



Characteristics of Students that affect Academic Performance in Undergraduate Animal Science Courses



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Introduction

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. Previous research at SHSU indicates that gender, classification, and major field of study all have an effect on final grade outcome in undergraduate animal science courses. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of several student characteristics on academic performance in undergraduate animal science courses.

Materials and Methods

- Data collected during the 16-week fall and spring semesters
 - 2007 – 2009
- Evaluated 2,022 students enrolled in 30 different undergraduate animal science courses
 - Courses were taught by six different faculty members
- Data collected included:
 - Classification
 - Gender
 - Major field of study
 - Final course grade

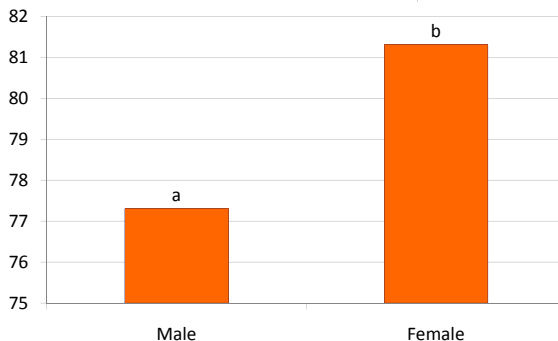
Results

- Female students had a higher ($P<0.01$) mean final course grade (81.3) than male (77.3) students
- Students classified as juniors (80.4) or seniors (81.6) had a higher ($P<0.01$) mean final course grade than freshmen (78.2) or sophomores (77.0)
- There was no difference ($P=0.58$) in mean final course grade between animal science majors and non-majors

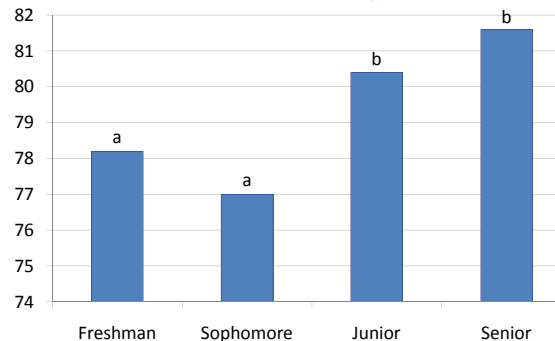
Conclusions

- There was a significant effect of gender and student classification on final course grade
- Females outperformed males in terms of final course grade
- Upper classmen outperformed lower classmen in terms of final course grade
- Non-majors performed at the same level as animal science majors in these courses

Mean Final Course Grade by Gender



Mean Final Course Grade by Classification



Mean Final Course Grade by Major Field of Study

