

(fictional draft abstract; about 230 words)

Evaluation of an App to Prevent Late Submission of Student Work

Background. Late submission of assignments is a serious problem for college students, often resulting in lowered final grades. Therefore, we developed an app, featuring blah blah blah blah, to encourage students not to procrastinate about their assignments. We then tested the effectiveness of this app.

Methods. During the fall 2021 semester, 300 Texas A&M undergraduates majoring in science were randomly assigned to either receive the app, receive weekly nagging by a senior administrator, or have no intervention. Using Canvas, we then determined for each group the proportion of assignments that were submitted late and the proportion of students whose grades were lowered because of late assignments.

Results. The proportion of assignments submitted late was 10% in the students receiving no intervention, 2% in the students receiving the app, and 47% in the students receiving weekly nagging by a senior administrator. These differences were statistically significant. Among the students receiving no intervention, 5% had lowered final grades because of late work. The corresponding percentage for the app group was 1%, and that for the nagging-by-administrator group was 32%. These differences too were statistically significant.

Conclusion. Our app appeared to be effective in reducing both the amount of student work submitted late and the number of final grades lowered because of late work. Our next steps include testing the app in students from a wider range of majors and testing it in students at other universities.

(structured version—with headings)

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(unstructured version, with transitions instead of headings)

Evaluation of an App to Prevent Late Submission of Student Work

Late submission of assignments is a serious problem for college students, often resulting in lowered final grades. Therefore, we developed an app, featuring blah blah blah blah, to encourage students not to procrastinate about their assignments. We then tested the effectiveness of this app, as follows. During the fall 2021 semester, 300 Texas A&M undergraduates majoring in science were randomly assigned to either receive the app, receive weekly nagging by a senior administrator, or have no intervention. Using Canvas, we then determined for each group the proportion of assignments that were submitted late and the proportion of students whose grades were lowered because of late assignments. We found that the proportion of assignments submitted late was 10% in the students receiving no intervention, 2% in the students receiving the app, and 47% in the students receiving weekly nagging by a senior administrator. These differences were statistically significant. Among the students receiving no intervention, 5% had lowered final grades because of late work. The corresponding percentage for the app group was 1%, and that for the nagging-by-administrator group was 32%. These differences too were statistically significant. In conclusion, our app appeared to be effective in reducing both the amount of student work submitted late and the number of final grades lowered because of late work. Our next steps include testing the app in students from a wider range of majors and testing it in students at other universities.

(version for research at an early stage)

Evaluation of an App to Prevent Late Submission of Student Work

Late submission of assignments is a serious problem for college students, often causing considerable stress and resulting in lowered final grades. Therefore, we developed an app, featuring blah blah blah blah blah, to encourage students not to procrastinate about their assignments. We are now testing the effectiveness of this app, as follows. At the beginning of the spring 2022 semester, we randomly assigned 300 Texas A&M undergraduates majoring in science to either receive the app, receive weekly nagging by a senior administrator, or have no intervention. At the end of the semester, we will obtain data from Canvas on numbers of assignments submitted on time and numbers of assignments submitted late by the students in the study. We will also identify study participants for whom late submission of assignments led to a lowered final grade. The groups will then be compared in these regards, and the findings will be tested for statistical significance. If the app substantially decreases the late submission of assignments and thus helps keep the study participants from receiving needlessly low final grades, we will test the app next school year in humanities majors and engineering majors at Texas A&M, and we will test it at other universities in the United States. We also hope to translate the app into Spanish and Chinese and test it in Mexico and China.

(version for research at a later stage but not yet complete)

Evaluation of an App to Prevent Late Submission of Student Work

Late submission of assignments is a serious problem for college students, often causing considerable stress and resulting in lowered final grades. Therefore, we developed an app, featuring blah blah blah blah blah, to encourage students not to procrastinate about their assignments. We then tested the effectiveness of this app as follows. During the fall 2021 semester, 300 Texas A&M undergraduates majoring in science were randomly assigned to either receive the app, receive weekly nagging by a senior administrator, or have no intervention. Then, at the end of the semester, we obtained data from Canvas on numbers of assignments submitted on time and numbers of assignments submitted late by the students in the study. Thus far, we have found that the proportion of assignments submitted late was 10% in the students receiving no intervention, 2% in the students receiving the app, and 47% in the students receiving weekly nagging by a senior administrator. These differences were statistically significant. We are now analyzing the data to determine the effect, if any, of use of the app on proportion of final grades lowered because of late submission of assignments. If the app indeed appears useful, our next steps will include testing it in students from a wider range of majors and testing it in students at other universities. We also hope to translate the app into Spanish and Chinese and to test it in Mexico and China.