

ZMATH 2010f.01182

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A pilot study of instructor factors and student preferences.

J. Educ. Technol. Syst. 38, No. 1, 51-62 (2009-2010).

Summary: In order to gain a better understanding of the ways in which an instructor could enhance an on-line learning experience, we surveyed 96 students enrolled in on-line Health Promotion and Wellness courses. Almost all respondents felt that sending e-mailed reminders and posting announcements on the course was very important or important for enhancing the on-line learning experience. There was a mixed response in the ratings for how important it was for an on-line instructor to host on-line office hours and the weakest ratings were for rating importance of having asynchronous time with an on-line instructor. Not surprisingly, most students used the library for research purposes less often or as often for their on-line courses than for their face-to-face courses. However, the majority of students used the Internet for resources more often or as often. Interestingly, half of the respondents felt that they interacted more with classmates in their on-line course. The amount of time spent preparing assignments in a face-to-face versus an on-line course was split.

Classification: U50 R30 D40 Q60

Keywords: CAI; teaching methods; information retrieval; distance learning; research; computer as educational medium; independent study; internet; tutoring; applied computer science; educational media; teacher student interaction; student student interaction; communication; teacher role
doi:10.2190/ET.38.1.f