Master students' perceptions of online reading and video learning materials



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Lesley Gibson¹ and Sam Ellis²

- 1. School of Engineering, University of Edinburgh. Email: Lesley.Gibson@ed.ac.uk
 - 2. Senior Lecturer in Academic Development, Glasgow Caledonian University



Introduction

- The model of the flipped classroom where students have access to learning resources prior to attending class creates a more equitable teaching environment.
- Equitable teaching environment equates to higher student engagement.
- Sletten (2017) found strong positive relationships between students' perceived value of videos and how often they engaged with the material before coming to class.
- This research investigated Masters students' perception of a blended learning approach for a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) module presented at Glasgow Caledonian University in 2017.

Approach

- Students were given advanced access to online reading and video material throughout the module.
- At the end of the module students were asked to indicate:
 - 1. How frequently they accessed the material.
 - 2. The helpfulness of the material, and
 - 3. The appropriateness of the: (a) volume and (b) academic level of the material.
- Students' responses were split into those who reported higher frequency access (more than once a week) and those who reported lower frequency access.

Findings

Frequency of access to material





Helpfulness of material









Conclusion

- Students who reported higher frequency access to material also rated the material as more helpful than students with less
 - frequent access.
- Students who accessed material most frequently were more likely to rate the volume as excessive.
- High frequency users rated the academic level more favourably than low frequency users.
- Students were generally satisfied with the online learning material provided
- Students preferred the reading material to the video material.
- Supporting the findings of Sletten (2017), students who accessed the material more frequently generally rated the material more favourably than those students who accessed it less often.
- Low sample size (15 students) mean results should be treated with caution.

Reference

Sletten, S.R. 2017, "Investigating Flipped Learning: Student Self-Regulated Learning, Perceptions, and Achievement in an Introductory Biology Course", Journal of Science Education and Technology, vol. 26, no. 3, pp. 347-358.