Can We Control Cheating in Online Classes?

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Past Research on Cheating

✔ Estimate the frequency of cheating.
✔ Examine the relationships between cheating and classroom characteristics and pedagogy.
✔ “Profile” a cheater.
Objectives

✔ Interested in studying the occurrence of cheating and plagiarism in online courses.
  – How frequently does it occur?
  – What online class characteristics invite more cheating?
  – Why do students cheat?
Survey Methods

✔ Faculty Survey
✔ Online Student Survey of students who took a WSU online class during the fall semester 2001.
  – Socio-demographics.
  – Academic & online class experience questions.
  – randomized response questions on cheating.
  – CHECK IT OUT!
    • http://chitester.weber.edu/test.chi
Randomized Response Method

✔ A method used when collecting sensitive data
  – drug use

✔ How it works:
  – Ask 100 people to flip a coin, but tell them to keep the outcome (heads or tails) a secret.
  – If HEADS or CHEATED, raise your hand.
    • If 60 out of 100 raise their hands, then probabilistically you’d say 20 of the 100 are cheaters!
Randomized Response Method

✔ We used this format to investigate cheating overall, on exams, and plagiarism.

✔ (see your handout)
Future

✔ Analyze results: as of 5pm yesterday we had approximately 400 out of 3200 participate!

✔ We would like to explore cheating in online classes at other universities.
  – If you know of any….