ASCENT Courseware Assists Experienced AutoCAD user with Autodesk Certification

Customer:

Princeton University’s Eric Witter applies his more than 20 years of AutoCAD experience as a CAD Archivist. As the Facilities Organization’s information technology team leader, Eric administers all the CAD software and provides lunch-and-learn trainings as well as user support for colleagues.

The Challenge:

With two decades of experience under his belt, Eric wanted to officially earn the recognition of ‘CAD Expert’ and felt confident about taking both the AutoCAD 2011 Certified Associate and Professional exams at Autodesk University (AU). The Associate exam covers all aspects of the software. Eric said he had difficulty in some newer areas which he didn’t have extensive work experience in such as parametric design. As a result, he needed to retake the Associate exam.

Between classes and networking with peers, Eric’s hectic AU schedule left little time to prepare for the rewrite. Every minute of study time had to be productive. He needed an intuitive training guide that would be easy to navigate, use the right balance of images and text, and display content in a logical way to encourage learning and memory retention.

The Solution:

Determined to pass the test before heading home, Eric scanned the materials available in the Autodesk Certification Prep Lab. He chose ASCENT’s AutoCAD 2011 Fundamentals Student Guide. “There were other options, but I found the ASCENT training material much easier to navigate. This was a key factor given my limited study time. Its intuitive layout with tabs made it a workbook rather than an overwhelming technical encyclopedia. It was just easier to use than the other manuals which resembled a massive phone book.”

Eric also took advantage of ASCENT’s AutoCAD 2011 Autodesk Certification Prep Sheet, which maps exam objectives to a specific chapter in the ASCENT training guide so he knew exactly where to begin studying. By using the training guide in-between classes, Eric passed the Associate Exam with an impressive score of 98 percent.

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Having experienced the value of ASCENT courseware firsthand, Eric is now planning to use ASCENT training materials for his upcoming lunch-and-learn training sessions, which will cover topics including AutoCAD, Revit and Building Information Modeling. His decision was further validated when he recently took an Autodesk Revit Architecture training course and the respected Autodesk reseller also used ASCENT training guides for the course materials.

“The ASCENT training manual layout is logical and contains many valuable illustrations which enhanced my learning. The intelligent design of the callout tabs helped me study efficiently. I was so impressed by the guide’s effectiveness that I’m now planning to use a variety of ASCENT materials this year to help guide my colleagues through AutoCAD, Navisworks and Revit.”