

Poster presentation

Semi-automated assessment and workload expectation mapping

Melinda Lewis, Mary Jane Mahony, Ann Poulos

University of Sydney

The Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney has conducted a mapping project to develop a deeper understanding of assessment factors which potentially impact on students' perception of workload. Electronic capture of annual faculty Assessment Program Meeting (APM) data, as well as lecturer's perceptions on preparation time, generated semi-automated assessment and workload expectation maps.

Data were imported into Excel spreadsheets. The initial data tables provided a preliminary picture of assessment and workload expectations. Charts of predicted student workload directly related to assessment tasks were produced. The assessment profile across a unit of study, a semester, a year and a program made visible:

- exam clusters
- several due dates for assignments coinciding
- where preparation time identified by lecturers was short and intense, or on-going and overlapping

Embracing informatics approaches to semi-automate assessment mapping can aid individual unit of study coordinators' efforts to manage the whole of student experience with regard to assessment times and workload. Profile construction aids identification of over redundancy of assessment method, gaps in student development opportunities, and workload periods which may lead students to surface rather than deep learning strategies.

Keywords: semi-automated assessment, higher education, workload, health sciences

Author contact details

Melinda Lewis, Faculty of Health Sciences, C42 - Cumberland Campus, University of Sydney, Lidcombe, NSW 2141, Australia. Email: M.Lewis@fhs.usyd.edu.au.

Mary Jane Mahony, Education Connections, C42 - Cumberland Campus, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. Email: MJ.Mahony@fhs.usyd.edu.au.

Ann Poulos, School of Medical Radiation Sciences, C42 - Cumberland Campus, University of Sydney, Lidcombe, NSW 2141, Australia. Email: A.Poulos@fhs.usyd.edu.au.

Copyright © 2006 Lewis, M., Mahony, M-J., Poulos, A.

The author(s) assign to ascilite and educational non-profit institutions a non-exclusive licence to use this document for personal use and in courses of instruction provided that the article is used in full and this copyright statement is reproduced. The author(s) also grant a non-exclusive licence to ascilite to publish this document on the ascilite web site (including any mirror or archival sites that may be developed) and in electronic and printed form within the ascilite *Conference Proceedings*. Any other usage is prohibited without the express permission of the author(s). For the appropriate way of citing this article, please see the frontmatter of the *Conference Proceedings*.