

# GENERAL BUSINESS

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Undergraduate Program

## WHY GENERAL BUSINESS?

Innumerable opportunities await you if you choose to major in general business in the Spears School of Business at OSU. This flexible major will provide you with a broad education in all business areas, while giving you the opportunity to receive multiple minors. If you have a specific, nontraditional business career in mind or plan to open a small business, a general business degree will enhance your chances for success as an entrepreneur because you can design a plan of study to fit your goals. If you plan to enter a profession such as law or medicine, this major will give you the study habits and business skills necessary for your post-graduate education and career.

As a general business major, you will complete 120 hours of coursework. In addition to undergraduate coursework in subjects such as accounting, economics, finance, management, management information systems and marketing, you will have the opportunity to take 15 hours of upper division business courses.

## Internships

Spears School encourages participation in internship opportunities prior to graduation to gain work experience, improve your competitiveness in the labor market, and discover through real world experience whether the career you are pursuing is a good fit. One of the best places you can find internships and begin interacting with employers is through the OSU Career Services website, [hireosugrads.com](http://hireosugrads.com).

## Student organizations

The Spears School of Business has more than 20 student organizations and honor societies and each has a designated faculty member serving as an advisor as well as elected student officers within the club. Since many of these are specifically related to majors, joining a student organization can begin a process of networking that will lead you to a more enjoyable and successful college experience.

## Study abroad/travel programs

The Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School provides a number of short-term, study abroad and travel programs to expose you to different cultures, experiences, and business views. Courses within these programs are designed specifically for the setting within which the travel experience takes place and allow you to advance your academic and professional education. [www.hireosugrads.com](http://www.hireosugrads.com).

## INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### Lindsay Merchant



MAY 2014 GRADUATE

General Business and Management

Dillard's

Management Intern

#### *Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as an intern.*

As a Management Intern with Dillard's in Tulsa my responsibilities include assisting sales managers with daily and weekly tasks, ensuring proper staffing, checking and meeting sales goals, attending meetings and interviews, merchandising, and planning projects and events to increase sales. I really enjoy the variety of responsibilities within my position, being included in all aspects of the business, being in charge of promotional events such as back to school, and getting actual hands-on experience.

#### *What did your internship teach you about this career field?*

This internship has greatly increased my knowledge of retail management and how retail companies operate. It has also really helped me learn how to handle situations and work with different types of people. I will see my classes differently as a result of this experience and now know what to focus on to prepare myself for a future in this field.

#### *What impacted your selection of a dual major?*

I chose General Business as one of my majors because I wanted a well-rounded education in business and all the opportunities that come from a business degree. I also felt that a General Business degree would best prepare me for my future in business. In addition, I added Management because I wanted to be able to make a difference in a company and to be able to see the results of my work. Lastly, I wanted to be able to work with people and motivate them in order to help them succeed.

#### *What classes best prepared you for the job?*

My Intro MSIS course for basic computer knowledge as well as other business courses including Fundamentals of Management, Human Resource Management, Legal Studies in Business, Professional Development, and Marketing.

#### *What about your academic program or training proved valuable in facilitating your career development or attainment of professional opportunities?*

Career Services has been a great resource! Participation in events including Resume Doctor and Mock Interviews, placing my resume on the Hire System, and attending the career fair enabled me to secure interviews and ultimately obtain an internship. This internship has been extremely helpful in preparing me for what is to come in the future and helped me to decide what exactly I wanted to do with my degree.

#### *Is there anything else you could share with students considering this area of study that will encourage success or allow them to maximize their collegiate career?*

- Utilize all the resources that OSU has to offer; they will help tremendously.
- Build relationships with professors and other students because they can prove very valuable in the future.
- Go through at least one internship in order to learn if what you plan for your future is really the right path for you, and to gain real experience.
- Keep your GPA high. Employers really look at this and it can open many doors for you.

## ECONOMICS AND LEGAL STUDIES

## CAREER SPOTLIGHT

### Alex Charon



**MAY 2013 GRADUATE**

General Business

State Farm Insurance Company

Mobile Assignment Claim Representative

#### *Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as a new hire.*

I am a mobile claim representative. My role is to go out and perform field inspections on homeowner insurance claims. When someone files an insurance claim on their home it is my job to go meet with them and inspect the damage. I then determine the coverages and write an estimate for the repair to their home, and in some cases I am able to issue payment. I absolutely love what I do! I meet new people every day and I get to help them. I help them through their time of need and it is very rewarding to see the difference I help to make in their lives. Each claim is unique and often presents a new set of challenges. I am doing something different every day and going to different places.

#### *When you were choosing a major, what factored into your selection?*

In choosing a major I was not sure exactly what I wanted to do after college. I chose General Business because it seemed to touch on all aspects of business. I believe having a well-rounded skill set is very important. Every job has challenges of all sorts and having knowledge of many subjects is very beneficial, especially when someone is unsure of the career path they want to take. I gained something from every class I took; sometimes it was hard facts that I am now able to apply in my career and other times it was an experience. There was always something I could apply to help me handle a situation or predict the outcome. One of the most important skills I learned in college is how to communicate effectively with others. I acquired these skills through projects, meetings with professors, presentations, and research papers.

#### *What classes best prepared you for the job?*

I took three law classes through the business school and I would say those gave me the most preparation for this job.

#### *What about your academic program or training proved valuable in facilitating your career development or attainment of professional opportunities?*

Career Services is a great resource. It was very helpful in obtaining my first internship, which really opened my eyes to the business world. Then the following summer I was able to obtain another internship and after that I knew what I wanted to do. I attended the career fairs offered by OSU and met with recruiters, which was very helpful in finding the job I have now.

#### *Is there anything else you could share with students considering this area of study that will encourage success or allow them to maximize their collegiate career?*

My advice would be if you're not sure exactly what you want to do, work hard and find as many internships as you can. The internships will give you real business experience and will help give you some direction to find something you like. Take classes that are interesting to you and do your best. Take advantages of all the resources that OSU has to offer, talk to people and get involved, you never know when or where the next opportunity could come.

## Scholarships

Each year, the Spears School grants more than 275 individual awards for a total of nearly \$500,000 in scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students. These numbers continue to grow as donors recognize the value of providing assistance to college students.

## General business career areas

The career possibilities are endless with a degree in general business. Some of the job titles of Spears School general business graduates include:

Account Representative  
Business Owner  
Benefits Manager  
Branch Manager  
Operations Manager  
Credit Analyst  
Entertainment Agent  
Employment Counselor  
Hotel Manager  
Bank Manager  
Job Analyst  
Sales Manager  
Payroll Officer  
Personnel Recruiter  
Quality Control Officer  
Sports Marketer  
Lawyer  
Distribution Manager

## Career resources for entrepreneurship majors

OSU Career Services [hireosugrads.com](http://hireosugrads.com)

Careers in Business  
[careers-in-business.com](http://careers-in-business.com)

Simply Hired [simplyhired.com](http://simplyhired.com)

Indeed [indeed.com](http://indeed.com)

Flex Jobs [flexjobs.com](http://flexjobs.com)

Intern Match [internmatch.com](http://internmatch.com)

International Nonprofit Information  
[idealist.org](http://idealist.org)

Marketing Jobs [marketingjobs.com](http://marketingjobs.com)

Careers in HR Management [jobs.shrm.org](http://jobs.shrm.org)

Jobs in Finance [financejob.site.com](http://financejob.site.com)

Economics Jobs [economicsjobs.com](http://economicsjobs.com)

Sports Jobs [teamworkonline.com](http://teamworkonline.com)

U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship [usasbe.org](http://usasbe.org)

## CAREER SERVICES

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# CAREER SERVICES

