

Product Name MyITLab

Course Name Introduction to Computer Information Systems

Credit Hours Three

**Key Results** MyITLab has both increased the percentage of students successfully completing the course and generated significant cost savings.

## Text

*Visualizing Technology, Introductory, 1e, Debra Geoghan*

## Implementation

Introduction to Computer Information Systems is a required course for all students at Fort Hays State University. Students learn computing skills to increase personal productivity in problem solving, critical thinking, and information management via commercially available software packages designed for office applications and telecommunications.

In the past, four to six instructors taught this course each semester, and many of them were adjuncts. Today, I teach all the sections by using a blended teaching model in which students meet with me for one hour each week. Outside of class, students are required to complete assignments and projects. In addition, a team of graduate students, under my supervision, is available 40 hours a week in a dedicated tutorial computer lab for individual tutoring, grading, and answering questions.

Within MyITLab, I assign the training modules for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, as well as the pre- and posttests for those applications. To promote student's mastery of the material and to maximize their grades on assignments, I allow students an unlimited number of attempts at completion of each training

*“Students are more engaged, more enthusiastic, and more confident after completing my course using MyITLab.”*

simulation. Students who have difficulty with the concepts are encouraged to review the PowerPoint presentations and videos available within MyITLab, which reinforce classroom demonstrations and tutoring.

### Assessments

40 percent	Homework and projects
15 percent	MyITLab training simulations
15 percent	In-class quizzes
13.3 percent	Exams (conceptual material)
10 percent	Papers
6.7 percent	MyITLab posttest

*“Since we adopted MyITLab several semesters ago, final course grades have significantly increased.”*

## Results and Data

Final course grades have significantly increased and sustained at an increased level since we adopted MyITLab in 2008 (figure 1). In addition, instructors in higher-level courses have commented that incoming students have a greater understanding of Excel than before and that they now spend less time reviewing Excel concepts in their courses.

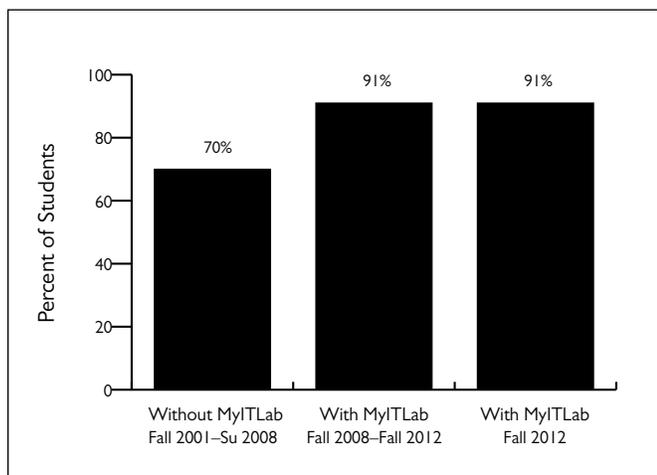


Figure 1. Percent of Students Earning a Final Course Grade of A, B, C, or D before and after MyITLab Adoption, Fall 2001–Fall 2012 (n=4,420)

## The Student Experience

Introduction to Computer Information Systems meets the needs of students from across the spectrum of experience. Incoming students with better-than-average technology skills can progress quickly through the material; those who need additional assistance are also accommodated. Students engage with the course content because they control the delivery of both the conceptual material and the application skills and because they can learn at their own pace.

MyITLab promotes consistency across the sections. Students can be confident that they are receiving the same depth of instruction and assessment as everyone else taking the course. Each assessment offers an accurate reflection of what students are—and are not—learning. In response, I can identify skills that students do not understand and devote extra time to those topics during class.

## Conclusion

From data that I've collected and from personal observation, I can attest that students are more engaged, more enthusiastic, and more confident after completing the course using MyITLab.

From a university standpoint, MyITLab enables me to provide substantial cost savings for the university. Because the course is largely self-guided and we meet less frequently, the administration spends much less on instructors and classroom space.

*Submitted by Gladys Swindler  
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