



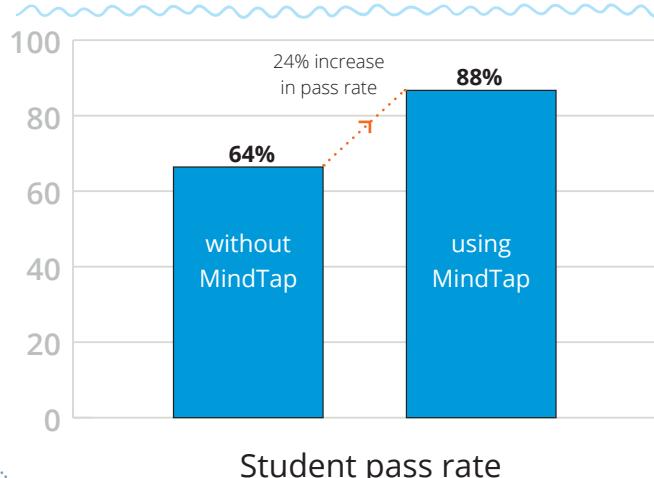
24% ↑ INCREASE IN PASS RATE AFTER INTRODUCING MINDTAP AT SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY



Toby Mizzi

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SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

STUDENT PERFORMANCE:



The challenge

Lecturer Toby Mizzi from Swinburne University wanted to offer his Psychology – Theories of Counselling students online access to a variety of course resources. "Using *MindTap* means we can provide a great package of resources for our students in one convenient, digital platform," he said. He notes, "We adopted *MindTap* in this unit as it was the best option to provide the necessary resources to the students. We needed to ensure students had access to the textbook, videos and other material from a student manual." Additionally he says, "It has also meant that the cost of accessing these resources for students is much less than what it cost previously."

Theories of Counselling can be a complex course to teach, as, in the profession of counselling, theory, process and research are intertwined. Thanks to the 'Stan' video case studies included in *MindTap*, students were given the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the application of counselling theory to the therapeutic process. Says one of Toby's students, "It was interesting to learn different approaches live ... exploring Stan's case, it was interesting to see how each approach helps in different areas of Stan's changes."



The solution

Having never previously used a digital product to teach the course, Toby was introduced to *MindTap* by his Cengage learning consultant. She and her digital partnership team colleagues worked with Toby to set up *MindTap* for his students to access their course resources outside of Swinburne's learning management system (LMS). He noted, "I have worked with a number of Cengage staff who have been helpful when issues have come up for either staff (not common) or students (more common)."

MindTap brings everything together

Toby says that one of the things he likes most about *MindTap* is that all resources are rolled into one digital package. This was echoed by his students. "All material for each week is presented in one place, so I don't have to spend time searching for content", and, "It's useful to have all course content in one area and the functionality it provides is quite useful."



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Toby Mizzi,
Swinburne University

The result

Students were actively engaged using MindTap

Student engagement and retention were some of the key outcomes for Toby, with 79% of survey respondents agreeing that *MindTap* contributed to increasing their level of interest, engagement and confidence in the course. Toby concurred, "Student attrition did not seem to be a problem, with few, if any, students withdrawing from the unit. In addition, of all the students enrolled, the majority appeared to be active, engaged students (e.g. submitting work)." 73% of students who responded to the survey reported being highly satisfied with *MindTap* overall, with the majority of students using *MindTap* for study on a daily basis, and for an average of six hours a week.

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73% of students surveyed said that using *MindTap* made them more motivated to learn. Some of the comments received by students included:



"[*MindTap*] is a really good tool for learning."

"It helps you to engage in your learning."

"I tend to become very disengaged and get bored quickly, but I actually look forward to using *MindTap*."



85%

of students said that *MindTap* helped them to understand new concepts and

89%

said that it helped them to better understand the course material.

All kinds of learning for all kinds of learners

Toby's students enjoyed having new ways to learn, and used the eBook, videos, and auto-graded quizzes the most. Says one student, "I like that it has different learning mediums," while another noted, "Having the activities throughout the chapter makes it more interesting, and easier to get everything done, as it doesn't feel repetitive." "I would recommend using *MindTap* for all courses, because the content generated is applicable to all kinds of learners," said another of his students.

MindTap helped reduce students' anxiety about how well they were doing in the course, thanks to the progress app, which tracks student progress and compares it against the class. *MindTap* includes in-depth analytics, gauging student engagement with course activities using 12 key engagement metrics. For Toby, the convenience of the progress app was a big plus, "I personally enjoyed reviewing the material through *MindTap*, which was available to me whether I was on campus or working at home. It meant I did not have the need to take additional textbooks around with me."



"Having the activities throughout the chapter makes it more interesting, and easier to get everything done, as it doesn't feel repetitive."

Student at Swinburne University

The results speak for themselves

84% of students would recommend *MindTap* to other students taking this course, and Toby found working with *MindTap* a breeze. "The entire teaching period ran really smoothly and, in my experience, was one of the most enjoyable teaching periods for this unit."

66

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Toby Mizzi,

Swinburne University

99

What Toby didn't expect, but was delighted to learn, was the rise in pass rate – an increase of more than 24% above the teaching period before *MindTap* was introduced. 5% of his students also achieved a higher final grade, with more A's and A+'s achieved. The students themselves reported their expected grades to be lower prior to final assessment, with more of these students achieving better than anticipated marks instead.

Final words

Toby has some advice for fellow academics who are considering using *MindTap*. "Think from a student perspective and consider how offering *MindTap* might mean a more affordable option with access to additional resources. *MindTap* means students have access to all the resources we want them to have, and more, in one convenient package."

And what does the future hold for Toby? With a change of LMS on the horizon, his main aim is to improve the overall unit using some of the additional materials and features in *MindTap* and integrating it into the new LMS. In his own words, "I think the whole package of resources available for students really gives them a good opportunity to not only learn the key material, but expand on their learning with further opportunities to apply what they have learned. I will continue to use *MindTap* as I do currently, but I am also open to using more features that are available through *MindTap*."

Find your learning consultant

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