 - costs fifty dollars per day & 3 & & 4 & 4 & 3 & 3.0 \\
\hline 7 - is taught by a university professor & & & 5 & 2 & 3 & 3.0 \\
\hline 8 - attracts attendees from one industry & 1 & 11 & 1 & 4 & 1 & 2.6 \\
\hline 9 - is presented in a lecture format & & 8 & 4 & 6 & & 2.9 \\
\hline 10 - is one day long & 7 & & 5 & 4 & & 2.6 \\
\hline 11 - is held on a work day & 7 & 4 & 6 & 1 & & 2.1 \\
\hline 12 - provides a workbook of materials & 5 & 4 & 5 & 3 & & 2.4 \\
\hline 13 - has luncheons provided & & & 5 & 8 & 5 & 1.0 \\
\hline 14 - is advertised on a brochure & & 6 & 4 & 5 & 3 & 3.3 \\
\hline 15 - is an established program & 6 & 8 & 2 & \(1 ;\) & & 2.1 \\
\hline 16 - sponsor's reputation & 13 & 4 & & & & 1.3 \\
\hline 17 - provides refund policy & 2 & 4 & 2 & 8 & 2 & 3.2 \\
\hline 18 - provides skill development & 11 & 6; & \(1 ;\) & & & 1.4 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

25 - is offered on non-work days
26 - costs one hundred dollars per day
27 - awards continuing education units
28 - is advertised in catalog
29 - is recommended by a friend
30 - is three days long
31 - has social hours
32 - awards college credit
33 - offers behavioral change
34 - is taught by industrial specialists
35 - attracts regional audience
36 - uses role plays
37 - improves job efficiency
38 - is held on university campus
39 - provides textbooks
40 - is advertised on radio
41 - offers discounts for multiple enrollments
42 - costs one hundred fifty dollars per day
43 - increases general ability
44 - promotes participant interaction
45 - attracts national audience
46 - awards certificates
47 - is two days long
48 - is advertised in newspaper
49 - is recommended by business associate
50 - is one week long
51 - attendance is required by company
52 - assists in career change
53 - increases promotion potential


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

*Mean values.
```

II. Listed below are the same items you encountered in question
one. Please indicate how each item affects the overall quality
of the program. If you feel the item "greatly increases" the
quality of the program, mark the far left space. If you feel
the item "greatly decreases" the quality of the program, mark
the far right space. If you feel the effect on quality differs
from either of the extremes, mark the appropriate space. For
example, if you feel the item "slightly decreases" the quality
of the program, mark:

```


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:
Greatly
increases
quality \(\quad\)\begin{tabular}{l} 
Greatly \\
decreases
\end{tabular}


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:


\footnotetext{
*Mean values.
}
III. Please answer these questions about your attendance at Professional Development Programs excluding inhouse programs sponsored by your firm.
1. Approximately how many Professional Development Programs do you attend per year?
_ \({ }^{0}-{ }^{1}-{ }^{2}\) 3.3 \({ }^{3}-{ }^{4}\) —_ \(^{5}\) _ over 5
2. Approximately how many days are spent attending Professional Development Programs?
\begin{tabular}{ll} 
& \(0-2\) \\
\(3-5\) \\
\(6-8\)
\end{tabular}\(\quad\)\begin{tabular}{l}
\(9-11\) \\
\\
\hline
\end{tabular}\(\quad\)\begin{tabular}{l}
\(12-14\) \\
\end{tabular}
3. Approximately what percentage of the Professional Development Program fee is paid by your firm?
\(-25 \%\)
\(26-50 \%\)\(\quad\)\begin{tabular}{l} 
51-75\% \\
76-100\%
\end{tabular}
IV. Please answer these questions related to your firm and your background.
1. What is the approximate number of employees your firm employs?
\(0-10\)
11-50
\(51-100\)\(\quad\)\begin{tabular}{l} 
4.0 \(101-200\) \\
\(201-500\) \\
501 and over
\end{tabular}
2. What type of industry is your firm representing?
1.3 service __ manufacturing ___ wholesaling ___ retailing ___ extractive industries
3. Your age 32.3
4. Circle the number of years of education completed by you.
\(\begin{array}{llllllll}12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & { }_{(16.2)}^{16} & 18 & 19 & 20\end{array}\)
5. Sex: 1.5 Male Female

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer these questions.

\section*{APPENDIX E}

ANOVA AND DUNCAN'S MULTIPLE RANGE TEST OF ATTRIBUTE CLASSES



```

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duncan-s multifle mange test for vafiagle secti
means withthe sane letteh afe nut significantly different.
ALpHA LEVEL=.0S
DF=1467
MS=76.0017
GROUPING
47.07755
B 4.0010327 490 S
C
* 4.0. . . Ho......

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duncan's mulitple rance test for vafiaele secta
means mith the same lettea ahe nut significantly diffenent. ALPHA LEVEL=. 05 \(D F=1467\) \(m \leq=65.1396\)

\section*{GRJUPING}

MEAN
N
ouf
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & & & & & & & \\
\hline \multicolumn{7}{|l|}{\multirow[b]{7}{*}{}} & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{\multirow[t]{7}{*}{}} \\
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{\multirow[t]{6}{*}{}} & & & & & & \\
\hline & & & & & & & & \\
\hline & & & & & & & & \\
\hline & & & & & & & & \\
\hline & & & & & & & & \\
\hline & & & & & & & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

A
43.955104

490
c
34.238776 \(490 \ldots \ldots\) \(\qquad\)

\section*{APPENDIX F}

GLM AND DUNCAN'S MULTIPLE RANGE TEST FOR PROGRAM EXPERIENCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES
STATISTICALANALYSIS SYSTEM 23:32 TVESOAYM JANLARY 1K. 1982101 genefal lineat midels phocedure CLASS LEVEL INfuFMATIUN
\begin{tabular}{lcl} 
CLASS & LEVELS & VALUES \\
GRULP & 3 & FL 5 \\
CI & 6 & 123456
\end{tabular}
NUMEER GF CBSERVATIONS IN DATA SET \(=1470\)


GENEHAL WINERG HCCELS PRCGECUFE
DUncancs multifle fange test for variagle sectit
MEANS WITH THE SANE LETTEG ARE NUT SIGNIFICANTLY UIFFERENT.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Grouplag & MEAN & N & Cl \\
\hline \(\triangle\) & - -144.933333 & 75 & 5 \\
\hline A & 43.3840115 & 234 & 4 \\
\hline & --42.825000 & -360 & 3 \\
\hline 8 & 41.960000 & 75 & 6 \\
\hline 8 & … 1.002821 & -486 & \\
\hline \({ }_{8}^{8}\) & 41.504167 & 240 & 1 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}



\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline source & -UF \\
\hline mouel & 23 \\
\hline EmROR & 144t \\
\hline correcteu total & 1409 \\
\hline squrce & OF \\
\hline GROUP
C2
GROUN* & \({ }_{1}{ }^{2}\) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}


STATISTICALANALYSIS SYSTLM 23:32 TUESDAY, JANUARY 12. 1982 114
DUNCAN•S MITIPLE FANGE TEST FJR VAHIAGYE SLCT
ME ANS BITH THE SARE LETTEA AKE NUT SIGNIFICANTLY VIFFLRENT.
A.PHA LEVEL=. 05
\(L F=1446\)
\(M S=77.0511\)


                Class level iafchnaticn
Class - LEvELS VALUES
GKOLP 3 HLS

numuer of observations in cata set \(=1470\)


STATISTIGAL ANALYSIS SYSTEM 23:32 TUESCAY. JANUARY 1\&. 198 L G 122 G-genehal linest micels procecume
duncan's multiple range test for variable secta
means ith the sane letteg are not significantly vifferent.
ALPHA LEVEL=.05 DF \(=1452 \quad\) MS \(=76.6550\)
GRCUUPIAC NEAN N CB

23: 3k tuescar. january 12. 1902 125


 GENEHAL LIAEAF NLEELS PGUCECUHE
dependent variable: sicta
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline SJURCE & - \(D F\) & Sum of sounkes & - mear & Ahe & f value & \(\mathrm{PF}>\mathrm{P}\) & f-square & cox. ... \\
\hline MuJEL & 17 & 28132.09342890 & 1654.E & E23 & 21.93 & 0.0001 & 0.204336 & 20.5058 \\
\hline EREUK & 1452 ... & 104543.6 .9160512 & -...) 75. & 27E & & . Stu DEV & - . .......... & SECTI MEAM \\
\hline Currecteu total & 1409 & 137675.785034C1 & & & & 0.00561196 & & 4e. 35782313 \\
\hline SUURCE & 21 & TYRE 1 S & F VALUE & [6 ¢ > & OF & tree livess & - value & \(\mathrm{PR}>\mathrm{F}\) \\
\hline groun GHJUR:DI & 19 \({ }_{5}^{2}\) & 25301.06666067 1372.06186531 1ASB.364ts 692 & \[
\begin{array}{r}
157.08 \\
3.84 \\
1.80 .
\end{array}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 0.0004 \\
& 0.003 \\
& 0.003 \\
& 0 \\
& 4
\end{aligned}
\] & \({ }_{4}^{2}\) & \[
\begin{array}{r}
17993.94157071 \\
137200286531 \\
1456.36489602
\end{array}
\] & \[
\begin{array}{r}
119.25 \\
3.64 \\
1.93
\end{array}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 0.0001 \\
& 6.0030 \\
& 0.0371
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

STATISTICAL ANALYEIS SYSTEM 23:32 TUESEAY, JANUARY IK, 1 POZ IJO GENEAAL LJAEAH MCLELL PRWCECURE
dumcan's multiple hange test fur variaule secti
means mith the same letteh are nut signifigantly cifferent.
ALPHA LEVEL \(=.05\)
\(M_{5}=75.4433\)
GROUFING MLAN N



STATISTICALANALYSISSSYSTEM


\section*{genehal lineat mocels paccecure}

\section*{OEPENDENT VAPIABLE: SLLTI}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline SOURCF & uF \\
\hline moje. & 17 \\
\hline Sakof & 1402 \\
\hline conhectel lotar & 1464 \\
\hline Sojrce & 2 H \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
GADUP \\
12 \\
GROUP*D2
\end{tabular} & \[
\begin{gathered}
\vdots \\
10
\end{gathered}
\] \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

FALuE
20.14
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Pr }>F \\
& 0.0001
\end{aligned}
\] & \begin{tabular}{l}
r-squaze \\
0.190808
\end{tabular} & \[
20.6794
\] \\
\hline STO DEV & -.. - .- & SECTI MEAM \\
\hline 8.75933940 & & 4<. 3578 ¢ 313 \\
\hline True ivss & F valuf & PR > F \\
\hline \[
\begin{array}{r}
\text { ELS5. } 89773520 \\
651.44284655
\end{array}
\] & 53.14
1.70 & \[
\begin{aligned}
& 0.0001 \\
& 0.1307
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline - 317.08A70498 & 0.41 & C. 9409 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}


23:32 tuesdar. january 120 19e2 141
srstem



 general linear mudels phicceuure
duncan's multifle fange test fof vafiable sect 1
means mith the same letter are nut significantly diffehent.
ALPHA LEVEL \(=0.05\)
\(D F=1455 \quad M \leq=75.3472\)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline Gerup ING & MEAN & \(N\) \\
\hline A & -43.373091 & 621 \\
\hline B \(\quad{ }_{\text {A }}^{\text {a }}\) & 4と. E5714 & 21 \\
\hline \({ }_{H} \quad{ }^{\text {A }}\) & -42.794043 & -. 336 \\
\hline - & 40.912086 & 273 \\
\hline - & 40.561644 & 219 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}


``` . gemekal limear madels procedure CLASS LEVEL INFEAMATICN class levels values Ghulp 3 HLS
```



```
NUMGER OF OBSERVATIDNS IN CATA SET \(=1470\)
```




``` GENEKAL LINEAR MCOELS PEGCEQURE
duncan. \(s\) multiple hange test for vafiamele sect 1
```

means mith the sane letter ahe nut significantly bifferent.
ALPHA LEVEL $=.05$ $D F=1452$ $\mathrm{MS}=76.20 .29$
gruuping







STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- GENEKAL LJNEAK MLDELS PROCEUGFE
 genehal lineaf mloels pgiceouke
dUNCAN'S MULTIPLE fange iest for vaflable secti
MEANS WITH TIEE SANE LETTEF ARE NUT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT. ALPMA LEVEL=.05 $\quad$ LF=14E4 MS $=74.2319$ GROUPING

NEAN $N$ NO
…
4.3 .886761 BAC 1 40.556050 <


## APPENDIX G

CANONICAL ANALYSIS OF ATTRIBUTE CLASSES



Standaroizec cancnical coeffilients fon the 'withe variables


$0.12678394 t 4$
-.2536327960 0.2638327964
$0.25720 \leq 1231$ $0 .: 2720 \leq 1234$
-.04244 .35915
-043001055
0.13004
o.
-

$0.0 \leq 4255654 \mathrm{E}$
0.298711900
0.27744307 0.278711900
0.27743877 -.207456404
0.163973455
0.1539734555
$-.29142678 t$



cancnical cchrelaticn analysis
$4 y 0$ OUSERVAT IUNS
32 FARO *ARIAELES
10 *WITV VAYIASLES



|  | $\cdots{ }^{\text {vi }}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| ${ }^{4}$ |  |
| ${ }_{\text {His }}$ |  |
| 碄 | 边 |
| Hit |  |
| H12 | 践 |
| ${ }_{71} 16$ | 旡 |
| －$\frac{1}{3}$ |  |
| \％ | － $5: 275$ |
| － | － 0.10 |
| 趏 |  |
| － 112 |  |
| 边 | －$=0.30$ |

Stancardi zed gancimal coefficients flir the＇vare variables



## VITA

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Doctor of Philosophy

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[^0]:    *Loadings over . 5 within factors.

