

Scenario for new UW freshman student, first fall semester

Sam Student is newly enrolled at UW-Madison. Sam Student lives in a dorm on campus, plays on an intramural soccer team, works 10 hours a week and utilizes university health services. Sam Student is enrolled in 4 courses, all which leverage Canvas.

Course A:

- Course Coordinator has defined learning analytics in course syllabus and spends some time on the first day of class discussing how the LA data will help track student success and help to personalize learning experience.
- Primary course text is an e-text with built in quizzes and tracking that the Course Coordinator negotiated a great discount on from the publisher.
- During the third week of class, an instructor-facing LA dashboard data shows that Sam Student has not accessed the e-text and attends only 2 of 4 classes per week.
- Chris, the course TA, sends an email to Sam Student (copying the advisor) expressing concern that Sam Student is not engaged enough to be successful in the course, and encourages Sam Student to seek guidance and support from the TA.

Discuss: Think about UW-Madison’s guiding principles and this course. Is the use of learning analytics in this course in alignment with the principles? Why or why not? What do you think? (Refer to the “Guiding Principles” handout to help you consider each principle.)

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Course B:

- This course uses discussions threads (social learning), low stakes assignments, and higher stakes online quizzes with immediate feedback to students.
- When students complete quizzes in Canvas, they can see their score and how it compares to all students enrolled in the course.
- Due to the multiple assessment activities, a lot of learning analytics data is available from this enterprise tool (Canvas).
- Sam Student reaches out to the instructor to say, “I don’t think this class is right for me because I’m not as good as the other students.”
- After looking at the learning analytics data, instructor agrees with Sam and suggests he either seek a tutor fast or drop the class.

Discuss: Think about UW-Madison’s guiding principles and this course. Is the use of learning analytics in this course in alignment with the principles? Why or why not? What do you think, from your perspective? (Refer to the “Guiding Principles” handout to help you consider each principle.)

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Course C:

- This course is a Freshman Interest Group (FIG) which utilizes a cohort learning model, as well as active learning techniques.
- Thinking that the group would carry much of the work forward, Sam Student often shows up late for class or misses class altogether.
- Sam Student shares on course discussion board that he has had mental health issues in the past.
- Sam Student's advisor taps the FIG coordinator to check in with Sam Student because Sam's attendance in all courses is lagging, and time on activity in the FIG Canvas course is far below class average and missing assignments. Coordinator shares concern with advisor about Sam's potential for mental health issues.

Discuss: Think about UW-Madison's guiding principles and this course. Is the use of learning analytics in this course in alignment with the principles? Why or why not? What do you think, from your perspective? (Refer to the "Guiding Principles" handout to help you consider each principle.)

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Course D:

- This is a traditional lecture course with well-organized lectures. This course uses Canvas as a portal only; it holds the course syllabus, PowerPoints and lecture handouts, and utilizes gradebook for midterm and final exam scores.
- Since this course only awards points for the midterm and final, the Instructor feels strongly that attendance is important. The instructor uses TopHat (the clicker) at the start of each class to track attendance.
- The department head is looking for course metrics to address accreditation demands about learning outcome assessments and approaches the instructor of this course to ask what data might be available.

Discuss: Think about UW-Madison's guiding principles and this course. Is the use of learning analytics in this course in alignment with the principles? Why or why not? What do you think, from your perspective? (Refer to the "Guiding Principles" handout to help you consider each principle.)

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