

Course Name Principles of Microeconomics

Credit Hours Three

Semesters Covered Spring 2007–Fall 2007

Types of Data Reported Correlation of Final Grades and Time Spent on Task



Textbook in Use with MyEconLab

Microeconomics, 2e, 2006, Hubbard and O'Brien

MyEconLab Course Structure

Course Design

Principles of Microeconomics is a semester-long, on-campus, lecture-format course. Classes comprise more than 200 students and meet two days a week for 75 minutes per session. There are no discussion sessions.

Students are required to complete one MyEconLab homework assignment for approximately every week in which they do not have an exam. Homework is assigned at the end of discussion of the chapter; students have approximately one week to complete it.

Assessments

Students must complete a practice quiz and earn a minimum score of 70 percent before attempting the weekly homework assignment. Multiple attempts to pass the quiz are allowed.

Students can earn a total of 600 points:

300 points	Three exams (<i>two midterms, one final</i>)
100 points	Two in-class quizzes
200 points	Eight MyEconLab homework assignments

MyEconLab Implementation

Homework is completed in MyEconLab and consists of 25 to 35 multiple-choice questions. When appropriate, homework questions take advantage of the MyEconLab graphing capabilities. All MyEconLab support tools—including E-text, Guided Solutions, and E-mail the Instructor—are allowed. Use of the Study Plan is encouraged but not required.

Off-line quiz and test scores are entered into MyEconLab. This ensures easy, centralized access to all student scores.

Contribution of MyEconLab to Final Grade

Use of MyEconLab contributes 33 percent of the final course grade.

MyEconLab Course Results

MyEconLab usage increased from one semester to the next. Student end-of-course reviews suggest that the increase was due in part to student word of mouth about the program.

Data in Table 1 indicates a clear correlation between time spent on MyEconLab and exam scores. By combining exam scores for both classes and time spent on the program for both classes, one can see that of those students whose score decreased one letter grade or more from exam 1 to exam 2, 64 percent spent less time on the program before exam 2 than they did before exam 1. Of those students whose score decreased more than 10 points, 75 percent spent less time on MyEconLab before the second exam.

Similarly, of those students whose score increased one letter grade or more, 63 percent spent more time on MyEconLab

before the second exam than they did before the first. Of those students whose score increased more than 10 points, 72 percent spent more time on MyEconLab before the second exam.

For both semesters, use of the Study Plan was minimal before the first exam and increased by semester's end and the final exam.

- Spring 2007, 35 students used the Study Plan between exams 1 and 2. Sixty-one students (32 percent) used the Study Plan before the final exam.
- Fall 2007, 42 students used the Study Plan between exams 1 and 2. Sixty-seven (35 percent) used the Study Plan before the final exam.

MyEconLab provides students the timely feedback they desire and gives professors more time to spend doing what we want to do: teach.

—Michael Ryan
Western Michigan University

Final Grade	Average Time Spent on Required Homework Assignments		Average Time Spent on Optional Study Plan		Average Total Time Spent	
	Spring 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2007	Fall 2007
A (4.0)	11 hrs, 28 mins	13hrs, 44mins	2 hrs, 20 mins	3 hrs, 43 mins	13 hrs, 48 mins	17 hrs, 27 mins
BA (3.5)	15 hrs, 02 mins	20 hrs, 59 mins	0 hrs, 38 mins	2 hrs, 40 mins	15 hrs, 40 mins	23 hrs, 39 mins
B (3.0)	14 hrs, 30 mins	16 hrs, 13 mins	1 hr, 02 mins	2 hrs, 12 mins	15 hrs, 32 mins	18 hrs, 25 mins
CB (2.5)	11 hrs, 45 mins	12 hrs, 13 mins	1 hr, 32 mins	2 hrs, 38 mins	13 hrs, 17 mins	14 hrs, 51 mins
C (2.0)	10 hrs, 37 mins	11 hrs, 35 mins	2 hrs, 04 mins	3 hrs, 58 mins	12 hrs, 41 mins	15 hrs, 33 mins
DC (1.5)	7 hrs, 18 mins	9 hrs, 23 mins	0 hrs, 04 mins	0 hrs, 46 mins	7 hrs, 22 mins	10 hrs, 37 mins
D (1.0)	–	9 hrs, 20 mins	–	0 hrs, 32 mins	–	9 hrs, 52 mins
E (0.0)	8 hrs, 52 mins	3 hrs, 25 mins	0 hrs, 16 mins	1 hr, 07 mins	9 hrs, 8 mins	4 hrs, 32 mins
Total	13 hrs, 47 mins	13 hrs, 15 mins	1 hr, 24 mins	3 hrs, 15 mins	15 hrs, 11 mins	16 hrs, 30 mins

Table 1. Correlation of Final Grades and Time Spent Using MyEconLab, Spring 2007 and Fall 2007 ($n=391$)

What Students Are Saying

Ryan's students had the following comments about MyEconLab.

MyEconLab gives me the chance to practice as much as I need to.

The homework link to the e-text has helped me learn how to read textbooks.

Practice, practice, practice! MyEconLab gave me so many opportunities to do practice problems.

MyEconLab helped me study. I like that I received instant feedback when I answered a question.

I wish Dr. Ryan had made the Study Plan mandatory. It really helped me.

I love the calendar. I wish I could put everything on it.

Conclusions

Based on MyEconLab's contribution to increased student success, Ryan is making the following changes to his curriculum:

- Increased emphasis on MyEconLab's Study Plan: The data shows that student performance increased with its use, so he plans to work toward requiring its use.
- Requirement of a MyEconLab quiz before each homework assignment.

- Additional office hours each week in a computer lab: This will enable Ryan to work directly in MyEconLab with his students to actively reinforce both their knowledge of the material and their understanding of MyEconLab.

*Submitted by Michael Ryan, Associate Professor
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