

BLAST (Business Calculus, Math for Liberal Arts, Statistics) Transfer

The Blast Group represents three Math courses at Ohlone: Business Calculus, Math for Liberal Arts, and Statistics. The faculty in the group consist of Steve Bitzer, Jeff O'Connell, Geoff Hirsh, and Curtis Bresler.

An assessment test was conducted each semester in Statistics classes taught by Bitzer, O'Connell, and Hirsh. It has been decided that the data collected does not represent the student learning outcomes for the classes. The assessment question was too long and written in a different style than some of the students were use to and caused students to skip the question. The Blast group has decided to try a new web-based assessment test (ARTIST - Assessment Resource Tools for Improving Statistical Thinking) that is multiple choice and may be more objective in discerning statistical concepts learned. The group is meeting to update the student learning outcomes and curriculum for the course and is developing new methods to achieve these outcomes. Some new methods include a computer program that randomly generates problems and data, a multiple choice program, web-based instruction through CourseCompass, modules that show how to use Excel, recorded lectures that can be downloaded from the internet to a computer or ipod, workbook based Statistics emphasizing student discovery of statistical concepts, and the use of Turning Point software to do a general assessment of the students. The group has been meeting over the last several semesters to to discuss new strategies in teaching and assessment of students. All adjunct instructors who teach Statistics are also involved.