MyMathLab

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LEARNING OUTCOME

By introducing MyMathLab Koc University encouraged their students to do regular homework, so they started practising long before their exams. The **higher grades achieved on the mid-term exam** show that their implementation of MyMathLab was successful.

Course
Math 201 Statistics

Textbook in use
Statistics, 11th Edition, 2008
McClave, Sincich and Mendenhall

Type of data collected
Lecturer observations

During this period
2010–11

Course design

The students on this course are Administrative Sciences students. Although they are mathematically oriented, they are not as fond of doing mathematics as engineering or science students are. There are around 200 students instructed in 3 or 4 different groups.

Assessment

5% was allocated towards three MyMathLab quizzes.

Implementation

I wanted to introduce MyMathLab to the course because students were not doing any of the homework and were therefore doing badly in their quizzes and other assessment. The goal in implementing MyMathLab was to introduce a platform that would encourage students to do their homework, so that they can practise well before the exams to learn the topic.

I was approached by local Pearson representatives who demonstrated the benefits of MyMathLab. I then persuaded the section instructors that this was do-able, and that I would put together the arrangements for an online quiz as practices for the final exam (reserving a room, coordinating through sections for information flow and so on).

We then set up the MyMathLab course in the following way:

- Homework was done with the most possible help (allowing all MyMathLab features), and several attempts were allowed as well.

- For the quizzes, we did not allow any help. However, students could prepare a help sheet for formulas (as they do in classical exams) and they were also allowed to bring a calculator. These were set up as mock exams.

- 5% of the course grade was allocated to MyMathLab quizzes, of which there were three. Most students only completed the first of these quizzes, but we still felt that the system worked. This semester we will increase the assessment weighting to 10% to encourage students to take all quizzes.

Conclusions

ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE

Students are more interested in the course.

STATISTICAL EVIDENCE

Results for the first quiz, which took place after the first few sets of homework, were not very good. However, results for the first mid-term exam were significantly higher grades compared to statistics from previous years. This exam covered the same topics as the first quiz.

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In Brief

- MyMathLab works.
- Technology like MyMathLab can be used in Statistics courses.
- Cultural factors should be considered in your particular application of the technology to be successful.