MyAccountingLab

School Name  Spokane Community College, Spokane, WA
Course Name  Principles of Accounting I, II
Course Formats  Lecture, online

Key Results  MyAccountingLab offers students the support they need to master course concepts. After implementation with MyAccountingLab, the average percentage of students who earned a final course grade of A increased 12 percentage points—from 17 to 29%.

Submitted by  Jeffrey Waybright, Instructor
Course materials  Financial Accounting, Waybright and Kemp

Challenges  Spokane Community College serves about 12,000 students throughout eastern Washington State—from the Canadian border to the Oregon border. Principles of Accounting I, II offers an overview of the accounting theories and practices of current accounting information systems; the course is taught in small sections of approximately 30 students each.

Jeffrey Waybright, instructor, sought a way to keep his students accountable for their homework progress—too many were falling behind because they were not staying on track. He chose MyAccountingLab because its homework offers both increased practice and on-the-spot assistance via worked-out examples and hints in the moment that students are struggling.

Implementation  Waybright implemented required use of MyAccountingLab in 2007. Today the courseware is used for all assessments, except the written assignments; all tasks have scheduled deadlines.

Students are assigned a chapter to read in the textbook; they then must review the DemoDocs for that chapter in order to progress to Homework I. Although students do not earn points for the DemoDocs, they are encouraged to view the videos before attempting their homework assignments.

Two types of homework are assigned for each chapter:
• Homework I is a low-stakes assignment designed to offer students an opportunity to practice concepts by working algorithmically generated problems an unlimited number of times.
• Homework II is a high-stakes assignment with fewer problems (five) that students may work only once.

Students who earn at least 80 percent on Homework I gain extra credit: an additional 5 percent added to their quiz grade for that chapter. Quizzes are given at the end of each chapter, and available to students once they have completed Homework II. Waybright encourages use of the Study Plan by using its questions to create the quizzes.

Students must score at least 70 percent on the final exam in order to earn a final course grade of C (2.0) or better, regardless of the total percentage earned in the rest of the course.

Assessments  
25 percent  MyAccountingLab chapter quizzes
22 percent  MyAccountingLab final exam
20 percent  MyAccountingLab Homework II
18 percent  MyAccountingLab midterm exam
8 percent  Written assignments
7 percent  MyAccountingLab Homework I
The Student Experience

Students appreciate the ability to rework problems and receive immediate feedback, thereby enabling them to master concepts before moving ahead. They find the Help Me Solve This feature especially helpful, as it provides needed assistance when instructors are not present.

In end-of-semester student evaluations, many students reported that MyAccountingLab was “the best part” of the course. In a separate survey, students reported that MyAccountingLab had a positive impact on their understanding of the material and their exam grades:

100% Strongly agreed or agreed with the statement: My understanding of the course material increased as a result of using MyAccountingLab.

82% Strongly agreed or agreed with the statement: Use of MyAccountingLab positively impacted my exam scores.

Conclusion

By implementing MyAccountingLab homework, Waybright increased the average quiz and overall exam scores in both the lecture and online sections of his course. In turn, his final course letter grades improved.

Waybright reports benefits beyond outcomes, as well, including a standardization of assessments across all sections that is both more equitable for students and easier for new adjuncts to use. In addition, the automatically graded problems save instructors time. Waybright can now spend class time more productively, giving more time to the most-important and most-often-misunderstood concepts.