Course Dropout Survey

Support Internationals @ FIN, OvGU
Academic Club

Motivation

Objective

To enable the faculty to manage resources better (hiring of TAs, booking of rooms) and to assist students in choosing their courses wisely.
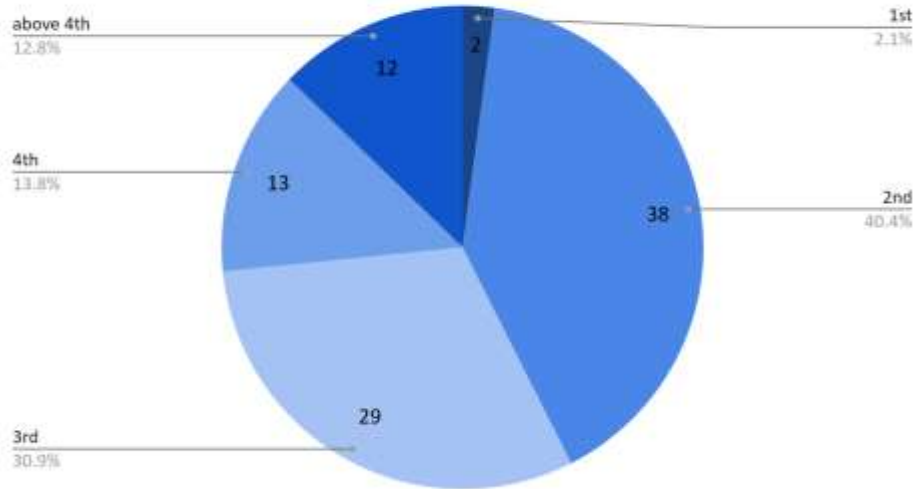
Goals

1. Faculty: To update the course website about the information like prerequisites required for a course or workload that the course requires.
2. Student representatives : To show the numbers in Studiengangsgespräche, for better structure of discussion with faculty and exam committee.
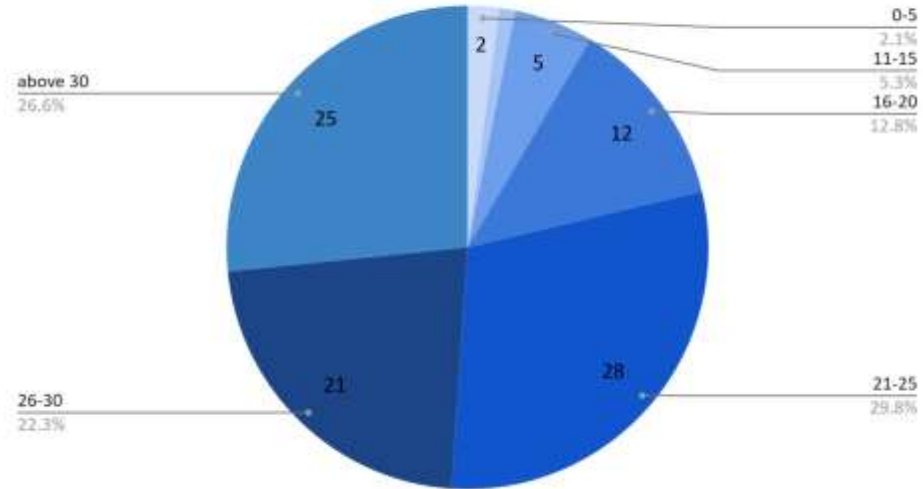
Survey Details

Statistics

- Going Live: 14th April 2020

- End date: 26th April 2020

- Responses
  Total : 149
  Complete: 94
  Incomplete: 55

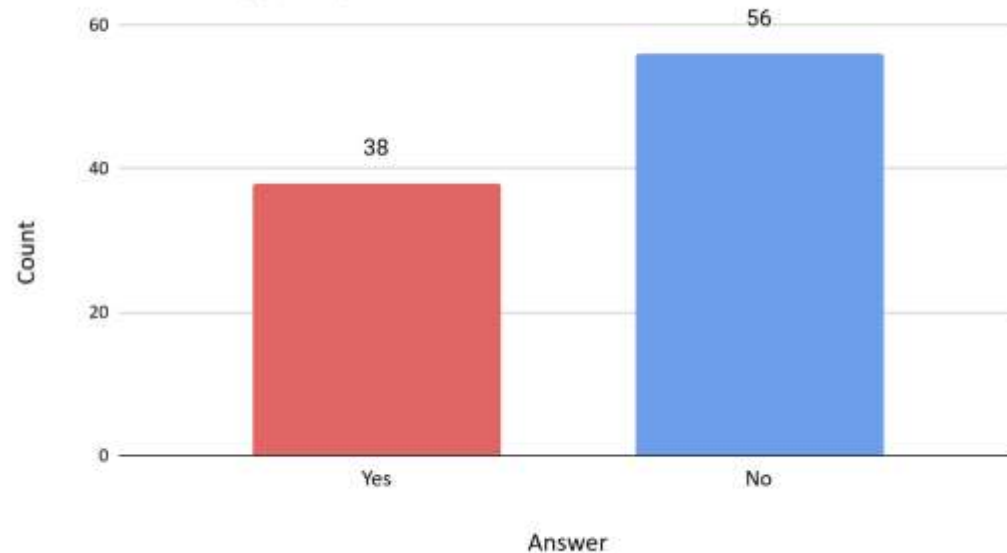# Distribution of Responses

Response Semester Distribution

above 4th
12.8%

4th
13.8%

3rd
30.9%

1st
2.1%

2nd
40.4%

12

13

2

38

29

WiSe19 Credit Point Distribution

above 30
26.6%

26-30
22.3%

0-5
2.1%

11-15
5.3%

16-20
12.8%

21-25
29.8%

2

5

25

21

12

28

Distribution of Responses

Were courses dropped by students?

Among the students who dropped course(s), it was found that a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 2 courses were dropped by the students.

28 Students who dropped a maximum of 1 course
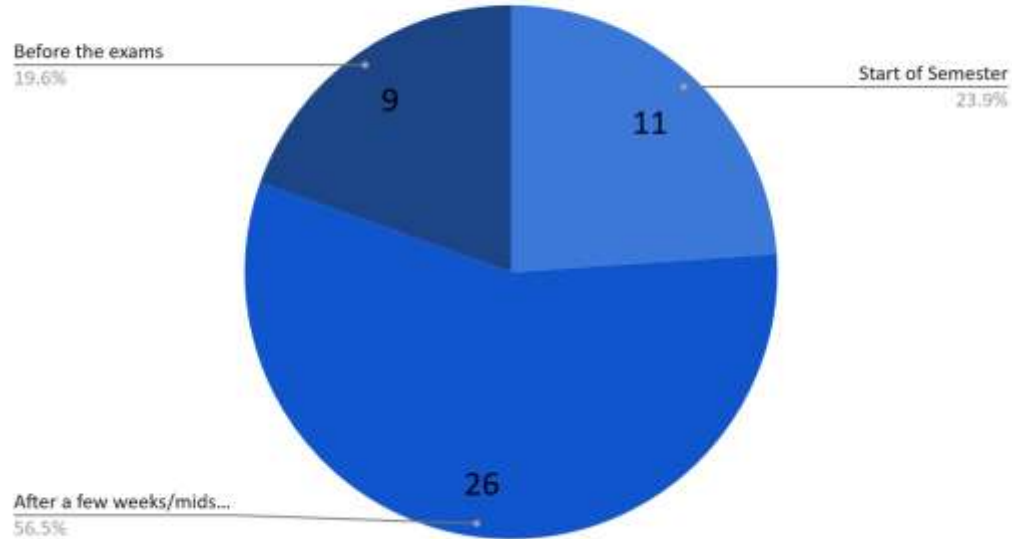
10 Students who dropped a maximum of 2 courses

Courses Dropped by Students

Although the courses dropped by students were diverse (ML, PPSW, IR, UML, BN, DDM, DMEA, ItS, Recommenders,ItSE, Swarm Intelligence, TP, Statistiche Modellierung und Datenanalyse, ITPM, Mobile Communications, Geometrische Gruppentheorie, etc.,), Machine Learning had the highest number of dropouts(7) followed by Bayes Networks(4), DMEA(3) and Recommenders(3).
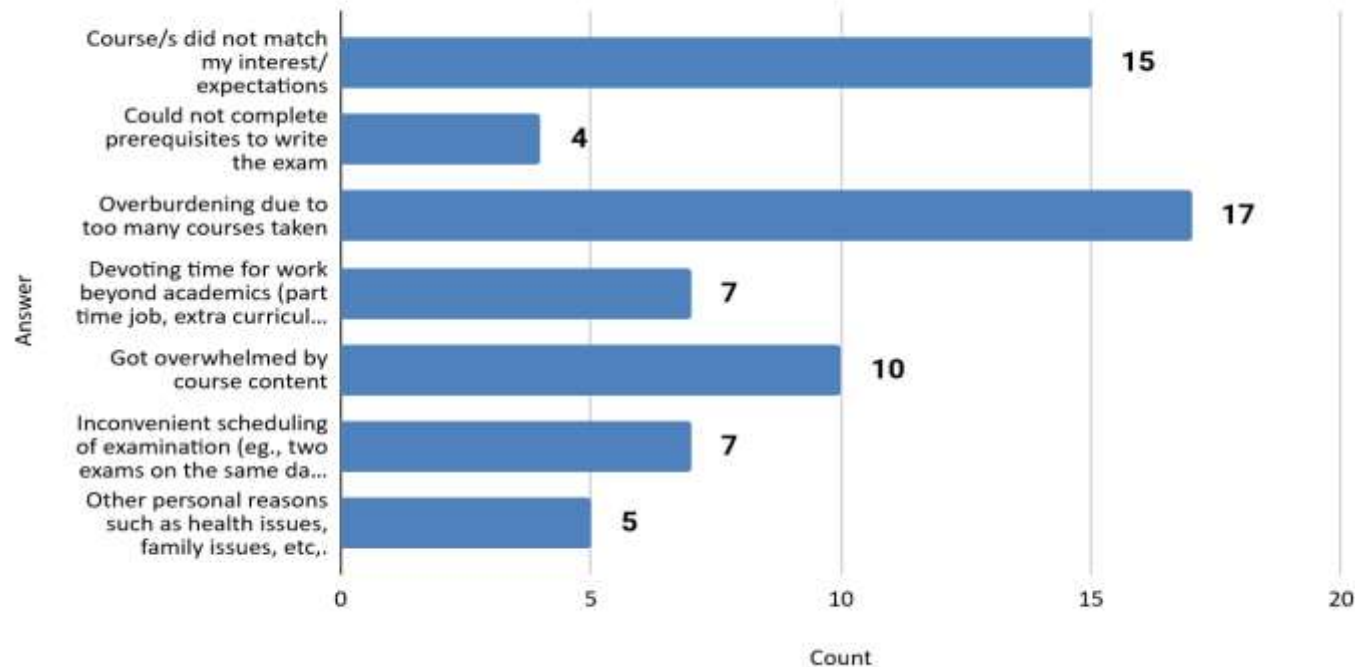
When would students drop a course?

Duration Distribution

Before the exams
19.6%

Start of Semester
23.9%

After a few weeks/mids...
56.5%

Reasons for Dropping Courses

Causality Exploration

Suggestions from the Students

32 of the 94 respondents felt that the information provided on the website pertaining to the course (content, prerequisites, structure) is insufficient/obscure. Some of the recorded opinions on better dissipation of necessary information are as follows:

- Sample course lectures or videos about the content which cover what students can expect from the course and the jobs requiring the skills learnt from the course
- Information on how the course relates to other courses and the possible application areas for the course
- Prerequisite / recommended knowledge required to take a course and be able to keep up with the content
- Make the slides / videos available before the start of the semester so that students can browse through the content and get a feel for the course
- Some seminars and advanced courses like ITOM,MGLIIC do not have basic information on the websites
- Clear examples of assignments, programming tasks and content videos can be put up on the website so that students can review them before deciding on the course