MyLab IT Efficacy Report Summary

MyLab IT is an online tutorial and assessment tool, used in higher education to teach the digital literacy concepts and Microsoft Office application skills that students will need for academic and professional success.

Is attempting more unique MyLab IT assignments associated with higher exam scores?

We partnered with a mid-sized four-year university in the midwestern US, where students used MyLab IT in a Business Problem Solving with IT course during the 2015–2016 academic year, to analyze the relationship between student usage and course outcomes.

What we found

We found that the number of unique MyLab IT activities that a student attempted was related to their achievement in the course. We also found that 78% of students who completed the course passed the course.

Relationship between students’ average course exam scores and MyLab IT usage, after controlling for prior content knowledge

Key findings

Of students that completed the course passed it.

78%
How the product was used
In this course, the instructor assigned individual activities within MyLab IT as practice and homework exercises and also combined MyLab IT resources to generate course exams designed to assess students' programming skills. MyLab IT's simulation and Grader activities, which are auto-graded homework and assessment options that students carry out live in the actual Microsoft applications, were both used, but there was an emphasis on Grader activities.

In the context of the study conducted at a mid-sized university in the midwestern US for students enrolled in Business Problem Solving with IT, Pearson is able to make the following statements about the efficacy of MyLab IT:

— On average, attempting an additional seven unique assignments was associated with an increase in course exam score by half a letter grade (5%).
— In our research, 78% of students who completed the course using MyLab IT passed the course.

This statement is set out in full in the box titled "Efficacy statements" on page 11 of the Research Report where they have been subject to assurance by PwC, whose report can be found at the end of the Research Report.

How we did the research
We measured usage by looking at the number of unique MyLab IT activities each student attempted, the number of times each student repeated MyLab IT activities, and the total time (in hours) spent on MyLab IT activities. We measured performance by averaging scores across each of the activities.

Explore the full report at Pearson.com/corporate/efficacy-and-research

Pearson's Efficacy Commitment
In 2013, Pearson made a commitment to efficacy: to identify the outcomes that matter most to students and educators, and apply evidence-based approaches to product design, development and implementation support so we could have a greater impact on improving those outcomes. We committed to reporting on the impact of use of products, commencing in 2018 with some of our most frequently used products.

To Pearson, efficacy is more than a commitment to report on the impact of use of our products on outcomes. It is even more than a way to continuously improve our products. Efficacy is a priority for everyone at Pearson. Applying outcomes-focused, evidence-based design to our products, and supporting educators to use them to help more learners learn more, is at the heart of who we are, what we do — and of our vision for the future of learning.