

YMC2004 POSTER ABSTRACT

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Title: A Quantitative Study of Student Retention by both Statistical and Probabilistic Approaches

Description:

Many institutional researchers have conducted various qualitative and quantitative studies on the characteristics of students in order to develop effective student retention programs. Under Dr. Wu's supervision, last summer Kerri Fletcher and Lindsey Olsen conducted a quantitative study of student retention using eight years of data at Pacific Lutheran University. Through the use of attributable risk, four top risk factors for retention were identified and ranked. Then an issue of confounding risk between two risk factors was addressed by the means of 'relative attributable risk'. This study led to the following further explorations the Dr. Wu, Mollie, and I are taking on this summer. (1) Use more sophisticated stratification for single risk factor. (2) Study stratification of two risk factors. (3) Apply regression technique to identify risk factors for comparison to the probabilistic approach. (4) Apply our method into more general data other than PLU's.