Design Process and Calculations

Final Project Baseline Values

Unique cookies to view page per day: 40000

Unique cookies to click "Start free trial" per day: 3200

Enrollments per day: 660

Click-through-probability on "Start free trial": 0.08

Probability of enrolling, given click: 0.20625

Probability of payment, given enroll: 0.53

Probability of payment, given click: 0.1093125

Experiment Design

Metric Choice

Invariant Metrics:

- 1. Number of cookies: Number of unique cookies to view the course overview page
- 2. Number of clicks: Number of unique cookies to click the "Start free trial" button
- 3. Click-through-probability: number of unique cookies to click the "Start free trial" button divided by number of unique cookies to view the course overview page

Evaluation Metrics:

- 1. Gross Conversion: Number of user-ids to complete checkout and enroll in the free trial divided by number of unique cookies to click the "Start free trial" button
- 2. Net Conversion: Number of user-ids to remain enrolled past the 14-day boundary (and thus make at least one payment) divided by the number of unique cookies to click the "Start free trial" button

For each metric, explain both why you did or did not use it as an invariant metric and why you did or did not use it as an evaluation metric. Also, state what results you will look for in your evaluation metrics in order to launch the experiment.

Measuring Standard Deviation

Sample size of 5000 cookies visiting the course overview page:

$$Gross\ Conversion = \frac{Number\ of\ user-ids\ to\ enroll}{Number\ of\ unique\ cookies\ to\ click\ "Start\ free\ trial"}$$

$$Net \ Conversion = \frac{Number \ of \ user-ids \ to \ make \ a \ payment}{Number \ of \ unique \ cookies \ to \ click \ "Start \ free \ trial"} \\ S.D. \ (Gross \ Conversion) = \sqrt{\frac{0.020625(1-0.20625)}{3200/_8}} = 0.0202$$

S.D. (Gross Conversion) =
$$\sqrt{\frac{0.020625(1-0.20625)}{3200}/8} = 0.0202$$

S.D. (Net Conversion) =
$$\sqrt{\frac{0.109325(1-0.109325)}{3200}} = 0.0156$$

Gross Conversion: 0.0202 Net Conversion: 0.0156

(Retention was chosen initially, but the number of pageviews required to measure retention were too many to measure over a reasonable length of time for the experiment. So retention was removed as an evaluation metric.)

For each of your evaluation metrics, indicate whether you think the analytic estimate would be comparable to the the empirical variability, or whether you expect them to be different (in which case it might be worth doing an empirical estimate if there is time). Briefly give your reasoning in each case.

Sizing

Number of Samples vs. Power

Number of pageviews needed (using alpha=0.05 and beta=0.2): 685325

Bonferroni correction was not used since it can be over-conservative and only two evaluation metrics were chosen.

Duration vs. Exposure

Fraction of Udacity's traffic to divert to this experiment: 0.5 Given this, the number of days Udacity will need to run the experiment: 35

Number of days =
$$\frac{685325}{20000}$$
 = 34.266 \(\preceq\) 35

Experiment Analysis Sanity Checks

95% confidence interval for invariant metrics and sanity checks based on observed values

	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Observed	Passes
Number of cookies	0.4988	0.5012	0.5006	Yes
Number of clicks on "Start free trial"	0.4958	0.5041	0.5004	Yes
Click-through-probability on "Start free trial"	-0.0013	0.0013	0.00006	Yes

Number of Cookies:

Standard Error =
$$\sqrt{\frac{0.5 \times 0.5}{345543 + 344660}} = 0.000602$$

 $m = z \times Standard\ Error = 1.96 \times 0.000602 = 0.00118$ 95% Confidence Interval = (0.5-m, 0.5+m) = (0.4988, 0.5012)

Number of clicks on "Start free trial":

Standard Error =
$$\sqrt{\frac{0.5 \times 0.5}{28378 + 28325}} = 0.00209$$

 $m = z \times Standard\ Error = 1.96 \times 0.00209 = 0.00411$ 95% Confidence Interval = (0.5-m, 0.5+m) = (0.4958, 0.5041)

Click-through-probability on "Start free trial":

$$\hat{p}_{pool} = \frac{X_{control} + X_{exp.}}{N_{control} + N_{exp.}} = \frac{28378 + 28325}{345543 + 344660} = 0.08215$$

$$SE_{pool} = \sqrt{0.08215 \times (1 - 0.08215) \times (\frac{1}{345543} + \frac{1}{344660})} = 0.00066$$

 $m = z \times Standard\ Error = 1.96 \times 0.00066 = 0.001296$ 95% Confidence Interval: (-0.0013, 0.0013)

Since all the sanity checks pass, we can proceed with the rest of the analysis.

Result Analysis

Effect Size Tests

95% Confidence interval around the difference between the experiment and control groups for Evaluation metrics.

	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Statistical Significance	Practical Significance
Gross	-0.0291	-0.0119	Yes	Yes
Conversion				
Net conversion	-0.0116	0.0018	No	No

Gross Conversion:

$$\hat{p}_{exp} = \frac{Enrollments}{Clicks} = \frac{3423}{17260} = 0.1983$$

$$\hat{p}_{control} = \frac{Enrollments}{Clicks} = \frac{3785}{17293} = 0.2188$$

$$\widehat{d} = \hat{p}_{exp} - \hat{p}_{control} = -0.02055$$

$$\hat{p}_{pool} = \frac{X_{control} + X_{exp.}}{N_{control} + N_{exp.}} = \frac{3785 + 3423}{17293 + 17260} = 0.20861$$

$$SE_{pool} = \sqrt{0.20861 \times (1 - 0.20861) \times (\frac{1}{17293} + \frac{1}{17260})} = 0.004372$$

 $m = z \times Standard\ Error = 1.96 \times 0.004372 = 0.008568$ 95% Confidence Interval: (-0.0291, -0.0116)

Net Conversion:

$$\hat{p}_{exp} = \frac{Enrollments}{Clicks} = \frac{1945}{17260} = 0.11268$$

$$\hat{p}_{control} = \frac{Enrollments}{Clicks} = \frac{2033}{17293} = 0.11756$$

$$\hat{d} = \hat{p}_{exp} - \hat{p}_{control} = -0.00487$$

$$\hat{p}_{pool} = \frac{X_{control} + X_{exp.}}{N_{control} + N_{exp.}} = \frac{2033 + 1945}{17293 + 17260} = 0.11512$$

$$SE_{pool} = \sqrt{0.11512 \times (1 - 0.11512) \times (\frac{1}{17293} + \frac{1}{17260})} = 0.003434$$

 $m = z \times Standard\ Error = 1.96 \times 0.003434 = 0.00673$ 95% Confidence Interval: (-0.0116, 0.0018)

Sign Tests

	p-value	Statistical Significance
Gross	0.0026	Yes
Conversion		
Net conversion	0.6776	No

Summary

Recommendation

I will recommend not to launch the change a do a follow-up experiment since only of the evaluation metrics showed a statistical significant change.