



Pearson

MathLabsPlus Math: Helping Students Build a Strong Mathematical Foundation and Fostering Independent Learning



Summary

Established in 2003, Abu Dhabi University is the largest private university located in the United Arab Emirates with three campuses in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Dubai Region. It offers more than 40 undergraduate and postgraduate programs to its 7500 students based on the American higher education model. In the spring of 2018 Dr. Sofiane Grira used Pearson's MyLabsPlus Math to teach Calculus II. He found several features of MyLabsPlus Math to be extremely useful and strongly agreed that he would recommend it to other lecturers teaching similar courses.

Description of the Course

Dr. Grira has taught Calculus II for 12 semesters and has been teaching for a total of 24 semesters. He taught his first year students Calculus II course utilizing MyLabsPlus Math during the spring semester of 2018. He has been using the product since 2010 and has been happy with his previous experiences. The textbook used for the course was *Thomas' Calculus, 12th edition* and it was taught in-person using a lecture format.



Product Implementation



Dr. Grira had several goals for his course when implementing MyLabsPlus Math. He strongly encouraged students to learn independently, be active participants in their education, gain a strong foundation of mathematical skills and be engaged in evaluation of materials through group/class discussions, as well as individual writing exercises. He also had several learning outcomes in mind. He wanted his students to have an in-depth understanding of transcendental functions, integration techniques and infinite series.

MyLabsPlus Math was utilized both in and outside of the classroom. Classes met twice a week for an hour and a half. There were a total of 600 homework assignments and 146 quizzes given through MyLabsPlus Math. Online homework accounted for 10% of the total grade, with quizzes making up 60% and the final exam 30%. The features used included the e-book, live class, study plan and videos.

Instructor Experience and Perception



Given his experience teaching Calculus II, Dr. Grira strongly agreed the use of MyLabsPlus Math added a high level of value to his course and it supported student learning and achievement. Further, he agreed that it was easy to access, intuitive to use, had excellent customer support, was easy to purchase and improved student engagement. In particular, he found the e-book and study plan extremely useful. Further, he found the live class and videos helpful, as well.

Conclusion

Given Dr. Grira's goals of helping his students build a strong foundation of mathematical skills, facilitating independent learning and encouraging engagement in discussion, he found several features of MyLabsPlus Math to be extremely useful and believes the product added value to his course. He also strongly agreed that he would recommend MyLabsPlus Math to other instructors teaching similar courses. Further, Dr. Grira has been such a happy and satisfied user of MyLabsPlus Math for many years, he has even published several articles on this technology and its use¹. Please find the references below in the footnote.



¹ Grira S. (2018) The impact of computer-generated interactive mathematics program on student's performance. *International Journal of Mechanical Engineering and Technology*, 9(10), 946-952.

Grira S. (2018) The impact of Technology on At-Risk Student's Achievement. *Journal of Applied Mathematics & Information Sciences*, 12(2), 331-335.

Grira S. (2017) Enhancement effects of a Learning Management System on Student Learning, Proc. of the 16th Conference on Applied Mathematics (APLIMAT2017), Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 31 January – 2 February 2017. Red Hook, NY: Curran Associates, Inc.

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