

# MyLab Improves Results\*

## Spotlight on: MyLab Math in Calculus courses



In Spring 2022, Pearson interviewed six instructors to get a better understanding of their experiences with, and perceptions of, MyLab Math in their Calculus courses. MyLab Math offers students a non-threatening environment to practice for concept mastery, supports instructors through a variety of tools and resources, and provides instructors and students with a superior digital learning platform.

### Practice in a non-threatening environment

The ability to practice within the study plan offers students a safe environment to learn, according to Tess St. John instructor at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. It provides students with opportunities to work on concepts they struggle with using a variety of resources and tools which leads to increased confidence and topic mastery.

“(The study plan) is very, very non-threatening. The students really like how it builds up their confidence because in the study plan, they can do questions, and then they can quiz themselves, so it's like little mini homework and little mini quizzes. All it does is affect their mastery of that objective. They love that. I think the study plan is a good way to make it not scary and know it's okay to make mistakes.”

- Tess St. John



Tess St. John

When students struggle on certain concepts when completing homework problems, Sheila Bradley, instructor from Moberly Area Community College in Missouri, notices that many of her students take the initiative to go into their study plan to practice. There they are provided with immediate feedback while also using beneficial learning aids to solidify their understanding before attempting further questions on their graded homework.

“They like being able to go to the study plan to practice more. If they just feel like they need additional practice, then they have that and they know right then, is it right or wrong? And that's a big deal. They don't have to wait or check the answer in the back of the book, and they only get one shot at it. [They] want another problem like this because [they] checked [their] notes to figure this one out, want to practice something on [their] own, and they have that option now.”

– Sheila Bradley



Sheila Bradley

## Supporting instructors

Dan Coroian, professor at Purdue University Fort Wayne, appreciates the different algorithmically generated questions for student assessments. He feels this helps curb cheating in his courses, which is something he was unable to do with his traditional pencil and paper exams.

“I like the fact that I can assign the same exam but with algorithmically written problems where it's the same problem, but with different numbers. So, even though, they might talk to each other, it's not exactly the same answer. So, it's good that I can do it. You can't do this in a traditional class because you're not going to write 35 different exams. So, I like that. The fact that they're generated with different numbers, but the same problem.”

Having the foundational concepts aided by help features covered by MyLab has freed up valuable class time for Rob Eby, instructor at Blinn College in Texas, to focus on deeper, conceptual understanding.

“Knowing that they're going to deal with the homework questions and have that help and it's going to be auto graded, I can spend class time on either deeper issues or more curveball questions.”

– Rob Eby



Rob Eby

Part of the current Quality Enhancement Plan at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is focusing on writing components in all mathematics courses in an effort to develop student communication. One highlight of MyLab Math Tess St. John pointed out is that this need is addressed by Interactive Figures.

“With the adaptation of the Interactive Figures it has made it to where it's easier for me to communicate. Then I also have the students do little projects and do presentations and they use Interactive Figures as well. So, MyLab has helped the students start communicating.”

Interactive Figures has also supported Tess St. John as an instructor as it reduces time searching for resources and easily allows her to share visuals with her students, which is vital when learning mathematics.

“Now it's just so easy to just go to the Interactive Figures and look to see if MyLab has something. Ninety-nine percent of the time MyLab has that perfect figure that I was looking for, so I could more easily describe what was going on visually because that's a huge component for the students, to really see the numbers.”

## Superior digital learning solution

Rebecca Swanson, instructor at Colorado School of Mines, agrees MyLab is a superior product, finding it more user-friendly for her as an instructor, as well as offering her students more rigor, saying, “I like the interface better than the WebAssign. It was just easier for me to find stuff and manage the course. I like the problems better too.”

Tess St. John has used a variety of different digital learning platforms, including ALEKS and WebAssign. She finds both products cause difficulty for her students, which can be detrimental to student success in the course. She finds the clarity, students' ability to work through problems without frustration, homework completion, and intuitiveness of MyLab far surpasses other platforms.

“ALEKS is so frustrating for the students who are just trying to get through that pie and past the simple mistakes they have made. They get so frustrated that they just quit. That's something that I don't get with MyLab. With MyLab they see the finite, even on the questions that have many parts to it. I see they get a lot less frustrated using MyLab compared to ALEKS.”

– Tess St. John

“I can compare WebAssign and MyLab. The students are, again, definitely less frustrated with MyLab. They understand the question that is being asked. The students are more engaged with MyLab, with the study plan. It's just an easier platform for them to get through. So therefore, they're going to do better. I noticed they're doing the homework more than what the students that had WebAssign were doing.”

When making the decision to adopt a new platform instructors meet with publishers to review a variety of textbooks to make sure they are offering their students the best, most innovative product that will support student learning. This is of utmost importance to Dan Coroian, therefore when adopting MyLab and the accompanying textbook, he reviewed many options, finding MyLab to be the best fit.

“We looked at several different textbooks and MyLab and Pearson offered all the things that we needed in terms of how it looks, options for students, pricing, online support materials and homework.”

– Dan Cororian



Dan Cororian

## Learn more about MyLab Math & efficacy at Pearson

Learn more about how MyLab Math could benefit your Calculus course by visiting:

<https://mlm.pearson.com/northamerica/mymathlab/>

The Efficacy & Learning team uses the science of learning to ensure Pearson products help learners achieve better outcomes.

\* To see how MyLab improves results, read our audited, peer reviewed correlational research, which spans multiple MyLab titles: [pearson.com/news-and-research/efficacy](https://www.pearson.com/news-and-research/efficacy)