

School Name College of Western Idaho, Nampa, ID

Course Name College Study Methods

Course Format Online, On-ground

Key Results Completion rates increased by 9 percent with the implementation of MyStudentSuccessLab.

Submitted by

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Course materials

Study Skills by Piscitelli with MyStudentSuccessLab

College of Western Idaho uses Pearson's MyLabs successfully across a variety of disciplines, so when I looked for an effective online learning tool for our College Study Methods course in 2012, I was confident that MyStudentSuccessLab would prove valuable. We have two goals for this study skills class: first, we want students to acquire general skills and abilities to help them be successful in life; second, we want them to know about specific materials, programs, policies, and resources they will need at our particular institution. We offer 7 on-ground and 7 online sections of College Study Skills per semester with a cap of 25 students per section.

Implementation

The first semester we implemented MyStudentSuccessLab, I started out using one or two modules in areas where I needed supplemental material. I provided my students with an early introduction to MyStudentSuccessLab to make sure they were comfortable using the technology. Because of the breadth of valuable content in MyStudentSuccessLab, I increased the amount of required work, beginning in Summer 2013. I now assign 15 of the 21 available modules, one module per week. Students complete the Pre-Tests, the Overviews, and the Practice Activities in each module. Then, they may take the module Post-Tests up to three times, with the highest score counting toward their final grade. I like the Practice Activities in MyStudentSuccessLab because they are interactive with immediate instructional feedback, which helps students understand that learning is truly a process.

My first required assignment is the Pre-Course Assessment, and the Post-Course Assessment serves as the students' final exam, customized from 68 questions down to 50 questions to correspond to our specific course objectives. Also, toward the end of the semester, I make all 21 of the MyStudentSuccessLab modules available so students who are interested in learning about other topics can do so.

Assessments

Required	MyStudentSuccessLab Pre-Course Assessment
12.5 percent	Mid-term exam
19 percent	MyStudentSuccessLab Learning Path Module Post-Tests (15)
37.5 percent	Assignments/discussion boards
10 percent	Reflective journals
2.5 percent	Participation
6 percent	Multimedia presentation/final project
12.5 percent	MyStudentSuccessLab Post-Course Assessment/final exam

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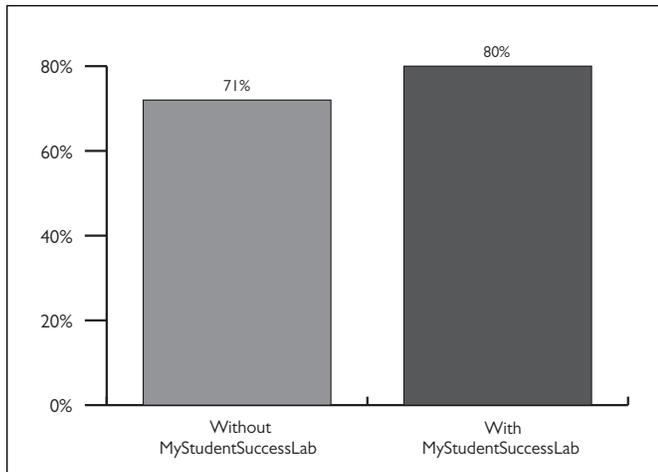


Figure 1. Passing rates without MyStudentSuccessLab (fall 2012, $n=118$) and with MyStudentSuccessLab (fall 2013, $n=38$)

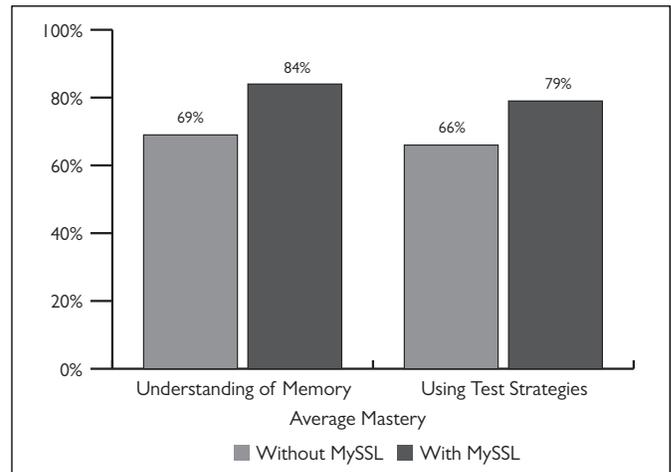


Figure 2. Average course objective mastery without (fall 2012, $n=118$) and with MyStudentSuccessLab (fall 2013, $n=38$)

Results and data

- Average completion rates increased from 71 percent in my Fall 2012 sections without MyStudentSuccessLab to 80 percent in my Fall 2013 sections with MyStudentSuccessLab.
- The data analysis tools in MyStudentSuccessLab allow me to easily gather student data to measure learning outcomes and improvement. For example, I was pleased to see students’ increased success in mastering key course topics like Memory (from 69 to 84 percent successful outcomes) and Using Test Strategies (66 to 79 percent successful outcomes.)
- MyStudentSuccessLab indirectly helped my students’ average scores in essay writing jump significantly from 44 to 68 percent. I attribute this to having more in-class time to cover the components of essay writing because MyStudentSuccessLab allows students to master basic study concepts on their own. This allows me more time to offer direct support in students’ particular areas of need.

Conclusion

I was motivated to implement MyStudentSuccessLab after seeing a presentation by instructors who redesigned their course with MyStudentSuccessLab and documented positive results. MyStudentSuccessLab allows me to create a more dynamic, technology-driven environment for my students both in person and online—and allows me to focus on the students’ areas of need.

To continue improving learning outcomes, I realize that faculty training is very important, so I offered two 3-hour staff-training sessions this past summer to show colleagues what MyStudentSuccessLab has to offer and how the program works. About half of the instructors teaching College Study Methods have taken my lead and now fully integrate MyStudentSuccessLab into their course sections.

Next term, I plan to build a master course and require additional elements from the MyLab. I also intend to analyze my Pre-and Post-Course Assessment data to make some data-driven decisions about expanded use of MyStudentSuccessLab.