

## Alfred University's 4+1 MBA program delivers powerful degree combinations

3/07/18

ALFRED, NY Alfred University is placing a renewed emphasis on its 4+1 MBA program, which will meet the demands of a marketplace that requires students graduate with a comprehensive list of skills needed to thrive in today's dynamic economy.

The 4+1 MBA program's structure best ensures students will earn their undergraduate degree in four years and complete Master of Business Administration degree requirements in one. The University is emphasizing the 4+1 program's availability to students enrolled in the Inamori School of Engineering, the School of Art and Design and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in all majors with only two exceptions due to their curriculum requirements — Athletic Training and Education.

"The 4+1 options allow our students to capitalize on the rich array of curricular offerings, earning two degrees from Alfred University in five years through pairing a bachelor's in fields such as chemistry, math, art and design, biology, engineering, and political science with an MBA from our AACSB-accredited College of Business," Zupan said.

Brian Dalton, vice president of Enrollment Management at Alfred University, said the program is tailored to give undergraduate students a defined path to earning their bachelor's degrees in four years, while ensuring they've taken the necessary business coursework to move seamlessly into Alfred's MBA program.

"The idea is to get their (business) prerequisites in early (during the first and sophomore years)," Dalton explained. "If they don't take the prerequisites early, it sometime extends the time they need to graduate. This gives them a clear pipeline to getting their undergraduate degree in four years."

Dalton said an MBA can give students, regardless of undergraduate background, an advantage as they pursue their careers.

"The option of a 4+1 will equip these students with an additional skillset," he commented. "By getting an MBA in combination with their undergraduate degrees, it gives them greater strength and flexibility" as they enter the job market.

Rick Stephens, AU provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, agreed.

"The primary benefit for the students is it puts them in a much better position to qualify themselves for careers that can go in multiple directions," Stephens said, referring to the variety of specialized careers in business available to graduates. A chemistry major with an MBA, for example, would be attractive to a pharmaceutical enterprise or a business involved in medical research.

Dalton said the University is emphasizing "21st Century Skills": those which are life-long and enhance students' ability to succeed in a wide variety of careers. The skills include critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and teamwork, communication, creativity and imagination. Incorporating business classes into liberal arts undergraduate curricula will help teach students those aptitudes.

"This is just a powerful addition to their education," Dalton said. "This will give them additional skills that they can apply in the business world."