

Observations of On-Demand Curriculum Using MOOC Curriculum

Methodology

Abstract

Reflecting the needs of university students at a private university in Japan during the Covid 19 pandemic, the researchers elected to begin development and implementation of an on-demand style curriculum for the teaching of speaking and listening focused introductory English exercises class prior to the fall semester of 2020. Based on collected data and instructor observations during that initial deployment of the curriculum, the researchers elected to revise several key elements of the curriculum with the goal of improving the learning experience and overall student engagement. During the implementation of the second version of the speaking and listening curriculum as well as a newly developed reading and writing version, the researchers continued to collect data and observations on student performance and apparent engagement with the learning material. Initial analysis of this information in aggregate suggests that these curriculums have potential benefits for students but require meaningful modifications to improve learner performance, engagement and satisfaction. While this work was embarked upon in direct response to the pandemic, the researchers are convinced that on-going development is warranted and could prove highly beneficial in a post-pandemic educational environment.