Strategies in Course Delivery: Effects of a Significant Disruption on Instructors’ Learning Management System Feature Use in Required Second- and Third-Year Courses

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Background

• Significant and sudden disruptions can bring normal university classroom activity to a halt and have many effects on instructor strategy.
• Disruptions cause instructors to utilize a greater array of Learning Management System (LMS) features.
• Most research about LMS use during the COVID time period is focused on K-12¹, 1st year², and Graduate education³.
• Sustainability of LMS feature use is not known

Research Question

How does the frequency of Second- and Third-year course instructors’ usage of Learning Management System features change before, during, and after a sudden disruption to higher education?

Methods

• Setting: Midwest Research Intensive (R1) University, Mechanical Engineering
• Required course LMS feature use data:
  o Mid-Spring (mS), Spring (S), Fall (F)
  o 2019-2022
• Descriptive statistics used to summarize frequency of LMS feature use

Results

• LMS feature use was greatest during the height of the COVID disruption in Fall 2020
• LMS feature use dropped during Spring 2021
• Some feature use continued to decrease to pre-pandemic levels

Key Findings

• LMS feature use can provide insight into how instructors sustain change after a disruption.
• It is anticipated that LMS data use is applicable for understanding the practices enacted by instructors in other STEM disciplines.
• Results can contribute to the design of new professional devolvement strategies to mitigate the impact of disruptions.
• Incentivizing LMS feature use would promote environmental sustainability.

Conclusions

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• It is anticipated that LMS data use is applicable for understanding the practices enacted by instructors in other STEM disciplines.
• Results can contribute to the design of new professional devolvement strategies to mitigate the impact of disruptions.
• Incentivizing LMS feature use would promote environmental sustainability.

References


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