

INSTRUCTOR:

Brandy Mackintosh,

University of Saskatchewan

Digital Success Stories

Connect with SmartBook[®]

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE:

Brandy Mackintosh is an Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business, where she teaches introductory and intermediate financial accounting. She has also taught advanced financial accounting, external auditing, and advanced financial reporting at the graduate level. Brandy has won Teaching Excellence Awards, as well as a case writing award at CAAA.

COURSE NAME:

Introductory Financial Accounting

COURSE TYPE:

Face-to-face class

ANNUAL COURSE ENROLMENT:

540

TEXT IN USE:

Phillips 4ce *Fundamentals of Financial Accounting*

DATE:

November 24, 2015



To learn more about
Connect + SmartBook contact us at:

- iSupport@mheducation.com
- 1-866-270-5118

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Describe the points of frustration you faced before selecting Connect with SmartBook.

“ Accounting is a topic that is best learned by doing. I stress to my students almost every day about the importance of practice and the role it plays in becoming successful on accounting assignments and exams. The frustrating part of assigning the practice questions was the length of time it took to mark all of the assignments and the delay then in getting feedback to the students.

What were the main reasons you selected Connect with SmartBook?

“ I selected Connect to allow students the access to instant feedback. It is important for them to see where they went wrong immediately. It also allows for less time spent grading these questions as the Connect system grades all of the questions for you. I chose SmartBook because it acts as a great way to prepare students for an upcoming chapter which then helps facilitate conversation in the classroom, and it allows them to keep current with topics using the refresh option.

EXPERIENCE USING Connect with SmartBook

What McGraw-Hill Education learning technology are you using in your course?
How long have you used it?

“ I have used Connect ever since it was introduced in the textbook, and I have been using SmartBook for about 3 months.

Describe how you are currently using Connect with SmartBook in your course,
and what percentage of your course grades do you assign?

“ I have set up SmartBook modules that students are required to complete for marks. These modules are to be completed prior to us starting that material in class. There is typically one module for each chapter that we cover. These modules are worth 5% towards the student's final grade.

I also have set up Connect assignments that students are required to complete for marks. The assignments are to be completed after we have gone through the material in class. There is typically one assignment for each chapter that we cover and they are worth 8% of the student's final grade.

What benefits have you seen from requiring Connect with SmartBook rather than making it recommended or optional?

“ I see it as a preparatory exercise for class discussion. Requiring students to complete the material in advance has allowed me to increase the level of difficulty or “ramp up” the discussion as students have the basic material now to go above and beyond what we could before.

How easy or hard was it to implement Connect with SmartBook in your course? Please describe what process you took to get started, including leveraging McGraw-Hill Education's support.

“ Setting up the Connect assignments was very easy. I find Connect to be very user friendly. There are a lot of options to set in Connect, but I find that the default options are usually the ones that I use, so there isn't much mediation necessary. As for SmartBook, there was a bit more time required simply because I was new to the system and how to set up the modules. However once you do a couple, it is very easy and systematic for the rest. Anytime I had questions as to how to do something, either the on-line support helped or I was able to email my McGraw-Hill Learning Solutions Consultant for easy and quick solutions.

OUTCOMES & RESULTS

What changes are you seeing in student outcomes as a result of requiring the Connect with SmartBook in your course?

“ I am finding that students are more prepared for in-class quizzes and exams than without the on-line practice. Especially the General Ledger questions that are available. They are a great way for students to see how systems work in the real world.

What data have you tracked or collected to show how effective Connect with SmartBook has been for you?

“ Seeing this is my first term using SmartBook, my data so far is limited, however that being said, I will be doing some analysis on final grades with and without SmartBook once the term is completed. With Connect, I have noticed over the years that the averages for students have increased due to the completion of on-line assignments and the instant feedback that comes with it.

How has using Connect with SmartBook changed the way you teach your course?

“ I am able to get into a deeper conversation with my students in class than previously obtained. I am able to take out a lot of the basic concepts from the classroom as students are getting this from SmartBook prior to coming to class. Then we start to look above and beyond these basics and look at more complex situations.

INSTITUTION PROFILE:

University of Saskatchewan is located in Saskatoon, and is the largest education institution in the province of Saskatchewan, with a student population of approximately 21,000. The university began as an agricultural college, and now offers over 200 academic programs some of which include Agriculture and Bioresources, Business, Arts and Science, Education, Engineering, Environment and Sustainability, Kinesiology, and Veterinary Medicine.



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What are your students telling you about Connect with SmartBook?

“ Students really like the instant feedback and feel that it's a great way to improve on areas they may be struggling with.

BEST PRACTICES & TIPS

What advice would you suggest to your colleagues or instructors who are incorporating Connect with SmartBook in their courses for the first time?

“ I would suggest for colleagues to take the time to understand how the programs work. If students come to them with questions and they don't know how to answer them, then the students lose faith in the process and program and don't feel that the benefit is there as much.

Also, I would recommend them to use the McGraw-Hill Education support staff when needed, as they are very quick and reliable.

What is the single biggest reason you would recommend Connect with SmartBook?

“ It allows students to get instant feedback and continuous support & review using technology which is what the students are so used to using these days.