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Statistical Strategies: Meeting the Needs of Struggling Math Students through Self-Guided Interactive Media

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Need

- MATH 215 has been a gateway course with high DEWZ rates
- Not enough instructional time for online students
- Focused more on procedures than conceptual understanding
- Overwhelming scope and pace of covered material
- Students become easily frustrated, which impedes confidence and success

Theory

Students learn best • By constructing knowledge

- By active involvement in learning activities
- By practicing the ideas and methods
- With consistent and helpful feedback
- If computers and calculators are used for procedural ease and visualization
- If students are aware of and confront their misconceptions
- If teachers do not underestimate difficulties

Garfield, J. How students learn statistics. International Statistical Review. University of Minnesota



Statistical Strategies: Meeting the Needs of Struggling Math Students through Self-Guided Interactive Media 2014 - 2015

Redesign Recommendations

- American Statistical Society recommends that a successful introductory college level statistics course: 1. Emphasizes statistical literacy and develops statistical thinking
- 3. Stresses conceptual understanding rather than mere knowledge of procedures
- 4. Fosters active learning
- 5. Uses technology to develop conceptual understanding and analyze data
- 6. Uses assessments to improve and evaluate learning

Multimedia Plan

- Use interactive modules with recorded lectures and conceptual questions with detailed, helpful feedback (active learningconfidence building)
- Provide additional topic videos, such as calculator tutorials, only in the modules where the videos are needed
- Provide an opportunity for self-assessment with explanatory feedback
- Include audio transcript for clarification and **ESL** learners
- Include three different types of interactive slides: informational, summary, and check your learning questions



2. Uses real data

Multimedia Process

Final revision cycle with Lead Faculty and all Content Editors.

6

5

Content Editor 2 syncs audio and media.

> **Content Editor 3** records and processes audio.

Results

- Created 28 multimedia pieces over the course of 7 months
- 6 hours of contiguous interactive instructional content
- Multimedia is topic-based, not dependent on textbook
- Multimedia can be reused in other courses
- Multimedia was implemented in MATH 215 for the Fall '14 term





Research Initiative

The MATH 215 Research Project has 3 stages: **Stage 1: Design Study**

- Stage 1 will collect information on user experience in three different forms:
 - <u>Usability testing</u>: Survey 1 (Bug Report)
 - Student Perception: Survey 2 (Ratings of several characteristics)
 - Semi-Structured Instructor Interviews: Instructors will be given a short survey, then based on their answers, will be asked interview questions

Stage 2: Formative Evaluation

- Overall evaluation of the new course redesign
- **Stage 3: Summative Evaluation**
- Long term study to include course outcomes and students' grade performances

