



Perspectives on Excellence

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When freshmen arrive on campus in August, the day is usually sultry, the roads are jammed, and anxiety levels—for students and parents—are high. Years later, our graduates depart campus armed with knowledge, skills, and confidence. The transformation comes because our students embrace new experiences and because the College of Business faculty and staff work hard to offer a variety of challenges and opportunities—both inside *and* outside the classroom—that transform our students into leaders.

Active learning assignment and real-world challenges are common in our courses. In the classroom, students work in teams and develop leadership skills. Debating ideas and philosophies refines critical thinking skills and in-class presentations hone communication skills. Last year, hundreds of students widen their view of the world by participating in our study-abroad program and enrolling in international immersive classes. During the break between semesters, more than 200 students took part in our job shadow program to learn more about their chosen careers.

Outside the classroom, students are expected to get involved in the life of the College. Opportunities abound. Students in the Honors Program, for example, recently reviewed and updated the College's honor code. The leaders of more than 20 student organizations in the College are building tradition by implementing a variety of student activities designed to foster a stronger undergraduate community. This fall, more than 100 undergraduates volunteered to serve as a buddy to a freshman.

No matter how they choose to be involved, College of Business undergraduates recognize that they are members of a community of learners and of future business leaders. The friendships they make today can last a lifetime and form the foundation of their business networks.

Building community, providing leadership opportunities, and challenging our undergraduates is part of the job description of each staff member in the College of Business. Our role is to nurture, to mentor, to advise. We transform anxious freshmen into confident graduates who will add value as employees and as citizens.

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College of Business Students ...

- Plan and implement freshman welcome, senior tent party, quad day, and other social events designed to build class and College pride
- Attend the College's two-day, fall career fair attended by more than 150 employers
- Represent the College at business conferences such as the National Black MBA Conference in Atlanta and at annual case competitions including the national Johnson & Johnson competition and the Stern Summit in New York City
- Participate in conversations with distinguished business leaders that included, in 2006, entrepreneur Sam Zell, Deloitte Chairman Sharon Allen, educator C.K. Prahalad, and Motorola Senior VP and Controller Steven Strobel

These are just a few of the activities and initiatives available to College of Business students. For more information about the undergraduate experience at Illinois, visit:

business.uiuc.edu/undrgrad/