

# **The Relationship Between Exam Completion Time and Exam Performance in an Introductory Animal Sciences Course**

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The relationship between the time students invest to complete an exam and the score earned on the exam remains a topic of interest to the academic community. Previous studies have attempted to correlate a time-score relationship with major, gender, rank, and overall grade point average. However, studies are largely confined to psychology and statistics courses. This is the first study, to our knowledge, that compares exam completion time to exam performance in a natural sciences course. Over the course of four years, time lapse between student exam receipt and student exam submission was recorded in an introductory animal sciences course. The exams, three per term, consisted of mixed-format questions. It was hypothesized that students with early or late submission times would score lower than students with intermediate submission times. Data was analyzed against demographic variables (gender, major, and rank) as determined from course enrollment records. Findings are discussed with implications on how students are advised to budget time during an exam.