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جامعة أبوظبي
Abu Dhabi University

Boosting student learning and alleviating teaching administration with MyLab Math

Institution: Abu Dhabi University

Instructor: Muhamad Farooq

Courses: Pre-Calculus, Calculus 1, Calculus 2, Calculus 3, Linear Algebra, Math for Business, General statistics, Intermediate statistics, Math for life, Algebra remedial

Platform: MyLab Math

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Muhamad Farooq from the Abu Dhabi University, UAE shares his experience about using MyLab Math in his courses, integrated into the curriculum.

Course

I have been using MyLab Maths for **3-4 years** now. We have **integrated** it with our learning management system. I'm teaching **Calculus 1, Calculus 2, and Precalculus**, and the cohort size is around **40 students** in each section. We are using MyLab Maths for each course. As for the textbooks, for Calculus we are using [Thomas' Calculus](#) by Joel Hass, Christopher Heil and Maurice Weir, and for Precalculus we are using [Precalculus](#) by Michael Sullivan.

Assessment

For homework and practice sessions, I extensively use the features provided by Pearson, such as **homework** assignments and the **Study Plan**. However, our main assessments remain paper-based, constituting 80% of the overall assessment. The remaining 20% comprises online homework assignments and practice sessions, which I find to be an excellent platform for student practice and preparation.



Overcoming initial challenges

We initially lacked options in our question bank, but after a Pearson representative introduced us to their books, we found them to be of high quality and full of potential. We started with their digital products and eTextbooks, and after conducting trial sessions, we realised the value of their **extensive question banks**. This led us to adopt Pearson's MyLab Math platform fully. During the pandemic, Pearson's resources were particularly invaluable, enabling us to conduct all assessments online.

The **Study Plan** is particularly beneficial, providing a **deeper understanding** and **more practice** on specific concepts, which were not available before. This feature, along with **AI-driven recommendations** for quizzes on topics students are practising, has significantly improved our students' learning experience.

In one of the chapters, there is only one question available in the book, which is insufficient for thorough practice. To address this, I direct students to the Study Plan, where they can access multiple questions of similar difficulty and pattern, with **varied values for comprehensive practice**. This limitation in the book has been a persistent challenge, but by leveraging the Study Plan, I ensure students achieve a deeper understanding of the topic. Setting a goal for students to master this crucial topic, I supplement classroom learning with extensive practice through the Study Plan and include it in homework assignments, leading to **90-95% of students scoring full marks** on this question in exams.



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*“[MyLab Math] helps students **independently** by offering similar example questions or explanations, reducing their need to come to us for help.”*

Integrating MyLab Math into Blackboard

The integration of Pearson with our courses has generally been **smooth and effective**. I am currently encountering a few issues with the upgraded Ultra Blackboard, but despite these difficulties, the overall benefits of using Pearson, especially for homework and study plans, remain significant for our students' learning experience.



Using the MyLab Maths features

The system itself is very helpful and **user-friendly**, particularly with the student and teacher **manuals**, which are excellent resources. The **PowerPoint presentations**, especially in statistics courses, are of high quality and have greatly benefited our teaching. The **Study Plan** and **eTextbook** integration are also well-executed, providing clear and accessible materials.

Feedback

We didn't receive many complaints from the school side regarding integration issues between Pearson and Blackboard; the system worked smoothly, and students generally had timely access to resources. Despite some difficulties, the resources themselves continue to be **well-received** and free of complaints.

When students attempt their homework, **we can provide learning aids** like examples, which the system uses if they fail their first attempt. This feature is incredibly supportive, as it helps students **independently** by offering similar example questions or explanations, reducing their need to come to us for help.

“The AI system seems to be working effectively by suggesting relevant quizzes to reinforce concepts, which the students appear to enjoy.”

Benefits for students

Being worried about maths, I see a similar trend among most students here, who often avoid deep exploration. However, the top-performing students genuinely engage with the material. I can observe their efforts through their online assignments; they frequently attempt various practice tests and system-recommended quizzes. **The AI system seems to be working effectively** by suggesting relevant quizzes to reinforce concepts, which the students appear to enjoy. Their willingness to engage with these quizzes indicates their appreciation for the immediate feedback and additional practice, ultimately helping them grasp the topics more thoroughly.

Engagement and performance

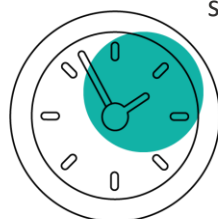
Engagement has definitely improved with the integration of MyLab Math. Students are actively using the resources, and their **homework completion rates are very high**, indicating that they're comfortable and find the system accessible. While I haven't tracked precise data on overall performance improvements, the high homework completion rate suggests that the digital platform is effective. The fact that **nearly 100% of students complete their online homework** without difficulty is a positive indicator.

Access and usability

One area needing improvement is the number of steps required to access the platform. Logging into Blackboard, then Pearson, then navigating to MyLab Math, and finally opening the eTextbook involves multiple steps. Simplifying this access process would greatly enhance usability.

Time Efficiency

Using MyLab Math has significantly **saved time**, especially with the **auto-grading feature**. In the past, manual grading was time-consuming and burdensome. Now, assignments are set up quickly, and the grading process is automated, which is a huge relief. The clear instructions for assigning homework make the process straightforward and user-friendly.



Favourite Feature

The **Study Plan** is my favourite feature. It provides **immediate feedback** and offers **multiple questions with varied values**, which is beneficial for both students and instructors. Even for my preparation, I find the Study Plan invaluable.



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“I’d like to highlight several strengths of the Pearson system, such as the quality of Study Plan, eTextbooks, and resources, which convinced my colleagues to make the switch.”

Advice for new users

While some individuals are comfortable with self-learning, others, particularly those without a strong IT background or older instructors, may find the system challenging. Ask your Pearson contact for **targeted training** to become more comfortable and proficient with the platform.

Recommendation

I recommend MyLab Math to colleagues based on my positive experience. I’ve had successful experiences, particularly in transitioning from a different platform to Pearson. I’d like to highlight several strengths of the Pearson system, such as the quality of Study Plan, eTextbooks, and resources, which convinced my colleagues to make the switch.

Overall, my feedback is positive, particularly regarding the effectiveness of the Study Plan and the impact of auto-grading on efficiency.

For more information about MyLab Math
please visit

<https://www.pearson.com/en-gb/higher-education/products-services/mylab/mylab-math.html>