

MyITLab

School Name Jefferson Community and Technical College, Louisville, KY

Course Name Introduction to Computer Applications

Course Format Online

Key Results Data indicate a positive, significant correlation between MyITLab homework scores and overall final course grades, whereby students achieving As and Bs in the course earned significantly higher MyITLab scores than students earning Cs, Ds, and Es.

Submitted by

Cliff Niemeier, Professor

Course materials

GO! With Microsoft Office 2013, Gaskin; *Tech in Action*, Evans

Challenges

Jefferson Community and Technical College is the largest of 16 colleges forming the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Although Introduction to Computers is a requirement for IT majors, it is open to all students. The course introduces students to the computer and the use of technology in today's global environment. Students learn about computer hardware and software, file management, the Internet, email, the Web, and computer ethics.

Cliff Niemeier, professor, was teaching the Introduction to Computers course at two colleges, using different course materials at each. He sought to consolidate his efforts and teaching methodology and, in 2012, implemented MyITLab at Jefferson.

Implementation

All course work is completed in MyITLab. Students are required to complete a concepts quiz for every *Tech in Action* chapter, as well as the application-based assignments in *GO!*

Although no due dates are assigned, students are offered the following schedule to help them stay on track:

1. Read the concepts chapter in *Tech in Action* and complete the corresponding MyITLab quiz. These concept-based quizzes assure that students understand the reading material. Quizzes are multiple choice and students have one attempt at each question.
2. Read the applications chapter in *GO!* while simultaneously following the step-by-step Training Simulation. Simulations are designed to help students prepare for first the live Grader Project and then the Skill-Based Test. Students receive start files to begin the Grader Project. At this point, they take the Skill-Based Test for which they are allowed two attempts overall; students are allowed up to four attempts on individual questions before they are marked incorrect.

There are no midterms or final exams.

Niemeier monitors the instructor gradebook on a weekly basis in order to track whether or not students are keeping pace with assignments and making progress in the course.

Assessments

53.0 percent *Tech In Action* concept quizzes

23.5 percent MyITLab Skill-Based Tests

23.5 percent MyITLab Grader Projects

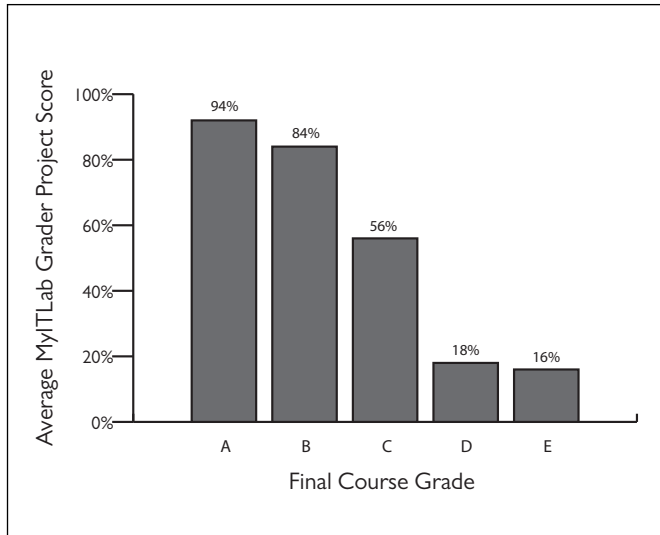


Figure 1. Comparison of MyITLab Homework Scores and Final Course Grades, Fall 2013 (n=35)

Results and Data

A comparison of MyITLab homework scores and final course grades indicates that MyITLab homework scores are a strong predictor of a student's final course grade (figure 1). Further analyses shows that 86 percent of students earning an A or B in the course scored at least 75 percent on their MyITLab homework.

There is also a highly significant, positive correlation between student MyITLab Grader project scores and final course grades (figure 2).

The Student Experience

According to fall 2013 student survey results, students recognize the value that MyITLab provides.

- 87%** Strongly agree/agree that their understanding of course material increased as a result of using MyITLab.
- 63%** Strongly agree/agree that the use of MyITLab positively impacted their exam scores.

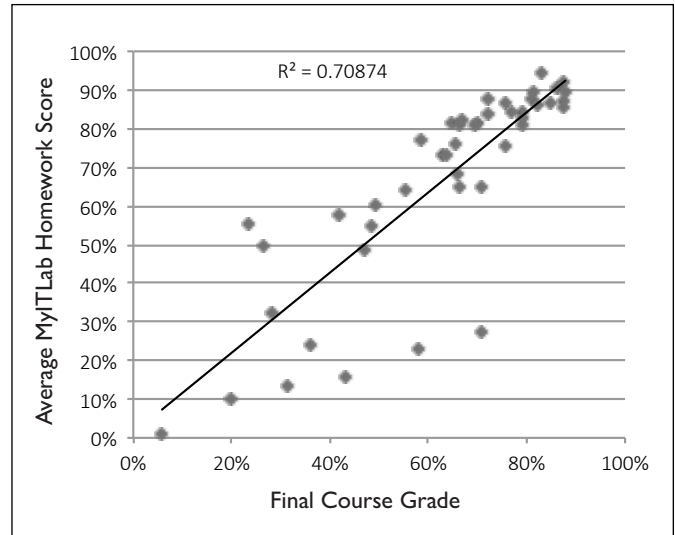


Figure 2. Correlation between MyITLab Homework Score and Final Course Grade, Fall 2013 (n=35)

Student comments on the fall 2013 survey include the following:

- “Any information needed for the course is available at the click of a mouse. All material was covered 100 percent.”
- “Overall, the system is easy to use and very helpful.”
- “I like the modules used for each section of the Microsoft Office programs... they walked me step-by-step through each project.”

Conclusion

Both faculty and administration at Jefferson Community and Technical College are pleased with the results they've gained from the school's MyITLab implementation. Thanks to support from the program's learning aids and other tools, students can see in the moment where they are making mistakes and how to correct them. The significant percentage of students earning an A or B in the class who are also scoring greater than a 75 percent on MyITLab homework indicates a clear relationship between MyITLab success and overall course success.

Although Niemeier has been using MyITLab in all of his sections—both hybrid and online—since 2012, not all instructors were as confident. Thanks in part to the learning gains experienced in Niemeier's classes and his tracking of the data to prove it, starting in fall 2014 MyITLab will be used departmentwide, by all instructors.