LEARNSMART: INSTRUCTOR BEST PRACTICES

McGraw-Hill LearnSmart is an adaptive learning system designed to help students learn faster, study more efficiently, and retain more knowledge for greater success.

Please review the best practices and instructor tips below to effectively integrate LearnSmart into your course and get answers to common questions.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LEARNSMART

To get the most out of LearnSmart, McGraw-Hill recommends that you:

• Make LearnSmart 5-10 percent of your students’ final course grade.
• Require students to spend at least 30 – 60 minutes a week in LearnSmart.
• Encourage them to spend additional time to review past material.
• Incorporate LearnSmart assignments in your syllabus to reinforce foundational terminology, concepts, and principles in as they appear in class.
• Make LearnSmart due no later than end-of-chapter or other assignments on the same material.
• Avoid making LearnSmart assignments due in large chunks or at the time of mid-terms or finals. Data shows that, in these cases, students put off LearnSmart and can’t optimize their learning experience.
• Use the progress reports to see how students are performing and, if necessary, consider adjusting lectures to address gaps in student knowledge.
• Encourage students to return to previous LearnSmart assignments to practice challenging topics, refresh their knowledge, and increase their retention of course concepts.
• Remind students that by studying past material, they can refresh their memory and enhance their performance.
• Explain that they can use the reports available to them to identify where weaknesses exist, so they can focus their time building that knowledge.
• Include a note about your expectations for LearnSmart in the syllabus and discussing LearnSmart with your students during the first week of class.
• Emphasize that LearnSmart serves students best when they study in frequent, shorter study sessions and go back to practice past assignments. Since this is unlike the standard student experience where assignments are due at once, calling attention to this tip can optimize student usage.
• The assignment results report area in Connect will record your student’s highest level of mastery for each LearnSmart assignment by the due date you have set. The LearnSmart results report will record data in real-time if students continue to use the modules for self-study after the due date.
LEARNSMART/CONNECT INSTRUCTOR TIPS

HOW CAN STUDENTS SEE THEIR PROGRESS?

Students can see their progress on a module in three ways:

1. By completion percentage, which they can see by hovering the mouse over the module cover image while working through questions.
2. On the Learning Calendar, by hovering the mouse over the module.
3. By viewing the *Learning status* report from the report page. This percentage is kept at the highest level of mastery achieved in the module and will not shrink over time.

HOW ARE THE CONNECT ASSIGNMENT POINTS CALCULATED?

The percentage that is displayed in LearnSmart (at the highest level of completion) may not always be the same as what is displayed in Connect due to the way Connect calculates the score. The completion percentage earned in LearnSmart is multiplied by the number of points the assignment is worth in Connect. That number is then rounded to a whole point value and divided by the number of points the assignment is worth. In certain cases, the calculated score will not be the same as what is displayed in LearnSmart due to the rounding that takes place.

Example: If the LearnSmart percentage is 71% and the assignment is worth 5 points, then the Connect score will be 4 out of 5 points, which is 80%. This is based on the following calculation:

\[
.71 \text{ (LearnSmart percentage 71%) } \times 5 \text{ (Points allotted in Connect)} = 3.55 \\
3.55 \text{ is rounded to 4 points} \\
4 \div 5 = 80\% \\
\]

If this is a concern, you should make all LearnSmart Connect assignments worth 100 points.

CONNECT DUE DATES:

Students will receive credit for their work if it was completed by the Connect due date. Once the due date passes, the assignment will no longer be available. However, a student can still access the module by using the LearnSmart widget or the Library tab. Work completed after the due date will not be recorded in the Connect reports.

CAN STUDENTS ACCESS MODULES EVEN IF THEY’RE NOT ASSIGNED?
Yes. Students can access all modules at any time regardless of whether they’re assigned by the instructor. If students click on the LearnSmart widget on the section homepage or Library tab, they will see all modules. Note that if a student accesses a module that an instructor assigned, but which is hidden or start/due dates make it unavailable, the assignment will still become active and therefore locked from editing. We recommend that you make your LearnSmart assignments in advance of the term.

**TIP:** If a student works in a module before you make an assignment for that module, simply delete the assignment and assign it again with adjusted settings. If active LearnSmart assignments are ‘re-assigned,’ the start date will be deleted.

Students can also make their own Practice Quizzes. To do so, they must go to Reports, and then Practice Quiz. Students can select the module, choose how many questions to practice, and can take as many practice quizzes as they want. Instructors also have access to all work students do on Practice Quizzes via the instructor reports.

**WHEN ARE LEARNSMART ASSIGNMENT CREDITS POSTED?**

When student reaches 100%, their points will be available in the Connect reports. If the student does not reach 100%, their points will be available after the due date.

**WHAT IF THE INSTRUCTOR ASSIGNS “X” NUMBER OF ITEMS BUT THE STUDENT SEES MORE?**

An instructor can adjust the number of items and selection of topics to assign to students. Once the student completes them, LearnSmart will advise the student that the module is finished. The module completion will show 100% and will remain unchanged regardless of any further activity in that module.

The student can then choose to continue and practice the material in the module. When the student returns to a module to refresh and practice, the items removed from the assignment will be available for optional practice. Note that if an instructor excludes a section of content from a module, this content is not made available to the student. However, if the instructor uses the slider bar to reduce the coverage, the items initially removed will be available.

**WHAT IS REPRESENTED BY THE LIST OF STANDINGS?**

This ranking is intended to encourage students to compete and stay engaged while studying with LearnSmart. It is not intended to be used as a grade. A student’s standing does not impact their Connect score or module completion percentage.

The standing is a list of students using the same LearnSmart product. Each student’s specific rank is based on how many points are earned by the student. Points are earned based on the combination of the student’s confidence and accuracy. For example, if a student states that they know the answer and gets the question correct, they earn points towards their standing. However, if they claim to know the answer but get the question wrong, they will lose points and reduce their standing.
WHAT ARE THE STATUSES FOR LEARNSMART ASSIGNMENTS?

The following will be displayed for assigned LearnSmart modules from the Connect Assignment queue.

- **not started!** – Student has never accessed this module (either via assignment list or widget)
- **in progress** – Student accessed the module and due date has not expired
- **past due** – Student did not achieve 100% before the due date
- **completed** – Student achieved 100%

HOW SHOULD THE MOBILE STUDY LEARNSMART APP (IPHONE, IPOD, IPAD (IOS) BE USED?  

The mobile app is intended to supplement the online application, but it is not a replacement for it. We advise students to always start and stop their LearnSmart modules before the due date from their Connect accounts. Since not all content displays on the iOS, this will ensure that the student can complete all items in the assignment. In addition, this allows all the work completed on the mobile device to synch with the Connect course.

The mobile study app is recommended for times when the student has no access to their Connect course and wants to spend some time studying.