

Pre-Business

Oberlin College provides superb preparation for students who want careers in business. Many of our graduates choose to work in the for-profit sector. You can use Oberlin's resources to achieve this goal in several ways.

PURSUING A LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM

The majority of chief executive officers of major corporations received liberal arts degrees as undergraduates. Oberlin does not offer a major in business, but a broad-based liberal arts education is generally considered the best undergraduate preparation for a business career. Develop your creative, intellectual, and analytical abilities in a broad range of topics while you are in college and apply those skills to your work later. You will have prepared well for any business opportunity and preserved many other options.

CHALLENGING YOURSELF ACADEMICALLY

Future employers in the competitive business world will want to see that you chose challenging academic coursework, and that you are a strong student. You should major in a topic that interests you and in which you can do well. It is important to gain quantitative skills that will help you on the job. Enroll in at least one college level calculus course and consider taking a course in statistics, too. It is also a good idea to take at least one course in economics and courses that will develop your ability to write well.

SUCCEEDING IN INTERNSHIPS

You can experience the business world through winter term, summer, and/or academic-year internships. By interning, you will give yourself a competitive advantage, make contacts, add skills, and make better decisions about your future. We encourage you to complete two business internships while an undergraduate. The Office of Career Services is your first stop for help with internship searches, writing resumes and cover letters, and learning about the world of work. Career Services' Winter Term Internship Program is an excellent opportunity to gain exposure and experience in a business environment by interning with alumni. When conducting your full-time job search, you will be pleased at the number of employers you have access to through Oberlin College. Senior Interview Days, recruiting events held in Washington DC, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco, as well as our other recruiting events, will connect you with leading corporations and firms across the United States.

PARTICIPATING IN THE OBERLIN BUSINESS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Oberlin Business Scholars Program is a winter term project designed to provide students with a foundation of skills, knowledge, and contacts to successfully compete for jobs and internships in the fields of finance and consulting. Students who participate in this month-long program have the opportunity to learn from Oberlin alumni during workshops conducted at Oberlin as well as in Cleveland, Ohio and New York City. Through site visits at such places as Bear Stearns and Morgan Stanley during a week-long stay in New York, students see first hand many of the concepts they've learned.

CONSIDERING AN MBA PROGRAM

A Master of Business Administration degree can make many desirable business career options available. In almost all cases, students in these graduate programs have worked full-time for two years or more before returning to professional school. Admissions decisions are based on your professional and leadership experience, academic record, scores on the Graduate Management Admissions Test, letters of reference, and sometimes an interview. There are a few academic requirements for admission, but you are likely to satisfy them if you follow the academic course selection recommendations listed above. In recent years, Oberlin graduates have been admitted to the most highly selective of these programs, including: Harvard, University of Pennsylvania/Wharton, Northwestern/Kellogg, MIT/Sloan, Dartmouth/Tuck, The University of Chicago, Columbia, and Stanford.

UTILIZING OBERLIN ALUMNI

Alumni of Oberlin work in every business field, and they are a tremendous source of information about getting jobs, career paths, relocation to unfamiliar cities, and making the transition to the work world. The Office of Career Services can help you identify and contact alumni career mentors. There are also many opportunities to meet and talk with alumni who come back to campus for lectures, meetings, and reunions.

GETTING (AND STAYING) INVOLVED ON CAMPUS

Employers and MBA programs will look at your record of leadership in extracurricular activities. You should join student or local community organizations that will give you the chance to learn business skills such as planning events, supervising others, taking responsibility for budgets, and managing publicity, meetings, and

administrative processes. You will want to show that you can maintain your commitment to an activity or organization over several years, and also that you can increase your responsibilities and contributions as you gain experience.

READING ABOUT BUSINESS

Get in the habit of reading business newspapers, magazines, and web sites regularly. You will be more successful as a job seeker, intern, and business professional if you start to familiarize yourself with business concepts, terminology, and culture early.

SEEKING ADVICE

Early in your first semester at Oberlin, start seeking out faculty members and administrators who know about business to get advice about how to use your years at Oberlin to the greatest advantage. Faculty pre-business advisors are listed in the catalogue. You should also meet with an advisor in Career Services and get on the email list for students interested in business in order to receive important announcements.

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