MySpanishLab®

University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, Texas

INSTRUCTOR Héctor Enríquez, Spanish Lower Division Classes Coordinator

COURSE NAMES Spanish I for Non-Native Speakers (1301); Spanish II for Non-Native Speakers (1302); Intermediate Spanish I for Non-Native Speakers (2301); Intermediate Spanish II for Non-Native Speakers (2302); Spanish for Spanish Speakers I (2303); Spanish for Spanish Speakers II (2304)

COURSE FORMAT Traditional; Hybrid

TEXTS *¡Anda! Curso elemental* by Heining-Boynton and Cowell; *¡Anda! Curso intermedio* by Heining-Boynton, LeLoup, and Cowell; *Español escrito: Curso para hispanohablantes bilingües* by Guadalupe Valdés, Richard V. Teschner, and Héctor Enríquez

CONTRIBUTION OF MYSPANISHLAB TO FINAL GRADE 15%-20%

TYPES OF DATA REPORTED Improvement in final course grades; Improvement in pass rates and retention for non-native and heritage speaker courses
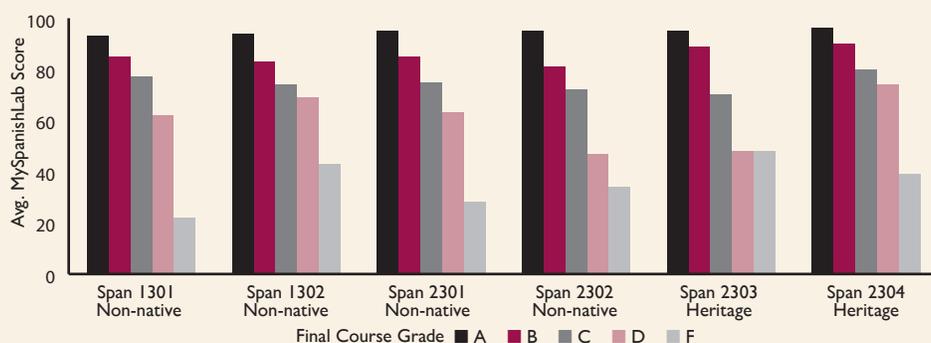
MYLAB USER SINCE 2005

THE SPANISH DEPARTMENT at the University of Texas at El Paso serves many hundreds of students each term. As UTEP is the largest university in the U.S. with a majority population of Mexican-Americans, students enrolling in Spanish language courses take an exam to determine their placement in courses for non-native Spanish speakers (approx. 2/3) or for Spanish or heritage speakers (1/3).

As Coordinator of the lower division Spanish courses, Héctor Enríquez is challenged to:

■ Meet the learning needs of both non-native and heritage speakers

■ Deliver a high-quality, uniform learning experience across all sections

■ Offer students sophisticated learning tools at a reasonable cost

■ Improve students' overall performance and raise both pass rates and course completion rates
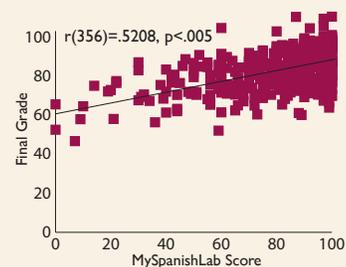
With these ambitious goals in mind, Professor Enríquez chose to redesign the introductory and intermediate Spanish sequences for both non-native and heritage speakers around MySpanishLab.
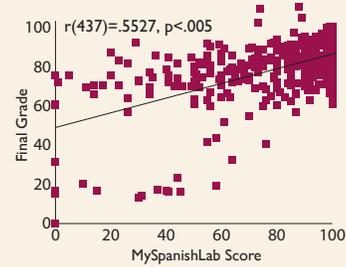
MySpanishLab Scores Correlate with Final Course Grades

Span 1301 Non-native (2008-present)

$r(356)=.5208, p<.005$

Span 1302 Non-native (2008-present)

$r(437)=.5527, p<.005$
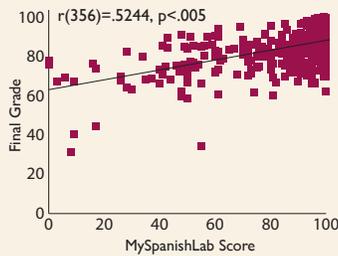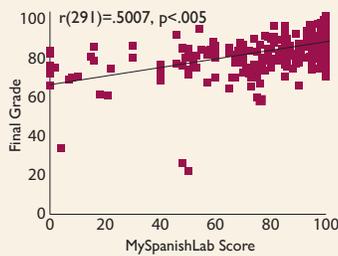
Student results data from 2008 to the present show a clear correlation between MySpanishLab scores and final course grades for both non-native and Spanish or heritage speakers.

MySpanishLab Average Score by Final Course Grade (2008-present)

Final Course Grade ■ A ■ B ■ C ■ D ■ F

Span 2301 Non-native (2008-present)

r(356)=.5244, p<.005

(Scatter plot: x-axis "MySpanishLab Score" 0–100, y-axis "Final Grade" 0–100)

Span 2302 Non-native (2008-present)

r(291)=.5007, p<.005

(Scatter plot: x-axis "MySpanishLab Score" 0–100, y-axis "Final Grade" 0–100)

Span 2303 Heritage (2008-present)

r(312)=.6134, p<.005

(Scatter plot: x-axis "MySpanishLab Score" 0–100, y-axis "Final Grade" 0–100)

Span 2304 Heritage (2008-present)

r(677)=.5149, p<.005

(Scatter plot: x-axis "MySpanishLab Score" 0–100, y-axis "Final Grade" 0–100)

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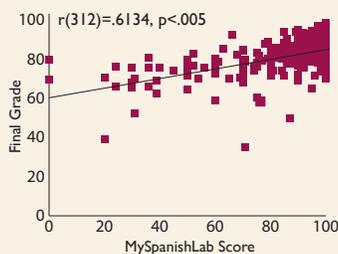
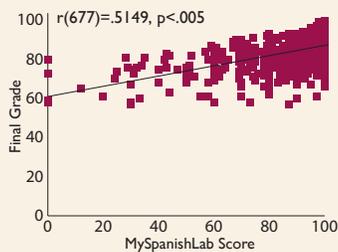"I felt that MySpanishLab was the best platform available to meet our needs. Everything we need to teach a language class is there in one place—eText, Student Activities Manual, writing activities, videos, testing, etc. Teaching assistants find MySpanishLab easy to navigate. From an administrative perspective, MySpanishLab helps me ensure that all students are receiving consistent instruction and offers powerful tools for me to track progress of all of our classes."

He continues, "For students, the benefits are many. At a reasonable cost, students get not just a textbook but diagnostics, a personalized study plan, videos, practice exercises, exams, and a language lab right at their fingertips."

RESULTS

UTEP is an excellent laboratory to assess MySpanishLab's effectiveness at improving learning outcomes for both non-native and heritage speakers since it has a large community of both kinds of students in comparison with other universities nationwide. Instructors in each of the introductory and intermediate course sequences teach from a common syllabus, and MySpanishLab is fully integrated into instruction and assessment. Professor Enríquez has tabulated the results for an estimated 3,400+ students enrolled from 2008 to the present.

ANALYSIS

Examination of student results data across all six courses shows a clear correlation between MySpanishLab scores and final course grades. Enríquez commented, "We taught these courses before MySpanishLab was available. We had great difficulty creating a homogeneous learning environment for students across so many sections and instructors and, as a result, our student success results were below our expectations. MySpanishLab enables us to deliver a consistent learning experience for all students that is also personalized for each student. MySpanishLab is essential to our program's strong student learning results."

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF HERITAGE SPEAKERS

While the data show a strong correlation between MySpanishLab success and final course grade for all students, Professor Enríquez emphasized that MySpanishLab meets the unique needs of heritage speakers in ways that other programs do not. "MySpanishLab meets the needs of heritage speakers with a range of exercises that target vocabulary and writing skills. With such a deep resource of activities and multimedia resources in MySpanishLab, I can easily customize our course to address the unique strengths and weaknesses that heritage speakers bring to the course."

CONCLUSION

"MySpanishLab has changed the way we teach. When our students use MySpanishLab, they become responsible for their own learning and they succeed," declared Enríquez.

Washington Monthly recently ranked University of Texas at El Paso first in the nation in social mobility (enrolling low-income students and helping them earn degrees.) "This is central to our mission," stated Enríquez, "We are determined to offer value to our students—the most effective learning experience at a reasonable cost. MySpanishLab helps us deliver on that promise."