Dealing with engagement issues in engineering Mathematics

CHRISTINE MANGELSDORF
University of Melbourne, Australia

Keywords: Engineering mathematics; engagement issues; assessment; tutorials

Engineering Mathematics is a core second year level subject for students majoring in all branches of engineering at the University of Melbourne. The subject has been taught three times a year since 2009. From the outset, teaching staff had difficulty engaging the students in Engineering Mathematics. Every semester, there were issues with poor lecture and tutorial attendance, substandard performance on continual assessment and on the final exam, and poor pass rates. To deal with these engagement and performance issues, in 2013, teaching staff introduced a hurdle on continual assessment and changed the format of tutorials. In this talk, I will discuss the challenges faced, the changes made to assessment and tutorials, and the effect of the changes on student engagement and performance in assessment.