

Does Course Delivery Disadvantage Some Students? - a Learning Styles Consideration

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The objective was to collect a small database of Learning Styles from current BCS students. These were then to be compared with passing grades in a selection of level 5 courses. Of particular importance was the “business” course, that had a low pass rate.

We used the test found at the site www.how-tolearn.com/personal.html, which was self-marking and supplied the student with an instant score. This measured the Learning Style Index (LSI) values for Auditory, Visual, and Kinaesthetic. Pass grades for the courses of interest were then collected from the Student Records system.

The expected high count of Kinaesthetic was present – even higher than expected at 44% of all students. However, the proportion of Auditory was a lot lower than expected at 25%, which was surprising, given the high proportion of Polynesian students.

The results do seem to support the hypothesis – that the delivery method can disadvantage some students. It supports the staff perception, and efforts already made to modify the course delivery of the “business” course to better suit these students.

The correlation of grades within the “business” course against the dominant LSI scores showed that the Kinaesthetic group had the lowest pass rate at their first attempt, but managed to improve their position with more attempts. The Auditory group were not much better, but did not improve their position with more attempts.

