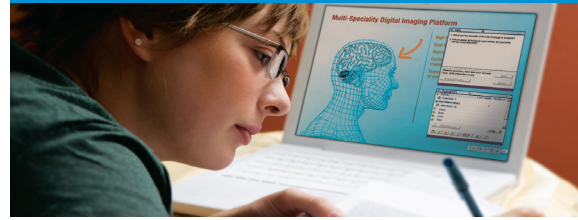


# SabioAcademy.com

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—James Choi, Director of Mathematics



## Sabio Academy attracts world-class students and teachers with WebEx.



### INDUSTRY

Education

### WEBEX APPLICATIONS

WebEx Training Center

### SUMMARY

Sabio Academy needed an online training platform as efficient and rigorous as its academic program. With WebEx Training Center, more than 70 percent of the academy’s students now access courses from remote computers. As a result, Sabio has attracted world-class talent from around the globe, doubling its number of students while hiring remote faculty members who are passionate about teaching in a collaborative online environment.

### ABOUT SABIO ACADEMY

- **Line of Business**  
College preparation
- **Headquarters**  
Glenview, IL
- **Number of Employees**  
5
- **Target Market**  
High school students
- **WebEx Customer Since 2004**

Headquartered in the Chicago area, Sabio Academy offers intensive online college preparation for high school students from around the world. The academy’s faculty members hold advanced degrees from top universities, and its students seek admission to America’s most competitive schools. Sabio’s courses are heavily tilted toward math and science – offerings range from Algebra to AP Calculus to AP Physics – with additional training in English composition.

### The Challenge

James Choi founded Sabio Academy with the goal of bringing corporate efficiency to the world of private education. As the former director of eLearning at a major corporation, Choi oversaw the successful development and implementation of various eLearning technologies, including WebEx training solutions, for over 70,000 employees. He wanted to bring that same level of highly effective online interactivity to students applying to top colleges and universities. “The educational system in this country has become too lax,” observes Choi, now the Director of Mathematics at Sabio. “I wanted to start a company that would offer high-level math and science for the best students around, and I wanted to make the curriculum available to anyone with a computer.” In 2003, Choi opened the first Sabio learning center in the Chicago suburbs. Then he began considering how he could expand his reach and offer dynamic remote training to high-achieving students from all over the globe.

### The Solution

Efficiency is the main theme of Choi’s approach to education. His students want rigorous, no-nonsense training in advanced subjects, and attendees who lack motivation and dedication will be asked to leave. When choosing an online solution, Choi needed to find an online training platform whose efficiency and rigor would match that of his academic program.

Choi was familiar with WebEx from his days as a corporate director of eLearning, but he surveyed other solutions before making a final decision. WebEx remained his top choice because of its superior assortment of features—particularly the advanced interactivity made possible by the whiteboard, chat, and application-sharing functionalities of WebEx Training Center. Those features, says Choi, have led the academy’s instructors to implement innovative approaches to live online education. For instance, Sabio faculty will often divide the WebEx whiteboard into four sections, then ask four different students to solve the problem free-hand using their tablets. “With the whiteboard, we can really see students’ thought processes in real time,” says Choi. “We can instantly tell if they understand the concepts we’re teaching.”

Because Choi had overseen the complex implementation of WebEx in his previous corporate position, he was prepared to encounter resistance when introducing online training tools at Sabio Academy. However, students and teachers both adapted beautifully. “The students who adjusted most quickly were those whose parents use these tools at work,” notes Choi.

*“Sabio is becoming a truly global concern, and we’re attracting world-class talent. WebEx has driven that.”*

—James Choi, Director of Mathematics



“WebEx has become a major presence in a lot of corporate environments, so our students’ parents were already very comfortable with it.” Choi goes on to observe that many Sabio faculty members are themselves tech-savvy professionals trained at top schools like Harvard and MIT, and they teach on a part-time basis because of their passion for education. As a result, the academy’s adoption of WebEx proved a smooth transition across the board.

Roughly 70 to 80 percent of Sabio Academy students now access courses from remote locations. “At this point, even the majority of students living locally here in the Chicago area attend classes remotely,” says Choi. “And we record every class, so that offers students even more flexibility. WebEx gave us a solution that was robust enough to emerge as the dominant mode of interaction with our students.”

#### The Benefits

WebEx offers the instructors at Sabio Academy a whole new way of teaching. “More than in any learning environment I’ve seen,” says Choi, “students in a WebEx session really have to remain responsive at all times, in real time. You can ask them to solve a problem on the whiteboard, and you’ll know right away if they haven’t been paying attention.”

The result, he says, is something like running multiple private tutoring sessions at once. “Just like when I’m tutoring someone one-on-one, WebEx makes it possible for me to watch students work out problems right in front of me,” he continues. “There’s no way I could engage with students on that level if I were standing in front of them in a traditional classroom.”

That level of immediacy is made possible by what Choi calls the “transparent medium” of WebEx Training Center. “One of the great things about WebEx is that the technology is unobtrusive,” he explains. “The medium disappears, and students can just focus on what they’re learning.” He attributes much of that transparency to the ease of connectivity students find with WebEx, enabling them to focus on the high-value training rather than worry about the technology delivering it.

Since adopting WebEx Training Center, Sabio Academy has more than doubled its number of students. And by offering online training, Choi has been able to hire faculty members who live far outside the Chicago area—talented professionals who want to teach young, motivated students in a collaborative online environment. “Sabio is becoming a truly global concern, and we’re attracting world-class talent,” says Choi. “WebEx has driven that.”

#### The Future

With the opening of a new learning facility in Arizona, Choi hopes to see Sabio’s expansion continue. “We like to give students the option of accessing our online courses onsite at Sabio learning facilities. That eases some parents’ minds,” he explains. “But online learning will always be the core offering at Sabio Academy. And without WebEx, we wouldn’t even be close to where we are today.”

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- WebEx makes it possible for teachers and students to write free-hand using the whiteboard feature—a vital component in teaching and solving complex equations.
- WebEx has enabled Sabio Academy to reach students globally and hire faculty members who live far outside the Chicago area.
- Since adopting WebEx Training Center, Sabio Academy has more than doubled its number of students.