

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING ASSESSMENT FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS COURSES

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ABSTRACT

A promising recent development in tertiary education involves the application of problem-based learning as a curricular vehicle to develop student talent. Problem-based learning (PBL) is common in professional education, such as in medical, law, and business schools, and is becoming increasingly common in pre-college education. However, it is less common in information systems education. We have successfully applied PBL to information systems courses, and are reporting our results in this paper. Moreover, there is a major difficulty in applying PBL as there is no formal methodology of assessing students' work. This paper explores this issue by creating an instrument for assessment in a PBL setting. The instrument has been specifically designed to evaluate the generic abilities and skills of information systems graduates. We also recommend that the instrument or a modified version of the instrument be used for assessing other subject areas when the PBL is applied. The instrument has been proved to be a successful tool for assessment of the PBL. The result of applying this assessment instrument to our information systems courses will also be presented.