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Student
Wharton County Junior College

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Business Major, Wharton County Junior College; Wharton, Texas

Two Times the Engagement: Enhanced WebAssign® and Aplia™ Aid in Conceptual Learning

Shahrukh Ali has his sights set on opening his own businesses. But first, the Wharton County (TX) Junior College freshman must master the basics, so he elected a full-time schedule of Biology, Calculus, Economics, Humanities and English courses. Shahrukh wants to earn his degree in MIS and Supply Chain from the University of Texas, so he knows he must keep his grades high in junior college. Fortunately, this student has two powerful resources in his corner: *Aplia* and *Enhanced WebAssign*.

THE CHALLENGES

Like many students, Shahrukh juggles school with outside responsibilities – in this case, working for his father up to 17 hours a week on top of his courses and homework. So time is a precious resource. “Usually I like to study alone in my room at my desk or at the library,” he says. And though he doesn’t consider himself a particularly tech-savvy student, Shahrukh says he prefers the flexibility of online classes and appreciates the way his Cengage Learning online resources complement his coursework. He uses *Aplia* for his online Economics class, and *Enhanced WebAssign* for the hybrid Calculus course.

EWA COMPLEMENTS CALCULUS HOMEWORK

“I really like *Enhanced WebAssign* because I can do homework before or whenever it is due,” says Shahrukh. “I like getting things done ahead of time, and if I don’t have time I can file for extension and do it later. It gives me a chance to work around my schedule.” As he describes it, Shahrukh’s instructor puts the review on *WebAssign* “and we work through it on our own. If I don’t understand a question, *Read It* will pop up and direct us to where we can read about how to solve it. Then *Watch It* comes up, and we can watch how it is solved. I really like that. It demonstrates the question and how to do it. It really helps me better understand the material because the video shows it step by step.”

APLIA ENHANCES ECONOMICS HOMEWORK

“With *Aplia* I learned a lot because I read the e-text and it helped me answer the questions to my assignments,” says Shahrukh. Getting three attempts at every answer is both helpful and challenging.

RESULTS

Shahrukh reports that he’ll ace his Calculus course. “*WebAssign* helped me get the A because everything is in there,” he says. “I do the reviews in a study group. The instructor also assigned the problems for the test from *WebAssign* so we knew what to expect. *WebAssign* helped me understand the concepts that were on the test.”

He says he would recommend both *Aplia* and *WebAssign* to other students. *WebAssign*, in particular, “really helped me have a better understanding of how to do a problem, so I could think through similar and harder problems.”