UNL Undergraduate Learning Analytics

Learning analytics is the measurement, collection, analysis, and reporting of data about learners and their contexts, for purposes of understanding and optimizing learning and the environments in which it occurs.

Using data can improve student success by facilitating reflection and pedagogical innovation at the level of instructors, learning communities, and departments. Critical to all students’ success is framing metric use through an equity lens and engaging instructors and departments in self-reflection to reach the university’s equity goals. Learn more about undergraduate analytics: go.unl.edu/analytics

Course Equity for Administrators Dashboard

This dashboard is available to members of the Learning Analytics Committee. To become a member, email Chad Brassil, Faculty Director of Undergraduate Analytics, at cbrassil@unl.edu.

Race/Ethnicity: Represented/Underrepresented

Represented students make up 85.2% of the undergraduate student body and have a DFW rate of 9%. Underrepresented students make up 14.8% of the student body and have a DFW rate of 14%.

Generation: Continuing/FirstGen

Continuing generation students make up 75.1% of students and among these, the DFW rate was 9%. FirstGen students make up 24.9% of the student body and have a DFW rate of 14% yielding an equity gap of 5.8 percentage points.

Course Level Learning Analytics

To explore course and section specific analytics, make use of UNL Course Insights, accessible in every course on Canvas through the main navigation. Canvas > Course > Main Navigation > Course Insights

Course Insights has seven dashboards:

1. Performance Equity – Are there differences in how students perform when disaggregated by diversity metrics?
2. Diversity Info – Diversity information about your course including race/ethnicity, generation, gender, and more.
3. Learner’s Performance Overview – How did your students cumulatively do in each assignment?
4. Activity Results in Course – How did students in your class do across different assignment groups?
5. Activity Turn-In Times – When are your students uploading activity submissions?
6. Learners’ Activity Details – What does your students’ recent activity on Canvas look like?
7. Learner’s Workload – How many assignments are due for your students this week across all classes using Canvas?

On the reverse side of this sheet is a quick start guide to the Performance Equity dashboard which aims to help instructors support all kinds of learners by showing where gaps exist. Equity gaps often represent structural inequities and biases, not student deficiencies.
Figure 1: The assignment groups show little equity disparity when the metric is Race/Ethnicity.

Figure 2: However, when the metric is Generation, we can see gaps between first gen students and continuing gen students when it comes to exam practice quizzes and exams. What might be going on here? Study strategies? Test anxiety? Other?

Figure 3: Use the ‘Missing Assignments’ drop-down to remove zero scores, which are often given for missing assignments. The differences in Attendance and Participation, Assignments, and Surveys disappear. The instructor for this course might want to explore missing assignments and activities to see how much they might contribute to student learning in addition to considering exam preparation.

Explore Performance Equity and other Dashboards in your Course
Canvas > Course > Main Navigation > Course Insights > Performance Equity

1. Which metrics in your course show equity gaps? Do those remain when zero scores are removed?
2. Change the “Cluster by” to “Assignment Names” to look at specific assignments instead of groups of assignments. Are there assignments that have no or small gaps? What about larger gaps?
3. Explore different “Metrics” like “Gender” or “Rural/Urban.” Are there differences?

If you would like to learn more about using the Course Insights tool and its dashboards, please contact Chad Brassil (cbrassil@unl.edu), Sydney Brown (sbrown3@unl.edu), or use go.unl.edu/la-contact