As the Director of Business Support Services, Perioperative Division for Providence Health and Services, Stuart Prey was looking for a degree offering the best of both the business world and the healthcare industry. Stuart started Gonzaga’s MBA in Healthcare Management in 2009 and graduated in the spring of 2013.

Q&A with Stuart Prey

» MBA in Healthcare Management Alumnus

What advice would you give to someone considering the MBA in Healthcare Management program?
I would tell prospective students to make sure they work with their professors and classmates – put the time into developing relationships. With Gonzaga, it’s more than just reading and assignments. Relationships will help you through the rest of your career. One of the biggest advantages for me with the program is that I have strong relationships with professionals locally and across the state. If I’m faced with an issue I can’t answer, I can call upon my peers to ensure I’m taking the right step forward.

What appealed to you about the MBA in Healthcare Management program?
With the classes, not only was I getting the best of the business world, I was also getting experience in the healthcare industry which is unlike that of the business world. I liked that the program was tailored to working professionals in the healthcare field. Business people don’t often get a chance to work with these professionals, so it’s been nice to meet professionals around the healthcare community.

What are the strengths of the MBA in Healthcare Management program?
I have enjoyed the opportunity to come together with other like-minded individuals and have discussions about their professional experiences. With how quickly the healthcare landscape is changing, the leaders in the industry are being forced to look at things differently.
What was one of your favorite classes in the program?
One of the most challenging yet rewarding courses was Healthcare Law with Professor Williams. It was one of the first classes I took. At the time, I was new in my job. I didn’t realize how much real world application that class had. The class offered us the opportunity to look at real world cases across the United States. Now I realize that each case study applies to my daily work.

Tell us about the hybrid-model schedule.
The hybrid schedule really appeals to a large portion of physicians and different healthcare leaders. It allows you to manage your own schedule. Healthcare professionals do not have a lot of control of their own schedule. This can make it hard to commit to certain classes. However, with the hybrid model, you are only committing to two weekends a semester. The professors have done a great job with the hybrid model. They are committed to maximizing the learning experience outside of the classroom setting, with all of the perks of being in class.

How has the program helped you in your current job?
The program has given me a better foundation to look at the future from a business perspective. It has challenged me to grow in areas I wasn’t comfortable with and taught me portions of healthcare that I wouldn’t learn in a business environment. The program has enabled me to work closely with doctors and nurses so we can come together as a cohesive team for the betterment of the patient.

For more information about the MBA-HCM program, please contact:

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