



Q&A with Brian Ulrich

» MBA Alumnus, part-time program

As a Senior Project manager with Financial Partners, Inc., Brian Ulrich manages portfolio projects related to the company's technology solutions for banks. With a strong interest in continuing his education, Brian did his homework when researching MBA programs. He is an alumnus of Gonzaga's MBA program and graduated in 2012. We invite you to learn more about Brian and his experience in the program.

Why did you choose Gonzaga's MBA Program?

I always wanted to go back to graduate school. While I have a wide range of interests, an MBA seemed like the most logical choice. To me, academic quality, class sizes, reputation, and the quality of the students and alumni were very important factors. I did a fair amount of research and chose the best program in the region.

What are the greatest strengths of Gonzaga's MBA programs?

The biggest strength for me was the interaction with the community and local

businesses. In addition, the faculty and staff were fantastic to work with. I still stay in touch with many faculty members and former classmates.

Tell us about some highlights or interesting projects you worked on as an MBA student.

I had some great opportunities to work with local businesses through two classes in the program. With Dr. Beqiri's Statistical Analysis class, my group worked directly with the United Way of Spokane on a project. In Dr. Finkle's Creating New Ventures course, we had the opportunity to work with Next IT.

How has the program helped you in your current job?

It really helped broaden my horizons. The program allowed me to work more effectively with other department leaders in our company who have diverse interests and backgrounds. I am now able to ask the right questions when working with my co-workers or our clients. In addition, I'm able to relate more with our finance, accounting, training, and other departments outside my immediate disciplines of project management and relationship management / sales. The program gave me a more critical mind to think systematically about problems and opportunities.

What advice would you give to someone considering Gonzaga's MBA programs?

I would tell them to try to understand what they are hoping to attain from any program. Be sure to look at not just the curriculum and course structure, but also the quality of teaching and the types of classmates you'll have. That's the primary reason I didn't choose an online program, since the relationships I would build with professors and classmates was also very important to me. Also consider the reputational capital of a program. The reputation of a program in the community and in the marketplace really matters, sometimes more than just the degree.

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

Haley Topliff
Marketing & Recruiting Specialist
topliff@gonzaga.edu
509-313-7047