

School Name	Reading Area Community College, Reading, PA
Course Name	Bridge Reading Skills
Course Format	Online, self-paced, accelerated, non-course-based remediation

- **Key Results** Of 289 students completing the Bridge course with MyReadingLab, 58 percent have been able to accelerate through one or both levels of developmental reading, thereby entering college-level courses sooner. Since using MyReadingLab, success rates in the prep course have increased from 55 percent to 90.3 percent. Success rates for students testing into the subsequent developmental courses (following Bridge Reading Skills) have increased from 61 percent (before MyReadingLab) to 86.5 percent (after Bridge course with MyReadingLab).

Submitted by
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Course materials
MyReadingLab

Challenges and Goals

Facing increasing enrollments but unsatisfactory passing rates in non-credit, pre-developmental reading and writing courses, Reading Area Community College (RACC) needed to improve its results. Very few students enrolled in RACC's traditional remedial course were persisting through their credit courses and earning a degree or certificate. The program simply was not working adequately. To address this situation, we created the Bridge Reading Skills course and adopted MyReadingLab because we saw immediately how it could help our students address their individual skills gaps and accelerate their pace into credit-level courses.

Implementation

Students whose Compass Reading Test scores place them below the first credit-level courses of developmental reading are required to sign up for Bridge Reading Skills to bring them up to speed for developmental and college-level courses. Students pay a \$20 enrollment fee and then purchase MyReadingLab online to access the course, which is delivered exclusively through MyReadingLab with all students working at their own pace. Students take the MyReadingLab Path Builder diagnostic and work through their personalized Learning Path with lessons, exercises, multimedia activities, and posttests. I require mastery of 15 skills in the intermediate level of MyReadingLab. Students can do more if they wish, and I encourage some students to do extra work based on their individual needs. On average, students, who all have

the benefit of rolling entry into the course, take two to three months working through MyReadingLab. Then, they retest on the Compass, hoping to move on to the credit-bearing developmental courses (RACC's developmental reading sequence has two course levels) or to test out of developmental requirements altogether.

Benefits

By assigning MyReadingLab's self-paced activities and assessments, I am freed from the administrative tasks of course management. I can instead use my time and expertise to monitor students' progress and to intervene one-on-one whenever they encounter difficulties. MyReadingLab also enables us to accommodate a greater number of students while providing a personalized program for each, so the program becomes even more efficient and cost-effective.

Assessments

Compass Reading Test

Results and Data

- Thanks to the Bridge Reading Skills course and MyReadingLab, of 289 students who retested on the Compass, 100 students (34.6 percent) have been able to skip one developmental reading course, and 68 students (23.5 percent) have been able to test out of developmental reading entirely. This allows students to proceed more steadily toward their academic and career goals (Figure 1).
- Since we implemented the redesigned Bridge Reading Skills course with MyReadingLab, 90.3 percent of students retesting on the Compass successfully passed into credit developmental courses or out of developmental courses altogether. In the three years prior before we began using MyReadingLab, only 55 percent of students passed the remedial reading/writing prep course with a C or better (Figure 2).

“MyReadingLab is helping students develop crucial college readiness skills that will serve them well in credit-bearing courses and throughout their educational lives.”

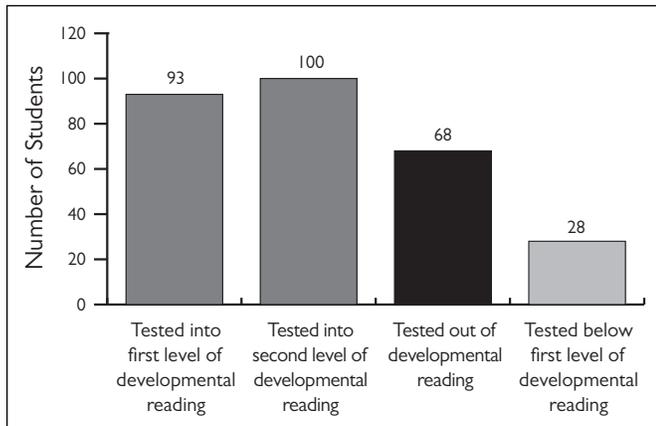


Figure 1. Compass Retest Results for Bridge Reading Skills Students 2010–2014 ($n = 289$)

- Of students using MyReadingLab in the redesigned Bridge Reading Skills course, 2010–2014, 86.5 percent passed their subsequent credit-level courses compared to 61 percent of students who had taken the developmental prep courses without MyReadingLab, 2004–2007 (Figure 3).

The Student Experience

MyReadingLab is personalized and engaging so students actually want to use it, and some even enjoy it! They are acquiring the necessary skills they will need to process information and to read college-level texts. With MyReadingLab, students are steadily reading, thinking, and working their way to becoming better readers.

MyReadingLab not only helps students strengthen their reading skills, but it also challenges them to consciously control the pace of their learning. They must be self-directed and disciplined to succeed, and MyReadingLab enables students to develop crucial college readiness skills that will serve them well in credit-bearing courses and throughout their educational lives. I also appreciate that MyReadingLab is available at very low cost to my students—especially since the non-credit nature of the course precludes the use of financial aid.

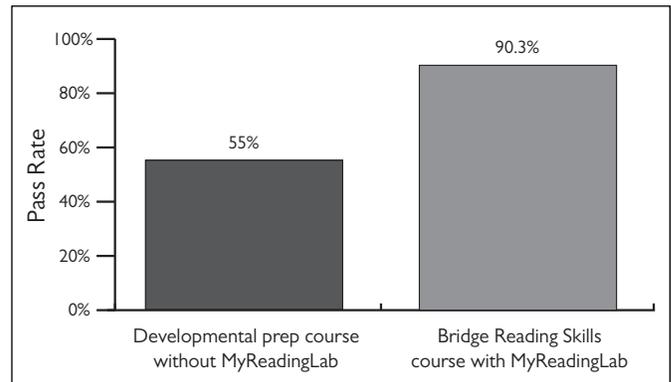


Figure 2. Success Rates (Students Receiving A, B, C) of Prep Program With and Without MyReadingLab; Prep Course 2004–2007 ($n = 251$); Bridge Reading Skills, 2010–2014 ($n = 289$)

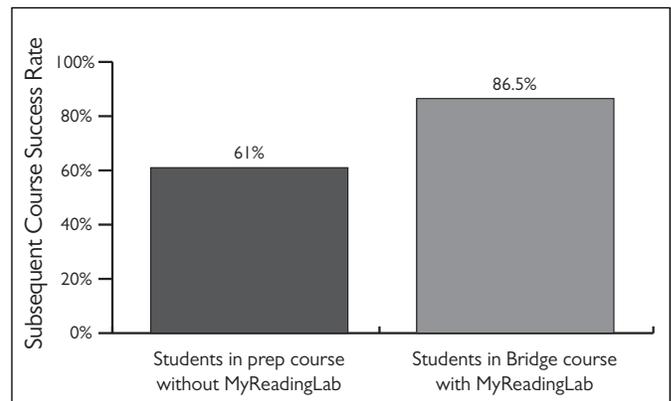


Figure 3. Subsequent Success Rates (Students Receiving A, B, C) in Developmental Reading Courses Without Myreadinglab, 2004–2007 ($n = 39$) and After Implementing the Bridge Reading Skills Course With Myreadinglab 2010–2014 ($n = 193$)

Conclusion

For the last four years, MyReadingLab has proven to be an efficient and effective way for students taking our redesigned Bridge course to place out of one or all developmental reading courses. As the data shows, MyReadingLab helps students develop the skills needed to succeed in their subsequent coursework, and we consider it a major success.