Does the Number of Hours Studied Affect Exam Performances?. (A01-barbarick070436-Oral)

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Abstract:

College instructors will often inform their students that they need to spend at least two hours studying outside of class for every hour of lecture. We decided to determine if the number of hours students studied influenced exam performances in Introductory Soil Science (SC240) at Colorado State University and Soils and Fertilizers (URH125) at Front Range Community College, Larimer Campus. One hypothesis was that we could develop a relationship between exam scores to hours studied that would give a significant (P<0.05) coefficient of determination (r2). Our second hypothesis was that students would average at least 2.0 hours studying for exams for every hour of lecture. For four SC240 semesters and two URH125 semesters, we asked the students How many hours did you study for this exam? on each of the 10 lecture exams given each semester. Exponential regression models with a no-limit or 50-point (the points possible on each exam) maximum significantly (P<0.05) fit the data. The overall r2 values ranged from 0.12 to 0.61. Utilizing regression models for overall average exam results, we found that students would have to study from 3.0 to 4.4 hours to earn an average score (average scores ranged from 38 to 40 points out of 50) and 4.5 to 6.4 hours to earn 45 points (90%). The hours studied to receive a 90% exam score to lecture hour ratio ranged from 1.5 to 2.1.

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