MyLab / Mastering

CASE STUDY

Using MyHealthLab

COURSE NAME: Introduction to Community Health Sciences

CREDITS: 1 Full Course Credit

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION: Accelerated hybrid course taught on campus

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"The Supercourse was a **great way** to get ahead for the following year, and the format of online testing, as well as the **enthusiastic** professors made for a great learning environment."

— student

ASSESSMENT:

Computer Seminars: 20% of grade
Daily Tests: 30% of grade
Exam 1: 25% of grade
Exam 2: 25% of grade

IMPLEMENTATION:

We designed an accelerated hybrid course (we called it Supercourse) and incorporated several teaching and learning opportunities. Since this course was delivered in 2 weeks, we thought that MyhealthLab would provide a different and creative learning opportunity for students. Assigned activities in MyHealthLab were considerably different from the traditional lecture format, which proved very effective, especially in a course that was scheduled from 9 am to 6 pm every day for 2 weeks. We incorporated MyHealthLab activities throughout each day and this variety really held student interest.

We offered a two-hour traditional lecture, followed by a one-hour online seminar using MyHealthLab. Each three-hour lecture and seminar were designed to complement each other and maintain continuity. We repeated this three-hour format with different chapter topics in both the morning and afternoon sessions.
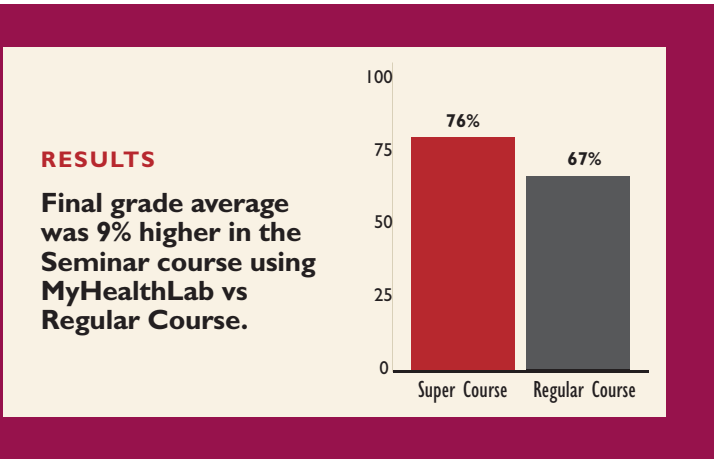
Within the two daily seminars we incorporated several online learning activities, including animations, glossary flashcards, open-ended scenario questions, surveys, matching term with definition exercises, and online website and video links. We also incorporated tailored seminar quizzes designed for students to actively work together in answering. This format created quick cohesion and a friendly classroom environment. The online seminars gave students a chance to interact with others, as well as test their knowledge.

For evaluation, we designed daily weekday tests and two Saturday exams. At the end of each day, students completed an online test that reflected the material covered on that day, using MyHealthLab. All tests and exams were completed in a supervised computer lab.

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We utilized the mail and announcement options for communicating with students throughout the course. We also used the Gradebook tool to report all marks. This process was made easy since all evaluation components were conducted on MyHealthLab.

RESULTS:

We compared final grades from the hybrid course to a traditional course that incorporated the same content. The final grade average was 9% higher in the hybrid course incorporating MyHealthLab, compared to the final grade average for the traditional course format that did not incorporate MyHealthLab.

RESULTS

Final grade average was 9% higher in the Seminar course using MyHealthLab vs Regular Course.

CONCLUSION:

The way we structured the seminar and having MyHealthLab available to students was instrumental in allowing and providing them with the opportunity to create their own learning communities. After a few seminars we found that the students were sitting in groups in the market place, in the students commons in the library and other locations where they were able to do the activities and discuss the topics together. A number of the students said that this positive learning and sharing environment really helped them to do well in the course.

The creativity of the activities in MyHealthLab proved to be valuable in bridging a gap that existed between our lecture and seminar. Also, MyHealthLab made us more cognizant of the online resources that exist, as well as our students' strong affinity towards online activities. These experiences helped evolve our pedagogical approach in the classroom.

In an online post course survey we asked students to tell us what their favourite part of the course was and 40.3% of students attributed it to the on-line testing which was done through MyHealthlab.

What was your favorite part of the course?

- Online seminars
- Lectures
- Grouping small groups to study
- The online testing
- Other (please specify)

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