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

Karelyn Pohl
Metro High School
Cedar Rapids, IA

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?

Methodology

How does having all materials organized on Canvas impact credit earning in my classes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Questions</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of course credit reports</td>
<td>Likert Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of course credit reports</td>
<td>Attendance logs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likert Survey</td>
<td>Student free response survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Treatments

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Treatment VS. Post Treatment Technology Survey Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>