

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY IN BA320

Craig Thompson and Claret Ruane

February 24, 2009; revised March 17, 2009; August 17, 2009

ACTIVITY

In an effort to assess our students' knowledge and competencies in the Finance concentration (BBA Learning Goal 2), Dr. Craig Thompson administered a Pre-test in BA320 in the beginning of Spring 2009.

TEST INSTRUMENT

The test used in BA320 is a test in a multiple-choice format that contains 12 standard questions on materials covered in the first-half of a semester-long Basic Finance course. The test was developed by Dr. Thompson himself in January 2009.

The same tests will be used when the Post-test is administered mid-semester. This guarantees that the same questions are asked and that there will be no unnecessary copying of additional questionnaires, which is consistent with the UOG Green Initiative.

Another Pre-test has been developed to include questions on materials covered in the second-half of the semester. It consists of 8 multiple-choice questions. The same questions will be administered as a Post-test at the end of the semester.

The course does not teach to the tests. The test results are not included in their course grade calculation.

TEST RESULTS

Raw Scores (out of 12 points)	Scores in %	Number of Students	% Students
12	100.00	0	0.00
11	91.67	0	0.00
10	83.33	0	0.00
9	75.00	1	4.55
8	66.67	1	4.55
7	58.33	4	18.18
6	50.00	7	31.82
5	41.67	6	27.27
4	33.33	2	9.09
3	25.00	0	0.00
2	16.67	1	4.55
1	8.33	0	0.00
0	0.00	0	0.00

Weighted Average Score = 5.68 correct out of 12 questions or 47%

Total of 22 students tested

The Pre-test results was presented and discussed at the Assurance of Learning Committee meeting on March 2, March 2009. It was decided that the committee will wait for the Post-test results, which were made available by Dr. Thompson to the committee chair on March 17, 2009. The Post-test was administered on March 16, 2009 to 21 students (one less than those who took the Pre-test). The average score was 7.23 out of 12 questions or 60%, compared to the average score on the Pre-test, which was 5.68 out of 12 questions or 47%. The Post-test results will be presented and discussed at the Assurance of Learning Committee meeting in April 2009.

Also on March 16, 2009, Dr. Thompson administered the Pre-test on course materials to be covered on the second-half of the semester. 21 students completed this Pre-test, which has an average score of 3.58 out of 8 questions or 45%. The Post-test was administered at the end of the semester in May 2009. The average score was 5.27 correct of 66% correct. The distribution of the Post-test scores was:

Number of correct answers (out of 8 questions)	Number of students (total=22)
8	3
7	2
6	4
5	7
4	3
3	1
2	2

The results of the second Pre- and Post-tests will be reported to the Assurance of Learning Committee in its September 2009 meeting.

HOW ACTIVITY IS LINKED TO THE COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course syllabus stated the following:

This course is the introductory finance course for business students. It has the following three core objectives:

- Develop an understanding of basic financial terminology (consistent with BBA Learning Goal 2), to be assessed using Pre- and Post-tests and Exams
- Develop a working knowledge of financial tools and concepts (consistent with BBA Goal 9), to be assessed using Pre- and Post-tests and Assignments
- Develop an understanding of the role of finance in a contemporary corporation (consistent with BBA Goal 1), to be assessed using Pre- and Post-tests, Assignments and Exams

This Pre- and Post-test is assessing whether all three course SLOs are taking place.

CLOSING THE LOOP

The Pre- and Post-test results were updated in August 17, 2009 and will be discussed at the Assurance of Learning Committee meeting in September 2009.

Because this test is not a national, standardized test with benchmarks against which we can compare our students' performance. For this reason, it was necessary to collect a data over several semesters to get an idea of our students' performance. In Spring 2009, the finance faculty, comprised of Dr. Craig Thompson, Dr. James Taylor, and Dr. Claret Ruane, discussed the sharing the different test instruments and the possibility of

using the same assessment test in the different sections of the same course (BA320). In Fall 2009, Dr. Thompson, who designed the above tests, shared them with a new adjunct faculty (Prof. Val Perez) who will be teaching another section of the same course (BA320). A comparison of the results of the same tests taken by two sections of the same course taught by two different instructors.