Spotlight on: MyLab IT

How does MyLab IT help students in college and beyond?

How can MyLab IT help students demonstrate competency in Microsoft Office applications?

At University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, MyLab IT was used in the Accounting Informations Systems course for the professor to easily assess student competency in Excel and give students the ability to demonstrate their mastery of specific skills. The results?

- Badges were received by 95% of students on two Capstone Grader projects in MyLab IT.

- 43% of student survey respondents reported they received a MyLab IT badge and posted it on LinkedIn or social media (facebook, twitter).

- In regards to the benefits of badging, one student commented, *"I think it is proof that I have had higher training on Excel, and it will give [employers] confidence on my expertise."*

How does the completion of Grader Projects impact the final Capstone?

Completing a Capstone Grader Project in MyLab IT requires the skills learned from three or four textbook chapters. By completing Grader Projects, students build on the skills they need to be successful on the final Capstone. At University of North Carolina Greensboro, students who completed all Excel Grader Projects had a significantly higher average Capstone Grader Project score — seven percentage points higher — than the score of students who skipped one or more Grader Projects (figure 1).
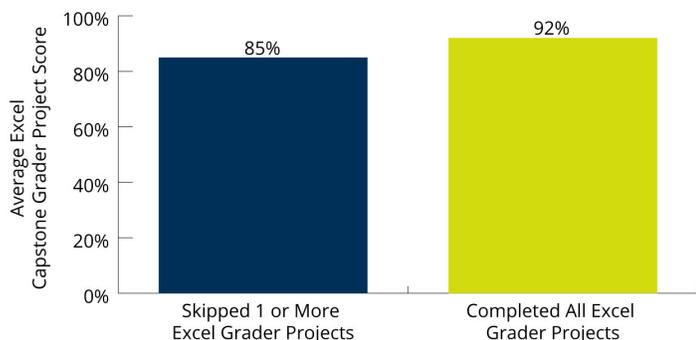

Figure 1. Average Excel Capstone Score of Students Completing All Excel Grader Projects (n=403) or Skipping One or More Grader Projects (n=108), Fall 2017

How do Simulation Trainings encourage practice and support student learning?

Learning aids (Read, Watch, Practice) in Simulation Trainings offer just-in-time remediation of skills in Microsoft Office applications. Students from Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne commented on the benefits:

"The Simulation Trainings were the best part of MyLab IT, especially the practice feature that walks through the confusing requirements step by step. The ability to use the practice feature multiple times was extremely helpful in remembering everything."

"I really benefited from the practice Simulation Trainings with the learning aids! I would have been unable to complete the course assignments without completing the practice beforehand."

"I enjoyed the Simulation Trainings. Without them, I would be completely lost in the course."

How do students transfer their MyLab IT skills beyond the classroom?

At MacEwan University, students reported using skills from MyLab IT in real-life situations (another course, a job, internship, etc.) during the semester: 95% used Excel, 92% used Word, and 78% used PowerPoint. Student comments included the following:

"Learning the page formatting and tabs came in handy in my English class."

"These Excel skills made my accounting course so much easier, I was able to finish my assignments with ease and did well on them."

"The Excel course taught me Solver which related directly to my finance course, so that was a huge help."

"I loved the training on tables as well. I use this now each month when I do my personal finances and bank reconciliation. So useful!"

For more information, visit www.myitlab.com