



Rachel Bull

Student,
Texas Christian University

Challenges

- Overwhelmed student lacks the time required to thoroughly complete complex coursework.
- Test anxiety creates imbalance between freshman's academic responsibilities and extracurricular interests.

Solution

- MindTap for Criminal Justice

Results

- Student says MindTap's personalized learning environment saves time and reduces stress.
- MindTap's real-time performance evaluations promote better study habits and test preparation.



Student Success Story

Time-Strapped Student Looks to Balance Academic Responsibilities with Extracurriculars

Rachel Bull, a freshman at Texas Christian University, is an early riser for good reason. "I'm just not a night person," she said. It's during those early morning hours, long before classes actually begin, that Bull does most of her studying. Despite waking up before her peers, Bull says it's still hard to find the time required to complete her coursework and prepare thoroughly for tests.

"I usually can't study more than two hours at a time without a break," the fashion merchandising major admits. "I don't usually have time to complete assignments and study for tests in the same week so I only get to prepare for tests during test week."

Bull dreams of working one day for a large fashion company in New York City. At the time, however, she says it's difficult to balance her course load with other interests such as working out, church, and staying in touch with family.

"I'm pretty good at managing time but with so many assignments it just gets overwhelming," she said.

MindTap Promotes More Efficient and Effective Study

"Initially, I was nervous," Bull said of her Introduction to Criminal Justice course. However, that nervousness about finding time to complete unfamiliar coursework was quickly mitigated thanks to Cengage Learning's MindTap tool, a digital learning solution that helps students think critically by customizing learning experiences and providing real-time mobile access. It also can track individual student performance.

Bull credits MindTap's flashcard feature, which allows her to quickly review key portions of the course, with saving her time and allowing her to focus on exam preparation.

Student Performance Improves with MindTap's Technology

Bull now expects to improve her Introduction to Criminal Justice course grade from a "B" to an "A" thanks to MindTap. The key, according to Bull, is the way MindTap streamlines her assignment completion process and the ease with which it helps her prepare for exams.

"It helped me succeed but it also made my whole life easier," she said. "It allowed me to do less work because instead of creating my own study guides I can just go online and use the material MindTap has already prepared."



“I’m a better student because MindTap offers so many different ways to learn.”

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Bull also credits MindTap with taking her critical thinking skills to another level. She says the program helps her remember key portions of course material and aids in comprehension.

“It reinforces the really important topics and it does so in a less formal way that is more understandable.”

MindTap’s Personalized Learning and Real-Time Performance Updates Lauded

One way MindTap frees up time for extracurricular activities is by customizing the student learning experience. Once MindTap ‘understands’ how a student learns best, it can deliver course materials in ways that create personalized learning environments.

“It allows you to be a better student because it has so many different ways for you to study,” Bull said. “Whatever way works best for you, that’s how MindTap delivers the course material.”

With MindTap, students are no longer forced to wait until semester’s end to gauge their performance. The platform’s mobile application empowers students to check their progress in real time and evaluate their performance on specific assignments.

“I knew exactly how I was doing as I progressed through the course which made things easier and saved time,” Bull said.



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