



**“One College”**  
**The MBA Program**

**The Department of Business Administration**

*Augsburg’s College Mission: To nurture future leaders in service to the world by providing high quality educational opportunities, which are based in the liberal arts and shaped by the faith and values of the Christian church, by the context of a vital metropolitan setting, and by an intentionally diverse campus community.*

The MBA program is aligned with the mission of the college by design, by curricula and by implementation. Socrates once wrote, “I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think.” The essence of a successful MBA program is to create in the student the ability to think critically. The educational opportunity we offer the MBA student is to challenge themselves not only through the acquisition of technical knowledge but by having to analyze, evaluate, place into appropriate context and logically argue positions on cases involving a variety of subject areas.

The liberal arts are the foundation of this educational experience. The MBA program as liberal arts requires students to free their minds from the demands of narrow vocational preparation, and focus on developing a skill for critical rational analysis, and viewing business through the prism of morality and ethics.

The emphasis on morality and ethics woven into the fabric of the MBA courses and as a subject within the curricula reflects the program’s roots in the values and faith of a religiously affiliated college. While the student body reflects a diversity of ethnicity, race and religion, there is a fundamental assumption that true leadership in business requires people with strongly centered morals and values. Martin Luther’s values concerning seeking our calling means we must also challenge students to understand that the careers they seek or seek to enhance must be their vocation for them to be successful and fulfilled as individuals. Abraham Lincoln once stated; “My father taught me to work; he did not teach me to love it. “ We are advocates for people to love what they do and to find fulfillment in their work.

A dedicated and involved faculty combined with our cohort model supports the intensive involvement of the faculty in the education and evolution of the MBA student. As in a truly liberal arts model, the faculty serves as both mentors and guides as the students learn and discover.

The MBA program is aligned with the metropolitan community in which we live and learn as well. The summative field study project course takes the students out into our communities and allows them to assist and learn in entrepreneurial situations, large organizations and not-for-profit organizations. The students can both provide extensive consultation and derive valuable learning at the same time. Some examples of leveraging our metropolitan nexus include MBA students volunteering their time advising and assisting a business group started by a number of Somali women at the neighborhood Brian Coyle Center. Additionally, MBA students assisted women in the

Cedar-Riverside neighborhood to start their own business providing mentoring and guidance.

These examples of community involvement as well as the MBA program in general points to our dedication to assisting MBA students in becoming effective "servant leaders." Robert Greenleaf, in his works on leadership wrote, "there is a newer model of leadership, - "one that attempts to simultaneously enhance the personal growth of associates and improve the quality and caring of our many institutions through a combination of teamwork and community, personal involvement in decision making, and ethical and caring behavior." The MBA program seeks to promote this servant model of leadership.

In summary, it is the collective view of the MBA program that in this era of globalization and the reduction of equidistance in communications, leadership and a sense of international citizenry must be a part of our curriculum. This mandates that liberal arts, including the humanities, should be woven into every course in the curriculum. This is a vision which reflects the model created for today's and tomorrow's leaders.



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