

The Impact of On-Line Supplements on Student Performance

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Abstract

There is growing pressure in academia to provide alternate methods of offering classes to students. Similar to other industries, this has been driven by social, economic, competitive, and technological forces. To this end, many universities are expanding their reach by providing on-line alternatives to their on-campus offerings. This paper examines the impact of using a hybrid approach, one which includes both in-class instruction and an on-line component, on student performance. Performance is measured by: 1) comparing scores of students who took traditional in-class paper and pencil quizzes with those who took the same quizzes on-line; and 2) comparing the test scores of students who completed homework and quizzes in the traditional manner with those who completed homework assignments and took quizzes on-line. Other important comparisons include the number of quizzes that were missed (a potential proxy for absenteeism) and the number of students who withdrew from the classes (a potential proxy for turnover).