

Efforts to Improve Student Engagement with Blackboard Content

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Six strategies used to improve student engagement:

- (1) Open access textbook
- (2) Specification grading
- (3) “Knowledge checks”
- (4) Weekly reports of student engagement
- (5) Grade penalty if inadequate time interacting with Blackboard content each week
- (6) Contact students who are engaged and not engaged

1. Adopt
or adapt
an
existing
open
access
textbook



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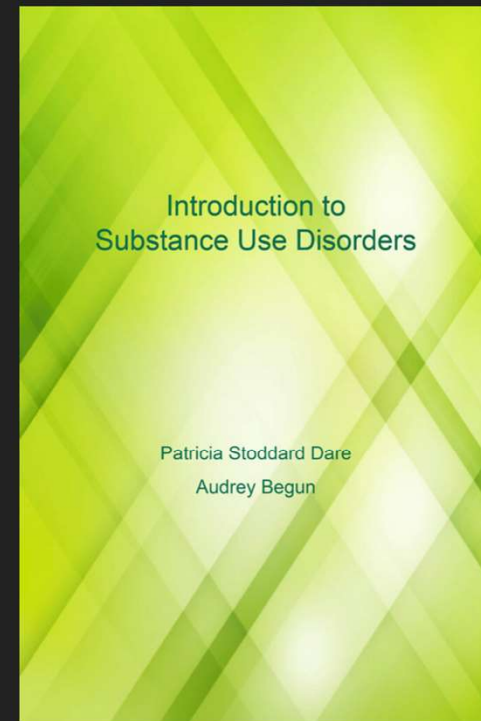
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Open access textbook

Introduction to Substance Use Disorders

Patricia Stoddard Dare and Audrey Begun

Introduction to Substance Use Disorders (2020) is an Open Educational Resource book designed for use in an introductory substance misuse course. These materials were developed using a variety of published sources and online materials, including resources produced by U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Routledge Handbook of Social Work and Addictive Behavior (2020), edited by A.L. Begun and M.M. Murray, and most notably Theories and Biological Basis of Substance Misuse, Part I and Part 2 by A.L. Begun.



[Download this book](#) ▼

2. Specification Grading

How it works:

- Minimum competence=full credit
- Below minimum competence= assignment is returned for student revision
- Goal= student revises until competence adequately demonstrated

Designed to:

- Increase student competence
- Ease instructor burden regarding grading

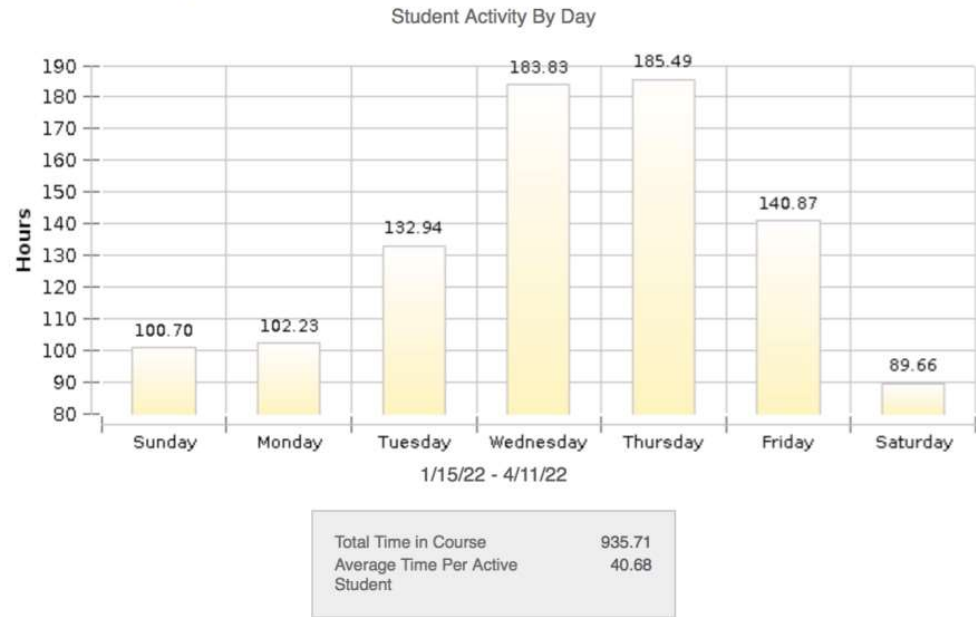
3. Knowledge checks

- Every time new information is presented
- Multiple knowledge checks per class session
- Brief (2 question) quiz
- Graded
- Refer students back to lesson if check not passed

4. Run weekly reports of student engagement

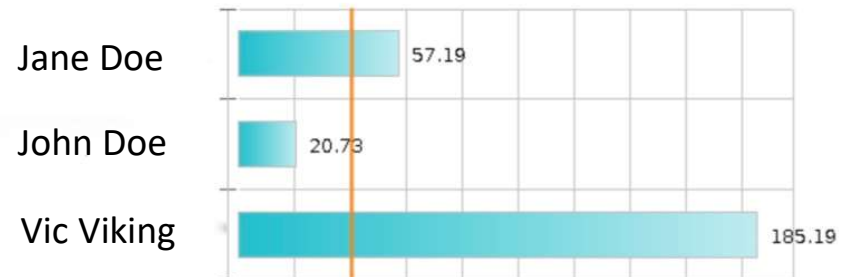
- Course Management>
- Evaluation>
- Course Reports>
- Course Activity Overview>
- Indicate “start date” and “end date”
- Download Report
- Can click on blue bar for more details

Course Overview



Student Overview (24 Students)

Click a bar to view a student's individual activity.



5. Grade penalty

- A typical in person class meets for 2 hours and 50 minutes per week; likewise, you should budget 2 hours and 50 minutes of time per week for this class which does not include time spent on reading or homework.
- Students who do not consistently put in at least two and a half hours of *time* interacting with Blackboard course content per module will have their final grade decreased by up to 12 points at the end of the semester. The entire class is worth 100 points.

6. Reach out to students

Unengaged

Dear Student,

I wanted to check in with you about the amount of time you have spent interacting with Blackboard content this semester. A Blackboard report shows you have spent 6 hours interacting with Blackboard content for this course this semester. I wanted to send along a friendly reminder that this class has a graded attendance requirement. Your participation is below what is required and a grade penalty for lack of participation has been applied. If you have any questions or concerns, or need support from me to help you successfully complete this class, please let me know.

Best to you,

PSD

Engaged

Hi Student,

I see you are off to a strong start and have spent almost 12 hours in class already. Way to go! Your clients and our whole community will benefit from your dedication to this material. Please be sure to let me know if you have any questions.

Best to you,

PSD

Thank you

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