Persistence and Retention

A DOODLE-TLT research collaboration

TLT Conference
Nov 16, 2006
Some research questions

- What happens to students who take online courses at SUNY?
- Do they stay in the class?
- Do they succeed in the class?
- Do they learn anything?
- What are our overall persistence rates for online courses?
- What are our overall retention rates for online courses?
Where could we find answers?

- Large data bases?
- Asking the students?
- Asking the program directors?
- Counting heads online?
- What are the tradeoffs?
What would we count?

- Total enrollment?
- Dropouts?
- Dropins?
- Who’s left standing?
- What parameters?
- Are there more tradeoffs here?
Defining the dimensions

Initial enrollment  --First full roster for the course
First day enrollment  --Roster when course begins
Census enrollment  --Reported on campus census
Final enrollment  --Roster on last day
Successful completion  --Receive A, B, C grade
Persistence  --Census enrollment to Successful at end of term.
Retention  --Number who enroll in a subsequent online course.
Our project

- Campuses collect and share local data
- Figures are assembled and compared across campuses only for now.
- We record “fully online” courses only for now.
- We define more issues as we can when we can.
What’s required

- Consistent collection on your campus
- Everyone uses the same dimensions
- DOODLE and TLT house the data
- Data is freely shared among all participants
So when do we start?

- Target for first data set is AY 2006-7
- There’s still time to collect Fall 06 data
- Excel data collection form keeps us on the same page.
- Data will be collated by TLT
- DOODLE and TLT review any publication of results beyond local campus uses.
- Raw results belong to everyone
Thanks for working with us!

- The Data form is available at DOODLE online
  \[http://agora.le.suny.edu\]
- If you have questions, contact:
  - Keith Lynip--Mohawk Valley
  - Beth Harris--FIT
  - Jennie Dautermann--TLT
  - Bob Knipe--Genesee CC
  - Cris Balan--Plattsburgh
  - Terry Keys--Monroe