The College of Business Administration is dedicated to building self-aware leaders with character. Leadership is the application of knowledge to inspire and influence and accomplish an objective. Knowledge is both curriculum based and non-curriculum based; our curriculum has four levels of learning where we teach our students to analyze, decide, integrate and lead. To solve complex dynamic problems we need to have the quantitative analysis skills to analyze problems and provide data-driven solutions. Those data-driven solutions need to be steeped in critical thinking to provide decisions that are thoughtful and consider all stakeholders. Integration is critical. How decisions become integrated into the fabric of the organization and communicated to all members of the team determines whether the decision is adopted and implemented. The final step is building individuals to lead with humility, fairness and a sense of humor.

“Leadership begins with self-leadership, and self-leadership begins with knowing oneself.” (Chris Lowney, Heroic Leadership, 2003, Chicago: Loyola Press, 2003, p.98.) While the curriculum-based learning provides a conceptual understanding of multifaceted issues, business leaders must be self-aware to lead; self-awareness is cultivated in the many non-curriculum-based student opportunities. To become self-aware it is critically important to seek out opportunities that take you out of your role as a student: be a volunteer to build compassion; spend time abroad to get world perspective; engage a mentor to recognize another’s point of view; enter a case competition to understand team dynamics; among many, many others. Self-aware, experience-based problem solvers require us all to understand how we as individuals impact a decision and how that decision impacts others.

Character is the combination of qualities that distinguishes one individual from another. A Jesuit-based business education is distinctive in how we convey the intellectual and moral qualities of honesty, courage and integrity. Business decisions must not be solely based in the financial viability of an investment – informed decision-makers provide solutions that are socially just and environmentally sustainable as well.

Again, I welcome you to the College of Business Administration and challenge you to take advantage of the many curriculum-based and non-curriculum-based opportunities to become self-aware leaders with character. I look forward to the journey ahead!

Joseph P. Daniels, Ph.D.
Acting Keyes Dean of the College of Business Administration

College Mission Statement

To provide a world class business education defined by our distinctive Jesuit identity shaped through applied learning, collaboration and leadership development.

Undergraduate Program Description

Undergraduate business education at Marquette University provides students with a world-class business expertise, a variety of personal and professional experiences to raise self-awareness and encourages the development of the highest degree of character and integrity. Those who combine business expertise, self-awareness and character are more insightful and able to solve the complex and ill-defined problems that are evident in today’s economic world. We strive to prepare individuals who understand how a global concern works, can drive results, collaborate with and inspire others, in short who are leaders, not just contributors, in their organizations and communities.

The College of Business Administration emphasizes all three of the aspects of fostering leaders: character, perspective and self-awareness and the knowledge and skills that are fundamental to business expertise. The first is grounded in the liberal and Jesuit traditions of Marquette University and has as its foundation the Marquette Core Curriculum completed by all of our students. It is built on the premise that an effective business leader needs to have a deep understanding of the religious, cultural, social, political, economic, global, scientific and technical environments in which individuals and organizations exist. This foundation helps our students in two important ways: in developing a sense of character based on their own internal value system and in enabling them to place business decisions in a larger context by understanding the impact of those decisions more broadly on society. It is our firm belief that a liberal education is a necessary part of professional education and our curriculum is structured on this premise. The College of Business Administration builds on the foundation provided by the Marquette Core Curriculum. It does this through a college core curriculum that broadens and strengthens the values, knowledge and skills acquired as part of the Marquette Core.

The College of Business Administration extends core experiences and focuses on increasing business expertise and the opportunity to develop specialized skills and knowledge as part of a variety of undergraduate majors and minors. Initially, this portion of the curriculum concentrates on business knowledge required of all College of Business Administration graduates to augment the knowledge and skills acquired in the college core. This part of the curriculum provides each student with an introduction to the various aspects germane to all organizations such as finance, marketing, information systems and supply chain management. It also stresses development of a clear understanding of the dynamics of the firm, the economy, basic managerial and organizational concepts and relationships, the interaction between a firm and its environment and an overall view of strategy
and policy-making within an organization. As students complete this portion of the curriculum they are offered the opportunity to develop specialized skills and knowledge in a variety of undergraduate majors and minors, such as accounting, economics, innovation and entrepreneurship, human resources or international business. This prepares graduates for entry-level positions where they can provide immediate impact to businesses and other organizations.

Finally, the College of Business Administration provides experiences to help students grow personally and professionally as they discover an awareness of self and others. The curriculum stresses teamwork, communication, collaboration and global and cultural awareness as part of personal and professional skill building that also include quantitative analysis, critical thinking and ethical reasoning. Other opportunities to enhance self-awareness can be found as part of the International Business Program, the Business Career Center workshops and Mentor Program and through various student organization and networking events. The development of the skills and awareness of self helps prepare graduates to understand to be leaders they need to be lifelong learners and to continue to develop in the current era of a rapidly changing business and work environment.