

Center for Adult & Continuing Education

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Arch Graduate Spotlight: Amanda Hedges



MU Intern Lauren Butera recently met with **Amanda Hedges**, a 2021 graduate of Misericordia's Arch Program, to talk about Amanda's Misericordia experience as she balanced family, work, and her education. Amanda also interned with the Center for Adult & Continuing Education in her senior year. Amanda earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting.

What made you decide on the ARCH Program?

I choose the Arch Program because it allowed me to balance working a full-time job and dealing with my family while obtaining a degree. It was easier to work my school schedule around my personal life.

What made you decide on the accounting major?

I originally started with the Business Administration major. After taking an accounting course during my freshman year, I really liked it. I liked balancing the books. I then switched my major to accounting. Still to this day I like doing anything accounting-related.

What class did you enjoy the most and why?

The class I liked the most was not an accounting class. It was a World Religions class that I took over the summer. The reason why I liked it was that it taught me about diversity in a work environment. People don't all believe in the same religion as you, and the class taught me more about faith and what other religions practice. By learning more about other religions, I have a better insight of what a person does with their faith.

What class prepared you the most for an accounting career and why?

All the accounting classes I took prepared me for this career. The accounting class that I liked the most was Cost Accounting because it gave a breakdown of costs and allowed me to analyze those costs.

How did you balance work with school and family life?

It was difficult, but I had a support system which included my husband and mother. She made a schedule so that she would be able help my daughter get her schoolwork done on time.

What was it like interning with the Center for Adult & Continuing Education?

I really enjoyed working with the center. They understood my schedule. They gave me tasks that worked with my schedule. I got to experience a whole new level of working with the school that I did not experience prior to the internship.

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What did you like the most about your internship?

I really liked having the real-world experience of being handed finances and figuring out where the funds should be spread. I was able to come up cost analyses and recommendations.

Where are you currently working?

I'm currently a personal banker for Wells Fargo Bank, where I worked while attending college. But I'm currently applying for accounting and tax positions for the spring.

How has your Misericordia experience helped with your current position?

Overall, my accounting major has helped a lot with my position because in opening and servicing accounts, we also help our customers when they have issues. Many of the core classes that I took at MU helped with how I converse clients.

Where would you like to go from here with your career?

My overall goal is to be a production accountant for either a film or a television studio. But to get there you need experience in accounting, so the next step would be to obtain an accounting position where I can gain the knowledge that I need and the experience to become a production accountant.

What advice would you give to other adult learners considering continuing their education?

The best advice that I can give is to apply yourself to the classes. It takes a lot of time out of your day and if you have children you are going to have times that you feel like you're not giving them the attention they need. But in the end, you're going to have a degree that allows you to obtain position where you will be earn more and still have time with your family.

Lauren Butera is a senior at Misericordia University, majoring in English. She will graduate in December 2021 and plans to work in publishing. Lauren is currently interning with the Center for Adult and Continuing Education.

For more information about Misericordia University, please call 570-674-6400 or visit www.misericordia.edu. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1924, Misericordia University is Luzerne County's first four-year college and offers 56 academic programs on the graduate and undergraduate levels in full- and part-time formats. Misericordia University ranks in the "National Universities" category of U.S. News and World Report's 2021 edition of Best Colleges. The Princeton Review recognizes Misericordia as a 2021 "Best Northeastern" college, and Money Magazine includes Misericordia in its 2020-2021 "Best Colleges" list. College Consensus and the Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education rank Misericordia among the top colleges and universities nationally.