

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Danielle Washington

B.A., Business and Communications, Alumna, Columbus State University

WebAssign® Helps Intimidated Student Get Excited about Math

A few years ago, Columbus State University graduate Danielle Washington wouldn't have said that she liked math. In fact, she'd have said just the opposite. But thanks to a positive experience at the Georgia institution, made possible by a relevant course, a dedicated instructor, and a full-featured online learning tool — WebAssign — Danielle made a 180-degree turn in her attitude. “Math had always been my least favorite subject since grade school, but I had to take a math course to fulfill the requirement for my degree,” she recalls. “WebAssign gave me the courage to conquer my fears of math. It heightened my learning experience in class, and made me feel empowered to get through the course.”

Prior to enrolling in Mathematical Modeling, Danielle had to take a preparatory course, and ended up taking it twice. “I was truly nervous the first day of the Math Modeling class but I was determined to do well,” she says. In class, the instructor provided guidance and each student worked at a computer to complete assignments in WebAssign. Students also had WebAssign homework assignments to complete outside of class. “Going to WebAssign was a seamless transition. Everything was broken down for me, and I was able to learn in a stress-free environment. From the basics to the more challenging problems, I definitely had all the tools I needed in WebAssign to help me succeed.”

EFFECTIVE PREPARATION FOR CLASS AND EXAMS

Danielle says that WebAssign helped her across the board with homework. “Even though my professor explained concepts very well, there were often issues when I approached the homework, and WebAssign cleared them up for me.” She also says that having assignment due dates encouraged her to complete the work before it was due, and helped her feel more independent and want to “explore ahead.” “Doing homework ahead of time and using WebAssign's ‘practice another version’ feature was a major help in homework, quizzes, and exams. WebAssign allowed me to grasp different strategies on how to solve problems and gave me extra practice, so I felt comfortable by the time we took quizzes and exams.”

According to Danielle, the course affected her in a positive way and prompted her to be excited about math for the first time in her life. Much of her enthusiasm can be attributed to the course itself, which focused on practical life skills and demonstrated the relevance and utility of math in everyday life, from determining savings needed to pay off student loans to calculating taxes on items purchased at the mall. Danielle credits her instructor most of all. “If you have an online resource like WebAssign that works, that's great, but if you have a professor who is there for the students, it makes an even bigger difference. My former professor, Inessa Levi, is a gem. The math department is privileged to have a professor that cares about the well-being of all her students and wants them to succeed.”

Danielle has good things to say about WebAssign, too. “I'm glad I had the opportunity to use WebAssign, because it helped to make my learning experience fun. It gave me confidence and most definitely helped me to succeed — it was pivotal to my learning experience.”



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