

# Embedded Tutors in Online IT courses: Perceptions of students' comfort, confidence, and utilization of a pilot program

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## Abstract

The pilot study reflects perceptions from higher education students in an experimental new online teaching program at a mid-sized Southeastern United States University. The research focused on the effectiveness of an embedded tutoring pilot program in online and hybrid learning management systems (LMS). The research was focused on information technology students' (n=46) perceptions of comfort, confidence, and utilization of the pilot program to understand its value in student retention. The research notes student comfort, confidence, and utilization of the program. Additionally, it supports the notion that the program can construct student retention aspects by reducing anxieties and stress from distance learning spatial inconsistencies. The findings suggest similar results or parallel considerations of students' perceptions in the literature on embedded librarian programs. However, the results fail to mirror students receiving more significant levels of self-efficacy.

**Keywords:** Embedded tutor, course-integrated supplementation, online IT instruction.

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