

MyLab improves results*

Spotlight on: Interactive MyLabs



In Spring 2022, Pearson interviewed eight instructors in North America to get a better understanding of their experience with, and perceptions of, Interactive MyLabs. Interactive MyLab offers a superior digital learning platform, a non-threatening space to practice, and a variety of supportive resources for students and instructors. It goes beyond other MyLab courses by featuring "learning assignments" that get students engaged through a mix of videos, reading, interactive figures, and "try it" exercises.

Superior Digital Learning Platform

When previously using ALEKS, Michaela Schaben, Director of Foundational Mathematics and instructor at a private university in the Midwest, found students were often complaining and asking questions about how to use the platform. Students were unable to seamlessly complete their objectives which caused immense frustration for students and instructors alike.

"We noticed that the students had trouble navigating and understanding the fine mastery of ALEKS. Students would kind of get stuck in the round and round of trying to master the objectives and it ended up taking them a lot longer to complete their weekly assignments than we thought was necessary. We were really turned on to (Interactive MyLabs) because of the interactive aspect."

After trying a variety of digital learning platforms, Jacque Freudenthal, instructor at Spokane Community College in Washington, finds Interactive MyLabs to be the best fit for her and her students given the variety of resources available to support them.

"I'm a huge fan. I've used other products and they just don't have the capabilities, aren't as user friendly, and don't have as many resources. It's easier for me

to manage and there are so many tools for students to be successful.”

After being invited to a Pearson summit, Kyle Moninger, instructor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, discovered that the comprehensiveness of Interactive MyLab is good fit for his needs.

“I just thought (WebAssign’s) interface was clunky; it wasn’t great. Then obviously on the flip side, I’m at this summit with Pearson’s MyLab and see there’s so many bells and whistles, features, and ways you can utilize it in and out of class. You can even do testing with it. It was just a night and day difference.”

As an instructor at Metropolitan Community College in Kansas, Jennifer Johnson, wants assurances her online students are learning concepts before attempting their homework. While she sees the benefits of homework for practice, assigning interactive assignments first ensures students are learning the material without skipping ahead to just guess at their homework.

“With the interactive product being assigned and built into their grade and everything it, I don’t want to say forced the issue of lecture on to them, but it forced them to read things and answer questions and watch videos all interactively, so I know they are learning the material, instead of just trying the material.”

Opportunities for Practice

The wide variety of tools and resources available to students using Interactive MyLabs allows them to practice in a way that resonates with their learning style and encourages engagement, according to Freudenthal.

“I feel like (Interactive MyLab) encourages them to participate more when practicing their homework. I think it offers so many tools, whether it’s the technology help where you can watch a video, a study plan that helps review specific skills you are a little bit weaker on, or the ability to review a whole chapter. There are all kinds of things that are so useful for students, which would be hard for me to create by myself, so I think that’s definitely a huge advantage.”

With upcoming assessments, students are always asking Moninger what they can do to practice and prepare for their tests. Kyle directs them to the study plan where he can easily check options to compile a list of topics they should focus on.

“I absolutely love (the companion study plan), and my students absolutely love it as well. They always make comments about that on my teacher evaluations about how helpful those are. I think such a common question students will ask me is, what’s going to be on the exam and how do I study for it? The companion study plan answers both of those questions so easily for me with just putting a little check box in the option they get a detailed list of the topics. Then there’s the option to practice and quiz themselves over each of those topics so it’s been a game changer. It’s so great!”

Resources that support teaching and learning

Being able to see performance analytics, manage incompletes at the click of a button, seamlessly sync to their Learning Management System, and easily set up a course shell for adjuncts are some of the best features of Interactive MyLabs, according to Schaben. When it comes to her students she appreciates the learning aids, the interactive organizer that follows the videos, and the guided notebook. Having a comprehensive platform with all these benefits is the reason she stays with Pearson.

“(Interactive MyLabs) is a game changer and if other courses offered that, I would snag those up in a heartbeat.”

Freudenthal also sees the value in the guided notebook and wishes she could utilize it in more courses. She recognizes how the interactivity of the lessons while incorporating the notebook features resonates with the students and produces an effective learning environment, especially for online students.

“The guided notebook is my favorite thing, and is what I wish all authors would do... The guided notebook has an outlined template with space to fill in information from the videos. When you're watching the interactive video, you're writing in your notebook. So, you're watching and taking notes and answering questions within that interactive video lesson. I think that is fabulous. That is the best learning tool, especially with an online class.”

Creating any online course is a time-consuming endeavor for instructors but creating one that is comprehensive and sequential with interactive lessons

can be daunting. With Interactive MyLabs, Janet Zupkus, instructor at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut, feels not only is that an easy process, but it also seamlessly replaces what's going on in a classroom.

“Really what the key is, and that's what I've promoted to the other people in our department, is that the interactive lessons take the place of all that work you do when you create an online course. The interactive lessons have the videos, step-by-step examples, and definitions with just the right amount of text. The content within the interactive lesson is equivalent to what you would be doing in the classroom.”

Helping his students be successful in the course is of utmost importance to Moninger. This goal is supported by personalized homework as it scales to each students' skill set so they are working on individualized topic mastery and ensuing homework is not redundant. This alleviates frustration for the students while continuously developing their skills at their own pace.

“A really shining star in my mind for my lab is the personalized homework option. It really allows students to assess their strengths and weaknesses and then help them focus on what the skills are they really need to sharpen up or what they need to study in order to be successful, because it's so individualized and personalizes everyone's homework to their specific skill set. I think that has been huge. Rather than just having everyone do the same ten problems, let's have everyone do the problems that they need to complete.”

In addition to the personalized homework, the variety of other available resources and ability to customize the course to fit the needs of both his face-to-face and online students has supported student success which translates to higher course grades.

"I definitely want to say that the grades have been higher... Since we switched to MyLab we've just been able to create the course to better fit the needs for the students. We are able to make it more applicable, more hands on and interactive, and that's in the classroom and an online space. So, I think that is may be the biggest factor for them passing and being more successful, it's the flexibility. MyLab has allowed us to really tailor the course, offer personalized homework, and to have a study plan."

Learn more about Interactive MyLabs & Efficacy at Pearson

Learn more about how Interactive MyLabs could benefit your course by visiting:

<https://www.pearson.com/us/higher-education/series/Interactive-My-Lab-Math-and-My-Lab-Statistics-Courses/4224430.html>

The Efficacy & Learning team uses the science of learning to ensure Pearson products help learners achieve better outcomes.

* To see how Interactive MyLabs improves results, read our audited, peer reviewed correlational research, which spans multiple Revel titles: [pearson.com/news-and-research/efficacy](https://www.pearson.com/news-and-research/efficacy)