ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Distance perception results from the mind converting visual input by using the environment or prior knowledge to judge distances between objects. Two theories used to explain distance perception are bottom up and top down.

PURPOSE: To determine if there is a difference in distance perception ability between freshmen and senior architecture and kinesiology students.

METHODS: 32 subjects participated in this study. The study consisted of six tasks: two blind walking tasks, three horizontal tasks and a vertical distance task.

RESULTS: Significant differences between senior kinesiology and freshmen architecture groups. Senior kinesiology did statistically significantly better in HDC (0.03) and freshmen kinesiology did statistically significantly better in HDL (0.03) and HDR (0.01).

CONCLUSIONS: Senior kinesiology students utilize top down processing. Freshmen architecture students utilize bottom up processing. With further research, this can potentially be used to help students choose majors or careers.