CADLearning Supports Mount Dora High School's Noble Mission through AutoCAD Certification

The mission of Mount Dora High School (MDHS) in Mount Dora, Florida, is to provide the best education to all students while encouraging and enabling each to grow personally and academically. MDHS strives to equip each student with the attitude and aptitude for continuing individual growth and education, both of which are necessary to succeed in the increasingly competitive American job market.

Evidence of their commitment to this mission is easily demonstrated in the Architectural Drafting Academy at Mount Dora High School. Teacher Cindy Brisson has been conducting this course at MDHS since 2009. "When we first started the Academy, we had no hands-on teaching aids for AutoCAD software," said Brisson. "So we had to take the information about how to build a building from a textbook and try to apply it within AutoCAD, which proved challenging."

Meeting State Guidelines

In the state of Florida, end-of-course (EOC) exams are now required, and Brisson served on the committee that examined EOC standards for the Drafting Academy. The committee's decision was to pursue the AutoCAD® Certified User Exam, knowing that students who pass the exam are enhancing their education while advancing their career paths.

"We had been working with one professional exam, but the tools to effectively prepare the students just were not available," said Brisson. "When we decided to switch to the AutoCAD Certified User Exam, our software provider suggested we look into CADLearning. It's been a win-win ever since because our online CADLearning Center content reinforces what I'm supposed to be teaching in my classroom according to state guidelines."

CADLearning Contributes to More than 70% of Students Passing the AutoCAD Professional Certification Exam

Developed by industry experts, CADLearning® comprehensive, self-paced professional learning content is designed to maximize performance with Autodesk 2D and 3D design, engineering and entertainment software. CADLearning offers both individual and group learning solutions that take various forms including DVDs, eBooks, and tutorials that are accessible via Online Memberships or enterprise CADLearning Centers.

More than 70% passing AutoCAD Professional Certification Exam

In 2013, MDHS began using the CADLearning AutoCAD Certification Course as a bell-ringer: when students come into the classroom, they put on their headsets and watched the assigned CADLearning tutorial videos for the first 10 minutes of each class.

"As they watch the tutorials, they also have to take notes," said Brisson. "I've noticed that the students who take notes pass the exam. The combination of watching, listening and writing integrates learning styles and better reinforces the lessons." Brisson also uses CADLearning's built-in assessment tools to evaluate students throughout the course to help keep them on track.

The 2014 class is working on a drawing for the National Association of Women in Construction Design Contest. "We are ahead of schedule in the process for the competition this year," said Brisson. "Because of the CADLearning lessons, students are thinking through the project with a more complete understanding of how it will unfold in AutoCAD, which has significantly accelerated the pace of the class."

"Right now, we're focused on AutoCAD, but eventually, with the way the industry's moving, we will likely add Autodesk Revit to our CADLearning Center. I'll be the first one using the Revit tutorials to prepare myself to teach my students," said Brisson. "But as of today, CADLearning has helped more than 70% of our students pass the AutoCAD Certification Exam, which is a new apex for us – and one we hope to surpass year after year."

The Student Perspective

"I used CADLearning in the classroom, but also at home if I needed to catch up on something. Anyone can go into CAD and just play around with it, but when you see the videos and actually know what you're doing, it gives you an edge. For me, it's coming down to either architectural drafting or computer sciences. Either way, my AutoCAD Certification shows that I'm ahead of the curve."
— Zach V.
Sophomore, Mount Dora High School

"CADLearning was my primary learning tool for AutoCAD. We started with hand drawing in the first semester, and when we started using AutoCAD in the second semester, I knew nothing. So everything I've learned, I've learned from CADLearning and Ms. Brisson. I plan to use my AutoCAD Certification on college and job applications. I want to be an architectural engineer or civil engineer, so it will look good for me and I plan to use it!"
— Jeffrey H.
Sophomore, Mount Dora High School

"CADLearning really helped me because it was so visual and hands-on. I could watch the videos more than once if I needed to. If I were reading these instructions in a textbook, I would not have been able to visualize what I was being asked to do. The videos helped me know where to find things. I've always had an interest in going into the architectural field, so my AutoCAD Certification will look good on applications."
— Rylie B.
Sophomore, Mount Dora High School

"I used CADLearning a lot at home because I felt it was easier to concentrate when I was not surrounded by other students and classroom distractions. I would use it at school if I got stuck on a problem, but I got the most out of it at home. During our gala project, I was in charge of doing the floor plan and exterior elevations of a restaurant, which I would not have been able to do without CADLearning. Getting certified has really helped me solidify architectural drafting as a potential career path – one I had not previously considered."
— Nora A.
Junior, Mount Dora High School