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Marshall University MBA program adds Military Management concentration

Marshall University's Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program has added a new area of concentration in Military Management. The need for this specialized concentration was realized after discussions with military and veteran individuals and organizations. Active duty personnel and veterans of the U.S. armed forces know that their military experience has taught them leadership and teamwork. At the Brad D. Smith Graduate School of Business, we understand that those same skills are needed for success in business. The online program makes it possible to earn an M.B.A. from a top-ranked and AACSB-accredited business school, no matter where students currently reside, without having to relocate or disrupt their current lifestyle. Active military personnel and veterans can transfer up to nine hours of military course credits, saving time and money toward a degree.

Marshall University M.B.A. students can now specialize in eight concentrations: accounting, finance, health care administration, human resource management, management, marketing, military management, supply chain management, and of course, the general M.B.A. (for students who choose not to specialize and take electives from any one area). For more information, email Wes Spradlin, associate director of business graduate programs, at spradlin2@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/MBAOnline.

Marshall's Lewis College of Business Hosts Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site

The Lewis College of Business is hosting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site, a program through the Internal Revenue Service that offers free tax assistance to eligible individuals. The Beta Alpha Psi Chapter at Marshall University is partnering with United Way of the River Cities to offer tax preparation assistance for low- and middle-income families on Marshall's Campus.

Marshall's VITA site is the only site in the area that is able to file foreign student returns and Form 8843. Co-Site Coordinator and Beta Alpha Psi Officer Philip Taylor explains, "The path ahead at Marshall is paved by the support we give to fostering a diverse student body. Our volunteers are excited to provide Marshall's international students with the help they need to navigate the American tax system."

Taxpayers who make an income of \$66,000 or less can participate in the program. Individuals can receive assistance with simple 1040s, basic 1040NRs, and Form 8843. All taxpayers should bring their social security cards, driver's licenses/state ID cards, banking information (for refund direct deposit), W2s, interest statements, 1098-T (tuition statement), and other relevant documents. Taxpayers that need to file foreign student returns should also bring form 1042-S (if received) and passport/immigration documents.



“The VITA Program is a great opportunity to serve the Marshall Community by empowering students to assist with tax preparation. We are able to put knowledge learned in the classroom into action,” remarked Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Instructor of Accounting and Co-Site Coordinator. Accounting students also gain valuable hands-on learning experience by providing a cost-effective way for individuals to electronically file their tax returns.

Ashley Taylor, a Marshall Accounting program alum and former Site Coordinator, shares these reflections on the program: “In my time at VITA I saw firsthand the benefits that the program brought to our students and community. I am glad I got involved and would recommend all students volunteer in a program like this.”

Taxpayers can visit the Lewis College of Business to have their taxes prepared on Thursdays during February, March, and April. To ensure adequate staffing and provide quality service, the Marshall VITA Site is an appointment only site. Making an appointment is easy! Taxpayers can schedule an appointment online by visiting the following link: <https://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2220133934>. Marshall International Students that need assistance with foreign student returns or Form 8843 should contact the Office of International Student Services to schedule an appointment.

AACSB Deans' Conference

I represented Marshall University's Lewis College of Business at the AACSB 2019 Annual Deans' Conference in Vancouver, Canada. The Deans' Conference, exclusively designed for business school deans and heads of higher education business units, covers critical emerging topics in leading and educating the future leaders of business. This year's theme was “Unlearn and Reinvent – Prepare for, adapt to, and lead change by unlearning old approaches and embracing new ways of thinking.” Our featured speakers were Michael Arena, Chief Talent Officer, General Motors Corporation; and Dan Pontefract, author, speaker, thinker, founder and CEO of The Pontefract Group, and former Chief Envisioner and Chief Learning Officer at TELUS – a Canadian telecommunications company with revenues of \$14 billion and 50,000 global employees. With more than 600 business schools and thought leaders from over 50 countries attending, this conference is AACSB's premier event for connecting with business school leaders, discussing today's challenges and opportunities, and shaping the future of business education. Topics ranged from reimagining business accreditation, rankings, globalization, fund-raising and resource management, technology in business and digital transformation to leadership, diversity and inclusion, crisis management, and impact measurement. Discussing and debating updates and interpretations pertaining to the accreditation standards also helped me prepare for my forthcoming AACSB Peer Review Team visits to University of New Haven and University of North Carolina at Wilmington.