



Zunair Khimani

Calculus Student — Texas Southern University and Wharton County Junior College

Enhanced WebAssign® Guides Calculus Student to an “A+”

Zunair Khimani loves being a college student. A junior taking classes at two different institutions, Zunair also works part time as a pharmacy tech and plans to become a pharmacist. His current school schedule includes physics, world literature, medical terminology, anatomy and physiology — and his favorite course, calculus. “I love math, and calculus is really challenging,” says Zunair. “The instructor is awesome, and makes calculus fun.”

Fun doesn’t mean easy, so Zunair is pleased that Enhanced WebAssign® (EWA) is required in the course. EWA is an online homework system that enhances problems from Zunair’s Cengage Learning textbook with immediate feedback, tutorials, and *Watch It* video solutions that use different values from the assigned problems. “I think EWA is one of the most helpful things I have ever used. I actually took calculus previously at University of Houston and got a ‘D.’ Now that I am using Enhanced WebAssign, I have an ‘A+.’“

GUIDED PRACTICE, MORE EFFICIENT STUDY

EWA is easy to access and use, which is advantageous given Zunair’s daily “to do” list. “Time management is the biggest struggle — managing work, school, homework, and studying,” he says. From his EWA home page, Zunair can link quickly to everything he needs for calculus — assignments, grades, communication tools, a calendar, and his textbook in interactive eBook format.

Zunair usually goes to the library at night to study. He typically looks for examples online to help him understand concepts taught in his courses, but in calculus, Enhanced WebAssign saves him that time and effort. “EWA is easy to access,” says Zunair. “I am a visual learner. I love how EWA offers many examples in *Watch It*, and how you can link directly to the book. You can always retry a problem. EWA corrects you if you get something wrong. It makes you know you are on the right track.”

Zunair’s instructor organizes her classes around EWA, too. Students work through an assignment in every class period and the teacher is available to offer assistance — although there are fewer questions with EWA in use. If students want guidance before attempting an answer, they have access to a variety of text-specific tutorial resources that support different learning styles. They can also practice another algorithmically generated version of a problem.

EWA for Stewart’s *Calculus*, 7th Edition, is particularly helpful for visual learners. Stewart’s *Tools for Enriching Calculus* (TEC) simulations help students visualize — and grasp — concepts more effectively. Students manipulate an interactive simulation to answer questions, and must answer each question correctly before proceeding.

CHALLENGES

- Calculus students need abundant practice outside of class to develop problem-solving skills that will help them succeed in the course.
- Many students who struggle in calculus want help, but can’t get the individual guidance they need, when they need it, because instructors can’t possibly be available around the clock.

SOLUTION

- Stewart, James, *Calculus*, 7th Edition
- Enhanced WebAssign®

RESULTS

- Student who previously got a “D” in calculus received an “A+” — and attributed his success to EWA.
- EWA helps students build problem-solving skills by walking them through the problem-solving process. EWA offers virtually unlimited practice opportunities, immediate feedback, and links to videos, tutorials, and other problem-specific resources to reinforce skill development.
- *Watch It* videos provide narrated, step-by-step video solutions to problems using different values than those assigned — similar to the way in which an instructor would walk through a solution in class or in office hours.
- Students can visualize — and grasp — concepts more effectively with *Tools for Enriching Calculus* (TEC) simulations, available in EWA for calculus texts by James Stewart. Students manipulate an interactive simulation to answer questions, and must answer each question correctly before proceeding.

“EWA helps me understand the material better. I took calculus previously at University of Houston and got a ‘D.’ Now that I am using Enhanced WebAssign, I have an ‘A+.’”

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IMPROVED PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, BETTER GRADES

Zunair says EWA also supports development of his critical thinking skills. “It has helped me do better problem solving. It gives you examples and makes you think about the problems more. EWA helps me understand the material better.”

By offering step-by-step tutorials, virtually unlimited practice, and immediate feedback, EWA reinforces students’ learning and helps them prepare for tests. EWA makes it easy for instructors to create assignments, too. “Our teacher puts review material in EWA before the tests, so we can see what types of questions will be on the exam.”

Did Enhanced WebAssign help Zunair succeed in calculus? “Definitely. EWA will help students understand and pass the course.”

Source Code: 14M-AA0149 | ISBN: 978-1-133-36872-4



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