HE559 Unit 3 Discussion - Research Examples

Example #1: A college professor, who taught one course both online and on ground, wanted to see if the students’ engagement and group cohesiveness differed. The college professor measured the level of engagement and level of group cohesiveness at the end of the Fall semester and compared them to each other. He did not find any difference between the two classes.

Example #2: Due to the low scores on the math department final exams in freshman college algebra classes at a large university, the department chair decided to implement a new math program to include the use of a commercial math lab software program, which included online tutorials, videos, help sessions, homework, tests, and many other functions all online and available 24/7 to the students. The school had the ability to track how much time the students were spending in online lab each day. After seeing the math test scores improve, the department chairs wanted to see if any other freshman performance outcomes measured by the university increased during the same period as the math scores, even though the remainder of the curriculum had not been changed. The department chair found a significant correlation to time spent in the online math lab to improvements in the math test, but also significant correlations to reading skills and critical thinking scores for the same period.

Example #3: District 12 decided to pilot test a mandatory uniform code for half of the 12 schools within the district due to concerns of safety and gang related activities currently seen as a possible threat to student achievement in the district. After 1 year, the six schools that piloted the uniform policy saw a reduction in school violence by 50% over the schools that had not made any changes to the dress code policy.