Group C Proposal II.4 : by Emily Boncek, Christopher Chang, Kelly Chang, and Stephanie Sindler

Survey of Carnegie Mellon Faculty Regarding Attendance and Student Performance (On Campus)

Target Population:

Our target population is Carnegie Mellon faculty members who teach undergraduates at the Pittsburgh campus. The population which we wish to make inferences about is Carnegie Mellon undergraduate students at the Pittsburgh campus. In this case, the sampling frame and target population are the same.

Sampling Plan:

We will construct a random sample of 50% of the departments within each college, therefore obtaining a sample which is proportional to the number of majors available in each school. Within each department, we will attempt to separate the courses by whether or not they are attendance mandatory, and randomly select one course from each group for each level(100, 200, 300, etc).

We will block by college, and will be using a simple random sample of departments within each school. We then construct a stratified sample of courses based on course level and attendance requirement.

Initially we will contact all of the professors from the departments in our random sample to provide background information in the survey and ask if they would be willing to participate. Based on those responses, we can gather more information about the courses we wish to include in the sample, including the level of the course and the attendance policy. Once we determine which professors we want to sample based on willingness to participate, we will give them an advance notification reminder with a flier in their mailbox letting them know to expect to receive the survey in their email. If after we send the survey out in email some professors have not responded, we plan to follow up with them in person to remind them to complete the survey. We hope this will alleviate non-response issues.

In the event that our sample is not representative of the target population, the best adjustment we could make would be to increase the number of previous semesters for which we look at the grade distributions.