

After dropping out of college in 1999, I have consistently chosen jobs that did not require a degree to advance. In 2019 I worked all the way to Division Manager for an Industrial Inspection company. It was at this point that my aspirations changed. I decided to return to school to finish my degree for two reasons, the first was that I wanted to show my four kids that you always finish what you start, no matter how long it takes. The second was that I had a taste in management and wanted to move up. I started to pursue my goal of completing my degree at Delmar College, a local junior college. After completing my associates degree, it was time to look for a university. I chose LSU Online because Texas A&M Does not offer an online undergraduate degree, and LSU was a great second choice.

My first attempt to apply to LSU online was met with a declination letter and a call from an admissions counselor. My accumulative GPA was not high enough for the program that I wanted to pursue. The Admissions counselor explained to me that LSU offered a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies and that my GPA qualified for this program. Upon acceptance I had to choose my three minors. After many log talks with God and my wife on what I wanted to spend the remainder of my career doing, I chose Business Development, Leadership, and Communication Studies as my minors. My thoughts were that the integration of these three minors, as well as my experience, would set me up for success in a corporate role.

Business Development

After spending time as a Division Manager in charge of a P&L of \$5 million I chose Business Development to sharpen my skills in business. Through this minor I learned more about balance sheets, analyzing market trends, and evaluating the risks involved in business decisions.

Communication Studies

To be effective in management, you must have effective communication skills. I chose Communication Studies to help sharpen my skills in communication. After learning about basic communication technics, I took courses that helped to master persuasive speaking, negotiation, and public relations. This minor was a perfect compliment to Leadership.

Leadership

Along with communication skills, a good effective manager must be a good leader. That is why I chose Leadership as my final minor. The courses in this minor focused on leadership traits, such as conflict resolution, corporate change, and team management.