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Impact of Use of Online Resources on Student Attendance and Academic Standing

Frequent and varied assessment has been shown to enhance learning and class attendance. That is, when teachers have many class sessions that include some form of assessment activity, students are more likely to attend class, which should enhance both learning and the students' academic standing. Longitudinal data suggested that requiring or allowing students to submit assignments online increases class absences. In our most recent study, more than 400 surveys were distributed to students and more than 500 to faculty members. Student surveys asked questions regarding their attendance practices, utilization of online resources, GPA and factors that affect their decision to attend class. The faculty surveys inquired about attendance policies, student attendance rate, and utilization of online resources. Survey results will be used to guide discussion on methods to enhance students' attendance and learning.