A Retrospective View of the Effect of Double Testing on Nursing Student Examination Scores

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Disclosure Statement

• I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this program/presentation.
What is Double-Testing?

- Also called collaborative testing
- Encourages students to participate, negotiate, and work together
- In this classroom:
  - Students complete the same examination twice
  - The first exam is completed solo under normal testing procedures
  - The second exam is completed after a 15 minute discussion with a group
  - The two exam scores are averaged for the final grade, but only if a grade of 75% was achieved on the solo attempt
  - A maximum of three points can be earned
Research Questions

• Is there a difference between the class average individual test score and the average class double-testing test score on unit examinations over eight semesters?

• How much difference occurs between the class average individual test score and the average class double-testing score on unit examinations over eight semesters?

• Are students satisfied with this double-testing method?
Gathering the Data

- Three class average scores were obtained from Blackboard for each examination:
  - Solo examination (Test A)
  - Examination following the group discussion (Test B)
  - The final exam score
- 8 semesters 50 students per class, n=403
- 6 unit exams each semester
Does Double-Testing Increase Grades?

• Yes, grades are increased
• On average grades are increased by 3.3%
• Important to note that students do work for this increase
• I see total student cooperation
• Grade inflation is controlled by only adding points to those who pass the examination on the solo attempt
Do Students Like Double-Testing?

- Students were asked to respond to three statements related to double-testing on the final course evaluation:
  - I enjoyed the use of double-testing this semester.
  - I would have preferred NOT to use double-testing.
  - Double-testing helped my learning about pharmacology.

- 90% of students indicated that they liked this method
Final Thoughts

- Benefits:
  - Significantly decreases arguing following testing
  - Works with electronic testing
  - Provides feedback for instructor
  - Students like this method

- Drawbacks:
  - Takes educator time to set up and monitor grades of 2 tests per student
  - Takes class time, may need to decrease the number of test questions
  - Not recommended for all course testing