Help Students Build Bridges:

Promote Active Learning and Collaboration Online Through Interactive Course Design

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Introduction, significance of study

Course format and assignments

Criteria for groups

Findings

Reflection & discussion
William & Mary
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#28

Best Online MBA Programs
U.S. News & World Report

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Best Online MBA Programs Rankings Indicators

Here's a breakdown of the key online MBA data that go into the annual rankings.

Read more about how U.S. News Calculated the Best Online MBA Programs Rankings »
Course format

- 7.5 weeks
- 7 modules
- Mandatory group work in Module 1 with assigned group
- Optional group work in Modules 2-7 with assigned group
Criteria for forming groups

- 4-5 learners in a group
- Learners may not cross groups
- Accounting experience distributed evenly among groups
Experience (Collaborators)

1 = None
2 = Light
3 = Moderate
4 = Substantial

Mean = 1.84
Experience (Non-collaborators)

1 = None
2 = Light
3 = Moderate
4 = Substantial

Mean = 1.89
Three Assignment Options
#1

- Work individually
- Individual submission
#2

Collaborate with team • Individual submissions

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• Collaborate with team
• Team submission
Weekly individual pacing exams
Non-collaborators vs. Collaborators

- Collaborators (77%)
- Non-collaborators (23%)
Collaborators

Mean = 3.11
Total collaborations

Mean = 13.57
Survey

- Enjoyment?
- Understanding?
- Efficiency?
- Grades?
Increased understanding

1 = Strongly disagree
2 = Moderately disagree
3 = Neither agree nor disagree
4 = Moderately agree
5 = Strongly agree

Mean = 4.36
Increased efficiency

1 = Strongly disagree
2 = Moderately disagree
3 = Neither agree nor disagree
4 = Moderately agree
5 = Strongly agree

Mean = 4.17
Increased enjoyment

1 = Strongly disagree
2 = Moderately disagree
3 = Neither agree nor disagree
4 = Moderately agree
5 = Strongly agree

Mean = 4.38
Increased scores

1 = Strongly disagree
2 = Moderately disagree
3 = Neither agree nor disagree
4 = Moderately agree
5 = Strongly agree

Mean = 4.13
Survey Results

Understanding: 60% Strongly agree, 30% Neither agree nor disagree, 10% Moderately disagree, 0% Strongly disagree

Efficiency: 70% Strongly agree, 20% Neither agree nor disagree, 10% Moderately disagree, 0% Strongly disagree

Scores: 50% Strongly agree, 40% Neither agree nor disagree, 10% Moderately disagree, 0% Strongly disagree

Enjoyment: 80% Strongly agree, 15% Neither agree nor disagree, 5% Moderately disagree, 0% Strongly disagree
Future research

- Survey all students (collaborators & non-collaborators) perceptions of understanding, efficiency, enjoyment, and scores.
- Qualitative data – ask why they chose to collaborate (or not).
Choose a role of either instructor or learn (or both) and consider what challenges or responses you might expect when implementing an online course designed to foster active learning and collaboration.
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