UA Recommendations:

Grade Distribution Availability

47ᵗʰ Session

2019 - 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND

Overview

A particular stress of many students when registering for courses is the grade they may potentially achieve in the class. Amongst other unknowns such as average number hours spent per week on classwork, this information may be helpful in alleviating some of the anxiety of a new course load at the start of a semester. Especially in classes where grades are largely dependent on curves, having this information may be useful for students in planning out their schedules and managing expectations for the semester.

Current Status

Currently, PennCourse Review serves as a platform to get information about courses one may be interested in for the semester. All students can access this website where they are able to see the difficulty rating, course quality, professor quality, and amount learned. This data is available from past sections of the course, and gives an overall average historical rating. While students may find it helpful to know the general difficulty and quality of the course, these ratings are also subjective. More empirical data such as hours spent per week outside of class, as well as past grade distributions would be informative for students to get a sense of the courses they wish to sign up for. This would be essential to planning their schedules more wisely, and ensuring that they do not overload themselves, ultimately helping them maintain wellness. Peer institutions have adopted this model for their course review platform as well.

1. ([Penn Course Review](#))
2. [UC Berkeley *BerkeleyTime*](#)
3. [Stanford *CartaLab*](#)
4. [UCLA *Bruinwalk*](#)

UA RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

The Undergraduate Assembly recommends taking steps to implement additional information on PennCourse Review, particularly grade distributions, and hours per week spent outside of class on the course. This data may not necessarily come from the finalized grades in the course, but possibly students' reported anticipated grade at the end of the course. These would come from the end of the semester course surveys. Additionally, depending on the feasibility, pre-major and major advisors should at least have past grade distribution information, in the event that they are consulting with a student who wants to drop a course.