

My Student Success Course Pilot Fall 2016/Spring 2017

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Introduction

My Student Success course (MSSC) was developed as a stand alone course delivered entirely online **to prepare students for academic life at Langara**. Two versions have been piloted. In Fall 2016, students in all sections of two biology courses participated (n=320). In spring 2017, a revised version was piloted in biology and WMDD (n~575). In both pilots, students received a maximum of 2.5% of their final grade for their course from completion of unit quizzes in the MSSC.

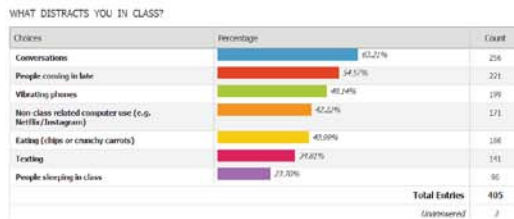
The following units were delivered weekly:

1. Classroom Expectations (and Lab Expectations, if applicable)
2. Time Management
3. Communicating with your Instructors
4. Succeeding on Tests and Exams
5. ABC's (and FNW's) of Academic Standing
6. What You Need to Know About Plagiarism

Course Design

- applied principles of backward design
- aligned assessment with learning outcomes
- followed UDL guidelines to support all students
- incorporated activities for engagement and reflection
- maximized visual interest

Polls with Immediate Results



Thematic Comics to Enhance Continuity



Results

Student Engagement Fall 2016

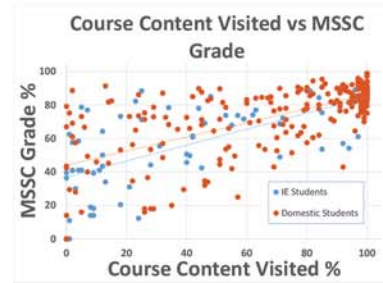


Figure 1 indicates a correlation between course pages visited and the overall grade on the MSSC with $r^2=0.479$ indicating **more engagement with the course results in higher grades in the MSSC**. n=302

Lab Midterm Grades Fall 2016

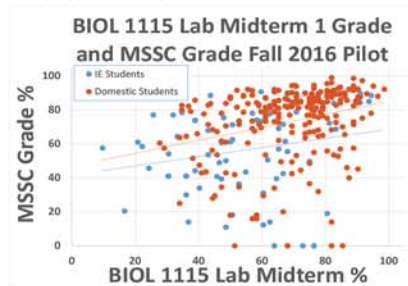


Figure 2 indicates a weak correlation between student grades on the BIOL 1115 midterm lab exam and MSSC grades with an $r^2=0.12$. n =302

Fall 2015 and Fall 2016

| | BIOL 1115 | Fall 2015 Grades (4 sections) n=135 | Fall 2016 Grades (6 Sections) n=203 |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MSSC | | N/A | 72.0% |
| Lab Midterm | | 61.7% | 65.7% |
| Overall Final GPA | | 2.1 (all sections) | 2.4 (all sections) |

Figure 3 shows the increase in the lab midterm average grade from Fall 2015 to Fall 2016. The overall GPA for the course also increased.

Student Survey Results Fall 2016

Students participated in a survey on what they liked, didn't like, and what they would like to see improved. Student responses to unit surveys are used to inform the development of future versions of the course. The following are a sample student responses;

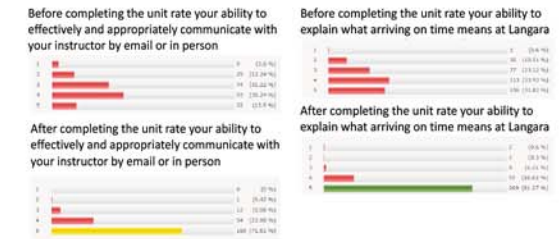
*"Seeing the videos from **teachers and students perspective** really helps to have a successful mindset."*

*"... participating more in class and getting to know your fellow students is very important. I do not participate a lot in class **because I am a shy person but after reading how important it is I will definitely try my best to ask and answer more questions.**"*

*"The part about doing some of your **work ahead of time**, I never thought about that but it would be a great way to be **less stressed** and give myself more time to ask the teacher questions about homework."*

Post-Pre Reflection Spring 2017

Following each unit, using a Likert scale from 1-Really Poor to 5-Really Very Good, students assessed their abilities to perform learning outcomes before and after completing the unit. Overall, **students believed they had a marked increase in each outcome.**



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