

Derby e-Assessment Drop Out Rates

The following data provide evidence on the drop out rate from the module compared with the previous year. A drop out is defined as a student who starts the module, but does not turn up for the final exam.

Looking only at those students who had already failed the 2 computer-based assessment tests, what % did not turn up for the final examination?

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
82%	68%	16%

We see a dramatic fall in this drop out rate. Prior to introducing computer-based formative assessment, the majority of students who failed the computer-based assessment tests did turn up for the final examination. Some of these students may have taken the computer-based tests and failed, but many will have failed because they were non engagers and did not turn up for the computer-based assessment tests. This drop out rate fell to just 16%. We believe that the availability of the formative learning and assessment materials helped support student learning prior to the examination period and motivated those students who had failed to engage throughout the module.

Looking only at students who actually attempted the computer-based assessment tests (passing or failing them), what % did not turn up for the final examination?

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
9%	13%	13%

We see a rise in the % who did not turn up for final examination to 13% in the year prior, but no change after the introduction of the computer-based formative assessment materials. The % of students who clearly had early engagement, but who then dropped out at the very end did not change.