Mc Graw Hill sharpen.

Scaling Personalized Study Support.

Propelling Student Success.



> “Sharpen helps students study more intelligently, not just more frequently.”
>
> – Dr. Jodi McKay, University of Nebraska Omaha

Sharpen's Impact on Student Success

With 90% of students already using unvetted AI tools, McGraw Hill's responsible AI-powered study app helps students learn more efficiently with personalized, trusted support. The results speak for themselves.

From a fall 2025 survey of 133 accounting students at West Chester University:

96%
said Sharpen helped them prepare for quizzes and tests

93%
reported that time spent in Sharpen helped them learn the material

89%
said it made it easier to catch up when they fell behind or didn't understand a concept

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"Sharpen gave my students a way to review concepts they have not yet mastered and **come to class better prepared."**

- Susan Miller
Accounting Department, West Chester University

From students enrolled in high-content gateway STEM courses at the University of Nebraska Omaha:

91%
reported that Sharpen helps them learn the material

90%
reported that Sharpen improves their exam preparation

86%
reported that Sharpen helps them catch up when behind

"...students tend to see Sharpen as a support tool rather than a grading mechanism, which **reduces anxiety and encourages consistent engagement."**

- Dr. Jodi McKay
Biology Department, University of Nebraska Omaha

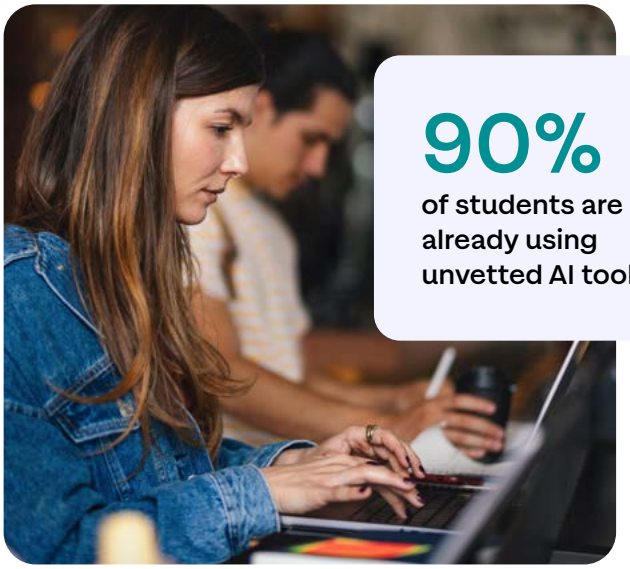
Across disciplines and institutions, one shift is clear: Students are no longer guessing what to study—they're focusing on what matters most and seeking out the resources they need. **Sharpen, McGraw Hill's responsible AI-powered study app**, helps students learn more efficiently with personalized, trusted support built directly into their academic workflow.

Designed to meet students on their modern learning journey, Sharpen delivers an intuitive, consistent experience across access models, whether through course materials or standalone use. The result is the same: **Students engage with high-quality, vetted content and AI-driven tools that help them study smarter, stay on track, and build confidence.**

As AI adoption accelerates, higher education faces a critical challenge. With 90% of students already using unvetted AI tools, institutions must ensure that what students rely on is accurate, safe, and aligned with academic standards. **The question is no longer whether students will use AI, but whether they can trust it.**

Sharpen was built to answer that question.

Powered by McGraw Hill's vetted academic content and grounded in responsible AI principles, **Sharpen provides reliable study support that students and instructors can trust**. Through features like **Ask Sharpen**, students receive on-demand, personalized support that draws from verified materials. **Improve** evaluates students' progress and delivers adaptive practice through quizzes, flashcards, summaries, and videos that target each student's knowledge gaps. Study resources and guided pathways help students focus their time and effort where it matters most.



The impact is immediate and measurable. **Students study more efficiently, save time, and gain confidence in their understanding.** Instead of turning to fragmented or unvetted tools, they rely on a single, trusted solution designed to support real learning.

From STEM to social sciences and humanities, and across the business curriculum—Sharpen is helping students take control of their learning and achieve academic success.



Dr. Jodi McKay
Biology Department

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT • UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, OMAHA

Smarter Studying in High-Enrollment STEM

The Challenge: Inefficient Study Strategies in Anatomy & Physiology

High-content gateway STEM courses like Anatomy & Physiology demand more than motivation—they require effective study strategies. Dr. Jodi McKay adopted Sharpen as part of a broader course design approach aimed at helping students move beyond passive studying.

"The primary challenge was helping students study more effectively, not simply more often," she explains. **"Many students relied on inefficient strategies that didn't translate into durable understanding."**

Sharpen provided structured, targeted practice that helped students diagnose learning gaps and focus their efforts more intentionally. Rather than adding additional grading burden, it supported an existing emphasis on clarity, structured learning, and purposeful study behaviors while preserving instructor autonomy.

Behavioral Shifts & Classroom Impact

The most significant changes were in how students approached learning. **"Students reported feeling more confident about what to focus on and less overwhelmed by the volume of material,"** Dr. McKay notes.

Instead of asking broad, last-minute questions, students began arriving with more focused, concept-based questions. Office hours became more productive, and class discussions became deeper. **"Students were better prepared for discussions, and their questions became more specific and analytical."**

Students engaged with Sharpen as learning support rather than a monitoring or surveillance tool. **"Most importantly, students tend to see Sharpen as a support tool rather than a grading mechanism, which reduces anxiety and encourages consistent engagement."**

Measurable Student Impact

91%	90%	86%
reported that Sharpen helps them learn the material	reported that Sharpen improves their exam preparation	reported that Sharpen helps them catch up when behind

Exam performance became more consistent, with fewer extreme low scores and stronger overall preparedness—key contributors to long-term retention in gateway STEM courses.

Dr. McKay is a life sciences faculty member at the University of Nebraska Omaha, where she teaches high-enrollment Anatomy & Physiology courses. Her teaching emphasizes clarity-centered instruction, structured learning, and evidence-based strategies that promote equitable access and long-term success in gateway STEM courses.



Susan Miller
Accounting Dept.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Study Support that Builds Confidence in Accounting

In accounting courses, students often need consistent practice to build mastery and prepare for high-stakes assessments. Susan Miller adopted Sharpen to provide a structured, reliable way for students to reinforce concepts and prepare for quizzes and exams.

"Sharpen gave my students a way to review concepts they have not yet mastered and come to class better prepared," she explains.

Student feedback highlights the impact. In a fall 2025 survey of 133 accounting students, 96% said Sharpen helped them prepare for quizzes and tests, 93% reported that time spent in Sharpen helped them learn the material, and 89% said it made it easier to catch up when they fell behind or didn't understand a concept.

Sharpen enabled students to engage with targeted practice aligned to course expectations, giving them the flexibility to study when and where it works best. As a result, students reported stronger confidence, improved understanding, and greater readiness for assessments.



In a Fall 2025 Survey of 133 Accounting Students

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"Sharpen gives students the practice and confidence they need to stay on track and succeed."

- Susan Miller

Susan Miller is an adjunct accounting instructor with more than 10 years of experience teaching at two- and four-year institutions. She previously worked in public, governmental, and nonprofit accounting and served in the Peace Corps teaching accounting in Western Samoa.



Dr. Brent Norwood
Economics Dept.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Empowering Students to Take Charge in Introductory Economics

In Introductory Economics courses, students often need more opportunities to practice concepts outside the classroom and reinforce understanding before exams. Dr. Brent Norwood adopted Sharpen to give students greater ownership over their study process through accessible, targeted learning support.

"It gave students the power to generate flashcards and practice quizzes," he explains. **"My students always ask for extra practice problems, and Sharpen has provided the additional learning opportunities they needed."**

By providing on-demand study tools and personalized review resources, Sharpen helped students engage more actively with course material and focus their efforts where they needed the most support. **Students reported increased confidence, stronger conceptual understanding, and improved test performance.**

Dr. Norwood also observed **better classroom readiness and engagement** as students came to class with more practice and familiarity with key concepts. Sharpen provided students with additional opportunities to review challenging material independently, helping them build confidence and take a more active role in their learning.



"Sharpen gives students control, confidence, and the extra practice they need to succeed."

- Dr. Brent Norwood



"Sharpen has given my students the ability to take charge."

Dr. Brent Norwood is a professor of Economics at the University of Oklahoma. He specializes in business statistics and sports economics and received the Patten Teaching Award in 2025.

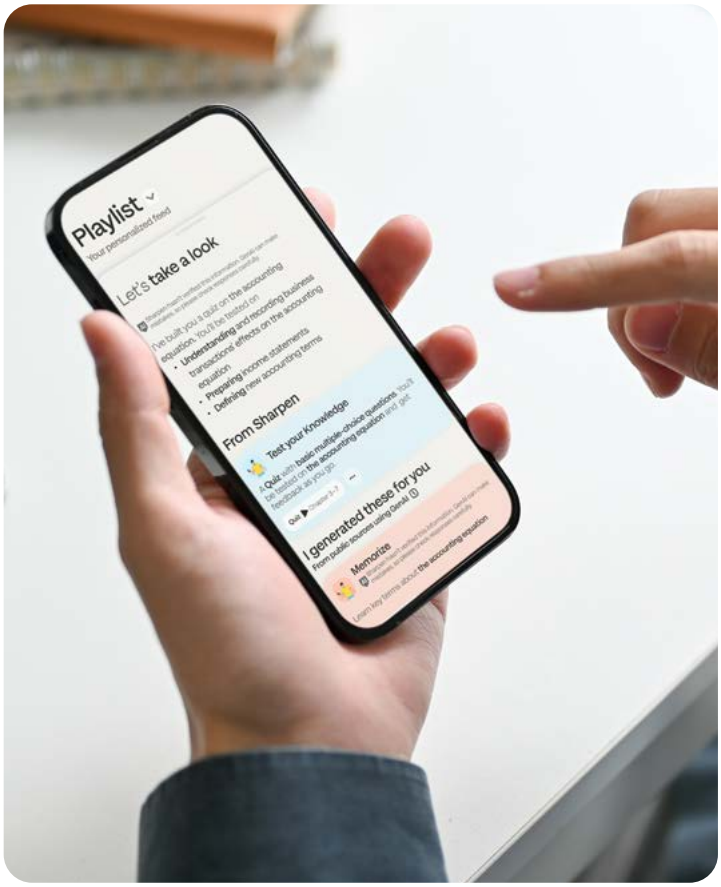
The Strategic Advantage for Institutions

Sharpen delivers an AI-powered study tool designed to help students succeed while navigating their modern learning journey. Students benefit from personalized, on-demand support that helps them focus their time, strengthen understanding, and build confidence, while institutions can trust that the experience aligns with academic standards and integrity.

Through **Sharpen Companion**, this experience is seamlessly integrated into course materials, such as the McGraw Hill Connect® and McGraw Hill ALEKS® platforms. This gives students immediate, one-on-one study support from day one. By embedding personalized, AI-driven guidance directly into the learning workflow, Sharpen Companion removes friction and supports consistent engagement, helping more students stay on track and improve outcomes.

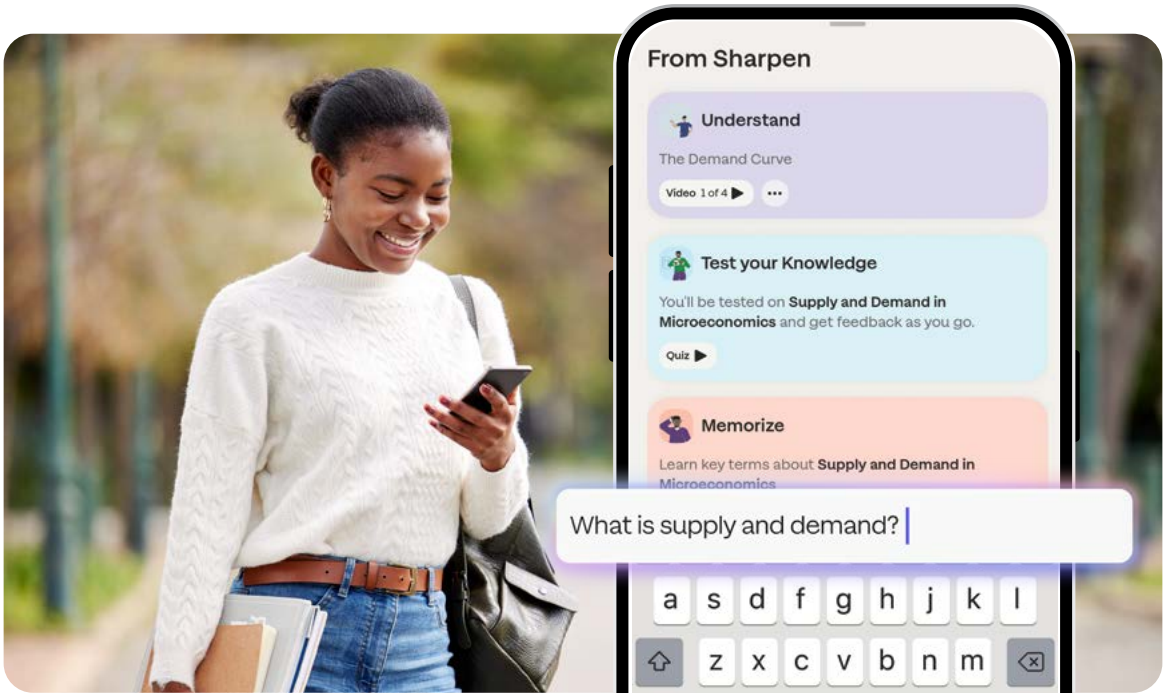
Sharpen Advantage builds on this same trusted student experience by extending its impact across an institution. In addition to the tools and resources students rely on, such as Ask Sharpen, Improve, and the vetted study content, Sharpen Advantage equips faculty, student success teams, and administrators with features to guide and improve learning.

Radar provides an easy-to-use dashboard with real-time, actionable insights into student engagement and progress, enabling institutions to easily spot at-risk students and intervene early. **Creator** allows admins and faculty to develop course- and institution-specific materials to address students' knowledge gaps. They can then use **Playlist** to curate their custom content and existing vetted content within Sharpen Advantage and send it directly to students' phones to close the gaps in their knowledge and help them prepare more effectively.



The result is measurable, scaled impact. In one implementation at Rowan College in Burlington County, students using Sharpen achieved **47% higher final exam scores, 27% higher quiz performance, and 21% higher overall course grades compared to non-users, with 96% saying they would recommend the experience to peers.** These gains reflect what institutions see more broadly: Improved outcomes driven by reliable AI study support and timely insight.

Students demonstrate stronger preparedness, greater confidence, improved exam performance, reduced anxiety, and more productive classroom engagement. **Sharpen boosts student success and gives institutions a responsible AI study solution that students, faculty, and administrators can count on.**



Learn more at
mcgrawhill.info/Sharpen

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