

# MyProgrammingLab™

## A SUCCESS STORY



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Lecturer

Wright State University, Dayton, OH

COURSE NAME: Computer Science I

CREDIT HOURS: 4 • COURSE FORMAT: Lecture/Lab

TEXT: *Introduction to Java Programming, Brief, 9/e* by Liang • MYLAB USER SINCE: 2012

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### COURSE INFORMATION

This course is required for all computer science and computer engineering majors.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES** This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of programming and programming languages. Emphasis is on problem-solving and object-oriented programming.

### ASSESSMENT

- Programming Projects: 30%
- Laboratory Assignments: 13%
- Homework (MyProgrammingLab): 8%
- Quizzes: 4%
- Midterm Exams (2): 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

**MYLAB IMPLEMENTATION** I began using MyProgrammingLab in our introductory programming course in fall 2012, when the computer science department decided to move to a “flipped classroom.” Prior to each week’s lectures, students are expected to complete the reading assignment and the corresponding homework assignment in MyProgrammingLab. I allow students to continue working in MyProgrammingLab through the course of the week. I close the assignment before moving on to the next week’s topic. I begin each class with a brief quiz that covers the day’s topic, in order to further motivate students to do their work prior to lecture. Following each quiz, I conduct a brief lecture, followed by a small group exercise and discussion.

**MYLAB BENEFITS** Since adopting MyProgrammingLab, I have noticed a significant difference in the level of sophistication of the code that students are writing. Prior to MyProgrammingLab, the student code was very primitive. MyProgrammingLab exercises start with a small concept and continue to build upon that concept. Students are forced to read the text and learn the syntax. I tell them that MyProgrammingLab gives them tools to put into their “toolbox,” and that they will know how and when to use them once they begin programming. Before MyProgrammingLab, some students did not know which tools to use. Now, more students are able to form the logic needed to solve problems.

My class not only teaches students how to program, but also the importance of completing assignments on time, which is critical for success in college. Additionally, instructors in the subsequent course know that my students are prepared to take their course.

**CONCLUSION** MyProgrammingLab has made a marked difference in the quality of the code that my students can write, and it helps me to prepare them for success in the next programming course. In the future, I will change the composition of the course grade so that MyProgrammingLab assignments contribute more heavily.

ALWAYS LEARNING

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