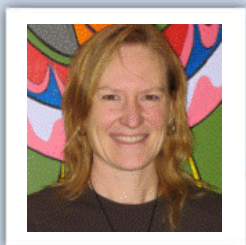


Success Stories

Profiles of Pearson Technology Users



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“Built-in assistance that never leaves [students] stranded.”

Course Info

I use MyMathLab with Delgaty, *Stepping It Up: Foundations for Success in Math*, in Bridging Year Mathematics, which is a non-credit course designed to prepare First Nations students to take introductory university-credit finite mathematics and calculus.

Assessment

The students' grades are made up of MyMathLab homework for 30%, MyMathLab quizzes for 30%, projects for 20%, and journals and in-class math assignments for 20%.

Text Selection

I liked that *Stepping It Up* was geared to pre-college/university students, which means that the focus was on gaining concepts that proved to be general areas of weakness as identified by college/university math instructors. Students liked that they were (re)learning high school math from a text that was not written for a teen audience. Many of my students are mature students and they, as well as the recent high school graduate students, liked that the book was “mature.”

Implementation

I introduced the product to my class by insisting that each student bring a laptop to class with them (they could use their own, or borrow one from UNB's equipment pool), whereby I would give in-class time, following an instructional time, to work on MyMathLab assignments. Initially, we went through the process of registering for the course together in class.

Benefits

I like that students always have assistance with the concepts they are learning in math. I set the assignments in MyMathLab such that students can try as many times as it takes to succeed in learning the material. The “Help Me Solve This” and the “Show Me An Example” features are very helpful in assisting students to learn the material. I also like that students get immediate feedback with their assignment and test results.

Students who are technically inclined (which represents most these days) really enjoy the MyMathLab assignments that they have with them wherever they take their laptops. They enjoy the flexibility of working on assignments anywhere, with the built-in assistance that never leaves them stranded.

Conclusion

The students and I both liked the readability of *Stepping It Up*, and students found it easy to understand math concepts. In fact, students worked through the text so quickly (with the tremendous assistance of MyMathLab) they had finished it by mid-term and we moved on to a more advanced text for the remainder of the term.

I will continue using MyMathLab in future courses. We used the eText through MyMathLab and students (to my surprise) stated repeatedly that they preferred a paper text. I will have print texts available for those students who prefer them in the future.

Students found MyMathLab very motivating and encouraging. Students in the Bridging Year are upgrading their math skills in order to be prepared to take subsequent university-credit math courses. Most of these courses have a MyMathLab or MathXL component, so I feel it is important that they are comfortable with these online learning tools as part of their preparation.

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