

# Michigan State University: Bringing the Future of Packaging Testing to the Classroom



## Challenge

COVID-19 changed the world overnight and educators across the nation had to adapt classes to a virtual environment. For Patrick McDavid, a packaging instructor at Michigan State University School of Packaging, the spring semester was typically dedicated to hands-on exercises in the shock and vibration lab. Without the lab activities, which were typically completed using pen and paper, a large part of McDavid's usual curriculum was missing. He needed a way to digitize the educational experience while still preparing students to enter the workforce. Enter ISTA PackSight, powered by Specright, the recently launched digital testing platform.



## Solution

PackSight is the first digital platform for ISTA protocols, enabling packaging engineers to select, collect and analyze data. By implementing PackSight into the curriculum, Patrick's students were able to gain a virtual, but "hands-on" experience with packaging testing. Through PackSight, students learned how to select the right test, understand what data needs to be captured for an effective report, and about the importance of digital testing methods.

## Impact

In today's world, there's an abundance of packaging data that holds critical insights when used effectively. Teaching students to analyze and use packaging testing data gives them the tools to be successful in an increasingly digital world.

A common trend in the packaging industry, Patrick is familiar with the tribal knowledge that often develops when organizations lack digitized processes. Especially in packaging testing, many of the systems available aren't suited for stakeholders' needs. Legacy systems make it challenging to capture detail, make recommendations, and distribute reports digitally. By learning to work with data instead of focusing on working with testing machinery, Patrick's students gained valuable experience on par with that of current packaging professionals.



"A small percentage of my students may actually find themselves in a testing facility, but many will be looking at testing results of some kind. With the level of detail in reports, they need to know what every piece of information means and learning how to do that through PackSight early on helps bridge that gap."

Patrick McDavid

*Distribution Packaging Dynamics Instructor,  
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