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Reflective Essay

When I started at UCBA I was on track to complete my Pre-Business Administration degree with the hopes of transferring to Lindner College of Business at UC Main. In my second semester I heard about the Applied Administration program, a Bachelor's degree here at UCBA and was immediately interested. I had no idea that it existed- it wasn't even really advertised and I felt like it was a big secret over at One Stop too. I never really had the desire to go to school downtown- I am from the country and I prefer not getting mugged walking to my car, so I was always apprehensive of that. In addition, I liked that this degree focuses more on the applied side of Business, not just the theoretical stuff they learn downtown. After evaluating the required courses, I thought it looked more practical to my career path than the Business Administration program. In addition, I like being a part of new things, and I want this degree to grow. I want people to know about it, graduate with it and be successful with it. I also want to be able to say I am one of the first people with said degree. I started the degree as a student fresh in the middle of my college career, a student with low ambition as far as a professional life after school. I am ending this program with hopes of entering graduate school, being more involved in college life, and feeling like I have become a true adult.

As mentioned, in my second semester of college I decided to switch from Pre-Business Administration to the Business Management Associate's Degree program. I decided to do this because I had found out there was a similar Bachelor's Degree option at UC Blue Ash. I knew the degree was similar, but I did not know exactly what to expect. I knew it would be mainly about business, on a more applied level. To me, that meant learning about more realistic and useful things versus on a more philosophical level. I like the Blue Ash campus and when I compared the class schedule of the BTAS program with the BBA program, the BTAS program looked like it had more interesting classes. In addition, those classes seemed more relevant to my intended career; or for any career for that matter.

My expectations of the program versus living it out are actually pretty similar. It is certainly all the things I mentioned before. It has been about learning how to supervise, manage and lead people. Working in teams, working with media, statistics and other aspects of business- all of which has been on a more applied level. One thing I did not know would be a part of this program is all the technological classes, such as Trends in Communication and Applied Technology. I think those are important to this major due to the fact that they are an important skillset to know. The BTAS program has been what I expected, with a little more technology-oriented classes than I initially thought. Also, I have slowly been learning that the program tends to be an extension of whatever a person's Associate Degree was in. For me that was business, which explains why this program feels very business-like to me; but to those who came from science fields, it feels like an

extension of that, and so on. I find that truly spectacular because this program really enhances and expands above what anyone from a technical background knows.

I have been personally affected by being in the BTAS program because it has taught me so many useful tools that I can use in virtually any future career I may have. The BTAS program has many classes that focus on leadership, management, ethical and legal factors that affect all organizations. What makes this program excellent is that it looks at all of those factors in an applied way; which means it is more practical and I feel I am learning things that I will actually use. Again, this program is simply an extension as to what we have learned before; for me I feel very proud of this. This program feels more like training for any job, versus just learning about theoretical factors of business, or other specific-classes like calculus, business analytics, etc. that I really do not need.

This program has not only taught me about how organizations operate, but also about how to become a better young professional. We have focused on improving our resumes, connecting on sites like LinkedIn, and even practicing how to interview. I truly feel that the BTAS program is crafting me into a well-rounded future working-professional. In addition, I have spoken at information sessions, and helped students entering the program; all of which add value and importance to my academic life. These are tools that I can take with me forever. When I was in high school, I typically tried to stay as uninvolved as possible, whether it be due to anxiety or lack of drive. The BTAS program has kicked that right out of me, and only improved my ability to keep moving forward. My involvement in this program is

paramount to my future. Regarding my future, naturally this program affects me greatly because it is preparing me for excellence in any career.

The BTAS program has taught me many things, and therefore I can establish several take-aways from it. First, the BTAS program is such a unique program to be a part of for many reasons, but the main one is that it is a very new program, so we are literally the students who are part of the beginning and crafting the direction that this program goes. In addition, the program is not something that can be found anywhere, it is offered in very few colleges. This program has taught me many things that I know will be used in my professional life. This contrasts other majors which tend to teach on the more philosophical side, which inherently means less-realistic. I believe I can leave this program knowing I have essentially been trained to be a better and more knowledgeable employee. Which is a very important factor in any career; and is very important for a student earning value from education.

As anyone can see, the BTAS program is very well-rounded. Not just in the diverse age groups and backgrounds that attend it, but also the wide-array of coursework. There are classes about Law, Statistics, Leadership, Management, Media, Diversity, Team Work, Human Resources, and many more. It is evident that those are all very important factors for all organizations that are covered in this program. Since this program is a collaborative effort between the Business, English and Media departments, it is a lot more diverse than a program that comes from a single department. The BTAS program is very unique, interesting and well-rounded. All of which are characteristics I hope to establish as an employee as well.

I can easily say that the day I chose to switch my major from Pre-Business Administration to Business Management was a very important day. That day marked a moment that I made an excellent decision about my future, and I think if I had not done that I would only have an Associate's Degree and nothing more. Now, I am applying to UC's Master of Business Administration program and even contemplating Law school down the road. This program has given me the confidence, and opportunity to continue pushing myself academically and in many other ways. By switching to this program I have improved myself academically, which ultimately will improve my professional life and goals; which more importantly improves my personal life and goals.