Evaluation and Comparison of Online Courses versus Face to Face Courses

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Introduction
As technology becomes increasingly accessible and user friendly, educational institutions are beginning to embrace a new form of learning. In order to reach a larger demographic, more and more institutions are offering online classes. This new learning method has sparked the interest of educational learning researchers as to whether or not the medium that the information is being received through affects the learning process.

Research Questions
The research was performed to measure the difference in learning, performance, and satisfaction between an online course and a traditional, “face-to-face”, course.

Article Methodology/Research
The primary goal of the research was to examine the difference of grade distribution between students enrolled in online courses as opposed to students enrolled in the traditional face-to-face courses.

In order to grasp a qualitative perspective, course completion percentages were analyzed and students were surveyed at the end of a course to determine the effect a class had on work habits and critical thinking.

Discussion
Quantitative assessments of the data illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2 show that there is a statistical difference between the two types of courses, indicating that it is reliable data. In analyzing the overall performance between the methods, there is minimal difference between online and face to face courses.

Another study compared the satisfaction of student experiences when taking a course online versus face to face. The students were surveyed after completion of the course in regards to how the course affected their critical thinking skills and their work ethic. The results of the survey illustrated that students who completed the online version of the course saw an increase in their ability to think critically and their work ethic as compared to students who completed the face to face version.

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References