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*How to Interest Students in Statistical Thinking? / Comment intéresser des étudiants dans la pensée statistique*

Courses in Statistics are the most required courses in undergraduate degrees. Often, prospective graduates leave this for their final course before graduation. How can courses in Secondary Mathematics help students be successful with these undergraduate course requirements? Where in our Mathematics courses are secondary students being exposed to statistical thinking? How can it “be made interesting” for students?

Recently Ontario has implemented a course called “The Mathematics of Data Management”. A requirement of this course is that students pose a significant problem whose solution requires the organization and analysis of a large amount of data. They select and apply the tools of the course to design and carry out a study of the problem.

A brief look at the implementation of this course and how students have engaged in their projects will be presented. Discussions will be focussed on how students connect to statistics through designing an inquiry of interest to them, the use of a culminating project as an assessment tool in mathematics.