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Enhanced WebAssign® Helps Skilled Paramedic “Ace” Math

Samantha Golovner, a part-time student at Cleveland Community College in North Carolina, could use longer days. She works full-time, putting in 24-hour shifts as a paramedic, and fits in school, studying, fitness, and a social life on the other days of the week. Most of her classes are online, which makes her life a bit easier because she can “go to school” when it’s convenient. One online resource that has helped her is Enhanced WebAssign® (EWA), which she uses in her traditional Developmental Math course.

Samantha is pursuing an Associate’s Degree in Nursing, and plans to get a Bachelor’s degree in the medical field on the way to a career as a nurse or physician’s assistant. As an experienced paramedic, she is adept at staying calm in intense, stressful situations, but got sweaty palms at the thought of taking math. “Math and I never got along. I never understood it the first time around, and had serious anxiety about going through it again,” she says. Enhanced WebAssign helped soothe her nerves. “I read the text, watch videos that walk through steps in a solution, and for the first time it has clicked.” What’s more, Samantha says that Expressions, Linear Equations, and Linear Inequalities is, surprisingly, her favorite course.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDANCE IN APPROACHING AND SOLVING PROBLEMS

Samantha likes the way EWA assists her with solving problems. “The videos break down the steps with an instructor actually speaking to you. The layout of the questions is also broken down into steps; EWA doesn’t let you go forward until you get the previous step right. Even though the program breaks down the problem, you have to arrive at the answer yourself.” Samantha’s instructors have set parameters so that students must get an 80 on an assignment before they can move on, assuring that they grasp the concepts. Samantha has been maintaining an average of 100.

One of the areas where Samantha has seen a significant improvement is in her ability to think through a problem. “I’m thinking more analytically. I can now look at a problem and break it down in my head. Using EWA helped me learn how to do it on my own.” As a result, Samantha is a better student. “No one typically enjoys homework, but there is a sense of satisfaction when I finish the homework and know that I understood it.”

Samantha believes she now has a foundation of mathematics skills that she can build on. “I’ve been able to apply the simpler concepts to more difficult work, whereas in the past I’d do what I had to for the test and that would be the end of it. I’m required to take more math classes, but I’m not as nervous as I was before, especially now that I understand what’s going on.”

She continues, “I’m thrilled with Enhanced WebAssign. It has given me a second chance at succeeding in math, and I did succeed.”

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