

MyLab Improves Results*

Spotlight on: MyLab Math in Developmental Math Courses



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

The instructors highlighted in this spotlight are Carrie Quesnell, instructor at Weber State University in Utah, Stephanie Hawk Killion, instructor at Lewis and Clark Community College in Illinois, and Melissa Gonzalez Lam, instructor at a college in the Southeast. For these instructors, MyLab Math offers flexibility for both themselves, and students with a strong focus on supporting struggling students.

The instructors want the ability to identify where students are and what resources they need to learn efficiently and effectively. Personalizing instruction and providing a variety of learning resources helps every student succeed.



Flexibility means options for students and instructors

With the variety of resources available to instructors, Carrie Quesnell appreciates the flexibility to create tailored learning paths for students.

“With MyLab taking care of the heavy lifting, we could customize. All students would be on a customized learning path so if they weren't successful the first time, there were review resources available. There was a way for them to practice on their own, as well as guide any tutoring or interaction they had with help resources to prepare them to try again.”

Compared to other platforms, Melissa Gonzalez Lam finds the variety of questions available in MyLab Math gives her a better opportunity to customize assessments based on her course needs and students' ability levels.

"I really like the level of difficulty in the questions and the choices we get. That was one of the things I couldn't get over with a different platform. They only offered maybe three or four examples of a question, and I always thought out of those three or four maybe one of them was good and the rest were not."

"I like that Pearson offers different levels of difficulty and it is very detailed. When you go to pick your question, it tells you the level of difficulty, but it also tells you the average amount of time it takes a student to take it. I really appreciate that."

In addition to flexibility for instructors, Stephanie Hawk Killion notes how the flexibility for students to choose from varying resources means they are bound to find something that resonates with their diverse learning styles.

"MyLab gives them different ways to do something, because not everybody learns in the same way. It gives them options. I like that."

Support for struggling students

Oftentimes students come into developmental math courses with low confidence in their math skills. This happens for a variety of reasons, one being the fact that most do not get timely feedback on their work

which can lead to practicing incorrectly. Hawk Killion believes MyLab's immediate feedback helps curb this.

"What I like the most about MyLab, especially for the developmental students, is that students get feedback immediately and to not practice doing it wrong for every problem on an assignment."

In addition, Hawk Killion has gotten feedback from students that when using MyLab in the online space, the variety of tools helps them feel supported when they do not have immediate access to instructors or fellow students.

"I've had a lot of students give me feedback that, especially since Covid, and being virtual, MyLab really gives them a lot of tools in which to seek help. When they feel all alone and isolated, there's a lot of tools available in MyLab that gives them feedback, videos, and examples. It really just helps them find something that works. I tell everybody, make sure you get MyLab because it really is helpful. It is the best thing!"

With the desire to implement mastery learning in their math department, Quesnell appreciates how MyLab analytics inform her of the exact areas her students are struggling so she can address that immediately, either individually or in class.

"The main benefit is that I can implement mastery learning. (MyLab) makes it possible to help each student where they are. If they're struggling somewhere I can see that. The insight I can get from looking at a gradebook really helps me tailor what I'm doing in class. If there are students struggling enough with a certain topic, or getting wound up in a homework assignment somewhere, I can tell that because they haven't progressed enough. I can address that with them in class."

Student success is of utmost importance to Gonzalez Lam, and she finds the personalization of MyLab tailors to each students' skill level giving them encouragement and motivation to complete the course.

"The Skill Builder and the study plan really help, especially the online students. It gives them more feedback and more of a personalized approach, which in mathematics, especially at the college level, is really important because you really do have so much diversity as far as mathematical ability in the classroom. I do believe, and I've gotten feedback from students, that these tools help them. I have seen these features have an important impact on whether or not a student gives up. They feel like they have a helping hand without it being done for them."

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