NIAGARA COLLEGE

Product Name  MyITLab
Course Name  Computer Applications
Credit Hours  Three

Key Results  After redesign with MyITLab, Niagara College was able to both increase class sizes and offer students more individual attention. End-of-semester data show that students who completed the MyITLab trainings achieved significantly higher exam scores than those who did not.

Text
Go! 2e (etext), Shelley Gaskin

Implementation
Computer Applications is an introductory computer applications course that is required by most programs at Niagara College. The course teaches foundational skills in Microsoft PowerPoint, Word, and Excel programs. Successful completion of it meets the province of Ontario’s computer competency standards requirement for college graduates.

MyITLab was the cornerstone of the course redesign. We transformed what had once been a traditional, two-semester sequence into a one-semester, self-paced, blended course. In addition, we were able to eliminate our test-out option. We now ensure that all of our students achieve proficiency in the course material. Students have the option of attending class in a computer lab for a two-hour time block each week or completing their work outside the lab. During lecture, the instructor is available for assistance and individual coaching. Exams are taken during class, in MyITLab, and on specified dates.

MyITLab has transformed the course in a variety of ways. Prior to redesign, we had 30 students per class. Today, because MyITLab can provide instruction and automatically grade assessments, we have doubled our class sizes, realizing tremendous cost savings as a result. Instructors are more available to individually engage with students during class time, and they also have the tools to communicate with students outside of class. Additionally, MyITLab gives our faculty greater flexibility and choice in course material, because we can now create assignments and exams from the MyITLab-provided text and assessment options.

Assessments
50 percent  Excel Exam (MyITLab)
40 percent  Word Exam (MyITLab)
10 percent  PowerPoint Exam (MyITLab)

Results and Data
We studied the impact of both completion and successful completion of MyITLab trainings on exam scores. We learned that students who complete the trainings tend to earn much higher exam scores (figure 1). In addition, of students who scored 80 percent or higher on the trainings, an average of more than 97 percent passed the corresponding exam (figure 2).

“[MyITLab] engages all of our students in the course material while teaching them to effectively pace their study time.”
The Student Experience

Our redesigned course, as it is structured within MyITLab, teaches students beyond course content. It teaches them how to pace their study time in order to meet deadlines—a particularly helpful skill for those students who are new to college. Students with prior knowledge of the applications can advance more quickly through the material while still gaining proficiency in the more advanced features. Both types of student derive benefits they can apply in future course work and in their professional careers.

Students were unanimous in their approval of MyITLab. Comments about the program include:

- “If you did the training exercises, the tests were very easy.”
- “Being able to work on the practice exercises anytime and anywhere was very convenient.”
- “[MyITLab] is the best way to learn Office.”

Conclusion

MyITLab has enabled us to reduce our costs by 50 percent without any reduction in course enrollment. In addition, it engages students of all experience levels in the course material and teaches them to effectively pace their study time.

Submitted by André Roy
Niagara College