

Product Name **MyEconLab**

Course Name **Economic Way of Thinking**

Credit Hours **Three**

Key Results Required MyEconLab homework and frequent MyEconLab assessments provide students with the hands-on practice they need to master course material and increase their exam scores.

Text

Essential Foundations of Economics, 5e, Robin Bade and Michael Parkin

Implementation

Economic Way of Thinking provides an introduction to economic theories, policies, and practices. The course is taken primarily by preprofessional majors in order to satisfy the school's social science requirements.

I adopted MyEconLab when it was initially released in 2007 as a way to improve student assessment scores while also increasing student exposure to online learning and self-assessment technology. In addition to completing homework and quizzes in MyEconLab, students participate in MyEconLab group experiments designed to foster teamwork.

My use of MyEconLab has evolved over time. In spring 2012, the MyEconLab assessments contributed 20 percent to each student's final course grade—students used it for required homework assignments and quizzes and were allowed one attempt at each assessment. In fall 2012, I conducted an experiment to test MyEconLab's impact on student learning: I made homework and quizzes within MyEconLab available to my students, but did not require them to use the program. In spring 2013 I resumed required usage, but this time I allowed unlimited attempts at homework and two attempts at each quiz. I also started incorporating questions from MyEconLab's Study Plan into homework and quizzes.

Assessments

70 percent	Exams (three)
12 percent	MyEconLab homework (six)
12 percent	MyEconLab quizzes (six)
6 percent	MyEconLab group experiments (two)

Results and Data

My experiment with optional usage in fall 2012 resulted in a significant drop in exam scores. The average scores were 3 to 18 points lower than those in spring 2012, when MyEconLab had been required. I also noticed a significant drop in the amount of time students spent in the program—particularly in the Study Plan.

“I attribute the sharp difference between the results from fall 2012 and those from spring 2013 to MyEconLab.”

In spring 2013, I once again required MyEconLab and allowed students an unlimited number of attempts on homework. The exam scores improved even more significantly: Exam 1 scores increased an average of 17 points, Exam 2 scores increased an average of 22 points, and Exam 3 scores increased an average of 21 points over fall 2012 (figure 1).

I also observed a strong correlation between MyEconLab quiz grades and exam scores. I believe that the required homework prepared students for both the quizzes and the exams (figure 2).

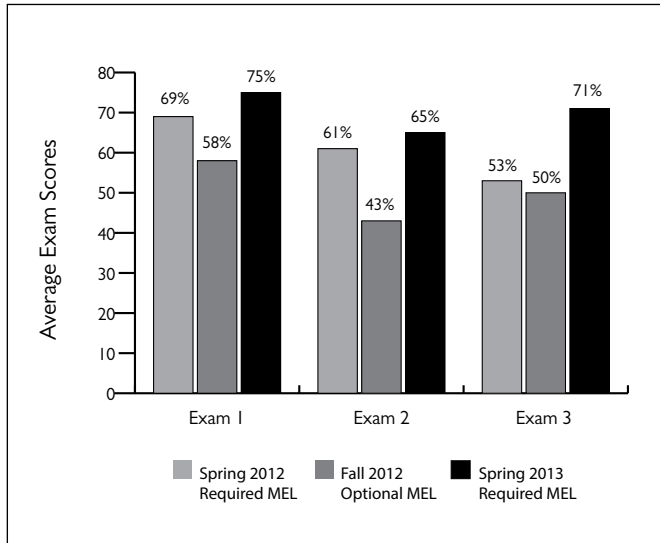


Figure 1. Average Exam Scores with and without Required MyEconLab Assessments, Spring 2012–Spring 2013 (Spring 2013 also included unlimited attempts at homework.)

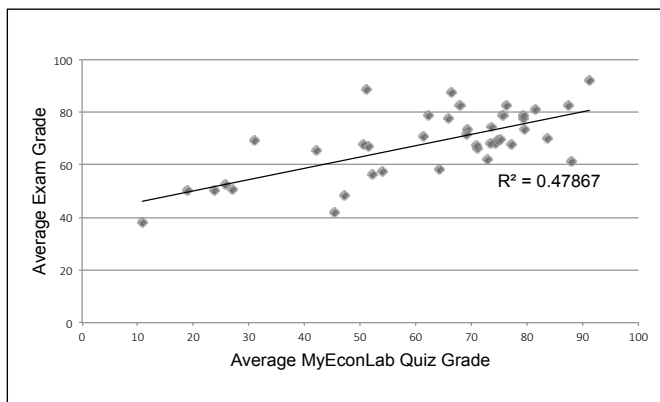


Figure 2. Correlation between Average MyEconLab Quiz Scores and Average Exam Scores, Spring 2013

The Student Experience

MyEconLab enables students to practice solving problems until they truly master the material. This kind of additional practice better prepares students for exams and reduces their anxiety around test taking.

In addition, students appreciate the real-time feedback within MyEconLab assessments as well as how both the temporary access offered at the beginning of the semester and the ebook options accommodate financial challenges.

As an added benefit, more-frequent assessments via MyEconLab enable me to monitor student performance and identify students in need of individual attention or tutoring support. Also, I am able to identify concepts deemed difficult by a majority of students, and then cover those concepts in greater depth during lecture. Because they're more prepared and more informed my students now ask more-specific questions. In turn, I'm able to utilize office hours more effectively and more efficiently.

“MyEconLab enables me to prepare end-of-semester grades and assess learning outcomes in a more timely manner.”

Conclusion

After I provided students with frequent, lower-stakes assessments in MyEconLab, exam scores significantly increased and students achieved greater mastery of course material.

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