Efficiency of Online vs. Offline Learning: 
A Comparison of Inputs and Outcomes

When: Thursday, March 1; 12:25-12:55 p.m.
Where: Stoddard Hall 308
Presenters: Shweta Singh, David Rylander, & Tina Mims,

Presenter’s session description: As the trend toward online education intensifies, questions remain regarding the overall efficiency of online courses versus their in-class counterparts. The current paper seeks to estimate the efficiency of students who take online courses relative to the efficiency of students who are enrolled in offline courses. Efficiency outcomes are defined in terms of (1) quantitative scores achieved by the student at the end of the course, (2) the student’s viewpoint of how much they learned in the course and (3) the student’s level of satisfaction with the course. Demographics, student experience, and student preferences are examined as differentiating attributes. The authors use Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) to estimate a model of student efficiency. The sample is taken from a course offered both online and in a traditional classroom setting, with both formats being taught by the same instructor in a single semester. Implications include a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in efficiency of different course formats.

Description of the series: Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, this lunchtime (“brown bag”) series of presentations features ongoing research, scholarship, and creative efforts by faculty members in the College. The purpose of the series is to further promote those activities at TWU and to foster collegial and interdisciplinary relations among faculty members across the College and the University. Anyone interested in the sessions is welcome to attend. Presentation proposals are reviewed by an advisory committee consisting of representation from all the major areas of the College.

For further information: Presenters: SSingh2@mail.twu.edu; Series: jblosser@twu.edu