Introduction

Many instructors have teaching strategies that they use in face-to-face classes that might not be effective for online classes. Online classes are a different environment than face-to-face classes and requires a different set of teaching strategies.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this research is to identify IUPUC student’s perceptions of online classes. This research will uncover which teaching strategies students feel are most helpful in online classes.

Review of Literature

Online classes are becoming increasingly popular. In 2013 at least 7.1 million students nationally were taking one or more online classes. (Allen & Seaman, 2014). The growth of online education means that the quality needs to improve to meet the needs of students. (Sheehy, 2013).

Methodology

• Quantitative Research
• Online Survey through Survey Monkey
• 1900 IUPUC undergraduate and graduate students

Results

Results of this survey included the findings of students’ prior experiences with online classes. By having a free response question, this survey identified the main problems that students see with online classes. The two largest problems were lack of instructor engagement and group work in an online class.

Teaching strategies perceived to be the most effective for:

- Improving oral and written communication skills: Individual projects/assignments (59.71%)
- Increasing participation and engagement: Individual projects/assignments (65.00%)
- Developing team work skills: Group projects/assignments (38.57%)
- Learning the course material: Individual projects/assignments (67.63%)
- Developing critical thinking skills: Individual projects/assignments (56.12%)

Survey Questions

* Why do you take online classes? Check all that apply.
- Flexible with my schedule
- No need to commute to campus
- Learn better in an online environment
- Course only taught online in the needed semester
- Online courses are easier
- Online courses require less time dedication
- Other

* Have you ever had any issues with technology in your online classes? (Check all that apply)
- No
- Yes, downloading materials
- Yes, listening to audio
- Yes, watching videos
- Yes, other technology

Survey Questions

* How effective are the following teaching strategies for helping you participate and stay engaged in online classes?
- Lecture
- Animated videos
- Peer videos
- Other

References