Assessing the Efficacy of the MBA Foundation Course In Accounting

Background for the Foundation Course

- Upon acceptance into the MBA program, students assigned to one of two groups.
  - The Foundation course
  - The core or option classes

Foundation class in Accounting

▶ **Part of a 12 unit class combining foundations in**

    ▶ **Accounting and Finance**

    ▶ **Strategy and management**

    ▶ **Statistics and operations management**

The Accounting section covers financial and managerial accounting topics and basic concepts of finance

Assessment Procedure

- ▶ **Students divided into Foundation and non-Foundation**

- ▶ **Case study and final exam scores used in the MBA core accounting class are averaged for each group**

- ▶ **Comparison of the average scores**

- ▶ **Comparisons are available across three years**

Assessment of the Efficacy of the Foundation Course

▶ **The efficacy of the Foundation class is tested by seeing if the average scores for the Foundation students is equal or better than the non-Foundation students.**

Spring 2015

Average score differential: 3.135 points

In favor of Foundation students across all assignments.

Spring 2017

Average Score Differential: 9.85 points

For two cases, the Foundation group was less the non-Foundation group. All others, the Foundation group had scores higher than the Non-Foundation group.

Spring 2018

► **Two sections:**

      Average Difference: Section 1:   3.26
                                 Section 2:   4.12

Scores are greater or equal for the Foundation students across all 5 assignments

Is the Foundation course doing its job?

- For overall scores, Foundation student scores, on average were better than non-Foundation student scores.

- Based on these comparisons, the Foundation course in Accounting is effective in providing adequate accounting knowledge for MBA students.

Extensions of Assessment

- ▶ **Identify those cases which concern topics addressed in the Foundation class**

- ▶ **Compare averages on those cases relative to those cases where topics were not directly addressed in the Foundation class**

- ▶ **Provides a closer comparison of the efficacy of the Foundation class**