**Graduate data set**

A study looks at factors that influence the decision of whether to apply to graduate school. College juniors are asked if they are unlikely, somewhat likely, or very likely to apply to graduate school. Hence, our outcome variable has three categories. Data on parental educational status, whether the undergraduate institution is public or private, and current GPA is also collected. The researchers have reason to believe that the “distances” between these three points are not equal. For example, the “distance” between “unlikely” and “somewhat likely” may be shorter than the distance between “somewhat likely” and “very likely”.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Variable name | Variable | Data type |
| apply | Participant number | Ordinal |
| pared | Graduate parent | Scale |
| public | Public/Private | Nominal |
| gpa | Student’s grade point average | Scale |

This hypothetical data set has a three level variable called *apply*, with levels “unlikely”, “somewhat likely”, and “very likely”, coded 1, 2, and 3, respectively, that we will use as our outcome variable. We also have three variables that we will use as predictors: *pared*, which is a 0/1 variable indicating whether at least one parent has a graduate degree; *public*, which is a 0/1 variable where 1 indicates that the undergraduate institution is public and 0 private, and *gpa*, which is the student’s grade point average. Let’s start with the descriptive statistics of these variables.