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UDC Students Rate Professors High for Science Instruction

Note: The following e-mail excerpts were received by Dr. Daryao Khatri, Professor of Physics, from former UDC students. The students took College Physics I and II from Dr. Khatri and then took Organic Chemistry I from Dr. Mehdi Hajiyani, Associate Professor of Chemistry during the Spring Semester 2007. The emails highly praise the professors for the instruction they received at the University.

Student #1: "I am taking Organic I at a local prestigious institution. I am paying 10 times as much for a worse teacher with worse facilities (than at UDC) and I basically have to teach myself Organic II (which is impossible), so I'll probably get a worse grade. I think you may need to bring your knowledge of teaching across the city to this institution."

Student #2: "I took Physics I at a nearby prestigious university two summers ago. It was a five-week Physics I course for engineering majors and was my first exposure to physics (I had not taken this class in high school). The Physics course was a disaster. The professor was a visiting professor from Poland and spoke very little English. None of the TAs spoke English well and the professor had extremely limited office hours. Furthermore the class was taught in a manner geared towards weeding students out. I struggled through the material and was miserable by the end of those five weeks. Not only did I not like physics after that class, I had not learned much, I definitely had not mastered the material I needed in order to do well on the MCAT, and I severely doubted my ability in this subject.

I signed up for Physics II at UDC this fall because I was unable to drive to Baltimore three times a week in the middle of the day to take Physics II at the university where I was enrolled as a post baccalaureate premedical student. I was far from excited about Physics II. Luckily, my experience in your Physics II class has been far different from my experience with this subject in the past. You made it clear from the first day of class that your goal was to teach the material and you have done this. You never made things difficult to explain just for the sake of confusing the students. You incorporated real life examples which brought the materials we covered to life and made the concepts we were studying much more tangible. You never acted like a student's questions or comments were too trivial to answer and you were available during office hours or through email to answer my questions and the questions of other students. It is clear that you have taken a lot of time to break down the material of Physics II into a digestible curriculum. The course lectures flowed really well and matched the experiments that we did for lab. You also clearly outlined key formulas that we needed to know in order to understand the material covered in the course and gave us ways to remember when to use each formula not only from exam to exam but also when attacking Physics problems in general. Most importantly, to me personally, I have confidence in my ability to succeed in physics once again. This is a gift for which I cannot thank you enough. Thanks so very much for everything Dr. Khatri. It has truly been a pleasure being a student in your Physics II class at UDC for the Spring 2007 semester.

