

MyITLab

School Name [Washington State University, Pullman, WA](#)
Course Name [Managing Information Technology](#)
Course Format [Lecture](#)

Key Results In a class test using MyITLab, students' scores on the course's Excel component significantly improved: the percentage of A/B scores increased from 37 to 65% and C/D scores decreased from 60 to 24%.

Submitted by

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Course materials

Exploring Microsoft Office, Grauer (Custom Edition)

Challenges

Washington State University, one of the nation's top research universities, serves more than 20,000 students across four campuses. Managing Information Technology is taken by approximately 650 freshman and sophomore Business majors each semester. The course covers contemporary information systems and their use, as well as how to use Excel and Access to develop effective management tools and techniques in the workplace.

Prior to spring 2014, the course did not have an online technology component; students attended two hours of lab per week in which they completed a required Grader Project assignment for a weekly lab assignment grade. All assignments were hand-graded by teaching assistants. Stoney Brooks, assistant professor, sought an online assessment program that would help students better retain course material and increase assignment scores, be easy to use, and be viewed as a value-add by students.

Brooks designed a class test in which he compared the results of students who used MyITLab in the Excel portion of his spring 2014 class to the results of students who took his course using the old format of hand-graded lab assignments (fall 2013).

Implementation

Lab assignments, which are Grader Projects from the application textbook, are a critical part of the course grade. The fall 2013 students were assigned textbook sections to read before attending lab; during weekly two-hour lab sessions, students individually completed Grader Projects for grading.

In spring 2014, students were offered optional MyITLab Training Simulations to prepare them for the Grader Project assignments in lab. Use of MyITLab was strongly recommended.

Assessments

50 percent	Exams
25 percent	Lab assignments (Grader Project in MyITLab)
15 percent	Research studies
10 percent	Case studies/in-class assignments

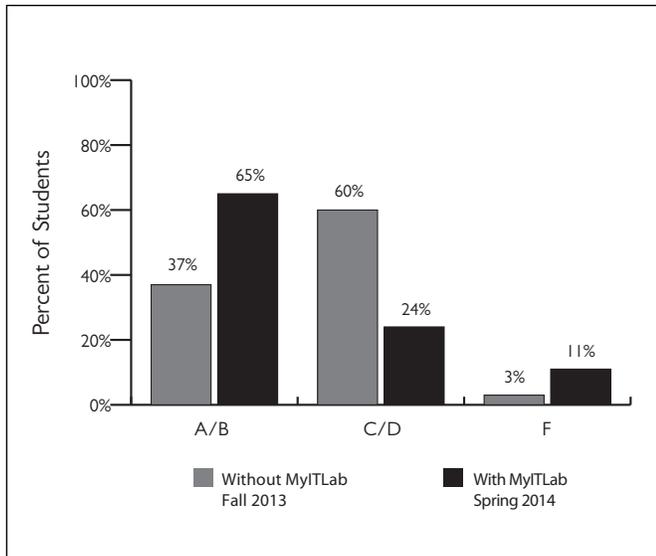


Figure 1. Grades on the Excel Portion of the Course before and after MyITLab Implementation, Fall 2013–Spring 2014 (Fall 2013: $n=534$, Spring 2014: $n=524$)

Results and Data

Only 37 percent of students without MyITLab achieved an A or B on the Excel portion of the course; 60 percent of students without MyITLab earned a C or D. After the addition of MyITLab, the A/B rate increased to 65 percent and students earning a C/D dropped to 24 percent (figure 1).

Brooks attributes the rise in Fs to grading by teaching assistants that was more subjective than that of MyITLab.

The Student Experience

After assessing data from the Excel portions of both the fall 2013 and spring 2014 classes, Brooks surveyed his students to learn how they felt about the addition of MyITLab.

78% Strongly agreed or agreed that their understanding of the course material increased as a result of using MyITLab.

65% Strongly agreed or agreed that they would recommend use of MyITLab in courses for which it is available.

In addition, students appreciated the program's accessibility, calling it "easy to use" and "organized." Comments included "the interface was simple" and "grading was immediate."

Conclusion

Students' Excel grades were substantially higher using MyITLab. It prepared them for assessments so they were able to repeat the work more completely in their weekly lab assignments. Most important, students found the program easy to use and helpful.

Based on Brooks' class test results, his department has adopted MyITLab across all sections for fall 2014.