

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Business majors are encouraged to develop a strong portfolio of knowledge, skills, and experiences that position them for success in college and in their careers. A wide array of opportunities are available that enable students to gain career related experience, develop leadership skills, and acquire professional competencies.

## Internships/Co-Operative Education

WCBA students gain career-related work experience through internships and cooperative education experiences. These experiences provide students with professional level experience related to their chosen major. In addition to gaining valuable experience, students can earn academic credit for up to two different internships. Internships for which students earn academic credit must be paid. Internships can be part-time or full-time, either fall, spring, or summer, and can be located anywhere in the world. The WCBA Center for Career Management offers assistance to both students and employers interested in participating in the Internship and Cooperative Education Program. Internships are offered in accounting, advertising/public relations, finance, management, marketing, sales, international trade, entrepreneurship, and nonprofit leadership.

## Student Leadership Opportunities

Student chapters of national professional organizations provide an excellent means for students to develop leadership skills, network with professionals in their chosen career fields, and increase their exposure to the business world.

Professional Student Organizations in the Williamson College of Business Administration include:

- Advertising Club
- American Marketing Association Collegiate Chapter
- Beta Alpha Psi
- Beta Gamma Sigma
- Enactus
- Institute of Management Accountants
- Management Information Systems Association
- Pi Sigma Epsilon (PSE) - Professional Sales Organization
- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
- Student Investment Fund Organization
- Student Leadership Council
- Student Nonprofit Leadership Organization

## Professional Development Programs

The Williamson College of Business Administration offers extensive programming to ensure students are career-ready upon graduation. Programs such as Accounting & Finance Practitioner Day, VITA Tax Program, Professional Development Summit, Marketing Shadow Day, and Meet the Employers Day are designed to assist students in building their professional network, expanding their knowledge of the business world and developing skills to advance their readiness for full-time professional employment. WCBA academic advisors and the Center for Career Management staff are available to help students with academic planning, interview skills, resume writing, and internship/job search strategies.

## Honor Societies

The Williamson College of Business Administration recognizes students' outstanding academic performance through initiation into Beta Gamma Sigma, the national honor society for AACSB International-accredited business schools. Students who qualify for Beta Gamma Sigma are inducted in the

spring of each year. To be eligible, students must be in the upper 10 percent of the junior class, the upper 10 percent of the senior class, or the upper 20 percent of the graduating master's class.

Qualified business students are also eligible for membership in Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society that recognizes superior scholarship in all academic fields, and Beta Alpha Psi, the national professional organization for accounting, finance, and information systems majors who have completed one upper level course, have a 3.0 accounting, finance, or information systems GPA, and have a 3.0 overall GPA.

## WCBA Business Leaders

The Williamson College of Business Administration Business Leaders Program is designed for students who excel academically and demonstrate a high level of commitment to their professional and leadership development. This program provides a select group of incoming freshmen with a variety of opportunities to increase their knowledge of business, accelerate their involvement with the business community, and enhance their professional preparation. To be eligible for the Business Leaders Program, students must have:

- 3.5 high school grade point average
- ACT Score of at least 25 or SAT score of at least 1150

## Study Abroad and Global Learning Experiences

Students who study abroad cultivate a global mindset that allows them to identify opportunities across a broad spectrum of different countries and economies. A global mindset cannot be taught—it comes with experience. The Williamson College of Business Administration offers several programs to prepare students for entry into the world-wide business environment including:

- Short-term global learning experiences lasting approximately 10 days typically offered during a class break period (winter and spring break). These are faculty-led tours that include business and cultural visits. Students receive three credit hours of upper level business coursework that is applied to their degree requirements.
- Study Abroad Programs offered through YSU Center for International Studies and Programs offer a variety of semester long international study experiences. These programs allow students to live-in and take classes at an international university. WCBA students have spent a semester abroad studying in Italy, Australia, China, and Spain.