Peer Learning example: Statistical Tutoring in Psychology Practicum

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Story begins in 1994

- I started teaching Psych248: Statistics in Psychology
- We started working on curriculum changes to address student failure rate and inconsistency in teaching across sections (passed 1997)
  - Prioritized 248 as a core class, C or better grade to pass
  - Standard textbook, standard syllabus
  - Added prerequisites: Stat113, Math120 etc (math proficiency)

- Need to teach data analysis using Software (SPSS) as well as calculators
  Fall 2000 added weekly Lab (2 hrs), 3 hrs lecture w 35 students max
- Stat Coordinator – to mentor the grad students & adjuncts
Chronic problem:

- 2,500 to 3,500+ majors
- Required 4-credit statistics class
  - with data analysis Lab -2 hrs week
- Taught primarily by adjuncts, grad students
- Assignments with feedback essential
  - 16 HW sets, 11 lab worksheets, 3 lab reports
- Students with math anxiety, difficulty motivating to do HW, still too many W’s and F’s
Our Solution: Peer Tutoring

No money to pay tutors → make it a course
- 40+ tutoring office hours week
- A Tutor to help during lab (n= 35 students)
- Tutors to help grade HW & lab assignments
- Tutor recitations over chapters
- Tutor-led exam review session

Spring 1999 – I first taught it as Indep. Study
Spring 2008 – approved as a Practicum Course
Welcome to Psych348: Statistical Tutoring in Psychology Practicum

It is all about... Learning by Doing...teamwork...reliability. Counseling skills like patience, listening & guiding. Reviewing statistics, teaching, making Presentations. Exploring your career options and building your resume.
Overview: 348 Key Tasks

• **Tutoring Psych248 students 2 hours a week**
  - walk-in: both in-person (B122 library basement) and online using Blackboard
  - Qs on HW problems, quizzes, Lab assignments, JASP

• **Assignment as a Tutor** and grader for a statistics instructor and a group of about 35 students.
  
  Lab Tutor – attends and helps during lab, grades worksheets & assignments
  
  Lecture Tutor – helps grade chapter HW, helps proctor exams

• Design, prepare and lead **one Recitation** on a chapter or topic for Psych 248 students. 1 hr
• Design, prepare, and lead **one Exam Review** with a classmate for one of the four exams. 1:15
• Attend and participate in weekly **seminar meetings**—review content, discuss teaching, support group, and have professional development speakers/activities for the benefit of the tutors
To be eligible to be a tutor - earn A- in 248

My Bottom Line advise to tutors:

**Be Reliable**
- SHOW UP
- WORK HARD
- DO YOUR BEST

**Communicate Well**
- Esp about problems
- Ask Qs
- This is a learning experience for you!
Undergrad Peer Tutors

Instructors 248 Stats

Students in 248 Stats

Everyone Wins!

Free tutoring

Feedback on HW

Review Sessions
talk w peers about classes, careers, life

Instructors

Learn statistics, JASP & APA format

Gain confidence, learn about themselves

Get help grading assignments (never exams)

Mentored re internships, careers, grad school options

Develop better communication skills, prof role

Gain confidence, learn about themselves

Learn to mentor and advise

Develop grading rubrics

Teaching Community – standards upheld, problems identified

Learn statistics, JASP & APA format

Build resume, strong rec letter

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Costs of a Peer Tutoring Practicum

• Takes time to recruit & screen students – get them enrolled
• Scheduling is ‘fun’ – they must attend class, a lab, do office hrs etc
• Students must pay to take Psych348 $$ issues
• Faculty Meetings to train new stat instructors & lab instructors
• Professional development responsibility – keeping in touch
• Writing LOTS of recommendation letters- scholarships, grad schools
• Must create merged Bb course each term, train students to use Bb
• Must negotiate for student tutoring space on campus