



Samantha Mueller

Student, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton

Challenges

- Juggling full-time school and part-time job makes studying tough.
- Grasping chemistry concepts based on lecture alone.

Solution

- Cengage Learning's OWLv2 for study and exam preparation in her chemistry course.

Results

- Interactive nature of OWLv2 for chemistry lets her dig deeper into concepts.
- Time savings, increased efficiency.
- Better comprehension and course success.

Busy Student Strives For Success As She Struggles To Manage School And Work

As a full-time health science student with a part-time job, Samantha Mueller faces the same challenges as most college sophomores, but time management is chief among them. Mueller, whose goal is to secure a career as a physical therapist, considers herself a very tech-savvy and visual learner. She finds online study suits her and allows her to prepare for class and quizzes in a complete and interactive way.

Mueller lives off campus and her days are 'pretty packed'—between exercise, attending classes on two separate FAU campuses, and working at a restaurant, finding time to succeed at everything can be tough. "I always struggle with balancing studying and being a good worker," Mueller said. "I want to do everything well, and I like a challenge and I hate being bored!"

Mueller also serves as a Cengage Learning Student Ambassador, which allows her to help other students and share how she's been able to succeed using online tools. "As a science major I learned that I needed to work smarter," said Mueller. "This is my first time doing something as a marketer and working with other people to help them find more efficient ways to study. I know that online study tools work because I've used them first hand."

OWLv2 for Chemistry's unique features build conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills

Mueller began using Cengage Learning's OWLv2 for Chemistry as a course requirement at Florida Atlantic, but quickly realized what an asset it could be as she juggled study and work time and was continually working toward a better grade in her chemistry class. OWLv2, a powerful online learning system for chemistry, assesses performance and fosters the mastery of chemistry problems through randomization. It helped Mueller visualize chemistry and improve her problem-solving skills. "I can work at my own pace until I master the concepts," she explained. "Once you get into OWLv2, you see how beneficial it can be. Right away, I realized the program offers multiple ways to study, which is better because the classes have more than 100 students and not everybody's mind works the same. OWLv2 kind of caters to everybody."

Many students, like Mueller, enjoy OWLv2's mastery learning problems, where the wording of the questions and the numbers change, which allows students to practice and understand the underlying chemical concepts before they gain mastery and move on. Additionally, OWLv2's simulations contain an interactive panel where students adjust variables in a system, observe the resulting changes to the system, and answer a set of guiding questions that lead them through an exploration of the concept.



“During class lectures, you’re given the information but not how to use it. With chemistry it’s all about practice, and OWLv2 gives you so many options to learn and use the content.”

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Mueller credits features like these within OWLv2 with helping her prepare for class and ultimately succeed in her chemistry course. “I really liked how if I got a question wrong, it would tell me why and give me another one to try.”

As a Cengage Learning Student Ambassador, Mueller found it easy to help other students see the benefit in a learning tool like OWLv2, because of her own success using it in class. “I just share the statistics about how successful students are when they use it, and they want to try,” she explained. “I always highlight the different ways online study tools help students based on their preferences and features, like highlighting, flashcards, quizzes you can make, and the different ways study tools are accessible and user friendly.”

“I enjoy being an Ambassador because I get to tell others about the benefits of OWLv2. There aren’t any negatives about purchasing the course tool,” she said. “The amount you pay for the program far outweighs getting a bad grade in the class.”



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