

Beijing International Studies University



Product Used MyStatLab
Course Name Statistics
Credit Hours Three

Textbook in Use

Statistics for Business and Economics, 11/e, James T. McClave, P. George Benson & Terry Sincich

Course Information

Course Background

I typically have about 130 sophomores in my class per semester. These students are a mix of locals from different China provinces and foreign students. They typically have good command of English as Beijing International Studies University (BISU) is a university that focuses on foreign studies and hence languages.

Before using McClave et al. with MyStatLab, I was using a locally published Chinese textbook together with SPSS. Students did not have any issues with SPSS, but they struggled with the Chinese textbook as it was too advanced. To help students practice, I assigned weekly homework. Everything had to be graded manually by my teaching assistants and me, taking up a lot of my time.

Assessment

20 %	MyStatLab Homework
10 %	MyStatLab Quizzes
10 %	Mid-term examination
50 %	Final examination
10 %	Others

Course Implementation

I first learnt about MyStatLab when I was at an overseas university. Since then, I have used MyStatLab to assign weekly homework and chapter quizzes for students. To facilitate learning, students are given two tries for their MyStatLab homework which they must submit before the next lesson. I also place the students into study groups where they discuss and solve MyStatLab problems. Class time is spent on going through problems that students have difficulty with. This has led to better learning effectiveness and greater teaching efficiency. After completing a chapter, students are given a MyStatLab quiz to assess their understanding of concepts taught. They only have one try per quiz.

Other than using MyStatLab for assignments and quizzes, I also use the multimedia resources (PowerPoint slides, videos, database, StatCrunch and e-Text) included in MyStatLab to make the course more visually engaging for students.

To ensure that students are able to fully utilize MyStatLab, Pearson representatives conduct MyStatLab walkthrough training for each new batch of students. Focus is placed on ensuring that teaching assistants are proficient and can assist their classmates with basic troubleshooting.

Results

Through the use of MyStatLab, students have learned and improved their knowledge of statistics. They benefit most from MyStatLab's auto-scoring and feedback feature which enables them to learn from their mistakes as they work on their homework. There are some flaws in the scoring system that could be improved though.

A survey conducted with one batch of students revealed that the benefits of using MyStatLab went beyond that of gaining statistical knowledge (see Table I). Students felt that by using MyStatLab, they had improved their standard of English and they had become more IT-literate.

TABLE I: STUDENT FEEDBACK ON USING MYSTATLAB

Items	5 (strongly agree)	4	3	2	1 (strongly disagree)	μ
Easy to use	25.2%	20.6%	35.4%	12.8%	6.0%	3.42
English improved	61.4%	23.5%	10.6%	4.3%	0.2%	4.02
Computer skills improved	40.0%	38.4%	12.1%	9.0%	0.5%	3.72
Helped me learn statistics	49.5%	32.6%	6.7%	8.5%	2.7%	3.60
EBook and other tools are very useful	60.0%	20.3%	12.7%	3.2%	3.8%	4.10
Understand the subject better	30.0%	35.4%	22.7%	10.9%	1.0%	3.70
Will recommend to other students	42.5%	28.5%	8.4%	7.3%	13.3%	3.79

With MyStatLab, my work efficiency is now higher as I can spare more time focusing on preparing teaching content instead of grading homework.

Conclusion

MyStatLab has greatly improved teaching efficiency and standards. At the same time, it has helped to expose students to the latest educational content and technology that are widely used around the world. Students are also more motivated to self-study.

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