

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY



Nicola Rough

Full-time Sophomore, Marketing Major, Arizona State University

Enhanced WebAssign® Makes Math “More” for Students

Nicola is an incredibly busy student with little free time on her hands for much other than her schooling. Whenever she is not in class or lecture, she is studying and completing assignments outside of class. In her spare time, Nicola tries to be healthy and go to the gym, and enjoys activities that help her brain take a break every once in a while. She loves her classes and considers herself a student who is on top of her game. She likes to get things accomplished quickly and always to the best of her ability. Currently she is enrolled in many general education courses that require much of her time and attention, but she is enjoying them. Many of them are taught in large lecture halls, but there are a few, like her Calculus course, which are considered “hybrid” courses. These take place both inside and outside of the classroom, meeting once a week and requiring time online using digital homework solutions.

Nicola is a student who likes to always be up-to-date with her assignments and accomplish them in a timely manner. While she aims to always stay ahead of the game, Nicola feels like she tends to spend too much time on assignments, leaving little personal time for herself.

THE CHALLENGES

Nicola’s methods for meeting her academic goals include completing her homework assignments immediately following classes and lectures in order to a) ensure that she gets them accomplished and b) make sure that the material is fresh in her mind, allowing assignments to be completed more easily. She always wants to be sure that she thoroughly understands the material being covered in her lecture courses, and sometimes feels as though mere textbooks and lectures are not enough to provide a complete explanation for her to comprehend the subject matter.

EWA SIMPLIFIES AND ORGANIZES RESOURCES

Calculus, as a hybrid course, requires the student to spend a significant amount of additional study time outside the traditional classroom. Nicola’s class employs Enhanced WebAssign® (EWA) as a digital solution for teaching subject material, completing assignments, providing study tutorials and reviews, etc. Additionally, EWA features email reminders and different notifications for the completion of assignments, as well as “keeping everything in one spot” for easy accessibility of all course materials.

CHALLENGES

- Nicola would often leave class without a complete understanding of the material covered. She was not always able to immediately apply what she learned in order to complete her assignments.
- It was difficult to stay on top of assignments and find useful resources to assist with them.
- Too many notes and textbooks made it difficult to stay organized.

SOLUTIONS

- Enhanced WebAssign
- Waner/Costenoble, Applied Calculus, 6th edition

RESULTS

- Enhanced WebAssign provided videos and tutorials for Nicola to reference for assignments and in her studying, as well as track her progress over time.
- Videos and tutorials offered by EWA were a great aid to Nicola and were easily accessible when she felt she needed further explanation about a particular topic.
- Organization was made easy when everything was in one place, and because of this she was better able to manage her time and stay on top of assignments. She found the email reminders especially helpful for her assignment due dates and keeping a schedule.

“It was very beneficial in that if it saw that I was going about answering a question wrong, it would have me stop and provide insight as to what I was doing wrong. I could then go back and re-evaluate the way I went about the problem and work my way to the right answer.”

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To learn more about this and other digital solutions provided by Cengage Learning, visit:

[www.cengage.com/
LearningSolutions](http://www.cengage.com/LearningSolutions)

Nicola has found EWA to be a terrific help – she is able to complete her assignments whenever she likes and with all of the resources she needs at her fingertips. She mainly uses the *Watch It* teaching videos as a reference to be sure she is doing her work correctly. She also uses them as a study tool to ensure that she is truly understanding the material and able to correctly and confidently complete her assignments. She enjoys that the feedback she receives on her assignments indicates to her what she is doing wrong, allowing her to get instant feedback, review the material again, and understand what she did incorrectly. The test review is another addition she appreciates for this reason.

Nicola feels as though the program really benefits her as a student for the way it helps her to be the best student she can be. It gives her confidence that she is truly learning the subject matter, putting her on the path to success.

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