

UD's Challenge:
Increasing Academic Challenge

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How are we doing?

$$R^2 = 0.07$$



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University of Dubuque

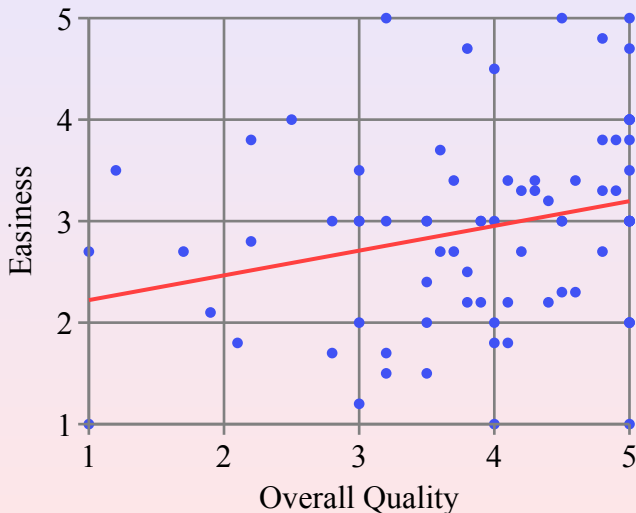
School's Webpage: <http://www.dbq.edu/>

Dubuque, Iowa

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Total professors: 88

3.91
PROFESSOR AVERAGE



What is NSSE?



What we're doing well

- Positive relationships
- Prompt feedback
- High quality academic advising
- Collaborative learning
- Community service
- Co-curricular activities
- Support to succeed

UD Mediation Team 4th in the Nation
Benjamin Supple Bartels, JD
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Director, Scholar Leader Program
Pre-law, Mediation, and Justice League Advisor



The weak spot: Insufficient academic challenge



Our committee's charge

What does this data tell us about what is and isn't contributing to a high level of academic challenge?



NSSE's indicators of academic challenge

- Hours spent preparing for class
- Number of assigned book-length readings
- Number of written papers
- Emphasis of coursework
- Emphasis of campus environment
- Student perception of working harder than thought possible



The findings: (1) Fewer assigned readings



The findings: (2) Lots of short papers but few long



The findings: (3) Less time preparing for class



my Target job application

1 - Find a Job 2 - Getting Started 3 - Background + Reference 4 - Work Preferences 5 - Work Opportunity Tax Credit 6 - Applicant Questionnaire 7 - Application Completed



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Ready to Begin?

Here's what you'll need to get started.

» Start

» Inicio

Our challenge

Make courses more challenging without radically increasing flunking rates.



And here's..... Jenn!



Other ideas: Give scholarships to reduce working hours



Other ideas: Academic ally program



Other ideas: Reading groups in World View I



Freeman Hrabowski

- Challenge
- Community
- Research
- Faculty involvement



Conclusion: Increase the complexity of our thinking

