MASTERY-BASED GRADING IN INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS

Katherine M. Kinnaird, Brown University / Smith College, USA katherine_kinnaird@brown.edu

Mastery-based grading values iterative improvement and deep learning of course material over high-stakes cumulative assessments. This poster shares a method of adopting this grading method to a large introductory statistics college course with an audience of largely non-majors. Central to this method is outlining 15 concepts and tasks (called `standards) that, by the end of term, students should be able to articulate and appropriately apply. Each standard receives a level of Gold (meaning excellent), Silver (meaning mastery of the concept), Bronze (progressing towards understanding), or cannot be assessed. The level-based scoring system transparently signals to students where their understanding can be deepened. Evaluating each standard individually and giving students many opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge together incentivizes students to review their understanding of concept.