THE IMPACT OF ONLINE DELIVERY IN IS COURSEWORK ON A STUDENT'S SUCCESS ON THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST NATIONAL ASSESSMENT EXAM

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ABSTRACT

The Computer Information Systems Department at Metropolitan State College of Denver has offered almost all required courses in their CIS major program in both a classroom and online format for the past several years. Previous research performed by CIS Faculty has raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of the online delivery format.

As part of an ABET accrediting process, the CIS Faculty requires all students to complete the Information Systems Analyst (ISA) National Assessment Exam as part of their Capstone course. A previous study by Segall, Gollhardt, and Morrell [4] reported that academic performance, native language, age, and the state of the test taker at the time of the test are important characteristics for success. A wealth of other research has already been done on delivery method in course sequences [2], plus the advantages and disadvantages of Web courses, for both students and faculty [3] [1]. In our department "Over the past five years 129 sections of these courses have been offered online while 726 sections have been offered in a traditional classroom setting. The online offerings therefore represent a significant percentage (15%) of total offerings for the courses offered using both delivery mechanisms." [2]

This paper extends the previous research by exploring the relationship between performance on the ISA exam and the delivery method the students chose for their Information Systems coursework. First, an overall test will be run to determine if the number of online courses a student took was correlated with the overall ISA exam score. Next, required courses in the curriculum that cover the various core areas of the ISA exam will be identified and matched with subscores from the exam. Tests will be run on each of the subscores for core exam areas to determine if there was any difference on performance for the area based on the delivery format chosen for the corresponding coursework (e.g. the database course vs. the database ISA subscore).

[1]   Mawhinney, C., *et al.* Issues in Putting the Business Curriculum Online. *Proceedings of the Western Decision Sciences Institute*. Puerto Vallarta, MX. April, 1998.
[2]   Morrell, J. S., et al. The Impact of Online Delivery In Prerequisite Courses on a Student's Success In Subsequent Courses, European ABR Conference, Venice, Italy, 2003.
[3]   Presby, L. Increasing Productivity in Course Delivery. *T.H.E. Journal,* 2001, (28) 7, 52-58.
[4]   Segall, M., Gollhardt, L., and Morrell, J. S. The Information Systems Analyst National Assessment Exam: Factors for Success, *Information Systems Education Journal,* 2007, *5* (40), http://isedj.org/5/40/.