

The Impact of an Online-Blended Learning Course on Credit Earned in an Alternative Science Classroom



METRO HIGH SCHOOL

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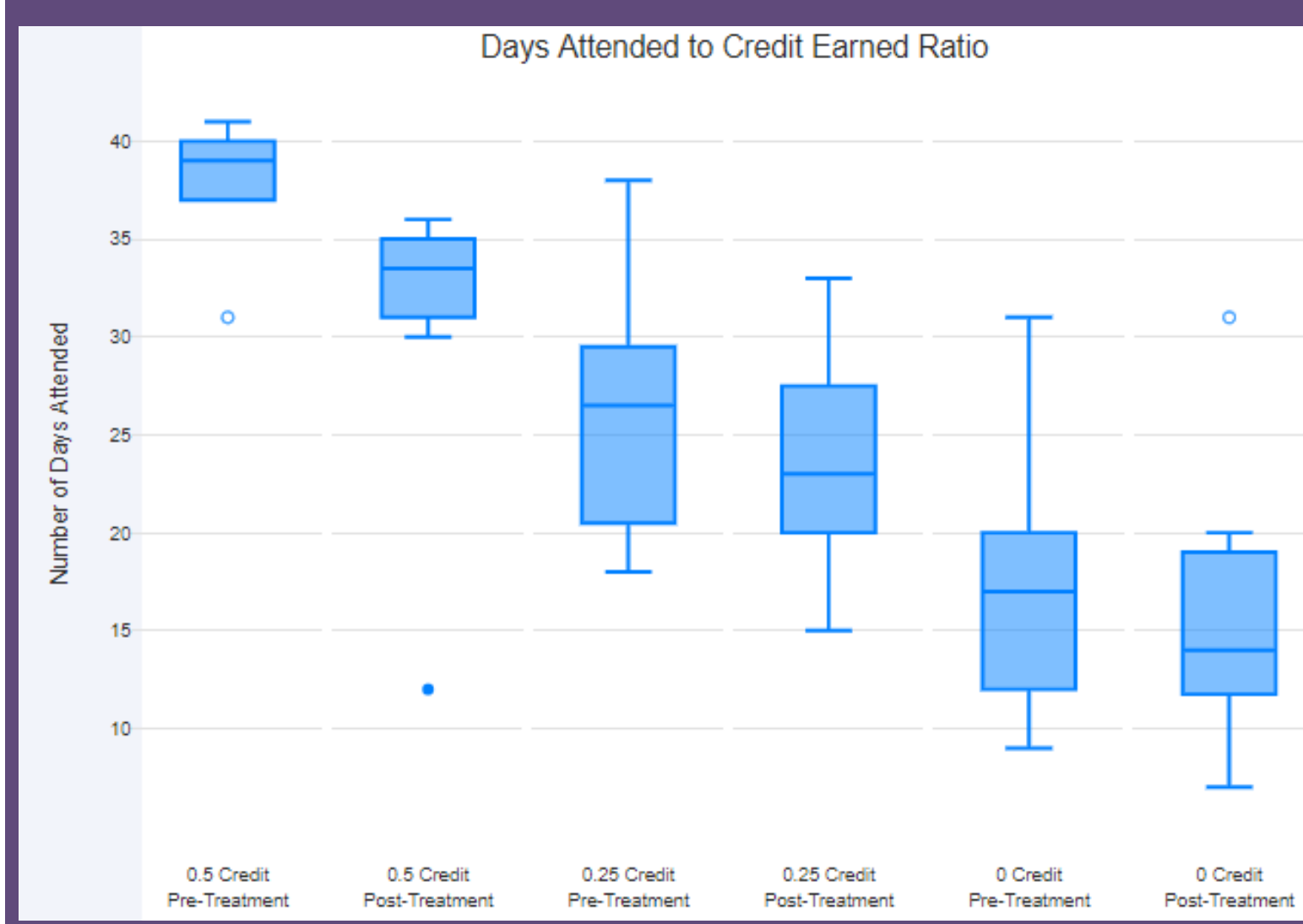
Background

My research is designed to allow students who struggle with attendance to stay caught up in class. By adding in an online-blended curriculum, students will have the ability to make-up assignments as needed. All classroom materials will be in one easily accessible place that students can use work days to go ahead or catch-up on what has already been done in class.

Research Questions

1. How might a blended learning course impact the level of credit earned for students with low-attendance?
2. What is the impact with students whose biggest challenge is attendance and being in the classroom?
3. What are the effects of blended learning on student attitudes and confidence in class?

Student Attendance-Credit Ranking



"I don't like using computers to learn, I just used the list of assignments you gave as kind of a checklist."
—Low-Attending Student from Interview

Methodology

Research Questions	Data Source		
How does having all materials organized on Canvas impact credit earning in my classes?	End of course credit reports	Likert Survey	Interviews
What is the impact with students whose biggest challenge is attendance and being in the classroom?	End of course credit reports	Attendance logs	Post Unit Test Scores
What are the effects of having all the materials in one place on student attitudes and confidence in class?	Likert Survey	Student free response survey	Interviews

Normal Conditions

- Class conducted as normal with packet, notes, quizzes, and test for each unit.
- A variety of notes, readings, videos and activities included in packet.
- Students have a specific timeline to turn in materials.
- Quizzes only given on certain days.

Treatment

- Everything from normal conditions, plus:
- All materials are organized into Canvas, an online platform for classes.
 - A variety of notes, readings, videos and interactives are available to all students.
 - Students are given several work days throughout the semester.
 - Quizzes available on Canvas, to be done in student work time

Conclusions

- In response to Research Questions 1 and 2, while attendance does still impact credit earning, having all of the materials be easier to access helped students to earn more credit.
- When given the opportunity to rate themselves, students were mostly honest about their work ethic and use of time in class. There was a strong correlation to how a student ranked themselves and the credit earned in class
- In response to Research Question 3, students were more confident in their abilities to navigate a computer and access the different learning tools that a blended learning course has to offer.

Student Confidence in use of Technology

