Santa Ana College   Santa Ana, CA

Product Used   **MyMathLab**
Course Names   **Elementary Algebra**

Course Implementation

In fall 2011, Lynn Marecek, professor, made two major changes to the way she taught Elementary Algebra: she integrated MyMathLab and Strategies for Success, a study-skills development program. "I believed these changes would increase student success," she says. "And they did!"

Marecek used MyMathLab to reinforce and support her own teaching philosophy. "Students need to complete their homework by the next class session, and they need to master the material from one section before moving to the next," she says. "Plus, I want them to use their precious time to focus on what they need to learn—not on skills that they've already mastered."

MyMathLab also helps Marecek to identify and intervene with students who are struggling, and to keep in email communication with her students—both as a way to praise them and to connect with those who have not completed assignments.

As additional incentive, Marecek also implemented a bonus-point program, based on George Woodbury's program at College of the Sequoias. Her students received an additional 10 points to their test grade if they had perfect attendance, earned 100 percent on all of their homework assignments, earned at least 85 percent on practice tests, and earned 100 percent on all Strategies for Success assignments.

Results and Data

Marecek's data support her changes. Table 1 shows an average increase of 10 percentage points on tests—a 21.6 percent average increase. In addition, the pass rate for those students who completed the course increased by 15 percent, (figure 1).

"I was so thrilled to see the results," she says.

	Spring 2011	Fall 2011	Percent Change
Test 1	61%	73%*	+20%
Test 2	57%	62%*	+9%
Test 3	55%	76%*	+20%
Test 4	35%	44%*	+26%
Test 5	39%	52%*	+33%

Table 1. Test Scores before and after MyMathLab Implementation, Spring 2011–Fall 2011 *(*Scores before bonus points)*
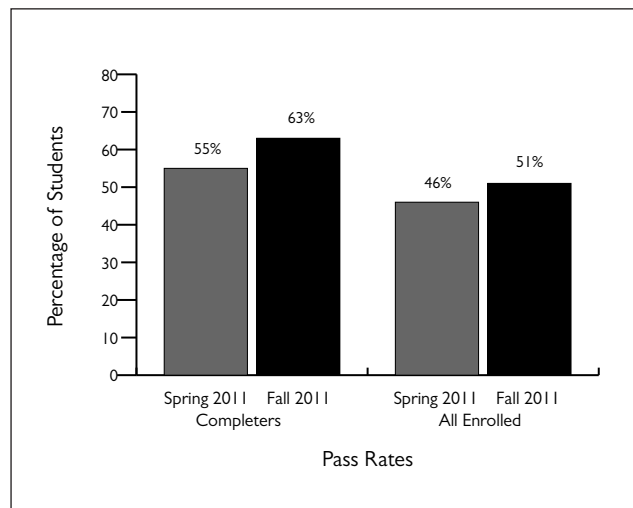

Figure 1. Pass Rates (Completers and All Enrolled) before and after MyMathLab Implementation, Spring 2011–Fall 2011

—*Submitted by Lynn Marecek*