



## Hannah Wallace

Student,  
Texas Christian University

### Challenges

- Freshman weighed down by the financial pressures that come with paying for tuition and necessities.
- Required to balance time between work and classes.

### Solution

- MindTap for Criminal Justice

### Results

- MindTap streamlines test preparation which saves time and allows freshman to focus on financial responsibilities.
- Personalized learning tools improve academic performance.



## Student Success Story

### Freshman Challenged with Responsibilities and Financial Pressure of Paying for College

When it comes to understanding the financial pressures that come with attending college, Hannah Wallace is a pro. While her college tuition is paid for, Wallace – a freshman at Texas Christian University – is responsible for the rest: housing, food, activities, and course materials.

“It’s really hard to balance school and work,” she said. “My parents want me earn my own way, don’t give me much in terms of money, and expect me to be fiscally conservative.”

Adding to Wallace’s financial responsibilities is her dream of attending a top-notch law school such as Stanford University after graduating from TCU. “It’s all just so new to me and is probably why I started out slow,” she said.

While Wallace says her photographic memory will likely come in handy one day as an attorney, a digital tool that makes test preparation more efficient would free Wallace to work a bit more and relieve some of the financial pressure with which she’s coping.

### MindTap Streamlines Coursework and Frees Students to Study More Efficiently, Leaving Time for Work

Wallace is a Criminal Justice major with a particular interest in sex crimes. With a demanding major, she turned to Cengage Learning’s MindTap tool, a digital learning solution that helps students become critical thinkers by customizing learning experiences, providing real time mobile access, and the ability to track individual student performance to help achieve her academic and financial goals.

“I like MindTap because I just don’t have to do as much work anymore,” Wallace said of the platform’s accessibility and organization of concepts. “It’s just very time efficient and useful in terms of completing my course assignments.”

The free time is something Wallace could use to ease the financial burden. She was recently forced to quit her job tutoring high school students to prepare for final exams.

### Personalized Learning Tool Results in Increased Academic Performance

Besides making test preparation more efficient, Wallace credits MindTap’s search function with helping her create customized learning sheets that assist in test preparation. Rather than scouring the entire textbook, Wallace’s keyword search results in a collection of items, organized by importance, she then uses to narrow her focus.



“MindTap has made me a better student by exposing me to things I’d otherwise not experience.”

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“It’s just so much better than a regular textbook,” she said. “MindTap helped me take my test grade from a 90% to a 99%.”

The platform’s vocabulary quizzes and flashcards, which condense complex information into more manageable bite-sized data pieces, serve as conduits to greater comprehension in subjects outside of Wallace’s major.

## MindTap Exposes Students to Broader Range of Topics Than Traditional Learning Tools

MindTap’s digital tools are actually introducing students to material they may otherwise not see, and prompting students to examine portions of their text they otherwise would have ignored.

“I’m definitely a better student thanks to MindTap,” Wallace said. “I would not have even opened the book or read a single chapter if it weren’t for MindTap.”

Besides the breadth MindTap offers, Wallace also praises the depth with which it provides students. The result, according to Wallace, is a much more thorough understanding of how theory is applied outside the classroom.

“It’s really useful in that it provides real-world challenges you have to solve,” she said. “It allows you to take what you’ve learned and test it under real-world scenarios, which is a lot more valuable than just memorizing something for a test.”



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