

## **Discipline, dedication, drive**

*A graduate of Aspen University, Julie Standish attributes the three "D's" – discipline, dedication and drive - to her success at earning her Master of Business Administration.*

# # #

Julie Standish graduated from Aspen University with a Master of Business Administration with Specialization in Information Management. Julie talks about how she made the online program work for her.

*Why did you choose Aspen University?*

Aspen University offered an online MBA program at a lower cost than Phoenix University and accepted me for the program without making me retake courses from my undergraduate studies. Phoenix University wouldn't transfer credit for courses that I took that weren't under their accreditation and wanted me to take undergraduate courses before entering their MBA program.

*What application does your Aspen MBA have to do with your current job?*

I'm an accountant in an accounting firm that provides interim comptrollers to clients. My studies at Aspen have been very useful in keeping current on area's such as economics or IT infrastructure.

*How easy was to fit your education into your home/work life?*

It wasn't easy, at first, to fit my studies into my life at home and at work It required a lot of discipline and scheduling ahead of time to ensure that I gave enough time to completing my studies to make my deadlines.

*Why does Aspen stand out among other universities?*

The courses offered by Aspen University are from the Harvard Business School, the same course curriculum as other universities. Aspen stood out for me because of its flexible time frame for completing my courses. Its system allowed me to work while I attended school. During the three months of the year that my work is the heaviest I was able to take a leave of absence and then resume my studies.

*Describe what it is like to study online.*

Studying online is very convenient. It allows a student to spend more time in areas where extended study is necessary. All of the modules online are self-paced, not driven by classroom attendance.

*Describe your experience with virtual classrooms.*

I did most of my studying independently so I didn't have much virtual classroom time. A virtual classroom is interactive. Classmates can interact with each other and with teachers, which is valuable in better understanding the course material.

*What, would you say, are the main benefits of online learning?*

Convenience. Online learning is less costly and self-paced. Also, spending less time traveling allows you to spend more time studying.

*What attributes should you have to be a successful online student?*

I would say the three "D"s: Discipline, dedication and drive.

*What advice would you give to potential online students?*

Approach your studies as you would in an actual classroom setting. Dedicate your time just as you would for conventional classes. It really helps to plan them on your calendar.

Take advantage of all of the resources provided by the university. Ask questions of the instructor when you are unclear of an assignment. If you get lost on an assignment, don't spend too much time looking for the answer. As soon as you feel lost, use the resources that Aspen has put at your fingertips – such as easy access to your instructors – to find clear direction and stay on track with your studies. My instructors and fellow students were essential in my studies providing direction and clarification when I needed it.

*How many hours a day do you spend on your education?*

The time needed varied from four to six hours five days a week.

*Describe a typical course experience.*

I would receive the course online, review the course curriculum and then go over each module before starting the course. Then I would start the modules by reading the required pages and really pay attention to the time needed to complete the course on schedule. Some assignments require extensive writing and essays for each module and I made sure to take extra time to complete these modules when needed. I would submit each module when it was due and then continue onto the next module even before receiving my grades from the previous module. My instructor would return each of my assignments with helpful notes and comments.

## **About Aspen University**

Aspen University's Master of Business Administration with Specialization in Information Management is an in-depth program equips business professionals and entrepreneurs to deal with the proliferation of information technologies and the need for managing the flow of information effectively both within an organization and between the organization and its various constituencies. It provides students with an understanding of essential business principles and technical topics, such as technology integration and e-Business strategies. For more about an MBA with Specialization in Information Management, [click here](#).