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case 1-428-866
September 10, 2009

A Difficult Course (A)

Have you ever felt that you were on top of the world? Everything is clicking on all cylinders. Life is good and you are feeling great.

That's how I felt during my last semester at the Ross School of Business (RSB). I had done well academically at RSB, was a leader in a student organization, and had been called back for second-round interviews with three leading consulting firms.

The personal side of my life was also good. I was engaged to someone I met in college. The wedding was to take place shortly after graduation, and we planned to travel in Europe and Asia for three months before I started work. The person to whom I was engaged was from a great family, and they were going to join my family at the graduation ceremonies.

Things could not have been any better. But as the saying goes, "all good things come to an end." This truly would resonate in my life, given the decisions on my part that changed everything.

My problems began with a course I took during my final semester. I was not interested in the course, but thought that it would be useful in my consulting work. I soon realized that I didn't understand the material. To make matters worse, as the mid-term exam approached, I had two off-campus interviews scheduled with consulting firms. I was also in charge of planning an upcoming conference that was sponsored by the student organization that I led. I was overwhelmed.

The mid-term exam in my course was administered electronically. Each student in the class could select a two-hour time period over one weekend to download the exam, take it, and submit it electronically. Unfortunately, my future in-laws had scheduled a family reunion that weekend so that I could meet several members of their family before the wedding. I planned to take the exam early Sunday morning while at their home, and to work late in the evenings on Friday and Saturday on conference planning and preparation for my interviews.

Published by WDI Publishing, a division of the William Davidson Institute (WDI) at the University of Michigan.

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