

831. A Comparison Of Two Senior Bio-Instrumentation Lab Experiences

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In the spring of 2005, observation data on TA-student interactions and on student academic engagement were collected in senior bioinstrumentation labs using the VaNTH Observation System (VOS) (Harris & Cox, 2003). During the following summer, data were analyzed and formative feedback provided to professors and TAs, who met with observers to discuss and determine possible ways to increase TA lab efficiency and student engagement in the lab experience. In the spring of 2006, specific changes were made in the set up and required process of students' lab experience. Comparing TA-student interaction data and student academic engagement data, this study examines changes in TA interactions with students and in student academic engagement in the lab experience that occurred as a result of the intervention. Data indicate an increase in student-TA academic interactions and an increase in student academic engagement. This work was supported primarily by the Engineering Research Centers program of the National Science Foundation under annual grant EEC-9876363.