

STUDENTS SPEAK: A Mastering Success Story

MasteringPhysics®



Amanda Pignato

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Ambition / Career Goal: I want to go to medical school to become a pediatric hematologist oncologist, specializing in leukemia and lymphoma.

In my free time... I am a Resident Assistant at Concordia College. I also like to dance, bake, hang with friends, and I am the 2013-2014 Chair for our Dance Marathon.

What (or who) motivates and inspires you to graduate from college? There are many things that motivate me to graduate college. One of these motivations is my parents. My parents have always pushed me to achieve my goals and have always told me I can do anything I put my mind to. I have also wanted to be a pediatric hematologist oncologist since first grade, when my cousin was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. My drive to help kids like my cousin pushes me to graduate college and to go on to medical school.

How did using MasteringPhysics help you succeed in your course?

MasteringPhysics allowed me to not just learn how to solve a problem for an answer, but to learn the concepts to retain the information. It allowed me multiple opportunities to answer a question, so if I got it wrong the first time, I was able to try again since I could look back at my work to try and figure it out for myself. This allowed me to solidify the concept of the question, and I was able to understand it better the next time. MasteringPhysics also allowed me the opportunity to obtain hints if I needed them. It also explained to me why an answer was correct, not just telling me I was correct. It was like having a personal tutor that empowered me to answer the question, not enabling me.

What is the number one benefit of using MasteringPhysics?

When you are doing practice problems in class, you are given a limited amount of time to figure out the problem before your professor talks you through it. With MasteringPhysics, you are allowed as much time as you need to answer the question, and even skip it and come back to it later. This allows you to not only learn the concepts but to learn how to apply them to problems. It also helps prepare you for your test because you do not have your teacher talking you through a problem on the test.

How do you think your success from using MasteringPhysics will affect your college experience / future career?

On the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), there is a section dedicated to physics. Because of MasteringPhysics, I will not be as worried. MasteringPhysics helped me to understand the concepts of physics and not just to answer a problem to get a solution.

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