# Meta-Analysis of Student Achievement on Natural Science FLO SCI1 in a 200-Level Biology Course

Dr. Clifton Franklund<sup>1</sup>

### **Abstract**

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### **Keywords**

Meta-Analysis — Forest plot — Natural Sciences — Scientific concepts

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### Introduction

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### **Methods**

### Collection of assessment data

Student performance on the first lecture exam in a 200-level Biology course was analyzed. Individual student scores were collected using the new General Education Natural Sciences "scores" data workbook for thirteen semesters. Student scores were automatically converted to a rubric score by the workbook using the equivalencies shown in Table 1.

These files all contain personally identifiable information (PII) and are, therefore, subject to FERPA regulations. For this reason, they are not directly shared. Instead, they are

**Table 1.** Conversion of percentages to rubric scores

Percent correct	Rubric	Interpretation
0.0 to 49.9%	0	Unsatisfactory
50.0 to 59.9%	1	Beginning
60.0 to 69.9%	2	Developing
70.0 to 84.9%	3	Proficient
85.0 to 100.0%	4	Advanced

stored in a data folder in TracDat: Core Competency: Natural Sciences  $\Rightarrow$  Assessment  $\Rightarrow$  Proof of Concept.

### De-identification of student data

Copies of the 13 data files were downloaded from TracDat. An R aggregator script was used to read the data from these data sheets and contatenate it into one dataset. Student names were removed and each student's entry was given a unique eight-digit identifier - the Record.Key. These keys may be used for longitudinal studies in the future. The algorithm used is kept in an encrypted site and shared with *noone*. The de-identified dataset contains 973 student entries and is stored as a comma-delimited textfile (BIOL200Data.csv).

### Data provenance

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Citation of this work All of the de-identified data, analysis code, and documentation that constitute this report project may be freely used, modified, and shared. The code file, Gen\_Ed\_Report\_16-01.Rmd, is released under the MIT license. The de-identified dataset, BIOL200Data.csv, is released under the Creative Commons CC0 license. All documentation, including README.md, Codebook.md, and this report, are released under the Creative Commons CC-BY licence. Any questions, comments, or suggestions may be sent to Dr. Franklund.

**Session information** The following information pertains to the session used to generate this report.

- R version 3.3.0 (2016-05-03), x86\_64-apple-darwin13.4.0
- Base packages: base, datasets, graphics, grDevices, grid, methods, stats, utils
- Other packages: car 2.1-2, dplyr 0.5.0, forestplot 1.5.1, Formula 1.2-1, gdata 2.17.0, ggplot2 2.1.0,
  Hmisc 3.17-4, knitr 1.13, lattice 0.20-33, magrittr 1.5, mice 2.25, moments 0.14, papeR 1.0-1, Rcpp 0.12.6, survival 2.39-5, weights 0.85, xtable 1.8-2
- Loaded via a namespace (and not attached): acepack 1.3-3.3, assertthat 0.1, chron 2.3-47, cluster 2.0.4, colorspace 1.2-6, data.table 1.9.6, DBI 0.4-1, evaluate 0.9, foreign 0.8-66, formatR 1.4, gmodels 2.16.2, gridExtra 2.2.1, gtable 0.2.0, gtools 3.5.0, latticeExtra 0.6-28, lme4 1.1-12, MASS 7.3-45, Matrix 1.2-6, MatrixModels 0.4-1, mgcv 1.8-13, minqa 1.2.4, munsell 0.4.3, nlme 3.1-128, nloptr 1.0.4, nnet 7.3-12, parallel 3.3.0, pbkrtest 0.4-6, plyr 1.8.4, quantreg 5.26, R6 2.1.2, RColorBrewer 1.1-2, rpart 4.1-10, scales 0.4.0, SparseM 1.7, splines 3.3.0, stringi 1.1.1, stringr 1.0.0, tibble 1.1, tools 3.3.0

### Results

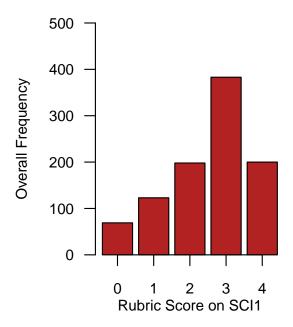
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### Structure of the report files

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### **Summary statistics**

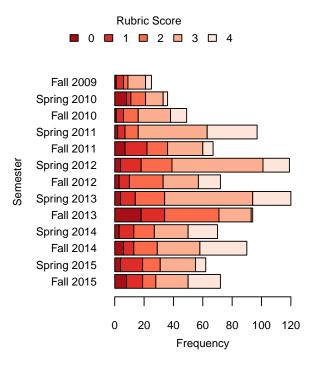
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**Figure 1.** A histogram of the distribution of individual rubric score frequencies over all twelve semesters.

The overall overall average rubric score for all 13 semesters was 2.54. The distribution of the rubrics scores is shown below.

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**Figure 2.** A barplot showing the distribution of rubric scores broken down by semester.

**Table 2.** One-way ANOVA analysis of scores by semester

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr(>F)
Semester	12	142.74	11.89	9.85	0.0000
Residuals	960	1159.22	1.21		

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### Meta-analysis

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$$\cos^3 \theta = \frac{1}{4} \cos \theta + \frac{3}{4} \cos 3\theta \tag{1}$$

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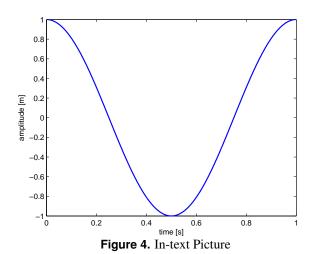
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- 3. Third item in a list Reference to Figure 4.

### **Discussion**

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Semester	Prefix	Level	Outcome	N	Mear
Fall 2009	BIOL	200	SCI1	25	2.52
Spring 2010	BIOL	200	SCI1	36	1.97
Fall 2010	BIOL	200	SCI1	49	2.76
Spring 2011	BIOL	200	SCI1	97	3.09
Fall 2011	BIOL	200	SCI1	67	2.13
Spring 2012	BIOL	200	SCI1	119	2.64
Fall 2012	BIOL	200	SCI1	72	2.57
Spring 2013	BIOL	200	SCI1	120	2.78
Fall 2013	BIOL	200	SCI1	94	1.70
Spring 2014	BIOL	200	SCI1	70	2.67
Fall 2014	BIOL	200	SCI1	90	2.82
Spring 2015	BIOL	200	SCI1	62	2.24
Fall 2015	BIOL	200	SCI1	72	2.54
Weighted average					2.54
					0 1 2 3 4
					Mean rubric score ± 95% CI

**Figure 3.** A forest plot of the average scores for each semester with a weighted mean estimate for the entire period investigated. Error bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals.



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Table 3. Table of Grades

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First name	Last Name	Grade
John	Doe	7.5
Richard	Miles	2

### Faculty feedback

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Word Definition

**Concept** Explanation

Idea Text

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## ✓ Ferris State University

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### Plan of action

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- · No modifications
- Modify the assignment
- Modify instruction
- Modify the learning outcome
- Modify the competency

### **Acknowledgments**

So long and thanks for all the fish (Figueredo and Wolf, 2009).

### References

Figueredo, A. J. and P. S. A. Wolf (2009). "Assortative pairing and life history strategy - a cross-cultural study." In: *Human Nature* 20, pp. 317–330.