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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

The Use of E-Learning Technology to Structure Learning and Enhance Student Engagement

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Over the last two years we have developed an on-line statistics course for a module of approximately 400 students in the rural and biological sciences. The course features short lectures and video demonstrations which are delivered via the Blackboard VLE. Students are taught to use a statistical software package (SPSS) to analyse example data sets that are linked to departmental interests in research and teaching. Skills and understanding are developed through formative exercises and quizzes that provide feedback and require a pass mark of 75% for progression. Continuous assessment and final examinations are conducted using on-line quizzes that test understanding of concepts and ability to conduct and interpret analyses. Progress is monitored in the grade data base and weaker students are targeted for face-to-face support. General support is available through a course handbook, discussion board, and workshops that are ‘funded’ through release of staff time from lecturing and marking. Our presentation will detail our objectives and methods, outline student feedback, and discuss the potential of these techniques to enhance active learning in a wide range of subject areas.