

University of West Florida | Graduate School

Student Spotlight: Karen Barbee

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Karen Barbee, MBA

Pretty much every class that I've had, I've really made an effort to connect it to my day job so that it will be more applicable to me and I would learn the material more. And I really found that almost every single professor that I had that had a project with a company in mind or something we were looking at, if I brought it to them that I wanted to use my own company, they would say, "Well it might be more work for 'X,' 'Y,' 'Z' reason," but they let me do it. And so, it really captured my interest a lot more that the faculty at UWF really make an effort to let students explore what they want to if you have that drive in order to do so.

In my own experience, I've been trying to use the MBA as a way to explore what I want to do next and what my skills and interests are. So, any opportunity to apply that to the real world or further those questions that I have has been extremely valuable. And every project that I've done, I've learned a little something new that's been able to help shape the direction that I'm going in.

I think if you really take that initiative in the program to apply it to yourself and explore what you are interested in, the university will support that and let you explore that and essentially it will help you in return. So, what you put in you get back out.