Skill Builder

Available for developmental math MyLab Math courses, Skill Builder provides students with in-homework just in time support, giving each student an individualized experience in their homework.

When enabled, students are prompted to enter SB when they've used their three tries on a problem and have gotten it wrong. Upon entering Skill Builder, students could receive one of three types of support: 1. A Help Me Solve this guided problem that provides hints and steps, 2. an easier problem on the same objective that they were just working in or 3. A prerequisite skill needed to complete the problem they were just working in.

Every question in the MyLab course is mapped to these various types of support, with the goal being they can better complete the homework problem they just got wrong.

As each student works, a learner model learns the student's skill level, and identifies which path to take the student down.

Again the idea is that Skill Builder can provide just enough support that the student can then return to their homework to complete the original problem assigned to them. In this way, every student's homework can be adaptive, but students are never trapped or stuck in a cycle of endless problems. Students who do well in Skill Builder will make progress and can return to their homework – while even the most struggling student will be prompted to leave Skill Builder and seek help to prevent them from becoming stuck and discouraged.

Skill Builder now has an option to be required, meaning that students can't simply move on and opt out of using it. For students who might otherwise not complete optional work, requiring Skill Builder can give a much needed boost right when they need it most.

Instructors have access to analytics that show which objectives prompted which students to enter Skill Builder. In this way, Skill Builder can provide the added benefit of showing instructors which topics tripped up students the most, while giving each student a personalized path to better be able to complete their assigned work.