

## **Incentivizing MPA Students to Independently Develop Linkages Among Multiple Courses**

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### **Abstract**

Students are empowered and creativity is encouraged whenever students are expected to shoulder a greater share of the responsibility for learning. In this study, the shift is partially achieved by the expectation that students, rather than their instructors, assume primary responsibility for selecting concepts from previous coursework that assists in understanding the assigned readings. A greater percentage of the cited concepts are derived from recent courses and assignments that apply lesser cognitive dimensions such as remember. In addition, the cited concepts are derived from each of the MPA program's non-quantitative core course and most of the public management concentration courses – regardless of whether they were completed within the previous year or three years. The data therefore indicate that students assume responsibility for selecting pertinent concepts from other courses when they are incentivized to do so.