

MyLab improves results

Spotlight on: MyLab Math in Corequisite Math



In Fall 2022, Pearson interviewed five instructors in North America to get a better understanding of their experience with, and perceptions of, MyLab Math in their corequisite math courses.

The instructors highlighted in this spotlight are Tina Ragsdale, associate professor at West Kentucky Community and Technical College, KaSai Un, assistant professor/coordinator of college algebra at Texas A&M University – Commerce, Kim Walters, instructor at Mississippi State University, and Clay Kitchings, assistant dean/associate professor at the University of North Georgia. These instructors agree that MyLab Math offers them flexibility to design their course to fit student needs allowing them to support student success.

Offering instructors the flexibility to customize

Instructor Ragsdale uses MyLab to personalize the design of her course. She assigns customized homework to students as a prerequisite to coming to class, which gives students a foundation of understanding so she can focus on fostering student success in the classroom.

“The class is where I can really be used, where my expertise is valuable to them. We can work through difficult problems when I’m not just wasting time on pure lecture. I think that’s the beauty of MyLab, that I can do a modified flip classroom with it. The students can do the pre-learning, and the post learning more easily, and get many of their questions answered quickly. They can identify where they need real help and then they can use me and the tutors more effectively. I can be the real help they need in the classroom.”

Finding questions that fit both the needs of the course and of the students can be challenging. Oftentimes those needs change each semester, and even within a semester. Instructor Un finds MyLab provides her the ability to tailor assignments to fit those needs.

“I really like the question bank because when I tried out other products, I may have gotten frustrated with what questions they had available. In MyLab, I found different levels of questions, like easy, medium and

difficult. If I don't find the right one, I can add some from different textbooks. I can always find or edit the questions to what I need."

Supporting student success

Having a variety of available resources to encourage practice is of utmost importance to corequisite students, according to Walters. She finds one of those resources, the Skill Builder exercises, show students where they need to practice, helping them attain content mastery.

"I like the Skill Builder exercises that are available because my students can get to a point where they need to backtrack. Co-req students are the students that really need to do that backtracking. Skill Builder really pinpoints what they need to work on, and I like that."

Another important skill set to develop for corequisite students are growth mindset skills as they help set them on the path of being successful, confident students, according to Kitchings.

"The bundled modules on grit and growth mindset are excellent modules. I assign those to all students because so many of them enter college with a fixed mindset and little experience with perseverance. These modules do a great job of helping students foster more of a growth mindset and improve their willingness to persevere. Such soft skill development is crucial for students in learning support situations."

Digital learning solution

Kitchings has seen increased student engagement since switching from WebAssign to MyLab. He feels the variety of resources, such as Learning Catalytics,

a real-time tool where students utilize their own devices in the classroom to assess understanding, helps foster that engagement.

"I think my students are more engaged in MyLab than they were with WebAssign. It might be because there is the extra availability of the resource library and the ability to use Learning Catalytics. I think those are very positive things for students. They really do like the ability to see a related video, to see somebody else giving them direction on a certain problem, and they can do that problem by problem. I think those are all advantages to MyLab."

As the college algebra coordinator, it is important to her that they are constantly looking into ways to improve their students' learning experience, and one of those ways is to periodically investigate different publishers. Through this investigation, MyLab has proven to be competitive in price and less frustrating for her students.

"I have tried another product that would take away students' progress when they made a mistake and that seems to be demotivating for students. I chose MyLab for my classes because it is a well-developed product. MyLab is easy to use for both teachers and students and it provides students with various online help resources and instant feedback."

Learn more about MyLab Math

Learn more about how MyLab Math could benefit your course by visiting:

<https://mlm.pearson.com/northamerica/mymathlab/>