HUMBER COLLEGE

Toronto, ON, Canada

Product Name  MyITLab
Course Name  PC Essentials
Credit Hours  Three

Key Results  MyITLab helps students develop essential Microsoft Office skills while also developing their self-discipline, ability to manage time, and attention to detail. Students are up and running at the start of the semester, and they appreciate the learning advantage that MyITLab offers.

Text

Implementation
Humber College’s introductory computing courses provide students with the resources and guidance they need to obtain solid skills in Microsoft Office 2010 applications. The courses focus on four key areas—Windows 7, Word, PowerPoint, and Excel—while also promoting student self-discipline, time management, and attention to detail. The introductory courses are required for all business, cosmetic, fashion, and spa management majors. They are delivered entirely online and are self-directed but not self-paced.

Humber College has been using MyITLab to deliver the introductory program courses since 2007; I’ve been the course coordinator since 2009.

Students complete one unit each week, during which time they are required to do MyITLab trainings and take a multiple-choice quiz. After completion of both the trainings and the quiz, students complete a lab assignment (a MyITLab skill-based simulation) followed by a corresponding Grader project. Although the trainings and quiz do not contribute to the final course grade, students who fail to complete them do not receive credit for either the lab assignment or the corresponding Grader project. Late assignments are not accepted—no excuses.

Students are allowed up to six attempts on the lab assignments to obtain a score of at least 70 percent. Likewise, they are allowed six attempts on the Grader projects but must score at least 60 percent. If they do not reach those thresholds, they receive zero credit. Students also take proctored, skill-based simulation exams covering Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Assessments
50 percent  MyITLab skill-based simulation exams
35 percent  MyITLab Grader projects
15 percent  MyITLab skill-based simulation assignments

Results and Data
In 2010, we moved to an automatic registration model. Since then, students have had access to MyITLab from the first day of class instead of having to go purchase the book and code at the bookstore. This means no more financial aid struggles, no more wondering whether the book is in stock at the bookstore, and no more other obstacles that prevent students from getting into MyITLab by the end of the first week of class (figure 1).

“The Grader projects in MyITLab are phenomenal.”
The Student Experience
MyI tLab enables us to deliver a self-directed course to our students, and that’s a huge benefit. We believe that students who are made responsible for completing their assignments on time are more likely to learn how to plan and manage their time, be more disciplined, and pay attention to detail.

“Pearson has been a great partner. The suggestions we make about MyI tLab are addressed and incorporated.”

Our students appreciate what MyI tLab offers them. Results from a spring 2013 survey indicate that an overwhelming majority of students said they believe that MyI tLab helped them better understand the course material and that it had a positive impact on their course grade. In addition, more than 90 percent of the students surveyed reported that they would recommend MyI tLab to others (figure 2).

“Increasing knowledge of Microsoft applications had a positive impact on my understanding of course material, and I would recommend MyI tLab to others.”

—Student

Conclusion
Each year, MyI tLab enables our two or three instructors to teach approximately 3,000 students with minimal start-up time and without the need for significant classroom space. Most important, the students love it and they benefit from its many assessments.

In fall 2013, we plan to increase the percent value of the Grader project, require that students score at least 80 percent on both the lab assignment and Grader project in order to receive credit, and require that students pass all of the skill-based assessment exams in order to pass the course.

“I wish more courses were taught this way. It helped me learn more and made it much easier to complete assignments.”

—Student

“MyI tLab offers a lot of opportunities to attain the highest mark possible.”

—Student

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