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# MyLab Math & MyLab Economics experience

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*“There is a gap in the level of Maths knowledge that students need to start at CBS from when they finish Math in high school.*

*So, we use MyLab Math to close that gap.”*

*Leslie Christensen, Teaching Associate Professor, CBS*



## Could you say a few words about your course in general?

I have been using MyLab Math and MyLab Economics for 13 years.

I start the first day by asking students *“Do you think you have the skills needed to understand a book in Economics?”* Normally, they say they don't know.

I tell them I will find out by giving them a test using MyLab Math or Economics. On the system **you can give students feedback and advise** to follow a course in Microeconomics or other skills. For some of the students we can tell they don't need to upgrade their skills in Math, just follow a course in Economics.

The special issue about this test is that they are first year students and on the first day in class they are a bit scared.

We have four different workshops for students and know exactly where they need to upgrade their skills Calculus, Derivatives, etc.

**To upgrade their skills, we give them a lecture for half an hour and after that they use MyLab Math to do exercises for 45 minutes. Then, they sit in groups to discuss the exercises.**

Many students have low skills in Math, but they find it very good to work in groups and like to have MyLab Math.

One of the very good features is that they can have the same exercises, but with different numbers, so **they all follow the same procedure, but they don't have the same results.**

What they also like very much is the **guided solution** in MyLab Math & Economics. **It's like having instructors going around and helping them.** Quite often it's good enough if they use the guided solution to each question. We know that from the tests which result in about 80% pass rate of the new students.

There is a gap in the level of Maths knowledge that students need to start at CBS from when they finish Math in high school. So, we use MyLab Math to close that gap. We have a special preparatory course for these students. Many of them can see from the test that they need to upgrade their skills in one or two subjects and most of them use almost all of these tools and just want to stay there for the whole day.

Normally, we start at 8 in the morning and end about 4 or 5 pm, and they work very hard during the day. We use free weekends in September for these courses to prepare them for our Microeconomics courses. Together there are about **2000 students.**

The reason we are doing this is because **if you don't have the basic skills in Math, at higher level Economics you cannot concentrate on the subject itself** if you don't know how to solve Math problems.



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## MyLab Math & MyLab Economics for practice and assessment

**Do you have a set of questions that you select for them, or you rather use the pre-set exercises?**

A combination of both. When we see exactly what kind of problems we will have in our exercises, we can decide on that.

**Is it credited if students do something in my MyLab Math/Economics? Do you give any reward for them?**

We give points for the exercises. Normally, it's about 100 points. We give them feedback on what they did, too. That's something that works. Students appreciate the feedback we are giving them.

Also, instructors know from the platform how much time they spend in MyLab. The time they are using their platform is more important than having correct points.

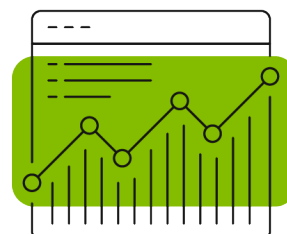
**Does it go into their final grade?**

No, it has nothing to do with the with the final grades. It's a supplementary material to our course.

The final grades come from a four-hour written exam with closed books. And there are a lot of Math issues in that written exam. So, MyLab Math/Economics helps them upgrade their skills so they can focus on their four-hour written exam with closed books. We are not allowed to give them extra compulsory materials.

**Are the final exam questions similar to what they get in MyLab Math/Economics?**

More or less yes, the questions in Math are quite similar.





## The impact of MyLab Math & MyLab Economics

Do you see any difference between when you started using MyLab Math/Economics and now - in terms of your students' behaviour, engagement and reactions?

A little bit. They don't read books as much as before.

Normally when you teach Economics, they bring the textbook on the first week. After that it's too heavy and they don't bring it with them anymore. There's also a trend I've been told by my colleagues that they are not reading as they did 10 years ago. That's also kind of a problem.

On a lecture, you cannot just point at a student and ask questions. After COVID-19 they are much shyer. So, you cannot just ask students in a classroom to answer questions.

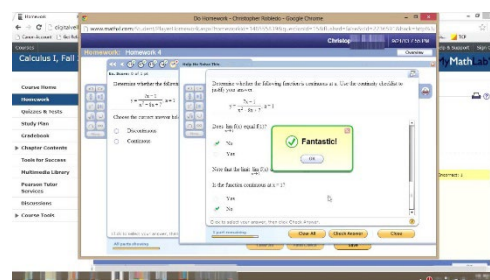
So, that's a big challenge here and that means when I prepare my lessons for next semester, *I'm going to use digital tools much more often instead of asking students.*

Do you see any changes in students results?

I've noticed something - when we ask the students how much time they have used to prepare for a lecture and to finish their exercise on MyLab Math/Economics. They use much longer time than they admit. We don't know why, but *we can see that from the gradebook.* Maybe they are afraid of admitting that they are struggling with understanding.

Do you hear any comments from your students about MyLab Math/Economics?

It's a good idea to have a conversation with the students. They tell me that *it is quite important to have feedback*, especially positive feedback.



# Benefits and advice on using MyLab Math & MyLab Economics



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From MyLab you can immediately spot if someone is struggling. How do you react to that?

Normally they're quite good students, working in groups, but those students we see struggling can ask for the instructor's help.

That means you can have a meeting in the study cafe with that instructor and have your own private instruction. Not many students are using that, but that's an opportunity we are giving to students.

What is the main benefit of MyLab Math/Economics for you?

The main benefit is that *students can practice more*. The guided solutions are also very helpful for students. You could also bring MyLab Math/Economics into the study cafe and study there.

If you could say something to someone who is going to start using MyLab Math/Economics for the first time, what would be your advice to them?

First of all, *you should not create too many questions for an assignment*, only a small number of them. It should be a mix of some questions from which you can more or less see if they have been reading the chapter, or they can see the point of reading the chapter.

*A few questions are enough to make them confident they are making some progress.*

Students on average should work about one hour maximum to finish the assignment.

It's also important to *give them feedback and a time limit* to finish an exercise. If you start a chapter, they should have not more than one week to finish the exercise, because even if they do not finish, after one week we are moving on to another topic. *It helps students to do regular exercises.*

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If you would like to know more about MyLab Math & MyLab Economics, visit our MyLab® & Mastering® website at

<https://mlm.pearson.com/global/>

