



Pearson

Building a Strong Mathematical Foundation Through the use of MyLab Math's Study Plan/QuizMe Feature



Summary

The Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) is located in West Mishref, Kuwait. It was the first private university established in Kuwait and is an urban campus. The Math Foundation Unit handles the Math Foundation Courses. For several years since 2012, instructors are teaching courses using Pearson's MyLab Math. They have found the features to be very useful and were pleased with their overall experience using MyLab Math.

Description of the Course

The Math Foundation Unit handles the foundation courses such as Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, Beginning Contemporary and Pre-calculus. Several instructors have been teaching these courses utilizing MyLab Math.

Beginning Algebra and Intermediate Algebra both required placement through ACCUPLACER. Specifically, Intermediate Algebra helps lay the foundation of math skills that will facilitate the student in successfully completing Math 111 College Algebra. Both courses are non-credit courses and do not count towards graduation. These foundation courses are part of the Math Foundation Unit (MFU). The MFU's goal is to assist students in gaining quality mathematical skills and encouraging them to actively participate in their learning, which will assist in setting them up for academic success.

Beginning Algebra utilized *Integrated Arithmetic and Basic Algebra, 5th edition* by Bill Jordan and William Palow. Intermediate Algebra utilized *Introductory and Intermediate Algebra, 5th Online Edition* by Marvin L. Bittinger and Judith A. Beecher. Both courses met Sunday through Thursday, each class lasting 50 minutes. Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday classes were conducted using a lecture format, in-person with the instructor; whereas on Monday and Wednesday students met with the Teaching Assistant.





Product Implementation

In line with MFU's goals, the instructors also wanted to provide students with the basic mathematical skill set to help them be successful later in their academic careers. Specifically, for Beginning Algebra they wanted their students to gain a mastery of elementary arithmetic basics, while in Intermediate Algebra they wanted to help their students gain knowledge of the fundamentals of algebra.

Both Math Foundation Courses consisted of homework, Study Plan/QuizMe, practices, quizzes (a minimum of one per chapter) and tests given through MyLab Math both inside and outside of class. The final grade for both courses was made up of homework and study plan worth 10%, three tests accounting for 45%, online quizzes accounting for 15% and one final exam worth 30%. Assignments were due both before and after class.



Instructor Experience and Perception

The MFU instructors found the Study Plan/QuizMe feature to be extremely useful, along with homework through MyLab Math. They strongly agreed that MyLab Math was easy to access, intuitive to use, provided excellent customer service, added value to their courses, and supported student engagement and learning. Further, the instructors strongly agreed that they would recommend MyLab Math to other instructors teaching similar courses.

Conclusion

The MFU instructors, felt strongly that MyLab Math played an integral part in helping students learn necessary arithmetic and algebraic skills to achieve the stated course goal of building a strong mathematical foundation for students to achieve success in their academic careers. Further, they were pleased with the increase in student engagement stating,



"MyLab Math has promoted cognitive engagement, thus enabling the students to foster a sense of competence in the learning activities and assigned activities."

If you are interested in documenting and sharing your inspiring success story with your wider community, please reach out to us at

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