



Courses:

College Algebra, Basic Calculus and Basic Business Statistics

Type of data collected:

Final exam scores, pass rates, student survey

During which period: 2009–10

Textbook in use:

Calculus for Economics, Life Science and Social Science, 11th edition, 2008, Barnett, Ziegler, Byleen

College Algebra, 8th edition, 2008, Sullivan
Basic Business Statistics: Concepts and Applications, 11th edition, 2009, Berenson, Levine, Krehbiel

MyMathLab course structure

Course design

I use *MyMathLab* and *MyStatLab* on three courses: College Algebra, Basic Calculus and Basic Business Statistics. Each course consists of three lectures per week. In the past the College Algebra course included one tutorial hour per week which required a teaching assistant.

Assessment

Final written exam.

Assigned homework was collected and graded by the instructor upon completion of a chapter.

Implementation

By implementing *MyMathLab* we no longer needed the university computer labs and we were able to decrease the number of teaching assistants. Now the homework and 'labs' are assigned through the *MyMathLab* resource. We advise the students to use *MyMathLab* for their homework, highlighting the advantage of the online tutoring system and the fact that the online access code is included in the book.

I am able to set around 20 homework assignments per semester and control the due date for completing them; this gives me additional tools to boost the motivation of the students. Labs are assigned at the end of each chapter. In the

case of a coordinated course (i.e., supported by a teaching assistant), the coordinator assigns a particular time for the students to take the online lab, which is usually available only for one day (it can even be set for one hour if you wish to do so). After completing each chapter, students submit their homework folder which contains a printout of the online homework assignments, together with their workings. This prepares the students for the final exam by emphasising the need to show workings for each problem.

MyMathLab course results

The results show that the section of the class that did not use the online homework assignments did not score as well those students using *MyMathLab*. There was a difference of 10% between the average score on the common final exam. In addition, all students who spent an average of 1.5 hours on homework assignments during the semester were able to pass the course. In a survey, several students reported that the online assessment improved their skill in using computers and that they enjoyed using the online assignments. When asked if they would prefer to do the homework from the book or on *MyMathLab*, they voted in favour of the online homework.