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Enhancing Writing Skills in Statistics: A Collaborative Approach

🕒 20-minute research presentation

Friday, April 26, 2024 4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m. EDT (30 minutes)

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Our presentation will discuss how to foster equitable, inclusive, and accessible learning environments in large undergraduate statistical science courses. Using a case study approach, we will share our experiences co-creating learning partnerships in support of students' communication skill development in first-year statistics courses. Effective communication skills are critical to students engaged in statistics. However, barriers can make it difficult to effectively support students in developing communication skills in statistics courses. For example, introductory statistics classes can be large, instructors may have limited training in writing, and student preferences may value technical skill acquisition over communication skills. Thus, we will share insights on supporting students gained from our experiences co-teaching large online first-year statistics courses. From 2020 to 2022, we administered student surveys at the beginning and end of each term,

with the goal of assessing learners' perceptions on their writing skills pre and post course. The surveys identified which aspects of the course were most beneficial to learners' communication skill development and across a diverse range of student backgrounds, including English language learners. Overall, our presentation will create a shared learning space through discussion of the student survey responses, and how to support communication skills in statistics courses. We will share and invite feedback on the strategies we employed, including how we embedded writing development into the course, fostered learning partnerships with our institution's English Language Learning unit & the Student Success Office, and partnered with students by creating a department-supported peer mentorship program.

Authors: Liza Bolton

About this session

Blended and Online Learning

Speakers (3)

NM

Nathalie
Moon

JS

Jennifer
Sparks

QX

Quin Xie