



Effect of Student Absenteeism on Academic Performance in Undergraduate Animal Science Courses

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Introduction

It is commonly assumed that university students benefit from attending lecture. In the past decade, a number of researchers have examined the relationship between students' attendance, or absenteeism, and academic performance, generally finding that attendance has an effect on academic achievement. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of student absenteeism on academic success in undergraduate animal science courses.

Materials and Methods

- Data collected during the 16-week fall and spring semesters
 - 2007 – 2009
- Evaluated 2,129 students enrolled in 30 different undergraduate animal science courses
 - Courses were taught by six different faculty members
- Data collected included:
 - Absences
 - Gender
 - Classification
 - Final course grade
- Students were divided into three groups based upon number of absences in a course during the semester: low (0-2), average (3-6), and high (7 or more)

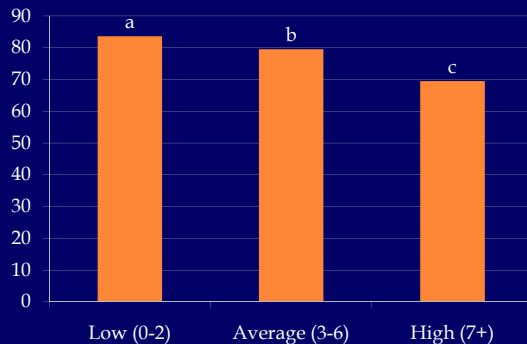
Results

- Mean number of absences for all students was 3.75 per course
- Students with a low (0-2) number of absences had the highest ($P < 0.01$) mean final course grade (83.6)
- Students with an average (3-6) number of absences had a higher ($P < 0.01$) mean final course grade (79.5) than students with a high (7 or more) number of absences (69.5)
- Males (4.2) had a higher ($P < 0.01$) mean number of absences than females (3.4)
- Seniors (3.3) had a lower ($P < 0.01$) mean number of absences than freshman (4.2) and sophomores (4.0)
- There was no difference in mean number of absences between animal science majors (4.0) and non-majors (3.7)

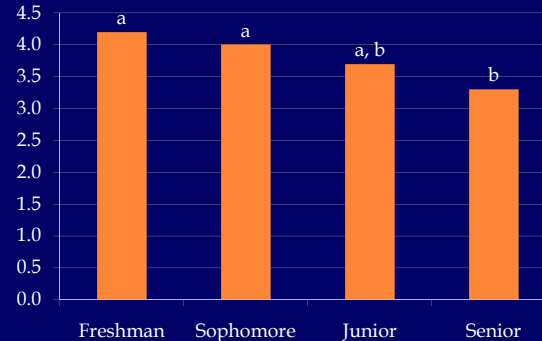
Conclusions

- Students with a greater number of absences attained a lower final course grade
- Male students had a greater mean number of absences than female students
- Freshman and sophomores had a greater mean number of absences than juniors and seniors

Mean Final Course Grade by Absence Level



Mean Number of Absences by Classification



Mean Number of Absences by Final Course Letter Grade

