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An Experimental Evaluation of Alternative Assessment Measures

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Abstract

The assessment literature often contains evaluations of novel teaching methods, practices, cases, activities, etc. However, other than prescriptive papers, it rarely questions the quality and reliability of the measures being used. Could unanticipated assessment results occur due to inadequate measures. We tested this hypothesis by evaluating our measures for specificity, clarity, readability, and other relevant factors. Next, we developed an alternative version of each measure that was giving unanticipated results. Students were randomly assigned to answer either the original or the alternative question during a regular examination. Results obtained and lessons learned from the experiment will be discussed in the paper.

Conference Track

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