

Persistence and Retention

A DOODLE-TLT
research collaboration

TLT Conference

Nov 16, 2006

Some research questions

- What happens to students who take online courses at SUNY?
- Do they stay in the class?
- Do they succeed in the class?
- Do they learn anything?
- What are our overall persistence rates for online courses?
- What are our overall retention rates for online courses?

Where could we find answers?

- Large data bases?
- Asking the students?
- Asking the program directors?
- Counting heads online?
- What are the tradeoffs?

What would we count?

- Total enrollment?
- Dropouts?
- Dropins?
- Who's left standing?
- What parameters?
- Are there more tradeoffs here?

Defining the dimensions

Initial enrollment --First full roster for the course

First day enrollment --Roster when course begins

Census enrollment --Reported on campus census

Final enrollment --Roster on last day

Successful completion --Receive A, B, C grade

Persistence --Census enrollment to Successful at end of term.

Retention --Number who enroll in a subsequent online course.

Our project

- Campuses collect and share local data
- Figures are assembled and compared across campuses only for now.
- We record “fully online” courses only for now.
- We define more issues as we can when we can.

What's required

- Consistent collection on your campus
- Everyone uses the same dimensions
- DOODLE and TLT house the data
- Data is freely shared among all participants

So when do we start?

- Target for first data set is AY 2006-7
- There's still time to collect Fall 06 data
- Excel data collection form keeps us on the same page.
- Data will be collated by TLT
- DOODLE and TLT review any publication of results beyond local campus uses.
- Raw results belong to everyone

Thanks for working with us!

- The Data form is available at DOODLE online
<http://agora.le.suny.edu>
- If you have questions, contact:
 - Keith Lynip--Mohawk Valley
 - Beth Harris--FIT
 - Jennie Dautermann--TLT
 - Bob Knipe--Genesee CC
 - Cris Balan--Plattsburgh
 - Terry Keys--Monroe