Standardized Assessment Measures for the Ferris Learning Outcomes

5) Short written report

DESCRIPTION: Students write a paper that responds to a specific prompt related to a course topic. A short paper is around one to two pages in length and typically consists of fewer than 750 words. Citations are often not required for these works. The FLO rubric is used to evaluate the student paper. The student rubric scores are recorded using the RUBRIC workbook.

SCORING: These papers are directly evaluated using a four-level scoring rubric.

ANALYSIS: The number of student scores meeting or exceeding a threshold rubric score of 3.0 is determined for the assignment. The average and 95% confidence interval of the class rubric scores is calculated and classified as indicated in the following scheme:

0) Deficient  \[0.0 \leq \text{class average} < 1.0\]
1) Beginning  \[1.0 \leq \text{class average} < 1.8\]
2) Progressing \[1.8 \leq \text{class average} < 2.6\]
3) Proficient  \[2.6 \leq \text{class average} < 3.4\]
4) Advanced   \[3.4 \leq \text{class average} \leq 4.0\]

A one factor, two-tailed t-test is used to evaluate the statistical significance of differences between class average and the threshold score of 2.6 points. Cohen’s d is used to determine the magnitude of any effect sizes found.

CRITERION LEVELING: The expectations of the criteria of success depend upon the level of the course assessed. The target thresholds for each level are defined as follows:

100-level  
50% of individuals should be proficient or better (3 on the rubric) by the end of instruction
The class average should fall within the progressing level (threshold ≥ 1.8)

200-level  
60% of the individuals should be proficient or better (3 on the rubric) by the end of instruction
The class average should fall within the proficient level (threshold ≥ 2.6)

300-level  
70% of individuals should be proficient or better (3 on the rubric) by the end of instruction
The class average should fall within the proficient level (threshold ≥ 2.6)

400-level  
80% of individuals should be proficient or better (3 on the rubric) by the end of instruction
The class average should fall within the proficient level (threshold ≥ 2.6)