**Web-based Emporium Math (“math lab”)**

Northern began operating its first, emporium based math lab in the fall 2011 semester, on the Wheeling campus. The lab consists of 36 computers utilizing Pearson’s MyMathLab software, and is manned by a combination of a full-time faculty and several lab assistants. The equipment for this initial lab was financed by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley. Shortly after it opened Northern received a Title III grant that allowed it to be expanded to 45 computers and to finance its ongoing operation.

In fall 2012 a similar math lab was opened on the Weirton campus, made possible by the Title III funding. This lab operates differently in that adjunct faculty and lab assistants operate it.

Of particular importance is that Northern has decided to continue to offer students a choice of how they would like to take developmental math courses. Students can choose the new math lab concept or take a traditional classroom based class. This option is provided because Northern believes that students should have an option that best suits their learning style. The majority of schools that have adopted the emporium based lab concept have eliminated the traditional classroom option.

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