

University  
of Idaho

**GRIT**

THE POWER of PASSION  
and PERSEVERANCE

# TRUE GRIT: DESCRIBING THE GRIT SCORE OF STUDENTS IN AN INTRODUCTORY AGRICULTURE COURSE

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# NEED FOR RESEARCH

- I Non-cognitive factors likely play a large role in learning (Bazelais & Lemay, 2016).
- I Understanding non-cognitive factors can help shape educational programming for students at all levels (Berg & Pietrasz, 2017).



# NEED FOR RESEARCH

## I Why Grit?

- Grit is passion and persistence toward a task (Duckworth, Peterson, Matthews, & Kelly, 2007).
- Understanding grit can help instructors understand student mindset and overall commitment (Larkin-Wong & Hogan, 2013).

*PEOPLE TO WHOM  
THINGS COME  
EASY ARE NOT  
ALWAYS THE ONES  
WHO WORK  
THE HARDEST.*

ANGELA DUCKWORTH  
#WomenWhoWork

# PURPOSE

Describe grit in scores  
for students in an  
introductory  
agricultural education  
course



# METHODS

## I Population

- Students enrolled in the AGED 180 Introduction to Agricultural Education course in Fall 2017  $N = 21$ 
  - 100% response rate (results limited to this population)

## I Descriptive survey

- Demographic information
- Duckworth (2007) 10-item grit scale
  - Previous reliability estimates between  $\alpha = 0.82$  and  $\alpha = 0.86$

# METHODS

## I Distribution

- Paper versions of instrument were distributed at the beginning of the third class session of the semester

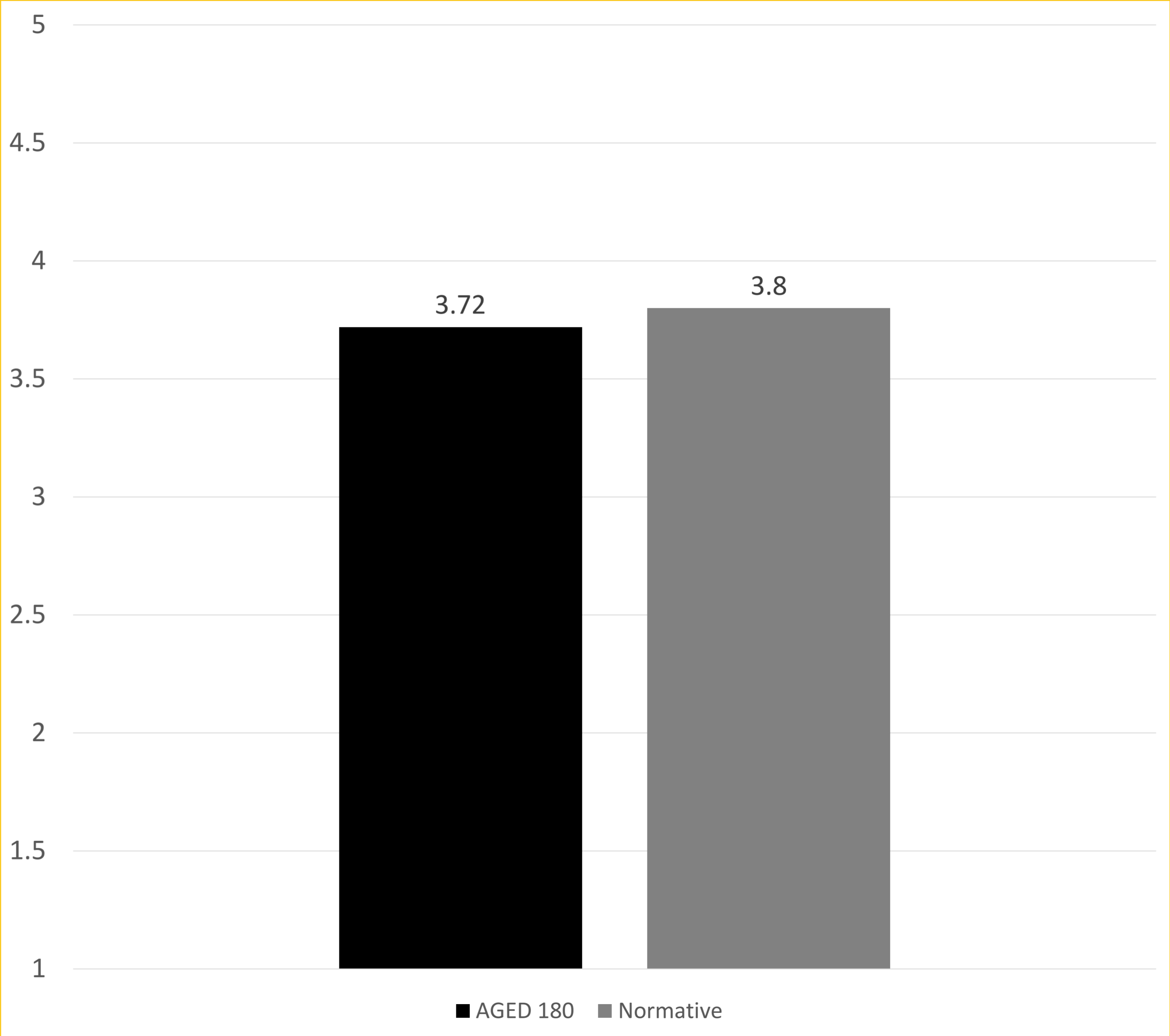
## I Analysis

- Paper versions were entered into Excel spreadsheet
- Analyzed with SPSS v 23



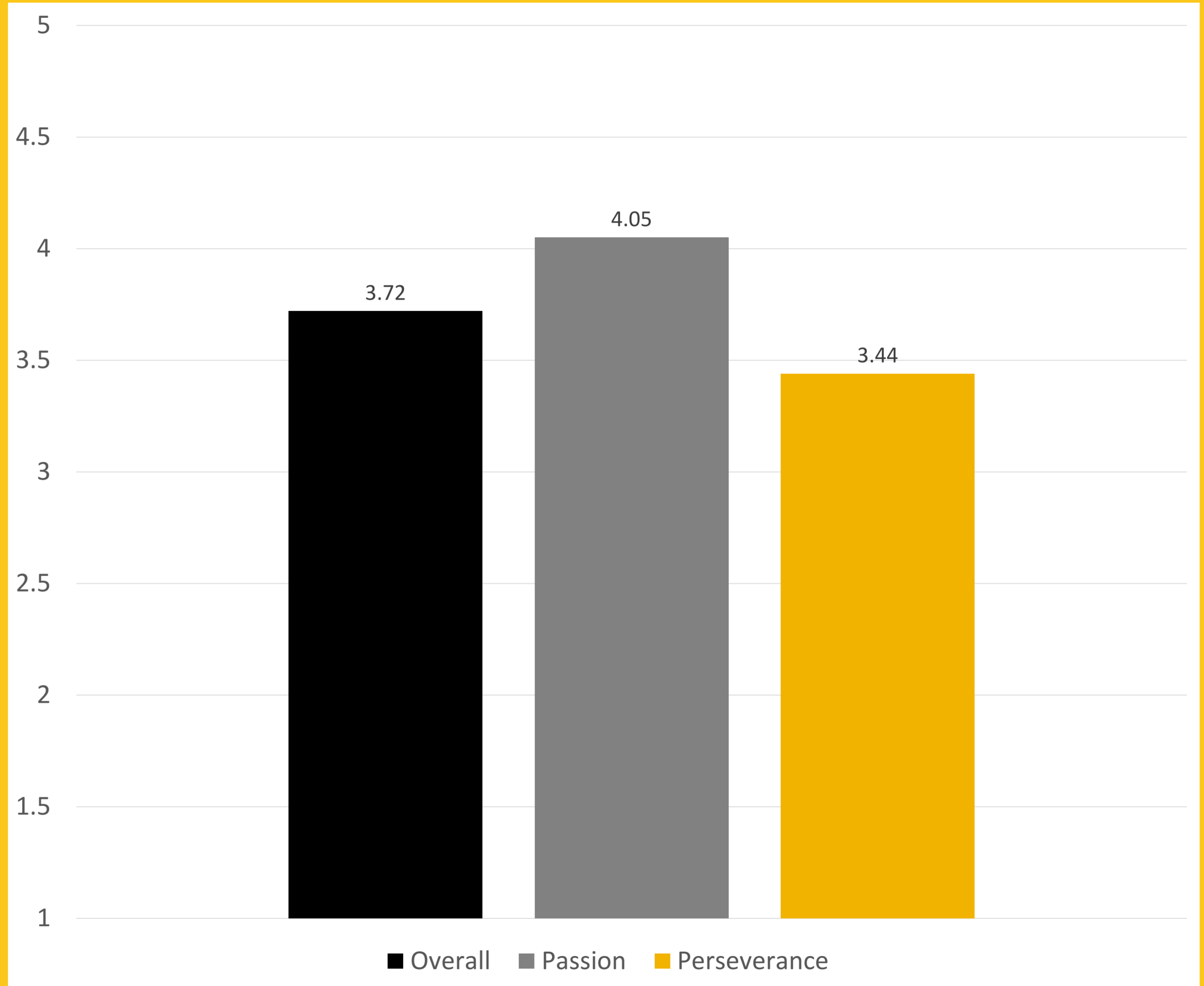
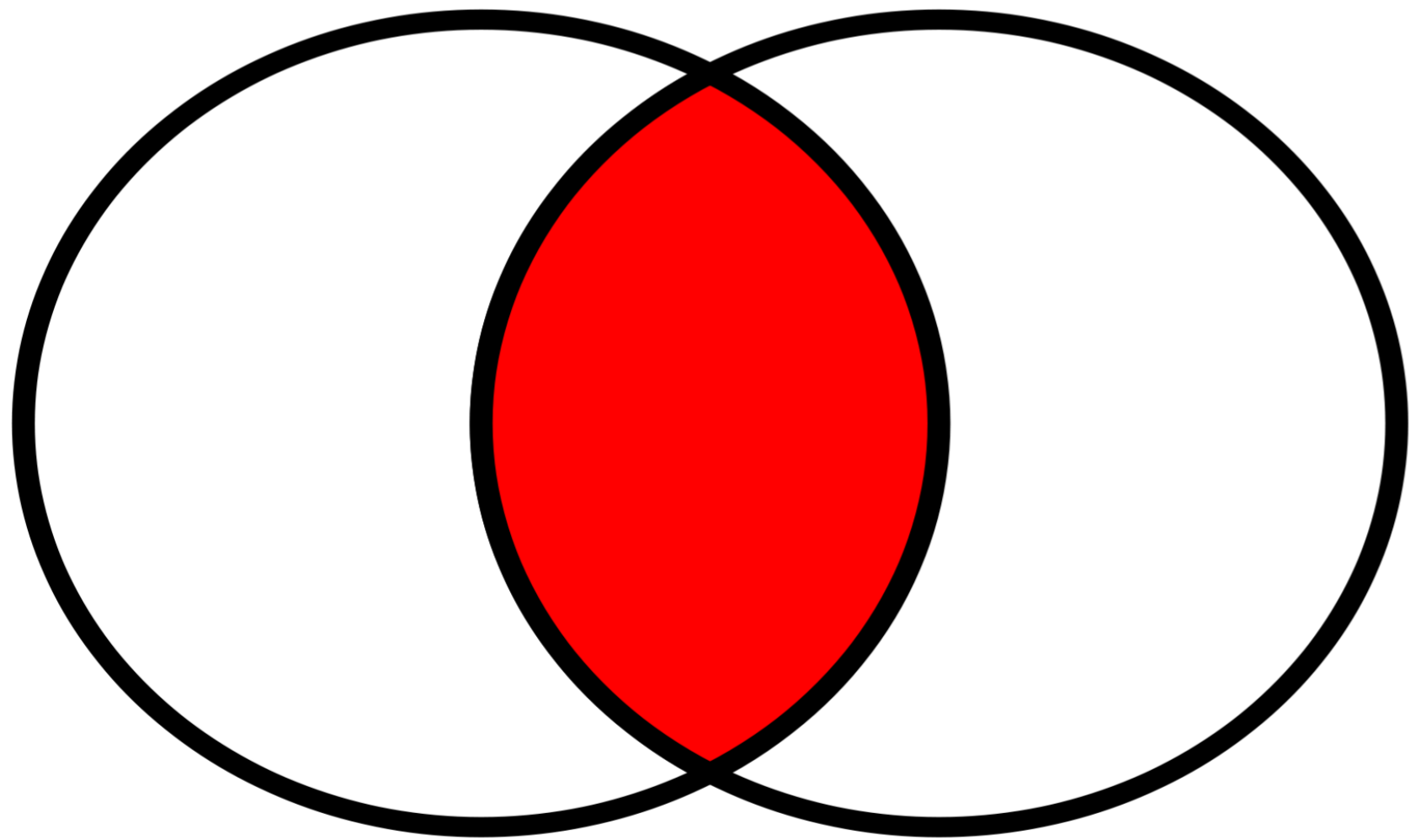
# FINDINGS

## GRIT SCORES OVERALL



# FINDINGS

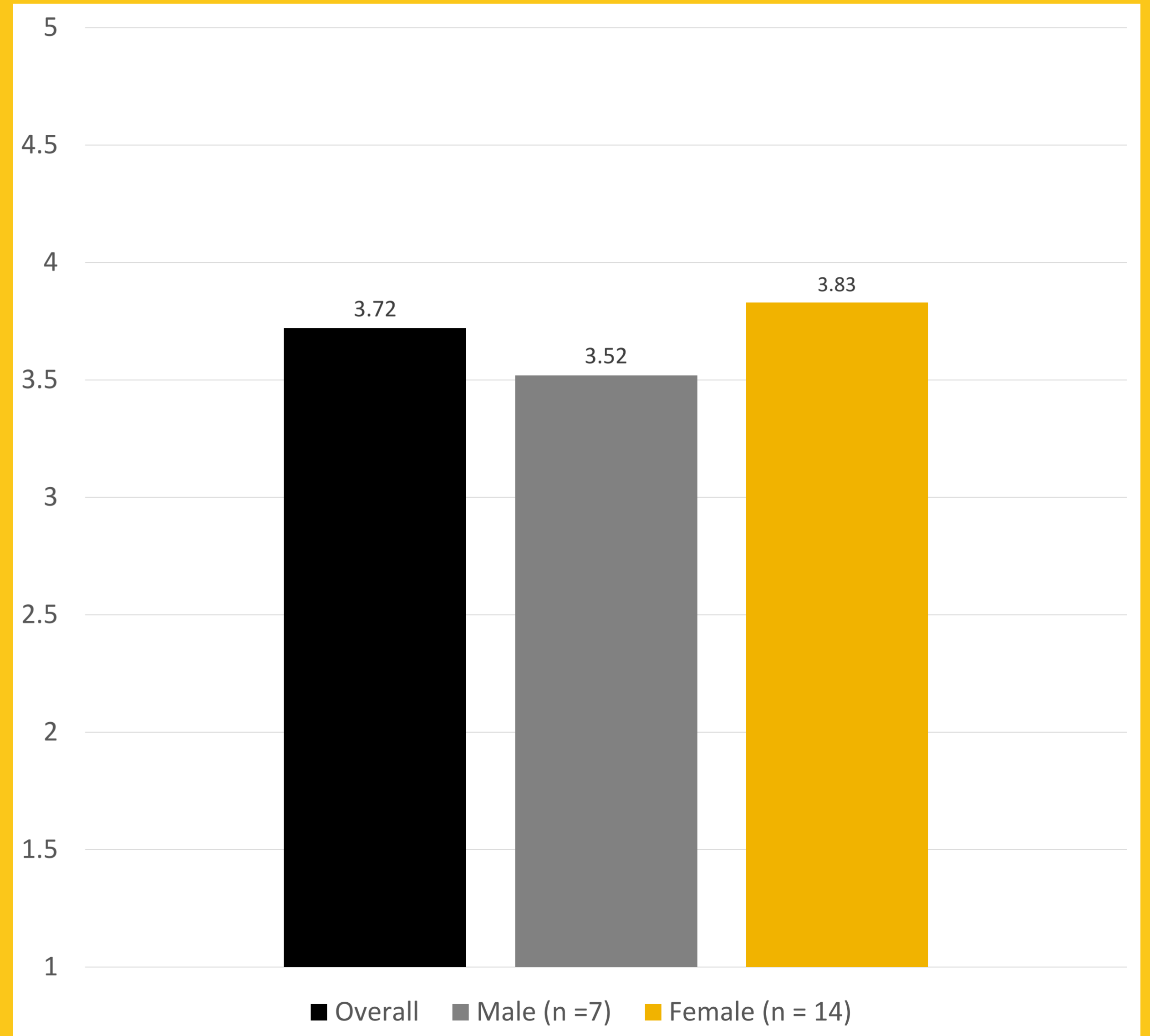
## GRIT SCORES BY CONSTRUCT





# FINDINGS

## GRIT SCORES BY GENDER






# CONCLUSIONS

- I Mean grit for students was near the reported normative score
  - To think about:
    - What would differences be in: general education course? non-major courses? different colleges/degree programs?

# CONCLUSIONS

- I Female students reported higher grit than males
  - To think about:
    - Is for this the case across the board?
    - Is there a difference between gender for grit scores?

# RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Conduct longitudinal examination to track grit over time
-  Compare results with other populations
-  Examine ways to increase grit in students enrolled in Colleges of Agriculture



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**THANK YOU**