

The case for simulation to enhance business skills

Phillip D. Coleman
Western Kentucky University

Ray J. Blankenship
Western Kentucky University

ABSTRACT

Some of the students struggle with Excel and Access skills being taught at a medium-sized Midwest University. While the number of Excel and Access projects provided to the student has been increased to provide a greater breadth, students are still wrestling with the depth that some of the cases present. Additionally, students have a difficult time when it comes to advanced skillsets in Excel including data tables and statistical forecasting.

Four classes that are under research include two classes that are using simulation Excel and Access projects to supplement the training and two classes are not using simulation. The classes using simulation are being conducted so that the student must do one of the simulation cases in the classroom. It is hypothesized that the simulation classes will not only have a better overall average/case but will have a better midterm and final grade for these cases.