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It has taken me some time to get to where I am today. Going through high school I was a driven student that just wanted to do the best I could and succeed at any goal I put in front of myself. When it came time to go to college I decided I would start out at a junior college and quickly work my way up to a four year university. Junior college worked for me, I was working as well as going to school. I had flexibility to work when I needed as well as take the necessary classes. Well, needless to say I got caught up in the workforce and quickly my job and a paycheck became more important to me. I had no idea which direction I wanted to go towards in terms of a degree, and I was making something of myself within my career. I was letting my education slip further and further behind and almost five years later and taking one class each semester I found myself looking back and telling myself how did I let this happen? I looked back at those five years, I had done very well for myself within the workplace, but I was still nowhere near experiencing the excitement and accomplishments of holding my college degree. So here I am, I have a beautiful family, a successful business, but still no degree. I finally buckled down and received my AA in '07, transferred to ASU, had our second child in '08, and here I am.

1.) I have had some time to review my DARS and get a grasp on what I need to accomplish to receive my degree. I have chosen Business and Communication for my two concentration areas. So far, the only class I have accomplished towards my specific core areas is MGT 380. This class was geared towards management and strategy non-major; I took away many useful lessons from this course; decision making, leadership skills, motivation within the workplace, planning and organizational skills, as well as social responsibility. I believe everyday was something useful that I could take to work with me in the business world. This semester I am on the road to accomplishing BIS 301, I believe this course has already helped me by making me buckle down and map out my courses required to receive my degree. I was unsure what specific courses I would be taking; now I understand what courses I need as well as how much longer it will take me.

2.) Spring '10:

BIS 302: Interdisciplinary Inquiry explores interdisciplinarity and integration as applied to various approaches of human inquiry. This is a required course which will allow me to become one step closer to my degree and also help me explore my path within my concentration areas.

COM 310: Relational Communication explores communication issues in the development of personal relationships. This course will help me further my communication skills, not only in the workplace but as well within my family and relationship.

BUA 383: Small Business Working Relationships addresses communication and the people in a business. I believe this course will be beneficial to not only me, but clients I work with as well. This course will explore relationships with clients, employees, suppliers, competitors, governments, family, and self development.

Summer 1 '10:

BIS 401: Applied Interdisciplinary Studies looks at applying interdisciplinary problem solving skills in internships, service-learning, or research with group projects combining both my concentrations of business and communications.

Summer 2 '10:

BIS 402: Senior Seminar helps integrate classroom and experiential learning. I will be able to choose course topics that I am interested in within business and communications. I enjoy being able to gear a course towards what I would like to study versus what I have to study.

Fall '10:

FIN 380: Personal Financial Management is an analysis of personal financial planning, with time value of money, stock and bond investment, and retirement and estate planning. This is a required course for my business concentration, but I believe this course focuses on many of the everyday things that an adult worries about. This course will not only help me within my business world, but I will also carry this knowledge home to help further understand what to do with our money.

CIS 394: Topic: Project Management – Information Systems discusses immediate or special interest to the instructor as well as the class. I am looking forward to being able to discuss business ideas and issues to get a second opinion.

MKT 395: Essentials of Advertising and Marketing Communication also is a course I would like to take because it becomes more about what the students and instructor would like to discuss about the everyday advertising and marketing world around us.

Spring '11:

COM 312: Theories and strategies of communication relevant to the management of conflicts and the conduct of negotiations. I see this course being extremely beneficial to my everyday business world. Whether at home or working out a business contract conflicts arise, being the face of a business I cannot let the anger or frustration jump out. Every business person needs to understand how to manage and calmly discuss and work towards a common ground to resolve the conflict.

ECN 382: Managerial Economics discusses economic analysis to managerial decision making, market analysis of the socio-legal environment. Having the knowledge of economics comes in handy within business and communications. I see this course being beneficial to my everyday decision making within a business.

JMC 310: Public Relations will teach the practice of publicity, public relations, and related techniques and procedures. This is a meaningful course in the business and communications world. This course does not go towards either my business or communications concentration, but I believe this

course to be beneficial in the business world because PR is used to gain a business or individual exposure to their audience with topics that interest your target audience as well as useful within the workplace to build rapport with either employees or customers.

FAS 331: Marriage and Family Relationships discusses issues, challenges, and opportunities relating to present day marriage and family living. This is an elective that I see being able to use in my everyday life. I am always looking for new information to help me in keeping a happy marriage and family.

Summer 1 '11:

EXW 301: Concepts of Fitness and Wellness discusses guidelines for achieving health benefits of physical activity and other healthy lifestyles. This is an elective course I opted to take because I am focused on keeping a happy and healthy home. I have worked hard to ensure not only myself, but my family understands the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. We workout and eat right on a daily basis and it has become a part of our life instead of a focused chore. This course will also help me age wisely and healthfully to ensure I am on my toes within my business decisions.

Summer 2 '11:

COM 316: Gender and Communication looks at gender related communication and examines verbal, nonverbal, and paralinguistic differences and similarities within social, psychological, and historic perspectives. This is a required to satisfy my communications concentration, but I found this course to be beneficial to me as a woman because on a daily basis I come across a customer that looks at me as a woman and nothing more. I am not looked at as a business person in their eyes, just a woman that will be taken out of the game sooner or later because as a woman we will never be able to succeed as well as a male in my position.

Fall '11:

COM 317: Nonverbal Communication is the study of communication using space, time, movement, facial expression, touch, appearance, smell, environment, objects, voice, and gender/cultural variables. Nonverbal communication becomes a part of everyday life, somehow with time most people learn what a gesture or look generally means. It is an occurrence that takes place within communications quite often, now being able to understand them all is different.

3.) When entering into the BIS program I had no idea what the program actually consisted of, all I knew was that I was going to be able to incorporate business and communications as one. What little I have read about the BIS program, I knew I would be required to take 4 core classes consisting of BIS 301, 302, 401, and 402. I hope to gain the knowledge to think differently about my two concentration areas as one. Look at it as a process of finding new topics within aspects of business and communications with the end product being seen within my grasp. With BIS 302 I hope to have a better understanding of how to use interdisciplinarity to my advantage within my two concentrations. 302 is the integration of each aspect of business and communication into my future line of work. BIS 401 is an applied learning

course. I would love to learn more about the small business world, new opportunities in growth and management. I wish to learn more about these through the electives I have chosen as well as how Interdisciplinarity can help me in the future. I have become self taught within communications and business, but I would love to gain new knowledge and experiences that come with my new found path through success.